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RES GESTAE

February 16, 1967
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Ann Arbor, Michigan

The Weekly Newspaper of the U-M Lawyers Club

FORMER VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO U.S. SPEAKS AT 4:30 TODAY

Mr. TRAN VAN DINH, former Acting Ambassador of Vietnam to the United States (1963), will speak on the present crisis in Vietnam in the Lawyers Club Lounge today at 4:30 pm and will hold small informal discussions in the Lounge tomorrow morning between 9 and 11. Coffee will be served. Students are encouraged to attend either or both sessions.

As a member of the Vietnamese Foreign Service from 1951 until 1964, Mr. Dinh has served in the embassies or consulates of Vietnam in Thailand, Burma, the United States, and India and has acted as an observer at SEATO meetings and at the United Nations. After resigning from the Foreign Service in 1964, Mr. Dinh became Washington Bureau Chief for the Saigon Post and is currently doing free-lance journalism in Washington, D. C. He has written extensively concerning the war in Vietnam in various publications and in his own book, No Passenger on the River. Mr. Dinh has appeared recently on ABC's "Scope" and NBC's "Today" shows and has lectured at more than 100 colleges and universities in the United States.

CAMPBELL COMPETITION ENTERS FINAL ROUND

The final arguments in this year's Campbell Competition are slated for Wednesday, March 8, in room 100 HH at 2:30. The four finalists are Steve Wood, Carl Von Ende, Bob Hurlbert, and Ed Carney.

Up to this point in the competition, winners have been selected on an individual basis. In the finals, however, Petitioners Wood and Von Ende will square off against Respondents Hurlbert and Carney with the winner to be selected on a team basis.

This year's Campbell problem is the case of American Dairy Co. v. Federal Trade Commission: a mythical state of affairs involving a charge of price discrimination in violation of the Robinson-Patman Act.

The five-judge "court" for the final round will be headed by Justice Tom C. Clark of the Supreme Court. The other members of the tribunal will be Judge Wade H. McCree, Jr. of the Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit; Philip Elman of the Federal Trade Commission; Dean Francis Allen and Prof. Tom Kauper.

The road to the finals has been no bed of roses for the participants. The combined efforts of Messrs. Wood, Von Ende, Hurlbert and Carney probably total between 200 and 400 hours spread over a period beginning back in September. All that remains is that final revision and sharpening of arguments which will determine this year's Campbell champions.

--Richard Sawdey

"MILLER'S GAG A GAS . . . BEST SINCE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE . . ."

--Bosley Crowther, The Times

Art "Cecil B. De" Miller stuck his colleague Stan Siegel with the most colorful, musical and extravagant Valentine presented in many a moon.

Looking somewhat akin to a cherubic penguin in his tuxedo, Miller and a cast of thousands--well, at least a hundred--made a surprise appearance at Siegel's Tuesday afternoon Corporations class. Marching behind a red

banner (shades of the Haymarket Riot?) proclaiming "Stan! Be Our Valentine!" and preceded by an exotic instrumental ensemble consisting of trombone, violin, harmonica, guitar, kazoo, and triangle, Miller's legions surprised Siegel midway through the class period.

At the secret signal, the two entrance doors to room 150 swung open and two lines of gaily dressed Valentine's Day well-wishers wended their way down the lecture room aisles as the orchestra played a spirited "When the Saints Come Marchin' In." The two lines met in front of the podium underneath the red banner proclaiming their affection for Stan "The Kid" Siegel.

Although the color and spectacle were beyond what mere prose may record, an attempt to give RG readers an impression of the extravaganza will be set down here.

No detail was left undone by the meticulous craftsman Miller. His accessories (freshman Section 3, Civil Procedure, in real life) were garbed in bright reds, and each carried, sucked or gesticulated with a lollipop, no doubt alluding to the Sieg's tender age.

The band halted as Art "Argyles" Miller ascended the podium to make the afternoon's first Valentine's presentation. As the orchestra's string section crooned "Love in Bloom," Siegel was gifted with an All-Week, Peppermint Sucker. Overcome with grateful emotion, he was only able to utter a few monosyllables which sounded like "Just wait until St. Patrick's Day..."

Following the sucker gift, Maestro Miller raised his red-ribboned baton to lead his abettors in the two "hymns to him" reprinted below. To fully appreciate this musical mélange readers should try to imagine each of these madrigals sung simultaneously in forty-seven different keys--accompanied by the full orchestral complement.

The afternoon's musical programme:

(Sung to the tune of "Too Young.")

They tried to tell you you're too young
Too young to teach at Michigun.
They said that you're a youth
And just a shade uncouth
Because you brag and magnify the truth.

And yet you're not too young to preach
That directors often overreach.
Someday, you'll be old enough to shave.
Maybe then your classes will behave.

The second selection, with apologies to Georg Frederik Handel and The Bible:

(Sung to the tune of the "Hallelujah Chorus")

Stanley Siegel, Stanley Siegel!
You're so regal!
Like an eagle!
Or are you really like a beagle?

