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The Docket

November, 1992 *A Publication of the Student Bar Association, Georgia State University, College of Law* Vol. 2, No. 4

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Our competitors in regional and national events have begun this year's schedule by continuing their excellent performances. Congratulations to Cheryl Champion and Monte Davis! They were the second-place team (out of 16) in the Tournament of Champions, held earlier this month in Houston, Texas. I anticipate that this report will be the first in a long series, if our accomplishments last spring are predictive.

TOUCH THE EARTH

"Look! He's in such a hurry." His rush seems silly if you've no hurry and that woman with the funny hat, "What idea of fashion is she slave to?" What we find comical in others is what we know to be skewed in ourselves. Realizing this brings a healthy laugh that redirecs energy in more reasonable movement, changing focus from inside to out so we can notice the sky. In moving to accomplish, we can lose the benefit of our senses, and lose all the world around us except what we see in the tunnel between us and our goal. kUnderstanding this, we ask id we set our goals on the road to what is best.

Sometimes the road to what is best, to what is most satisfying of life's umperative urges, looks like a path little worn, showing no immediate sign of danger, but when we see it, our fears can rise immediately into giants by whom it seems impossible to pass. To me, this road looks like the river, and I'm trying to ride it in a kayak.

Continued next column

TOUCH THE EARTH (cont.)

The river is Earth's filter, water feeling gravity's pull and moving down it, I see different things, comical only because they seem to be caught in life's processes without informed consent. Riding this movement, having ceased or limited my own, I am reminded how much of life is made of water, and I lose control. Not control of the river, for it was never mine; the control lost is that I seem to exercise over life, an my task suddenly becomes keeping safe while controlled by the river. Realizing personal powerlessness is a gateway to power; the river reminds me that it is not my power alone that determines my path, that there's power in the world which I can fight against (and die) or work with through furious rapids to the safety of quiet stretches.

I want you to hear the river, its sound like a symphony, coherent whole of complicated movement of convoluted harmonies and discords, disturbing and calming in turn, producing anxiety and kindly relieving it. Approaching the river, you become aware of the sound; entering the river, you give it dominion; the river's voice speaks louder than your own, and if you listen, informs you of is power and your limitation. It will warn you of danger or lull you into trance, telling you your own secrets in musical tones, teaching you to listen to the life in and around you.

Your ears full of River's constant speech, your heart says you're alive. The din of life's daily struggle recedes and pressures of current struggle swell. In the rapids the world is new; the difference between up an down is split second, and upside down is silent, cold and dark.

Column continued on page 5

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NOTES FROM THE CAREER PLANNING OFFICE

BROWN BAG CURRICULUM ADVICE WORKSHOP
Wednesday, November 4, 1992
5:00 p.m. Room 100

This workshop, conducted by Professor Wiseman, will help students at all levels to determine what sorts of courses to take for their interests and goals. Bring your own brown bag dinner.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: BOBBY LEE COOK
"Fallout After Dragoul"
Thursday, November 5, 1992
12:00 noon Room 100

The College of Law is honored to welcome Bobby Lee Cook, a well-known and well-respected criminal defense lawyer, as our Inaugural Speaker for the 1992-1993 Guest Lecture Series. Mr. Cook will speak on "Fallout After Dragoul." This is a unique opportunity; all students are urged to attend. Reception immediately following the lecture.

BAR EXAM UPDATE
Thursday, November 12, 1992
2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Room 100

Mary Ann Oakley, bar examiner with the Office of Bar Admissions, will meet with students planning to take the Bar in 1993 (February or July) and assist them with Bar preparation. Ms. Oakley will provide a sample question in advance, and then speak to students about "right" and "wrong" approaches to answering it. Please register at the third floor reception desk, or in the Career Planning Office, for this program. For additional information, please see Beth Brown in the Career Planning Office or call 651-2062.

TRIAL OBSERVATION EXPERIENCE
Thursday, November 19, 1992
2:30-6:00 p.m.
Room to be announced.

To practice before the courts in Georgia, you must first have completed a number of requirements. These requirements are met in part by the second-year litigation course; however, six additional trial experiences must be met.

