

# The Bob Dylan of Vietnam Is Silenced

By TRAN VAN DINH  
(Tran Van Dinh, the former chargé d'affaires from South Vietnam to Washington, is a frequent contributor to Catholic journals. He and his family are presently living in Washington.)

The name of Trinh Cong Son came to the notice of the American public only at the beginning of this year when the New York Times published an article by its correspondent in Saigon, Bernard Weinraub, under the headline: "A Young Vietnamese Sings of Sadness and War."

But long before that, Trinh Cong Son, the "Bob Dylan of Vietnam," was the idol of the Vietnamese public, especially the young. His public appearances were always sold out in advance, and his records treasured by students and workers alike. In his war-torn Vietnam, he expressed her agony and shed her tears.

"I want to describe the absurdity of death in my country," I want to describe the war," he said. He opposed the killing and he longed for peace.

His increasing popularity frightened the ruling Saigon generals, who fear peace more than war, the source of their wealth and power. They decided that Trinh Cong Son must be silenced.

Two months ago, on a visit to the northern provinces of South Vietnam, he was arrested by the military security police in Da Nang. Officially he was among the thousands of Vietnamese who "disappear" daily, and no one except a few friends know he is now in one of South Vietnam's numerous detention camps.

## 'Trevor' Telescope Goes from UR to St. John Fisher

The six-inch "Trevor" telescope that served the University of Rochester community for 80 years has embarked upon a new career at St. John Fisher College.

Made in 1875 by Alvan Clark & Sons, Cambridgeport, Mass., the telescope was installed in the tiny (only 15 feet across) student observatory on the University's Prince Street campus in 1876.

It was a gift to UR from John Trevor, then president of the university's board of trustees.

According to Malcolm P. Savodoff, professor of astronomy at the University, "The telescope—known for years as the Trevor Telescope—and its observatory were constructed during the 'Golden Age' of astronomy in Rochester.

Last month the instrument was given—lock, stock, and the 500-gallon milestone on which it stood—to the nearby Catholic men's college. Eventually, it will be assembled in a small observatory to be constructed on the St. John Fisher campus.

**PROTESTANT GETS POST**  
MILWAUKEE—(NC)—A Protestant layman—Kenneth F. Burgess—has been named financial administrator of the Milwaukee archdiocese. Burgess, 49, is a member of the North Shore Congregational Church and a former chairman of the church's board of deacons.

I learned of his arrest only a few days ago when a friend in Washington on "official business" and as a gift brought me a tape of Trinh Cong Son songs. "You may not see him again," my friend said. "He was arrested."

According to my friend, his arrest, although not made public in the Saigon press, is no longer a secret; his admirers now organize clandestine parties to sing his songs or listen to his records.

Trinh Cong Son was born with the war in 1940 (when the Japanese invaded Viet-

nam), and since then saw nothing but destruction in his homeland. His native town, the ancient city of Hue, the last bastion of Vietnamese culture with its museums and its libraries, was destroyed during the Tet offensive this year by U.S. rockets and bombs.

As Bob Dylan once said, "Open up your eyes and ears and you are influenced; there is nothing you can do about it." Trinh Cong Son opened his eyes and saw only death and burning.

He admitted he was influ-

enced by Bob Dylan and Joan Baez. "I like Bob Dylan — his voice is a cry, a lament. Joan Baez—her voice is melancholy and beautiful!"

Trinh Cong Son supported himself, his mother, two brothers and five sisters with his talents. Who is going to take care of them now? They will surely join the three million faceless "refugees" in the barbed wire camps.

Trinh Cong Son composed many songs, but his two most popular are "Love Song of a Woman Maddened by War," and "Mother's Inheritance"

which starts:

One thousand years of slavery under the Chinese aggressors.

One hundred years of domination by Western invaders.

Twenty years of ceaseless civil war—

The fortune mother bequeaths her children is a sad Vietnam.

The mother's fortune is a brood of rootless bastards

And a gang of faithless traitors.

Generals Nguyen Van Thieu and Nguyen Coa Ky and their numerous secret services and police have imprisoned thousands of students, peace candidates, intellectuals, peasants. They now tried to silence the voice of tormented Vietnam by putting Trinh Cong Son behind bars.

Bernard Weinraub wrote: "As soon as he starts strumming his guitar and singing, the audience weep."

(LNS Feature Service)

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New York — (RN) magazine, a national published here, carried interviews with both and Democratic pre dates in its Nov. 2 is

The following are of the candidates to sses discussed in the interviews conducted by tors of America w Nixon and Hubert H

Q Do you favor eral funds to compel with current civil rig

Mr. Nixon: "I wou eral funds, as the t school districts that tice segregation. I v even, bend the inter so as to force local bo and other programs rect the so-called r That, I believe, is n the federal governm

A Mass of Th of the diocese anniversary o ter left, is pic

**FEATU**

Young people getti social good contrad cisms of area youth.

A hospital—chapla the question of lett Read page 11.

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