

3-1977

# Equitas, vol VIII, no. 6, Thursday, March 31, 1977

New York Law School

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## Recommended Citation

New York Law School, "Equitas, vol VIII, no. 6, Thursday, March 31, 1977" (1977). *Student Newspapers*. 101.  
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# EQUITAS



(photo/B. Torino)

**WAGNER MOOT CT CHAMP:** Robt. Wagner, City Councilman, presents the Wagner Moot Ct. trophy to Joan Darby of Geo. Washington U. School of Law. Looking on is Dean Lippman, Dean Shapiro and Dean Bearn. More photos — page 8.

## NYLS Gets New Contractors

by Kay Marcus Davis

The firm that has held the maintenance contract with this school for the last 11 years, U.S. Building Maintenance Co., has been replaced as of this month by Security 76, a subsidiary of American Airlines, according to Dean Arnold Graham.

The contract, which had expired in January, had been extended for one month before the decision not to renew it was made. Security 76 has been given a two year contract.

Student complaints about the condition of the buildings, elevator service, and various other areas prompted the administration to take a serious look at the maintenance of NYLS. It was

agreed that a supervisor was needed and since, according to an administration spokesman U.S. Building Maintenance was unable to provide one NYLS hired Philip King.

The contract with U.S. Building Maintenance expired on January 31, 1977. At the school's request the contract was extended until February 28, 1977. During that time bids were invited to be submitted to NYLS from other maintenance companies. We received approximately seven bids including one from U.S. Building Maintenance. According to Dean Graham, the bid from Security 76, even with King's salary, would represent a substantial savings over U.S. Building Maintenance's new bid as resubmitted.

NYLS stipulated in the new contract that present employees must remain employed at NYLS under the auspices of the new company. Other NYC clients of Security 76 include Cornell Medical School and the Americana Hotel.

Changes should soon be apparent. The men have new uniforms and Graham claims the conditions at NYLS should soon begin to improve.

### It's Your 5c Start Copying

Dean Arnold Graham and NYLS Librarian Prof. Andrew Simak have announced that the library will install photocopy machines that will cost only five cents per copy.

Installation of the machines is expected by mid-April. The machines will replace the current ten cents machines on the eighth and ninth floors of the library.

—Jonah Triebwasser

## Three SBA Members Resign in Heated Protest

By George Schwarz

Charging that the SBA is "merely a puppet for the Administration," and is used as a stepping-stone for "Administration favors," three members of the student government resigned last month to protest the lack of student input in Administration decisions.

The three, Richard Cohen, Jani Maurer, and Loren Bailey Rodstein, said they had thought other people would sign the letters of resignation, but emphasized they did not "expect" to have mass resignations. Rodstein had been the secretary of the SBA.

Responding to the resignations, Larry Silverman, President of the SBA, said, "I am upset that they did not confront me (with their complaints). A lot (of the charges in the letters) is fabrication and some indicates ignorance of the facts."

Silverman also indicated that he agrees with some of the viewpoints stated by the three, but said, "Instead of harboring grievances, they should try to remedy the situation."

### Main Grievances

The main grievances of the three resigning members stemmed from their feelings that the SBA does not represent student interest, functions within parameters set by the Administration, and lets the Administration decide on what will be done by the government instead of initiating actions to aid the students.

In an interview, Cohen said, "The government is given no power. Whatever power it has, it refuses to exercise. The positions (of those in power on the SBA) are used as stepping-stones for positions."

Elaborating on the grievances, Maurer said, "The meetings were five to six hours long and accom-

plished little; the President has the final say in all matters; NLG [National Lawyer's Guild] motions were always rejected; procedural questions were constantly rediscussed; input was discouraged; and the students on the Student-Faculty committees do not report to the SBA."

"The committee system seems to be the classical way of insuring that nothing gets done," said Cohen.

Both stated that the way the Constitution of the SBA is written, it cannot become an effective voice for the students and does not represent their best interests.

### 'Dean gets his way'

Rodstein, in a separate interview, said that basic changes are



(photo/J. Triebwasser)

Loren Bailey Rodstein

necessary to make the SBA viable. "The Dean (E. Donald Shapiro) does what he wants. If the SBA agrees, they cooperate; if not, the Dean gets his way."

All of them emphasized they felt the SBA should have more input, including placing students

on all Faculty committees, even without a vote (and preferably with) and report to the SBA. They stated that they felt students should have a voice on hiring and firing of faculty, allocation of space, and all other matters affecting students.

Responding to the charges, Silverman said, "Some of our committees have been very successful," and cited as examples the registration, scheduling, and

orientation committees.

Silverman said that until students take an active role, the SBA's effectiveness is limited, but emphasized that it has been making strides slowly in placing students on to the faculty committees.

He also cited the teacher evaluations put out last fall, the modification in the system used to notify students of their grades, that allows professors to tell stu-

dents their grades if they are not mailed within three weeks of the end of exams, and the proposals

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## Computerized Research To Come To NYLS

by Jonah Triebwasser

Lexis, the Mead-Data legal research computer will be installed in the NYLS library during the week of April 11, according to NYLS professor Janet Tracy.

The permanent installation is planned for the eighth floor seminar room of the library. Tracy informed EQUITAS that use of the machine will be limited to trained personnel.

Prof. Tracy will be coordinating training seminars to acquaint both faculty and students in the use of the computer. Instruction for the faculty will be provided by Mead-Data as part of the installation costs. After the faculty has been instructed by the system's developers, Prof. Tracy will train work-study students who, in turn will teach any interested student in how to use the computer terminal.

Training availability for the student body will be dependent on time availability, but Tracy hopes to accommodate any interested faculty or student. The instructional course takes about two or three hours to complete.

### Machine Access

Once training is completed, access to the machine itself will be governed by a sign-in sheet. The

user will have access to the machine for a certain block of time. (As we went to press, the time limit proposed was either an hour or half hour.)

