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# "Legal Summer Camp": Summer School in England

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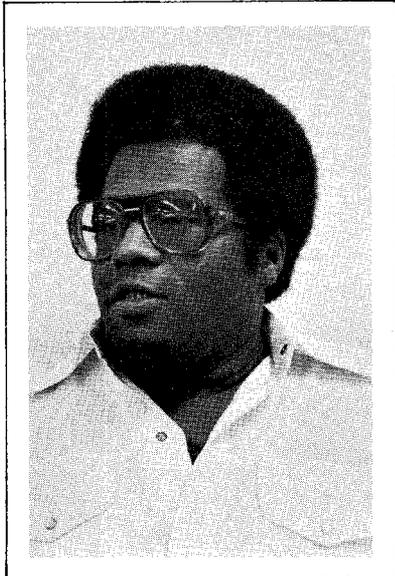
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Reginald Washington

fraternities and associations to use their expertise and prestige to make the legal system more responsive to the needs of blacks. Since at the present time, only a small percentage of attorneys are black, this includes more active recruiting of black law school applicants and more political pressure to establish a priority of admitting blacks to law school.

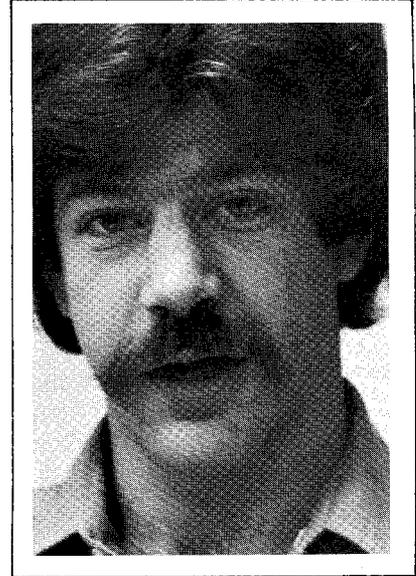
The Black American Law Student Association supports a quota system for applicants to law school, as long as all applicants admitted under such a program possess at least the minimum qualifications required for admittance. In other words, if the minimum grade point average required for an incoming student in a given law school is a 3.2, a black or other minority applicant with a 3.2 or higher average should be given priority over white applicants, even though the white applicant's grade point average may be higher. This policy recognizes that certain priorities must be established, but that applicants granted such a priority must have the proper qualifications, since incompetence in law school presents a bad reflection of black law students and the profession as a whole.

During 1975-76, the local BALSAs chapter had a membership of thirty-six. It is anticipated that membership this year may reach fifty. BALSAs is not a part of the Student Bar Association at the University of Baltimore. As Reggie Washington stated in a recent interview,

BALSAs represents a special interest and therefore should not be under the control or dominance of another organization. The members of BALSAs have different primary concerns, problems and priorities from the majority of the members of the predominantly white SBA. Thus it may be somewhat impractical and illusory to expect the SBA to work with as much vehemence and concern in furthering these solutions as could be expected of an organization such as the Black American Law Student Association. While this is the case, BALSAs will probably have to receive funding from the SBA since no other financial backing has been made available to it. Although BALSAs is a separate and distinct Bar Association, it is also a desire of its president that all members carry a dual membership in BALSAs and the SBA. This will hopefully aid in bringing about a better and more wholesome relationship between the two organizations.

According to Reggie Washington, the University of Baltimore chapter of BALSAs hopes to gain a greater degree of visibility, to promote further cooperation with the SBA, and to institute a race-relations program at the school. For the current school year, BALSAs has planned a series of events and activities to facilitate minority enrollment, as well as academic excellence. Additionally, the chapter hopes to initiate cooperative programming with the BALSAs chapter at the University of Maryland School of Law.

The Black American Law Students Association has enjoyed a good relationship with the law school and university administrations, and fortunately it has not encountered the problems of racism which some other chapters have experienced. BALSAs considers its most important goal for this year to be working within the environment of the University of Baltimore in such a manner as to improve the level of interaction among black and white law students.



