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The Advocate

The Advocate, Fordham Law School

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ADVENT ELECTION SUPPLEMENT

Elections for 1983/84 S.B.A. Officers will start on Tuesday, March 8 & run through Thursday, March 10. Each candidate has been asked to write a brief personal statement, and to answer some questions posed by the Advocate based on the fact pattern which appears below.

We remind you that this is not a popularity contest and urge you to weigh each candidate’s qualifications very carefully before voting. Those whom you elect now will be the ones representing your interests next year, so be sure to vote for those people who you believe can do the job best.

In addition, please be aware that you do not have to vote according to party lines.

Advocate fact pattern & questions

You are an SBA officer. Student X comes to you. Because her approved guaranteed student loan has been delayed, she has had to lay out the tuition money. In addition, the scholarship she received from the school this year is only for half of what she got the year before. As a result, she is in a desperate financial situation. She wants to know who can help her with this problem and if some kind of emergency funds are available from the school.

Later that day, a group of first year students tells you that they and others in their class are very upset that the Fall exam schedule only gives them one day between their Civil Procedure and Torts finals. They feel that there should be at least two days between these exams and they want the SBA to do something about it.

Finally, you have some suggestions of your own on what can be done in the future to make things better at the school.

1. What will you advise Student X?
2. Who will you see on behalf of the first year students?
3. Who will you talk to about your suggestions concerning the future?

Although there is no one correct answer to any of these questions, some choices of who to see for what are better than others. The following are who The Advocate believes are the correct people to see: If a student is having problems with loans or financial aid the best people to see are Assistant Dean Moore and Assistant Director of Admissions James McGough. For problems with exam scheduling a number of people should be consulted: the Student-Faculty Committee, Assistant Dean Hanlon and Assistant Dean Hollister. Any general suggestions concerning the future of the law school should be referred to the Committee on the future of Fordham Law. This year the head of the committee was Associate Dean Crowley.

This list is not exhaustive. However, it is where any S.B.A. officer should start.

CANDIDATES FOR S.B.A. PRESIDENT

Jay Ryan

My first act as S.B.A. President will be to abolish all Tangs. If elected, I promise to call a party a party, to throw as many as our budget will allow, and to choose locations other than the reading room whenever possible. With this earthshaking reform out of the way, I will turn to the more substantive matters that affect our student life.

There are numerous and diverse problems that plague all students here at Fordham Law School. To list them here and make specific promises would be futile. What is important to recognize is that the student body needs an effective advocate who will get involved in the decision-making process before arbitrary policies are handed down by the faculty or administration. As S.B.A. President, I will do my best to implement the needs of the students. In doing so, I will draw on my two years of experience as an S.B.A. representative, and I will listen to what all students have to say.

Remember: You need not vote along party lines. Vote for the best candidate for each position. Elect Jay Ryan S.B.A. President.

Answers to Advocate questions: None

Candidates for President: Left to Right Brosnan, Ryan, McCaffrey, Ragucci and Gentile

Tim Brosnan

With the arrival of Dean Feerick and the coming of the new building, the students at FLS are presented with a unique opportunity. Through effective communication of our ideas and experiences we can not only improve FLS right now but for years to come. To seize this chance the SBA

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President must be approachable to the students and familiar with and respected by the faculty and administration.

My past service makes me feel I am the most qualified candidate. I have served on the Student-Faculty Committee for two years, first as President of 1A and now as Treasurer. I ran orientation for the first year classes (trying to make the initial shock of law school seem not so severe), organized the boat ride, the basketball league and most of the weekend parties. As Treasurer I have had the chance to work on the SBA executive committee and to formulate ideas on how to improve it.

Each member of the Melting Pot Party, (Diane Krausz; 3E, Carol Ann Connors, 1A; Darcy Lopez, 1E) although diverse in character, has the same desire: to aid the students to improve it. Each member has the same shock of this unique situation. I urge you to consider the record and give us the chance to represent the students and the future of FLS. Thank you.

Answers to Advocate questions:

1. To see Jim McGough for short-term, emergency financial aid.
2. Dean Hanlon and Hollister. However there is a policy pending which will allow rescheduling only if three exams are to be taken within thirty-six hours.
3. The students, faculty and administration. I would see the Dean (Feerick, Crowley, etc.) who could best address the suggestion.

Tom McCaffrey

As this year’s S.B.A. Secretary, my duties included keeping the meeting minutes, routing incoming mail to the organizations, and posting general information sent to us from other schools and agencies. I've worked closely with S.B.A. President Bill Glass in planning and running S.B.A. activities and in dealing with the Administration. I served as Student Representative on the School’s Subcommittee on Clinical Education. I ran the Ground Hog Day Party.