On Thursday, November 19, 1992, the College of Law will present an opportunity for you to earn an additional three trial credits by conducting a program of taped trial experiences. The program will last approximately 3 1/2 hours. You must register in advance for this program; please sign up at the third floor reception desk by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 1992. After registration, you will be notified as to the room location.

If you have questions, please consult the booklet "Questions & Answers About Mandatory Continuing Legal Education," on reserve in the law library or see Professor Kadish (651-2096) or Beth Brown (651-2062).

NEW ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEW

The Principal Financial Group
OCI: Thursday, 11/12/92
Atlanta, Ga.
Resumes due: Friday, 10/30/92
Seeing: 3L, G

The Principal Financial Group is seeking recent graduates and students graduating in December who have a desire to get involved with a sales and marketing organization. The positions offered are non-legal positions (although a legal education is extremely valuable), involving financial services instead of the practice of law.

The Principal Financial Group has been involved in financial services for 113 years and currently has $32 billion of assets under management. The Principal is
NOTES, continued on page 3.

NOTES, continued from page 2.

an insurance based financial services company involved with businesses and individuals in the areas of financial, estate, risk management and business planning. They implement the broad range of products and services we offer through a planning and need development process.

To apply for an on-campus interview, please leave your resume and a letter indicating when you will take (or if you have taken) the Georgia Bar Exam in the Career Planning Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 1992.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING CAREER PLANNING PROGRAMS

CAREER PLANNING OFFICE ORIENTATION

For first-year students and anyone else who has not yet used the Office or who has questions. The Orientation provides an overview of the legal market and specific strategies for different types of employment and different types of students (full-time, part-time, etc.).

Monday, 11/2/92 5:15 p.m.
Room 100

CAREER PLANNING OFFICE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

All students welcome! Join the Committee and help shape the programs and policies of the Career Planning Office.

Thursday, 11/5/92 5:15 p.m.
Room 144

RESUME AND COVER LETTER PREPARATION SESSION

Learn the necessary skills for your job search. Come prepared to write your resume and cover letter(s). Four sessions available; pick one to suit your schedule.

Monday, 11/9/92 12:00 noon and 5:15 p.m.
Room 144
Tuesday, 11/10/92 12:00 noon and 5:15 p.m.
Room 144

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP INFORMATION SESSION

Find out about Federal and State judicial clerkships, how to find them, and the valuable experience they provide.

Wednesday, 11/11/92
5:00 p.m. Room 100

NETWORKSHOPS

Learn how to develop mailing lists, to write effective letters, to conduct informational interviews and to plan networking strategies in this hands-on workshop in two sessions. Sign up for the session that meets your schedule. Limited to ten participants per session; more Networkshops will be offered later.

Session A:
Tuesday, 11/17/92 and Tuesday,
12/1/92 at 12:00 noon Career Planning Office

Session B:
Tuesday, 11/17/92 and Tuesday, 12/1/92
5:00 p.m. Career Planning Office

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"WHAT CONSTITUTES A GOOD LEGAL EDUCATION" by ROSCOE POUND

...I should put as the content of a good legal education:

(1) A solid all round cultural training, with a grasp of significant information which such a training involves, but much more with the broadening and deepening of experience and ability to appraise information to which it leads.

(2) A grasp at the ends and technique of the social sciences--this only, for beyond that, what has been taught in their name has been short-lived.

(3) A grasp of the history and system of the common law, of the outline and ends of the legal order, of the theory and ends of the judicial and administrative processes, and of the histroy and organization, and standards of the legal profession.

(4) A through grasp of the organization and content of the authoritative legal materials of the time and place and of the technique of developing and applying them.

If one has these, he has whereon he can build to the exigencies of the many demands of different types of professional activity and of the public need of enlightened judges and wise lawmakers, of law reformers and law teachers, and of legal scholars.

