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REPORT FROM THE BOARD: Vague for Voidness

Jon Birge and Salley Katzen, co-chairmen of the Speakers Bureau, have indicated that though a list of tentative speakers has been made, they have received no firm commitments for engagements this semester. Among the feelers that have been put out are those to several members of Congress, a prominent District Attorney and a police evidence expert.

The spring semester's program is being shaped in the context of generally disappointing attendance last fall, despite extensive publicity. Concern for the amount of money spent on the program and speaker reaction to the small crowds have caused consideration by some members of the Board of Directors as to the advisibility of continuing the program in its present form, as opposed to changing its format. In view of the success of the debate presented by Professors George, Israel and Kamisar, it has been suggested that other members of the faculty or outside legal authorities might be induced to participate in one or several forums on topical legal issues.

As current plans are still flexible, the Speakers Bureau have indicated that they would be interested in comments as to future interest in the program and suggestions as to speakers or events that might be planned.

--Lynn Bartlett

NEWSBEAT: Summer Research in International Law

The International Law Society has just received a flier from the Association of Student International Law Societies soliciting students for research work this summer concerning international procedures for protection of human rights. The proposed projects include: 1) evaluation of present methods of international investigation and protection of human rights; 2) evaluation of proposals for establishing various fact-finding bodies; and 3) research on theories of protection measures.

The program is under the auspices of the Procedural Aspects of International Law Institute, directed by Professor Richard Lillich of Syracuse. It is open to qualified second year and graduating law students and will involve full-time summer work. The salary is as yet indefinite, but will be in the range of $125/week for graduates. Most of the work will be done at the UN, but there will possibly be research trips to Strasbourg, Geneva, and Washington.

Any interested student should contact Kevin Beattie or should write to Aaron Etra (Box # 11, Columbia Law School, 435 West 117th Street, New York, New York 10027).

- The Self-Help Method -

A second-year law student at U.C.L.A. will represent himself in the forthcoming trial of an invasion of privacy suit he has filed against the publisher and sponsors of a commercial phone book. The student, Harland Braun, charges that the defendants included his phone number in their publication. The hooker is that Braun has an unlisted number. He claims
Newsbeat, cont.

he received numerous phone calls soliciting business after the directory was published, thus having the privacy of his home rudely invaded.

The invasion may prove costly to the defendants. Braun, in addition to asking for $45,000 general damages, has asked for $900,000 (that's right) in punitive damages, which is rather fair punishment for invading a law student's privacy.

The defendants' demurrer was overruled in December. During the proceedings one of the defense attorneys remarked that only odd and eccentric people had unlisted phone numbers, rather unfortunate in light of the fact that the judge also has an unlisted phone.

- "Holy Smokes Batman" -

The way the students crowd around the Lawyers Club tube at 7:30 Wednesday and Thursday evenings, one might suspect they were witnessing a practical demonstration in a course on sex. Hardly. The attraction is the Batman show, ABC's latest entry in the quest for culture. Having seen the show only twice, we've yet to form an opinion on any aspect of the latest phenomenon. We must admit, however, that we laughed a good deal at the first week's spine-tingling episode, perhaps more from the appearance of a grown man in a Batman costume (or the villain in a penguin suit) than from anything else—even if he does "swing a mean cape." We almost cry at the thought that the boy wonder Robin gets paid for being no actor and uttering exclamations like "Holy staircase!" We're certain there is a subtle meaning to the show and a reason for its appeal—in the tradition of James Bond and Ursula Andress. Frankly we're not sure what it is, however; we welcome reader response to the problem.

While the Trendex rises (as it certainly will), we can anticipate that somewhere a clever P.R. man is plotting the introduction of Bat deodorant (Bat Quano?), Bat shave cream, Bat soap, Bat T shirts and jockey shorts, Bat belts (with all kinds of neat gimmicks), and the renaming of Matt Mann pool to .... What next?

This week's hands-down winner of the Smokey the Bear award is Kevin "Break your matches in two" Beattie, who (just happened to be in the vicinity when the Bat Phone rang. The butler at the other end (you've seen the show, haven't you?) whispered, "Sir, there's a dastardly fire in Prof. Polasky's office."

Rather than take five steps nextdoor, Kev (with an acute instinct for preserving the series' continuity) dashed to the Bat Pole. Arriving at the bottom, fully frocked in his "mean cape," then slipping the Bat Boomerang out of his Bat Belt, Kev looped it perfectly round a Bat Spire outside Prof. Polasky's office. Once inside, he unhesitatingly hurled his cape ("jacket" in the vernacular) into the wastebasket, thus snuffing out an impending conflagration.

One observer who chooses to remain anonymous opined the cause of the blaze to (and we quote) "spontaneous combustion." As he said, "It was inevitable."

Will Batman's fingers be singed? Will Kev ace out? Tune in for next week's episode: Batman meets the Board of Directors, with W. Hermann, special guest villain.

Although fewer than ten students took more than their first bite of Thursday's lunch leftover of beans, you'll be surprised to learn that the meal is featured in this month's issue of Duncan Dines Tours the Campus, the culinary equivalent of Princeton's Guide to Girls. Theme of this month's issue is "1001 ways to serve leftovers: the fine art of substituting for food." Anyway, it's good for the waistline.

--Wm. H. Conner, Steve Petix, and Art Dulemba

COHEN'S CORNER: A Turkish Delight

ALLEN FIELD, '68, is not only the familiar face taking tickets in the Law Club's lunch line, he is also a full-fledged member of the growing army
of returned Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs). Al and 72 other hearty souls were stationed in small Turkish towns in groups of twos to teach high school English classes following an intensive 12-week training session at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The campus was close enough that some of the top Peace Corps officials and even "Sarge" paid several surprise visits. By the end of the three months of intensive training, dropouts had reduced the original 133 trainees to 107 of which only 73 were finally selected to go overseas as PCVs. This selection process was run by 6 psychologists and was apparently quite effective because only 4 Volunteers left before their 2 years were up, and those were for deaths at home or for sickness.

