

Chilean human rights figure launches week

Human rights and the United States' role in Chilean political affairs are the themes for a series of events this week, beginning with a talk by Isabel Letelier, internationally known sculptress and widow of an assassinated Chilean diplomat.

Letelier's husband served as Chilean ambassador to the United States for the Allende government and also as the Chilean minister of the interior. He was imprisoned during the 1973 military coup, then released and expelled from the country a year later.

At the time of his death in 1976, Letelier had been successful in cancelling many international loans and economic trade with the junta government. He was working with the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C.

Jon Chambers, director of contemporary issues for the Cultural Forum, hopes students will take advantage of the opportunity to see Letelier, who serves as president of the international Chile Committee on Human Rights.

Letelier's appearance is jointly sponsored by the

Eugene Committee for a Free Chile, the Cultural Forum, the University Assemblies and Lectures Committee and the Department of Romance Languages.

She will speak at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the EMU Ballroom. Her talk is free and open to the public.

"Our primary purpose is to restore human and democratic rights in Chile, and to make the people of this country aware of the United States' role in the tragic overthrow of democracy in Chile.

The Eugene Committee for a Free Chile will host a benefit reception for Letelier Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at 669 W. Broadway.

On campus, the committee is sponsoring two showings of "The Promised Land," a film about Chile, in Room 150 Science at 7 and 9 p.m. Admission is \$1.50.

On Thursday, the Latin American folk ensemble Pueblo Unido will appear at 8 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. The group performs songs from the New Chilean Song movement, an important cultural force during Allende's presidency.



Ventriloquist Bergen dies after farewell performance in Vegas

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Edgar Bergen, who over six decades became America's favorite ventriloquist playing straight man to an irreverent dummy named Charlie McCarthy, is dead at the age of 75.

Bergen died in his sleep of an apparent heart attack Saturday, less than two weeks after announcing his planned retirement. His body was flown here Sunday.

The night before his death, Bergen appeared at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas in the second performance of what was to be his farewell nightclub run.

He told the audience, "Every act has a beginning and an end and now it's time for me to pack up my jokes and my friends." He received a four-minute standing ovation and packed his wooden family into a trunk.

Bergen, who disclosed a heart condition in a recent interview, announced Sept. 21 that he was leaving show business. His sidekick was puzzled.

"How can you retire," Charlie asked, "when you haven't worked since you met me?"

Bergen said then he would donate Charlie to the Smithsonian Institution, "where he will probably sit in Archie Bunker's chair." But, he said, he would keep the dummy with him until his death and perform occasionally for charity.

Bergen planned to do 11 shows in Las Vegas with singer Andy Williams as part of his final road trip. However, there had been doubt he would appear in Cincinnati and Cleveland as scheduled because of his health, according to a family spokesman.

Williams, who finished the show Saturday, said he told the audience "Bergen was one of the real giants of show business and we are all privileged to see him in his last performance."

"I don't know what made me say that," Williams said. "It was the first time I'd used those words."

Bergen's act consisted of a trio of dummies — top-hatted, monocled Charlie McCarthy, dull-witted Mortimer Snerd and spry spinster Effie Klinker.

Bergen and McCarthy specialized in "insult humor," a style which later influenced comedians, including Don Rickles.

Example:
Bergen: "I've taken a lot from you!"

McCarthy: "Yes, and you have kept every penny."

"He and his sidekick, Charlie McCarthy, were my earliest inspirations," said Rickles. "It was Bergen, through Charlie, who developed to perfection the art of insult comedy that so many of us employ today."

Bergen was born in Chicago on Feb. 16, 1903, the son of Swedish parents, John and Nellie Bergen, who ran a retail dairy business. His family lived at different times near Decatur, Mich., Sweden and Chicago.

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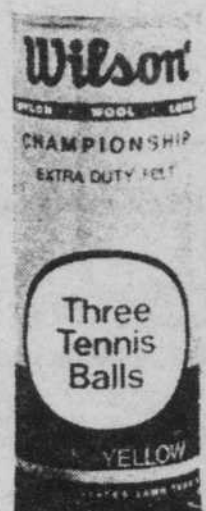
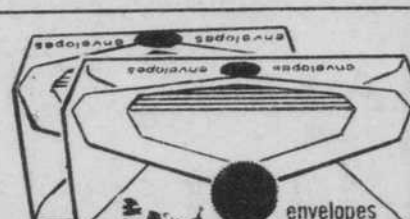
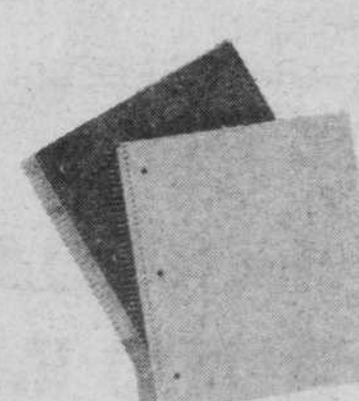


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