The NYLS terminal can be connected with Mead-Data's central computer from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Weekend hours are to be determined.

### First School In City

NYLS will be the first law school in New York City to add

the Lexis unit to its law library. Recently, Harvard, Yale and University of Pennsylvania law schools have acquired the Lexis system.

The Lexis unit will cost the school approximately \$7800.00 per year to operate.

In commenting on Lexis' arrival at NYLS, Prof. Tracy said, "Lexis is not a complete system in that it does not take the place of manual research . . . it complements it."



(photo/J. Triebwasser)

Prof. Janet Tracy at the helm of Lexis.



# Keep Up Your Paper Work Says New Prof. Brook

by Dennis Stukenbroeker

James Brook is one of the young, new professors at NYLS who make it hard to tell the teachers from the students in the elevator.

He graduated Harvard in '68, and went to law school there too. Is there a Harvard mystique? If so, the outside world reminds you of it, says Brook. "It makes a huge difference to other people. Now, I react to it like I did before I went. Oh, Harvard. I think, did I go there?"

An undergraduate math major, he was a teaching fellow at the University of Michigan before going back to Harvard for law. Math was "a tremendously dry field," he said.

"I was interested in teaching," says Brook, but after law school, he put in two years private practice and a year with The Research Group, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass. doing research for other attorneys on a per hour or per case basis.

He wrote memos and briefs mainly for single practitioners or two practitioner firms, handling things when they went wrong. "You could see how they could muck it up. Sometimes it would take you two hours to find out their problems."

He handled a huge number of small problems. "There's a misconception about who lawyers are. It's easy to think of the Wall Street lawyers but these are the exceptional figures. I can say to students, here's where you'll go wrong. Keep up your paper work."

### Disliked Private Practice

Basically a teacher, he disliked private practice and, "wouldn't want to get into it again, though my teaching would have suffered if I hadn't done it. You can't

teach these things in abstraction. You have to teach what really comes across a lawyer's desk — the mundane things. You can give a distorted view to students otherwise."

Brook thinks law school is not so much a trade school — more a rite of passage, but you have to know the basic problems. "It's hard to get into the skill things."

"I'm teaching business classes by choice," he says, but again, he's a teacher, and has no desire to get involved in business himself. "I'm interested in how contracts and corporations are methods of how people enter into cooperative effort. How do you write an agreement that businessmen (sic) want?"

### First Semester

Last semester, his first at NYLS, he taught Contracts I and Agency and Partnership, both day and evening, as well as Legal Research. Before NYLS, a year as Bigelow Teaching Fellow and Instructor at the University of Chicago Law School impressed him with the Chicago intensive legal writing and research program.



(photo/Leslie Teicholtz, Alumni Affairs)  
Prof. James Brook

He would like to see something like it here, with various members of the faculty getting involved and the students gaining more experience. At Chicago, the oral arguments were a "hell week," but the students got involved, with people going out and buying suits for the occasion.

This semester he's teaching Contracts II, day and evening,

and Corporations I. Brook says he'd like to settle down with this type of class load for another year. "It would give me a chance to think through what I'm doing."

Would he like to develop his own course? Possibly a statistics and the law course in the future.

Brook qualified in Massachusetts but hasn't taken the New York bar. The boredom of the review puts him off. "You have to make the effort." In the meantime, it provides a good excuse for friends who want free legal advice.

## In Memorium

# Phyllis Scher Our Loss

by Peter Rose and Jim Tricarico

This article should have been written for the last issue of EQUITAS, but we simply could not do it at that time. It was our own inability to write about the loss of a dear friend that caused the delay. Phyllis Scher died on Sunday, January 23rd at the age of 49.

She was a co-worker, a classmate, and the hardest working student at NYLS. Phyllis is survived by a daughter Lisa, a student at Barnard, and two adult sons, Benton and Edward. She is also survived by her husband David. Their marriage grew from a bond of mutual love, admiration and dedication.

We worked closely with Phyllis, being in the same study group, and we were touched by her caring and by her generosity. But, ours is not only an emotional loss, although it certainly is that; it is the loss of the benefit of the great insight and understanding that Phyllis brought to the study of law. The vitality that was hers has enriched our lives and can not be lost.

Hers was a difficult struggle through law school. The cultural shock that accompanies anyone's first year of law school was especially hard on Phyllis, who came from a respected administrative position at a metropolitan hospital to the competitive pressure of law school at the age of 47. Yet, disappointed in some of her early grades, Phyllis worked all the harder and raised herself to academic excellence.

The awareness and understanding she brought to her work are gifts which we will never be able to measure; however, her classmates will be invited to contribute in her name to the NYLS library for a series of volumes in an area of great interest to Phyllis. The particulars will be announced soon.

With graduation only a short while away, no matter how festive the ceremony, it simply will not be complete because Phyllis Scher cannot attend. But, for these writers, her name will be called and her diploma will be issued — if only in our hearts.

## Financial Aid Expands Here

by Richard Grant

Like the rest of NYLS, the Financial Aid Office has been growing and changing this year:

- the office has come to the students, and is now on the first floor of 47 Worth;
- it is centralized, run by a financial aid officer and an assistant;
- the amount of money a student can borrow from a bank each year has doubled;
- the work-study program is increasing;
- and more grant money is available.

April 22 is the deadline for applying for financial aid during the 1977-78 school year.

According to Merrill E. Feinberg, financial aid officer, students can pick up an application folder in the office. The folder includes the NYLS form, an independent-dependent student certification form, a loan application and a GAPSFAS (Graduate and

Professional School Financial Aid Service) form.

### 'Use My Judgment'

"I use my judgment to see if it's fair," Feinberg said. "Many times the contribution expected is slightly unreasonable."

