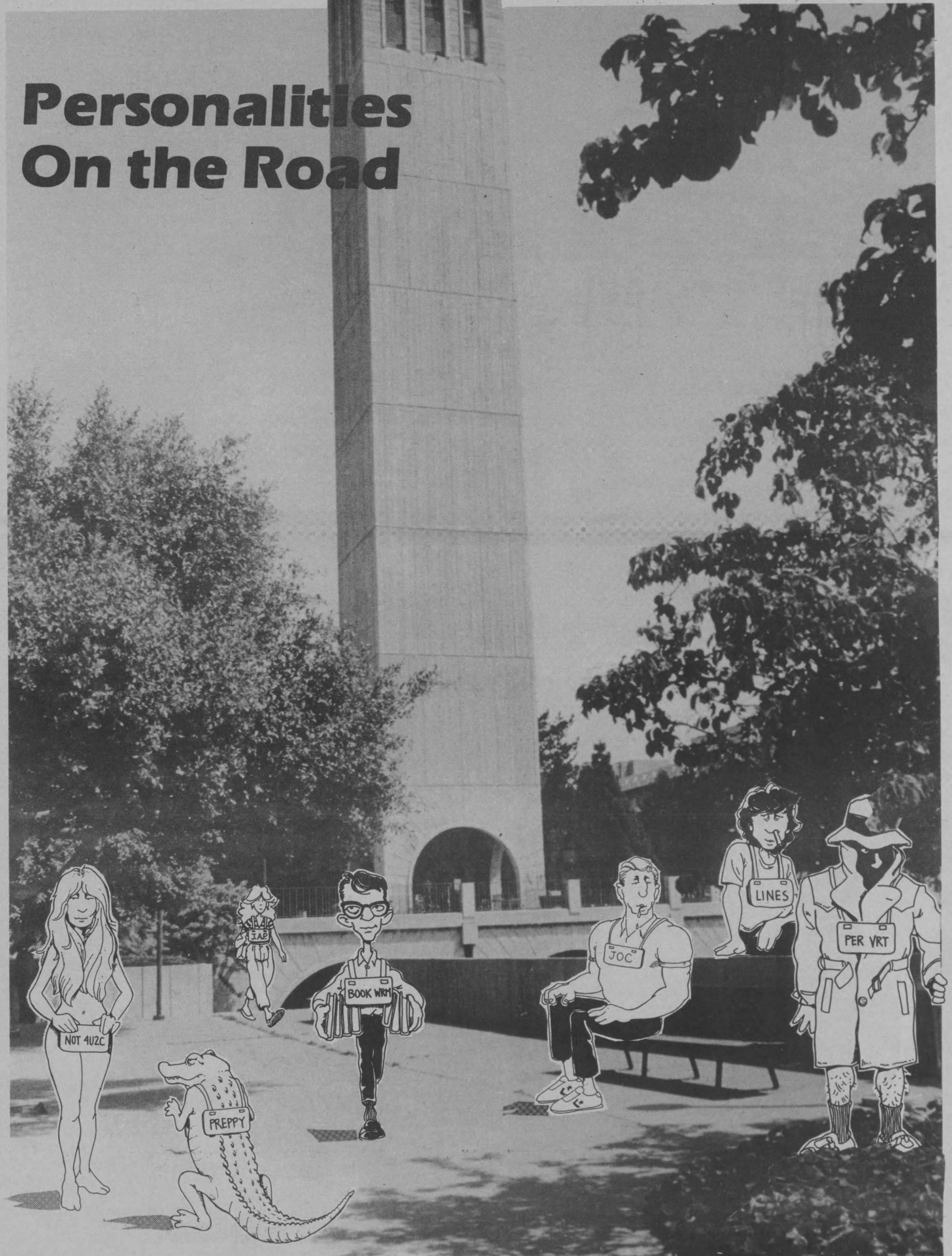
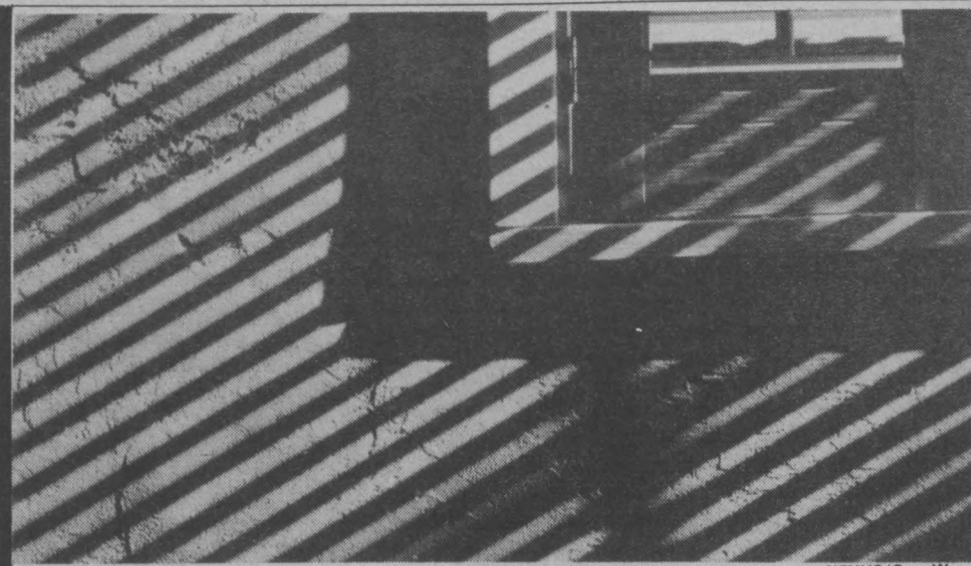


