



ASKING YOU TO ASK YOURSELVES

Vol. 11 No. 7
MARCH 20, 1984

Conscience

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School of Law
Hempstead, NY
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**SPECIAL
1984
S.G.A.
ELECTION
ISSUE**



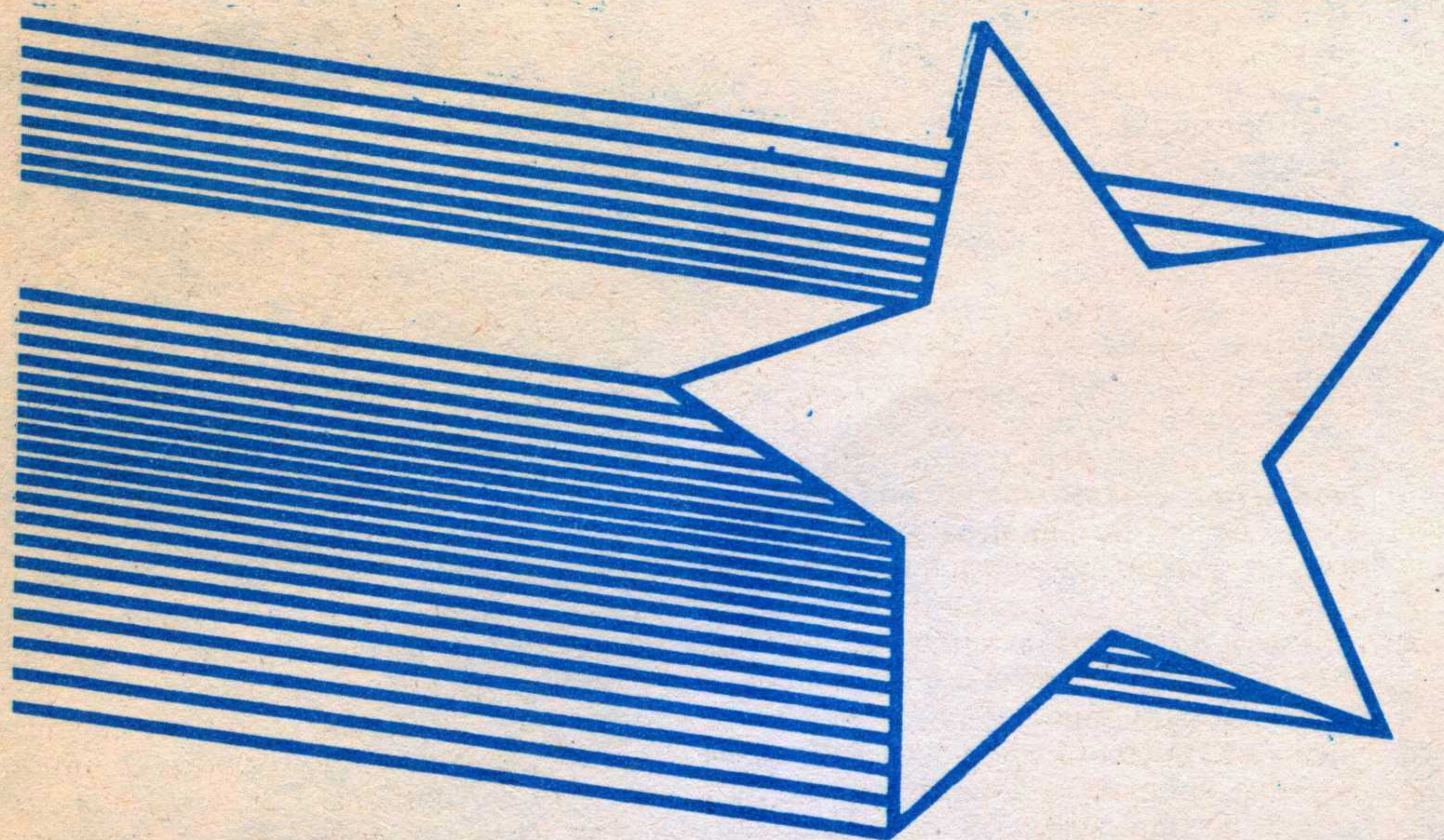
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SPECIAL

S G A

1984 ELECTION ISSUE

SGA Election Forum

The annual Student Government race for President got underway last week as the Election Committee sponsored an election forum in Room 230. Approximately fifty students attended the forum, mostly First year students. The Forum was moderated by Election Committeeman Steven Gershbein and organized by Committeeman Craig Heller.

