

# Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

"Television murders all of them," said Eric Goldman. He wasn't referring to villains in a western. He was talking about Texans — the Lyndon Johnsons . . . you remember them.

Presumably Goldman is in a position to know about such things — or at least enough to write a best-seller titled "The Tragedy of Lyndon Johnson," which to some people might have been described more accurately as a comedy.

Goldman was former President Johnson's "intellectual-in-residence" at the White House from the days of the Johnson take-over until his disenchantment with the President some time later. If Goldman didn't invent his job title, certainly he doesn't seem to object when it's used.

TV viewers will remember him as the colorless interviewer on a video series titled, "Open Mind." Today the author is a roly-poly, chain-smoking professor of history at Princeton University.

WHEN I met him recently he was on the TV interview circuit (40 shows in 20 days), unashamedly hawking his book about the man who has selected him as his link with an intellectual world he had never known — and, I suspect now, that Goldman hadn't known too well either.

"Mr. Johnson was fully aware of the power of television," said Goldman. "But it just never occurred to him that the medium could do him ill. The critics said he was bad on TV. Somebody said so every day, yet it was impossible for him to accept the fact that he himself might be at fault instead of the medium. Certainly it wasn't because he didn't watch TV. Often he watched three sets at once to see how he was being presented by the three networks.

"HE WAS an avid critic of his own performance, but not in the way you might think. Until the very last he seemed to think that if only he used a second teleprompter or some other kind of lights or a different camera angle he would be better—when all the time the fault was the man himself.

"It is a hard thing for a man like him to admit that the real 'Me' just isn't very engaging. Then, on the other hand, he

was a great mimic. Did you know that?" asked Goldman. I allowed as how I didn't. "Well, he was — and a very cutting one. When he called in Bobby to tell him something that was obviously tough for Kennedy to take, he later mimicked Bobby's reaction — accent and all — and did a very good job of it. Eventually when the word got back to Bobby it made their rift permanent.

"ACTUALLY it's too bad the public is often cheated out of seeing the human side of a president — like Lincoln, who had a great sense of humor, but whose stories were largely unprintable. Mr. Johnson has a very humorous way of phrasing things, you know —"

"That I don't believe," I said. "Yes, a times he could be very amusing," said Goldman, staring at the ceiling for a moment, as if struggling to recall one. "I remember one time when he compared bringing someone to court to getting Al Capone to church."

THAT, I believe.

## Films on Narcotics Described

As a public service this newspaper, in cooperation with the office of District Attorney Evelle J. Younger, will publish a series of three articles starting today, describing 16 mm. films available locally in these categories: narcotics and dangerous drugs, fraud, the court system, government, crime, and juvenile delinquency.

There are many films available to local groups," Younger said. "But this is, perhaps, the first time that a list has been compiled giving more than one source.

"We suggest that club program chairmen clip out the series and retain it for future use," he added.



**KYOTO SUKIYAKI**  
RESTAURANT  
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# Fear Christianity Wilcox Sows Seeds For New Thai 'Y'

Communism and Christianity. These are two words which strike fear into the hearts of most residents of Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand.

In spite of this obstacle, Joe Wilcox recently flew to Chiang Mai from Bangkok, where he is headquartered, to try to establish a new YMCA. And he thinks he may have been successful.

Wilcox, who formerly directed the Torrance Family YMCA, currently serves as fraternal secretary to the Bangkok 'Y.'

IN A RECENT letter, Wilcox wrote: "We've been to Chiang Mai, a city of 110,000 people and we THINK we've just been midwives to a new Y. We came with the hope that, after 20 years of gentle negotiations, the time was truly ripe for a YMCA here."

Wilcox made the trip with the Y's General Secretary Chulin Toktaeng, and another fraternal secretary, Murray E. Faulkner.

"AS THE JUNIOR member of this trio," Wilcox continues, "I was often mystified as to why we visited this person and that, but somehow, our lengthy walks (sometimes within a herd of goats) throughout Chiang Mai began to be a slow ballet of purposefulness.

