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The Opinion

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## Orientation Welcomes New Students & New Dean

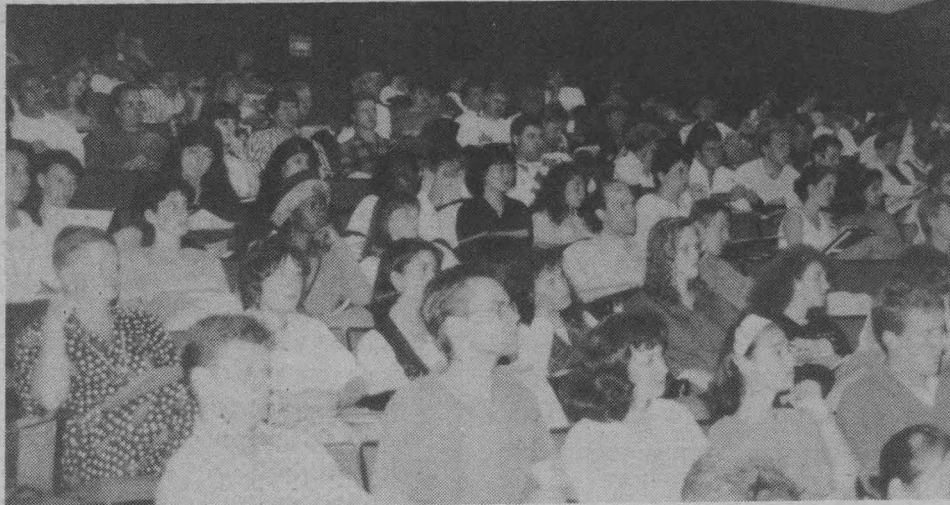
By Kevin P. Collins, News Editor

The incoming class of 1992 had the honor of being the first to hear of the announcement that Dean Boyer is the new boss around here.

The Fall 1992 semester of law school officially got under way Monday, August 17th, at the General Orientation held at the Moot Court Room in O'Brian Hall. Incoming first year law students received their first taste of law school during the day in an orientation that started at 9:00 a.m. in the morning and ended at 7:00 p.m. after a cocktail party.

The orientation opened with S.B.A. President William F. Trezavant welcoming in the first years. President Trezavant then had the distinction of announcing officially for the first time to the law school that Professor Barry B. Boyer had been appointed by Provost Aaron N. Bloch, with the enthusiastic approval of President Greiner, to become the new Dean of the School of Law.

Dean Boyer then addressed the class, giving thanks to the outgoing Dean, David Filvaroff, for the good job and service that he did for the law school. Dean Boyer stated that he has a two year period to serve as Dean, when



he will then be reviewed by a review board which can renew his services for another two year period. He spoke of a new time at UB. He discussed such topics as the grading system, which has been subjected to some criticism and a call for change in recent times. Dean Boyer stated that upwards of 90% of graduating UB law students are getting jobs within one year of their graduation.

Dean Boyer then went on to address the budget problems facing UB and the SUNY

system. He stated that the key to getting through these fiscally tough times was to have key quality programs, and he cited the Research and Writing program which utilizes small groups of students with senior faculty doing actual law related work in contrast to the old program which just used teaching assistants. He also proudly spoke of the strong public interest program at UB.

Karen Waltz, the Registrar, then followed giving various pieces of advice to the 1Ls such as never, ever parking in Jacobs A. She also told the students to place their name on page # 100 in all their text books. This is an idea and program instituted by Public Safety to help combat the theft of books. The Bookstore is aware of this policy. She further warned the 1Ls to avoid incompletes and extensions. Karen

Waltz is the person to see when you have a problem and will help you get through the three years here.

Audrey Koscielniak, the Director of the Career Development Office, then spoke to the first years. She stated that the CDO helps students discover what law practice is all about and that there are many programs to be taken advantage of. The CDO needs the help of work-study students to serve as office assistants to enable CDO to be as effective as possible. Jill Barr, a Graduate Assistant of the CDO, spoke of how the law helps bring justice to as many people as possible. She stated that the CDO helps students find out what it is you want to do. She further mentioned that the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program (BPILP) offers great assistance to those students with an interest in public interest law. Maureen Olives, also a GA for the CDO, told the 1Ls that when they settle down, that they should go to the CDO orientation meetings and read the handbook, which will help them in starting to think about summer jobs.