The three Presidential hopefuls, in

The hour-long Forum began with the candidates' opening statements. Jeff Hirsch won the "card draw" and was granted the opportunity to address the audience with his ideas about the office he wishes to occupy next year. Mr. Hirsch stressed that the role of S.G.A. President is one of a liaison between the various components of Hofstra Law School including the students, faculty, administration and alumni. He also noted that

Jeff Korek, the more casually attired candidate, clad in a T-shirt, also noted his lack of direct involvement in Student Government. Mr. Korek's opening statement centered around two themes, the diversity of his "ticket" and his involvement in intramural competition.

James Black, a former First year representative, was the only candidate who could point to ongoing participation throughout his First year in law school. Mr. Black stressed "leadership, experience and action" in his opening statement and noted that one of his main campaign issues was the Law School's lack of representation in the University.

The first question posed by the panel was "What makes you the best candidate for S.G.A. President?" Jeff Korek listed his undergraduate involvement in intramurals, his membership in the pre-law club and his fraternity experience as those experiences which gave him the foundations for leadership. Mr. Korek was a recreation major in college and worked in Washington for a Congressman.

Jim Black answered the question with comments about his experience in Hofstra University's undergraduate Student Government Association and his involvement as a reporter for *Conscience* this semester.

Jeff Hirsch stated that his experience as an aide to State Senator Manfred Ohrenstein, while a student at SUNY-Albany and as the business manager of his campus radio station gives him the ability to act as liaison between the many components that make up the Law School.

The next question allowed the candidates the chance to frame the main issue or issues in this campaign and solutions they would implement to change or alter the situation. Jim Black stated that the main issues in his campaign involved Law School involvement in University policy making and the effect it has had on the Law School. Particularly, Mr. Black feels that the University's failure to

seek the Law Student's input into the University-wide alcohol policy has adversely affected the Law Students by reducing the number of social events and activities on the campus. He advocates making the Law School building an exception to the blanket alcohol policy.

Jeff Hirsch said that while the issues depended rather heavily on the year, the main issues he was resolved to work on were the disappointment of the legal research and writing program and the need for implementation of the newly-formed S.G.A. evaluations. Mr. Hirsch stated that the "classes were used as guinea pigs" while the research and writing program was overhauled this year. He proposes that a "research-type program be developed to coordinate with the Moot Court program." Mr. Hirsch also advocates the use of "student input into staff selection." On the evaluations, Mr. Hirsch noted that his Vice-Presidential running

Continued on page 2



Jeffrey Hirsch, Jeff Korek and James Black

alphabetical order, are James Black, Jeff Hirsch, and Jeff Korek. At the Forum, the three candidates faced questioning by three panelists, *Conscience* Editor in Chief Peter Shafran, *Conscience* Executive Editor Fred Paine and Former S.G.A. President Jordan Fox. Following the panelists questions, the forum was opened to the audience.

the liaison should communicate with other law schools. Mr. Hirsch admitted a lack of involvement in Student Government affairs this past year, but quickly pointed out that his goal for First year was to study hard and get good grades and that his second year would be devoted towards greater involvement in student affairs.

INSIDE:

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Regular Edition of *Conscience* will be on the Newsstand Tomorrow

Don't Forget To Vote Tomorrow

Candidates Address The Voters

JEFF KOREK - Candidate for PRESIDENT JEFF (SPANKY) WEISS - Candidate for VICE PRESIDENT

We have been referred to as THE PEOPLE'S PARTY. If elected we offer you, the students, merely focus and direction for what you yourselves want out of Hofstra Law.

