While at Magdalen he wrote comprehensive examinations in economic theory, international economics, underdeveloped countries, and public policy. Regan observed that the exam in international economics was made more interesting, and, less happily, more forbidding, by its coming in the wake of a major monetary crisis. “The apparent unconcern of public officials in this country with the ills of the world’s monetary system, except in the face of imminent disaster, is disheartening,” Regan commented.

“Of course, the apparent unconcern may be in part a mask for simple unwillingness to accept the obvious remedies. Among these I would number, in the short run, a reduction of military expenditures abroad, and, in the longer run, arrangements which would supplant the U.S. in its current function of issuing the world’s principal reserve currency. Gold is not an appropriate medium for international reserves; dollars are only marginally better,” he added.

He will write his dissertation for the philosophy department in some area of legal philosophy, although he has not yet decided on a specific topic.

He mentioned as areas of special interest to him the problem of justifying legal interference in the economic order; the connection between non-enforcement or variable enforcement of laws and their validity (with special reference, perhaps, to issues raised by prosecutorial discretion and discrepancies in sentencing practices of different judges); and similarities which, as Regan says, he sometimes thinks he sees between the legal and the scientific method.

Regan currently spends much of his spare time (“I’m not sure you should say that—I don’t know if first-year law professors are supposed to have any,” he smiled at his interviewer) in rehearsal for the Gilbert and Sullivan Society’s production of “Gondoliers,” indulging in a penchant he acquired at Oxford where he sang with the Bach Choir and the Oxford Opera Club.

His sports are tennis, golf, and squash, at which he says he has been going downhill since he won one plastic trophy at age sixteen, “The important things about sports are enjoyment and exercise,” he remarked. “By careful selection among the possible athletic enterprises I contrive to have the enjoyment and avoid the exercise almost completely.”

Charles Donahue

Charles Donahue arrived in Ann Arbor this summer, ensconced himself in an office between the turrets high above the Law Library’s main doorway, and now entertains the entire first year class with informal bulletin board notices to his first year Property section.

Energetic and receptive, he belies the midwesterner’s stereotype of a New Yorker with a Harvard B.A. and a Yale LL.B.

Suspended and pipe-puffing, this new assistant professor is an engaging medievalist interested in urban planning and regulated industries.

These dual interests of history and economics account for his teaching repertoire of a seminar on law, history and society on the Continent between 1100–1600 A.D., the first year Property course, and Regulated Industries.

Before coming to Ann Arbor, he spent a year as Assistant General Counsel of the President’s Commission on Postal Organization, in which post he was involved with such matters as the economics of postal rate-making and the prospects for the Post Office if it becomes a corporation. He thinks the latter will not come to pass without presidential support and the understanding of postal workers’ unions that their working conditions would improve significantly. The idea has the advantages of bipartisan support and the promise of more efficient operations, however.

After graduating in 1965 from Yale Law School, where he was Article and Book Review Editor of the Yale Law Journal, Donahue went to work for the Secretary of the Air Force in the General Counsel’s office.

He became engrossed in the concern of the Air Force to sell the Alaska Communications System, the military-owned enterprise responsible for long distance telephone and telegraph communications for that state. This involved complicated questions of tariff regulations, government and private ownership, and evaluation of bids from prospective buyers. Donahue is still interested in the project,