This was followed by each of the three sections of 1Ls hearing from one professor from their section. Professor Olsen spoke for Section 1, Professors Mensch and Freeman for Section 2 (who told the 1Ls to start planning costumes for their annual Halloween party), and the former Dean, Professor Filvaroff, for Section 3. Professor Lindgren spoke about the Research and Writing Program, and introduced

*Orientation, continued on page 3*

## Dean Boyer's Message to 1L's

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Buffalo School of Law. All of us on the faculty vividly remember our own first days in law study, and the hopes and fears that we brought with us to law school. While the reality was very different from what we had expected on our first day, law school was a powerful experience for us -- exciting, frustrating at times, and always demanding. It opened our minds to new ways of understanding our society, and it defined new roles for us to play in the world. We hope that each of you will find comparable challenge and reward in your legal education at Buffalo.

The profession you are entering today is rapidly changing. Some of the primary fields of legal practice today, such as employee benefits or environmental law, scarcely existed twenty or even ten years ago. Emerging technologies such as computerized databases and instant global communication will become standard and then outmoded during your professional careers, and new technologies will be developed to replace them. Even the structure of law practice is changing: a firm that would have been considered very large in the 1970s would be medium-sized in many cities today, and the paths to promotion and tenure within some law firms have been greatly altered.

The Buffalo School of Law is changing also, to prepare its students to excel in this emerging legal environment. One visible sign of that change will be the new computer classroom scheduled to open in O'Brian Hall during the second semester. Another, more fundamental sign of change will be the long-range academic plan that will be prepared during the coming year. As members of the Law School community, you are invited to participate in the preparation of that plan, and to set the course for generations of law students that will follow you.

One thing that should not change in the future, however, is your law school's commitment. Both physically and intellectually, this



law school is an integral part of the University. During your years here, you will learn about and perhaps join interdisciplinary programs and projects in fields such as Health Policy, Housing and Community Development, Gender and Social Policy, Disabilities and the Law, International Trade, and Environment. You will meet faculty who have the Ph.D. as well as the J.D., and who represent some of the principle contemporary schools of legal scholarship such as Law and Society and Critical Legal Studies.

In short, the Buffalo Law School, like the legal profession itself, encompasses a great variety of intellectual fields of inquiry, career paths, and opportunities. We invite you to take advantage of them while you are here, both in the curriculum and through the many extracurricular and community service activities available at the law school.

I look forward to meeting you individually, and to watching your growth and progress as members of the legal profession.

Barry B. Boyer  
Dean and Professor of Law

## SBA President's Message

By, William F. Trezavant, SBA President

Welcome! We have one exciting and dynamic year ahead of us. Perhaps unlike many other times in our law school's history, we have before us a unique window of opportunity to participate in and implement changes affecting our law school. The key is involvement by as many people as possible. As a preliminary word on the issue of involvement, I would like to point out that this does not require an exclusive commitment. Rather, we seek whatever participation that you feel you can contribute. I successfully campaigned last year on the issues, and I now have the honor of serving you by facilitating an inclusive discussion and subsequent decision. I seek your help, comments, guidance and participation. Together we can accomplish a great deal.

First, I would like to cover some changes

that have occurred within O'Brian hall. Most importantly, we now have a new Dean. I'm sure I speak for all of us in wishing Dean Boyer our best intentions, and full cooperation during this time of change. I likewise would like to again express our appreciation and thanks to former Dean Filvaroff for his years of leadership. I understand he is now located on the fourth floor, so be sure to stop in and say hello.

As we can all see the mailroom has moved. The new location has already begun to create improved contact between the administration and the students. The move was made in order to create a new classroom for the exclusive use of the law school to assist in providing additional classes at the same time. I understand that the process to complete the transformation of our old mailroom is nearing

*Message, continued on page 2*

## Domestic Task Force Wins Bar Association Award

We wish to congratulate the Domestic Violence Task Force! On May 14th, they were selected as the recipient of the New York State Bar Association's 1992 Law Student Legal Ethics Award. The award, in the form of a check and an award certificate, was forwarded to the Task Force from the State Bar Association's Committee on Legal Education & Admission to the Bar.