Our platform prides itself on our ability to relate to you, the students, the people. Our experience lies not in formal politics but in leadership and commitment. We believe these are the essentials of a successful student government here at Hofstra Law.

Our objectives include continuing the fine programs already begun by Mr. Zarin and the present administration. These include the overwhelmingly accepted lecture series, student functions (ie, pool party, bar bike) and the advantageous rapport already developed between the students, faculty and administration.

Once again, our platform is prided on what we honestly believe are the essentials: simplicity, fair representation, hard work and commitment.....THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.

ISSUES WE WILL WORK TO: National recognition for Hofstra Law, contacting alumni and a racially diversifying student body and faculty.



Jeff Korek

JEFFREY HIRSCH- Candidate for President

My name is Jeff Hirsch and I am running for SGA President on a ticket with John Mitchell, who is running for Vice-President.

If you are reading this you are either: (1) somewhat concerned with student government, or (2) taking a study break after having finished the New York Times and have picked up a copy of *Conscience* to kill more time. Whichever category you fall into, you will probably be affected by Student Government decisions while you are finishing your sentence at Hofstra Law.

My primary concerns include the faculty evaluation process. This evaluation urges students' response to better the student-faculty relationship. Since liaison is SGA's major function, implementation of an effective evaluation process will help the SGA in its liaison capacity.

I feel first year programs such as Legal Research & Writing and Moot Court need revitalization. Once again, to make this effective, student input is important.

Finally, an important aspect needing at-



Jeffrey Hirsch

tention is placement. One effective plan would be to secure ties between student's with summer jobs and Hofstra, as well as an Alumni commission to bring more firms to Hofstra Law.

Thank You.

JOHN D. MITCHELL- Candidate for Vice President

There are things that need to be done at this Law School by the Student Government. (1) The Student Government should be concerned with raising the prestige of the school among the legal community, the general community and among Law School applicants. (2) The Student Government should be pursuing action that alleviates the "minor" problems that plague students and faculty alike, such as parking and classroom lighting. (3) The Student Government should be working toward organizing successful social events. (4) Student Government should be involved in developing suggestions for the Legal Writing and Moot Court programs. (5) The Student Government should be working with the school, library and school journals to bring them into the age of computerization. (6) Student

Government should be implementing the new course/professor evaluation system.

All of these things which Student Government can act on are for you, the students. All of these things which Student Government can act on require people who are willing to sit on committees, immerse themselves in bureaucracy, write letters and follow up letter, organize social events, and generally become involved, preoccupied and very busy with making Student Government work for students.

It is important that you vote for capable candidates who are willing to make the commitments required for a good Student Government. I believe that I am capable of assuming the responsibilities involved with the position of Vice-President for the Student Government Association. Thank you for taking time out to read this. John Mitchell (First Year student, Section B) for Vice-President.

JANICE FACIBENE- Candidate for Second Year Rep.

I am the independent candidate for Second Year Representative. I am not running as part of a ticket, as I believe that the SGA is not a political entity but an organizational one. My job will be to provide a liaison between the Class of '86 and the rest of the school.

In my current position as first year section representative, my responsibilities include membership on the SGA Ad Hoc Committee; organization of the Faculty Lecture

Series; and improvement of the legal writing and moot court programs. Curriculum improvement in general is very important and is one of the major issues I plan to focus on. My SGA experience has enabled me to work closely with several professors and these contacts will provide a greater opportunity to align student and faculty interests.

My years of experience in a major corporation has allowed me to develop my organizational expertise, a necessary quality for a representative of this law school, as organization is the key to implementation of positive change.

JAMES BLACK-Candidate for President DOUGLAS LIEBERMAN- Candidate for Vice President

At this time, we would like to explain some of the major points in our platform.

