

# NEWS & NOTES

## CENSORSHIP

A Palo Alto artist who had been forced to cover the genitalia of his paper male figure with a paper "fig leaf" agreed to remove the work from an exhibition in the San Mateo County Hall of Justice. The cover added reluctantly by the artist disappeared later and the Arts Council of San Mateo County (California) informed him they were concerned about insuring the figure, "The Sleepwalker," valued at \$5,000.

■ **NO NUDES IS BAD NEWS.** The dean of fine arts at Antelope Valley College said he was astonished when the Board of Trustees balked at letting him offer a course in drawing from life using nude models.

"The possibility that they'd find something wrong with this really hadn't occurred to him. He cited the fact that 28 California universities and colleges use nude models in art classes. But in rural Lancaster (California), nude drawing could be "a very touchy issue. A lot of people think that the private parts ought to be covered."

■ The United States Postal Office still denies second class mailing permits to magazines reproduced by mimeo and type-written offset. These methods were forbidden as "not quite respectable" as a means of protecting hot-lead typesetters' jobs back in 1935. I wonder what they think of Xerox?

■ **TO BE NUDE IS LEWD.** In Kansas City, Thomas Hart Benton, painted the Greek goddess Persephone, nude, lying in a grove while an old man leers from behind a tree. This was done in 1939 and is considered by many in Kansas City as the artist's best work. The Nelson-Atkins Museum decided to buy the painting for \$2.5 million and this was considered a coup. But to run a reproduction of the nude in full color, out there in full sight, on page 1? Well, religious leaders were outraged. Expressions of outrage at the columnist just mellowed him a bit, because he suggested putting a bikini on the goddess, or maybe just "pasties."

■ In Britain's first auction of erotic art works, Scotland Yard's vicesquad was called in to screen the items.

■ **CENSORSHIP REMOVED.** The Italian Government has given permission for leaves covering private parts of Adam & Eve in Masaccio's Florence fresco be removed. Leaves were probably a Counter-Reformation addition.

## LOST & FOUND

The vast collection of rare books and art to be sold by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles includes a Gutenberg Bible, Nuremburg Chronicles, the first book printed in Italy, and much more.

■ 10 original Andy Warhol silkscreens were stolen from the basement of Chicago's Spertus Museum of Judaica, soon after he died. The images were of famous 20th century Jews. Valued at \$50,000, the price probably is much more because of his death.

■ **FOUND:** Botticelli's Annunciation and The Birth of Venus have been restored over 11 months with the aid of ultraviolet and X-ray photography and chemical analyses.

■ **FOUND:** An unidentified collector gave a panel of the giant 3-part 1866 impressionist work, *Déjeuner sur l'Herbe* by Claude Monet to Paris' new Musée d'Orsay in payment of taxes. It now is on display besides the museum's Musée d'Orsay in payment of taxes. It now is on display besides the museum's left panel of the work based on Manet's better-known painting of the same name.

■ **ALMOST LOST:** Experts are very concerned about the "restoration" of the Sistine Chapel, and now added to the controversy are experts in New York and now professors at UCLA who are bemoaning the situation.

■ **LOST?** 6 paintings by Vuillard were stolen from a small theater off the Champs-Elysees, 3 large and 3 small.

■ **LOST:** A man from Cherry Hill, NJ is allergic to everything and must read a book only if it is encased in a special box on his lap.

■ **FOUND:** All those plaster casts of great sculpture are now found in vast storage areas in every major museum, but right now they are of great interest to scholars. The Met's are being lent out to interested parties throughout the nation, and the Queens Museum is restoring the casts, which it has now utilized to open a permanent exhibition of 22 of the restored plaster casts. Sculptors are borrowing them.

■ **FOUND:** Bikinis are now endorsed in China by the authorities.

## NEWSPAPERS

Broadcasting entrepreneur Ted Turner says newspapers have no future, because there are not enough trees left in the world's forest to continue producing wood pulp.

