Justice William O. Douglas Discusses 1st. Amendment

by Paul Forster

Describing the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as a weather vane, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas detailed the gradual process by which he says the right of free speech under the Amendment has been whittled away, and warned of the growing danger to democracy in the U.S.

In a lecture delivered at the Staten Island Community College in New York Island, Justice Douglas outlined the history of the judicial interpretation and application of the right of free speech and noted that the judiciary often has “knuckled under to the hysteria of the time” in restricting free speech, particularly as relating to obscenity and political viewpoints opposing our system of government.

Threats to Democracy

Douglas said he sees a rigiditarian philosophy gaining in strength in the U.S., “and noted that the judiciary often has ‘knuckled under to the hysteria of the time’ in restricting free speech, particularly as relating to obscenity and political viewpoints opposing our system of government.”

LSD Circuit Meeting Held

by Diane Inshusband

On Saturday, October 30, the second circuit of the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association held its annual fall conference at St. John’s Law School. A large portion of the day was devoted to hearings, with several topics pertaining to the national scene.

Howard Kaze, recently elected president of the LSD Society on the scene which the national organization has given priority this year. They include: 1) Students studying for doctoral degrees and not for profit distribution of marijuana should not be denied bar admission solely on the grounds. 2) In the area of fair housing standards, procedures for handling student complaints, representing students in court, and handling other actions that might be necessary are being developed. 3) Any group in a big school with 25% LSD membership may apply for matching grant funding provided by the Law School Service Fund Program for pre-law. 4) A new Texas Bar requirement which would subject Treasury employees to the same training as police officers.

Moot Court Competition Held: Extensive Activities Planned

by Ron Goldfarb

The NYLS Moot Court Council, headed by Michael Anber and Robert Franklin, successfully conducted a panel of judges on Thursday, November 12, 1973. The competition was closed with a formal luncheon at the Columbia Inn.

The competition which was held at the House of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, was attended by ten students. In addition to the students, the judges’ faculty advisor Professor Andrew Simchak was present. The panel consisted of Professor Evelyn Shaifer and Professor Koesten.

The moot court room on the third floor is due to be remodelled, and the staff will update the information as a daily basis.
Equitas Editorials

S B A.M. and P.M.

All of the difficulties inherent in organiz­ ing any program and carrying out any ac­tivity are vastly increased at NYLS by the logistical problem of getting the day and night sessions together.

Night school people work during the day, so that leaves week-ends. SBA meetings have traditionally been held on Saturdays, but Saturdays are unfair because all Or­ thodox Jews are thus automatically barred from running for office.

Saturday is not so hot even for people who are not Orthodox Jews, Sunday isn’t good either. It’s hard to summon the en­ ergy to schlep into school at the end of a long, weary week, especially if one lives a considerable distance away from the school. Also, people have various responsibilities from families to shopping to being in army reserve units which must be taken care of the week-ends.

The most convenient time for the repre­ sentatives of the day school to meet is dur­ing the day, during the week, and this time is impossible for night students.

Having realized that there is no real solu­tion to the time problem, Mr. George Hey­ mann, Vice-President of the S.B.A., has come forward with a suggestion which EQUITAS supports: Why not have two sets of officers, one for the day school, one for the night school.

Day and night sessions each have con­ cerns which are not necessarily shared. For example, night students can hardly be ex­ pected to have strong feelings one way or the other about the Common Hour or a Speaker’s Bureau and night students might well have concerns which are foreign to day students. (A very strong feeling about a three day week is one example that comes to mind.)

Each group of officers would meet sepa­ rately at a time set by the group, and each group would thus be enabled to respond more quickly and efficiently to the needs of its constituency.

To hammer out school-wide problems, both sets of officers could meet once or twice as necessary. A vice-president would not need to be under such a system, and EQUITAS has always felt that the present system whereby the vice-presidency is a sort of consolation prize is both inequi­ table and unnecessarily divisive.

It is clearly much easier to assemble a small group of six officers than it is to gather together an unwieldy collection of twenty or twenty-five class representatives.

Although one united body would be best if this were the best of all possible worlds, given the imperfect world which we inhabit, surely it is better to have two smaller but actively functioning animals, than it is to have one large but utterly paralyzed monster.

On Responsibility

The students at NYLS were all more eager for anonymous grading. The insecur­ ing by the old “anonymous” sys­ tem was a subject on which most NYLS students could and did expelate extensively.

Nevertheless, despite all the outcry, when the new system of anonymous grading was adopted, and an open meeting was an­ nounced for the purpose of setting up pro­ cedures that would keep the system “cred­ ible” and help it to function efficiently, only eleven students, bothered to show up, al­ though the meeting had been widely pub­ licated and notices had been posted well in advance.

Now, if people feel the plan that was adopted for submission to the faculty lacks credibility, their cries of “sell-out” will be loud and clear.

But where was everybody when they were asked for their help in planning a smoothly functioning system?

Common Hour: Common Sense

It’s hard to meet if you don’t have a time to meet in. A Common Hour should be scheduled to enable various school organi­ zations to meet as entities.

Perhaps occasional speakers might be scheduled for the Common Hour. However, if speakers are planned, the only way to make sure they do not address empty walls is to schedule the Common Hour at a time when all or at least most of the class sec­ tions have classes both before and after the hour.