A financial need figure is arrived at by subtracting the family contribution from the student's budget. Aid consists of

(Continued on Page 7)

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**HUNGRY? TRY GIL'S HOT AND COLD MENU.**

**ALUMNI: 'COME ON OVER'**

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**SPECIAL NOTE: THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF NYLS RECEIVES A PERCENTAGE OF GIL'S BUSINESS.**

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**COME IN, SIT DOWN, RELAX IN THE BASEMENT OF 47 WORTH STREET**

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# Silverman Defends Charge SBA is a 'Puppet'

(Continued from Page 1)  
on the Committee on Space Utilization recently submitted.

He pointed out that Cohen and Maurer had been appointed to set up a committee to detail student grievances against the Administration, and "They put it off for a few meetings. Then they said they had only two complaints, then they stopped coming to the meetings."

Silverman:

"We have done enough"

He emphasized, "We have done enough, despite our shortcomings, to justify our existence."

There were rumors circulating

around the school to the effect that this was an attempt by the NLG to embarrass, and perhaps gain control of the SBA. These were emphatically denied by Gary Schultz, a member of the collective running the NLG. They were further denied by the members who resigned, while emphasizing that their (Cohen's and Rodstein's) membership in the NLG had nothing to do with their feelings on the SBA's effectiveness, or lack thereof.

In a separate interview, Silverman admitted the SBA has little power, "It only has power to persuade. Depending on how effectively it is used determines the result."



(photo/B. Torino)  
SBA Pres. Silverman

He conceded that having students on faculty committees may be a good idea, but said it should have been brought up by motion at an SBA meeting and not in a letter of resignation.

### NLG's Part?

As to the rumors of the NLG's part in the resignations, Silverman said that while it may be possible, he had not heard anything to that effect and would not speculate on the issue.

The NLG has in the past requested funds from the SBA and received a grant of \$100, but the

funds were not turned over for several years.

The power to allocate funds to student organizations was taken from the SBA several years ago and now the SBA gets its funds from Gil's, which is obligated to pay over a percentage of its gross to the student government.

The only other organizations to receive funds from the school are the Law Review and EQUITAS, both of which are funded by a student fee of \$15, payable each semester at registration (\$12. to Law Review and \$3. to EQUITAS).

## EQUITAS Contest Continues

EQUITAS invites students, professors and alumni to submit quotes about the law, lawyers and law school. The prize? You get to see your name in print. Send your law quote, with proper citation, and your name and class

year to: Law Quotes, EQUITAS, New York Law School, 57 Worth Street, New York, N.Y. 10013.

"Those who won our independence by revolution were not cowards. They did not fear political change. They did not exalt order at the cost of liberty."

Brandeis (Concur) in  
*Whitney v. California*  
George Schwarz

## New SoHo Consumer Law Shop

by Dennis Stukenbroeker

The Consumer Law Training Center has opened its third office. The new Center, at 80 Thompson St., is operating Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

The storefront, in the heart of SoHo and Little Italy, is operated by the Village Community Problems Center, which gives the NYLS Consumer Center students office space and a telephone. The Problem Center is backed by the Democratic, South Village Community Alliance.

The two other offices are at 235 East Broadway, in a building occupied by the United Jewish Council, staffed Monday and Thursday afternoons, and Room 308 of 47 Worth Street which is open part-time Monday to Friday.

The student workers handle consumer complaints from lower Manhattan residents, or those referred to them by such organizations as the Mobilization for Youth Services. A number of NY-

LS students have also used the Center. The workers mainly act as "go-betweens," says the Center's co-director, Ed Greenberg, a second year student. The workers can't go into Civil Court, but they can appear with clients in Small Claims Court. If they can't handle a problem, they refer it to the person or agency who can.

### Free Tax Aid

About ten NYLS students have also set up a free tax assistance program at the centers, under the organization of Kenny Kingdon, which has helped senior citizens, indigents and foreign language speaking people fill out their tax forms.

To spread the consumer law message, the Center is holding a seminar on consumer advocacy at John Jay College in April and is helping produce a consumer affairs column in *Woman's Week*. The Center has also been asked to assist in starting similar consumer centers at the University of Tennessee and at Martin Luther King High School at Lincoln Center.

The Consumer Law Training Center has a grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, as well as assistance from NYLS and Community Action for Legal Services. But it has been using the facilities of other community organizations for things like office space and telephone, and relying on them for neighborhood publicity.

### Politics Avoided

Greenberg says the Center is aware their effectiveness as consumer advocates could be compromised if they became too closely identified with a particular religious or political group. They "would pull out if it got too political," Greenberg said, "like if it became a politician's campaign headquarters."

First, second and third year students are welcome to assist at the center and can spend as little or as much time at it as they want. It provides good experience when it comes to job interviews, Greenberg says. The Center is also putting together a paying summer job program.

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# Equitas Editorials

## Depository Bill

Attention students, faculty and alumni. Here is a chance for you to directly aid in the growth of NYLS. New York Congressman John M. Murphy is seeking support for his bill which will allow any ABA approved law school to receive depository library status if they request it.

Our librarian, Prof. Andrew Simak, has gone on record in full support of this bill, noting that if NYLS were to receive depository status, our students would not have to go elsewhere when they need various federal documents which are only issued to depository libraries.

So, it is our stand that everyone in the NYLS community (and this includes professors) should make an effort to contact their Congressional representatives and the members of the Subcommittee on Printing of the House Committee on Administration which will review the bill. Its members are: Brademus, Gaydos, Van Deerlin, Mathis, Cleveland and Wiggins.

## Bar Date Problem

As reported in our last issue, the Court of Appeals is considering the use of the Multistate Bar Examination in New York. This proposed change is not to affect pending '77 graduates.

Nevertheless the State Board of Law Examiners has tentatively scheduled the next N.Y.S. Bar Examination to include the July 27th Multistate exam date.

Such scheduling, if made permanent, will scuttle the plans of many candidates who intended to take two bar exams this summer.

In the past, the N.Y.S. Bar Examination was regularly scheduled in the third week of July, while the Multistate Bar Examination since its inception in 1972 has been scheduled in the fourth week of July.

