

The Opinion

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William Mitchell College of Law

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Peters letter explains tuition hike

The following letter from Dean Geoffrey Peters was made available to students on March 31.

Dear William Mitchell Students:
Last night the Board of Trustees met and discussed the 1981-82 budget. At the meeting were: the members of the Board, me, Dean Goldberg, faculty representative Professor Helland, Alumni President Mr. Jacobsen, and your SBA President, Dennis Brown. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Board determined that the yearly tuition for 1981-82 would be as follows: full-time students, \$4,050; part-time students, \$2,770. Summer session tuition for 1981 was set at \$125.00 per credit hour.

I believe that the Board's action will allow the College to be brought into line with other accredited law schools in the nation. The College's student/faculty ratio will now meet or exceed the current accreditation standards of the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools.

Since my letter to you of March 3, there have been many positive developments. An appeal by Ron Hachey to students to assist in our telethon was warmly received with many responding to assist with this drive. We are planning a Spring and Fall bike-a-thon to raise additional funds and the preliminary response from students, faculty and staff has been encouraging. Last week

we received an \$88,000 deferred gift which will, upon the death of the donor, provide scholarships to many future students. Our Development and Publications staffs with the help of the Board of Trustees Development Committee have planned a major drive in which small and medium-sized corporations will be asked to make donations to permanently endow student scholarships. A second drive to endow Administrative Law and Environmental Law Faculty Chairs is also underway.

Our Placement and Financial Aid Director has been involved in tracking the developments in the student loan program. We were one of the first colleges to meet with Twin City Federal Savings

and Loan and accept their offer of assistance. Information regarding their new student loan program is available from Peggy Riehm.

During the past fall, the College made an effort to obtain a substantial increase in Work Study funds for 1981-82. Although there is always a chance that our request will still be cut, we have been preliminarily notified that we will receive about \$8,000.00 more than last year. This money will be used to hire our students as library and research assistants (thereby providing employment and saving expenses).

I will do everything that I can to keep our tuition costs lower

than most other private law schools. At the same time, I will continue to seek scholarship funds and other financial aid from sources outside the College. Your cooperation, understanding, suggestions, and genuine concern are deeply gratifying.

It is unfortunate that tuition had to be increased. However, I am convinced that the decision by the Board was fiscally sound and necessary. As I indicated in my earlier letter, we need to maintain accreditation and academic standards which, after all, are investments in you and your future.

Very truly yours,
Geoffrey W. Peters,
Dean

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Child-care plan to start in fall

A William Mitchell child-care program is scheduled to open with the start of fall classes in 1981, barring the unforeseen, according to former Student Bar Association Vice-President Joan Lucas.

While the search is still under way to find appropriate nearby space, Lucas said the rest of the program's planning is complete. Initially, the child-care operation will serve a maximum of 21 children at any given time.

The full-time staff will consist of a director/head teacher, degreed in child care, and two assistant teachers. "One of the best features of the WMCL plan," said Lucas, "is its flexibility."

The plan is modelled on the "drop-by" concept. Rather than being a five-day, fixed-hour program for 21 children, the program at any one time will have space available by reservation for 21 children.

Reservations will be of two types. The first is a "contract on a semester basis," through which a parent may reserve a block of fixed hours and days with payments made along with tuition payments.

The second type of reservation is one made at least 24 hours in advance for occasional "drop-by" care.

"Who's going to pay for it?" was the hardest part of the planning phase. For nearly a year the program planners debated how to offer quality child care with no use of tuition dollars.

A major breakthrough came in the person of Rahn Westby and other interested WMCL graduates who offered their help in raising start-up costs. With no costs included for facilities, the budget for start-up costs is over \$13,000. With these initial funds procured, it is projected that annual operating expenditures can be met through the hourly charges for child care.

The major fund-raising efforts will occur in May. Lucas indicates that there is a substantial need for people to volunteer "even a few hours" to help with fund-raising and the "time-consuming" details of setting up the program.

The Docket will carry notices in May so that interested parents may sign up on the child-care waiting list.



Ann Jones, author of *Women Who Kill*, spoke to about 150 people at Mitchell April 24. In an event sponsored by the Women's Law Caucus, Jones explained how she had become interested in writing about women murderers. Her book is a social history of women and of woman's place in American Society. She also addressed the current issues surrounding battered wives and women who fight back.

Mitchell graduates first 3-year class

The first group of full-time students to attend Mitchell will graduate this June. Forty-four students -- 32 men and 12 women -- completed the graduation requirements in three years instead of the usual four, most of them taking 16 credits each semester their first two years, and 12 per semester their third year.