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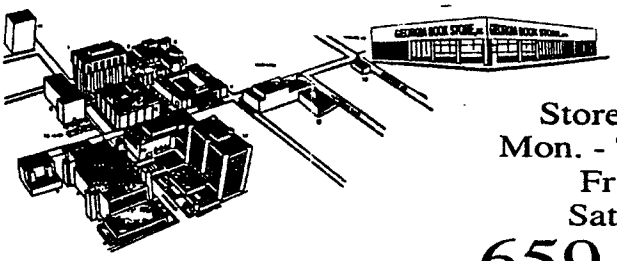

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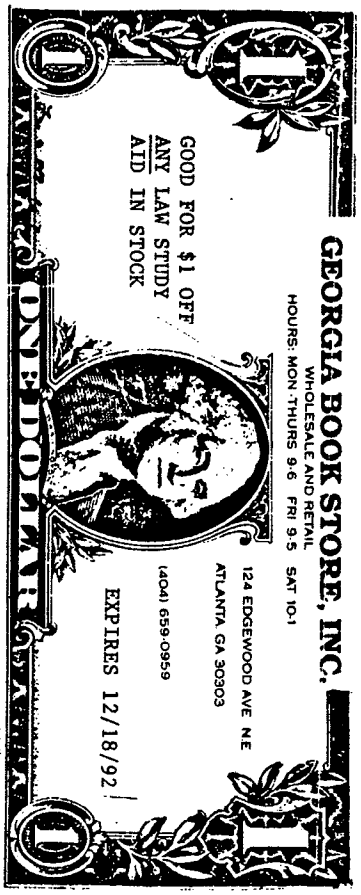

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

Once again the Editor's of this endeavor wish to reiterate that the views on this page do not necessarily represent those of the aforesaid editor's or of the Student Bar Association.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BAR REVIEW COMPANIES

Having a captive audience does not entitle any company to exploit resources or its potential consumers. Lou Gold, a noted enviromentalist, has said "enviromentalism is not a spectator sport." The multi-colored flyers distributed by the bar review companies have exceeded saturation to the point of being litter. Therefore, the Enviromental Law Society urges the bar review courses to take greater ecological responsibility and stop littering our campus.

Sincerely,

The Georgia State University
Enviromental Law Society

THE ROLE OF EXAM NUMBERS?

It has been explained to me that one purpose for providing students with exam numbers is to ensure that students may make statements in class without fear that the professor will be able to use the statements against them while grading exams. This seems to be sound policy. The free flow of ideas and style of debate chosen by the student and professor should be fully protected. Should the discussion between the two become "heated", the use of exam numbers protects the student's exam ability and the professor's credibility while grading.

This protection is particularly warranted for certain classes where class room discussions may tend to be more emotional and subjective, for example, Family Law. The syllabus of my Family Law class states that the professor reserves the right to add or subtract points from a student's final grade based on class participation. The professor has reiterated this policy more than once during class. Unless this is an empty threat, it can be assumed that the professor has the ability to "override" the exam number and penalize the student for, presumably, the failure to participate.

EXAM NUMBERS (cont)