Incentives towards the strategy of students taking two bar examinations immediately after graduation have included: the tightening job market; justified fears of tougher residency rules in most jurisdictions; the belief that the studying necessary for passing the N.Y.S. Bar Examination

would prove adequate for passing the Multistate portion of the second bar exam.

Furthermore one can possibly apply one's Multistate score, obtained in the second bar exam, towards meeting the admission requirements of yet additional state bars.

As previously stated, the July 26th and 27th dates for the N.Y.S. Bar Examination are tentatively set, and are therefore presumably subject to change.

EQUITAS strongly suggests that students who still want to take two bar exams this summer request that the examination be rescheduled for the third week in July!

## Odds and Ends

At the time of this writing, March 29, 1977, the SBA has not produced a formal final exam schedule — late again. But, there is some good news coming indirectly by way of the SBA. Through the efforts of Karen Miller, a third year day student and member of the Curriculum Committee, the faculty has voted to allow student committee members to attend faculty meetings when proposals of their committees are being discussed.

This resolution was passed by the faculty at last month's meeting. Miller along with SBA President Silverman, spoke at the faculty meeting in favor of student attendance. This is certainly a step in the direction of significant student input — we hope its only the first in many such steps.

Also, this year's Commencement Committee and EQUITAS have urged the Dean to start taking suggestions from next year's Commencement Committee as soon as possible, so they will have input at a time when important decisions are being made. The Dean said that he would "be glad" to receive such guidance and that the Board of Trustees has always been open to student suggestions concerning commencement. We hope this is true, and the only way to find out is for the SBA to form this committee **right now** and not wait for the coming elections. We warn next year's graduating class: if you want a say in your graduation ceremony, **strongly** urge your representatives to force the executive officers to form your committee **now!**

## Letters To The Editor

To the editor:

The recent notices relating to this year's commencement exercises once again show this school's insensitivity to student needs and desires. For most of the student body and their families, graduation represents the culmination of at least seven, and in some instances many more years of higher education. Commencement should therefore be something more than a mere worthless ceremony.

Yet this year's senior class has had no input into who the commencement speaker will be, or more importantly, where the ceremony will take place. If the notices are correct, Alice Tully Hall sits 1096 persons. If all of the estimated 270 graduates receive tickets for three invited guests, there will be only sixteen seats remaining for faculty, administration, and their invited guests.

There are two chances on the possibility that each graduate will receive three tickets — slim and none.

With only two tickets, it is a difficult choice to determine which percentage of the family is to be actually in attendance. And if the argument against a larger hall is its financial infeasibility, then we can ask where the remainder of the fourteen or fifteen thousand dollars is going (270 graduates x \$55 graduation fee equals \$14,850).

The graduation decision is merely another example of the school's attitude of presenting the student body with what is, at times, the worst of all possible choices. The school presents a fait accompli without input and without possibility of change. There have been many changes in the past three years, but for the major part they have been changes in appearance and not in substance.

We have been told about the change in the faculty-student ratio, but this is a hollow statistic unless you explore the quality of the faculty hired. In many

cases, newly hired faculty members have no teaching experience, which is readily apparent with each passing class. Even worse is the hiree who not only has no teaching background, but also has no practical experience in the course he is told he must teach.

There are classes being taught at this school from little more than the Gilbert's or Nutshell series. The fault lies with the administration and Board of Trustees for its failure to recommend or grant tenure in appropriate cases. They are seemingly more concerned with the school's income production than its educational output. The constant turnover of faculty members at this school continues at an alarming rate.

I could only hope that the turn-over of the secretarial staff was as constant. It amazes me that any educational institution would allow common (sic) secretaries

(Continued on Page 8)

## For The Record

Interview with Dean Shapiro

EQUITAS: Are there any plans for immediate relief for our taxed physical plant?

Dean Shapiro: First, Dr. Gold, who you reported on in the last issue of the paper, is coming to the school to start to evaluate our needs and obtain formal input from students, faculty, and administrators.

Second, re-scheduling of the legal research classes so that there are not so many students with major research projects who have to use the library at the same time.

Third, Dean Graham and Mr. Scanlon are consulting with architects to do an analysis of the seventh floor to see if it can be re-enforced so that part of it can be used for library space.

Fourth, I've asked Dean Bearn's task force to examine the student areas of 47 Worth Street and the lower level of 57 Worth Street so that they can be re-designed for maximum student use.

I don't think that the mid-year class actually increases the size of the student body what with the student drop-out rate and next January's graduation.



Expansion of Library facilities will be a high priority for Dean Shapiro

EQUITAS: Do you have the actual figures for a comparison of the drop-out rate and the increase of the size of the student body?

Dean Shapiro: I have asked Dean Bearn to make such a comparison.

EQUITAS: What is the status of the Bologna summer law school program?

Dean Shapiro: We have only one student from our school who has signed up. We have had more students from other schools. I am disappointed. We will know in the next week or so whether it will still be conducted.

EQUITAS: Excluding yourself, exactly where does authority lie concerning the registration of classes for example: late registration; opening up of classes to increase student enrollment; payment of late registration fee?

Dean Shapiro: All such decisions lie with Dean Bearn, however, we have rules that should not be overruled except in extraordinary situations.

EQUITAS: Who has final say about the particulars of commencement like time, choice of hall, etc.?

Dean Shapiro: The Board of Trustees. They have designated me to carry out their decisions. The Board of Trustees has not even accepted all the suggestions of its own commencement committee, which is comprised of a group of very prestigious people.

I hope that the S.B.A. forms its commencement committee much, much earlier next year so that it can make suggestions to the Board of Trustees, who will, I'm sure, be more than pleased to consider them.

