

Press-Herald

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Qualities of Leadership

The appointment last week of William Moss Jr. as a member of the El Camino Board of Trustees has been hailed as a credible choice by those who have known Mr. Moss through his several years as a Torrance business and civic leader.

The city's representative on the college board is one of five governing this outstanding California junior college. That it is a job demanding a great deal of dedication to the area's youth should be apparent.

As the recent president of the Torrance Rotary Club, as an active leader in the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and as an active and interested leader in the community events, Mr. Moss has demonstrated his concern for the welfare of his community and has demonstrated the qualities of leadership that will be important to him and to the El Camino district during his tenure.

We applaud his selection and wish him well in the post.

Hail, Columbus!

Nearly four and three-fourths centuries ago, America lay unknown and unnamed astride a western hemisphere not very many people believed existed. It was awaiting discovery, even though its inhabitants didn't realize it, and weren't aware there was anyone anywhere to discover them.

Then, on Aug. 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus set out on a voyage to discover something else. After taking almost as much time as it took a later mariner to reach Mars, he sighted this continent's suburbs. It was a notable feat, even though the continent eventually was named for someone else.

Ever since, people have been discovering us. And these summer days a good many Americans are discovering their own nation for the first time, too. 'Tis always thus, and this is good. We wonder, however, how many auto, plane or railroad voyagers think about the first American tourist. The one Queen Isabella staked to a trip.

Opinions of Others

"Farm field labor is a skill, just like any other specialized job. We will recall the ridiculous statement of a Dept. of Labor employee in Casper at a labor meeting some months ago when he said flatly, 'We can teach a teen-ager to be a sugar beet field worker in 30 minutes.' Fortunately, Wyoming has escaped an emergency situation in our beet fields because enough Texas labor turned out to be available."

—Riverton (Wyo.) Ranger.

"The U. S. Supreme Court has nullified the federal law which bars communist party members from serving as officers in labor unions. That's what we said! Don't you know the Kremlin is pleased with that one! Come to think of it, we frequently get the impression that the communists have a Supreme Court in this country . . . and it's about time we Americans got one of our own!"

—West Point (Miss.) Times Leader.

"The road to the Great Society may be paved with good intentions but potholes are popping up along the right of way. . . It would be unfortunate, indeed, if strategic planning from a bureau in Washington were allowed to override as a matter of course the people who have been in the front lines of the war on poverty for a great many years. Charity began at home in America. At least some of it ought to remain there."

—Cushing (Okla.) Citizen.

"Christians have no reason to be smug about the progress the Christian Church has made in the past 2,000 years. The world is still only a small fraction Christianized and the unChristian part seems to be growing in numbers much faster. If all of Christianity were to join wholeheartedly in carrying out Christ's command, we might be hard put to hold our own percentage-wise in the race for world acceptance at that."

—New Market (Va.) Shenandoah Valley.

"Don't expect the government to reduce highway traffic accidents—it's up to you."

—Littleton (N. H.) Courier

"President Johnson has asked all citizens to stay at home this year and 'see America' in order to get a better balance of payments and less outflow of gold. But the President's daughters have stated they will tour Europe this summer. . . Will someone please explain this for us?"

—Little Valley (N.Y.) Hub.

Mailbox

To the Editor: The Redondo Beach Dianas, Junior Membership of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, is now making its annual appeal for cancelled postage stamps to be used by veterans confined to the local hospitals. The veterans will then be able to make up stamp collections. All United States stamps above the 5-cent denomina-

tion and stamp supplies are needed. Foreign stamps could also be used. The Stamp Chairman for our club is listed as follows: Mrs. Bruce Wilkinson, 19509 Hinsdale Torrance, Calif. Thank you for your cooperation. Sincerely, MRS. GORDON WATT, Corresponding Sec., Redondo Beach Dianas.



ROYCE BRIER

Johnson Orders Halt to Government Wiretapping

One of those midnight conversation shows that specializes in curiosities, as well as Zsa Zsa Gabor, had an electronic manufacturer on a few weeks ago.

