

Torre Explains Refusal to Talk

By NEAL FRIEDMAN

"It's a lot easier to be brave when you have a whole newspaper backing you."

That's the way Marie Torre, radio-television columnist for the New York Herald-Tribune, explained her refusal to reveal the source of a news story. Her reluctance has already cost her 10 days in a New York City jail and may result in further jail terms.

Miss Torre told her story to some 300 Pennsylvania journalists at a luncheon meeting of the Pennsylvania Press Conference Saturday at the Nittany Lion Inn. She was the guest of the Pennsylvania Women's Press Association.

In January of 1957 Miss Torre quoted an unnamed official of the CBS television network as saying that Judy Garland was not working because "she thinks she's getting awfully fat."

Miss Torre, who said she was looking for a good lead for her column that day, used the quote and thought nothing about it.

A few days later, she said, she received a call from Sid Luft, Miss Garland's husband. She said she printed his side of the story, giving it more space.

She said it seemed "incredible" to her that she would be asked to name the source of the quote. However, during a pre-trial examination, she was asked to reveal her source.

She said she told the judge she would not talk because she was concerned for the source's job and for herself.

The judge disagreed and said Miss Garland had a right to know who made the remark about her and threatened to hold Miss Torre in contempt of court.

Six months later, she said, after being turned down by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court, she was called up before the judge again.

"He asked me again if I would reveal the source," Miss Torre said, "and I refused."

Miss Torre added, "With that, he said 'Get the Marshall!'"

Miss Torre said she had "an awakening" in jail. She said she received many letters of encouragement from all over the country.

She said her jail term proved to be only a small hardship, and everyone was very nice to her.

"Some lawyers," Miss Torre said, "feel that any law protecting newsmen would lead to an irresponsible press." She said this would not happen because libel laws would remain the same and 12 states, including Pennsylvania, "have learned to live with them."

Justice Fines Three Students

Three University students charged with disorderly conduct were arraigned Friday night before Justice of the Peace Guy G. Mills.

Richard Butterfield, sophomore in the division of counseling from Montclair, N.J.; Robert Belus, junior in the division of counseling from Freedom; and Charles Purbaugh, junior in petroleum and natural gas engineering from Duluth, Minn.; were brought before Mills by Sgt. Matthew A. Seckinger of the borough police.

Seckinger said the men were creating an annoyance and disturbances in the area of Locust Lane and Fairmount Avenue about 1:15 a.m. Sunday, May 3. He reported some "shoving around" of other students by the trio besides creating excessive noise in the area.

They paid fines totaling \$13.50 each.

MI Prof Visits Harpur

John D. Ridge, assistant dean of instruction in the College of Mineral Industries, recently served as visiting geo-scientist at Harpur College, Endicott, N.Y.

Theatre to Give Play by Mazza

Five O'Clock Theatre will present "The Bright Blue Button," by Richard Mazza at 5 p.m. today in the Little Theatre of Old Main.

This play, the last production of the year, is written in the tradition of "Sleeping Beauty," and "Snow White." It relates the misfortunes of a young boy who steals a bright blue button.

The play will be performed in a somewhat stylized and imaginative manner that is designed to appeal to both children and adults.

The cast includes, William Bennett, Clairenell Clemons, Marvin Katz, Harry Jones, Helen Cummings, Linda Weiner, David Anderson and Janice Shiarella.

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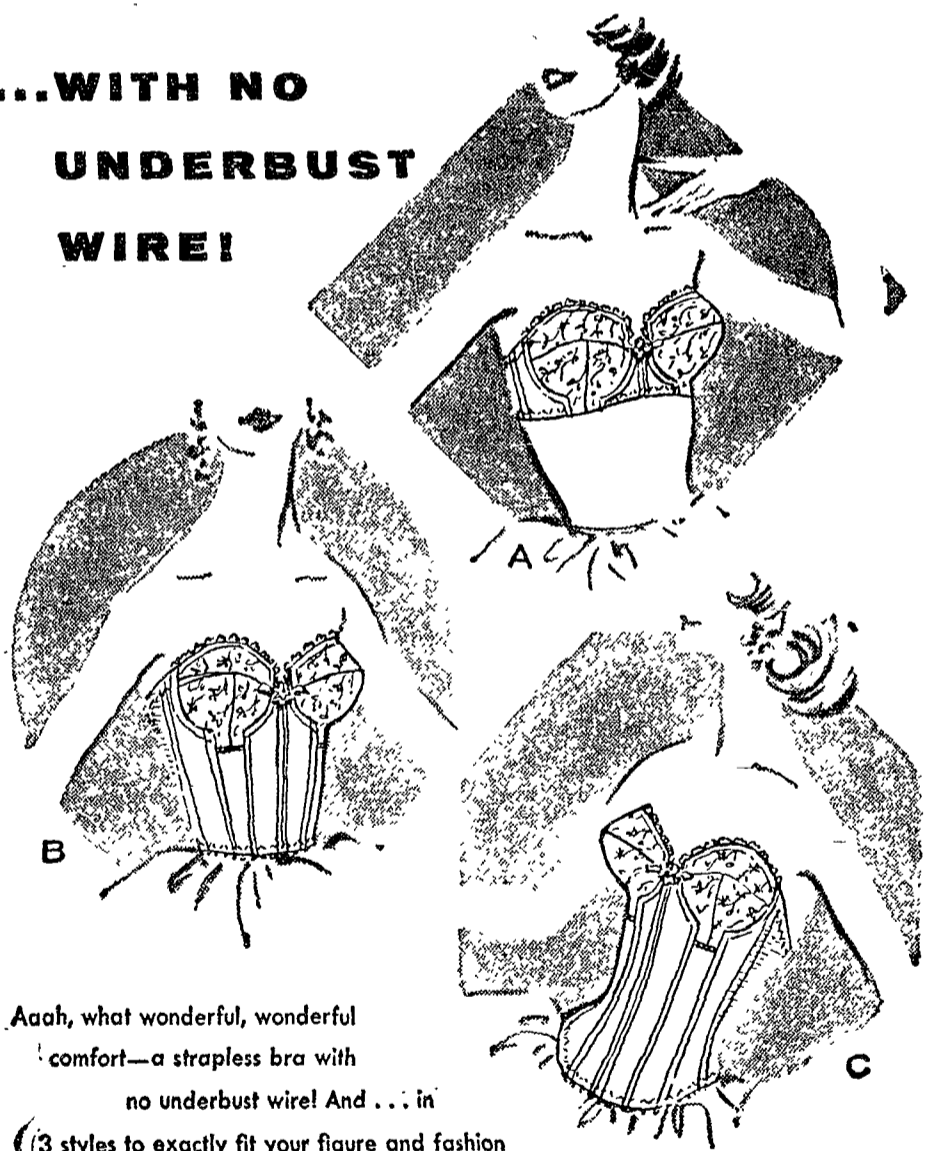
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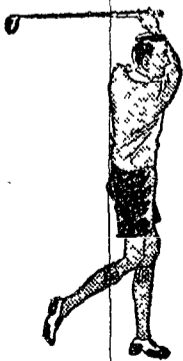
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