

YVONNE

# U.H. LAW LETTER

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## Social

A big "Mahalo" to the 1L's for putting together one of the best law school parties of recent memory. It was a night that will not soon be forgotten.

For those of you who did not make it on September 10th, this is what you missed:

- 1. "Jumpin' Jim" Countiss in one of the most unusual sports outfits ever worn to a volleyball game- shirt, tie, & shorts.
- 2. The 'Casenotes Plus' in a live performance featuring the return of Gerry Valdriz.
- 3. Enough pizzas to choke a godfather.

4. Enough other kau kau to quell even the biggest of appetites- sushi, kalbi, chicken, noodles, and much more.

5. So much beer Anheuser-Busch declared a stock dividend the next day.

On behalf of the entire school, the Lawletter thanks all of you who helped make the party a success. Just one question- when's the next one?

## Administration    Message from the Dean:

This is the beginning of the Law School's tenth year. We have much to be grateful for and pleased with. The A.B.A. House of Delegates awarded us full accreditation on August 11. We will be moving into our magnificent new library in December, after the shelving arrives from the mainland and is installed. Construction of the new classroom/office building is moving rapidly ahead. Our curriculum is staffed with very able and highly qualified professors and lecturers.

What kind of a year we will have still depends heavily on you -- on your diligence and hard work, and on your patience, good will and, especially, your aloha. No law school is without its day-to-day problems and irritations and ours is no exception. I invite you and urge you to bring your legitimate complaints, gripes, and concerns to our administrative staff - Associate Dean John Barkai, Assistant Dean Larry Kam, Director of Student Services Judy Kirkendall, or to me - or even to members of the faculty where appropriate. We are here to provide you a first quality legal education, and we are committed to removing any obstacles that may get in the way of that mission.

You all have my best wishes for a successful year and my aloha.

*Dick Miller*

Dick Miller

## Editorial

### A PERSONAL OPINION

For the first time in the ten year history of the University of Hawaii School of Law, a dream has been realized. The significance of this academic year should not be overlooked. Today, the Law School has full accreditation, permanent library and classroom facilities and a permanent Dean.

This dream was nurtured by the Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court, Willian S. Richardson, former University of Hawaii Regent Wallace Fujiyama, former Law School Dean and present Manoa Chancellor Marvin J. Anderson, and Governor George R. Ariyoshi among others. To this dedicated concerned and foresighted group of gentlemen we owe our gratitude. Truly without their efforts this Law School would not be here today.

We would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the significant contributions and support demonstrated by the Legislature, the law school's staff, faculty, student body and alumni of the school.

We must never forget the mission of our school. This law school was not created to keep professors employed nor to provide legal education to an elite group of students. This school's mission is and will continue to be to provide legal training for those persons who are capable and willing to provide and meet the legal needs of the State, keeping in mind the unique style of island life. It is towards this goal that many of our alumni have dedicated their legal careers in various capacities. It is towards this goal that each one of us must continue to strive for in our own way. This is the bond that exists between the alumni, the present and future students of the U.H. Law School, and more importantly what sets us apart from other schools.

A major component of any "successful" law school is the position of Dean. It demands leadership, foresight and integrity. We recognize the fact that dwindling university funds and bureaucratic demands place a heavy burden on anyone who accepts the Dean's position. Still the Dean must remain responsive to student's concerns.

Last year as acting Dean, Dean Miller adopted a "Don't Rock The Boat" policy towards student problems and concerns, however the boat has been rocked. For instance the balance within student-faculty policy committees was unilaterally changed. The committees serve in an advisory capacity to the faculty assembly, who act as the school's ultimate policy-making body. The school's administration changed the number of faculty members serving on the committees from three to four, reasoning that the faculty needed a stronger voice in areas they thought important. Students were never consulted or given the chance to argue otherwise.

Faculty evaluations is another area in which student concerns are not being heard. The administration and faculty continue to downplay the validity and importance of faculty evaluations. They refuse to recognize that successful classroom instruction is a unique skill not an instinctive characteristic.

Faculty recruitment is yet another area where student concerns must be given more weight. Last semester, an instructor was denied a tenure track position on the grounds that the instructor lacked an Ivy League education. This despite the fact that this instructor received excellent student and peer evaluations. Only at the insistence of the student body did the faculty relent but only on the condition that reemployment would occur only upon the completion of an L.L.M. program, which is a higher degree than many of the present staff have received.

(cont. on back page)

## Curriculum

"Interview" with Professor Kingsfield

LL: Is it true that the amount of credits needed to graduate has been raised?

Kingsfield: Yes, it's true.

LL: What is the reason for raising the required credit level?

Kingsfield: Well, we want to make sure that the graduates of this law school are qualified.

LL: Are you saying that our past graduates haven't been qualified?

Kingsfield: No, they have been qualified, but we want to be sure people graduating from this school have the right qualifications for becoming a lawyer.

LL: I don't understand that logic.