# FOCUS

## Magazine

### Personalities On the Road





NEXUS/Greg Wong

**Focus Editor  
Eve Dutton**

**Asst. Focus Editor  
Greg Harris**

- Julia Child ..... p. 3A**
- Personal Plates..... p. 4A**
- Astrology ..... p. 4A**
- Rolfing ..... p. 5A**
- New Restaurant ..... p. 6A**
- Surviving Rush..... p. 7A**
- Visions ..... p. 8A**

**Cover by Rob Gray  
and Greg Harris**

## In My Opinion...

### How effective is A.S. government in representing the UCSB student body?

**Dave Henson, Sociology/  
Environmental Studies,  
Senior**

It is as effective as it can be. A.S. has inherent limitations to it. By nature it's volunteer, it's not like they get paid for all the hours they put in. Plus, administration controls the government. The chancellor has oversight over everything. It has been effective though, in forcing the administration to allow student input in the university administration. The problem is that students think it's ineffective because they don't see what the government is doing because it is all inside.



**Tom Thurlow, Mechanical  
Engineering, Sophomore**

I think it is pretty effective. It has something real at stake. We can make a difference in areas of affirmative action and rents in I.V. There are some things that we can be effective in and there are others that we really can't do anything about. For example, we cannot be effective passing resolutions denouncing national politics. Unfortunately, students care more about careers than with campus issues.



**Charles Marx, Environmental  
Studies, Senior**

They try hard, but I don't think it amounts to much beyond students crying to an administration which doesn't have to listen in the first place. The government doesn't have student support so it can't be very effective. There just aren't issues the students feel strongly about. There should be more of a concentration of campus issues.



**Nancy Jessen, Physio  
psychology, Junior**

I don't really know, I don't know anything about it. I only voted for a few candidates in the last election because that is all I knew. I am too busy with classes to look into the government. I am not really aware of what they are doing, although, I know I should be. From what I've seen, I think 50 percent of the student body doesn't know what's going on. It just doesn't interest me.

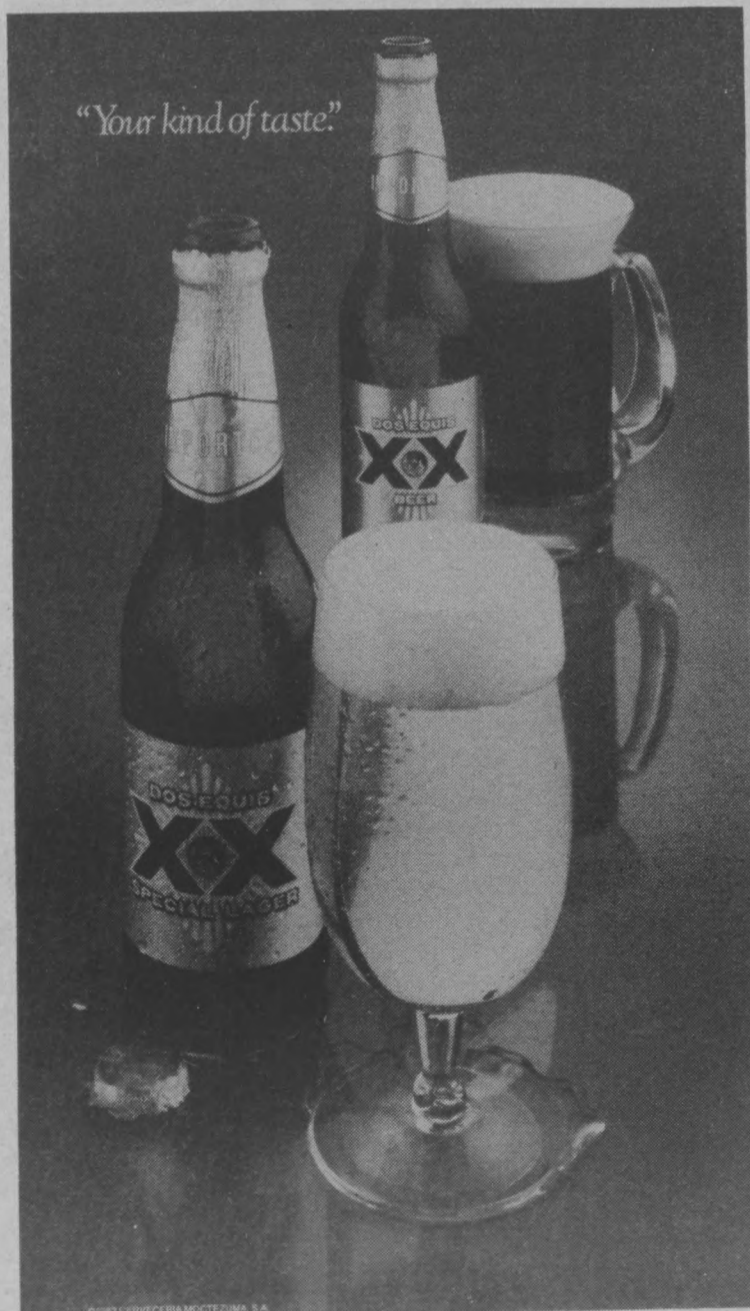


**Sue Chester, Engineering,  
Senior**

I am pretty apathetic. I didn't even vote in the last election because I don't think they are an effective body. I don't see any direct consequences of anything they do; they don't seem to affect my life. I don't know how they could be more effective. If I did I guess I would have run for office.



