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Letter 02

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MSL

ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

Oct. 28, 1954

Dear Sir:

Although you may already be in possession of the following information, it is being offered in the thought that it may aid the case of Dr. Sam Sheppard.

I understand that when Mr. Hawk's name was presented to a committee a few years ago as a candidate for Mayor, his extra-martial affairs were mentioned as a possible obstacle to his being elected; as it happened it was decided to have him run and he was, of course, elected. It was common knowledge, especially in the vicinity of the Shopping Center, that he was "friendly" with [REDACTED], the wife of [REDACTED], who operates a store at the Shopping Center and is also a [REDACTED] Councilman.

An Electrical Contractor (I should say "former" Elec. Contractor) who resided on Lake Road, opposite Dover Center Road, for many years, and is now the owner and operator of a motel somewhere in Florida (I do not know the exact location) told Bay Village friends last winter when they stopped at his motel, that he understood Mayor Hawk was not keeping company with [REDACTED] wife any longer, but had switched his affections to Sam Sheppard's wife.

I am one among many of my friends and acquaintances who believe Dr. Sam innocent until proven guilty by facts, not circumstances, and I am nauseated to read, especially in the Cleveland Press, about "Dr. Sam's love affairs" while his wife is presented as a person with a character above reproach, though she, as all humans, often succumb to temptations.

I prefer not to divulge my name, as the above information was given to me in confidence and I would not wish to involve my friends. I know that anonymous notes are usually written by "crack-pots", but I wish to assure you that a deep feeling of justice and a sincere wish to be helpful if I can, prompts me to offer the foregoing for what it may be worth.

Sincerely....A Friend

P.S. - Perhaps it would be well if the jurors could be prevailed upon to read Erle Stanley Gardiner's "Court of Last Resort".