This guy had a listening device in a cuff-link, a recorder in his vest pocket which could run off tape several blocks away, things like that. The host said it was "frightening," which indeed it was.

Some big corporations are said to bug offices and tap intercom phones. In every big city police hunting criminals try to bug their living and working quarters when feasible, though the courts don't look with favor on evidence thus produced. Several government agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have lately been using listening devices in pressure cases.

Last week President Johnson issued an order forbidding wiretapping by government agencies, excepting cases involving the national security, where a wiretap

must be approved by the Attorney General.

Shortly after he took office, the President issued orders to his Cabinet officers against wiretapping. But recent hearings by a Senate committee, Senator Long of Missouri, chairman, developed evidence the Internal Revenue Service has been tapping in the Pittsburgh area in an effort to trap revenue violators. Long says the committee will investigate regional offices in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco.

S. S. Cohen, IRS commissioner, says regional taps have been installed by overzealous subordinates. But as Mr. Johnson is a mite touchy about his authority, it's a safe bet the zealous will not risk firing hereafter, and that ordinary wiretaps will cease.

Even in security cases, much of the value of wiretapping is discounted, because the United States Courts don't like it, and

there is a tendency to reverse convictions on appeal.

This is as it should be, because such invasions of privacy are intolerable in a free society. Indeed, a society is not free to the extent that anybody can put a listening device on a victim, or tape-record his voice without his knowledge.

As you would suspect, some government agents are crying their eyes out over prohibitions, and one Justice Department official was quoted as saying, "This will kill us." So let him quit and start a detective agency specializing in divorce cases. It nigh breaks your heart, and you wonder how the laws were enforced 50 years ago.

Any schoolboy who can fix a television set is well aware of the latter-day refinements of electronic techniques. At the present rate of sophistication increase we could reach 1984 by 1970, and the President is to be commended for arresting the trend in an important area.

WILLIAM HOGAN

The Chemistry of Humor: 'Let Me Count the Ways'

Humor is a matter of personal chemistry. One is stimulated, or there is no connection, nothing. According to ancient belief, "humor" was one of four bodily fluids which controlled man's health and temperament. In performing a little research in this area, I find that the Greek physician Galen introduced the idea that four basic temperaments reflected the humors. They were: the sanguine, buoyant type; the phlegmatic type; the choleric, quick-tempered type, and the melancholic, dejected type.

Humor is a "temporary state of mind;" "that quality which appeals to a sense of the ludicrous or absurdly incongruous." I have never suspected myself of lacking a sense of humor, a sense of the absurdly incongruous. But there it is—the case of me and Peter De Vries.

The main element that has delighted throngs of happy readers in "Comfort Me With Apples," "The Tents of Wickedness" and a half dozen other comic novels by Peter De Vries eludes me. Again, what is designed to produce high amusement in his new one, "Let Me Count the Ways," leaves me straight-faced at best. This is unfortunate, for the scarcity of first-rate humorists

in this post-Thurber world is appalling, and just about any sparkling prose more inventive than "How to Be a Jewish Mother" should be immensely welcome this summer season.

De Vries' humorous novels seem to have the necessary ingredients to generate both charm and laughter, and some of my best friends insist that he brings this off. It is not universal humor, like that in "Peanuts," or the old Marx Brothers, or Benchley of "The Treasurer's Report," or Thurber of "My Life and Hard Times"—the sanguine, buoyant type having moderate to strong red blood as the predominant bodily "humor." Chemically, to me, De Vries remains phlegmatic, sluggish, in the physician Galen's interpretation.

I find the best line in "Let Me Count the Ways" not the funniest line at all, but the last line: "The universe is like a safe to which there is a combination. But the combination is locked up in the safe." I found it the best line because it was the last line and, apart from chemistry, I realized that the key to De Vries' humor was locked up in a safe of my own. This is the safe that contains fractured phrases, semantic lunacy, pretty good parody, all to be found in

De Vries' style of humor, which remains so popular.