John M. Crabbs

## “Legal Summer Camp”: Summer School in England

by John M. Crabbs

During the past summer, John Crabbs, a second year day student at the University of Baltimore School of Law, participated in the William and Mary “Summer School of Law in England”. This program is a cooperative effort between William and Mary and the University of Exeter. For the cost of \$790.00, which includes room and board and tuition, the American law student is offered a chance to broaden his legal education by studying law in the country which gave us the basis for our “common law” system.

The University of Exeter is located on the edge of the “ancient” cathedral town of Exeter in the county of Devon, the heart of the English “holiday country”. It is about four hours, by train, from Lon-

don and about an equal distance from "Lands' End", the western most point of land in the British Isles. Though the town traces its beginnings to at least Roman times, it is relatively modern as it has been almost entirely rebuilt since World War II, in which it was nearly totally destroyed by the Germans in retaliation for the Allied bombing of November.

The legal studies program offers eleven courses, all taught by members of the William and Mary and Exeter faculties. There is a heavy emphasis on courses of an international and European flavor, e.g., European Community Law, International Law, English Legal Systems and Legal History. However, there are also several courses about American law, e.g., Creditor Rights, Anti-Trust Law, Securities Regulation. All classes are scheduled five days a week for a period of one hour and six minutes (required by ABA standards). The classes are held during one of three time slots, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding by 12:36 p.m. Thus the maximum course load is three and, as all are two credit courses, six credits may be earned. The primary advantage of this scheduling is that afternoons are free for study (or for other purposes).

In general, the American professors teach in the style familiar to most American law students, which places heavy emphasis on the study of decided cases. The English professors, employing their usual style, teach by more of a lecture oriented approach. The English style seems due, at least in part, to the differ-

ent method of legal education which exists in England. There the prospective lawyer begins his professional education by majoring in law at the university. From there he proceeds to an "Inn of Court" or a "Law Society", depending upon whether he wishes to become a barrister or a solicitor. These institutions provide what is essentially an apprenticeship. The British system offers no analogue to the American law school as the courses at the university are taught more in the style of an American college than a law school.

The general atmosphere of the summer program is also more like that of a college than of a law school, in that the work load is designed to be less oppressive than a full time law school curriculum. One student, in fact, rather aptly characterized the program as a "legal summer camp".

The accommodations, located in a large complex of modern dormitories, are quite comfortable and are within five minutes of the classrooms. Of more importance to some students was the fact that they were only two minutes from the University Pub, which is always pleased to provide a fine pint at bargain rates. The building which houses the congenial pub, however, also houses the most nefarious institution since the Inquisition—the university food service—which three times daily makes the hapless student wish he were instead being taken to be racked at the Tower of London. England is not noted for its fine cuisine, and having the food institution-

ally prepared does not help it. Add to this the fact that seconds are strictly forbidden (if someone should want, for example, extra baked beans for breakfast) and you have the single sore spot in an otherwise pleasant and educational experience. But on to brighter things!

In addition to the course offerings, there is a full social schedule, including an introductory cocktail party and a boar's head roast. There is also a program of visiting speakers drawn from the local legal community, which provides not only an insight into the structure of the legal profession, but an opportunity to discuss with practitioners such curiosities as the lack of an exclusionary rule in England. The lectures are generally well attended and are found by many to be as interesting as the course work.

Weekends are used by many to tour the surrounding countryside, including the Dartmoor national park, the city of Bath with its ancient Roman ruins, Stonehenge, and the beautiful town of Salisbury, all of which are within easy traveling distance. There are also planned excursions to Plymouth, the nearby seaport from which the Pilgrims sailed to New England, and to "Legal London" which included lunch at the Middle Temple where barristers have been trained for their profession for centuries.

In sum, the program offers a unique opportunity to combine a stimulating vacation with expansion of legal knowledge, as well as the general broadening of view inherent in travel.