The NYSBA's Committee on Legal Education & Admission to the Bar has also issued a report, recently endorsed by the NYSBA, calling for less restrictions to be placed before those who wish to appeal their New York State bar exam scores. The committee's report calls for, among other things, full disclosure of essay questions to appeals applicants, as well as the right of an appeals applicant to provide a brief substantive argument in its support. For copies of the "Report and Recommendations of the Bar Examination Appeals Process and Disclosure of Bar Examination Essay Questions and Model Answers", call the NYSBA's Office of Administrative Liaison at (518) 463-3200.





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## EDITORIALS

### Welcome First Years

Having heard wonderful things about the mission you are about to embark upon in law school, let me add some sobering words.

As law students in a public institution, you enjoy the benefits of an incredibly low tuition, but also suffer from incredibly limited resources. The state budget problems of the past few years, as well as other unexpected losses, have exacted a heavy toll upon the law school. Each year the law school has to make do with less and less. Things, regrettable, are not going to get better soon.

As such, each of you is ultimately responsible for determining where the limited resources of the school are spent. Even as first years, you can put pressure on the administration in a variety of ways. By taking an active part in your education, you alert the faculty and staff of your expectations. However you choose to become involved, either through the Student Bar Association as a Class Director, a member of one of its several committees, or any other law related extracurricular activity, you demonstrate that you are taking your education seriously, and that you, in turn, should be taken seriously. Do not let the oppressive weight of the state bureaucracy filter down through to the law school and crush your desire to become the best lawyer possible. Fight for the best education by making yourself heard any way you can.

By now you've had your first classes and briefed your first cases, and, in the process, some of your apprehensions about the study of law may have begun to fade (for some of you at least, others among you will be needlessly jittery right on through to exams). Learning the law requires more than just books - it requires participation.

By the way, welcome to Buffalo Law School

### Change the Grading System

Year after year, a new class of law students has to contend with UB Law's so-called noncompetitive grading system. The grading system, which makes little sense even to those already here, makes UB Law students waste valuable time explaining to prospective employers the difference between a "Q" and a "Q\*." Worse, once a student has even one semester worth of H-Q grades in his record, there is little incentive left not to get on the proverbial "Q-train." Students quickly realize that with this system, the hard-working, yet non-exceptional, student who receives a "Q" will always remain indistinguishable from the "laid back" or "just get by with the minimum" student who also receives a "Q."

For many, the "Q" grade becomes a safety net which only encourages mediocrity. The professors, too, are abdicating their responsibility of providing students with accurate feed-back on their performance.

Get rid of the H-Q system and go back to the traditional A-B-C-D-F system everyone readily understands.

In fact, not only are the grades inaccurate, they're usually late!

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*The Opinion* welcomes letters to the editor but reserves the right to edit for length and libelous content. Letters longer than three typed double spaced pages will be edited for length. Please do not put anything you wish printed under our office door. Submissions can be sent via Campus or United States Mail to *The Opinion*, SUNY AB Amherst Campus, 724 John Lord O'Brian Hall, Buffalo, New York 14260 (716) 636-2147 or placed in law school mailboxes 223 or 611. Deadlines for the semester are the Friday before publication.

The ideas expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" and on the commentary page are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial Board of *The Opinion*.

*SBA Message,*  
 continued from page 1  
 completion.

In addition, we will soon have a new computer room next to the existing computer center on the fourth floor. The new computers will have the advantage of tapping into all types of legal data bases. Assistant Dean Cook with the assistance of Anna have been working extremely hard to make all of the adjustments a reality so we thank them.

Next, after a discussion with Dean Boyer and Joe Belluck I understand that we have an addition to our spring course schedule entitled "White Collar Crime". It is my understanding that this addition is the first of others to follow if all goes well.

For our smoking population, as I promised last year, there is now furniture in the smoking lounge, so sit back, relax and enjoy.

Hey, for all you student group leaders, the discussion that went on last year about student group room adjustments led to a decision last year. Unfortunately, the memo delineating those adjustments never made it to all of the student groups, and for that I apologize. However, it is extremely important that all of you come to the SBA office and see me to organize a smooth transition, as well as to pick up your keys. I'd like to see this move completed in the next week or two so you, our students groups, can get started on another successful year.

And, in case you were wondering, I believe that Phi Alpha Delta, our professional fraternity, will once again be publishing a student directory. So I ask all of us to fill out the student information forms as soon as you receive them to help this process along. If you want more info, see Marty Danks, a third year student, or leave a note in his box.