This is a tale of a Midwest piano-mover, a Polish fellow, whose wife gets religion to a point where he makes googly-eyes at a woman painter who has a problem with her piano. Basically a spoof of sex and religion, you see. The piano-mover's son is a college instructor, a literary fellow, who helps the old man narrate the story. Very droll, accomplished, by a writer who is considered to be one of our most dazzling humorists these days.

I remember a film years ago in which Laurel and Hardy moved a piano. That was certainly buoyant, sanguine stuff. But De Vries leaves me melancholy, dejected, in the ancient chemical sense.

Quote

"Actors in politics? Why not? An actor has as much right to have opinions as the butcher." — Guy Williams, Hollywood television actor.

"I want to know when I leave this life that I have benefited society in a small way." — Richard P. Hinkle, 19, San Bruno, on life's goal.

STAN DELAPLANE

October Best Time for Trip to Japan, Far East

MAUNA KEA BEACH, HAWAII — "We plan a trip to Japan, Hong Kong, and Bangkok and would appreciate any advice on time of year, clothing and so on."

I'd try to make Japan in late September or early October. Japan summers are miserably hot and humid. Winters are cold. Spring and fall are wonderful. This way you can work south, getting into better weather in Hong Kong and Bangkok.

City dress in all these countries is like city dress at home—a little more emphasis on tropical clothing in Hong Kong and Bangkok. No formal clothing is needed. Resort dress in the country.

I'm pretty sure Bangkok is a half way point in air fares. That you can come home via Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tahiti. Ask the airline.

"Should we stopover in Hawaii enroute or on our way home?"

I always stop both times. The time change is nine hours to Japan. And that much difference is rough on eating and sleeping habits. Hawaii breaks it up. If you go direct to Japan, take the morning flight. You land in the evening. Now—call the front desk and ask for a massage girl. Cost is about a dollar. It's wonderfully relaxing after all that air time.

Stop over in Hawaii on the way home to break the time change. Get in some beach time. And get some American food again. You'll be ready for it.

"Could you tell us how much it will cost for a Hawaii vacation?"

A hotel man here told me that some tours are selling 10 days in Honolulu and the outer islands as low as \$249 —from the west coast and return. Any travel agent should have these package tours.

They are a little regimented: Into one hotel one day, out the next. But you see a lot. And that's a very good price.

"Is there a low jet fare to Hawaii? Who has it? How about an out-of-the-way hotel?"

Pan American and United fly west coast to Hawaii for \$100 each way.

If you can manage \$43 a day (for two with breakfast and dinner included), the new Mauna Kea Beach Hotel is the best buy in the islands for sheer luxury. A breezy, balconied hotel on a beautiful remote bay on the Big Island. An 18-hole golf course beside the sea. A Swiss chef. The place cost \$100,000 a room to be built. And I have an idea that \$43 is a price that will only last until it catches on.

"What about a week stopover in Samoa?"

I hear they are building a new hotel in American Samoa. But it's not the liveliest of the Pacific islands. (Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora are the gay islands with French wine and food.)

I'd take a little plane across the channel and stay in Apia and Western Samoa. The hotels aren't luxury. But Aggie Grey's is comfortable. A backyard full of hibiscus. Pigs under the porch. Bananas swinging in the breeze and a Scottish beer. A very small town. But beautiful Samoan villages around the island. Take a drive at sunset when the cooking fires are just lit and everybody is bathing.

"How about the beaches in the South Pacific?"

If there's a good one, I never saw it. They're beautiful—white or black sand. Water the color of ink spilled on a blotter. Curving coco palms and flame trees. But—there's a lot of sharp coral. And coral cuts don't heal easily. There's a stone fish that lies on the bottom.

And if you step on him—off a boat, it's OK in the Dear John, that's all she sea. Lot of people do that. The snorkel swimming off. There are some fresh the reefs is the greatest in water pools. If you can swim the world.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Little Boys Never Grow Up

SENTENTIOUS thought for today: Little boys never grow up. They just become bigger little boys.