The section's first year began in the fall of 1978 with 66 students: 42 men and 23 women. By the end of its second year, five people had dropped out and 14 students had gone to the regular program.

Full-time classes were entirely during the day during the first

year, but, by the second year, when students could take electives, many had classes at 1 p.m. and 6:30 or 8:30 in the evening.

By the third year the section was fully integrated into the regular program at Mitchell.

Many of these graduating seniors say they feel that the predominance of two-credit classes did not make it easy to take 16 credits a semester, but they are nevertheless glad to be graduating in three years. An informal survey revealed admiration for the perseverance of students in the four-year program.

LSAT scores are available

Potential law students don't know they can obtain copies of past law school admission tests (LSAT). That is the finding of a survey done by the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) of students taking the LSAT February 21 at the University of Minnesota.

Ninety percent (90%) of those interviewed said they would have used the past tests to prepare with if they had known about them.

MPIRG interviewed twenty students selected at random who took the LSAT on February 21 at the University of Minnesota. None of the students knew that LSATs used in previous months were available. Eighteen of the

1981-82 Calendar

Administrators at William Mitchell have set the final calendar for next year, with fall-semester classes scheduled to begin on Thursday, Aug. 20. Registration for those classes is set for Aug. 6 through 8.

Examinations for the first semester will extend from Dec. 9 through Dec. 23. Winter graduation is set for Sunday, Jan. 17, at 1:30 p.m.

Second-semester classes begin on Monday, Jan. 11, and end on Tuesday, May 4. Examinations will be administered from May 6 through May 21. Complete details, including holidays and the summer school schedule for 1982, follow.

Aug. 6 (Th)	First Year Registration Second Year Registration Fourth Year Registration
Aug. 7 (Fr)	Third Year Registration
Aug. 8 (Sat)	Classes begin
Aug. 20 (Th)	
Sept. 7 (Mon)	Labor Day - No classes
Sept. 25 (Fr)	Homecoming
Nov. 7 (Sat)	Registration for Spring Semester
Nov. 23 (Mon)	Last day to drop classes
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Holiday (Make-up Aug. 20, 21)
Dec. 7 (Mon)	Last day of classes (Labor Day make-up)
Dec. 8 (Tues)	Reading Day
Dec. 9-23	First Semester Examinations
Jan. 11 (Mon)	Classes begin
Jan. 17 (Sun)	Graduation (1:30 p.m.)
Feb. 22-26	Spring Vacation
Mar. 1-12	Summer School Lottery
Mar. 27 (Sat)	Summer School Registration
Apr. 9 (Fr)	Good Friday - No Classes
Apr. 12 (Mon)	Holiday - No Classes
Apr. 19 (Mon)	Last day to drop classes
May 4 (Tues)	Last day of classes (Good Friday make-up)
May 5 (Wed)	Reading Day
May 6-21	Second Semester Examinations
May 26 (Wed)	Summer session begins
May 31 (Mon)	Memorial Day - No classes
June 4 (Fr)	Memorial Day make up
June 13 (Sun)	Graduation (1:30 p.m.)
July 5 (Mon)	Fourth of July Holiday No classes
July 9 (Fr)	Make-up day for July 5
July 15 (Th)	Summer classes and
July 17-23	Summer Semester Examinations

Dear Grads: Write if you get work

By George McCormick

Ready for another variation of the good news-bad news schtick? Too late. Here it comes.

The good news is that the U.S. Department of Labor estimates that there are 24,600 legal jobs out there, just waiting for you. And there will be that many each year, right through 1985.

The bad news is that the nation's accredited law schools will be sending out 34,000 brand new lawyers -- this year and for the next few years.

The trick, obviously, is to be part of the 24,600 who find jobs instead of the 9,400 who, ultimately, find themselves filling out those matchbook-cover ads that promise "Learn keypunch at home in your spare time; earn big money."

Step No. 1 is to be accepted by Harvard Law School. "The desire for Harvard Law graduates seems to be on the increase," said the school's placement director with, admittedly, justifiable smugness. Yale would

do, too. "Our students are in demand," said its placement director. Last year's class at Yale had 169 members, she noted, and 162 had jobs by the time they graduated.

Okay. So what's step No. 2? No, you can't lie. It's unprofessional. Unethical. Besides, you might win a Pulitzer someday, and then your phony academic credentials will come to light.

Instead, step No. 3 is to graduate at the top of your class and to be editor of the law review.