—with Jim Tricarico

### Congratulations

to  
Arthur Fisch  
former Editor-in-Chief of EQUITAS and  
his wife Fran  
on the birth of  
Amy Michelle

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# News In Brief

## Phi Delta Phi Dinner/Dance Slated for April 23rd

by Steven Breitman

The Phi Delta Phi Spring Dance will be held Saturday, April 23rd at the Villa Bianca Restaurant, 157-17 Northern Blvd., Flushing, N.Y., the site of last Spring's highly successful dinner-dance.

The evening's festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. with the initiation ceremony for new members (of NYLS's Dwight Inn Chapter) of Phi Delta Phi. A cocktail hour will follow, featuring unlimited

Dwight Inn Magister Gary Gatz has announced the following ticket price policy: Dwight Inn Spring Initiates, \$20 per couple (pledges are still being accepted); Dwight Inn current members \$25 per couple; non-members, Faculty, and Alumni, \$35 per couple. Tickets may be purchased directly from the Inn table to be set up at Gil's Cafeteria.

### Free Parking

Ample free parking will be provided at the Villa Bianca and transportation directions will be distributed with the Dinner-Dance tickets.

The PDP Dinner-Dance is aimed at providing an opportunity for the entire NYLS community to come together in a purely social atmosphere.

To help offset an anticipated deficit for the Spring Dinner-Dance, Dwight Inn is conducting a "\$100 door prize" raffle. The winning raffle will be drawn at the dinner-dance. (Note: winner must be present). Raffle tickets will be sold by Inn members at one dollar per ticket or three for \$2.00.

### Correction:

In our last issue we identified the Hon. Sybil Hart Kooper as a judge of the Family Court. Justice Kooper has been elected to the Supreme Court in Kings County. EQUITAS regrets this error.

### Tickets?

As we went to press, the Commencement Committee said that early returns indicate that graduates will receive at least 3 tickets for guests at graduation. The report has not been confirmed.



(photo/B. Torino)

Prof. Nancy Erickson

## Prof. Erickson Speaks to Women's Bar

by Susan Erda and Iris Darwin\*

The NYLS Women's Caucus sent a panel of three litigators to participate in the annual all-day Metropolitan Law Women's Conference at Fordham Law School on Saturday, March 5th.

The conference, entitled WOMEN IN PRACTICE, was attended by 200 women from nine law schools in the area. Sheila Birnbaum, past president of the New York Women's Bar Association and now a member of the Fordham faculty, gave the keynote address at 10 a.m. and noted that the impact of women on the profession was just beginning to be felt, and that in many areas of law, such as teaching and corporate practice, women have yet to make inroads.

### Various Panels

The morning session consisted of panels on labor law, public interest law, alternative practice,

criminal law, corporate practice and teaching, in which Prof. Nancy Erickson of NYLS took part. The afternoon session featured discussions of government practice, legal services, domestic relations practice, and the litigation panel sponsored by NYLS. Elaine R. Sheps, NYLS '68 who has her own practice in New York, opened the discussion which ran well over the hour and a half allotted. She was followed by Rita Warner, also in private practice in New York, and Constance Vecelleo, a member of the civil litigation section of the US Attorney's office in the EDNY.

All three spoke of the problems still encountered by women litigators in the courtroom with judges, juries and other attorneys, but they encouraged the student audience to enter the field. In the question and answer session which followed, the students were chiefly concerned with the ethical problems facing the attorney as litigator and officer of the court. The day ended with a reception for guests and panelists.

\* Coordinators of Women's Caucus.

## Erickson to Lecture in Chinatown

The Chinatown Law Project of NYLS will present a lecture on divorce and family law on Saturday, April 2, 1977 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chinatown Centre, 62 Mott Street, New York City.

Nancy Erickson, NYLS Prof. will be the featured speaker at the lecture. Among the topics to be discussed are: Protective Court Orders and the Symptoms of Delinquency in Juveniles.

There is no admission charge for the lecture and all students and faculty are cordially invited to attend.

—Jonah Triebwasser

## 2d Career News

The Second Careers organization of NYLS has found its greatest usefulness to the school community in the area of pre-school counseling. Bob Marmorstein reports that he sees at least one NYLS applicant a month. They are mostly in their thirties or early forties and are experiencing tension and concern over apprehensions of adjusting to a law school discipline.

Although the hope of the Second Careers that the administration would utilize their combined expertise of administrative, executive, and specialized skills has yet to be realized, Marmorstein foresees the continued existence of the Second Careers as a support and guide to the increasing number of older students who are entering law school.

## Alumni News

George Heymann '74, has been appointed for a one year term to Queens Community Board #8.

Joseph Solomon '27, has been appointed a member of the Character and Fitness Committee of the New York State Appellate Division, First Department.

**ALUMNI!** If you are disposing of a law library remember your law school. Our library is in constant use and donations of books or other legal works would be greatly appreciated. Needless to say, donations to NYLS qualify as the appropriate tax deduction.

## JOIN EQUITAS



free liquor and assorted hors d'oeuvres.

A full course dinner, highlighted by the main entree of prime ribs of beef, will be served starting at 9 p.m. During dinner the presentation of the "Professor of the Year Award" will be made, followed by the installation of new Inn Officers.

There will be continuous dancing to live music from 9 p.m. to one a.m., and the floating bars will distribute cocktails till 12 midnight. The evening will conclude with a Viennese table featuring miniature pastry and cordials served from midnight to one a.m.

## Moot Court News

The Moot Court team representing NYLS in the regional rounds of the Philip Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition won the Third Place Best Brief Award. One of the members of the NYLS team, Ms. Jeanne Cygan, won the Third Place Best Oral Advocate Award. Eleven law schools from the Northeast Region participated in the competition and over forty-five individuals were in contention for the Best Advocate Awards. This marked NYLS's first year of competition in the International Law Competition. The Board expects to focus upon continued participation in this prestigious competition.

### JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN NYLS MOOT COURT COMPETITION:

The Board recently announced that the following distinguished practitioners will preside over the final arguments in the John Marshall Harlan Moot Court Competition:

- Stanley Sporkin, Director Enforcement Division, Securities and Exchange Commission
- Arthur Borden, Practicing Securities Specialist
- Milton Gould, Practicing Attorney, Shea Gould Climenko and Casey
- John Jerome, Practicing Attorney, Milbank, Tweed

This event will take place on April 21st and will be followed by an Award Ceremony to announce the National Team and 1977-78 Moot Court Executive Board.

### ABA-LSD NATIONAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY COMPETITION:

Four members of the Moot Court Association have competed in the ABA-LSD [American Bar Association-Law Student Division] National Oral Appellate Advocacy Competition at Albany Law School on March 19th. The problem argued involved the recent controversy over the right to die.

### IRVING KAUFMAN [Metropolitan] CORPORATE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION:

On March 21st the Kaufman Metropolitan Corporate Law Moot Court Competition held the preliminary rounds at Fordham University School of Law. NYLS entered two teams.

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# Hey, Did Ya Hear The One About The Animal Lawyer?

by Richard Grant

Equitas. From the Latin, meaning "They indict horses, don't they?"

All my life I have wanted to be an animal lawyer, defending German Shepherds on trial for Murder One, aiding cats in inheritance battles.

Picture me in a courtroom questioning my client, a sad-faced dachshund with soft brown eyes, a dog caught in the middle of a custody fight.

"Who mistreated you?" I ask.

"Ralph," he barks out.

"Did he throw you off anything?" I ask.

"Roof," he replies.

"Who do you want to live with?" I ask.

"Ruth," he answers.

So I applied to law school and was accepted at the Aaron Burr Law School of Law. During my first year, I took Evidence, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Morality or the Law, and the Law of Averages. The last one was a tricky course. No matter how hard you studied, you got a C.

We used casebooks like Our Friend, the Tort and The How and Why Book of Civil Procedure. Some students complained because crayons were extra. But they were lawbooks, make no mistake about that — they had citations.

Then, without any warning to the students, the school made a major policy change in an effort to become a "hot law school." The faculty failed the entire student body. The school then began recruiting 12 year-olds for next September's classes. The kids were shorter and thinner, so the enrollment could climb from 1,000 to 1,700 without any additions to the facilities.

What could I tell my friends? That I was thrown out of law school for being too tall?

I looked around.

There was the Joseph R. McCarthy Law School, located in a ten-story walk-down. The interviewer asked me, "Are you now or have you ever been?" They had no study abroad program and operated in New York City reluctantly.

"The Joseph McCarthy?" I asked.

"No," the interviewer explained. "This Joseph McCarthy had been associated with the law all his adult life, mostly from five to ten year stretches. He had hired the best lawyers in the country, graduates of Harvard, Yale and Columbia. Pressed to explain his legal setbacks, they said it was his eyes, so he opened a new law school. Soon to be accredited, I might add."

For a brief period, I considered the Millard Fillmore Law School which has attracted more students by opening up a discoteque on the premises. The Admissions Officer told me, "We're attracting the type of students who have a three-piece suit and rarely wear it. We'll teach you how to hustle."

MFLS had a program enabling any student to opt out of final exams by suing the school and winning. If he won, he became an A student with absolutely no chance of help from the placement office and tuition went up. Due to the school administration's difficulty in understanding the meaning of due process, the school was often sued and tuition already has paid for a new 10 million volume library and squash courts at the east end of campus.

At the Cleveland Institute of Law, I was permitted to observe a student enrolled in a torts correspondence course by cassette. She was sitting at a lone desk in the middle of a large, empty room. The professor's voice asked for someone to read the case. The student looked around as the professor's voice reeled off names. Then, the professor mentioned her name. "Shit," she said.

Due to cost considerations, I had to rule out the Raymond Burr School of Law in California. Located in a parking garage, it was the first drive-in law school in the country. I did not own a car.

One week later, I was accepted at New York Law School, my first choice, and since then I've been forever grateful.

# Prof. Biskind: This Man Needs You - Really!

by Mike Soltis

One of any lawyer's most effective tools is the ability to communicate really well.

Despite the really many years of education each lawyer and law student has, many continue to pepper their daily conversation with really inane words.

For instance, I'm sure everyone here at NYLS is familiar with such really useless but oft-repeated words and phrases such as "watchamacallit," "ya know," "like when," "I mean," and "lookit" to name what is really just the tip of a really big iceberg.

The really widespread use of these empty words and phrases has cloaked them with some degree of acceptance, at least in peer groups, but there is really no rational reason for their use. And, in the interest of verbal efficiency, they are really a waste.

But, like any of the many really bad habits we are reminded of daily, omitting these terms from our speech is really tough. Especially when no one really points out when a person uses them.

But that doesn't mean one shouldn't really try to eliminate them from his (or her) vocabulary. It sounds really better when they are not used. Really.

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Conflict of Laws	3	Prof. Aaron Twerski
Evidence	4	Prof. Abraham Ordovery
Family Law	3	Prof. John Gregory
Individual Income Tax	4	Prof. Stuart Filler
Legal Issues in Public Education	3	Prof. John Gregory
Real Estate Transactions	3	Prof. Herman Hillman
Remedies	3	Prof. Malachy Mahon
Secured Transactions	3	Prof. Malachy Mahon
Commercial Paper	3	Prof. Alan Resnick
Criminal Procedure I	3	Prof. Leon Friedman
Land Use Planning	3	Prof. Ronald Silverman
Business Organizations	4	Prof. Jan Deutsch Prof. of Law, Yale Law School
Constitutional Law I	3	Prof. Jan Deutsch
Legal Responsibility and the Corporation (seminar)	3	Prof. Jan Deutsch

### SUMMER SESSION II

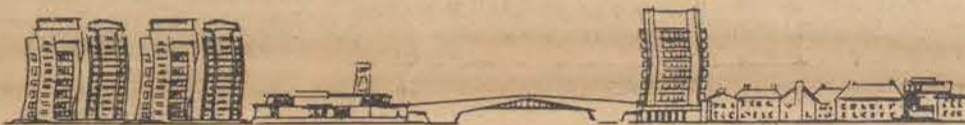
July 7 - August 15

NAME OF COURSE	NUMBER CREDITS	FACULTY
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Labor Law	3	Prof. Eric Schmertz
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Debtor - Creditor	3	Prof. Alan Resnick
Entertainment Law	3	Prof. Joseph Bianco
Seminar in Trial Advocacy	3	Prof. Lawrence Kessler
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## Financial Aid

(Continued from Page 2)

loans, grants, work-study or a combination.

