Editor's Note

If you chanced into the Law School's lobby this winter you might have guessed that we either had funded the major remodeling we are trying for or someone had decided to tear down the building perhaps prematurely. The truth lies in neither explanation: for many years the Law School and the University had been trying to make the building more accessible to persons in wheelchairs. Several years ago a wheelchair lift was installed in the lobby to provide access to Room 225, although this lift itself had become inadequate. One major remaining barrier was the five steps from the lobby to the Admissions Office area. After numerous and expensive options were considered and discarded, an elegantly simple solution to both problems presented itself: build a pair of ramps in the lobby, one connecting the Admissions Office level to the Room 225 level and a second connecting Room 225 to the Lobby. At this writing, the project is 90% complete, and already usable. We are pleased with the result and particularly with the added access it provides.

Speaking of our major building project, the presentation to the Campus Planning Committee went well. Our need for more space, made more critical by the impending destruction of the Clinical Building on University Avenue, is not disputed. Nor is the exciting solution proposed by the University design team. Our problem is that there are many deserving projects on this campus and around the system. Our project will be evaluated by Chancellor Shalala and ranked with other Madison-campus projects, then by the Board of Regents along with projects from other campus, before finally being considered by the State Building Commission.

As we travel to various alumni events around the country we are carrying copies of an architectural-artists renderings of our project. The most dramatic element is a three-story glass "spine," a new major corridor which would integrate the now separate elements of the building. I hope that you have a chance to see these large prints and that you too will find them intriguing. While small reproductions have less impact, as we get farther along in the building process, we also plan to print these renderings in these pages.

On Saturday, 3 February 1990, the Law School held a one-day Retreat as part of our self-study process. In that one short day we managed to solve every problem in legal education today! Well, maybe we only made the first few steps toward a plan for maintaining and even improving the outstanding reputation this Law School enjoys. Some of the topics discussed included: Do we need to worry about rankings, and what is being ranked anyway; how does our curriculum relate to the world our graduates enter; and can we remain unpretentious yet serious about scholarship.

It is too early to report on the readership survey distributed in the last issue.

Returns are still welcomed and will be shared with the Gargoyle Committee of the Wisconsin Law Alumni Association. It is apparent, however, that you particularly like the Alumni Notes and the Mystery Picture. In order to have Alumni Notes to print, however, we have to rely on you to report on yourselves and your friends. All submissions are welcomed.

The mystery picture in the last issue was no mystery to Jack Kaiser ('76), Pamela Baker ('76) and Peter Christianson ('77). Jack was sitting in the foreground, Pam in the middle of the back row, and Peter, I assume, was watching from the audience. Those identified in the photo included: Kevin Kennedy ('77), Katherine Lingle ('77), Susan Steingass ('76), Lisa Gammeltoft ('76) and Professors John Kidwell, Joe Thome, Fredericka Paff and Mark Tushnet (who has his daughter on his lap).

The picture here should be equally easy. It comes from the same era and features a number of students at the Awards Convocation. Who are those smiling, well-scrubbed, soon-to-be graduates?



Mystery Picture