That takes care of one of you. For the remaining 9,399, it's time to move on to step No. 4: Marry the son or daughter (depending on your sex and/or your affectional preferences) of a senior partner in a major firm. (Before you fall in love, try to find out which partner does the hiring.) True, this step can cause problems for those of you already married or otherwise seriously involved. But a job's a job, right?

If that doesn't work, step No. 5 might. Placement people note

that while job competition is tough in major metropolitan areas, it's not so bad in smaller cities. "There is not a surplus of lawyers in Oshkosh, Peoria or Paducah," said one.

Carry that thought a bit further: If there's no surplus in Peoria, there's a definite dearth of lawyers in the boonies -- I mean the real boonies. If you're willing to relocate, you can find work.

Besides, office rent is really low in Zap, N.D.

SBA head hits administration policies

by Bob Birnbaum

The Student Bar Association Board of Governors (SBA) finished its year of service in the midst of an election controversy, and turned over the reins of diminished power to next year's board.

The disputed election overshadowed a more significant event -- the SBA accepted a contract with the administration, which turns over the SBA's accounting functions and vending and foodservice responsibilities to the administration. In return SBA becomes the sole manager of non-credit activities such as Women's Law Caucus, Environmental Law Society, and the Opinion. The administration will no longer financially support any non-credit student activities.

Election Challenged

Several night students challenged the election of the 4th-year representatives when it was learned that only day students had been elected, two of them as write-ins. The challengers contended that the SBA by-laws do not permit write-ins and that the election was conducted without sufficient notice.

President Dennis Brown said day students apparently voted as a bloc for one candidate, Jim Martinson, who was on the ballot by petition, and also wrote in

three others, Ken Abdo, John Gibbs & Steven Vodonik. About 95 percent of 3rd year night students failed to vote in the election.

After extensive and heated debate at an emergency meeting the SBA decided to allow the election to stand. The board ruled that the notice of the election, though less than ideal, was adequate. Board members interpreted Robert's Rules of Order to say that if by-laws are silent on write-ins, they are allowed.

Most protesters were unhappy with the result. Some talked about refusing to pay SBA dues next year.

Contract Imposed

Outgoing President Dennis Brown was particularly concerned about what he considers the administration's "heavy-handed" treatment of SBA. Brown's view is that the administration deals with SBA through ultimatums. He says, in tracing the history of the new SBA-administration contract, what started as an idea to discuss became a proposal that the SBA had no choice but to accept. "They (the administration) decide what's best for others before presenting it to the people affected" says Brown.

Under the agreement's terms, the school will no longer finance

non-credit activities, but will take over SBA bookkeeping functions and the food-service contract. President Brown remains opposed to the idea of distinguishing between credit and non-credit groups. He contends that it is unfair to make non-credit groups accountable, but not credit activities, such as Law Review.

Brown is not alone in this position. The change in SBA functions was one reason Vice-President Joan Lucas proposed that the entire board resign. Lucas felt that the complete reorganization of SBA, which was part of her proposal, was the best way to solve the continuing problem created by the yearly change in board membership.

"My essential concerns are that the SBA has not functioned effectively in the face of constant administrative changes in operations and policies, and also that the SBA has not been a strong advocate of student needs and concerns," Lucas said. Her motion was defeated.

President Disenchanted

In a final interview before leaving office, President Brown expressed his disenchantment with the Peters administration. He said that "they don't seem to realize the need for a time of transition, rather than a leap into

reorganization." Brown cites the add-drop changes as an example of the "poor way change has been handled." He says the administration decided that students who drop classes should pay the costs involved instead of having it subsidized by all students.

When the SBA disagreed, Brown says, Dean Goldberg's response was to reject all ideas which differed with his proposal. Brown contends that this results in the alienation of an already dissatisfied student body. He also said the add-drop policy creates inequities between what is actually subsidized with tuition money and what is paid for directly.

Brown says that Goldberg first proposed the SBA-administration contract to create an umbrella organization in April 1980, before the new administration was officially in office. He claims that Goldberg suggested that SBA would be given \$9,000 to \$13,000 to help with running the activities involved.

At the start of this school year, the money was withdrawn and replaced by an offer of two and one-half tuition waivers. Then, during the semester, Goldberg said the administration would give no waivers and no money,

but would give the SBA one year to improve its organization and consider the proposed changes.

Finally, in January, says Brown, just when significant progress was being made in such matters as the accountability of the food service, the SBA was threatened with having to pay rent and not receiving student fees unless it accepted Goldberg's proposal.

With his term at an end, Brown says he does not trust the administration. He says he feels that its actions will be costly to William Mitchell in coming years in the form of reduced donations from graduates.

