

Law School Solves Problems, Money Still a Headache

By Donald Alderman
Charles Daye, dean of the NCCU Law School, the school's 15-member faculty and its 252 students, can now concentrate almost exclusively on academic excellence, an advantage not enjoyed by most of their predecessors at the 42-year-old law school.

"For the first time in its history, the North Carolina Central University School of Law has the real opportunity to focus exclusively on its educational program," said Daye, who is ending his second year as dean of the school. "Before 1980, the school was hindered by overwhelming inadequacies."

Inadequacies included cramped quarters, insufficient volumes of law books in the library, and also poor equipment for both teaching a learning law. Today, law school officials say the school is still not up-to-par with many white schools because it does not have some things that are common to most law schools, such as computers, word processors and video display terminals. But in spite of these shortcomings, the school's new \$4.2 million, 73,000 square foot building — which opened in September, 1980 — goes a long way in improving the school's ability to turn out good lawyers.

But the struggle for improvement is far from over because, according to Daye, many students are strapped by money shortages that force them to work to survive, and holding a parttime job is not conducive to successful law studies.

To illustrate this point, Daye notes that . . . Of the 22 students receiving financial aid, 19, or 86 per cent, passed the bar (in 1981). In contrast, a total of 14 students who received no aid took the bar, and eight, or 57 per cent failed.

Both Daye and other law school instructors point out that these financial shortages and the need for more student aid create a number of serious repercussions for the school that could have long range effects hard to pinpoint right now.

"We lawyers know how much time adequate law study requires," Daye said, "and a law student simply cannot do his or her best work facing dire financial need or spending excessive time at an outside job."

So while some long term problems have been corrected at the law school that was chartered in 1939 after some Durham blacks threatened to begin integration efforts at the

UNC law school, adequate financing for the school is still a major headache.

Adequate financing, according to Daye, would include money for a fulltime placement director and more books in the library.

But if finances for additional improvements at the school appear to be short, the question of additional student aid has taken a rather paradoxical twist.

"Financial aid is hard to get, so many students have to work," said Tom Hodges, Jr., a third-year student and president of the Student Bar Association. "Access to financial aid in some form is needed. I know it makes a difference."

But because of a higher than allowable default rate for Central students, law school students can't get National Direct Student loans, and other state financial aid programs have limited money.

Paradoxically, the law school gets about \$40,000 from the state through a "minority presence" program, but the biggest chunk of that money goes to white students who are the "minorities" at predominantly black NCCU.

"Most whites here that need help can get it, but there are blacks here that need help but can't get it because they are not minorities," said Daniel G. Sampson, a NCCU law school professor. "If we can get the resources so students won't have to work, I'm sure there will be a significant difference in our bar results."

Daye developed an eight-point plan shortly after taking office that may help ease the financial struggle. The five-year program seeks to tap all potential sources to secure funds for institutional development. It includes seeking contributions from the school's 700-plus alumni, developing "200 Friends of the School" — persons, particularly in the business community — to act similar to a sport's booster club; tapping state and national foundations and other grant sources and seeking additional state and federal government support.

The Board of Visitors, Daye said, will also be asked to step up its role. The Board is 37 persons from legal and business communities who are active supporters of the school and its mission.

Beside the major financial problems, students and faculty have other concerns. These include the fact that forty per cent of the law school student body



STUDENTS SAY Dean Daye often engages in informal dialogue to encourage a positive working environment. Standing (l-r) are Reginald Scott, Dean Daye and Robert Chambers. Seated are Ms. Deidra Whitted (l) and Ms. Rosalind Baker.

Walter Jones, vice president of the third year class, had similar thoughts. "It (confidence) has improved dramatically. The students have more pride in themselves and what they represent. Dean (Daye) has an open door policy. He's a great administrator, but more importantly, he takes a human interest in students. So, I expect our bar passage rate to continue to climb," he commented.

Reginald Scott, president of the first year class, said he thought on the whole the first year class is "optimistic and enthusiastic," although he was personally "shocked" by the percentage of white students.

Dean Daye seems to sum up the state of the law school this way: "The School of Law has often faced multiple crises simultaneously. Yesterday's School of Law was distracted from a sustained effort to stabilize an institution. . . Today's School of Law is now able to make a reflective analysis of its ongoing operation, to plan comprehensively for the future and to develop a thoughtful educational program. We are ready to meet new challenges, to achieve new horizons, to fulfill the promise of opportunity, to strive for excellence."

is white; the problems that blacks have historically in passing the bar, and student and faculty confidence and morale.

Of the 252 students in the law school — day and evening programs — 148, or about 60%, are black. At UNC-Chapel Hill, by comparison, there are 45 blacks out of a total enrollment of 697 — about a seven per cent black student population.

Since the admission of the first white student in 1965, Central's law school has become thoroughly integrated, perhaps the most integrated law school in the country, according to Daye. The increased integration is partly the result of state and federal laws which prohibit discrimination based solely on race, an influx of white applicants (some of whom were denied admission at white schools), black students' financial handicaps and the influx of black students to white law schools.

Despite the forty per cent white make up, Daye said, "the mission is the same as always. We will not neglect Central's historic mission of providing for and offering opportunities to those who, by reasons of life's circumstances, do not possess formal credentials."

He said risks are taken on students whose numbers barely meet standards, but "unreasonable risks" are not taken.

"Bar results have created a move to tighten admissions standards," Daye said, and "just what effect it has had on racial balance, I don't know."

Daye said that many factors are involved and it is hard to say exactly the reason for the forty per cent white enrollment. He said it may be resources.

