

Ferency from page 5A

ent than mine. I sometimes wondered if we were looking at the same law. "But he could always explain his interpretation handsomely." In the mid 1970s, Ferency's interpretation of Southfield's application of its personnel policies put him at odds with the city administration.

Ferency was a special witness at a hearing of the Southfield Civil Service Commission, then reviewing the firings of Maurice Harmon and Larry Hall, two police officers fired within hours of

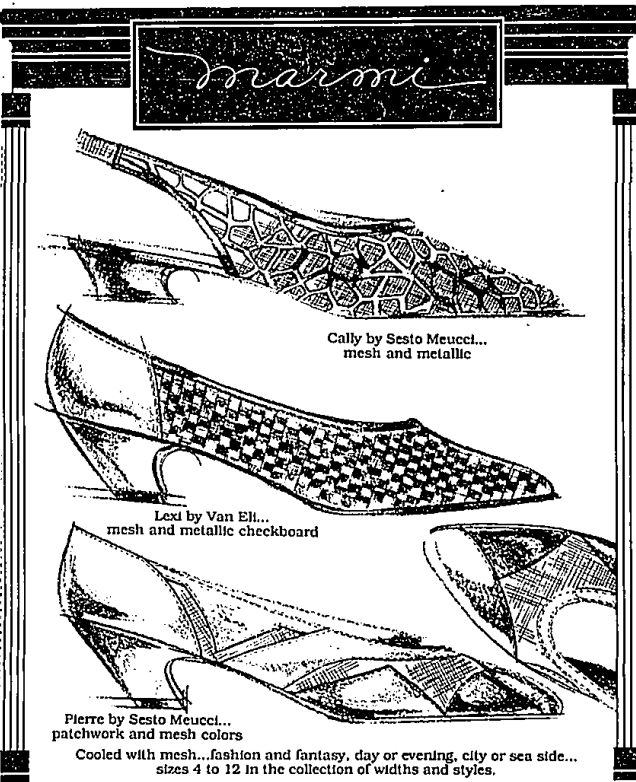
completing their probationary period. Harmon was a former student of Ferency who argued Southfield was making a "serious mistake" by trying to fire him. Ferency was very much a mainstream Democrat in the early 1960s, when he was state chairman of the Democratic Party. But Ferency's early — and outspoken — opposition to the Vietnam War led to estrangement . . . and Ferency's organizational efforts on behalf of the Human Rights Party.

Recalled falling out
At least part of the falling out was rooted in the state Democratic convention of 1970 in Grand Rapids, recalled both Tucker and Havstad, who were both present and advocating for an end to the Vietnam War. "We had a midnight caucus," said Tucker, who at the time was a law student working for the late Sen. Phil Hart. "It was the same caucus that nominated Ed McNamara as lieutenant governor to run with Sandy Levin (then a state senator and now

U.S. representative)." Tucker said Ferency was one of the main architects of a proposal to grant amnesty for draft resisters — a highly controversial position. "We put it on the floor early Sunday morning," Tucker said. "By the time they (party regulars) realized what was happening, we had adopted it." The fallout was massive and quick. "We knew that the amnesty plank of the platform would get the headlines," Tucker said. "And it sure did."

... Spirit of protest lives on

In the spirit of protest encouraged by Zolton Ferency, anti-war protesters will hold Easter Sunday services at Williams International in Walled Lake, according to the Rev. Peter Dougherty. Dougherty, one of three people who eulogized Ferency at his funeral in East Lansing Saturday, said he doesn't expect anyone to be arrested as he and others have been in the past. "I haven't been arrested at Williams once," said Dougherty, who is assigned to the Lansing Diocese. "I've been arrested there many times. I've spent a lot of time in the Oakland County Jail." Williams manufactures components for cruise missiles, something Dougherty and others say is immoral. In his eulogy, Dougherty said Ferency's antiwar sentiments were rooted in the Bible, something he viewed as a "political book." The message recorded on the priest's answering service describes Ferency as "a giant among us" and urges callers to pray for Ferency and his family. The message further says, "Please join us for Easter services at Williams International at 8:15 a.m. to protest weapons of mass destruction."



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