

# people

Edited by Al Cohn

## MEDIA-ITES: Kicks from Nixon on 'ladies of press'

Richard Nixon is kicking around the press again. This time, his complaint is with the women of the media.

The setting was a television interview yesterday, and the script, embellished with the former President's smiles and occasional laughter, sounded like a satirist's version of the familiar Nixon style.

In the second of a series of interviews on CBS' "Morning News," Nixon said he wanted to talk about "the ladies of the press" for a moment. The interviewer was Diane Sawyer, who worked four years as a staff aide in the Nixon White House, then spent four years assisting him with his memoirs.

Nixon said: "We have to realize that men reporters can be tough, but women report-

ers think they have to be tougher. They have to prove something. And they particularly think they have to be tough with other women."

There was a qualification: "Women can be very tough in the questioning and so forth and so on. I want them to do that." Then came Nixon's cruncher: "But I don't think they have to demonstrate that they can be as crude and as ruthless and as vulgar as men are."

Nixon criticized women reporters in particular for the way he said they treat presidents' wives. He said that they cast his wife, Patricia, as "Plastic Pat" because of her love of privacy. He added that Lady Bird Johnson was called

"much too public"; that Rosalynn Carter was "much too aggressive," and that Nancy Reagan has been established as "first mannequin" because of her clothes and life-style.

Nixon said he bears none of the antagonism toward the media that he displayed in the past. But, laughing, he quoted an unidentified aide who used to look into the White House press room and remark: "There you have the vultures and the witches." Nixon stressed that, today, he has a "live and let live" attitude toward the media, although he said he felt that "I was simply not their favorite pinup boy." The "ladies of the press" might well agree.



Nixon at a 1973 press conference



AP Photo

Restaurateur Vincent Sardi leaves Holy Cross Church in Manhattan with his bride, June Keller. It is the third marriage for the owner of Sardi's, the world famous restaurant on West 44th Street frequented by Hollywood and Broadway stars since 1927.

### FOLLOW-UP:

#### Spellers successfully oppugned by other philomaths

Tram Tran's achievements as a speller are no less remarkable, but her quest to become a national champion in that field ended yesterday in the first round of the 55th annual Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington. Tram, 11, was tripped up by the word "oppugn," which can be defined as "assail" or "challenge the accuracy."

Tram, of Klamath Falls, Ore., won out over 5,000 spellers in regional competition to qualify for

the bee. Born in South Vietnam, she mastered English spelling after she and her family came to this country following the United States involvement in the Vietnam War.

Thirty-one of the bee's 126 contestants, who range in age from 10 to 15, were eliminated. The contest was to end today. Among those ousted was Cathy Wranovix, 14, of New York City. Cathy misspelled "philomath"—that's a scholar, or a lover of learning.

#### PROJECTS: 'Tin Can Sailors' signal for Navy friends to care for one of their own

They call themselves the "Tin Can Sailors," a group made up mainly of personnel who served or are now assigned to the U.S. Navy's destroyers. Their pride reflects America's naval history, and they are especially dedicated to honoring the men and women who died in Vietnam and Korea.

Sailors have been calling destroyers "tin cans" since World War I. The group, which is nationwide, was founded in 1976 to show how effective the fighting ships and those who sailed them have been through four wars and beyond. Its members have been working to restore the USS Joseph P. Kennedy

Jr., a destroyer moored at Fall River, Mass., at Battleship Cove, a tourist area that serves as the home of five historic naval vessels.

"The Tin Can Sailors have field days twice a year in which they come from all over and work on the ship," Paul Vaiteses said yesterday in a telephone interview from the cove. Vaiteses is executive vice president of the USS Massachusetts Memorial Committee, a nonprofit, educational corporation set up to preserve American naval history of the past 42 years. The Tin Can Sailors group is an offshoot of the committee. The USS Kennedy is the official

Massachusetts memorial to those killed in Korea and Vietnam.

Vaiteses said that the Sailors plan to maintain the Kennedy as their national center, and want to add to their membership of about 2,000. A spokesman for the group, which will hold its sixth annual reunion Aug. 13-15 in Buffalo, said there are about 200,000 persons who have served on destroyers, and that, in addition, anyone interested in the Sailors' cause can join. Details can be obtained by writing to Edward J. Ward, executive secretary of the Tin Can Sailors, at Battleship Cove, Fall River, Mass. 02721.

### DOUBLE TAKES:

#### Chilean poet with a message offers some heavenly verse

Raul Zurita is a poet from Chile who decided to stretch—quite literally—the pages of a book of poetry he has been writing. Instead of advertising in the usual ways, he brought his message yesterday to the skies over the metropolitan area.

Five planes took off from Flushing Airport to sky-write 15 phrases of a new poem by Zurita, "Mi Amor de Dios" ("My Love of God"). The planes were delayed three hours until 3 PM, when the sky in the area was clear. Among the phrases, written in Spanish, were: "My God Is Hunger; My God Is Dissolution; My God Is Ghetto; My God Is Paradise."

Zurita, who paid \$3,500 for the message, said that the words were written in Spanish because it is his native language and, he said, he wanted to pay homage to the world's minorities. He said through an interpreter that he and a photographer who works with him, Anna Maria Lopez, came to the United States 10 days ago, but that bad weather held back his skywriting venture.

"We've been waiting for a clear day with blue skies to get the message across," he said. Zurita, 30, has written three books. The new one, titled "Ante Paradiso" ("Before Paradise"), will be published in two months. He plans to return to Chile on Saturday. —Betti Logan

### AT A GLANCE...

Aileen Quinn, star of the movie "Annie," was reported to be "doing fine" yesterday at a Trenton, N.J., hospital, but it will be some time after tomorrow before she can return to spreading the word about the sun coming out. A three-week promotion tour for the film, featuring Aileen and scheduled to begin this week, was canceled because of the broken elbow she suffered in a bicycle fall Sunday at her Yardley, Pa., home. Aileen, 10, underwent surgery to repair the injury, and she was reported to be "doing fine" yesterday at a Trenton, N.J., hospital.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis has moved up at Doubleday & Co. Onassis, an associate editor at the publishing house for the past four years, has been promoted to editor, Doubleday spokeswoman Nancy Tuckerman said yesterday at the firm's Manhattan office. Ms. Tuckerman, noting that "an increase in pay usually comes with a promotion," said that Onassis' new job involves more responsibility.