Brown says he believes that many students who were previously just uninterested in school outside of classes are now openly hostile. He says he hopes the deans have not forgotten the mission of the school -- that they will learn from this year's mistakes and act accordingly.

New president

At a meeting held April 15, the SBA elected Jim Martinson next year's president. At the same meeting Lynn Lammer, who was defeated by Martinson for the presidency, announced her resignation from the board citing health reasons and her failure to be elected SBA president.

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George McCormick and Charles Friedman discuss their strategy for appellant rebuttal in the Spring Moot Court competition

Opinion editors top moot court meet

Charles Friedman and George McCormick are the winners of William Mitchell's Rosalie E. Wahl spring moot court competition.

The two defeated a team comprising Leslie Gerstman, Kris Maland and Virginia Miller in oral arguments April 11. Miller and Maland argued for their team. Miller was named best oralist.

Both teams will represent the college in regional competition in Des Moines, Iowa, next October.

Friedman and McCormick, both second-year students, are

associate editors of the Opinion.

Judges for the final round, held in Room 111, were Justice Wahl and Justices George M. Scott and John Simonett of the Minnesota Supreme Court; U.S. Circuit Judge Gerald W. Heaney, and U.S. District Judges Donald Alsop and Robert G. Renner.

The team of Gerstman, Maland and Miller received the top score for their brief. Friedman and McCormick's brief scored second.

Total scores for each round of moot court competition include brief scores and points given for oral argument.



Virginia Miller was named best speaker in the Spring Moot Board competition

Chuck Friedman named 1981-82 Opinion editor

Second year student Chuck Friedman has been elected editor of the Opinion for the 1981-1982 school year.

During the past year Friedman was associate editor of the newspaper with responsibilities ranging from layout to writing

news, features and editorials. Friedman taught high school journalism for eight years, advised school newspapers, and served for two years as Iowa High School Press Association president before attending William Mitchell.

Faculty adopts new letter-grading policy

In March the faculty adopted a letter-grading policy with implementation scheduled for the 1981 or 1982 fall semester. Grades of A, B, C, D and F will be administered, along with pluses and minuses.

For students in the transition period, the numerical grades now given will not be converted to the letter system. Transcripts will contain a number for grades earned through the summer session of 1981. Thereafter, letter grades will appear on the transcript.

The system for computing class rank has yet to be set but Associate Dean Melvin Goldberg has indicated that a 12-point scale is the most likely solution, since both the numerical grades and the letter grades could readily be converted to such a system.

Goldberg also proposes to attach to each transcript a letter summarizing the college's programs and grading policy. He

said that such a letter might better explain discrepancies that exist between grades at William Mitchell and other law schools.

The Academic Affairs Committee has previously adopted guidelines for formulating grades, though final grades are at the discretion of each faculty member. Whether such specific guidelines would become part of the proposal is unclear. The present guidelines apply only to numerical grades. They are as follows:

Below 60 — No recognition of issues; no analysis; total lack of understanding of subject matter; lack of interest.

61-64 — Little or no recognition of issues; no analysis; some indication of interest and efforts.

65-70 — Recognition of some issues; little or no analysis; perhaps some effort in class.

71-73 — Recognition of most issues; little analysis; in some cases, good analysis overcomes

failure to recognize issues.

74-76 — Recognition of most issues; some analysis indicating understanding of subject matter.

77-79 — Recognition of most issues; little analysis; in some cases, good analysis overcomes failure to recognize issues.

80-85 — Recognition of most issues; some analysis indicating understanding of subject matter.

86-89 — Recognition of almost all issues; significant command of subject matter.

90-91 — Superior understanding of subject matter; usually has involved recognition of significant issues unrecognized by instructor

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Law Review elects next year's board

Members of the current Editorial Board of the William Mitchell Law Review have elected their successors for next year. Seated on the Volume 8 board will be: Don Ridley, editor-in-chief; Irv Colacci, Mark DuVal and Becky Wessman, executive editors; Seth Colton, Mike Fairchild, Jody Lenz, Vickie McCormick, Mary Raskob, Steve Rau, Roger Rowlette, Leo Schumacher and Steve Vodonik, editors.

All students interested in participating in law review next year are encouraged to do so and are asked to attend a meeting at 6:30 p.m., May 27 in Room 111. Students will be given their initial writing assignments and will be assigned to editors at that meeting.

Membership on the law review, contingent on the successful completion of the summer writing program and satisfactory progress on a long student work, is worth two credits for the year and may satisfy the long-paper requirement.

