

The Balsa Advocate

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Spring 1977

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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, LOS ANGELES

SPRING, 1977

BALSA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we begin a new year, I would like to welcome all members back to school for the Spring semester.

BALSA started this year by proclaiming that it would be a banner year for the Association. My sincere thanks to all members who have worked hard to help make all the activities completed so far, successful.

Involvement, commitment and unity must continue in order that our destiny as Black law students and future attorneys will be by choice and not by chance.

To that end, BALSA has continued to maintain its many established projects, such as scholarship awards, speakers' programs, recruitment and retention activities, revision of the Landlord/Tenant pamphlet and various fund-raising activities

A new project which has been added this year is a Community Outreach Program, aimed at enhancing the image of BALSA in the academic, legal, business and Black communities of Los Angeles. The Community Relations Committee has focused on etting up contacts and relationips with community organizations

for the benefit of BALSA members.

(con't p. 2)

THIRD WORLD STUDENT COALITION

By O. Jean Williams

A Third World Coalition Committee was formed during the fall semester in response to the Bakke v. Regents of the University of California decision which declared special admissions programs based on race to be unconstitutional. The committee is composed of members from the various Third World groups in attendance at Loyola Law School: Blacks, Latinos and Asian Americans.

One of the aims of the Committee is to study the <u>Bakke</u> decision with an eye toward formulating viable alternatives to Loyola's current LEOP program in the event that it has to be altered in compliance with the mandates of <u>Bakke</u>. The Committee believes that Loyola's current LEOP program is vital to the preservation of adequate Third World representation in both the Law School and the legal profession.

Representatives of the Committee met with Dean Lower last Fall to ascertain whether Loyola's LEOP program would continue without modification. Lower indicated the unlikelihood of this possibility, however, in view of the Bakke decision. Committee members were assured, though, that they would

(con't. p.3)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

After a dismal job market for students in 1976, certain current events have triggered expansive responses in the economy encouraging firms and law departments to open their doors to many deserving minority students.

The following are some suggestions

on where to begin your search.

1. Full-time, part-time, and fulltime summer job listings are available in the Loyola Law School Placement Office.

2. The Los Angeles County Bar Assoc. publishes a list of 50-75 firms especially interested in receiving resumes from qualified Black students. You may, if you haven't already, obtain a list from the County Bar Assoc. by calling 624-8571.

If you hurry, the Bar Assoc. will send your resume to 10 law firms of your choosing. Mr. Andrew Erskine is the person to speak with about this offer, keeping in mind that he has originally set a February 7, 1977 deadline and the vast majority of affected students have not been notified—so give it a try, and good hunting!

--Ed Borne--



Black History Week

Feb. 6-12

Far West Regional Conference
Boalt Hall Feb. 18-20

BALSA Scholarship Fund Raiser At the Quo Vadis Club Crenshaw at Wilshire \$3 Adv. \$4 Door Feb. 27

BAISA Speakers Forum
Loyola Law School Mar. 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (con't. from p.1)

BALSA has also actively participate with other Third World student organizations at Loyola and throughout the state.

Loyola BALSA continues in its support of and participation in the BALSA Far West Regional activities. Our chapter was well-represented at the Far West Regional Conference which was held in November, 1976 at UCLA. We look forward to meeting with our fellow chapters again at the upcoming February conference in Berkeley at Boalt Hall.

On the social side, a BALSA-sporsored "get-acquainted" picnic for first year students and a holiday party honoring graduating seniors were tremendous successes. These activities are part of our on-going goal to get more participation from the total Black student population at Loyola.

I encourage all Black students to participate more in BALSA activities, especially at our general meetings. Commitment and solidarity are crucial factors in promoting a strong and vital association which will be meaningful for and responsive to the needs of Loyola's Black constituency and the community at-large. Let's continually demonstrate our effectiveness and unity as we work to survive and "strive to balance."

Asante sana,

Jean Thomas, President, Loyola BALSA

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PAID YOUR DUES



T.W. COALITION (con't. from p.1)

ave some input in any new admissions criteria to be developed by Loyola affecting future Third World student enrollment. To effect this, Dean Lower stated that a subcommittee, composed of faculty and students representing both the white and Third World student body, will be set up to formulate and make recommendations to the Admissions Committee regarding alternatives to the current LEOP program.