"First, we saw a professor at

## B'nai Brith Group Meets

Robert Ellsworth, representing the Torrance schools, and Torrance Police Sgt. Mel Hone will discuss the narcotics problem in local schools tomorrow at a meeting of the Torrance Lodge No. 2523 of B'nai Brith.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at 4619 W. 190th St. It is open to members of the Torrance Lodge, their families, and all prospective members.

Cheng Mai University, a man who quietly leads the Student Christian Movement in this city despite the fact that there are two primary words of fear here: Communism . . . and Christianity.

"HE DISCOURAGED us on our first plan to use a young seminary student as the first YMCA secretary in Chiang Mai: 'He'll be far too busy with studies.' But the professor gave us time and concern, and a list of local prospects to visit.

"Each person seemed to know and love Rev. Toktaeng, having been to Y camp, or raised in the YMCA, or whose parents were married by this gentle Christian leader in Siam.

"We looked at sites for a YMCA headquarters. Elegant old teak homes and stables as humble as those in Bethlehem. We found one, too, with room for an office and a club meeting room, a well, a privy, and room for a basketball court.

All it needs is an exuberant high school work camp from Bangkok to clear it for action.

"GRADUALLY, our trail led to a prominent doctor, a young man who had taken over when his father 'retired' from his own hospital to devote full time to a nearby leper hospital. The young doctor gracefully accepted our reasoning that if there was to be an effective YMCA in Chiang Mai, he must be the chairman of the organizing committee. Miraculously, he understood that the YMCA was probably the only organization which could unite the many diverse groups in Chiang Mai into a unified effort to serve youth.

"We're about to land in Bangkok now," Wilcox wrote from his plane seat. "As I relax and peer out at the rice paddies below, I realize with awe that for four solid days I have spoken Thai with adequate clarity, and thus, have been very much on the growing edge of the YMCA."

# One-Cent Gas Tax Approved

Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — The State Assembly has approved the controversial AB-76, by Assemblywoman Pauline Davis (D-Portola) which establishes a one cent gasoline tax to be used for the repair of roads, streets and highways damaged by recent storms and floods.

The final approval was on a compromise after agreement was reached by a conference committee of three senators and three assemblymen. The final vote was 57-17 in favor of adoption.

Mrs. Davis explained the bill which will place a 1 cent tax on gasoline sales beginning June 1, but which will automatically end Nov. 1, unless Governor Reagan decides to cut it short. It is expected to produce between \$7.5 and \$8 million a month for use in repairing of roads, bridges, highways, and streets throughout the state.

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# Edison Reports Drop In Per Share Profits

Southern California Edison Co. has reported first-quarter results which reflected increases in operating revenues, net income and kilowatt-hour sales, but a continuing decline in earnings per share.

T. M. McDaniel Jr., president, told shareholders attending the electric company's annual meeting that operating revenues for the three-months which ended March 31 totaled \$157.1 million, an increase of 7.9 per cent over the \$145.5 million reported for the first quarter of 1968.

Net income for the quarter was \$26.4 million, slightly higher than the \$26.1 million recorded for the same period last year.

Earnings per share, however, fell to 59 cents on a weighted average basis on common and participating original preferred stock, as compared with the 61 cents per share for the first quarter of 1968 on a fewer number of shares.

On a 12-months-ended basis,

earnings per share declined to \$2.26, a 5 per cent decrease from the \$2.38 reported a year ago, and 2 cents below the \$2.28 earnings recorded for the year 1968, he said.

McDaniel cited the dilution created by the issuance of 1 1/2 million new shares of common stock last year, and increases in such fixed charges as interest and preferred dividends as reasons contributing to the decline in earnings.

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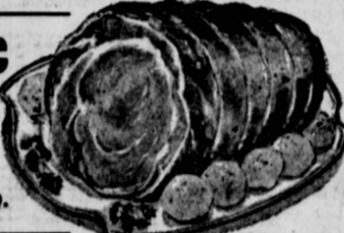


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