My single major achievement this year was preparing the Student Directory. Looking for a higher quality product, I initiated a new system using a professional printer. I spent many hours alphabetizing the entire student listing plus many more at the printer proofing close to 1,000 names, addresses and numbers going into final copy. With the aid of the printer, I solicited a $1,000.00 subsidy from European American Bank. This reduced the overall costs for the S.B.A. to $425.00. With this process now in place, next year’s Directory can be out by October.

This year’s experience on the Executive Committee, coupled with first year’s experience as President of 1-B, has taught me that effective student leadership can be a vehicle for change. As President, I will provide leadership. Vote the Unicorn Ticket.

Answers to Advocate questions:

1. X should get Bank’s letter verifying the loan and see Mr. McGough, Assistant Director of Admissions.
2. Dean Hanlon suggests that this come to him through the Student-Faculty Committee.
3. First, the Student Faculty Committee: In urgent matters I would see Dean Hollister or if necessary, Dean Feerick.

Rich Gentile

In two years, problems can be solved: My Mother the Car was cancelled (1965-66), the Edsel was eliminated (1960-61) and the world returned to “normalcy” (1920-21). In my two years at Fordham however, the same old problems prosper: no housing office, lack of communication, non-existent financial aid, rising tuition costs and pathetic social activities.

These problems linger because we have taken the wrong approach to solving them. Rather than trying to change the world overnight, we must attack our problems little by little. For example, let’s lay the foundation for a housing office by sending notices to newspapers and local block associations seeking leads on apartments. Likewise, let’s open the channels of communication through a simple SBA newsletter. As for financial aid, we’ll pressure the administration to build...
CANDIDATES FOR S.B.A. VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Clemente

I have served for two years on the SBA, as class president for 1E and V.P. for 2E, along with working in the N.Y. legal community and volunteering for several N.Y.C. community service organizations. I want to use my experience to continue serving F.L.S. and its community as SBA Vice President with Tom McCaffrey, Joy Vastola and Mike Dello Stritto. Here are some things the Unicorn Party would like to do:

ESTABLISH WEEKLY BULLETIN

Prob.— Students are tired of pulling information from a collage of notes on the walls of crowded stairwells.
Soln.— The SBA should print a weekly bulletin with information from the Registrar, Deans, clubs and SBA to be picked up by students and brought home.

OPEN HALLWAY TO THE LOWENSTEIN

Prob.— New construction to begin will make the library noisy and reduce the already insufficient quiet study space.
Soln.— Open hallway to Lowenstein library enabling FLS students to study there conveniently.
Soln.— Open classrooms for studying, especially during finals time.

CHANGE PLACEMENT OFFICE EMPHASIS

Prob.— The placement office seems to help those top students who are most able to help themselves.
Soln.— With student and faculty support, urge the placement office to work with the alumni network to concentrate its efforts on the majority of students who really need their help.

Answers to Advocate questions:

1. Whew! The preparer of these questions is obviously a day student—night students' concerns are very different. Please refer to my answer which is the same as Tim Brosnan's.
2. Same.
3. More communication between faculty, law journals, other student services and evening students is needed, as this whole problem set well indicates.

Diane Krausz

I'm running on the melting pot ticket—a very impressive diversified group! I've been a class officer for my entire three years at Fordham and have enjoyed it immensely. My student experience at the School has therefore included countless budget meetings, SBA meetings, boat rides, parties, as well as footnoting and publishing an article as a member of the ILJ, and, of course, three years of night classes. To continue on the course started by the "new regime", Dean Feerick et al., a one credit course could be set up where one leading practitioner in a specialized field, i.e., arts or computer law, lectures weekly. Other ideas related to this theme are panels or seminars run by a student-faculty coalition, or perhaps, the establishment of an in-house legal clinic. This type of exposure would bring the New York lawyer community to FLS, as well as making more day students aware of what many of we evening students have already learned—that attending law school classes is only one of the requirements for a successful, interesting and fulfilling legal career.

I look forward to working with my very qualified running mates to achieving these goals for all members of the Fordham Law student community.

Answers to Advocate questions:

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2. Same.
3. More communication between faculty, law journals, other student services and evening students is needed, as this whole problem set well indicates.
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CANDIDATES FOR S.B.A. SECRETARY

Edward J. Guardaro, Jr.

This is a request to all the readers of this tabloid to have the confidence to elect me to the position of Secretary of the S.B.A.

This position would increase my responsibility and put me in closer touch with those needed to obtain a longer lasting system of programs for the student body.

Nothing I suggest is new, in fact all my suggestions move toward maintaining those programs which die out from year to year. This maintenance would insure the student body of some needed continuity and a possible removal of the veil of apathy which blinds many students.