"It might very well be that more whites and blacks would be here if we had the resources that they (white schools) have," Sampson said, adding that he thinks the mission is a good one. "The school should be concerned about the poor, the underprivileg-

ed, blacks and women. It is significant that these groups perceive the judicial process as inclusive, that is, women and black lawyers, people that can identify with them. If not, they may lose confidence in the system," Sampson said.

Daye pointed out that while the percentage of blacks has decreased, the actual number has increased. Today's 147 black students represent a record.

The school's total population in 1968 was 86 and was at no time previously higher. Between 1940 and 1968, only 120 students had graduated from the program. Enrollment began to climb thereafter and today graduates total over 700.

Students insist that other issues must be addressed to put black enrollment into perspective. Michael C. Wallace, a second year student, explains: "In my class, 75 per cent of the blacks were eliminated after the first year for academic reasons while 99 per cent of the whites were able to return."

So it appears that a class can be enrolled predominantly black and graduate predominantly white.

Daye however said precise attrition figures are not available.

But despite the problems, student confidence and morale appear to be at an all-time high — partially attributable to the 1981 bar results which were a considerable improvement over those of years past.

For graduates taking the exam for the first time in July, 1981, the passing rate was 69 per cent — 25 of 36. This class was admitted under Harry Groves' administration. Groves, the school's fourth dean, taking over from LeMarquis DeJarnon, resigned in 1980.

May, 1983 will mark the first graduating class under Daye's administration. In 1980, the passing rate was 32 per cent. The passing rate for blacks in 1981 was 46 per cent — six of thirteen.

To improve bar exam showings, Daye restruc-

tured the curriculum, requiring basic writing courses — a weak area for many students — requiring mandatory class attendance and encouraging informal dialogue, all of which, he said, should increase the success of blacks taking the bar exam.

Mark Morris, a third year student and editor of the *NCCU Law Journal*, said "I'm confident that the education here is as good as anywhere else mainly because of an excellent faculty. But so much of studying law is what the individual does," he said.



MRS. ANN MORRISON, of Cook Road, was recently crowned Queen of the Stewardess Board of the Emmanuel AME Church on Riddle Road. An amputee and 77 years old, Mrs. Morrison attends her church every Sunday, works diligently there and at home.

N.C. Tornado Awareness Week To Be Observed March 1-8

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.
North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt, in cooperation with the National Weather Service, has proclaimed March 1-8 as Tornado Awareness Week for 1982.

The tornado — the most violent storm in nature — usually appears as a dark funnel extending downward from a thunder cloud. Winds in these funnels can range from 75 mph in the mini-tornadoes to over 500 mph in the maxi-tornadoes.

Tornadoes are usually the result of a clash of warm, moist air and cold, dry air along a weather front. The air is then set into a counterclockwise spinning motion that drags part of the parent cloud toward the earth. Once it touches the ground, the tornado rapidly scoops up dust and other debris. Houses, barns and buildings in the tornado path virtually explode from the vacuum created as the center of the storm passes over them. Automobiles and even railroad cars can be tossed around like so many toy blocks.

Tornadoes can also occur over the sea and even large inland lakes. When this happens, the storm is often called a water spout. These are usually less destructive than their land counterparts, but they are still dangerous.

Tornadoes can occur at any time of year and all fifty states have recorded instances of tornado touch downs. But they most often occur between March and June in the midwestern United States — which has been dubbed "Tornado Alley".

In North Carolina, spring is the most prominent time of year for these powerful localized storms. Although Tar Heels usually have to contend with the mini or

small tornadoes, there have been maxi-tornadoes recorded in this state. One hit Greensboro on April 2, 1936 causing wide spread destruction and some deaths. It was the worst tornado ever recorded in North Carolina.

On January 4 of this year, a small tornado caused some damage just north of Durham while another tore through downtown Oxford.

Tornadoes can also occur during summer thunderstorms. One such storm hit Redwood in Eastern Durham County on August 10, 1980 following a 100° day. The storm was very localized. While damage was heavy in Redwood, just a few blocks away there was no damage at all.

A rare November Tornado surprised residents of East Raleigh in 1966. At least ten people were injured in that storm.

The weather service advises people to take shelter and listen to weather bulletins if severe weather threatens your area. A *tornado watch* means that conditions are favorable for possible development of tornadoes. A *tornado warning* means a funnel has been spotted.

Tornadoes can be accompanied by hail, heavy rains, and high winds. If you spot a funnel forming, move to a safe area and, if a phone is available, call your nearest law enforcement agency and report the location and movement of the funnel.

Sprouts are rich in vitamins A, B, and C and can be grown in the home from just about any seed, grain or legume.

Have a favorite pattern that is so worn it's beginning to fall apart? Press it onto fusible interfacing. There are several products on the market just for this purpose.



MS. PHILPOTT

Ms. Philpott Named OYWA For 1981

Ms. Sandra Elaine Philpott, formerly of Durham, was recently selected as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America for 1981 by the Board of Advisors for OYWA.

Ms. Philpott is the daughter of Mrs. Viola Philpott of Wintergreen Place, Durham. She received her B.S. degree from Bennett College, Greensboro, and master's degree in counseling at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Ms. Philpott is currently employed with the State of Michigan in Lansing.

The purpose of the award is to recognize the many young women who give their time, talents and unselfish service to enrich the quality of American life. The OYWA annually publishes a volume which presents a complete biographical sketch of each young woman honored.

Each year leaders from civic, religious, academic and professional circles nominate young women between the ages of 21 and 36 who they believe merit special recognition.



PROFESSOR FRED WILLIAMS continues discussing criminal law after class with several students.

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