Approximately 40% of the student body receive some type of loan. Under the guaranteed loan program, a full-time student can borrow up to \$5,000 a year or \$2,500 a semester from a commercial bank, credit union or savings and loan institution. Evening and part-time students can borrow up to \$2,500 a year or \$1,250 a semester.

"Grants are based on financial need almost totally," Feinberg said.

Under its Tuition Assistance Program, New York state provides grants to full-time students attending educational institutions within the state. Grants range from a maximum of \$600 to a minimum of \$100 a year.

According to the financial aid officer, TAP has had problems. "Checks have been slow, so be patient, check with the Financial Aid Office," she said.

NYLS has its own grant pro-

gram. A scholarship committee of administrators decides who receives grants.

"My function is to go through the applications and select a smaller group that should be considered," Ms. Feinberg said. "I present the cases and discuss the pros and cons."

Minority students can apply for grants from the Consortium of Metropolitan Law Schools.

### 'Work Study'

Work-Study is a federal program paying students \$3.50 an hour to work part-time and during the summer for the school and outside agencies. The federal government has substantially increased the amount of funds available for next year.

According to Ms. Feinberg, in the past New York Law School has always required that a student receive a maximum loan before being eligible for work-study.

If a student is on probation, he or she cannot continue on work-study. If the loan was processed when the student was in good standing, it will not be taken away.

## The Weather, It's A Question Of Degree

by Mike Soltis

It's a familiar situation. The "simple concept made difficult" syndrome. But, this time we're matching wits with the awesome trio of the government, media and Mother Nature herself.

The concept is the weather. Not necessarily the extended period of sub-frigid temperatures, but the general phenomenon of weather itself.

It's a simple concept; at least it used to be; and it should remain so.

Although "coldness" is a subjective measure, formerly, when the temperature dipped below say 32 degrees, it was cold and people acted accordingly.

Then the triumvirate spake.

The weather forecaster, criticized so often for his or her less than accurate predictions, decided to qualify his forecast with the "wind chill factor." This variable, devised not surprisingly by Arctic explorers and the military, describes the cooling power of the air on the exposed flesh.

Now, 30 degrees, standing alone, means very little. With a wind chill of 20 miles per hour, some extra clothing would be a cautious response.

Apparently this new variable wasn't enough to satisfy the meteorologists.

So, basing its actions on the government's desire to convert the United States to the international units of measurement, the media discovered Celsius.

First reaction: Who, what, or

where the hell is Celsius?

No one noted that Celsius is the re-named centigrade scale. Ironically, the latter's name was changed to the former to avoid confusion! ! !

Second reaction: The fact that other nations report temperature differently doesn't upset me terribly. They speak different languages and some countries don't even use the case method in law school. I haven't heard any cries for conformity in these areas.

Still, in the interests of peace, I'm pleased that international relations would be benefited. But I still can't determine when to wear my super-thermals and when to sport my Hawaiian holiday cabana shirt!

Well apparently the Big Mama (trade name for Mother Nature) was not pleased with the switch-over attempt. If anyone was going to one-up anyone and cause a fuss with the weather, it was she.

Although this may be explained by her desire to retain the weather as the last vestige of her unequivocal power, somehow I feel her actions were revenge for the Congressional decree a few years ago ordering that clocks not be turned back for the winter, thus keeping the sun out longer.

The result was inevitable: the coldest winter, generally, in 59 years and in some areas the coldest since weather records were kept (in Philadelphia, about 1760). Ah, revenge!

The key question remains: What does all this do to one's

perspective of the weather?

If, before all this "progress," 30 degrees was considered cold, it's time for a re-evaluation.

32 Fahrenheit is 0 Celsius. With a wind chill of 20 mph, it's 3F, or -16C. But, given the excessive cold this winter, you'd probably welcome 32F, or 0C. So, maybe cold should be redefined to, say, between 0 and 15F, or -17.7 and -9.4C, or, if there's a wind chill between 6 and 15 miles, between 20 and 25F, or -6.65 and -3.85C.

But, amid this olio, some good exists.

If, all your life, you were cold at 32F, or 0C, since that temperature is welcome, you're not cold anymore. Great isn't it? Especially for the cold-blooded folk among us. And, since there are a few less "cold" days (defined as less than 15F, or -9.4C with no wind chill), you need not go as far south for a vacation.

It's apparent that a few 600's level meteorology courses in college would've been invaluable. Or maybe Weather I should be required.

But, to those who abhor the change to Celsius, don't despair. American legal history is replete with English precedent. If that tradition seeps into the weather area, Americans will react as the English did. In 1962, when faced with a similar sinister Celsius-Fahrenheit switch, they ignored it.

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No matter how you say it, it all means the same thing. It is with deep regret that we have to use this term after our 11 1/2 year association with the School.

The Company, at this time, would like to take the opportunity to thank the student body, the professors and all the staff for all their extended cooperation during our long pleasant association.

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(photo/B. Torino)

Three representatives of the NLRB who acted as judges for the Wagner Moot Ct. are presented plaques of appreciation. (L. to R. are): Peter Rose and Maria Derr, co-chairpersons of the Wagner Moot Ct.; Samuel Kaymerd, Regional Director of Region 29, NLRB; Max Schwartz, Asst. Regional Attorney, Region 29; Arthur Eisenberg, Regional Director, Region 22; City Councilman Robert Wagner.

