COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS

The long-awaited SIR Community Center was formally opened on Sunday afternoon, April 17, 1966, in a festive dedication ceremony which featured a donors' brunch, champagne, speeches, and a courtesy call by the San Francisco police. Speaking to approximately 300 members and guests, SIR President William Beardempl stated that the new center would serve as a "community home" for all members. He then introduced Mr. Gene Boche, chairman of the Community Center committee, who received a standing ovation in recognition of his work in making the center a reality. Mr. Boche thanked the many volunteers who spent days and nights for the past two months repairing, painting, and decorating the building. He also expressed the committee's appreciation to the donors of the paintings and furniture in the center.

preceding the dedication, brunch was held for donors who had contributed money for the center. Chicken a la king, rolls, and coffee, prepared in the Community Center's kitchen, were served. According to Mr. Boche, 177 persons donated a total of $3,534.50 to the center. Twelve of the donations were $100 or more.

during the brunch two Mission Street patrolmen, invited by President Beardempl, were given a tour of the premises, and wished their hosts success for the center.

Mr. Harold Call, president of the San Francisco Mattachine Society, and Mr. Guy Strait of the League for Civil Education, were introduced by President Beardempl at the afternoon ceremony following brunch. Both pledged their cooperation in helping to make the center a "continuing service" to the community.

The blessing was given by the Rev. Charles Lewis, Minister of the North Beach Mission of the Lutheran Church, who led the members in a "prayer of the people".

Selected speakers were Mr. William Plath, president of the Tavern Guild and SIR member; the Rev. John V. Moore, Pastor of Glide Memorial Methodist Church, and Mr. Michael Gerry, SIR member and raconteur. Mr. Plath gave a short history of the homosexual movement, commenting that SIR is now the largest homosexual organization in the country. He stated that the organization is unique in that its publications are read by judges and political leaders, and its endorsement is sought by political candidates in local elections.

The Reverend Moore, in a brief but penetrating speech, reflected on the developments in the homosexual movement in the last two years since SIR has been in existence. After stating that SIR is dedicated to the struggle to change not only laws but community opinion of the homosexual, he then posed the question of what should the homosexual movement do with its freedom once this goal is achieved. According to the speaker, "We must not win freedom but lose our direction." SIR's objective, he said, should not be limited only to gaining freedom for the homosexual community, "for there are sick communities as well as healthy ones." He likened the "community" to a womb to which "we all need to return"; but added, "We must not stay there!" The question of what use will be made of the Community Center, therefore, is "essentially a question of what to do with our freedom."

AT THE OPENING OF SIR'S COMMUNITY CENTER, VICE-PRESIDENT OF SIR AND SERGEANT JAMES DORAN SHARE HANDS IN AGREEMENT OF THE NEED AND ASSURANCE OF GOOD COMMUNITY RELATIONS WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT.
The Reverend pointed out that it is easy for members to become lost in a small community which is apart from the world. The challenge is to develop that autonomy that frees men from compulsions. Thus it is not enough merely to dedicate the center to the community in the restricted sense; it must also be dedicated in the service of "the larger community--the community which includes us all."

Mr. Gerry, speaking in a lighter vein, commented that "Lady Bird would be proud" of the beautification program that had been wrought in the former union hall over the last two months.

At the conclusion of the speeches a reception was held at which champagne flowed for the next hour.

The Community Center will be used for all of SIR's administrative and recreational functions. These include membership and committee meetings, small activity groups, full membership social activities, counseling and referral programs, and events of community-wide interest, such as lectures, forums, concerts, and art exhibits. It will also serve as an information center for members and for persons new to San Francisco.

The building has been leased for a three-year period at a monthly rental of $400. The lease contains two options to renew for successive one-year periods.

The center is located at 83 Sixth Street, between Mission and Market.