Al, himself, fell ill his first year while teaching in Silifke, a town of 8,000 right on the Mediterranean which geography majors will readily recognize as being at the northwest end of the "fertile crescent" and 20 miles from Tarsus where St. Paul was born. Al comments that, "There was no meat other than goat meat and this and other food would spoil almost immediately because the sun was so ferocious. I had dysentery the whole time and promptly lost 25 pounds in the first 6 months." This human string bean spent his second year in Duzce, a regional trade center where the climate is cool like Michigan's. "I was never sick there," he says with a pleased expression on his face. Another dramatic change was in the appearance of the people. The first year his students were all short and dark, while in Duzce, the classes of 60-70 were composed mainly of blond, blue-eyed children.

A NATIVE OF SAYRE, PENNSYLVANIA, and '63 graduate of Dickinson College, Al had never studied Turkish before the Georgetown training sessions which included language instruction 5 hours a day, six days a week in addition to Congressionally required classes in the geography, economics, and politics of the country, first aid, American politics, physical training, and Communist theory. "Of course, the first six months I could speak only a little Turkish and my students could speak no English," he comments. "The teaching experience was a challenge to make an understatement." But the discipline situation was even more unique. In Turkish homes the children are given completely free reign to do or say anything and it is the teacher at school who is the disciplinarian and who is expected by parents and students alike to hit the pupil as hard as possible across the face to maintain obedience.

At first the PCVs tried to find alternatives, but it was difficult to use criticism through satire, because in Turkish all statements are taken literally. "The kids lost respect for us and thought we were weak if we didn't hit them," Al relates. When the second year began, he picked out the biggest student in class, waited for him to cause a little trouble, and hit him as hard as possible. "They were angels the rest of the year and we all got along fine with classes becoming more casual as the year went on." This difference in discipline was particularly difficult for the female teachers who made up half of the Peace Corps group in Turkey, especially because the classes were 90% boys.

BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS were the first stops Al made when taking a portion of the 45 days vacation time allowed by the Peace Corps which gives PCVs an allowance of $7.50 for each of those days. After attending the bazaar in Damascus, Al and a friend travelled by boat to Port Said, took in Cairo, saw the pyramids and the new Aswan dam, backtracked to Lebanon and flew back to Turkey. "It was so great to be 'home' where you could understand the language again! The feeling was like putting on your comfortable shoes."

When asked about the opportunity to make friends, Al pulled out of his desk drawer two dozen recent letters from Turkey which he hasn't had a chance to answer due to the rigors of exams and various other lawyer-like activities. "I'm very attached to the country and feel as if I've left part of myself there. I hope to go back and visit again." He sums up the Peace Corps by saying, "I had more terrific experiences in 2 years than many people have in a lifetime. I wouldn't trade that time for anything."
WEEKENDER: One New Flick

This week's column may seem to be repetitious of last week's, but the blame for this must lie with two of Ann Arbor's local movie houses. Strangely enough, only the Campus theater, home of all those long-running hits and world premieres, offers a new flick for tired eyes. The main feature there is "The Knack . . . and How to Get It." While you may not pick up any new techniques--you may find it enjoyable if: 1) you liked talented director Richard Lester's previous efforts ("A Hard Day's Night" and "Help!"); 2) you enjoy fast-moving comedies; and 3) you have an ear for English accents (this, quite honestly, is most important). The cast, led by Rita Tushingham, is first-rate; the production, on the whole, is off-beat and uneven in quality.

Comedy fans who saw "The Knack" this past weekend may want to catch "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines." Reports around town indicate that it's a "fun" movie (whatever that means). According to the Michigan, where this picture is playing, "My Fair Lady" is due to arrive shortly, most likely by next week.

If you are the only person in the Free World who has not yet seen "Thunderball," the State theater will have the fourth Bond epic for its fifth consecutive weekend. This one's high on gadgets, girls, and action but low on suspense. Is it possible that in the attempt to have each Bond movie outdo the previous one, the producers have forgotten how to build up the plot (what there is of one) to some kind of climax?

The fourth and cheapest of the films around is still at the Cinema Guild, and this weekend they just might have the Best Bet. Italian director Antonioni's "Eclipse" (1962) will be showing Friday and Saturday and, according to the schedule, the original last seven minutes will be left intact. It seems these seven minutes have often been cut, but the schedule won't say why. The cast is headed by Alain Delon and Monica Vitti.

And even if you wind up at the local tavern (or unwind as the case may be) or camp out in front of the tube, hope it's a pleasant weekend. --Jay Witkin

SPORTS: The Faculty-Student Table Tennis Tournament

All law students and faculty members are cordially invited to enter the All-Law School Faculty and Students Table Tennis Tournament which will be starting soon. Students need not be residents of the Lawyers Club and faculty members need not wear suitcoats and ties. This will be a contest of individual against individual, i.e., not requiring the assemblage of a team; and will allow the players to arrange their own times for their matches. There will also be a trophy for the winner of the tourney. So, all you hotshot ping-pongers start warming up and call either Bill Felton (764-9008) or Mrs. Santrock at the I-M Building (663-4181) to register your name for the biggest and best table tennis tournament ever. All entries must be received by Tuesday, February 1.

--George A. Cooney

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS--

Susterka Lake--Jan. 29 (Saturday)--Ice skating 6 PM to 1 AM; Rock & Roll and Beer 8:30 PM to 12:30 AM

Valentines Dance--Feb. 12 (Saturday)--9-12:30. Semi-formal

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