Perspectives On the Democratic Convention

by William McGlasy

I was a go-fer for the New York delegation to the Democratic Convention. I performed menial tasks in order to be close to the action, and stored away perceptions and nuances of the political jungle within the power-packed, smoke-filled rooms of the convention.

The action centered around the internally warring New York delegation and its choice of a candidate: Carter or Kennedy. The Carter and Kennedy groups were evenly matched. President Carter had the support of state Democratic leader Dominick Baranello, Brooklyn leader Meade Esposito and Queens leader Donald New, while Kennedy's supporters included Mayor Koch's on-again, off-again support within his party, and reiterating the tactics and appeared to view the assault on the spreading conservatism of the 1980 convention and numerous advertised products. The last ones received guest passes: the rest bartered, threatened and persuaded to get these highly prized prizes.

The passes were often used to pay old political debts or create some new ones. A go-fer's name never appeared on a guest list, but by dint of being in the right place at the right time, go-fers usually received a pass, plus a big apple pin and the rest of the goodies.

The delegates from Indiana, New York and Texas stayed at the New York Hilton. The Texas delegation appeared to thrive in the city and offered vast sums for any trinket representing New York. (In fact, I was offered a steep twenty dollars for my big apple pin.) The Indiana troops didn't fare so well. An outraged and obviously shaken Indiana woman staggered into the New York suite and complained of the many sexual overtures made by New York city men. Further examination revealed that she had stumbled down forty Second Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues and had assumed that the whole city was a teeming swir of sexual impulses.

Monday night at the convention, the Kennedy delegates, excited and ready for battle, were soundly defeated by the Carter forces in the rules fight. The Garden quickly took on the air of a mosque, and delegates soon returned to their hotels. In the New York suite delegates and volunteers drank Scotch, watched Kennedy's concession speech and lamented the coming full election with Carter at the head of the ticket.

Kennedy's speech on Tuesday gave his supporters something to cheer about. Wednesday's speeches and the nomination of Carter were routine. But on Thursday morning the New York delegation was still split over whether to support Fritz Mondale's vice-presidential nomination or push Shirley Chisholm as their favorite in protest to the Carter nomination. Although there was no consensus on the issue, delegates voted as they wished, and many were still bitter when President Carter gave his acceptance speech.

Orientation, A Personal View

by Holly Biller

The upperclass students who volunteered their time and energies to "orient" the incoming class at Fordham Law School succeeded greatly in alleviating at least this incoming student's previously out-of-proportion anxiety about the rigors and pressures of law school life.

Having been fueled by such sensationalist media projects as "The Paper Chase" (in addition to comments from friends, relatives and disinterested third parties) as to the excessive time and energy demanded by legal study, I entered first year feeling both apprehensive and hopeful. But above all I felt uncertain.

The time-worn psycho-therapeutic techniques that I learned as an undergraduate Psych. major—that of assuring people that their nervous feelings are both normal and natural—was in abundant supply on SBA Orientation Day, as several highly skilled social workers (masquerading as second year law students) circulated among the Freshman class mollifying words of reassurance and instructing us in mandatory survival hints.

The day's activities, including taking photos for yet-to-arrive I.D. cards and standing on a two-hour line, finally culminated in transporting 50 pounds of books to our respective homes (the figure has been verified by one entering student who weighed them).

But, after several glasses of wine at the end-of-day party, I felt in an optimistic mood. Even now, I still retain the strong impression that the "Journey towards the Bar Exam" which I have embarked on this past week will be perhaps trying and certainly challenging, but will never cease to be rewarding.

1. Dean McLaughlin, August 20, 1980 Faculty Orientation speech.

The author worked as a manager of Macy's after finishing their "Executive Training Squad," and most recently taught music at P.S. 184 (K-4). She also teaches piano, guitar, accordion and violin, and composes select magnum opuses in her spare time.
Dressed To Kill: A Killer

by Jim Duggan

People go to the movies for three reasons, Alfred Hitchcock once said: to laugh, to cry, or to be frightened. Unfortunately, for contemporary film makers the last of these effects is becoming more and more difficult to achieve. Audiences have become both more jaded and more sophisticated in recent years.

When the Lumiere brothers first demonstrated the new invention of moving pictures in France in 1896, the film of a train moving towards the camera so terrified its viewers that some of them ran from the theatre thinking that there must actually have been a train somewhere behind the screen.

Now, when I look back on the last few years of my own moviemaking, I can think of only one moment when I experienced that old terror which Lumiere's audiences felt in the last century. That was during Brian DePalma's Carrie. Anyone who has seen the movie knows which scene I mean and I won't ruin it for anyone who hasn't.

DePalma has given us another excellent thriller, Dressed To Kill, and perhaps the highest compliment one could pay the film is to say it is the best work in the genre since Carrie.

If you can read this page without moving your lips, you will undoubtedly see through tuch mystery as there is to the plot within the first half hour of the film. But it is precisely when we know who did it, and that our hero or heroine on the screen doesn't, that the suspense is greatest. It is effective cinema,
ILF Writing Competition
by Jim Tynion

On May 25, 1980, International Law Forum was the recipient of the prestigious Eugene A. Keefe Award, presented by the Student Bar Association each year at graduation to the publication, organization or individual which has performed consistently outstanding service to Fordham Law School. Tim Tynion accepted the Award.

Those upperclass students who wish to become members of a legal journal and have an interest in the international aspects of legal practice are invited to enter this writing competition or any other writing competition. The competition is now available in the Registrar's Office, and is due before six p.m. on Monday, September 8th. The problem is now available in the Registrar's Office, and is due before six p.m. on Monday, September 8th. The ILF is seeking approximately twenty additional students for its 1980-1981 staff.

In addition to publishing two issues this year, the editors and staff members of the International Law Forum will participate in several other activities, including: assisting in the organization and preparation of the Jessup International Moot Court Team; assisting in the organization and presentation of the Fordham Corporate Law Institute's forum on "Financing in the International Capital Markets"; and assisting in a joint effort by several law schools to publish a "bluebook" for international legal materials.

Students who have questions concerning this writing competition or any other aspect of the ILF should consult our bulletin board opposite the phone booths in the basement, or see Steve McLaughlin or Jim Tynion in our office, room 048.

Speakers' Forum
by Sharon Souther

The Speakers' Forum is designed to accommodate student interests in various areas of the law by providing lectures and discussions in these areas. In doing so, the Forum seeks to draw on the resources of New York and corporative attorneys and the talents of distinguished alumni. The Fall semester's schedule is still incomplete, but at this point, the Forum plans to sponsor lectures by Hon. James B.M. McNally, Law '20 (formerly of the New York Appellate Division), and, in conjunction with PAD, Hon. Mary Johnson Lowe (currently sitting in the Southern District of New York). As the schedule of speakers develops, notices will be posted on the law school calendar in the lobby.

Attention frustrated journalists: We need writers, artists, cartoonists, editors, proofreaders. You name it, we need it. Stop by our office, anytime.
Room 048A.

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The Advocate is the student newspaper of Fordham Law School. Letters to the editor and advertising correspondence should be typed and mailed to Room 048, Fordham Law School, 140 W. 62 St., NYC 10023.

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