**PRESIDENT SPEAKS**

**by Bill Beardemphl**

After we had agreed on general overall concepts, as I outlined in this column last month, we began the task of applying them to working organization actions. Our first task was to resolve the enigma faced by all homosexual organizations in the past; the problem of getting homosexuals involved in and committed to a homosexual organization. At that time the number of active persons in the homophile movement in San Francisco was less than ten. The situation was bogged down by personality conflicts, political dominance, inwardness, and lack of concern on the part of homosexuals.

An individual homosexual had little choice to pursue personhood. While some exceptional persons developed a social adjustment, most gay persons either flaunted themselves or hid. Fear of exposure, arrest, loss of employment, beating, harassment, blackmail, sinfulness plagued many. Justice was virtually impossible to achieve for the average homosexual. Most open social life was relegated to insignificance, frenzied artificiality, "joints," or a long trip out of San Francisco.

When the "leaders" said that no one could get homosexuals involved in an organization to better themselves and their societal position, they could present a believable, appalling social condition that prevented homosexuals from acting. It seemed that not much could be done. Everything had been tried and had failed. The "leaders" said another twenty years would pass before anyone could ever consider an active membership organization of homosexuals.

Twenty or thirty years of waiting seemed no answer to us. We decided to commit ourselves to action. Democratic participation was decided on as the most efficient organizational structure that would respond to the needs and desires of the whole homosexual community. Our intent was to put homosexuals in the homophile movement, to make organizational acts and policies reflect those of the homosexual community, to provide a forum for homosexual expression, to establish outlets for responsible activities that interested our community so that they would be undertaken in a safe respectable atmosphere, to instill a real personal pride and dignity, and to insure homosexuals their rights as citizens in our society.

To meet adverse social circumstance and to interest as many homosexual individuals as possible, we set up social activities and social action groups that are diverse and directed by those involved. If individuals ask for a desired activity, our policy is to organize a respectable outlet for that need if at all possible.

The gay social climate in San Francisco has greatly changed in the last two years with groups now having well attended, successful, and varied programs. Good working relations with the police are established. A whole new group of homosexuals is emerging to the organizational arena without hiding, without excuses for being, and without flaunting their homosexuality.

We like to think that SIR with its above stated working concepts have helped to bring about this change. (NOTE: President Beardemphl welcomes comments on his column and asks that they be sent directly to him in care of SIR so that he may more readily receive and consider them. Ed.)

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Mrs. Porter, MA 1-3332. Eves, too!
4th DOB NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Phyllis Lyon

The Rt. Rev. Bishop James A. Pike of the Episcopal Diocese of California heads a growing list of speakers for the Fourth National Convention of the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., to be held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco on Saturday, August 20. Bishop Pike, who is known all over the world for his outspoken advocacy of civil rights and for his forward-thinking in the theological realm, will be the luncheon speaker.

"San Francisco and Its Homophile Community--a Merging Social Conscience" is the theme of the all-day program. The morning session will explore the relationships between the homophile community and the outside agencies with which it works. During the afternoon session it is planned to have representatives of city and state agencies respond to the problems they encounter in relating to the homophile community. Plans now tentatively call for a round table discussion between all participants at the end of the afternoon session.

Cost of the one-day meeting, which includes lunch and the banquet, is $15 per person. Reservations may be made for $5 down, with the balance in two installments of $5 each, to Daughters of Bilitis, Inc., 3470 Mission Street, San Francisco, California, 94110. Further information may be obtained by calling AT 5-4275.

Plains are taking shape for "The Homosexual's Response to the Draft Call - A Moral dilemma". An ad hoc committee called "The S.F. Committee to Fight Exclusion of Homosexuals from the Armed Forces" has been formed with backing from the ORH, Citizens News, DOB, Tavern Guild, S.F. Mattachine, and SIR. Committees with the same name have been formed in Los Angeles and the Greater Delaware Valley Area (Philadelphia area), Washington, D.C., Sacramento, and Chicago have locally oriented plans underway in their various homophile organizations.

The San Francisco committee will issue a statement before the meeting to the press which should be covered in our local papers, outlining our reasons for being and the activities that will be undertaken.