To give half the school a morning clas­ s only and expect the students to stick around for a speaker is to expect too much of human nature. But even if speakers are not planned, a Common Hour is important. To those ac­ tive in school organizations, it means a chance to meet on a regular basis with the other members of the organization. To those intro­verted, such a time period comes a few times a week, when students have to be in school anyway, might encourage more of them to take part in school activities; but even if, for many students, the Common Hour was set out to mean nothing more than an occa­ sional trip to Chinatown and a consequent chance to know their classmates better, that may still be an important gain.

Letters To The Editor

UNFAIR COMPETITION

The House of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York is an appropriate location for a moot court competition. The old, smooth marble floors and fine wood furniture supply the atmosphere and waviness that transforms a scholarly ex­ ercise into the highest level of appellate advocacy. Michael An­ cher and Robert Franklin, the New York Law School Moot Court Team, supplied the polish and skill that completed the scene. Our team argued superbly against a strong Columbia team (Con­ der) and Columbia. We lost both rounds. In the evening match against Columbia we were a team as prepared as we were for the Day school. The well informed and well prepared bench indicated that there was less than one full point separating the scores of the teams.

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EQUITAS

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Mailing Address: 97 Worth Street, N.Y.C., N.Y. 10013

Facility Advisor Prof. Joseph Koffler
America is a drug-oriented society. We Americans take drugs to make us sleek, to lose weight, to gain weight, to study hard, to study soft, to calm our nerves, and any other number of conceivable reasons. Although drugs are literally blasted at us daily, many people do not appreciate the severity of the problem. At a recent drug abuse class, the instructor pointed the blame by asking how many of us had ever used drugs. Approximately four out of a group of one hundred and twenty replied in the affirmative. The question, although, was considered harmless, the perception which the mind-altering drugs “promise,” has alarming effects on the individual addict. His treatment is passed onto someone else and the cost of his habit and/or addiction destroys himself physically and psychologically. Many reasons are put forth as to why people abuse drugs. One half of them, 150,000, reside here in the United States, the rest, 300,000. The problem, although existing since 150 B.C., is the same problem which the Emperor of Rome saw, “the destruction of brain cells, and chromosome damage; let us look at some frightening statistics. In 1971, the overdose was the number one cause of death in the 15-35 year age group; 20% of the deaths were drug users. In 1970, there were 1,137 drug deaths in New York City, Manhattan and Morrisania in the Bronx were numbers one and two in the city, while Fordham-Riverdale and North Bronx were very low on the list. In 1970, there were 1,274 reported cases of heroin addiction. Manhattan had 33.3% of the cases, closely followed by Brooklyn’s 29.7%; which Central Harlem, Manhattan was again first, while Bay Ridge, Brooklyn was last. This problem also knows no socio-economic boundaries. Because of the large amount of money to be made in such a venture, peddlers ain’t their pitch at younger people. A recent Board of Education study indicated that 2% of the high school age children use heroin. One teenager dies from dope each day in New York. HAZARD TO HEALTH

Let us now turn to the health hazard posed by this problem. Besides the physical dependence, the destruction of brain cells, and chromosome damage, let us look at some frightening statistics. In 1971, the overdose was the number one cause of death in the 15-35 year age group; 20% of the deaths were drug users. In 1970, there were 1,137 drug deaths in New York City, Manhattan and Morrisania in the Bronx were numbers one and two in the city, while Fordham-Riverdale and North Bronx were low on the list. In 1970, there were 1,274 reported cases of heroin addiction. Manhattan had 33.3% of the cases, closely followed by Brooklyn’s 29.7%; which Central Harlem, Manhattan was again first, while Bay Ridge, Brooklyn was last. This problem also knows no socio-economic boundaries. Because of the large amount of money to be made in such a venture, peddlers ain’t their pitch at younger people. A recent Board of Education study indicated that 2% of the high school age children use heroin. One teenager dies from dope each day in New York. HAZARD TO HEALTH

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"The courts are most effective leading informed public opinion, but when the leaders get too far from the pack, he's lost, and so defending that which is misused. Even in personal society, that the rest of us can be safe.

ON THE STUDY OF LAW

"The age of the Renaissance man has passed because of the explosion of knowledge. Today, when you choose with field of learning, you necessarily cut yourself off from others. However, if we were to choose an area that keeps one reasonably current on social, psychological, scientific and political events, it would be the law. If you take appellate opinions collectively, they contain all the ripples of life, and though individual cases may be "庆幸", an astute attorney learns to become between the lines.

"There is no question that a conscientious and studious lawyer my friend understood my feelings.

Teachers of young children can tell you that learning to read is a moment in time, and that the moment cannot differ for each child. All at once, the whole thing starts to make sense. Up to that time, a child may be phonemically, looking whatever, but suddenly he's reading. It's the same with law, suddenly the staff starts to make sense. You may have been conscientious and studious, but up until this time you are not a lawyer.

"Some people never get it, just as some people never learn to read properly, but for most people in the syndicate's sensed. They have that moment in time."

CRISES...

(Continued from Page 2)

**LETTERS...**

(Continued from Page 3) OR accept increased prices (for better food and drink) there is little we can do with the vending machine situation. A possible alternative is to accept a company which might charge more, but have the administration of SBA or whoever keeps any profits from the machine give those profits back, in the form of cheaper food, or possibly leasing a take machine for canned soda. Leasing such a machine and stocking it could save us the profits that our school now makes, and whose profits would increase proportionately with higher prices from a new company. These are the only possible alternatives.

Should you have any questions about the above, please contact Mr. Weinberg, @ 2nd yr, sec. II or H.R. Adelman, @ 2nd yr, evo.

MICHAEL WEINBERG
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