## Gauchos... Dos Equis and Cinco de Mayo



# Julia Child Cooks Her Way Home in Santa Barbara

By EVE DUTTON

While temperatures drop and snow drifts grow higher in the Eastern United States, dozens of Americans pack up their bags, every year, and head for California. Joining the crowds this year is America's entertaining chef, Julia Child.

Transplanted to Santa Barbara for six months, Julia and a full television crew are taping a new cooking show destined to change the future of T.V. cooks.

Julia is a 20-year veteran at television cooking shows and with her old time executive producer, Russel Morash, she has designed a program unlike all others. "The old method was not good for a how-to show. This is different and exciting," says Julia.

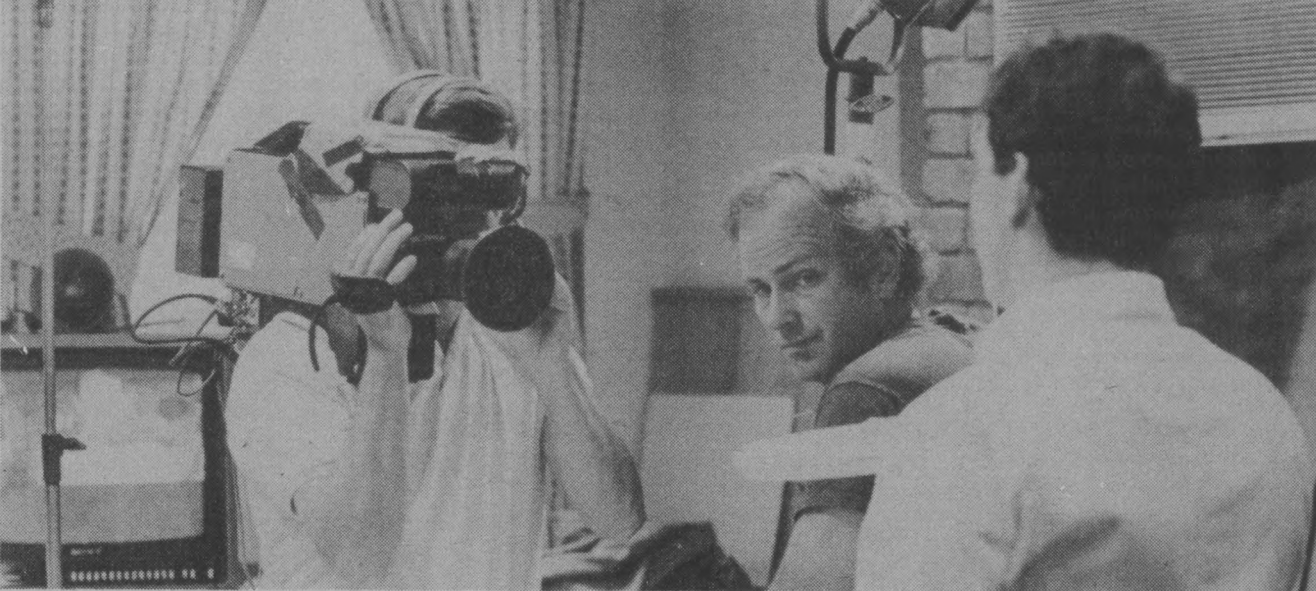
Dinner at Julia's, will have little resemblance to the slapdash shows which made Julia Child a household celebrity: no more lumpy sauces or dropped eggs. Today's new show, filmed in the affluent atmosphere of a \$3.5

million colonial-style mansion in Hope Ranch, will be a flawless culinary celebration.

Rather than concentrating on the making of a single dish, each 30-minute segment will include the preparation of a dinner for 10, an interview with a master chef and winemaker, the actual cocktail and dinner party, with waiters from the Santa Barbara City College Hotel and Restaurant Management School. In addition, segments will have a special "gathering" sequence in which viewers will accompany Julia on a search for the original source of materials. One time we will join her on a shrimp boat and another day we will take off on a trip to a California date farm.

"This is the most fascinating part of the show. People have no idea where things come from....I had no idea date trees had sexes," Julia says.

But more than just a new show with a flashy new format, (Please turn to pg.7A)



Producer Russel Morash, (middle), instructs guest chef in T.V. technique.

NEXUS/Greg Harris

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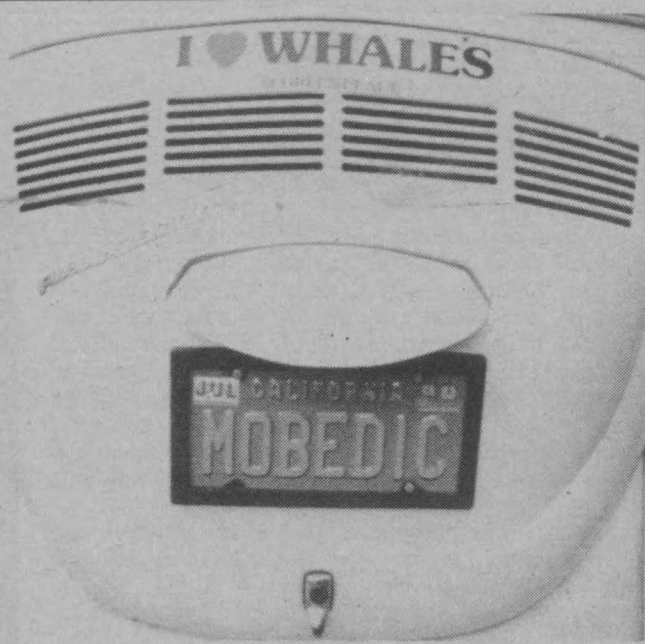
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# Californians Seek Personalized

By TRACYE SAAR

What's California coming to? Are we all going PL8 CRZY?! It seems to be true. In the United States today over one car owner in 60 has a personalized license plate. In California, over 1,281,690 such plates have been issued since 1970. As you drive, bike or walk along you see them everywhere, "ego tags," "vanity plates," "graffiti-on-the-go," they are on any and every type of car or motorcycle. Love them or hate them, they are here to stay. But what exactly are personalized license plates; who gets them and why?