Tentative plans are for a 2:00 rally Saturday, May 21st, to be held on the steps of the new Federal Building. Invited speakers will be announced. Leaflets and brochures will be passed out to the public. Plans for a preliminary march from Drumm Street up Market to the meeting spot are being considered. Notification of our desires has been sent by letter to Police Chief Cahill who must issue permits before arrangements can be finalized.

Interested SIR members are urged to phone the SIR office for information on how they can help this important project to succeed.
THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT
WATCHDOG OF LIBERTY

by Evander Smith

This third and final paper on the subject of peepholes deals with the Federal Courts' interpretation of the Fourth Amendment which provides:

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the person or things to be seized."

The case of Smayda v. United States of America arose in Yosemite National Park, a Federal enclave, when a U.S. Ranger arrested two men for an act of oral copulation. This act was performed by the participants, each in his separately enclosed commode stall, and each stall had a door that was closed. A hole had been cut in the partition between the two stalls by some unknown party. The arresting officer observed the illegal conduct through a peephole in the ceiling and photographed the action from a hole cut in the ceiling above each of the toilet booths. At no time did there exist a warrant for the arrest of the participants, nor was there a warrant for the search of the restroom or any portion of it.

The participants were charged with violating the California law. The trial was had in Sacramento by a United States Judge who promptly convicted.

An appeal to the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco was taken where a three judge tribunal split, two to one for conviction. The two convicting judges showed no capacity to understand the principle involved, much less the ability to do any original thinking. In a forthright dissent, Judge James R. Browning pointed out that the decisions of the California Supreme Court concerning the protection which the Constitution of the United States affords against unreasonable searches and seizures in the circumstances involved are conflicting. (These California decisions are the Bielicki and Britt cases discussed in the March issue of VECTOR.)

Judge Browning stated that the Fourth Amendment protects such privacy as a reasonable person would suppose to exist in given circumstances, that admittedly a public restroom is so constructed to shield the person who uses it and to provide at least a minimum of public decency, and that everyone who enters an enclosed stall in a public toilet is entitled to believe that, while there, he will have at least a modicum of privacy that its design affords. Less than complete privacy, he pointed out, is not the equivalent of no privacy at all. Limited privacy, for example, houses, hotel rooms, offices, automobiles, taxicabs, all have windows exposing portions of their interiors, and all these facilities must be shared to varying degrees with cleaning people, customers, clients, and taxi drivers. Yet, the intrusion of the police into these places will not be tolerated because of the Fourth Amendment. The dissent urged that the Federal Court adopt the California Supreme Court's precedent and condemn the police action by reversing the conviction - but the urging was to no avail.

Attorney Herbert Donaldson (one of SIR's San Francisco attorneys) petitioned the United States Supreme Court to review this decision (Petition for Writ of Certiorari). This petition was buttressed by a masterful and brilliantly executed brief which encompassed not only the salient legal facts, but a compassionate and empathetic understanding of the human tragedy in point as well. The petition, however, was denied, thereby allowing the conviction to stand and thus crystallizing an irreconcilable conflict between the State and Federal Courts in applying the protection of the Fourth Amendment to identical fact situations.

We can hope that in the future the Federal Courts will come around to accepting California's enlightened view on privacy, at least when it comes to homosexual conduct, and in the meantime we can suggest that those who have predilections for the sort of conduct involved here avoid expressing them physically in any Federal enclave, such as the Yosemite National Park.

Last month the Siporium made $300 profit for SIR. Make your saleable used clothing, household goods, furniture, etc. make a profit for SIR. Call the Siporium at 626-9752 for a pick-up of your items or bring your items for the Siporium to the Community Center. SIRPORIUM 525 Hayes Street HOURS: 10 to 5 phone: 626-9752
CHATTER
MATTER

by Anonymous

It looks like the Tavern Guild is court bound to find out why it has been unable to obtain the proceeds from the benefit sponsored by it a few months ago for two members of our community in need. We'll carry a play by play of this one.

Activities at the Community Center are on the upswing. Friday night is movie night - fabulous! Call SU 1-1570 for details. The Sat night record hop has really gotten off to a great start! Members may bring adult guests to movies or dances.