A major problem faced on this Law School has been a lack of representation on the University level. While the other schools within the University are represented on the University Senate and Board of Trustees, we are not. If we achieve this goal, several problems can be solved.

Last year when the University established its current liquor policy, the Law School student body was neither considered nor consulted. As a result of that, the policy ignores the fact that all law students are far above the legal drinking age. If elected we will work with the University to amend the current policy to allow liquor in law school building for events other than those expressly sponsored by the Dean.

Representation on the Board of Trustees this year would have guaranteed much swifter adoption of the student activity fee increase, and thus, much more money for the clubs and government to work with. We will be able next year to bring this and other problems directly to the Board of Trustees, without always having to go through the Deans' Offices.

There are many amendments pending that are needed to make our Constitution a more cohesive and comprehensive document, and to bring it up to date. Among the benefits these amendments would bring would be the ability to have our own Judiciary Board to deal with all inter-governmental problems. Further, any problems students may have with the Office of Residential Life or Public Safety, rather than having to bring them to the Undergraduate Judiciary Board, we could have a hearing before fellow Law Students.

We also plan to bring back the Pocket Part Yearbook.

We intend to follow up on the Student Faculty Evaluations and continue the work done on them this year. While the evaluation forms used by the faculty are important, and are a fine form of input to them, our own evaluation forms will give fellow students the information we feel they need before choosing a course and professor.

We will work toward faculty adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee Report on Academic Excellence, and implementation of the suggested policy and curriculum changes. We will create a student committee to be sure that this issue is not forgotten. This committee, once the Report is adopted and implemented, will become the arm of student complaints, and making sure the faculty and administration are made aware of them. The days of students being runaround from one office to another because no one will tell them who is really responsible for handling their problem will be over!

BRIEF NOTE ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Some Random Thoughts:

- Hofstra Law School is a growing entity internally and externally. It's important to keep the momentum as it will directly benefit us all — now and in the future.

- In that sense, there is real responsibility in an S.G.A. position. Please take your vote and the candidate seriously!

- S.G.A. should not be adversarial or passive. If S.G.A. senses something wrong, it should be concrete and positive in exploring solutions. If there are "perceived insurmountable road blocks," either go around or over them. Trying to just go right through them is a waste of energy and destructive.

We would also like to start a liaison program for First Year Students, to help them adjust to the rigors of Law School — a type of "Big Brother-Big Sister" program. We want to make sure new students have help in avoiding some of the problems we have faced in our first year. In cases of massive problems, like this year's Legal Writing-Research and Moot Court Programs, this group could work with the Ad Hoc Committee, so that while problems are being solved, students are hanging in limbo, unsure whether it's them or the system that is falling



James Black

apart, especially when it's usually the system.

Finally, we will not allocate all the money in the budget at the beginning of the year, leaving nothing to work with later, and tying it up in budget areas the clubs can't possibly use. We wish to avoid the embarrassment of this year's fiasco, where the S.G.A. had to demand money back from the clubs just to have enough money to continue. We will allocate money only for operation of the club and definitely named events. Not only will this guarantee a greater availability of money, the clubs will not be forced to map out every activity in September, nor will they overinflate their budgets to be sure they have what they think they may need. It will surely take more time and effort on the part of the S.G.A., but we are elected to serve the needs of the student body, not the other way around.

We ask for your support on Wednesday. With your help, the S.G.A. will come out of the shadows, and be the vital active body of leaders it should be.

Donna Simendinger **Mary Cochems**
Candidate for Treasurer Candidate for
Second Year Representative

- During the campaign more candidates address what activities they might continue and institutionalize. From last year (Alumni Day, etc.) and what new practical ideas they have.

- Try to build continuity and then progress from there.

- Be creative.
- Develop and articulate thoughtful criteria for allocating the hopefully \$30,000 they will inherit. S.G.A. is the trustee. Maximize the use of this money.

- Don't waste your vote. Commit some time and concern selecting next year's "agenda." It costs over \$18,000 for our legal education, we should do everything to maximize our investment.

