Battle Possible Over Library

by Charlie Shaper and Jeff Kauscher

A struggle seems to be developing between the faculty of the Rutgers Law School and the central administration of the University for the future of the library. Charging that the last faculty meeting that Virginia Whitney, the dean of the Rutgers Law School, announced was "destroying the library," several faculty members demanded control over the law library be taken from her.

Prompted by learning that the board of trustees had appointed a committee to advise her in planning the law library in the Fireman's Fund Building, in which the law school will move next summer, the faculty -- or at least several of them -- felt that they considered themselves not her, but the faculty, to be responsible for planning the library in the "new" building.

Dean William B. Robinson announced at that time his intention to hire a representative of the faculty in planning the new library. The representatives would inform the head librarian of her plan of action "out of courtesy." Committee members seem to be going to Virginia Whitney's personal representatives and not the faculty expert. We are going to do it.

When questioned regarding the possibility of appointing University President Edward Blumenfeld to the Law School's "library committee," he did not respond. Since time, drawn on a calendar in the library, was expired, the expert's review of the Fireman's Fund Building was at the expense of the law faculty. The figures of their own experts promised to be more accurate.

Virginia Whitney, when contacted by the Law Record, commented in response to the pressure on those on the law school faculty "lack of library space is the best answer. She made it clear, however, that she considered her authorities responsible for the present situation. We must make the people responsible."

As at a faculty meeting held in mid-September, the requirement that all those students take a course in the "Legal Profession" was rescinded.

The meeting, originally called to discuss Student Bar Association President David Rubin's proposal to require therein the requirement be waived for one year due to scheduling conflicts, quickly turned to debating the merits of the change in the law school curriculum. As a result, an agreement among colleagues that "the era of Watergate is now a thing of the past," he noted.

Arthur Kinsky expressed dismay at what he saw as the implicit assumption that students in the legal profession are experts in the law on the legal profession. Kinsky continued, "I stand on the record of the Law School deans, but it had that feeling that those faculty and the Rutgers Law School have ethical records which are as good as graduates of the other law school in the country."

Course Termed "Cheap"

Professor J. Allen Smith, seconded Kinsky's comments, charg- ing that, "The course in the legal
enrolled student, about four
graduate library facilities is spent on under
college graduate library facilities is spent on
in the law library.

I'm sure average library costs on the physics Ph.D. program do not include graduate library costs," reasserted Dean
improving student work in that area. That is why we've hired a faculty member to control over the law library be taken from her.

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Illegality Cited for Delay

by Jeff Kauscher

Forty candidates seeking election to the current two class representative positions within the law school have just over a lower lesser as SBA President David Rubin as- sured that the election, which candidates are nor what the most important of the law school. He has provided an opportunity to stand for election and give a brief personal

Schedule Reactions Vary

by Gill Lewis

Student and faculty reaction to the new 20-minute modular system ranged from highly favorable to somewhat critical, according to an informal poll conducted by the Record Staff. The flexibility the new system affords was cited most often by the many students who responded.

"Four credit courses can now meet only three times a week," one student remarked, "and professors can accomplish just as much, if not more, in fewer class meetings." While some students felt that the full hour lag between classes is just a short bit of time, too long to pass and chat and not short enough to settle down to study, most students re- acted favorably to the larger gap. Some are utilizing the extra time to talk to professors, a desirable result which the old system could not accommodate. Others have found the extra time enables them to relax for coffee, prepare for the next class, or run a short errand.

Early Classes Criticized

Much of the negative reaction to the new system concerned the scheduling of classes. Said one student, "This is a commuter school, not a campus school, and I enjoy being off campus and away from the crowd of classes.

Reactions of professors were by and large favorable. The short in between classes provides me to talk more freely with students after class without feeling pressured by the incoming class," remarked Professor James Zuckerman. "It is also much easier to schedule make-up (Continued on page 6)
Who Should Control Library?

The faculty seems to be taking the first steps towards stopping the deterioration of the library by deciding to exert control over the planning for the library. Fireman's Fund spokesman-flatbacks, the faculty was seriously question why their attention was not directed towards the library sooner.

For the past several years the library has been slowly starved through inadequate funding. The emaciation, reflected by discontinued material and the absence of important works which could not be purchased, has been clearly visible to any impartial observer. The impending move to the Fireman's Fund Building to force the faculty to confront, at least in part, the problems facing it.

The library is the heart of the law school. Proposals such as those made to move the law school to an undergraduate Dana Library to that back up hypothesis, in which it is open indicate a willingness to let that heart die. Continued inadequate funding and neglect, though not as dramatic, are no less serious indications. The quality of instruction and the future of the faculty is in the library. So we believe that it is the responsibility of the faculty to ensure that responsibility for making policy decisions affecting the library, whether those decisions entail planning for the future or involve the more mundane questions which arise from daily operation requirements, lie within the law school itself. The administration has extended this provision to the library, has promulgated guidelines to this effect, based on the understanding that library policies are essentially curriculum decisions due to the unique importance which a law library has for law students. It is time that the faculty recognize this.

In short, we urge that the faculty, at last long, simply refuse to allow further deterioration of the library. We believe that the faculty must have the power to choose whether to exercise it. There would undoubtedly be opposition to such a move (for there are those in the central administration who see a boomb in expenditures, amongst themselves, the stakes are high. If no action is taken in this law school will slip into mediocrity or even worse, that happening; the blame will fall upon the members of the faculty who, collectively, had the power to avert such a fate for Rutgers, but chose not to.

First-Year Elections

"Hello, I'm running for the S.B.A., and I'd like you to vote for me!"

"Why?"

There have been a lot of long silences to that question among members of the first-year class. Because, if the truth be known, many first-year students are running simply in order to have something to put on their resumes. Certainly they are not running on the issues, for only a few exhibit any knowledge of what the issues are.

This is not at all surprising. Most first-year students have been far too busy meeting the day-to-day challenge of adjusting to law school to gain any perspective regarding overall policy. Far too many of the first-year elections will once again be merely a question of who has managed to meet the requisite number of people in the short time since school began.

We are writing to encourage all first-year students to hold first-year elections this early in the semester. Running on the basis of having a contact in the name of one's own name is hardly a system designed to promote effective government. We consequently urge that a constitutional amendment be passed by the S.B.A. which would nullify what is quite possibly a reasonable period has elapsed for first-year students to become acquainted.

Letter: Editor Explains Procedure

To the Editor:

In June, 31 members of the class of 1978 were selected for the staff of the RUTGERS LAW REVIEW. The Review wishes to clarify the mechanics of the staff selection process.

All students who had completed no fewer than three semesters of law school and who had not taken part in any other law school's selection process were eligible.

In a recent decision which was subject to some confusion, the Review was not an area which was included in the first-year curriculum but which is open to upperclassmen. Students not admitted to the Review were not excluded from extracurricular activities; in fact, three courses have been added for those students.

Thus, all readers were exposed to a reasonable cross-section of the student body. Finally, readers were cautioned to read their papers in random order to avoid any systematic bias which might affect readers' first or last impression of a paper. There were no editors; approximately 10 of the 150 editors were assigned to each subject. The students' assignments were submitted to the managing editor and the subject matter handled by the managing editor was given careful consideration.

Editor-in-Chief

Rutgers Law Review

Battle

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would have made much of the New Jersey Collection unusable. As a result of this usage, the library may become involved in support of more adequate funding and the need for better internal control of the law library.

One aspect of the library's absence on the "good" list is that the deterioration it causes isn't "visible." It is a disease that is difficult to fight.