To begin with, the Environmental License Plate (ELP) program, as it is officially called, was started in 1970 with the signing of a bill introduced by Senator Milton Marks. The main concept is to combine the personal touch with the goal of protecting the environment. The costs, in addition to the



normal registration fees, range from a one-time charge of \$20 in Alaska, to \$100 in North Dakota and Hawaii. In California, the cost is now \$35 with a yearly fee of \$10 to retain priority of the plates. A total of \$65 million has gone to the Environmental License Plate Funds as of Dec. 31, with over \$43 million made available for environmental projects.

But many wonder what environmental projects this money really goes for? "We get a lot of people that come in and want to know exactly what the money is used for," Sunny Garrison, operations officer of the

Santa Barbara Department of Motor Vehicles, said. The revenue from the sale of ELP goes into the California Environmental License Plate Fund which, in turn, allots money to projects and programs recommended by the Secretary of Resources Agency. Currently money is spent on Kalamath River salmon enhancement, Lake Tahoe shore zone study, air pollution research and earthquake safety education.

The environmental aspect of it is often secondary. Most people get one because it's a fun and unique form of expression. "It's better than 184 TNJ," Bill Romano stated. Sue Friedlander (SUZ OWN), got her personalized plate as a gift. "The best thing about it is that it's easier to find your car in a huge parking lot."

## Astrologers are a Serious Business

By BONNIE BISHOP

Although most Americans read their astrological forecast "just for the fun of it," forecasting the stars is serious business.

In World War II there were two British Governors who used astrologers, as well as Hitler himself, and even Ronald Reagan has a personal astrologer.

Before speaking with two local astrologists I found myself a little skeptical of the services they have to offer, but after two sessions I am convinced astrology plays an important part in our lives. It not only can benefit those seeking personal consultations but also those looking for help with their business projects or upcoming important events (i.e. the "perfect" time to make-up that midterm).

Astrology is the study that assumes, and professes to interpret, the influence of the heavenly bodies on human affairs. In talking with a local astrologist I found that astrology is based upon two theories. Eastern astrology emphasizes the constellations. Western astrology is based on the seasons of the earth. Both are a mixture of time and space.

Cerena Astrological Services provides three different kinds of services to the public. Cerena's astrological consultations include anything from self-realization, to business astrology and planning schedules for an upcoming year. According to Cerena they emphasize mental, physical and spiritual development as well as good health. Consultations are educational and help clients to identify with the "self." A mini consultation is one hour long and looks at the present with a cost of \$30. It briefly identifies the person to themselves and takes a look at their present situation and what is best to do with that.

Cerena also offers a service basic to the community in the sense that she uses computer charts for herself, other professional astrologers and people who are formerly new at learning astrology. A variety of personal information is inputted into the computer. This information consists of time, place and date of birth. The computer then organizes information into graphs, lists of dates, and maps, making them easily accessible for Cerena. The computer prints out data about birth charts but not interpretive information. Such information is based on neutrality and energy use. Energy is neutral and can be used in positive or negative ways (i.e. if energy is used positively then it is productive). Cerena explains that the reason the computer works is that by checking known accurate sources one can tell whether or not the information given is true or false. Cerena

believes, "the computer is known to be accurate and a very complete service."

Cerena's service enhances businesses and professionals by looking at proper timing. As she states, "energy is easier to be used at the right time and the right direction; it is not a matter of what, but a matter of when and how." The timing for making good personal contacts in one's business and personal life is of the utmost importance. In the same theory, so are the dates that one flies to Mazatlan. For those intrigued by Cerena's service, classes on astrology are open to the lay person who is learning about charts and students who are becoming professional astrologers.

Unfortunately, Cerena didn't take my consultation, but when a personal astrologer, Alfina Manning, told me that 1977 was a turning point in my life cycle, which in fact it was, after only giving her my birthdate, I decided the concept of astrology does have much to offer. Like Cerena, Manning deals with the energy of people and timing and uses astrology charts. Consultations are \$90 for 90 minutes. All consultations are taped and generally focus on the present.

When asked how someone's life could follow the stars, Manning explained that for astrologers following an astrological map is like following a watch. However, the accuracy of the astrological

map is only 46.10 seconds off compared to the accuracy of a watch in one day, which is 4 minutes off. Manning believes, "there is no such thing as time, moments simply begin and end."

Although astrological predictions can be very accurate, skeptics far outnumber believers. According to astrologists this is a matter of naivety. Cerena believes, "most persons haven't experienced it, are emotionally resistant and fear it, or simply feel they don't need it because they don't know that it works." And, of course, there are those that haven't studied it and never intend to. As Manning says though, skeptics are what "makes the world go round."

