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New Moot Court Board

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could challenge its delegation's vote. The vote stood as cast and the rule failed.

The only other loudly contested rule was #5, which eliminates loophole primaries in all of the states. A loophole primary occurs when the presidential candidate is voted for by a popular vote while the delegates are elected separately. In a non-loophole primary a vote for a presidential candidate is an automatic vote for his delegates. An example of a loophole primary occurred in Maryland where Brown, although receiving the majority of votes, did not receive the majority of delegates. Since the discontinuance of loopholes requires a change in some states' Constitutions many delegates spoke against it. However, the majority voted to do away with loophole primaries. In Maryland, in

1980, delegates will be on the ballot linked with their presidential candidate; people will vote only once, for the president and his delegates. That should avoid the confusion existing now.

The more dynamic of the speeches included those of Barbara Jordan, George McGovern, Morris Udall, Walter Mondale, Jimmy Carter and our own Maryland Congresspersons Paul Sarbanes and Gladys Spellman. John Glenn generated little enthusiasm with his keynote address. In contrast, Walter Mondale speaking only as a vice-presidential contender was eagerly received. The Maryland delegation was not enthralled at the prospect of either Glenn or Muskie filling the vice-presidential spot on the Democratic ticket; however, their attitude towards Mondale was favorable. The selection of

Mondale came as no surprise to those Maryland delegates in close contact with the Carter camp. The delegation unanimously approved of the candidacy of the senator from Minnesota.

Unanimity and harmony prevailed. In the end it seemed quite fitting as Martin Luther King, Senior delivered the benediction that the delegates joined hands, sang and swayed to "We Shall Overcome". I was delighted that the Democrats were unified behind a solid ticket and I was pleased at having been part of it.

—Ronnie Wainwright is a second year law student who attended the Democratic National Convention as a delegate from the Fourth Congressional District. Also attending were delegates Alan "Dusty" Culver and Thomas Slater from the University of Baltimore Law School.

New Moot Court Board

by Gerry Vahle

In an effort to assist the student, as a graduate, Dean Curtis and Associate Dean Buddeke have approved the formation of the University of Baltimore Moot Court Board. The board, composed of ten members selected from the students, has general responsibility for advising and assisting the faculty and students in all matters pertaining to moot court. Faculty advisor to the board is Associate Professor Robert Shephard.

It has been noted that oral advocacy skills are among those most needed by an attorney. Chief Justice Warren Berger has pointed out that the state of advocacy in the legal profession leaves much to be desired. Perhaps you have no interest in trial or appellate practice. An attorney still has a need for the skills of public speaking. Marshalling facts and

effectively advocating a position are important for an attorney outside the court room and for a student in the classroom. A viable moot court program can encourage students to develop as advocates. The moot court board, assisting the faculty, will provide a forum in which interested students can participate in the competition for selection of the national moot court team or the school moot court competition. Specifically, among other duties, the board will administer the competition for the selection of the national team and the school moot court competition.

Presently, there is some confusion as to the distinction between the two competitions. Generally in moot court competitions, a brief is written, a responding brief is written by the opposing team and the case is argued before a panel of judges. The winners are determined by the oral advocacy skills displayed by the participants. Additionally, the judges may indicate how they would have ruled on the merits of the case. The national team was selected from students competing for positions on the team on an individual basis. The students submitted a written brief on one issue of the national problem and then argued their brief before a panel of judges selected from the faculty and a student from the board. The three best advocates were

then chosen to comprise the national team.

The three member national moot court team will prepare a brief to submit for the national competition based on the problem received in August. Their initial competition will be with teams in this geographical area. One team member will be prepared to argue one-half of the appellee side, another will argue one-half the appellant side and the third will be the "swing" and argue one-half of each side. Coach and faculty advisor to the national team is Mr. Paul Sandler. The moot court board is tasked with the responsibility of supporting the team with administrative assistance within the rules of the competition.

The school or intramural competition is a separate entity from the national team competition. In the school competition, two students comprise each team. They submit a written brief on either the appellee or appellant side of a selected case and argue as a team in single elimination rounds. The two best teams meet in the finals of the competition. The briefs will be graded by a single judge or grader and the score obtained will constitute fifty per cent of the total. The score awarded the written briefs will follow each team throughout the competition.

This year there will be two separate moot court courses taught by Professor

Shepherd, one offered each semester for two credits. Approximately fifty people have registered for the first semester course, indicating a high degree of interest in the course and the resultant benefits, as well as promising a lively competition. First year students are encouraged to enroll and compete. The problem has been designed to be well within the grasp of first year students and will to some extent supplement their course work.

The course presents a rare opportunity to practice law while in school. Remember, this profession is called a practice, and the experience to be gained through competition with one's peers is invaluable; additionally, there is no client

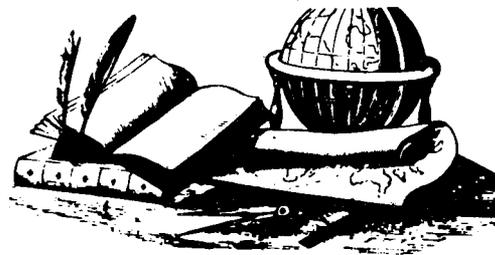
whose interests might suffer if a mistake is made. Enrollment in the course and the subsequent competition serve four purposes. Night students can readily participate. The faculty gets an opportunity to see those interested and qualified to compete for the national team. Those with several commitments and limited time have an opportunity to compete. Finally, there is the benefit of possibly winning a significant honor that will serve as a credential upon graduation.

Panelists in the initial rounds will be lawyers from the local community and students with demonstrated skills of advocacy. The panelists in the final rounds will be judges and practicing attorneys who will give some participants their first

opportunity for contact with the legal community. The judges are enthusiastic about the competition and study the briefs and problem in order to pose questions to those arguing the case. Any criticism and comment is aimed at developing skills and improving performance.

The moot court board will help in the development of the problem, securing judges, as well as making the competition run smoothly. The members of the board are as follows: Stephanie Lane, Gary Crawford, Fred Brandes, Lois Fischer, Dan Lenahan, Byron Warnken, Ira Cook, Pat Gill, Bob Lazzaro and Gerry Vahle. Please feel free to seek out these people if you have any questions.

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