The Roaring 20's dance scheduled for May 21 looks as if it's going to be one of the biggest. Live music, entertainment, and free drinks are planned. Join the fun.

Welcome to the Tavern Guild which is sharing office space with us at the Community Center. To call the Guild, dial SU 1-1571.

The first open meeting at the Community Center attracted 209 members and friends, and 14 new members were signed up. Welcome to SIR! It was a short meeting with a longer social hour so new people could see all the facilities of the center.

Mr. Everett L. Hendrick, candidate for the 23rd Assembly District, addressed the group and answered questions from the floor. His one major point, and well taken we hope, is that support and votes should be cast ONLY for those candidates who accept and actually address the members at a SIR meeting. No support and no vote should be given a candidate for public office who does not feel that he can address a group such as SIR publically.

T.G. AUCTION
SERIES ENDING

Only two auctions are left in the Fifth Tavern Guild series. These popular affairs are proving more successful than ever. On Tuesday, May 3rd, the Missouri Mule will play host, while the closing event, scheduled for May 10th, will be at Selina's Parlour. At this latter event, elegant Victorian antiques and furnishings will be among the many items to be auctioned.

Remember to support your community by attending. Profits from these events are divided among all social action homophile organizations in San Francisco.

BOWLING LEAGUE

There are still a few openings left for SIR members on SIR's Bowling League. All 22 lanes have been booked for the league which meets every Monday evening at 8:30. You need not be a good bowler to join. The cost for an evening is only $2.25. After meetings many bowlers go to the Cask, Bradley's Corner, or the Tally Ho, where drinks are served to bowlers at special reduced rates.

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GEORGE QUINTANCE'S 32" x 40" painting

"SATURDAY NIGHT"

oil on canvas  signed and dated 1954

(four young men in cowboy boots and jeans
at bar with bartender - in full color)

WRITE: R.W. WOOD, 15 Alexander Street, Newark, N.J. 07106

COMMUNITY SERVICES MEETS

After months of inactivity (with apologies from Chairman Don Miesen), the Community Services Committee held its first meeting this year on Thursday, April 28, at the Community Center. For this meeting all known interested persons were notified, and special encouragement was given to anyone who has shown leadership interest. The meeting was spent on a review of the scope of the committee, the potential of some of its aspects, and discussion of organizational techniques by which some of the problem areas may be structured into viable projects.

Future meeting of the Committee will be held EVERY THURSDAY at 8:00 p.m. in the Center. The meetings scheduled for May will be devoted to specific problem areas, and will feature GUEST VISITORS from public and private agencies. The tentative schedule is as follows:

May 5. The administration of the VD clinic at 33 Hunt Street, with staff members. We will NOT discuss VD. We will discuss public education, our own Check-33 program, the confidentiality of the records, and other problems.

May 12. Homosexuals in San Bruno Jail, with social workers from the jail.

May 19. Ethics & Conduct; the idea of an arbitration committee; the values of the homophile community. In cooperation with Legal & Religious Committees.

May 26. Homosexuality and Mental Illness, with people from Langley-Porter and/or the Clinic for Special Problems.

June 2. Tentatively, another seminar on Leadership. All meetings are open to both members and non-members. However, all visitors are reminded to check at the office window and also requested to introduce themselves to the Chairman.

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LETTERS

Homosexual and the Draft

"Editor: As an ex-sailor and a devout coward, I find it difficult to see the logic on both sides of the question of the draft exclusion of homosexuals.

"Throughout history, the most revered, respected and important personages of any sort of civilization were kept in the back, away from the front lines where fighting was taking place.

"It would seem that the attitude that this country takes is that the homosexual per se is one of these cherished and important persons. With such an honor as this bestowed upon our like, how can we see fit to protest, picket, and the likes?

"Would Princess Margaret protest the fact that she is not shooting Africans (or whites as the case may be), rather than sitting in merry olde England, holding down the home fort?

"I am proud to have served in the US Navy during a time of peace, but would certainly think twice before trotting myself over to (you know where) to get shot at by BOTH sides.