- Good Luck to all...

**Look For Tomorrow's Regular
Edition of Conscience**

COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIAL:

VOTE YOUR CONSCIENCE

The great challenge in electing a student government for any law school, but especially for this one, is for the voter honestly to face the following questions: Why do we have a student government and what are the legitimate and reasonable ends our student government should serve?

Membership on the law school student government should be "light years" removed from the normally trivial and ceremonial purpose it serves at the undergraduate level. It should not be a glorified social club or resume filler.

People who seek positions in student government with notions about its being prestigious on its face, or merely as a way to enlarge social contacts, are wasting the resources that students (through payment of student activity fees) invest in them. As voters, all students have a duty to demand of candidates, and those ultimately elected, standards that befit the continuation of a student government at this school.

A fair question is what are such standards? Appropriate standards require more of student government than merely appropriating each year's student activity budget and harping contritely over mundane questions of physical plant maintenance. Over-emphasis of this type of role for student government is misdirected and at best, results in conduct by student government figures principally aimed at self-aggrandizement (or at worst face-saving). The lesson that too many student government-types have learned incorrectly is that they serve best by striking an adversarial posture vis a vis "the administration."

'84 S.G.A. ELECTIONS

Continued from page 1

mate, John D. Mitchell, was a member of the S.G.A.'s Evaluation Committee and that he would continue to support the committee's work as President.

Jeff Korek took a very different approach. His main issue was to "relate to people." Instead of centering on one issue, Mr. Korek raised up his hands to the audience and asked the audience to "tell us what the issues are." Mr. Korek's platform rests on the notion that the students will inform him of their problems and he will resolve them as they come up.

The third question asked the candidates to make a choice now whether to continue as President, should they win tomorrow's election and be invited to join one of the journals, or decline the invitation. This same question was posed to last year's Presidential candidates and then-Candidate Michael Zarin told the audience that he would have to give up one or the other. Mr. Zarin, who is

a member of the Hofstra Law Review, remained with both activities. However, his running mate, Joe Sanchez, after being invited to join the Law Review, resigned before the start of the Fall term. Jeff Hirsch looked to Mr. Zarin's decision to stay with both jobs, should the invitation and election both become a reality. "I would stay with both!" said Hirsch, "and I would split my time between the two. I don't know if journal work would stand in the way of my Presidency." Mr. Black agreed that "both can be done" and that he would "keep both jobs" if offered the chance. Mr. Korek said that he "can't decide now."

Other areas that the candidate focused on varied almost as much as the candidates themselves. Jeff Korek spoke about the need "to broaden our horizons," and to "get onto the legal community." As a national law school, Korek said that we should "expand our own recognition through placement programs and by getting students 'out there!'"

Interestingly, we at Hofstra have little need for such adversarialism and will likely benefit more by working aggressively toward the shared goals of students and faculty. What are those goals? THE ENHANCEMENT OF THIS INSTITUTION AND ITS REPUTATION IN THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY. No student should doubt the faculty and administration's commitment to that goal — their professional reputations too are linked to the success of the school's students. There are hundreds of self-help initiatives that students here could undertake to hasten the type of national recognition and prestige so many students at Hofstra seek.

Our message is two-fold. We look to student government to take serious responsibility to build an unprecedented spirit of cooperation with this administration and to develop and implement projects in keeping with the character, spirit, and legitimate interests of this law school. Finally, we urge the voters to scrutinize the candidates and reject those who would "hoodwink" the unwary into electing mere "resume filler." We want to elect more than promise and potential — we need results and we must seek to hold S.G.A. members accountable for the obligations they promise to undertake. For the hardworking S.G.A., the offices they hold will be more than resume fillers. There will be real accomplishments to which they can point to show their tenures were substantive. The choice is ours. We strongly urge your active rather than passive participation.