Testimonials from people who have been through the Roling Process are very encouraging. Nadja Hollsteein, a former patient of Courtney's was very enthusiastic about roling. She is a ballet dancer and recommends the treatment to all dancers. Hollsteein said it made her aware of many muscles she never would have known about. She said she noticed a definite change in her posture, and obtained



# Identity Through License Plates



Shana Judy (SHANA J) also got hers as a gift. "I think it's fun. Friends see you and wave because it's different," she said. "It's also good because it goes towards helping the environment."

UCSB has its fair share of personalized plates. Just a few that were sighted around campus are: SYDNEY, MARTY 62, BETSY F, KIC BAC, I LOV H2O, LV 2 SPND, ITS DEB, MAGNER, RACY D, 10S 4 ROB, APR FUL, VALS QT, SAILOR 4, WET BEAM, PRO DICE, LOOSE Z, and OATS BUG.

With all of this in mind, who exactly is your average personal license plate owner? They come from many walks of life; Dentists (2TH DR), Tennis Bums (10SNE1), Ice skaters (AMY SK8s), Swinging Singles (IMZ14U), Lawrence Welk (A1ANA2), and UCLA students (KILL SC). They drive all kinds of cars; Toyotas (TOY 4 JW), Corvettes (VETTE), Volkswagons (BUGGERA-BBIT), Jeeps (JEEPERS, CJ 4 ME), BMWs (TIMS BMW), and Mercedes (MY BENZ).

So now you're hooked and you've just got to get one. If so, the process is simple. Just go down to your local DMV and look through the listing of previously issued plates. Be prepared with a lot of ideas, not to mention an hour or so. The books are usually outdated but most DMVs now use a computer to research if a plate has been issued and also to "reserve" a new one. In figuring out what to say on the plate, one is allowed any combination of letters and numbers if it is not less than two and not more than seven characters.

This is where the issue of censorship enters. On the



NEXUS/Greg Harris

newest application for an ELP there is a space for "configuration Meaning" to write the translation of usage of your message. Offensive messages are screened out and do not get issued since each request for an ELP is censored by the computer programmed with information from foreign language dictionaries, the Dictionary of American Slang and various guidelines established by the Chief of the Division of Registration Services and Compliance Enforcement. Less than 60 of the over one million plates were "recalled" as a result of public complaint that the messages were offensive and not in good taste. (In such cases, the plate's owner is entitled to an administrative hearing if so desired.) After the message is accepted and fees paid, it takes another 90 days for the plate to be made and sent back to the DMV, where you are notified to come and exchange old plates for your personalized ones.

All in all, most of the people asked, whether they have a personalized license plate or not, think highly of them. Not only do they benefit California's environment in many ways, they also give us something to do at a red light.

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# Rolfing Aids Movement

By GWEN LACY

Most of us go through life putting more effort into daily routine movements than is necessary. We tend to slouch and carry our weight as if it were a burden to our bodies. Consequently we don't experience total freedom of movement.

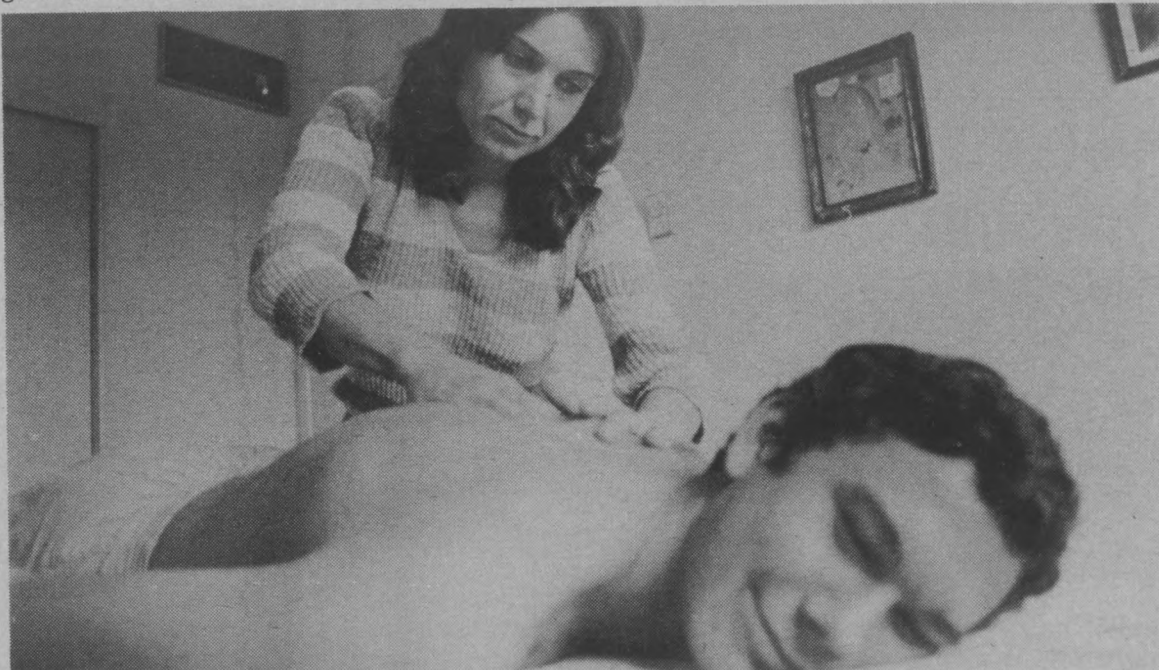
Structural Integration, or "rolfing" as it is most commonly known, offers an alternative to the way we use our bodies.