"An Ex-Sailor"

Ed: But homosexuals are not allowed to serve in the peace time military, either. That you did merely evidences the fact that you did not admit your homosexuality, but rather concealed it. Moreover, contrary to the implications of your letter, homosexuals are not deferred from the draft because of their "importance" to the home front. The prejudice exists on the home front as well as on the battle front. They are deferred, as are the aged, the infirm, the crippled, and the insane (and as are most women and children), because it is felt that they cannot competently serve. The real issue, then, is whether the fact of homosexuality, per se, constitutes one a liability to the military, and it is the position of VECTOR that it does not. The fact is amply supported by the records of the many homosexuals who have served bravely and conducted themselves as well in battle as have heterosexuals. Not wanting to fight, or as you term it, cowardice, is not a characteristic of the homosexual as such, but rather is a human and civilized characteristic as much a part of the civilized heterosexual as of the civilized homosexual.

New Power Structures Arising

Editor: "Within San Francisco, a whole series of politico-economic transformations are in process which will change the face of the power order for years to come. These transformations concern the organization of various minority groups, in particular the Negro, for real political power.

"This is reflected in the real significance of the War on Poverty whose funds are being used not only to deal with services but also with the definite organization of the minority community in ways that will mean increased political action and effectiveness in the next few years. When this process is completed, it may mean that communities such as Western Addition (the Fillmore), and Hunters Point will constitute a definite power block with enormous power within the establishment in this city.

"In the North and South of Market, or what is called the Central City, there exists a body of unorganized power mostly in the form of votes which may very well be the fulcrum upon which whole elections turn. The groups which organize this power will be in an excellent position to bargain when decision making time rolls around.

"Many people are unaware that there are 40,000 or more potential votes in this part of town. Others are unaware that even with the obvious difficulties in organizing this vote, or creating a community organization to deal with vital issues which is also a variety of power, this area of the city can be organized and, indeed, to an extent, the process has already begun.

"SIR has talked about political organization for the whole of its existence. The only way to organize politically is in terms of votes and the only real way to organize votes is on a street, block, or intra-community level. This implies the organization of a community on a plan somewhat similar to what is being done in Western Addition. Such organization is entirely feasible in the Central City.

"Using its Community Center as a base, SIR could organize (continued on page 11)
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Authors who write about ordinary everyday people with more than their share of ordinary everyday problems are rare indeed. And even more rare are authors who write about ordinary everyday homosexuals without more than their share of ordinary everyday problems; but Jim Ramp is just such an author.

Yet the characters in "Wild Strawberry Patch" are not ordinary everyday homosexuals in that they are men - and their families and friends - who go about their living and loving just as most other folks do. From the moment you begin to taste the wild strawberries picked and eaten by Lome Bleekman to the morning Luke's mother prepares breakfast for the latest Kansas "combine", there is not one sentence that could be termed sensational. And yet this book is sensational in this reviewer's mind because it treats the subject of love as it should be and for what it is. The realization that the couples are men comes about easily and naturally, truly the mark of an excellent writer.

People, particularly in large metropolitan areas, think they can "spot" homosexuals. And they can, they can spot a few. But, by and large, most homosexuals live and love quietly, in cities, in the suburbs, and on the farms, even Kansas farms. Yes, Jed and Ned (it could have just as well been Jed and Nedra in another story) started it all. They were the first "combine" and they decided it was a good way to work and live. Like all couples who have something they wish to share, they quietly prepared the way for others to do the same.

Buy and read Jim Ramp's "Wild Strawberry Patch". You will find it delightful, refreshing, and a joy to read. -J.H.

(SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE)

SIR's Saturday Night Dance was held for the first time in the Community Center on April 23rd, beginning at 8:30 p.m. A dance instructor gave a demonstration of ball room dancing steps for beginners. Most music was prerecorded on tape. Interested persons should communicate their musical preferences to the Social Committee which meets every Tuesday evening in the Community Center at 7:30. Those of you who would like to help with the Saturday Night Dance should call Gordon Barton at JO 7-1128 or the SIR office.

(FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES)

Friday, April 22nd, was SIR's first "movie night" at the new Community Center. Movies will be shown every Friday night at 8:30 until further notice. Price of admission is 75 cents, which includes refreshments.

The movies shown will be the best of those produced here and abroad. For further information concerning the coming programs, call 781-1570.

(Note: All monies received for the sale of WSP over publication costs have been generously donated to SIR by the author. So, buy and help; read and enjoy. Other books by the author can be purchased at: SIR office; SIRporium at 525 Hayes; Harold's Books, 504 Geary; City Lights Book Shop, Columbus near Broadway; Dorian Books, 693 Mission, Suite 301; by mail, from Fanfare Publications, Box 2312, San Francisco 94126; out of town, Village Books, New York City; Tangents, Los Angeles; and One, Los Angeles -Ed.)
MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

RESOLUTION

by Donald L. Miesen

The following resolution will be offered for membership approval at the forthcoming Closed Meeting. It is an effort to make explicit what is meant when we talk about SIR as a member participation organization. It provides both members and leaders with a set of guidelines, so that they may know what to expect of one another in structuring SIR. Special attention is called to the fact that this resolution does not impose any mandatory rules on anyone; we are not trying to amend the Constitution or By-Laws, because we cannot legislate responsibility; we can only work towards it with all our hearts.

"RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS responsible action can be expected only when responsible members are treated as such, and

WHEREAS no project is satisfactory unless it can continue under a complete change of leaders,

WHEREAS only an expanding leadership potential in our Community will guarantee for tomorrow what we build today,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

(1) Each member should have a positive right to participate fully in the committees of his choice, under the leadership of the elected chairmen;

(2) Chairmen should obtain full member participation in policy-making as well as in the work. They should develop members as well as projects, and excessively high project standards should be avoided, where feasible, and especially at the beginning, to encourage maximum member involvement. Leadership should be shared, authority freely delegated, wherever members will carry the corresponding responsibilities;

(3) Committees should originate policies and projects; the Board should review them. Policies and projects should be submitted for review before being put into effect; no one should undertake any action or expense for SIR without clear authorization to do so. The Board should freely delegate broad, discretionary authority wherever committees and membership are willing and able to carry the corresponding responsibilities. If a committee recommendation is disapproved, the reasons should be stated in the Board minutes. Chairmen should coordinate joint problems before involving the Board.

(4) The foregoing or similar concepts should be included in the Directional Report as a statement of ideal structure for responsible, participating membership. However, these recommendations are not binding at any specific point, and formal authority continues as provided by the Constitution and By-Laws."

In times past, I have been aware of other organizations willing to take my time and money to implement policies and projects already set up by other people. These other organizations did not seem to need members with imagination, special talents, independent judgment, or any particular initiative of their own. Such things were apparently already provided by the existing leadership of those organizations. But I imagined that such things were the most important things that I could bring to any organization—except they were the most important things to me. So I did not join those other organizations. I joined, instead, the Society for Individual Rights.

How lucky we are that SIR is a member participation club; that many talented people have been able to share in our decisions; and that we have the mature impulsion to trust the integrity of others who wish to build with us. SIR has grown precisely because many talented people have been able to share in its decisions. May we always continue to find new ways to use the differences of personality, temperament, and talent which we are so fortunately as to have among us. SIR can continue to attract real ability as it provides full scope for talent. It is not our fault if we do not have as yet the capacity to solve all the problems of our community; but it would be inexcusable if ever any talent, great or small, could not find adequate working-space among us.
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LETTERS
(continued from page 7)

the North and South of Market in a potent way. Such effort would have to be a broad based community organization in which STR would be but one focal point. To the degree of its effectiveness as a point of active organization so to that degree the extent of its power when elections or other decision making points are achieved.

"The suggested plan of action is indicated in a report I have prepared called "The Workplan for Community Organization". It is based on the 'Alinsky Model' with relevant modifications to deal with the peculiar characteristics of the Central City."

