

## Notes on People

## Winnie-the-Pooh Is Viewed As a Cult on 50th Birthday

Winnie-the-Pooh will be 50 years old tomorrow and has struck it rich in the land of opportunity. But Christopher Robin Milne, now a 55-year-old book-dealer in England, is not at all happy about how things turned out for his stuffed bear. Walt Disney Productions bought the rights to Pooh and the other characters from the books the late A. A. Milne wrote about his little son's toys. Merchandising rights, farmed out to Sears Roebuck, are worth \$2 million to \$6 million a year, a Disney spokesman said.

"The exploitation of the books makes me sick—it's a caricature," Mr. Milne said in his shop at Dartmouth, on England's southern coast. "To me, Pooh is a toy I had as a child. When he first appeared in print, the books were true to my idea of him, and that was fine. But he has now gone well beyond that and become a cult."

Detroit Symphony Orchestra officials said yesterday that, although no contract had been signed, **Antal Dorati** was their prime candidate to succeed **Aldo Ceccato** as conductor. Mr. Dorati, 70, is in his seventh and final season as conductor of Washington's National Symphony Orchestra; he is to be succeeded by **Mstislav Rostropovich**. Born in Hungary, Mr. Dorati is also principal conductor of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and was earlier the conductor of the Dallas and Minneapolis orchestras.

"By Appointment to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales" will soon be available as a product or shop insignia for butchers, bakers, candlestick-makers and other purveyors to the heir to the British throne. The announcement from Buckingham Palace naturally created speculation that **Prince Charles** might be marrying, as well as turning householder, when he leaves the Royal Navy at the end of this year. Companies will compete for the coveted designation for three years, beginning Jan. 1, before the Prince makes his selections.

French television's "Soviet Week" ended last night with an interview with **President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing**, televised from Moscow. The week had begun with an interview there with **Leonid I. Brezhnev**, the Soviet Communist Party leader. Before a Soviet audience, President Giscard told his interviewer that France did not regard détente as a political maneuver. "It is the only approach that is, in our view, an alternative to conflict," he said.

"Thank God—I have lived for this moment for eight years," said **Dr. Martin Kasten** of East Germany when a Swedish ferryboat picked him up in the Baltic Sea 18 hours after he started swimming for West Germany. The 29-

year-old physician said he had been thrown out of the Communist-run youth organization and was turned down later when he applied to be a ship's doctor, in order to escape the country.

"I ran miles every day to keep fit," Dr. Kasten said, discussing his "eight years of preparation." On the night of his swim, he ate a steak for strength, smeared himself with vaseline against the cold and donned a skindiver's wet suit. But, he said, "I couldn't say goodbye to anyone—not to my best friend, not to my father. If they are questioned, they can honestly say they did not know of my plans."

**Vincent M. Albanese**, a Jamaica lawyer, became president of the Queens County Bar Association last night at its 100th installation meeting. Mr. Albanese heads the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation, a nonprofit community organization that he helped organize in 1967 while president of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., and of St. John's University School of Law. He has been active in Democratic politics.

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In San Clemente, **Pat Nixon** was said yesterday to be recovering "on schedule" from her July 7 stroke. A spokesman for the wife of **Richard M. Nixon**, the former President, gave no details of her condition but said she had not returned to the Long Beach hospital since her 15-day stay after suffering a small brain hemorrhage.

In a bit of bad timing, one of the **Moiseyev Dancers** made her leap on a Paris stage Monday night and fell 16 feet into the orchestra pit. Doctors said yesterday that the Soviet dancer, **Tonia Afonina**, 25, could probably perform with the company in a few days.

**Eugenio Montale**, last year's Nobel Prize winner in literature, turned 80 yesterday in Milan. Although his birthday was marked at Italian universities and in newspaper headlines, the poet could not be found at his apartment. He did it to avoid "useless celebrations," Mr. Montale said in a note he left at his home.

The Baltimore police are looking into a locked-car mystery involving **Gov. Marvin Mandel's** official limousine. While it was parked at Memorial Stadium for Sunday's Colts-Dolphins football game, the car was apparently broken into, although there was no sign of forced entry. The chauffeur, **State Trooper Dan Seiler**, said the Governor's V.I.P. parking passes had been on the dashboard when he was driven to the stadium but were missing after the game.

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