While the Coalition Committee feels that the Bakke case was wrongfully decided, i.e., that remedial admissions programs can withstand constitional attack, its members hope that if the U.S. Supreme Court fails to overturn the California Supreme Court decision, Loyola Law School will continue to adhere to its commitment and responsibility to assist Third World students in achieving representative status in the legal profession.

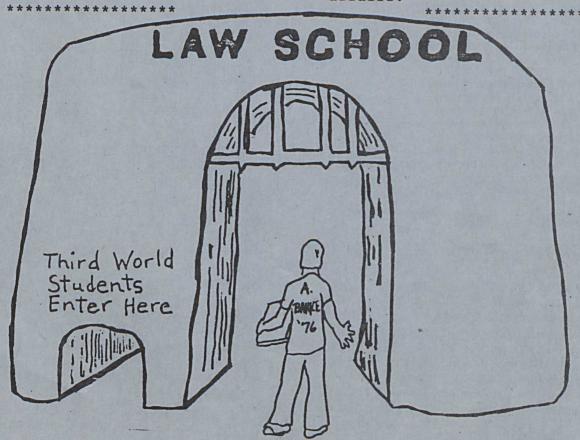


BLACK NAMED TO BAR PANEL

The American Bar Association committee which screens federal judicial appointments for five administrations, has added a Black member for the first time.

Long criticized for its all-white, all-male makeup and big-city, big law firm orientation, the ABA's judiciary committee was enlarged recently to include Charles Z. Smith of Seattle, associate dean of the University of Washington Law School.

Smith, 49, is a former state prosecutor and state judge who prosecuted former Teamsters president, Dave Beck in Seattle, and later, as a special assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, led a team that investigated Teamsters' union affairs.



HARD ROCK RETURNS TO PRISON FROM THE HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIMINAL INSANE

Etheridge Knight Poems from Prison, Broadside Press

Hard Rock was "known not to take no shit From nobody," and he had the scars to prove it; Split purple lips, lumped ears, welts above His yellow eyes, and one long scar that cut Across his temple and plowed through a thick Canopy of kinky hair.

The WORD was that Hard Rock wasn't a mean nigger Anymore, that the doctors had bored a hole in his head, Cut out part of his brain, and shot electricity Through the rest. When they brought Hard Rock back, Handcuffed and chained, he was turned loose, Like a freshly gelded stallion, to try his new status And we all waited and watched, like Indians at a corral, To see if the WORD was true.

As we waited we wrapped ourselves in the cloak
Of his exploits: "Man, the last time, it took eight
Screws to put him in the Hole," "Yeah, remember when he
Smacked the captain with his dinner tray?" "He set
The record for time in the Hole—67 straight days"
"Ol Hard Rock! Man, that's one crazy nigger."
And then the jewel of a myth that Hard Rock had once bit
A screw on the thumb and poisoned him with syphilitic spit

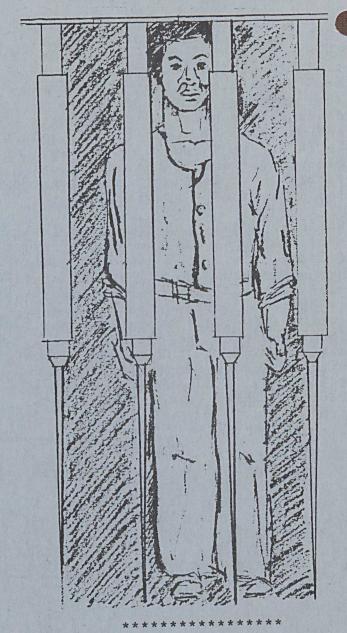
The testing came, to see if Hard Rock was really tame A hillbilly called him a black son of a bitch And didn't lose his teeth, a screw who knew Hard Rock From before shook him down and barked in his face And Hard Rock did nothing. Just grinned and looked silly, His eyes empty like knot holes in a fence.

And even after we discovered that it took Hard Rock Exactly 3 minutes to tell you his name, We told ourselves that he had just wised up, Was being cool; but we could not fool ourselves for long, And we turned away, our eyes to the ground. Crushed He had been our Destroyer, the doer of things We dreamed of doing but could not bring ourselves to do. The fears of years, like a biting whip Had cut grooves too deeply across our backs.

Anti-death jurors can't be excluded

The United States Supreme Court ruled during December that jurors who are opposed to capital punishment cannot be excluded from death penalty trials.

