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DeSapio to Face VID Challenge

The battle between two factions of the Democratic Party was joined last Monday night. Over 100 people attended a meeting at the headquarters of the Village Independent Democrats which chose attorney Herman S. Greitzer to oppose Carmine G. DeSapio for the position of Democratic District Leader of the First A. D. South in the September 10th primaries. Mr. Greitzer won out over another attorney, Charles E. McGuinness.

The 37-year-old nominee, who lives on West 12th Street, came to the Village from Washington, D. C., three years ago. He joined Mr. DeSapio's Tamawa Club last October, but worked for Adlai Stevenson through the Committee for Stevenson-Kefauver-Wagner which operated independently of Tamawa, the Regular Organization club. At present in private practice, Mr. Greitzer previously worked for the federal government in the Departments of Commerce and Justice.

VID Position

The VID's reportedly stated position is that a large segment of interested Democratic voters has no say in the decisions made or candidates selected by the regular Democratic organization.

"We have a glorious issue," said Richard Kuh, VID president. "We are fighting Carmine DeSapio, the epitome of party regularity." He



—Lawrence Photo
HERMAN S. GREITZER

and other members pointed out that much hard work lay ahead. If the usual number of primary voters — about 3000 of the 15,000 Democrats registered in the district — turn out, Mr. Kuh said, then the VID would lose. If 6000 votes are cast, then "the feeling is we will win."

The VID decision to make a primary fight does not, however, Continued on page 16



AT THE "OBIES" PRESENTATION. Geraldine Page dispenses the awards and indicates her approval of BETTY MILLER, as one of those cited for Distinguished Performance, with a kiss. Among the guests at the jam-packed Limelight were aspiring young actress BETTY ROLLIN, lower right, who will open shortly in "The Country Wife" at the Renata, and senior Villager ROMANY MARIE, who was famous in the days when Sheridan Square was the center of Bohemia. (Voice photos by Gin Briggs).

The Gaels Had a Word For It at the 'Obies'

A Colleen won the top award for actresses. A famous Irishman named James Joyce wrote the play that carried off no less than four Voice "Obies"—one for the show itself, three for members of its cast. Another Irishman named O'Casey, and still others named Shaw and Oscar Wilde, also figured in the prize-giving. The liquid refreshments, finally, were vodka — a subversive note—and Irish Coffee, which is coffee plus Irish whiskey. It should have been held on March 17. But it was held on Sunday afternoon last, in the Limelight, with 300 enthusiasts looking on, and now the 2nd Annual "Obies" are history.

On the Rostrum

Geraldine Page gave away the awards, beautifully gowned in linen and capped in straw, while WOR's Jean Shepherd deftly handled the preliminaries and postscripts. The Post's Frances Herridge was on hand, sharing the rostrum as one of this year's judges. Judge Jose Quintero sent a cablegram of congratulations from Paris.

Another wire came from the Colleen—Colleen Dewhurst, year's Best Actress, unable to break away from a summer-stock performance in New Hope. "My cup," said her telegram, "runneth over. Believe me when I say, happy the girl the sun shines on today."

Entire Company

Present to receive the honors as Best Actor was William Smithers, the Konstantin of last winter's "Sea Gull." So was the entire company of Joyce's "Exiles," named the year's Best All-Around Production. And it was to Betty Miller, Jutta Wolf, and Michael

Kane of "Exiles" that three individual "Obies" went for Distinguished Performances.

Gene Frankel was roundly applauded when he ambled down the aisle to accept the parchment for year's Best Direction ("Volpone"), and young Louis Lippa nearly sprinted down to where Miss Page was waiting with the scroll that said he was the author of the Best New Play, "A House Remembered." Further details in the box below, and on eight of the pages in this issue.

VILLAGE VOICE OFF-BROADWAY THEATRE AWARDS

Season 1956-57

Best Actor
WILLIAM SMITHERS
("The Sea Gull")

Best Actress
COLLEEN DEWHURST
("The Taming of the Shrew,"
"The Eagle Has Two Heads," "Camille")

Best Director
GENE FRANKEL
("Volpone")

Best All-Around Production
"EXILES"
Produced by
Daniel S. Brown and Barry Fredrik

Best New Play
"A HOUSE REMEMBERED"
By Louis A. Lippa

Distinguished Performances (Actresses)
MARGUERITE LENERT
("House of Breath")

Distinguished Performances (Actors)
THAYER DAVID
("Saint Joan," "Oscar Wilde")

BETTY MILLER
("Exiles")

MICHAEL KANE
("Exiles")

JUTTA WOLF
("Exiles")

ARTHUR MALET
("Volpone," "The Misanthrope,"
"The Apollo of Bellac")

Special Citation
PAUL SHYRE

For bringing O'Casey to Off-Broadway; for his adaptations of
"I Knock at the Door," "Pictures in the Hallway," and "USA"

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See Classified p. 14

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