

# Saigon's mayor wages war against sin

SAIGON (AP)—With the war against sin going, the barroom mama-sans are down in the mouth.

In anticipation of a great peacetime tourist influx, any year now, the city fathers have decided to tidy up Saigon's morals. Mayor Do Kien Nhiu, a no-nonsense, law-and-order type, has ordered the girlie bars and Saigon-tea parlors to move out of the old downtown sin district by June 30 to a swampy island in the Saigon River known as the ninth precinct.

The new area is just a hand grenade toss across the muddy river from Saigon's bustling sky-

line of hotels and apartment buildings. It has plenty of room for Vietnamese growth industries like massage parlors and steam baths.

But the mama-sans aren't buying. One hitch is that there is no bridge to the island. The only way to get there is by leaky sampan or an indifferent ferry. Both run the risk of being swamped by freighters and navy gunboats churning up the crowded harbor.

Besides, there are very few customers, especially of the round-eyed variety so dear to the purses of the mama-sans.

"Who am I going to serve over

there? Viet Cong and Vietnamese sailors?" asked one mama-san who has presided over an establishment of choice flower petals since the days when Graham Greene was a boulevardier here.

"Even now the Vietnamese soldiers who come in here won't pay. I have to pay them to go away and not make trouble."

The mama-san, already hard hit by the American troop withdrawal just when she had redone her bar in life-sized nudes painted on black velvet, had a point about the Viet Cong. The desolate island, veined with canals and rivulets, has been the launch site for many of the big rockets falling on Saigon over the years.

In chasing the girlie bars across the river and into the bamboo trees, city fathers hoped to beggars, street walkers, pickpockets, watch snatchers and allied artistes-de-flimflam would naturally follow along. Leaving the

rocketeers and the racketeers to each other's tender mercies seemed like a good idea at the time, but now the mama-sans are balking at moving to the designated sin island.

Some have relocated along Plantation Road, out by Tan Son Nhut airport, which falls just inside neighboring Gia Dinh Province, but the few U.S. airmen left like to get as far from the base as possible in their off-duty hours. Sales of Saigon tea, a watery concoction that the B-girls toss off at \$2.50 a slurp in exchange for dreamy moments of hand-holding conversation, have not been brisk. A few have padlocked the old premises and packed the girls off, in platoon strength of 65 or more, to the seaside resort of Vung Tau, where competition already is keen and overcrowded.

Other mama-sans have tried to diversify into beauty parlors, travel agencies, boutiques and souvenir shops. But with names like Moneymoon Spots, Crazy Place, Whoopey and Play Girl, it's hard to build a new following without calling in the sign painters.

"Maybe I will open a pharmacy," sighed one bar operator doing business under the sign Pig Alley.

The city cleanup is a phased operation, street by street. Some of the most famous havens of "foreign flower seekers," as adventurous gallants are called hereabouts, already have vanished.

Le Club, immortalized in Graham Greene's "The Quiet American" and frequented by over three decades of French and American fighting men, under a variety of names and owners, quietly became a novelty shop last month. It sells ceramic elephants, water buffalo teeth masquerading as good-luck tiger fangs and jungle jackets embroidered with "Fighter by day, lover by night, drunkard by choice" and similar saying favored by rear-echelon support troops.

Since the American withdrawal has decimated business along Saigon's Sin Strip leading down to the river, the bar girls sit in sad rows on wooden benches outside their establishments, calling out over the blaring rock music.

**Tonight**  
The Geological Society will meet in Room 105 of the Geology building at 7:30 p.m. Dr. David Eggler will speak on "Experimental Petrology."

The A&M Student Civil Liberties Union will meet at 8 p.m. in the third floor lounge of Zachry Engineering Center.

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**REGALIA FOR THE MAY 1972 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES** — All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Education are required to order hoods as well as the Doctor's caps and gowns. The hoods are to be left at the University Exchange Store for delivery by a representative of the Exchange Store to the Registrar's Office no later than 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 2. The Ph.D. or D. Ed. hoods will not be worn in the procession since all such candidates will be hooded on the stage as part of the ceremony. Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the cap and gown; all civilian students who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the appropriate uniform. All military personnel who are candidates for the Bachelor's or Master's degree will wear the uniform; Ph.D. or D.Ed. candidates will wear the cap and gown. Ph.D. candidates will arrange for rental of cap, gown, and hood at the Exchange Store between 8:00 a. m. Monday April 7, and 12:00 noon, Saturday, April 22. Only Doctor's caps, gowns, and hoods will be available on a rental basis. The Master's and Bachelor's caps and gowns may be purchased at the Exchange Store. Rental fees and sale prices are as follows: Doctor's Cap and Gown (rental) \$7.88, Doctor's Hood (rental) \$7.88, Doctor's Cap, Gown & Hood (rental) \$15.75, Master's Cap & Gown (sale) \$7.61, Bachelor's Cap & Gown (sale) \$6.92. All prices include sales tax. Payment is required at the time of placing the order. 99116

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## Fred Campbell new head of '72-'73 Singing Cadets

Fred C. Campbell Jr. of San Antonio will head A&M's Singing Cadets in 1972-73.

New officers were introduced Saturday at the all-male glee club's annual awards banquet. Other presentations included a plaque of Mrs. James K. Hennigan as an Honorary Singing Cadet and announcement of a \$100 award to next year's outstanding member.

Director Robert L. Boone said the top Cadet award to begin in 1972-73 becomes possible through a donation by Mr. and Mrs. James A. McLeroy, parents of the 1971-72 vice president.

Mrs. Hennigan was cited as an honorary member for exemplary service to the Singing Cadets. The wife of a TAMU industrial engineering professor assisted the group in brochures design, among other work.

She joins Honorary Singing Cadets including Cong. Olin E. Teague, Mrs. John Connally, the

late President Earl Rudder, Mrs. Margaret Rudder and Sergio Franchi.

Working with Campbell next year will be vice president James L. Randolph of Wickett; business manager, William E. Reeves, Orange; publicity manager, Andrew C. Briscoe, Rosenberg; librarian, Steven J. Evans, Houston, and newsletter editor, T. C. Cone, Winnie.

Awards based on semester participation were presented to the 54 Singing Cadets by Boone, outgoing president William H. Peavy of Dallas, and McLeroy, of Houston. Doctoral graduate students Tim J. Webb of Houston and Jimmy D. Cain of Brownsville each have 16 semesters with the group. Boone, pianist-accompanist Mrs. June Biering, and secretary Mrs. W. E. Black received gifts.

Among guests were TAMU deans, Mrs. Rudder and the Rudder Lecture Series speaker, Dr. Jacques Barzun.

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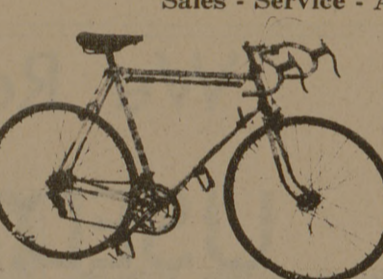


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