The original documents are located in Box 23, folder “Time "Susan Ford and Muhammad Ali"” of the Betty Ford Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Actor John Wayne, who has been drilling Hollywood bad guys for nearly 50 years, showed up in Chicago last week and defended his brand of movie gunplay. "I've shot as many people on-screen as anybody, but I haven't shot them—they like they do today—with snot running out of my nose, sweating and with my pants torn open," said Big John in an interview with Chicago Tribune Film Critic Gene Siskel. Still, isn't all that homicide harmful to younger fans? "I'll explain it—b-c, kindly-god-damn-garden for you. Children's stories have always included knights and dragons with blood, fire and everything," retorted Wayne. "Any more questions, pardner? Mr. Mayor?"

When she was a college girl in the 1940s, Eileen Heckart had an impromptu opinion of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. "My feeling was, 'Who is this lady in the funny hats?'" she recalls. "I went to a screening of a movie and saw her. The First Lady, spent three days at the Hyde Park home and read more than two dozen books on her subject. 'Imagine, something has. Something has.'" She muses Heavyweight Champion Muhammad Ali, if he had first met him at the White House last March, had come to see Ali before his title defense against third-ranked Heavyweight Jimmy Young. "I used to watch him box on television," she said of the champ. "I had no choice; my brothers used to watch, and we only had one TV set." She said she would like to have seen this fight live—on Maryland's Capital Center—but she had a date for the weekend in Norfolk, Va., where she was queen of the 23rd International Azalea Festival. By fight night, Ali may have wished he had done more training and less visiting. After 15 rounds with a surprisingly tough opponent, he barely squeaked by with a decision over Young.

My lady in the funny hats is Heckart, 57, who opens this week at Ford's Theater in Washington in a one-woman bio—something of country-western music to be released this summer and just completed her first album. Considering her measurements (31-18-32), she got farthest with the leastest effort. The pair hopes it will fare better than their 1974 joint effort, The Savage Is Loose, which the critics castigated. Purrs Trish: "We are trying to do Beauty as a mature love story."

If I were small clubs in Greenwich Village, the sound of ice cubes in a glass became as grating as chalk on a blackboard," recalls Brooklyn-born Singer—Composer Neil Diamond, 35. And that, adds the hitmaker (Longfellow Serenade and Song Sung Blue), explains why he has never appeared as one of the high-priced acts on the Las Vegas strip. Not until now, anyway. In early July he will give three concerts at the Aladdin Hotel's Theater for the Performing Arts. His fee: $500,000, a bigger haul than Frank Sinatra's current record of about $300,000 per week. If Neil does well, say Aladdin officials, they will hold him over for $170,000 a night. And Diamond gets one other concession. No drinks will be served while he performs. The only click heard will be the cash.
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