"Mark Forrester"

PHYSICAL FITNESS GROUP BEGINS

In keeping with the need for a physically fit America, STR is starting a Physical Fitness Group. The group will meet on May 3rd and every Tuesday and Thursday thereafter at 6 p.m. in the STR Community Center at 83 Sixth Street. Following the workout (based on the Canadian Air Force Physical Fitness program), a special low calorie dinner will be served. Price for instruction and the special dinner will be $1.50. This program is limited to STR members only. All participants will be weighed in when they start this program, so they can follow their progress as the program advances. Special attention will be given to particular problem areas, such as stomach muscles, chest, leg, thigh, etc. Remember, summer is coming, so don't let the bullies kick sand in your face - join the special STR physical fitness program. Interested members are invited to call MANJADE and sign up. The group will be limited in size, so get your name on the list now.

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OUR GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

by W. E. Beardenpfl

A delightful, elegant camp has opened at the Little Fox Theatre, and I heartily recommend the show to all of our Community who love to laugh at the eccentricities popular in our country.

Ben Bagley's, "The Decline and Fall of the Entire World as Seen Through the Eves of COLE PORTER," is a production that seems natural to San Francisco's environment. It should find a welcome home here.

At times during the preview performance I was reminded of the fantastic collages that used to appear on the walls of the D'Oak Room, but with added emphasis by wonderful comments from Cole Porter songs. A typical example was the introduction of the song, "At Long Last, Love," as being inspired by the love affair of Edward VIII. The song was sung while a cut from a picture showing a close-up of Edward was flashed on the backdrop. He was looking over one of his shoulders; the look we all know as "the egyptian slant". At the end of the song, a quick enlargement to the complete picture reveals the object of Edward's stare... well! Another quick change of pictures shows Wally Simpson in a typical 1930's suit with a typical Wally Simpson "smile". Superb! The scene took less than two minutes with many similar scenes following in quick hilarious succession. The pacing of the show is at a furious speed; it's like driving a Rolls Royce at 150 mph on a beautiful freeway at people in Mustangs as you pass them by.

The five skilled performers must be praised as the hardest working team of dancing-acting-singing comedians I have ever seen on one stage at one time. They work superbly together, but also have great solo moments. Even their program blurbs are elegantly insane. "HAROLD LANG studied dancing with Serge Diaghilev and acting with John Stompanato...." "FAY DEVITT ... Non-drinker, non-smoker, close friend to Mamie Van Doren, Miss Devitt's total dedication to her art causes her to lead an almost nun-like existence...." "NAELE JACKSON...(who could forget his airborne sabre dance performed with flaming torch, satires and Donna Atwood?)...." "BOBO LEWIS.... A successful night club act in some of New York's most elegant rooms: Bon Soir, Blue Angel, Hotel Dixie...." "SYBIL SCOTTFORD.... Some of the pictures include Mondo Nuda, Sexy Mondo,..."

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Yosemite Camp-Out

To open the season for the overnight camping group, STR's camping group will join One, Inc. of Los Angeles and their friends for the Memorial Day weekend at Yosemite National Park. Three days to explore one of our most beautiful and interesting National Parks. Yosemite is only 183 miles from San Francisco, but many of us have never taken the time to visit it. Here's your big chance. We expect a large turnout, so, please, if you would like to go, or would like more information, call Bill at UN 3-0328 after 6:00 p.m.

Italia Prohibita and Blonde Freight to Zanzibar...." A fine cast.

But, in this case, the show is the thing. Maybe you will relish and remember some of my favorite scenes that I shall label: Fred Astaire's symbolic necrophyllactic sterilization of Ginger Rogers; Sophie Tucker's mystic ascents and declines as a national institution; and the empathy of Hurricane Ethel, a refined United States weather report. Maybe the long overdue devastation of Hollywood tap-dancing techniques will move you to shout bravos as it did the audience the night I went. Maybe you will come away remembering other scenes but one thing is certain: You will find many scenes to enjoy, remember and quote. After all, we all can't be completely original, can we, Mr. Bagley?
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