The Court overruled the death sentence of condemned Georgia murderer, Curfew Davis because one prospective



(con't. from col. 1)

juror at Davis's trial was excused after stating general scruples against capital punishment.

Attorneys argued that exclusion of such jurors deprives defendants of their right to be judged by a cross-section of the community. Davis will now serve a life term in the penitentiary.

BALSA COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE+

The newly created Community Relations Committee was designed to act as a liaison between Loyola BALSA and the various organizations in Los Angeles.

The specific objectives of the committee are to:

- (a) strengthen lines of communication with other BALSA chapters.
- (b) establish contacts with area law firms.
- (c) maintain contact with past officers and members of Loyola BALSA.
- (d) contact Black civic organizations to secure a list of programs which might interest BALSA members.
- (e) contact local businesses and maintain a list of programs which may benefit BALSA members.

The members of the committee are:

Yolanda Clark
Jennifer Lumpkins
Beatrice Moore
Sandy Ross
Julius Johnson
Jim Threatt, Chairperson

BALSA SPEAKERS' COMMITTEE+

One of the primary purposes of the Speakers' Committee is to bring outside expertise to the law school community to speak on topics which would be relevant and interesting to the law student. To further this goal, the committee has formulated plans to hold a workshop on Saturday, March 5, 1977 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Loyola.

SPEAKERS' COMM. (con't from col.1)

The workshop will feature attorneys from various areas of the law, who will discuss and answer questions concerning employment opportunities, required expertise for a particular area of law and other pertinent issues.

Presently, the workshop topics include: Criminal Law, Corporate Law, Entertainment Law, Labor Law, Personal Injury Litigation, Administrative Law, Taxation, Consumer Law, Environmental Law and Governmental Service.

Members of the Speakers' Committee

Jean Thomas
John Meigs
Tony Cade, Chairperson

LEGAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Earl Warren Legal Training Program offers financial assistance to Black men and women contemplating law careers, as well as fellowship opportunities to recent law school graduates.

To qualify for scholarship aid, applications must be submitted by March 15, 1977, for the following academic year. Those applying for a fellowship must submit their applications by October 15, 1977.

In both cases, applications should be sent to: The Earl Warren Legal Training Program, Suite 2030, 10 Columbus Circle, New York, N.Y.10019.

...POSTSCRIPT FROM A RECENT

ADMITTEE....

Al Jenkins, Esq.

Let's clarify one thing right now, the much feared "bar exam" is a snap! No, your eyes are not deceiving you; the bar exam is a snap. The great, and continuing controversy over its relevancy notwithstanding, the California bar exam need not present an immovable obstacle to your legal career.

The "how to" secrets and the supporting documentation for the foregoing
are right in front of us. California
has more preparatory courses, and
successful applicants than one can
count in the proverbial month of Sundays.
The first step in joining the ranks of
the successful is to decide that you
can do so. Accept your ability to pass,
and then undertake the work it will
entail.

Will the mere decision to pass be enough? Perhaps not. But without such restructuring of your attitude, the bar exam looms much larger, and more oppresive than it's actual stature deserves. Start now, wherever you happen to be in the preparatory process, and look forward to those three, seven hour days, as a holiday. Mark it on your calendar and look forward to its arrival as you would a vacation in the Bahamas, but don't overlook any of the preparations that will make your "trip" a success.

GOOD LUCK!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!

To: Virgle Benson and Helen Marsh, upon their December, 1976 graduation from Loyola Law School.

And to: BALSA members recently admitted to the Bar: Al Jenkins, Al Kimball, Jim Prudhomme, Ramon Poole and Raoul Thorbonne.

Our apologies to anyone overlooked!

"WHEN YOU THINK YOU CAN"

Anonymous

If you think you're beaten, you are; If you think you dare not, you don't If you'd like to win, but think you can't,

It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost,

For out in the world we find Success begins with a fellow's will It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to hustle before
you can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go to The stronger or faster man. But sooner or later The man who wins Is the one who thinks he can.

"... by any means necessary ..., Whenever someone is treating you in a criminal, illegal or immoral way, you are within your rights to use anything at your disposal to bring an end to that unjust, illegal, and immoral condition."

Malcolm X

BALSA ADVOCATE STAFF:

O. Jean Williams, Yolanda Clark.

DEAN LOLA MCALPIN-GRANT .. Advisor

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* Law for the People



RACISM and REPRESSIONI