Developed by Dr. Ida Rolf, rolfing has been practiced throughout the United States and abroad for over 25 years.

tension, but unlike rolfing, massage does not change the structure of the body. Rolfing is deeper, slower, and intended to alter the structure of the body and to move tissue back to its correct location.

"If there is a shortness it pulls part of the body out of balance," Courtney explained. "For example, if the right shoulder is higher than the left the rest of the body must compensate for tightening of that muscle, thus creating imbalance in the body."

This, she noted is why rolfers cover the entire body to restore proper alignment. Courtney stressed that most



NEXUS/Greg Harris

There are approximately 400 rolfers in the world today, four of which are based in Santa Barbara.

According to one of these certified Rolfers, Phyllis Courtney, the main objective is to evoke a series of changes through which the body, as a whole, will fall into better alignment, thus alleviating any imbalances and creating a more vertical stance.

The process requires 10 one hour sessions a week, at a price of \$65 an hour. During each session work is concentrating on one certain area of the body.

Rolfers use their fingers, fists, elbows, and forearms to put length in muscles and fascia contracted down from stress or accidents. The process is similar to massage in its use of the hands to manipulate the body and relieve muscle

people don't "move economically." In other words, they work harder than they need to, thus over-exerting themselves and tightening their muscles.

"Rolfing is a way of freeing and lengthening the muscles to allow a greater range of movement while re-educating a person about their body," Courtney explained.

However, Dr. John Baumann M.D., Director of Health and Development Services at UCSB, is skeptical of the Rolfing Technique. Although Baumann admits he has limited knowledge about the process. He said "I would be more convinced if there was some scientific proof to substantiate it."

He concludes that just like any other treatment: if it

(Please turn to pg. 6A)

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# A Touch of the Orient in Isla Vista

By DAVID RADOFF

When they first went down to Los Angeles to arrange for spices and supplies for their new Chinese restaurant, Kerry Moyer and Gene Leisch were suspiciously and repeatedly asked "But who will you find for a chef, especially in Isla Vista?" The response, when they said they would do it themselves, wasn't exactly overwhelming. But, against all odds, in the face of Oriental laughter, even lacking their own full-time kitchen, two caucasians are attempting to start a Chinese restaurant in Isla Vista — and it may already be a success after just one week.

Instant Karma, a long-time fantasy of its owners, Moyer and Leisch, opened last Friday in The Egghead. They will share the location with the daytime breakfast spot, which closes at 2 p.m. daily, thus creating Isla Vista's first known time-sharing restaurant plan.

Although it may seem a bizarre way to run a restaurant, it actually offers them a great deal of flexibility and, according to Moyer, a low overhead with a minimum of inconvenience.

"We keep all our dried goods next door in a storage room; we pick out our own vegetables fresh each day, and nothing is delivered, so we really don't have to worry about refrigeration," he said. "At the end of the day we put everything on carts, but you'd have to do that in most restaurants anyway," he added.

The menu, which contains a fair cross section of oriental dishes — from hot and sour shrimp to an assortment of kung pao — has prices ranging from \$3.35 to \$5.60, with most dishes priced at about \$4.25. They make all of their own sauces and noodles as well. In addition, they would like someday soon to be able to make their own fortune cookies, with messages that are a bit more appropriate

for Isla Vista residents.

The portions are moderate, but that's not unexpected for a new business and it will probably improve once the owners see that the business is profitable. "Sure we're out to make some money for ourselves, but not an exorbitant profit," said Leisch. "Mostly we want to just have a place we'd like to eat at."

When asked about the recipes, Leisch characterized them as "99 percent Chinese and 1 percent ad-lib." For example, grated carrots are added to kung pao dishes to give a little more color and variety. While it is not, strictly speaking, a health food restaurant, the owners are adamant about using good ingredients. "We use very few foods with preservatives and no MSG," Leisch pointed out.

When asked about the timing of their opening, if it isn't too late in the year to build an adequate following, Moyer simply laughs. "I feel it's better to open late. This way we're not fighting for customers when all the other businesses are running rapid. If we need to shut down for summer we can do so, since all we have is the basic overhead which is real low. And this way we get a chance to work out all the bugs before Fall," he replied.



At present Instant Karma is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Eventually, Leisch said, they hope to expand to five nights a week. Deliveries are available for an additional 30¢ charge. For more information, phone the restaurant at 685-1944 or drop by in person. The Egghead and Instant Karma are located above the New York Hero House, across from Perry's Pizza.

# Freedom of Movement ...

(Continued from pg.5A)

works for a person, whether the motivation is purely psychological or not, then it is worth the time and effort.

Many doctors in Santa Barbara speak highly of the Roling Technique. Dr. John Kalb, a chiropractor with the Meyerowitz Chiropractic Clinic in Santa Barbara which practices Holistic Health Care, is greatly in favor of rolifing. Kalb, having gone through two sessions himself, believes it is very beneficial.

In regard to Baumann's need for scientific proof Kalb cites acupuncture as an example.

"Until recently, acupuncture was thought to have no scientific basis, yet it has been found to produce very successful results in the treatment of babies and animals." Aspirin also has yet to produce any scientific proof to its medical benefits.

Kalb said the reason most non traditional medicines lack scientific proof is because of the inability to acquire the funding needed for more extensive research.

Generally the difference between chiropractors and rolifers is that a chiropractor limits his treatment to the spinal chord and rolifers work on the muscles and fascia surrounding the bones throughout the entire body. Kalb said he has also expanded his treatment to include working with muscles, since it is a combination of both, that helps alleviate the complications in a patient.

much greater flexibility.