I suggest an increase in the budget of the Advocate so as to insure a central information guide. This increase would allow more time to be spent writing and less preparing the technical aspects of publishing, it would also allow for more editions per year.

I also recommend an increase in the budget for the basketball program which is in effect and the addition of a budget for a general exercise class which has been suggested recently to the S.B.A.

It is the hope of this candidate to promote interaction between students and avert apathy with these activities which will hopefully spread interest throughout the school to areas both athletic and academic leading to a more unified student body.

Answers to Advocate questions:

1. I would suggest she contact the office for financial aid and then ask Dean Hanlon.
2. First I would get all the facts, exactly how many students and their names, contact their S.B.A. class representative and both of us would make an appointment with Dean Hollister.
3. I would direct my suggestions to Dean Hollister.

Darcy Lopez

I am presently the SBA president of the first year evening class. As candidate for SBA Secretary with “The Melting Pot,” I would like to stress the importance of communication between the administration and students and among the students in general.

This year I have been a member of the Student Faculty Committee and am aware that an effective forum for the discussion of issues relevant to students and administration exists. However, the necessary means to highlight relevant issues appears to have faded.

I feel it’s essential that the entire student body be informed. This would stir interest in the student community and cause the students’ needs to be apparent. Due to the diversity of my party, each and every student, day and evening schools would be truly represented.

With the changes that will be occurring at Fordham Law School in the anticipation of the new building, the SBA executive committee takes on an added importance. As Secretary, my goal would be to assure that changes did not occur until the students had an opportunity to be heard.

Answers to the Advocate questions:

1. Dean McGough has information concerning an emergency financial aid program.
2. I would speak to Dean Hanlon, although there is a pending policy whereby an exam will only be rescheduled if three are to be taken within thirty-six hours.
3. I would make my suggestions at a Student Faculty Committee meeting.

Joy Vastola

I have been an active participant in school governments throughout my school career. As here at Fordham, I am Vice-President of section 1-B. Whether my reasons have been to exercise the leadership qualities necessary for a successful career in the “real” world or to guarantee social functions in order to create a comradery amongst students—the results have always been the same. I devote myself totally to the cause, and enjoy it while I am at it.

I feel I am capable of handling the position of Secretary of the SBA. If I am elected, I will do my best to fulfill all your expectations.

Remember, the SBA can only be as effective as the students you choose to serve on it. My ticket, including Tom McCaffrey as President, Jim Clemente as Vice-President, and Mike Dello Stritto as Treasurer, is the effective solution.

Answers to Advocate questions: None
CANDIDATES FOR S.B.A. TREASURER

Carol Ann Connors

I'd like to express to my fellow students my continuing interest in representing you as an elected member of the Student Bar Association. I'm running for Treasurer, a position that I believe requires a steady, earnest, and energetic application of effort, effort that I'm willing and capable of devoting my attention to.

This year while representing the first year (1-5) as their president I have become familiar with the goals of SBA, an honest reflection of students' interests. As a member of the Student-Faculty Committee I've acquainted myself with faculty members and the administration here at Fordham, an asset helpful for an effective SBA.

Total effectiveness of SBA requires diverse individuals, representative of the student body, each individually motivated, yet working together to achieve unified goals. The MELTING POT is made up of just such qualities. Tim Brosnan, (president), is presently SBA treasurer and previously 1A's president, Diane Krausz, (vice-president), presently president of 3E and Darcy Lopez (secretary) 1E's president.

I don't view treasurer as strictly a money handling position but one of continued responsibility with all aspects of SBA. It's my hope that each student will favorably consider my capabilities and dedication when making their choice for treasurer.

Answers to Advocate questions:
1. There are some short term loans available through an Emergency Financial Aid Fund. X should go see Jim McGough in the Financial Aid Office.
2. Dean Hanlon and the rest of the Student-Faculty Committee, who are presently discussing a change in the exam schedule policy.

Michael Dello Stritto

I believe the position of Treasurer of the SBA must consist of more than simply signing checks. Being one spoke in a wheel of four spokes, the treasurer must be an active and positive influence on all decisions made concerning all facets of Fordham, be they monetary or not. It is very important for each member of the SBA Executive Committee to truly represent the students and not to be mere figureheads in student government.

My experience this year as an SBA representative has proven to me that the SBA can be an effective vehicle for change. However, this effectiveness is directly in proportion to those people who serve on it. Being a member of the Unicorn Party along with Tom McCaffrey (president), Joy Vastola (secretary) and Jim Clemente (vice-president) we have a combination that is both committed to the students and to the task at hand—improving life at Fordham Law School. This year's executive committee has done well, however there are many more obstacles that must be hurdled and problems that must be solved. To get effective results vote The Unicorn Party.

Answers to Advocate questions: None

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