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THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL

Vol. 8

Thursday, March 12, 1959

No. 15

IN THE SEMI-FINAL ROUND OF THE CAMPBELL COMPETITION HELD LAST NIGHT
JERRY BORDEN, BARBARA BURGER, DON HINES AND GEORGE KERSTEN were selected as finalists for the concluding round April 17. Following the oral arguments the Annual Case Club Banquet will be held in the Union. All those who were enrolled for the fall term of the Case Club are eligible to attend.

PROFESSOR JOHN P. DAWSON OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL WILL DELIVER A
SERIES OF FIVE LECTURES on "Judges: Oracles of Law" as part of the 11th Annual Cooley Lectures. His initial topic "The Growth of Precedent in the Common Law" will be followed by "The Heritage of Roman Law," "The French Deviation," "Germany's Commitment to Legal Science" and the series will conclude with "The Modern Upheaval." Dates for the lectures are March 12, 13, 16, 17, and 18 at 4:15 p.m. in Room 100, Hutchins Hall.

ROGER GAMBATESE HAS BEEN ELECTED AS THE JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE of the Lawyers Club Executive Council. He fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Don Sanderson.

COPIES OF THE 1958 QUAD, Law School Yearbook, are on sale in the Law Club Book Store. The price is \$3.50 per copy. Due to a shortage of operating capital, no 1959 yearbook will be produced this year.

GOVERNOR G. MENNEN WILLIAMS, AND NOTED ECONOMIST will attend the centennial celebration of the Law School tomorrow evening at 8:00 in the Law Club Lounge. William J. Quinn, president of the "Milwaukee Road" will speak on the railroad's future, as the feature of the celebration.

THE BARRISTERS HAVE SET THE EVENING OF APRIL 18 FOR THE CREASE
BALL, the focal event for the weekend traditionally given over to hell raising before finals. This year in addition to the pre-parties and Sunday picnics, the finals of the Campbell Competition will be held that weekend along with the Banquet and the Regional Convention of the ALSA. Tickets to the Crease Ball are on sale now and can be purchased from any Barrister.

SPORTS AND FRATERNITY NEWS: Last week the DELTS and the PHIDS clashed for the league championship in basketball and the PHIDS emerged victorious 29-20.....Social Calendar: DELTS will have a house meeting March 12 at 10 p.m. DELTS will rush starting March 19. They will have a party Saturday night with Bob Eliot and his combo; free to DELTS, \$2.00 to non-DELT couples. Sunday the DELTS will have a steak fry; cost \$3.50. - no stags at this jobbie.....PHIDS - The annual Mississippi Stomp will be held Saturday night. Catfish Punch will be served.....PADS - will have a party at Blackacre, 631 E. University, Saturday. Free to PADS; \$1.00 per couple to aliens.....ZOTS - Executive Meeting Saturday at 6:30 in clubhouse annex. (502 East Madison).

Wednesday evening, March 4, a faculty discussion of the law school admissions policy was held with Professors Harvey, Steinheimer and Assistant Dean Proffitt participating.

Steinheimer, the present Admissions Officer, gave a brief outline of the present system and policy. The basic minimum which the law school requires for admission is a 2.5 undergraduate average and a score of 500 on the LSAT. Anyone meeting these requirements is admitted. Some flexibility is allowed, since a failure to meet one of the standards can be offset by a correspondingly higher achievement on the other. Steinheimer emphasized that no preference is given to Michigan residents or to any other group. He noted that while it was obvious to him that a 2.4 at one school may be equivalent to a 3.0 at another, he is unable to operate on this hunch without some substantiating data. To this end, among others, he is preparing statistical data on all students entering the law school since 1946 which when completed will enable him to make an evaluation of grades at different colleges. Last year the applications for admission totaled approximately 1200. From this number around 600 certificates of admission were awarded. This surprisingly large number of admission certificates is needed, Steinheimer said, in order to have a starting class of approximately 325 because of the normal number of non-acceptances due to changes in financial circumstances, draft status, choice of law school, etc. The number of applications have been increasing at the rate of 20% per year. He predicted that this rate would increase in the coming years.

Professor Harvey was sharply critical of the present policy. He asserted that the purpose of an admissions policy is to attempt to ascertain which applicants will present a reasonable probability of success in the school. The level of quality required for success should be high; and the people of this state have shown a willingness to support a national law school with superior students. With this purpose in mind he stated that the present admissions minimums of "studied mediocrity" were too low even considering that the law school is not now being used to its capacity. With such a standard he questioned whether the faculty is realistic in demanding the high level of excellence that they now do. He ventured the guess that probably the bottom 25% of the entering freshman class ought to have been shaved off by a more stringent admissions policy rather than by using the "home list". The heavy use of the home list as a selective process, he characterized as unduly wasteful of time, money and effort on the part of the unsuccessful student and as producing an unnecessary inefficiency in the process of teaching the better qualified students.

Harvey suggested that it would be wiser for the school to place primary emphasis on admissions policy in the determination of qualified students. Despite the recognized risk, in such emphasis of excluding a competent applicant, he said that the law school must be willing to play the averages. Better motivation measurement, which may be developed, if used in conjunction with raised admissions criteria, would bring the home list to defensible proportions. Any attempt to improve or even maintain the comparative quality of the law school, Professor Harvey concluded, must include a program designed to attract the more gifted students by traveling and interviewing at undergraduate colleges.

Some statistics of the student body as now composed were given by Assistant Dean Proffitt. There are now 794 students in attendance with approximately 3/8 of them Michigan residents and the remaining 5/8 out-of-state residents. The average age of the starting class is 22.5. The undergraduate grade average is slightly less than a 3.0 and the average LSAT score is 543 or approximately the 70th percentile.

AT THE FLICKS

MICHIGAN..... Dial 2-2513
Now showing.....BELL, BOOK & CANDLE
March 13.....THE JOURNEY
STATE.....Dial 2-3136
Now showing.....AN AFFAIR TO REMEM-
BER & THREE FACES OF EVE
March 15.....THE MATING GAME

CAMPUS..... Dial 8-6416
Now showing....THE LITTLE ISLAND
March 16.....ALBERT SCHWEITZER
ARCHITECTURE (Cinema Guild)
Thurs. & Fri...THING FROM ANOTHER
WORLD
Sat. & Sun.....ANIMAL FARM