Any questions regarding the summer writing program, staff requirements or the law review in general can be brought to any of the new board members in Room 317.

The publication of Volume 7, No. 1 of the law review is imminent. The issue will include a tribute to Justice Mitchell, a symposium on an intermediate ap-

petite court for Minnesota, an article on summary-judgment practice in Minnesota and a case comment on punitive damages in products-liability actions.

When it arrives, the new issue will be available to students in Room 317. Volume 7, No. 2 is scheduled for publication this summer and will include an article by Minnesota Supreme Court Justice George M. Scott on prehearing conferences. Also appearing will be Professor Marcia R. Gelpe's article on Minnesota feedlot law and Professor Michael K. Steenson's article on Minnesota's no-fault statute.

Cont. from page 1

students said that they would have purchased the tests to prepare with if they had known.

"The survey shows that the Educational Testing Service (ETS) has failed to inform consumers about their rights," said MPIRG researcher Rick Plunkett. "This is just one more reason why a Minnesota Truth-in-Testing law is needed."

The Minnesota Truth-in-Testing bill is now being considered by the legislature. The bill provides, in part, that testing agencies inform students about the availability of test forms used in the past.

ETS has also failed to inform law school admissions officials about the tests. MPIRG asked law school personnel at all three

Minnesota law schools if past test forms were available for preparation purposes. Officials at the University of Minnesota, William Mitchell and Hamline University incorrectly believed that the tests given in recent months were not available to students.

Under a policy adopted in 1980, the Law School Admissions Service and ETS began making past forms of the LSAT available to students preparing for the test. No mention of the past test forms is made in the LSAT Student Bulletin, however.

"It is important that students preparing for the June 20th LSAT know what information is available to prepare with," said Plunkett. "The actual LSATs administered during 1980 and in February 1981 can be purchased. The tests come complete with correct answers and the formula for converting the raw score to the 200-800 point LSAT score."

According to MPIRG, the past forms of the LSAT are much more effective for test preparation than either the commercially available preparation books or the sample questions included in the LSAT Student Bulletin.

"These are authentic LSAT exams," said Plunkett, "not facsimiles." By using the scoring formula, students can see as they prepare for the test exactly how they are doing on the 800 point LSAT scoring scale.

"When students consistently score high enough to get into the law school of their choice, they know that they're ready to take the test," Plunkett added.

This type of preparation is not possible without the actual LSAT forms and the scoring formulas, according to Plunkett.

B'ball team wins title

In a classic confrontation, the William Mitchell basketball championship was decided on the last day of the season.

Both Defense Never Rests and Assumpsit Generals breezed through the season undefeated, winning most of their games by large margins.

Defense Never Rests jumped to a 6-to-0 lead before the Generals scored on a free throw. Once on the board, the Generals never let up.

Playing a tenacious man-to-man defense, the Generals held the mighty offense of Defense Never Rests to their lowest scoring output of the season. Behind the strong play of Jim Meyen, John Patterson and Bruce Paulson, and the deadly shooting of Jim Schmeckpeper, the Generals triumphed 40-to-28.



On a whole, the inaugural season was most successful. Dennis Atchinson (commissioner, player and referee) did an excellent job organizing the 12-team league. To the remaining 10 teams who were victimized by bad luck, "poor" refereeing, Saturday-morning hangovers or an occasional off-day, better luck next year.

"Some attorneys carve careers, others chisel."

Anon



Chuck Friedman celebrates election as Opinion Editor while Dean Geoffrey Peters just goes ape.



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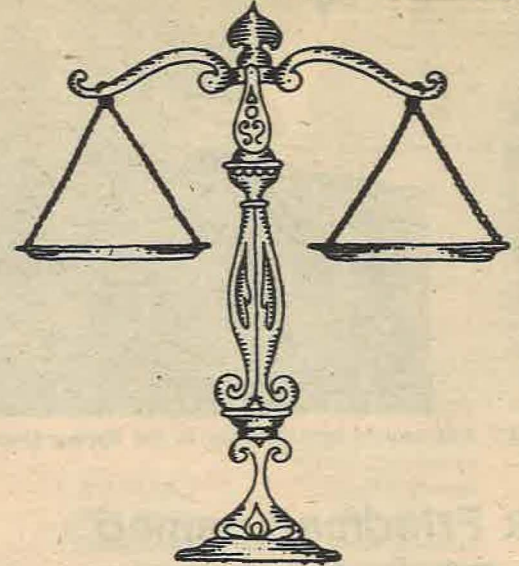
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