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the village

Voice

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Voice: Gin Briggs

BACKSTAGE IS A CELLAR at the Sheridan Square Playhouse where "Leave It to Jane," a 1917 Wodehouse-Kern musical comedy, is one of the season's big off-Broadway financial successes. Each night frock-coated figures emerge from their underground dressing room onto the street, to the amazement of the passersby, and make their way as surreptitiously as possible to the stage.

McGuinness Says DeSapio Asks Unity Under Bossism

Carmine DeSapio was accused last week by Charles McGuinness of issuing a "self-serving and deliberately fence-straddling" press release following his conference with Democratic National Chairman Paul Butler.

Mr. McGuinness, who is the Tammany Chief's opponent for Democratic District Leader of the Village, declared that Mr. DeSapio's concern with the "serious questions raised about the effectiveness of our Congressional leadership . . . is obviously limited to how he can use it to help Mr. DeSapio."

Mr. McGuinness was apparently referring to Mr. DeSapio's remark that Governor Rockefeller's election last November occurred "largely because of the bickering and the disunity in the Democratic ranks in this state."

"What Mr. DeSapio is saying," he stated, "is that anyone who disagrees with his method of hand-picking candidates or his methods of boss domination is engaging in 'bickering and disunity.'"

"Unity to Mr. DeSapio," Mr. McGuinness said, "means acceptance of his boss rule—which means defeat for the Democratic Party."

Moderate Support

At the July 17 meeting with Mr. Butler, the Tammany Chief gave his endorsement to the national chairman's "forthright position on civil rights," but did not specifically support the latter's criticism of Senate Leader Johnson's legislative record.

The Village Independent Democrats, who are backing Mr. McGuinness, last Saturday called on the National Broadcasting Company for "equal time" on the Gabe Pressman news program. Mr. DeSapio had been a guest on the show the previous night.

Philosopher Views Local Scene in New Village Guide

Probably the only guide book in the world that has a major portion of it written by a working philosopher appeared in print this week. It is the *New Guide to Greenwich Village*, published by Corinthe Books, and it opens with an article by Professor William Barrett entitled "Greenwich Village: The Continuing Bohemia."

In it, the man who brought European Existentialism to the attention of the American public characterizes these local beat children of that movement as "The Waiting Generation," and the Village itself as a "popular haven for the young marrieds." Though far from being a victim of blind enchantment, he compares the Village to a "bright tired flower" on New York's "dusty window ledge."

Professor Barrett's work is backed up by a map, a history, points-of-interest, the story of the contemporary Village, and some useful photographs, including a handsome one of singers in Washington Square Park on the cover of the guide.



—McDarragh

Brooklyn's Angel Is MacD Street's 'Miss Beatnik'

Angel, age 17, last week regained the title of "Miss Beatnik" for the local folk when she was chosen First Lady of MacDougal Street by her peers at the Gaslight Coffee House.

The contest had been staged to clear the beatnik name, which had been sullied a few days earlier when, according to the coffee-shop cognoscenti, a girl from the Copa kicking squad was given the palm at a 10th Street bar.

No Waiting

The shoeless winner of the accolade may, perhaps, be beat, but she is not just another passive member of the Waiting Generation, as Professor William Barrett has characterized the beatniks.

"I consider myself an artist and an intellectual, and I smoke Viceroy and I think for myself," Angel declares.

Beatnik by Subway

She does a good deal of her thinking at Brooklyn College, which is in the borough from whence she comes and the school which she attends on a state scholarship.

"I love the Village," Angel yesterday told *The Voice*. "I think my parents are Bohemians. My mother took up guitar, piano, and algebra at the age of 40. My father paints, writes, tells funny stories, and tap dances."

She is deeply concerned about the way the public views the beatniks, although she considers herself a hipster [Like cool, man, not weary.—Ed.]

"I wish people would try to understand what the so-called



beat generation is, and maybe they will realize we have something to offer society. We are considered anti-social, but we are not!"

John Mitchell, owner of the Gaslight, broke in: "You tell 'em, baby, that if anybody's anti-social it's Ike and Khrushchev."

"By living this sort of life we will eventually find truth and a place for ourselves out of this sick society. The BG is the search for truth," concluded 17-year-old Miss Beatnik on her day of triumph.

The Press of Freedom:

Dead Ducks and Golden Eggs

by Norton Juster

In the colorful imagery of New York's Slum Clearance Chairman, the goose that lays the Golden Eggs, which must be broken in order to make omelettes, is now a Dead Duck.

The Title I Slum Clearance Program is finished in New York City; Robert Moses has decreed it. Like the aging cattle baron of many Western sagas, he sits dejectedly in the saddle and bemoans the coming of fences to his open range.

During the years of its operation the program has been run as a closed shop by the few insiders

clustered about Mr. Moses—the work of the committee and its sponsors done in secret and justified by the magic aura of the man, a public image whose promotion has been one of the greatest triumphs of public relations in our era.

Effective Tool

Much clearing and building has already been done, and despite the imperfect nature of its administration, Title I is the most effective tool in the urban-renewal program. It is here to stay despite the personal pique of one man and despite the view that the only way to attract a sponsor is to offer carte blanche.

The current controversy will, I hope, accomplish two things: first, the reorganization or even abolition of the Slum Clearance Committee, with the responsibility and authority being placed where it belongs, in the City Planning Commission. Second, a pause which will allow time for

Shep at Rallye

Jean Shepherd will be ceremonial master of Greenwich Village's third annual sports and foreign-car rallye as he has been at all previous rallyes.

The affair will be held on Sunday, July 26, at 11 in the morning, with Washington Square East—the NYU side—as the starting and finishing point.

This rallye, as before, is being sponsored by The Village Voice and the Greenwich Village Motor Sports Club, whose president, Bob Plumer, is sharing the chores of the event.

If you want to get with it, see page 7 and fill in the entry blank.

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