Kingsfield: Well, another point is that the ABA allows law students only four hours of sleep and a recent survey found that some UH law students were sleeping six to eight hours a night. It's just disgusting! Additionally, the ABA does not allow students to have more than a few moments of fun a week. Yet, you walk around this school and many of the students are smiling. We've got to get rid of those smiles and raising the amount of credits needed to graduate just may do the job. I mean, law school is supposed to be a place where much suffering occurs, yet I look at a place like the library and some students are having a great time. This has got to stop! That's why we are raising the required credits and dropping the amount of credits given for some of the classes. We are going to make this place a prison yet!

LL: But it seems to me that by having less credits to take, many students are afforded the opportunity to work, make money, and gain "real world" experience. What are your comments on that?

Kingsfield: Well, law students traditionally have been poor. So why change that tradition here? So what if they make a few meager dollars?

## Faculty

This column is directed particularly to the 3L's.

During the summer, while on Maui, I had the opportunity to sit down with Milt Seligson over a couple of beers and a cigar.

He talked about his decision to return to South Africa and reestablish himself as a barrister in that country's English court system. He talked about the American legal system; how business oriented the approach to "justice" is. And, of course, he talked about his years as a law professor here at the UH.

I think we were all, at first, a bit shaken by our experience in Contracts. Our introduction to the Socratic. Being addressed "Mr.", "Miss", "Mrs." so & so in a formal British accent; a formality and distance Milt said he felt was important to establish in the first year of school.

However, after a few weeks and some of the initial fear had melted away, the class became a forum for the exchange of ideas. And the once dreaded Socratic method became a learning tool to be used rather than feared.

And we had some fun. Who could forget the scantily clad singing beauty with the balloons who interrupted class to wish Milt a "Happy Valentine's Day". And the days on the links with the duffers.

Whether you loved the class or hated it, there was no way you could be indifferent to it. What was clear each and every day in class was that Milt cared; really cared; about his students.

To you, Milt; the class of '83- your last Contracts class at the UH- sends our best wishes and thanks for teaching us and for caring about us. That's what counts the most.

Douglas J. Sameshima

They have got to acquire that mean, hungry look. And what does law school have to do with the "real world" anyway? Now excuse me so that I can think of ways to trap my students in class.

"...that's law school!"

Welcome back to Law School everybody...That construction outside of classroom 2 is unreal, one day that bulldozer is going to come through that wall...Are those the sound of poker chips I hear coming out of room 39?... Someone should charge BRIAN DELIMA for advertising at the bookstore... Football season is coming up fast, everybody is ready for the Lawyer's League and the ETE BOWL...A THAT'S LAW SCHOOL SPECIAL AWARD to the First Year Class for being so efficient in planning the traditional first year party...It was a great time to meet and talk(counsel) with the 1-L's...Those planning the ETE BOWL PARTY will need all the help they can get to top the 1-L's... Keep your eyes open for caps and shirts to be sold by the third year class, they make excellent X-mas gifts...Good luck to 2-L Ross Segawa who is running for the House and to all UH alumni running for elective office...Anybody have any good ideas for a place to hold the 3-L graduation party contact Doug Sameshima in Rm. 39...A special ALOHA to those faculty members engaged in extra-curricular activities with members of the student body...Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe have declined our invitation to participate in the SEMI-ANNUAL LAW SCHOOL TENNIS TOURNAMENT...In further sports news, the QB for the 3-L's predicts an early victory over the 1-L's in Friday's game...Good News sports fans, shop steward for the Football Player's Association local 39, announced today that the ETE BOWL will be held as scheduled...Team Rep. Judy Foster said, the only strike will be the fear that the Law School team will strike in the hearts of the alumni...AND THAT'S LAW SCHOOL...

At Issue:

Is There a Job (Placement Officer) in Your Future?

It is distressing that during a time of high nationwide unemployment and when more and more lawyers are flooding an already overcrowded market, the law school administration sees fit to cut back on the job placement office position held by Assistant Dean Larry Kam.

The opinions published are those of the individual writers & not necessarily those of the Lawletter staff, the administration or the faculty of the UH School of Law.

Larry has been with the school for the past five years. During those years, he has helped countless students in their search for jobs while attending school and, more importantly, as alumni entering an ever shrinking job market. An informal poll of this year's grads indicates that they are having a more difficult time in finding employment than past classes. As many as 40% may as yet have not found jobs.

This is not the time to cut back on the job placement position. On the contrary, more emphasis should be placed on job placement in the future. A law graduate without a job is about as useful as a shovel without a handle.

EDITORIAL, (cont.)

Faculty attitudes towards student input must also change. Last semester a faculty member stated that students have too much input in the school's policymaking process and that the faculty and administration would undercut all avenues of student during this academic year. Clearly such attitudes must change if the school is to meet its mission.

The key to this whole situation is openness. Communication between the faculty, administration, and the students must be improved. Perhaps an open forum every month where students and faculty alike can discuss their problems would be a step in the right direction. In any case something must be done.