■ In Brussels, the daily *De Morgen* surprised its readers recently by issuing an entirely handwritten paper. The reason: the tabloid's computer failed, and the staff was unable to fill the 32 pages with neatly printed text. "If Only Gutenberg Could See This" lamented the headline, written with a thick felt pen, above an article referring to Johann Gutenberg's reputation as the first European to print with movable type.

Of course, that issue quickly became a collector's item. Several newsstands in Brussels said they had no more issues of the paper by mid-afternoon.

## WILD ART

Elephants have been seen drawing, and artists and critics have judged these creations exceptionally good. Willem de Kooning, a highly regarded abstract expressionist, praised the drawings, only to discover later that the artist was an elephant. Resolute in his opinion, he said, "That's a damned talented elephant."

■ A Robot that draws portraits by using a video camera to analyze a subject's face has been demonstrated in Japan.

■ A French artist who lives in Venice, California and his assistant, created a 1970 Cadillac covering the whole body with mirrors which were hammered into pieces and glued to the exterior. Eye-catching, to say the least!

■ Boggs is the biggest "money artist".

we know, working in England and making lots of money by innocent or not so innocent drawing of various banknotes.

■ Andy Warhol, before he died, put on display a pop art version of the **Last Supper** in a Milan palazzo across the street from the church where the real Last Supper had to be closed to the public for restoration.

■ Crop Art is being done by artist Stan Herd, creating murals over 20 acres, such as Van Gogh's Sunflowers. They can only be viewed from 1,000 feet overhead. He created a 160-acre portrait of Kiowa Indian chief Satanta out of wheat and stubble. No payment is received for these but the Kansas air charters are cleaning up!

■ **Wine Art:** John Furnival reports that art among the claret reigns supreme in England now. He is one of the classiest artists in Great Britain to have been chosen by Peter Willis to create paintings of 25 chateaux of Bordeaux, among whom are Tom Phillips, Norman Ackroyd, and Patrick Procktor.

The edition is 150 copies for the prints, with price about 195 pounds, and after that, perhaps a book of the paintings and exhibitions. Some of these have become labels for special vintages. The special category of Wine Art has now been added to the thesaurus. Payment was a fee, travelling expenses, and of course good food and wine, a quite "civilized commission". If anyone is interested, all prints are available from Wine Arts Ltd., Newmarket House, Nailsworth, Glos. GL6, England.

## YEAR OF THE READER

On October 16, President Reagan signed Public Law 99-494, designating 1987 as **YEAR OF THE READER** in the United States.

## MAIL ART

Italian Mail is slower than a horse-drawn trolley, with letters taking an average of 7 to 10 days to travel from north to south of the country. The average speed of delivery was six miles an hour—as surveyed by the Milan consumer's organization.

■ Artists' postage stamps from the collection of the Artpool Archives will be shown in the Museum of Fine Arts of Budapest in 1987. For more information, send to Artpool, Galantai, 1277 Budapest 23, Box/Pf.52, Hungary.

■ Ray Johnson, Father of Mail Art, was featured on the front page of Lively Arts of the Detroit News on New Year's Eve. He has started the Detroit Correspondence School to honor his hometown. It's where it all began.

He still is doing portraits, and is doing performance art as well.

■ C. Mehrl Bennett and John M. Bennett were featured in exhibitions at C.A.G.E. in Cincinnati, Ohio from 21 February through 21 March.

■ Johan van Geluwe had a show of his Museum of Museums at Middelburg, Holland from 5 September to 15 November 1986.

■ The streetcorner mailbox was invented by Tobias Smollett.

**East↔West, a Book of Fortune** is a dense work of art, by Steven Cortright, which visually bridges the far corners of the world, the European and the Asian mentalities through images bled across the doublespread. Some pages are vertical, some are horizontal and there is a sense of déjà vu, a filmic approach. The spiral binding allows the book to lie flat, allowing you to see the medium format of the book, larger than most books, life-size in imagery. The fortunes emanating from fortune cookies pertain to the imagery which are devices for readers to digest the visual ideas, and there are so many of them.