Stanley Siegel, Stanley Siegel!
You're our hero!
And we love you!
And we'll dance at your Bar Mitzvah.

After the applause (and disrespectful laughter) had subsided, Major-Domo Miller, looking somewhat like a lost headwaiter at the Fountainebleau, lavished a floral bouquet on the humbled Siegel.

The proceedings were terminated with a chorus and a half of "The Victors." As the crowds dispersed, one could see Art Miller holding at bay a swarm of amazed members of the press, anxious to know what his next adventure in the pageant realm would be.

Rumor has it that he's planning to direct a movie based on the life story of God. And, of course, Miller will also play the title role.

--Glenn Litton

PROF. WELLMAN REVISING MICHIGAN PROBATE CODE

Elimination of overelaborate procedures surrounding wills and upgrading the role of probate courts are two primary objectives of Prof. Richard Wellman, currently helping to revise the Michigan Probate Code under a \$20,000 grant from the Michigan State Bar Assn.

Prof. Wellman is now devoting a sabbatical leave to the project and anticipates taking additional time next winter.

The key problem at present, he said, is that almost every estate must become a probate court affair.

"Once the court is involved," he added, "it must do a complete, elaborate job involving complex procedures which cause more delays than the safety, which the present procedures are designed to assure, is worth."

Realizing this, he believes that many Michigan property owners are arranging their estates to avoid probate procedures through such devices as joint bank accounts, joint ownership of land, and trusts.

"Most popular will substitutes," according to Prof. Wellman, "were not designed to serve in place of wills and they involve a number of risks and inconveniences. Nonetheless, people are coerced into using them unwisely by fear of the probate process."

"A more worrisome consequence is that people tend to lose confidence in the law relating to estates."

Prof. Wellman is convinced that most U.S. lawyers favor some probate law revision. His conviction has been reinforced by his work as chairman of reporters of the Uniform Probate Code project.

This national project is jointly sponsored by the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws and the real property, probate and trust law section of the American Bar Association.

One national recommendation that may relate to the Michigan revision, according to Prof. Wellman, involves simplification of will processing after death. "This would include shortening the time it takes for a will to become official and making it possible for executors appointed by the court to completely settle an estate without further recourse to court in cases where there is no dispute."

Another recommendation, he said, is that the law governing those who die without a will should be modernized. "There is too much of a gap between the way the average person wants his estate to pass and the pattern applicable under present law to estates without wills."

Finally, according to Prof. Wellman, the probate courts of many states are "crippled by inherited assumptions when it comes to solving true disputes because they more nearly resemble an administrative facility than an ordinary court."

"In Michigan," he said, "we live with the curious situation that we must go to a probate court to get orders settling an estate, but any real dispute about the estate probably will have to be taken to the circuit court for solution."

The probate court should be disengaged from routine administration and given real authority to handle disputes, he said.

One of the difficulties involved in the problem of revision lies in making the rules fit peoples' wishes. "Each person thinks his own situation is very simple and he tends, therefore, to think that very simple rules should control his estate. But the wishes of people vary almost infinitely. If estate law is to accomplish the enormous variety of desires involved, it must of necessity be pretty complex," he said.

"Revision is needed, but new methods must be carefully worked out, discussed, and accepted by lawyers and others specializing in estate work. I am convinced that lawyers are in favor of this approach and revisions that will result."

--U-M News Service

REPORT FROM THE BOARD

The Board appropriated \$60.00 to the Case Club for a coffee hour following the annual Case Club Banquet. The Board also voted to release an appropriation, tentatively approved in October, of \$110.00 to the Law Wives on condition that the ticket price for the upcoming Law Wives Dance be

reduced from \$3.50 to \$2.75. (The Law Wives later approved a reduction in ticket price to \$2.75.)

At last week's meeting, the Board passed a resolution which ends the room carry-over system. Under previous practice a Club resident was allowed to carry his winter term room over into the fall term without going through the annual room draw. (An announcement of this resolution was inadvertently omitted from last week's Res Gestae.) Despite the protest of some members of the Lawyers Club, the Board voted 8 to 3 against amending the resolution, thus leaving it as originally passed. It was the opinion of the Board that it was inequitable to Club members as a whole to permit the carry-over practice to continue.

As a companion resolution the Board established the following priorities for the room draw:

- 1) Prospective seniors currently living in the Club. (A prospective senior is defined as one who expects to graduate the December or May following the draw.)
- 2) Prospective seniors living outside the Club.
- 3) Prospective juniors living in the Club.
- 4) Prospective juniors living outside the Club.
- 5) Freshmen starting in the summer.
- 6) Freshmen starting in August.

In addition, in order to remedy a problem that has produced ten room vacancies in the Club this term, the Board voted to require prospective seniors who will graduate the December following the draw to live in single rooms only. It was further approved that no Club resident be allowed to change rooms in midyear unless his room is filled.