Case in point: When Jim Killion was 10 years old, his father (George Killion, president of American President Lines) promised him a Mickey Mouse watch and didn't come through—an oversight that Jim has never forgotten or forgiven. So the other day, Father George decided to make good, but wot & ho, the wonderful Mickey Mousers of yesteryear, with the white-gloved hands and arms to indicate the time, are no longer on the market: Result: He is having one made by a jeweler, on an Accutron body, with a price tag of \$450.

Jim Killion, now a millionaire (cq) in his own right, is just about the happiest 40-year-old boy in town.

THE POSITIVE NEGATIVE: Novelist Herbert Gold is back from Moscow where, one night, he addressed a writers' group. During the question-and-answer period, one Russian asked: "What do American writers think of Communism?" "Let me answer that," replied Gold, "by saying that in America, I can do things that would get me jailed here. For instance, I've demonstrated against U.S. policy in Viet Nam and Santo Domingo and I've been head of a committee to defend the Rosenbergs." This remark was greeted by dead silence, which so unnerved Gold that he left the platform. In the back of the hall, a woman said to him softly: "Mr. Gold, I hope you realize that 'to be silent,' in Russian, is an active verb."

LA TRIVIATA: The Burton-Taylor movie, "The Sandpiper," is so bad that, reports Ronnie Schell, one H'wood theater has this sign in the lobby: "No one permitted to leave their seats after the first 20 minutes" . . . Lil Rubin, massaging her feet: "I know these shoes I bought in Italy are authentic—they still pinch me!" . . . Consternation at the White House: the Aug. issue of Esquire lists "The 100 Best People in the World"—including Harry Bridges, Willie Mays Hube Humphrey and even Nikita Khrushchev. But not LBJ!

AND THEN I WROTE: My favorite reading these days is the Saigon Daily News, which last week concluded a report on a press conference held by Prime Minister Ky with these not-to-be-doubted words: "He reminded newsmen that the Government fears no one, but only common sense" . . . Stripsy Rose Lee is all heart and sentiment. The other day, gazing at Golden Gate Bridge, she sighed: "It's so beautiful. At night, when it's all lit up, it looks just like a giant G-string!" . . . Newsflash from L. A.: "The City Council is taking steps to restrict the sex life of female cats. The idea is to curb the pet explosion." Well, there's the answer to "What's New, Pussycat?"

NOTES AND QUOTES: George Bernard Shaw seems to belong so definitely to the past, it's hard to believe he was still around when TV appeared on the scene. But he was—and when asked what he thought of it, he had a typically Shavian reply: "I don't know, I'm afraid to look!" . . . Every now and then, quick as a wink, I throw open my desk drawer, but I never DO catch the paper clips at it. I guess they multiply only when nobody's nooking . . . In view of her tragic fate, it's hard to believe that Amelia Earhart is the name of a most successful line of ladies' airplane luggage—and what does this do to all that fancy talk about "image"? . . . "Every four minutes of every working day" sounds like the beginning of a singing commercial about cars, right? Actually, according to the Surgeon-General of the U. S., it's the rate at which someone dies prematurely because of smoking . . . One might also believe, from reading the papers, that every four minutes of every working day, somebody is holding up a branch of the Bank of America. Or does it just seem that way?

THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE: The most expensive meal of the year might have been the one eaten by TV's David Brinkley in a restaurant which, he said on the air, "serves bad food garnished with pinballs." He's being sued for \$150,000 . . . George Lemont, heaving a world-weary sigh: "I guess we're all getting older. Today I had to take my teddy bear downtown and get him a pair of bifocals" . . . Tom McMillan, ruminating: "If cows gave wine instead of milk, babies would be more fun at parties."

SHIRLEY TEMPER: David Niven is a fast man with a needle, but even he should know better than to tangle with Shirley Temple Black. In a London magazine interview this month, he said the low point in his career was co-starring with Shirley—"an experience that should really happen to dogs, rather than actors." Shafts Shirley: "He's right about one thing—that picture ('A Kiss for Corless') was a dog. I could have done better with Lassie—David was 20 years too old for the part THEN. And there must be some significance to the fact that it was my 35th—and last—picture."