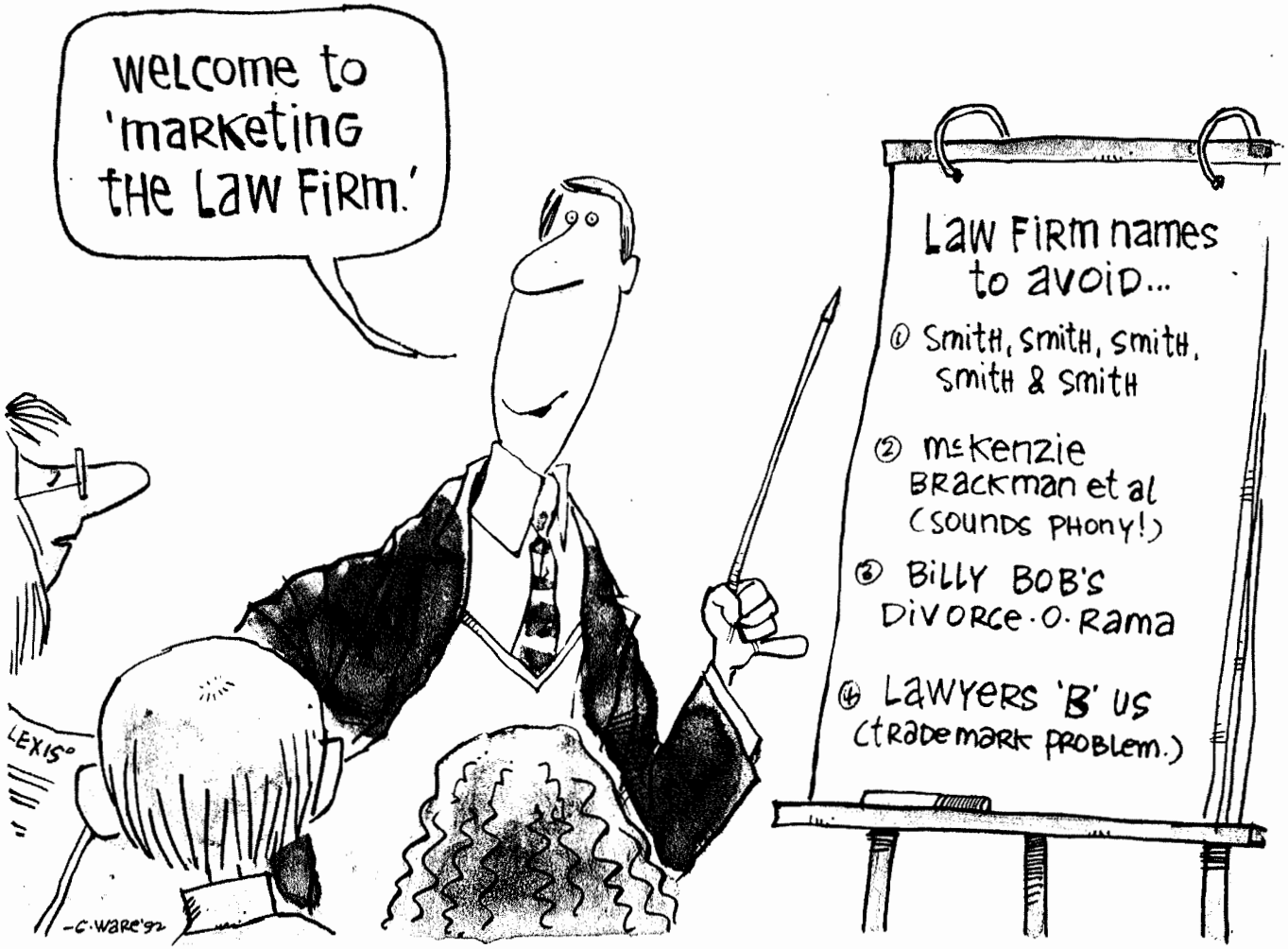
Such a policy is unfair for two reasons. First, it places a chilling effect on a student's right to voice his or her opinion without fear of retribution from the professor in the form of a lower exam grade. In today's world of political correctness, such a fear is not unfounded. Second, the professor's exam grading is subject to constant attack. A particularly vocal student in class can always question the professor's grading of her exam. This built-in tension is unnecessary.

Professors and administrators may argue that reflecting class room participation in the final grade is necessary to encourage, even force, students to participate. There are, however, other methods for accomplishing this goal. For example, a student who claims to be "unprepared", without providing prior notice to the professor, could be considered absent for that class period. Thus, the attendance policy (which I will admit is already rather oppressive in some classes) could be used to motivate students to at least be prepared for the next class.

Finally, I am tendering this letter anonymously for the same reasons I object to the ability of professors to penalize students for class participation. While this letter is not an attempt to question the credibility of any one professor, the fact that most law schools use exam numbers is plain evidence that some professors have abused their authority while grading law exams.

"Affection cannot be manufactured or regulated by law. If one has an affection for a person or a system, one should be free to give the fullest expression to his disaffection, so long as he does not contemplate, promote, or incite violence."

Mahatma Gandhi,
On His Conviction for Sedition



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