Another patient of Courtney's, Lee Watson, said he became interested in the Roling Technique after reading a great deal about it. After experiencing back pains and consulting a chiropractor, he decided to try rolifing.

"It was really worth it for the overall awareness of body symmetry and proper balance that the process stresses," Wilson said.

He believes it is very important for athletes to be in touch with their muscles, because of the wear and tear vigorous sports can have on the body.

...after rolifing the body becomes larger, straighter, better proportioned and balanced...

Rolifing is a valid aspect to alternative health. Generally the cost is \$65 a session, though Courtney says prices may be negotiated.

To site clinical observations, after rolifing the body becomes longer,

straighter, better proportioned and balanced, and though patients will concede that it does involve pain, most express that it felt somehow like a "good pain," something they needed deep down inside. After rolifing, the connective tissue network having been freed to better perform its functions, promotes entire body benefits such as reduced tension, a greater ease of movement, better circulation, heightened energy and overall more optimal health.

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IN VICTORIA COURT, SANTA BARBARA

## Playing the Game Of Changing Faces

By JIM HODGKINS

There I was, walking the streets of Isla Vista on Friday night. Not too unusual except that I was on my way to Spring Fraternity Rush. An event not as popular as Fall Rush, but just as important if one wishes to join the Greek system at UCSB. As I approached the house where the event was to be held, I was nervous and wondered, for the first time since Fall Rush, if I was appropriately attired. Taking a deep breath and drying my sweaty palms on my pant leg, I walked up to the door and was immediately confronted by a large table behind which sat two young women.

These women were what I have come to call "Badge Girls." These young women perform the menial task of greeting rushees and providing them with name tags bearing not only names, but also pertinent information like class level and home town. Next, is the table with the information cards. On these cards the rushees must jot down their name, address, phone number, major and "special interests/activities." When all of a sudden confronted with a question like special interests/activities I draw an immediate blank. This night was no exception. I'm not into Hacky Sack, biking, football, etc. While I consider myself a fairly well rounded person, questions like these bring out immediate insecurity. I winged it by putting down something illegible about the Nexus and biking. I wonder if it fooled the Brothers.

After completing these tasks the Rush began. The goal was to meet as many Brothers as possible during the Rush and to make sure each one somehow remembered you. Being sure that both of these things took place was an art few mastered. Personally, I found it was impossible to go to all the Frats, meet all the Brothers, and make some sort of lasting impression on them in only a few nights. The obvious solution to this was to choose one or two fraternities and concentrate on them. While all rushees are encouraged to visit all houses, I found from experience that this is physically impossible and still hope to talk to any one brother for more than a minute.

A cocktail party-like atmosphere prevailed over the evening. Picture yourself going to a large party where you know no one and are expected to



know everyone by the end of the evening. This is something like what goes on at Fraternity Rush. I was mind boggled by the task and set out to ingratiate myself on the Brothers immediately.

The next problem arises as to what to talk about. After the name and "what's your major" conversation was exhausted, topics were scarce. Slowly, I began to realize that the Frat Brothers were at just as much a disadvantage as the rushees. They had no idea who these guys were that wanted to join their "club." The main thing I realized during this evening was that there is really no way for the Brothers to get to know the "real you" in

only a short amount of time. By talking to someone for about 10 minutes, I feel it is impossible to know that person inside and out, let alone make an intelligent decision about whether they would be a good asset to the fraternity.

The night wore on and so did the conversation. Everything ended with cheery goodbyes and a lot of good will. All in all, not a bad experience, and one worth repeating. While I did not get "bid" at the Spring Rush this year, there is always Fall Rush in September. Maybe then, I will know the Brothers well enough to make the type of impression that is the "real me."

## Julia...

(Continued from pg.3A) Dinner at Julia's is a revolutionary step for the "French only" chef. In fact, American food will be the only food prepared in this show.

Julia admits that at one time she proclaimed never to cook anything but French food, but 17 years later she says, "I've gone through French and come out on the other side."

Like many other famous chefs cooking in this country, she has become strongly impressed with the increasing quality and variety of American raw materials, many of which, like caviar and wild mushrooms, have become easily available only in recent years.

Plus she points out, gastronomy as an art form has only recently blossomed in the United States. More and more educated Americans are entering the field while in France she says cooking has become "blue collar. No one wants to cook anymore."

With comments like this, some may consider Julia a gourmet snob, but she is the first to admit that at home she likes "simple food...The only food I really dislike is frozen string beans." She even admits to enjoying McDonalds. "I always like a good hamburger," she chuckles.

Julia is at the top demonstrating "the bounty of America" and working to put cooking, in the U.S., on the same level as art, music and architecture. She is part of a nationwide movement toward redefined American style cooking. There is no

dish which signifies "American food", she says, but what there is is a style based on fresh ingredients and natural flavors. "In a sense we have always prepared *nouvelle cuisine* right here," she says.

But despite her latest move to American, Julia has in no way lost her love for the French. She and her

husband Paul spend several months every year at a house in the Alpes-Maritimes. Child noted that France will always be one of her favorite places, along with Santa Barbara.

The chef hopes her new show will help to put cooking in its proper place. But she points out that she does not want anyone to think the job is an easy one. "If you are going to go into the profession you've got to be ready for hard work."

