

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"Sorry, but we civilian students will be pretty busy this week!"

Sheriff's unusual methods mark changes, improvements in jails

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The city that brought you the flower children now brings you its new sheriff who: 1. Sports a peace symbol on his gold badge.

2. Offers to rent "rooms" at the county jail at \$10 a night so the public can see what it's like to be behind bars.

3. Sponsors rock concerts to raise money for jail inmates, and dances on the stage himself.

4. Makes a surprise midnight visit to the jail, declares it "disturbing as hell," and launches reforms.

"Support Your Local Sheriff" took a new twist when former San Francisco policeman Richard D. Hongisto, 35, took office four months ago after defeating a 60-year-old incumbent who had held the job for 15 years.

Hongisto quit the police force in 1970 after 10 years to work as a television reporter. He says he decided while lying in bed one Sunday morning last July that he could be sheriff.

With the support of young people, liberals, minorities and the city's politically organized homosexuals, Hongisto won over three contenders who split the law-and-order vote. He received 36 per cent of the vote.

Like his badge, his campaign posters featured the peace symbol, and he described his opponents as "hawks who were trying to solve social problems in the United States with more money, more weapons and more men. It hasn't worked in Vietnam and it won't work here."

On March 26, the sheriff raised \$14,000 for jail inmates by throwing a rock concert. Hongisto danced on the stage in a pin-striped business suit, two-sole performances with various women partners, until 2 a.m.

Proceeds from these "jailhouse rocks" as he calls them are earmarked to buy TV sets and other recreational equipment for the jails.

Hongisto says he donates a

third of his \$26,337 annual salary to a youth group, as well as \$150 a month to rent a store-front in the Haight-Ashbury district, once the heart of the hippie culture. Here he plans to sell art objects made by jail inmates who will get the money when they are released.

"I'm a liberal, maybe even a radical," the sheriff said in an interview during a typical 14-hour work day. He was dressed in a grey flannel suit and vest that made him look more like a banker than a sheriff.

"No doubt conservative people see things differently than I do. But the fact is we're getting many things accomplished, and that's the point," Hongisto said. All crime fighting in San Francisco is done by the city police department. The 320-man sheriff's office runs the jails, provides court bailiffs and serves legal papers.

The new sheriff's major efforts to date have been for the 1,200 inmates in the county's two jails. Hongisto has begun a new drug counseling program, instituted employment and psychiatric counseling for all inmates and a venereal disease treatment program for the women. He has eliminated censorship of prisoners' mail and ordered deputies to ignore hair length when choosing trustees. His own dark hair is cut medium-length.

Hongisto has doubled medical care, increased jail classroom hours from two to 60 a week and says, "we're grinding away at a dental program."

The sheriff surprised his deputies Jan. 17 with an unannounced midnight inspection of the women's jail. Because he took a reporter, San Franciscans found out that overcrowding was forcing women to sleep on the floors of cells without toilet facilities.

The sheriff also invited reporters along when he ate Easter Sunday dinner in a cell with inmates. An anonymous donor's

Listen up

Local politics debated

Editor: To what depths will an Aggie stoop to defeat another Aggie? One of this university's students has apparently become so blinded by political ambition that no "gut-tactics" have been spared in his attempts to discredit Rep. Bill Presnal, current representative from this district.

This student has used "brush-fire," hit-and-run, back-stabbing stunts not to show his qualities, but instead to tear down one of the most effective representatives in Austin. These tactics only go to prove that Mike Essemeyer is not mature enough, neither personally nor politically, to represent this district. Since his many sham techniques have failed, he has even resorted to attacks on Rep. Presnal's immediate family. How low can a candidate get?

The student candidate has yet to come out strongly for anything. His entire verbal campaign has been based on Negativism. Is this the type of leadership that we want to represent us? I doubt it.

But I must honestly concede that he has run a good advertising campaign. Since most of my classmates do not have a lot of money, I can only wonder where any student can get the funds necessary to finance such things as billboards, placards, bumper stickers, and ads.

I take this A&M student's tac-

tics as an insult to my school and to my intelligence. Therefore, I sincerely recommend that we re-elect Rep. Bill Presnal to the House of Representatives.

Stephen L. Baker '72
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Editor:

Last Saturday, April 15, a group of five volunteer Farenthold campaign workers, of which I was one, went to Manor East mall for the purpose of distributing Farenthold literature and bumper stickers. We arrived at 9:30 a.m. and had been working for approximately thirty minutes when a man drove up and let eight junior high school children out of the car. These children were well stocked with Barnes bumper stickers. I was standing outside the mall entrance; therefore, I was a perfect target to be asked if I wanted a bumper sticker. I said, "no thanks." The little boy said, "I don't care either." "Why are you doing it then?" I asked. And he replied,

"I'm getting paid for it." Needless to say, I wondered about the sincerity of Mr. Barnes' campaign.

At 10:30, we received another surprise. A man from Cecil Culpepper's office arrived on the scene with some disappointing news. We were on private property without the owner's permission, and we were to leave immediately. The Farenthold volunteers left, but we did not stop campaigning. The group went downtown where we were well received.

We do not question the legality of Mr. Culpepper's request, but we do question the request on an ethical basis. The Farenthold volunteers were denied the right to campaign for their candidate while the children paid to campaign for Barnes were allowed to remain. As long as this discrimination exists, Farenthold supporters will have to obtain information elsewhere.

Sheila Wilson

New courses are offered by Philosophy Dept.

New courses for junior and senior honors students and graduate students have been initiated in the Philosophy and Humanities Department for the fall semester.

The two new courses and an additional section in the junior-level Philosophy of Science were announced by Dr. Manuel M. Davenport, department head.

New courses include Philosophy 497H and 631. A one to three credit hour offering, 497H will allow honors students to pursue independent work with philosophy professors on an individual basis.

The problem of religious knowledge, a three hour graduate course, will investigate various theories of truth and meaning of religious beliefs including empirical, psychological, literal, symbolic and existential theories. Da-

vvenport will instruct the Tuesday-Thursday 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. course.

Philosophy 305 (Philosophy of Science) will have Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 2 p.m. and Tuesday-Thursday 12:30 p.m. sections, taught by Dr. Stanley R. Carpenter and Hugh J. McCann, respectively.

Other departmental offerings this fall are Near Eastern Religions, Philosophy of Religion, Modern Philosophy, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind and Mathematical Logic. All are three-hour courses. The last two are for graduate students.

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The Battalion

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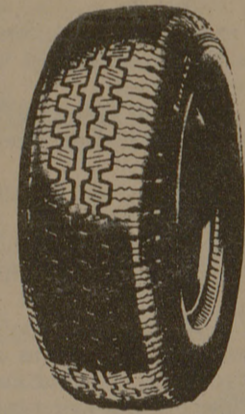
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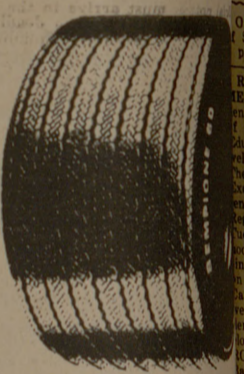
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