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FROM THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

“Libel and Slander” Highlights SBA Awards Ceremony

By Stanley Janor

The vastness of the Baltimore harbor as seen from the twenty-first floor of the World Trade Center provided a spectacularly scenic backdrop for the sell-out crowd at this year's Student Bar Association Awards Ceremony, held this past March 27. Besides the usual good food and drink, this year's version of the annual law school get-together was highlighted by the “First Annual Libel and Slander Show,” appropriately titled “Bonzo Goes to Law School.” As might be expected, this three-act farce attempted to go behind the scenes to find and depict the root causes and those responsible for inflicting so much pain and suffering upon the innocent and trusting law students. Professors in-class peculiarities were subjected to scrutiny in the first act, “A Typical Study Group,” which concluded with the show-stopping “Odes to Dickie and Rickie” (two first-year course instructors who shall deservedly remain nameless!). The second act, “The Faculty Meeting,” revealed how law school policy decisions are really made—by Dean Katz presiding over a staff not unlike a typical law school class: inattentive, unprepared, disorganized, and dominated by a few long-winded individuals. A newscast by the “Action, On-the-Spot, blood-shot Eyewitness News Team” was the scenario for the third act, which reported extensively on acts of questionable legality in which certain faculty members had (allegedly) indulged. A late-breaking story paid homage to the soon-to-be-abandoned 1 East Mount Royal Building: the SBA had seized it and the faculty really did not seem all that interested in negotiating to get it—or their hostage colleagues—back from the brink of destruction. The show closed with

the rousing theme to the assembled professors “You Made Me What I Am Today (I Hope You're Satisfied!),” laying the blame for all this absurdity squarely where it belongs.

Following a brief intermission to freshen drinks, the faculty, not to be outdone, performed a “rebuttal,” with Dean Katz on clarinet leading his charges through several vaudeville-style song and dance numbers, complete with strawhats and canes: “I'm Dreaming of a Bright Student” (and Irving Berlin rolled over in his grave!); “Maryland, Oh Maryland” (why do they get all the *real* students?); and “Fifty Ways to Bug Your Teacher” (an exercise in poetic license if there ever was one!).

A quick clearing of chairs set the stage for the serious business of the evening, the awards to the outstanding members of the law school community. This year, for the first time, faculty awards were determined by direct student voting in the weeks prior to the ceremony. With all the hype of the Oscars, SBA President Debby Shortridge announced Assistant Professor Steve Grossman as Best Full-time Instructor, Professor and Dean Emeritus Julius Isaacson as Best Part-time Instructor, and Associate Professor John Lynch as Outstanding Faculty Member. The Dean Joseph Curtis Award for outstanding student contribution of service to the school went to *Forum* Editor-in-Chief and all-around good person Bonnie Shane, and Debby herself was given a gift from the SBA in appreciation for the magnificent effort she put forth as SBA President.

The evening concluded with two solid hours of rocking out to “Used Parts” and the assembled multitude left weary but happy, which is sure to

create a new tradition of capacity crowds for this event in upcoming years. Maybe next year the Convention Center?

The cast of the “Libel and Slander Show,” the Pre-Bar Art Players, included: Ron Alper, David Ash, Madalyn Belanger, Steve Burk, Ed Jeunette, Tom Krehely, Mimi Lapp, Stewart Lyons, Jeff Nesson, Scott Nevin, Rocco Nunzio, Paul O'Conner, Ed Rosenberg, Marcy Sherry, Delma-Wickham Smith, Bruce Wade, and Anne White; Written and Produced by Gloria Barnhart and Stan Janor; Original Songs written and performed by Howard Klein.

SBA Election Results

Officers for the '82-'83 term are: Scott Nevin—President, Cliff Robinson—Day Vice President, Chris Gattuso—Evening Vice President, Barbara Gathright—Recording Secretary, Suzette White—Corresponding Secretary, and Bill Morrow—Treasurer. Representatives include Kim Armstrong, Dave Ginsberg, Dale McCloud, Jackie Moore, Jeff Nesson, Marcy Sherry, Sue Spence, Bob Sperling, Tali Rider, and Victoris Robinson.

Elections this year were extremely close and represented the largest voter turnout in years. As a response to this burst of energy and enthusiasm, the SBA is considering changing their constitution to allow for executive office elections two weeks in advance of the elections for the representative positions. This would permit a popular candidate who may have narrowly lost his/her campaign for an executive office to subsequently run as a representative, thereby remaining active in the SBA. Without a doubt everyone involved was pleased with the large voter turnout. Let's hope the active attitude stays alive!