In a similar vein, as I promised last year, we will be putting together a yearbook for the first time in a number of years. The person to get into contact with is Roy Hopkins, a third year student, Box number 133. Anyone interested should contact him as soon as possible.

The next item before us is child-care for our fellow law students. All those interested in this issue should contact me either through box 262 or at the SBA office on the first floor. My thinking is that we should be able to get this program together by the beginning of the spring semester, but I need your help, so come on down.

We are looking for a number of people to serve on committees: (See SBA Board in front of Rm 101)

There will be other committees established, so come on down with your willingness to serve and ideas in hand. The committees' responsibilities will be focused and are not expected to require long hours.

The process is simple. Pick up a committee application from the SBA which will be available on Friday 21 of August. Fill it out and return it by Thursday August 27. The Executive Board will meet and schedule interviews shortly thereafter.

But most importantly, I need future Supreme Court Justices to serve on our SBA CONSTITUTION and BY-LAW committee. This will concentrate on some extensive revisions and additions to our present Constitution. The best part of this though is there will be no televised hearings, and no litmus test.

And on the same subject, The ELECTIONS are here. The ones we have been waiting for so long. The election of our legislative body known as the Board of Class Directors. Just for information sake, remember there are six class director positions available for each class year. The deadline dates are on the poster on the first floor.

Yes, that means we will be electing eighteen (18) people to debate and discuss for the rest of the year. Two notes on this. First, think about your concerns or ideas about our school, ask the candidates some questions, investigate their temperament, and put the best people who you feel can work with others on the Board. We have too much to do this year to be required to baby sit law students at the SBA meetings. And I do not intend to baby sit



Second, after the volatile and hotly contested Executive Board elections last year, I expect many of you to run. So start being nice to your colleagues if you have not been so already.

And to facilitate this process, the SBA will be holding two functions between now and election week. First, we have planned the official WELCOME BACK party this Thursday at 337 Lisbon street near the main street campus. Listen, it's a 15 KEGGER!!!!!! No lie, and if you're skeptical, come to the party and find out!!!!

The second event is the traditional picnic this year to be held on Saturday August 29, 1992 at Baird point. You will see more information as this date approaches. Unlike in past years, this is a full fledged school wide picnic so everyone is invited. And what better way to meet the candidates/ or campaign than under the sunny skies of Buffalo. By the same token, those who could care less about the campaign, you can still come and check out you colleagues, and you know discuss the issues or classes. In order to help, the SBA will provide food, soda, and a modest 12 Kegs.

Speaking of elections, I need student questioners to ask candidates Holtzman and Abrams questions at next week's candidate forum. Interested students should put their question in writing along with their name, phone number and class year in mailbox 262. I also need volunteers to serve as ushers for this event. Those interested should likewise place a letter indicating their interest in box 262. The deadline is Monday August 24.

SPEAKING OF DEADLINES: CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY ARE AT IT AGAIN. THEY ARE SPEAKING OUT OF BOTH SIDES OF THEIR MOUTH. TELLING US ON THE ONE HAND THAT CLASS AND THEIR ASSIGNMENTS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN OUR LIVES ONLY TO TURN AROUND AND APPARENTLY INTENTIONALLY NOT TURN IN THE GRADES FOR THEIR COURSES. NOW COME ON PROFESSORS, HOW LONG WILL THIS CONTINUE THIS TIME. SINCE I HAPPEN TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY, LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE ABOUT OUR POSITION. THIS IS THE LAST TIME. FOR INFORMATION THE "LET THEM EAT CAKE GROUP" INCLUDES ...EWING...JOYCE...FINLEY...MARCUS AND SWARTZ. PLEASE CLEAR THIS MATTER UP AS YOU ARE FRUSTRATING THE STUDENTS ATTEMPTS TO GET JOBS, INTERNSHIPS, AND CLERKSHIPS. QUIT BEING SO INSENSITIVE AND IRRESPONSIBLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In conclusion, I want to remind all of us, we control our own future. We can, regardless of ideological positions, change this school for the better. And with a proactive Trezevant Administration, we will take chances, raise the issues, present ideas, remain open to criticism and dialogue and get more than a few things done. I want us to create and with your help during the course of this year, I am confident all of us together can create an exciting tradition which is inclusive, dynamic and proud. Thanks for your time, your Prez, Trez.



