

## CONTENTS

## OPINION AND COMMENT

## Editorials

The Vietnam front comes first  
A brain drain of our own

## Reviews

Book: Richard L. Sterne's *John Gielgud Directs Richard Burton in Hamlet*, reviewed by Richard Burton  
Music: Dylan's *John Wesley Harding*, reviewed by Alfred G. Aronowitz  
The Hors D'Oeuvres Escalation, reviewed by William Zinsser

## Letters to the Editors

## The Feminine Eye

McCarthy's Trojan horse. By Shana Alexander

## THE WEEK'S NEWS AND FEATURES

## Fight for the Embassy

Guerrilla terror sweeps the cities of Vietnam; at Khe Sanh 6,000 Marines dig in and wait for a Communist assault

## On the Newsfronts of the World

H-bomb hunt in the arctic night. Buried secrets of a prison farm, by Gerald Moore

## The Presidency

In crisis: "feelin', smellin', knowin' "

## Close-Up

Poet Rod McKuen: the public pays big money for his free verse. By Jack Fincher

## Visionary Architecture

Designers of 18th Century France conjured up plans that exploited the fantastic and forecast the modern

## Space

Beacons from a crescent earth: Surveyor 7, sitting on the moon, "sees" lasers 239,000 miles away

## Year of the Guru

The Maharishi's young followers in the U.S. take him at his word: "Enjoy, enjoy." Samadhi and Plaid Stamps on the Swami Circuit. By Jane Howard

## Sports

As Olympics begin, world's best skier sounds off: "Killy is still here, boys"

## Entertainment

Iron-willed Sandy Dennis is a girl with a good grip on chaos. By Wayne Warga

## Medicine

Split-screen search into troubled minds. To help cure a drunk—show him what he looks like

## Uncertainty Goes Bigtime

"Who are we?" "I don't know"—that's the dialogue in today's theater. By Tom Prideaux

## Miscellany

© 1968 TIME INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

## EDITORS' NOTE

## 'I'm a light sleeper in Vietnam'

Last week, after covering U.S. Marine Corps preparations for the looming battle of Khe Sanh, Photographer Richard Swanson flew to Saigon to ship us the pictures which appear on pages 26-29 of this issue. A two-year veteran of the Vietnam war, he was in the city when the Vietcong struck. He cabled this report:

"I'm a light sleeper in Vietnam, so when the first V.C. rocket blasted the U.S. Embassy at 3 a.m., just two blocks from the villa where LIFE staffers live, I was only a little surprised to find that I was on the roof with a gun and nothing else. I don't think I'd ever made any contingency plans for this sort of thing, but it's always nice to discover that your brain works when you least expect it to. I went back down, dressed and actually had to wake up the cook and tell him to remain calm, stay inside and not answer the door. At this point automatic weapons fire was deafening, and I went back to the roof.



RICHARD SWANSON

"The villa is situated midway between the embassy and Ambassador Bunker's house, and firing was heavy in both directions. At one point a little blue-and-yellow Renault taxi came tearing through an intersection with bullets zinging all around it. Tan Sun Nhut Airbase to the north was under attack also, and the flares over it all night and the continuous sound of distant gunfire could only have reminded oldtimers of the blitz.

"At daybreak I walked up to the embassy. It's strange as hell to walk into a situation like this. The wide street, which is usually choked with traffic by 7 a.m., was now a dangerous and open battlefield. Jeeps were strewn about, hurriedly abandoned. Army MPs were using gutters, jeeps, lampposts and each other as cover. One of them, with more guts than sense, asked me for my press credentials, nodded an okay, gave me a funny look and said, 'Knock yourself out, man.' The press moves forward, dashing from tree to tree. More gunfire, and an MP is dead in the gutter next to his jeep. Somebody says a dirty word. The press stops moving. Heavy firing again and the scurry for cover ('Damn,' says somebody, 'and me with 14 days left'). Suddenly resistance is ended and the troops run in through the embassy gate. Eighteen V.C. lie scattered around the grounds, shot up and dead. One remains trapped in a building on the grounds. Tear gas drives him upstairs, where he is shot to death by an American civilian who had spent the night alone, holed up on the second floor. The embassy is now officially secured. Two V.C. are found, barely alive, and are hustled off. All but two of the rest are taken away; they stay sprawled in the grass in the hot sun until noon. An MP stares into an ambulance, looking at a dead MP and a dead V.C. touching each other and, because it is the only thing he can do now, he cusses. A profane eulogy. The Marines raise the flag at 12 noon."

*George P. Hunt*  
GEORGE P. HUNT,  
Managing Editor

COVER A-P. 8 FRIEDMAN-ABELES 22, 23-A.P. 24-U.P.I. 25-A.P. 26, 27, 28, 29-RICHARD L. SWANSON from BLACK STAR 30, 31-STAN WAYMAN 32, 32A-RODNEY DUNGAN 35, 36, 38-RALPH CRANE 42 through 47-copied by HERBERT ORTH 48A-courtesy UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND-NASA 48B-J. R. EYERMAN 49-KITT PEAK NATIONAL OBSERVATORY exc. It. J. R. EYERMAN 52, 53-© PHILIPPE HALSMAN, GREY VILLET (2) 54-It. TERENCE SPENCER-JULIAN WASSER; rt. RAGHUBIR SINGH from NANCY PALMER 55-SELMUR PRODUCTIONS 56, 57-STEVE SCHAPIRO exc. It. JULIAN WASSER 58-STEVE SCHAPIRO exc. bot. It. IVAN MASSAR from BLACK STAR 59-RAGHUBIR SINGH from NANCY PALMER 61-PIERRE BOULAT 62-JERRY COOKE for SPORTS ILL. exc. I. YVES DEBRAINE 65-ROBERT PHILLIPS 66-JOHN ZIMMERMAN 67-ROBERT PHILLIPS 68, 69-BOB GOMEL 70-DR. JEAN CARRERE 72, 73-YALE JOEL 75-MARTHA SWOPE 76-YALE JOEL 78-JEFF GOULD



# LIFE

*New frenzy in the war  
Vietcong terrorize the cities*

## **SUICIDE RAID ON THE EMBASSY**

*A guerrilla is  
taken alive during the  
Embassy battle*



T0155 NM 7NPA JS  
ST PAUL MN 55101  
U-MINN AGRIC COLL  
100 VETERINARY CLNC  
DR DONALD G LOM  
NOV 15 5574b000000 bM7 b9AVN

FEBRUARY 9 • 1968 • 35¢