James Black commended this year's S.G.A. with their development of the symposia projects and that "we should foster clubs to have more" symposia. Mr. Black also wants to "broaden admissions — to attract more people from around the country." Mr. Hirsch stressed greater inter-law school interaction and greater emphasis on "job market activities."

Focusing on the area of job placement, Mr. Black suggested that, "while (Placement Director) Hugh Christenson is attempting to get jobs, we have a problem — we're a new law school." "They (the Placement Office) should make a greater attempt to look beyond the tri-state area." Mr. Hirsch questioned students' perception of the function of the placement office. "Students' initiative is to seek jobs outside the New York community," said Hirsch, "rather than depend on the Placement Office to find them jobs." Finally, Mr. Korek offered that "we go to other schools' placement offices and find out how they're doing it."

When asked if the candidate has read the S.G.A. Constitution and whether there were any changes to be made, two of the three answered in the negative. "I haven't read it," said Mr. Korek. "I didn't even know one existed," said Mr. Hirsch. Mr. Black answered that not only had he read it, but he found some major problems in its drafting and its operation. "The problems with the Constitution," said Mr. Black, "is that there is no way to impeach, there is no provision for the establishment of a judiciary board, and that there is no method of overseeing the activities of the S.G.A. and the Election Committee." He promised that if elected he would make these changes before September.

The candidates were next asked what one change do they feel they could most successfully effect as President. Mr. Korek said that his administration would "try to develop a better rapport" with the student body. Mr. Black suggested that he would seek representation on the University Board of Trustees and would rearrange the S.G.A. budget process. Mr. Hirsch said that while he does not drive to school anymore, he would

try to correct the parking problem for the benefit of the Law Students.

Former President Fox asked the candidates to "role play" with him. The situation he presented was one in which he was Dean Schmertz and it would be the candidates job to convince the Dean to effect some action. While it seemed that the candidates had a difficult time understanding just what Mr. Fox was asking of them, Mr. Black and Mr. Hirsch attempted to convince the "Dean" that the temperature differences in the building were "unbearable" and "exceedingly distracting." Mr. Korek had an even more difficult time and just remarked that he "would go with the flow."

Finally, the last question from the panel asked the candidates what actions they would take regarding alumni relations. Mr. Hirsch suggested the establishment of an alumni committee and that alumni relations were more directly related to placement. Mr. Korek suggested that we "go where they are or bring them here." Mr. Black answered that we need to sponsor more activities such as the Alumni Law Day.

Elections will be held tomorrow, March 21. The positions that are up for election are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Second Year Representative, Third Year Representative, ABA-LSD Representative, New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Representative and three Community Legal Assistance Corporation (CLAC) Trustees. Write-in votes will be counted if the candidates meet the following qualifications:

1. The student must be a member of the class represented, and
2. No Law Review/Journal/Forum Editor, *Conscience* editor, ABA-LSD Rep., NYSBA Rep., nor any other officer or board member of any Hofstra Law Student organization may serve concurrently as Student Rep. and in any in the aforementioned positions.

Only those students who will be in their Second or Third year of law school in the Fall semester (1984) will be eligible to vote in the election.

The S.G.A. Elections will be coordinated by the Election Committee.



Vol. 11 No. 7

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CONSCIENCE is published monthly from August to May by the students of Hofstra University School of Law.

The editorial board is committed to bringing Hofstra Law a competent, informative, lively newspaper of professional quality. We encourage everyone to write letters and articles. All submissions should be typed, triple spaced, with name, phone number and year of graduation. Submissions may be dropped off in our box in the library.

CONSCIENCE is distributed free to the Hofstra community including students, faculty and alumni. Funding comes from advertising revenue and the student activity fee. Postmaster, please return undelivered copies to the above address. Subscriptions for others cost \$8. Re-publication of any article is prohibited without the consent of the editor-in-chief.



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Books for the Summer 1984 Bar Review Course consists of 3 BLUE Books (Multistate, N.Y. I, N.Y. II). If you have not previously received books or if you wish to exchange old books, come and see us on the 26th.