

Ombudsman Coming to Cal-State Dominguez Hills

EDITOR'S NOTE—Gary Ritchie, a junior psychology and American studies major at California State

College, Dominguez Hills, wrote this article in anticipation of a new governmental function soon to be established at the College—that of the Scandinavian ombudsman. Ritchie resides at 1629 Palm, Hermosa Beach.

What can one solitary student do to insure better student-faculty relationships, to improve his college's intramural program, or simply to overcome the feeling that he's only a number in a vast

student body? What can he do if he feels the program designed for him by the mysterious "they" may leave something to be desired? If he lived in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, or New Zealand, he might go to his ombudsman who would listen attentively to his problems and immediately act to bring about some solution. In this capacity, he might address the proper legislative body or simply explain to the complainant what could or could not realistically be done, and more importantly, the reason behind the situation.

BY WAY of explanation, let me offer some perspective on this unique sociological phenomenon. In 1809, the Swedes, in an attempt to personalize and streamline their bureaucratic agencies, developed the governmental equivalent of the complaint department—in the form of the

ombudsman. The idea at the time was that the ombudsman, as an agent of the legislature and as a servant of the people, might function to alleviate the abuses of impersonalization which seems always a part of any bureaucratic system.

The ombudsman's job was a specific one. He listened to and remedied whenever possible the complaints of the citizen; by direct intervention as an administrative advisor to the legislature or by conveying to that body the specific areas of dissatisfaction of their electorate.

A part of the ombudsman's function is to screen out the relatively unimportant complaints (handling these him-

self) and pass on to the legislature the main problems as well as suggestions for possible solutions. In so doing, the ombudsman hopefully makes the bureaucratic system more efficient and surely less frustrating. In short, he functions to facilitate the communication process between constituent and legislator.

THE OMBUDSMAN then is an agent of social communication used extensively in the countries cited above. How much of his function could be effectively transferred to the campus community? Can the ombudsman be transplanted to Dominguez Hills? It won't be long before

we find out, according to information now circulating the campus. The highly active Committee on Student Life has declared an ombudsman forum to air student faculty and staff dissatisfactions. For, in any social structure, be it civil or academic, small or large, there exists the omnipresent specter of communication breakdown and resulting frustrations of the needs of the individual. Thus, on Monday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the ombudsman holds sway on the college campus. All areas of discussion are open. Any member of the campus community may speak with impunity to any issue. It just may work.



ATTEND DINNER . . . Bernard Le Baron, South Bay division manager for General Telephone Co., and his wife were among the nearly 500 persons attending the firm's Silver Dial Dinner last week. The dinner honored employees of the company with 25 years of service. Le Baron, who lives at 127 Camino de las Colinas, has been with the firm for 37 years.

Dominguez Area Work Under Way

Work on a \$7,500 improvement project on Alameda Street in the Dominguez area is under way, County Super-

visor Burton W. Chace said today.

The project was authorized yesterday and includes improvement of Alameda in the area of Santa Fe Avenue.

The work consists of extending pavement on the east side of Alameda to a curb and gutter constructed recently by owners of adjacent properties.

"This project is an excellent example of how property owners and the county can work together for betterment of our highway system," Chace said.

Alameda Street is a County Master Plan Major Highway and carries a daily average traffic volume of 8,000 vehicles in the vicinity of the proposed improvement.

Speed Limit Set

A 40-mile-per-hour speed limit on Sepulveda Boulevard between Avalon Boulevard and Wilmington Avenue has been established.



MARSHALL H. BIALOSKY Works Published

Professor Publishes Two Works

Two choral works by Marshall H. Bialosky, professor of fine arts at California State College, Dominguez Hills, have been accepted by the Theodore Presser Co. for publication.

The two works, both for women's chorus, are a setting of Kenneth Patchen's poem, "Be Music, Night," and a series of proverbs called "Of Music and Musicians."

The latter piece will receive its first performance this spring by the Women's Chorale of the Dominguez Hills college.

Bialosky, a former conductor of the University Chorale at the State University of New York, served as president of the Suffolk Symphonic Society on Long Island. He also has served on the arts faculties at the University of Chicago and Milton College in Wisconsin.

He studied at the Cherubini Conservatory in Florence, Italy, for two years. Six of his compositions have been published.

He and his wife, a violinist and music teacher, live in Palos Verdes Estates. They are parents of three children.

Doctors quit smoking

CHICAGO — According to a recent survey, 52% of American doctors do not smoke. Many quit recently due, according to the Anti-Tobacco Center of America, to the conclusive evidence linking cigarettes and lung cancer.

Many doctors gave up smoking without straining their will power thanks to a new tablet which helps to progressively eliminate the need for nicotine and, as a result, the desire to smoke. Less than 2% of the 150,000 people who tried this tablet reported they still smoke!

Smokers interested in receiving information (free) about this new tablet are invited to contact directly the Anti-Tobacco Center of America, Dept. 106-B, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York.

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