After watching an hour and a half of taping, I had no doubts that cooking gourmet delicacies is a difficult task, especially when a camera is following your every move and the producer has an aversion to even the slightest imperfection. For one two minute segment, in which the visiting chef, Jim Cohen, presented the final mousse, 10 mousse dishes had to be made just in case the the first nine takes were not correct. The producer,

Morash, is such a perfectionist that in one shooting he went through four crates of pineapple to get a one-minute paring sequence right.

The way he sees it, "All good things will come soon."

Unlike her producer, Julia says she is not a perfectionist but she prefers things "extremely well done." For new, untalented cooks, which she admits she was until she attended classes at the *Cordon Bleu*,

Julia advises jumping right in. If you don't get it right the first time she says, keep trying. The more practice you have the better you'll be.

Diet is one thing Julia has not perfected but continues to work hard at. "It's very hard to stick to a diet; I'm always hungry." But at 70, Julia seems to keep her health and career in top condition with no plans to leave the kitchen for many years.



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# VISIONS

## Lonelitudes

In a stranger's room  
I come to terms with lonelitudes,  
with cold feet in the morning air  
with empty arms where once were filled  
with the dread of tomorrow  
and a remembrance of nightmare yesterdays.  
Lonelitudes.  
It's a tune played over and over  
between my ears—  
a simple melody to be repeated.  
The music blurs in front of my eyes  
and I don't know what words to sing.  
Somewhere at sometime there must have been words  
to say, to explain  
but they've faded through the years.  
Ain't no one really wants to know.  
Lonelitudes.  
And I shiver and pull up the covers  
feeling the absence of warmth beside me—  
an indented pillow, a hollow sheet  
cry out.  
Why it's the same after all these years?  
Lonelitudes.  
It's a different singer nightly  
paying tribute to my song  
And I'm front center table  
downing the wine,  
drinking and laughing and taking it home with me.  
But it's just a cloth thrown about my shoulders.  
Outside, horns blare  
reminding me of time passage.  
Regrets are left behind in the chill  
and rituals repeated.  
Lonelitudes.

Nikki Fine

## Mother

There's a sadness in knowing  
you for all you are:  
my mother and not a god—  
a tiny pain drawn from misconceptions  
stabbing the child within me.  
There are no more rules to guard me  
from becoming myself,  
no more tears in your arms,  
no more passions, no more furies,  
no more words to bind me to your side.  
There's a sadness in being  
me for all I am:  
alone in myself, an unversed traveler—  
a tiny tear that washes away  
the cobwebs of my youth,  
gathering them to a lucid wasteland  
and draining them away.  
No more excuses, no more denials,  
no more waiting until I'm older.  
The time is now,  
the voice is mine,  
the ties lie slack beside me.

Nikki Fine

## Seduction

Icicle sharp  
And fresh as the wind that teases past,  
She clings,  
Awaiting the long, late shadows,  
Respite from the scrutinous, all-pervading sun.

A twig-tangled circuit spans the glazed white abyss.  
Darkness brings her strength:  
Stinging, brittle cold.

Dawn's rays will tempt her drop by drop  
Until the gust which sends her crashing down.

## Dummy

I'm a literary dummy,  
pores open to my wounds.  
I love to lick them.  
I've read The books  
and the criticism of the books,  
and that is the law I live by.  
I have the grades as I have the memory,  
I know the theories  
on life eternal.  
They're etched into my brain.  
The teachers call on me,  
we all know I know the answers.  
I lick the wounds.

I'm congratulated on my works.  
How closely I'm compared to others.  
They all hear the voice of someone  
in me.  
I've read the books,  
I know how to do this:  
write and not have said anything.  
Any literary dummy does.  
I'm so good I could be a teacher,  
teach everyone to aim the knife  
but not draw blood.  
that was my only mistake—  
and I lick the wound.

Nikki Fine

## Old Santa Monica

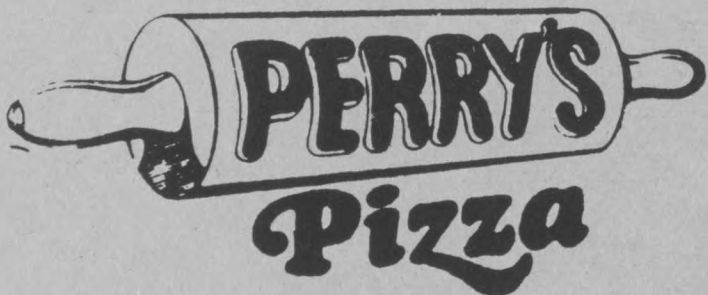
babys and strollers  
tarts and farts  
all pass this way.

one is a drifter,  
the other a gay  
bagman drinks from a snifter  
and she has nothing to say.

the men with three legs,  
walking on pegs,  
fill the neon street.  
while a businessman without a friend  
buys a boy in heat.

oh Santa Monica, if you only knew  
what we have given to you.  
a giant orange city laid in your name  
with a phallic marble statue carved of a dame.  
oh thank you, thank you — I'm going insane  
as sightseers fill the procession lane —  
this is not funny, this is not sane.  
feel the equal opportunity rain.  
that coldly patters your costuming clothes  
yet thankfully feeds your girlfriend's rose.

to feel so good when all is not right,  
I know  
old Santa Monica must be with me tonight.  
J. N. N. G.



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## Ivy

Seasons see you climb and fall,  
Winding up the weathered wall.  
Clinging tendrils claw the stone:  
Ivy won't survive alone.

Spare your shears and leave the vine  
To tangle up his life with mine.  
Let us grow then fall away:  
So shall we hide the wall someday.

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