--Wm. H. Conner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Law Wives cordially invite all law students to come to the Annual Winter Dance, February 25, from 9-1 am in the American Legion Hall on South Main Street.

For only \$2.75 you will enjoy an evening of dancing to a versatile band, drinks at a private cash bar and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Tickets will be on sale in front of room 100 HH on the mornings of Feb. 22, 23 and 24.

Nominating petitions for the Board of Directors election will be available beginning Friday, February 17 in the Lawyers Club office. The petitions are to be returned to the office by 5 pm Monday, February 27. Also by the 27th, the statements of candidates who wish to appear in the Res Gestae election issue must be submitted to the RG mailbox on the third floor of Hutchins. These statements should be 100 words maximum and will not be accepted unless in typewritten form and double-spaced.

Beginning Wednesday, February 22, the Board will sponsor a weekly coffee hour in the Lawyers Club Lounge from 4 to 5 for faculty and students. This is to be a completely informal occasion conducted hereafter every week at the same time and place. The Board invites faculty and students alike to have a cup of coffee Wednesday afternoon as often--or as seldom--as you like.

Any senior who hasn't paid the \$4.50 for his Quad and picture should do so immediately. See Jim Walter in J-13.

WEEKENDER

A number of new pictures will be on the agenda for the coming weekend: Cinema II on Friday and Saturday will present "One-Eyed Jacks," a 1961 "method" western directed by and starring Marlon Brando. This one is very entertaining escape, but very typical Brando, complete with a few very memorable lines and the one scene in which Marlon the Martyr gets beaten within an inch of his life (Cf. "On the Waterfront," "The Chase," "Mutiny on the Bounty," "The Appaloosa," et al.) In addition, Karl Malden is especially good as the villain who makes Brando's life utterly miserable.

The State will drop "The Venetian Affair" tomorrow night to present a far superior spy drama entitled "The Quiller Memorandum" on Saturday. George Segal ("King Rat," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf") plays the highly efficient Quiller and, according to the critics, helps make the picture one of the best espionage dramas to come around in quite a while.

The Campus, as of press time, is unsure what will be coming for the weekend, but if for any reason they hold over "Falstaff," I would suggest missing it. Though based on Shakespeare's "Henry IV, Parts I and II," two of the Bard's best historical plays, the movie is nevertheless very disappointing. Director and star Orson Welles has indiscriminately cut too much out of the plays, and sacrificed the best of Shakespeare's dialogue in the belief that the audience would rather marvel at Welles and his enormous belly. In toto, he has produced a film which is not only dull but so badly acted that the dialogue is almost impossible to understand.

Cinema Guild tonight and tomorrow will run "Ashes and Diamonds," a 1958 Polish drama directed by Andrzej Wajda, which concerns the dilemmas of a resistance fighter after World War II. On Saturday and Sunday, the CG will have "Modern Times," the classic 1936 Charlie Chaplin satire on industrial society. Paulette Goddard is featured.

One final note: The recent obscenity hassle over "Flaming Creatures" will bring one beneficial by-product, at any rate. Tonight, in a special showing to raise money for the high cost of justice, the Guild will present "Help!," which is the second and, regrettably, final collaboration between Director Richard Lester and the Beatles. If you did not see it last night, may I urge you to take the time to make up for it tonight.

--Jay Witkin

SPORTS

The basketball and bowling teams will finish their respective seasons this week with both having a good chance to finish in first place. The Law Club-Phid basketball game that didn't get played last week should get played this week with the winner meeting this year's Cinderella team--the freshman Tort-Feasors--for the championship. The table tennis team opens defense of their title which the Law Club has held for the past two years. Anyone interested in playing squash, volleyball, paddleball, or swimming should contact Jim Walter, J-13, 764-8936 as soon as possible.

* * *

While sports commentators constantly cry out for shorter professional sport schedules, the owners and television have combined to make them longer and longer. Professional football, for example, begins in mid-August and ends in late January. Yet, unless I'm mistaken, the trend may have begun to move in the other direction. It seems (at least to me) that the National Hockey League did not begin play until a few weeks ago and since that time, it's been a great season in the Detroit area.

But baseball has even topped hockey's efforts for while the snow still smothers the Midwest, the baseball season is over before it begins. Most of the credit for this humane endeavor can be given to a publication entitled Baseball 1967 Yearbook (50¢ at your favorite newsstand) which includes among other stories one on "Frank Robinson's New Challenge," a "Koufax Memory Album," and the "Dodger Vulture." More to the point, however, are the predictions on the pennant races. The forecast has the Detroit Tigers meeting the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1967 World Series. This despite the fact that every pennant winner in recent years has had an outstanding shortstop play a vital role in capturing the top spot. I question whether Baseball Yearbook has ever seen Tiger shortstop Ray Oyler play baseball.

--Saul Schultz

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