This is an encyclopedic journey through twentieth century visual civilization, yet an inward journey of dichotomies, which have always interested Cortright. After three trips to the Orient, the artist has related some of his Eastern experiences and association to the West in large black and white accumulated imagery, which gives each reader/viewer time to meditate and ponder the connections. Published by Chicago Books, East—West is available from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Printed Matter, Art in Form, and other important bookshops. This book is a must for any collection! \$20.00



## OTHER MEDIA

**Tellus no. 15** is dedicated to The Improvisors, which were taped from performances on November 8, 9 and 10, 1985 in New York City. Write Tellus, 16 W. 22nd St., No. 902, New York, NY 10010. \$7.00 single issue, \$35.00 for 6.

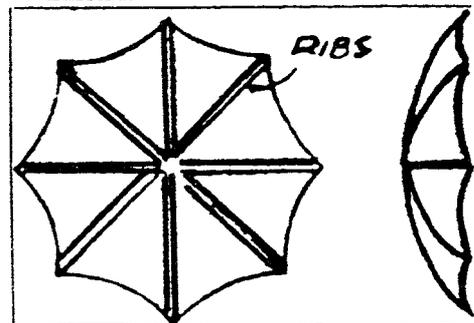
Armin Hundertmark has published a new audiocassette by Henry Flynt called, "You are my Everlovin and Celestial Power. For orders, write to Edition Hundertmark, Brusselerstr. 29, D-5000 1 Cologne, West Germany. 24DM. This is the first publication of the music of H. Flynt.

## UMBRELLA NEWS

"Today, if it rained pennies from heaven, only a fool would turn his umbrella upside down," Princeton economist Alan S. Blinder wrote in the recent *Business Week* column that sparked the latest penny controversy. "The money caught would be worth less than the ruined umbrella."

■ In the recent nationwide Create a New Prince Pasta Shape Contest, an umbrella-shaped noodle recently was declared the winner. Georgette Conlan of Fort Pierce, Florida designed the **Umbra**—a handleless umbrella that held pasta sauce—and won \$15,000 for her effort. In addition, the sponsor, the Prince Co., is testing the umbrella shape to see if it can be mass-produced.

The next step for the spaghetti company is to take the umbrella design to Italy to see if a die can be manufactured. If that's successful, the company will test the shape to see how it cooks and holds sauce. Let your sauce be your umbrella!



## ELECTRONIC NEWS

Artronix data base lists all photographs and photographic publications, which have been sold at auctions worldwide since 1952. The file includes 360,000 individual entries, supplemented with a photographers index and a chronology of all photographic processes, available also in book form (ca. 1900 pages, \$2500). For more information, write Bhupendra Karia, ICP, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10128.

■ The newly opened Musée d'Orsay in Paris has set itself the task of recording by computer graphics every known 19th century painting, sculpture and work of photography and design.

**Conversations with Rudy Burckhardt About Everything** by Simon Pettet is a transcription of conversations with the famed filmmaker, photographer and painter Rudy Burckhardt. These photographs, taken between 1938 and 1986, include his classic, much admired image of the Flatiron Building, New York 1948, as well as photos of the beauty of Maine, gentle serenity in Naples and various humorous scenes throughout the world.

Only now is Burckhardt getting the aboveground recognition that his underground entourage nurtured and always recognized throughout the years since his arrival in New York in 1935, at the age of 21, from Basle, Switzerland. After establishing himself as a photographer, he also made significant contributions in documenting work for major galleries and art publications.

Simon Pettet is a British poet living in New York City, active as co-founded and organizer of the Committee for International Poetry which sponsors readings by poets from around the world.

The interview text has been edited with spaces—or in John Cage's language, silences—and these are almost as important as the words, which are quite Zen-like, echoing Burckhardt's own emphasis on ellipsis and fragmentation. And why not, since the spaces or silences make you look at the images, most rarely seen, making this book a most welcome contribution to discovering Rudy Burckhardt. Beautifully produced, this softbound photography book is \$20.00 from Vehicle Editions, distributed by Talmant Company, 238 Mott St, New York, NY 10012.