## DIS Orientation PARTY!

August 20, 1992: 337 Lisbon!  
6pm-??? 15-kegger party!?!

## Orientation PARTY!

(Sponsored by the SBA)

Sat., Aug 29, 1992: Baird Point (North Campus).  
Noon - ??? Beer, Picnic, Volleyball, Beer, etc...  
Mix, Mingle, and Drink...

## Teal-green Suit

### Fiction

By Natalie Lesh, Features Editor

Anne gently pulled the curtain away from the window in order to inspect the approaching day. Like the previous morning, she was greeted by an ominous grey sky. A large mass of thick clouds clung together as if for protection, forming an ocean of darkness. A light rain had already begun to fall as Anne let the thin, yellow curtain slip away from her fingers.

Right foot on the floor, left foot on the floor. She was up. Her feet tingled as the blood rushed to feed the muscles which had contracted in response to meeting the cold, hard floor. Yes, she was up.

The last time she was on an airplane Anne felt very ill. Her head throbbed from the drinks she had shared with her friends the night before, and her stomach churned with each turbulence-induced lurch of the aircraft. Darkness enveloped the plane as it continued on its course, slicing its way through the dense, black, soupy sky.

The captain of the plane announced that he had received authorization to fly over the storm. Anne and the other passengers exhaled their apprehension as they sat back into their seats, pushing themselves firmly against the tan velveteen cushions. Anne tightened her seatbelt and closed her eyes. She could feel the airplane slowly tilt upward.

Anne shivered as the warm water trickled through her hair and rushed over her body. The splashes of water in the basin of the tub replaced the sound from outside of

raindrops exploding as they crashed into the ground. Anne always felt a particular sense of peacefulness while standing alone in the shower: the gentle strokes and soothing rhythm of the cascading water, the clean, fresh smell of newly washed skin, and the absolute solitude imposed by the flimsy sheet of plastic which hung like an impenetrable barrier, separating her from the rest of the world.

A brilliant flash of light burned through Anne's eyelids, forcing them to open. Her eyes squinted, unable to withstand the white-hot reflection of the sun against the clouds. The light was trapped, and the blinding rays bounced between the wall of storm clouds and the sun in a desperate and futile effort to escape. The airplane continued its ascension.

Anne finally decided upon the teal-green suit. It was hardly the newest edition to her wardrobe, but in it she felt confident, secure. It would not distract her concentration from the new surroundings, the new faces and the new responsibilities she would encounter today. Everything would be different from what she had known. The day she had dreamed about and fought for had finally arrived.

Anxiously taking one last look in the mirror, Anne caught her own gaze and held it for just a moment. Yes, this is what she wanted. She was ready.

Anne stepped out into the driving downpour and smiled as she slipped her sunglasses into place.

## Drop/Add Ends September 4

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Round out your legal education by becoming an active participant on this award winning publication. Postions are available for journalists, photographers, and salespersons. If interested, place a note of interest in Box 223 or 611.

Deadline for next issue:  
Friday, August 28, 1992

Place submissions in Box 223 or 611

## SBA Elections

Petitions for Class Directors are due 8/27.

Please provide photo.  
The elections will be held  
Aug. 31 thru Sept. 2

## ATTENTION CLUBS

Having a special event? Have it covered in The Opinion. Let us know of your event in advance and we will (try to) cover it.

You can also advertise you club's activities on The Opinion Docket. Submit notices of your activities to Box 223 or 611 by the publishing deadline.

## Orientation

continued from page 1

the students to her teaching assistants, 2Ls Cathy Lovejoy and John Cody.

When the orientation had finally finished, the students were then broken up into small groups and given tours of the law school and the campus by second and third years.

The day was capped off by a cocktail party sponsored by the UB Law Alumni Association, which was held at the Center for Tomorrow. There, the students had an opportunity to mix and mingle with each other and with their professors. The President of the Alumni Association warmly greeted Dean Boyer and congratulated him, wishing him well in his new position and in the task which he now faces.

The success of the day was due to the hard work and planning done by Dean Newell, Charmagne Alabi, and the Orientation Committee.



**WE'RE NOT THE BEST  
BECAUSE WE'RE THE  
BIGGEST**

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BECAUSE WE'RE THE  
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