### Moot Court Big Success

The second annual labor law competition held in honor of the late Senator Robert Wagner was held here on March 3-6. Thirty-four teams from 24 schools from throughout the country converged on NYLS, which was represented by two teams: Gary Van Son and Steven Chismadia; and Steven Coren and Mark Green. The Coren-Green team made it to the semi-finals.

The competition was coordinated through the office of Dean Marshall Lippman by EQUITAS Executive Editor Peter Rose and by Maria Derr.

#### 'Outstanding Judges'

The competition boasted outstanding judges from all areas of the labor law field. The winning team was the one woman advocate from George Washington University School of Law, Joan



(photo/J. Triehwasser)

Councilman Wagner presents the second place team from the University of Iowa with their trophy.

Darby. The second place team was from the University of Iowa School of Law.

Presenting the awards to the winners from New York City Councilman Robert Wagner,

grandson of Senator Wagner and the son of former Mayor Wagner.

A well-attended reception followed the competition.

—Jim Tricarico and Jonah Triehwasser

## Letters to the Editor

(Continued from Page 4)

to be as arrogant and as vindictive as the secretaries here. Many secretaries are in fact rude if you ask them for anything more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Some become belligerent if you refuse to accept their answers.

Some staff assume the positions of administration officials in granting or denying access to the deans. They seem to forget who ultimately pays their salaries through tuition. Again, the

staff shows its insensitivity to student needs and desires.

But while there are many who are inconvenienced, there are a few who seek out these staff members who are eager to abuse their access to school information. This can best be summed up by the motto: "More for those with the brownest nose."

I question why grades are readily discussed with some students, (in fact some are shown the grade sheets as they are handed in), before the grades are generally available to the student body, yet other students are briskly dismissed when they try to find out grades which have been incorrectly mailed out. At times, faculty members seem to raise grades more on the basis of how much time one has spent in his office than on how informative his class was.

Why is it that some have no difficulty getting into any course they want when, at least in one instance, a course was still open at registration and the registrar refused a student a place in it? Only the intervention of two deans got the student into an already open course.

There is also a question of how representative the student "representatives" are. How demanding are their challenges to the Administration's policies? I can only quote from a recent Equitas editorial: "Confronted with the rumor that he has directed professors to lower their overall grading. Dean Shapiro said that such claims were utterly false . . . Shapiro made it clear that he felt that a wide distribution of grades should include not only more D's and F's, but . . . more higher grades."

More D's and F's constitute a lower overall grading pattern as much more A's and B's constitute a higher one, but why didn't our student representatives question the desirability of any further lower grading when a large number of first, second and third year students already waver on the edge of academic calamity. Some student representatives have become "yes-men" to the administration at the expense of the student body in general.

One can only conclude by saying the average student at New York Law School is left without rights and remedies unless he sacrifices himself to the maintenance of the present, stale system.

Kenneth Lind

## Will Calendar Change For 77-78?

by Robert S. Fraser

We have somehow survived a long winter and are looking for a rest from the routines that have governed us during the last months. A check of our school calendar reveals the unfortunate fact that what is advertised as "Spring Recess" amounts to a mere two days.

Recently we interviewed Dean Lippman, who inherited the task of "ghost-writing" the school calendar. He told us that the calendar published on page four of the current Bulletin was fixed and "promulgated," and changes were unlikely.

#### Exam Period Extended?

Since our Easter-breather seemed settled at two days, we

asked about the subject of the (phantom) reading period, which traditionally falls during the week before spring exams begin. Dean Lippman gave us some hope in this area when he said he reserved the right to extend the exam period to three weeks to allow extra time for exam preparation.

When asked about next year's calendar, he emphasized that it had been pretty well decided and that many students, both present and incoming, as well as faculty had started planning according to the published timetable. Nevertheless, the SBA has studied alternatives and submitted a calendar which provides the basis for change.

#### PROPOSED CALENDAR

##### FIRST SEMESTER:

Registration and Orientation for First Year Students	Thursday, Friday, August 4, 5
Fall Term begins	Monday, August 22
Labor Day, Holiday	Monday, September 5
Fall Term classes end	Wednesday, November 23
Fall Reading Period	Thursday, November 24
Fall Examinations begin	Monday, December 5
Fall Examinations end	Wednesday, December 21
MID-YEAR RECESS:	Thursday, December 22

##### SECOND SEMESTER:

Spring Term begins	Monday, January 9
Washington's Birthday, Holiday	Monday, February 20
Spring Recess	Monday, April 3 — Friday, April 17
Spring Term classes end	Friday, April 21
Spring Reading Period	Monday, April 24
Spring Examinations begin	Monday, May 1
Spring Examinations end	Wednesday, May 17
Commencement	Sunday, June 4

Our memories are not so dim that we cannot recall the difficulties of studying during the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Traditional times for celebrating dissolved into hours of outlining, reading and rereadings, legal group therapy, and worrying.

#### Calendar Used Elsewhere

Several law schools have adopted the type of schedule embodied in the proposed calendar. We are well-aware that NYLS takes full advantage of its facilities with the result that the school is being used day and night during all seasons of the year. A simple shift forward in the calendar might add tremendously to the convenience and comfort of the entire school community.

The whole ebb and flow of the school year would coincide more naturally with those special days and seasons set aside by historical events and world religions. Students would be free from the demands of learning during holidays traditionally preserved for family and friends. An earlier starting date in the Fall would set students to looking for summer and permanent positions at the same time our colleagues from neighboring institutions are seeking their footholds in the legal world. The immediate benefit of winding up the school year early in the Spring would be to allow graduates more time to prepare for the Bar. Under the proposed calendar summer school would, of course, begin and end earlier.

Thanks to Harry Katrichis for his aid in development of this calendar.

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