

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 27                      4 July 1975

Bill Mac Kay, editor  
St. Mark's Church, 2nd Avenue  
& Tenth St., New York 10003.

Filling gaps in the Shea Stadium summer schedule, the Poetry Project dolphins along, offering Monday night performances through the fall equinox. On the July agenda are the mysterious Pooh Kaye on the 7th; Jill Kroesen & Leonard Neufeld on the 14th; fiendish Peter Gordon & the Black Tarantula (July 21); and Peter Seaton & Ed Friedman (July 28). Impresario Friedman does funny things with rubber ducks, lets you cheapskates in free. Beginning 8:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

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Meanwhile, back in the workshop room, Lewis Warsh presides over his merry little tinkers every Thursday evening until month's end. The workshop begins at 8:30 p.m.

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Best newspaper caption, American division: "Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev demonstrates his toy cannon to Sen. Hubert Humphrey while Sen. Hugh Scott, at left, makes a picture of the scene. Humphrey greeted Brezhnev with salutation: 'So good to see you!'" (Washington Post, July 3)

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If you haven't yet seen "The Beard" by Michael McClure, walk, ride, drive, fly, scamper to Los Angeles' Century City Playhouse where it unfurls Sunday nights through July 27. The Burbage Theatre Ensemble production locates itself at 10508 W. Pico Blvd. For reservations, call (213) 839-3322.

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Finishing Telephone #10 in time for vacation getaway left editor Maureen Owen in a state mingling euphoria & exhaustion. But it's done, and we're the benefactors; for a dollar twenty-five gaining intimate peeks into the private lives of Jack Anderson, Regina Beck, Sandy Berrigan, Jim Brodey, Mimi Gross Grooms, Pierre Joris, Michael Lally, Gladys Knight & The Pips, Jamie MacInnis, Bob Rosenthal, Jack Spicer, Lorenzo Thomas, cover artist Britt Wilkie, a score more. Send money to 412 W. 110 St., Apt. 42, New York City 10025. "I misspelled 'Bockris-Wylie'," Maureen whispered. "I hope they don't notice."

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Our Boulder hotline finds Naropa Institute a buddhist beehive brimming with activity, entrances & departures too quick, too numerous to chart: Joanne Kyger, Diane diPrima set up respective shops in Ralph Waldo Emerson Apartments, read like loving thunder; then leave. Ted Berrigan zips in, slips out. Tales of belly dancers, all night parties. Robust, rotund Philip Whalen bubbles in, gradually disperses among the elements. "Fixing dinner here", Anne Waldman, "is a major event".

Triumphant, Gregory Corso arrives, presents Chogyam Trungpa with a green plastic magic wand that glows in the dark; dives into nonstop schedule of poetry-readings, poker-playing, mad jabbering with visiting eastern potentates. Rinpoche engages William Burroughs in learned disquisition on whether one can properly retreat with a typewriter in tow. Burroughs believes one can; Rinpoche doubts it. Eventually, Rinpoche offers Burroughs dispensation for his typewriter; Burroughs offers to go into the woods Smith-Corona-less. Final resolution: no one knows.

Thirty hours a week of classes, a hundred students keep Poetics Academy professors Waldman & Allen Ginsberg busy, tired, scarcely able to take an Independence Day break. Yet both enthuse; Anne about reading to resident dancer Barbara Dilley's accompaniment & Allen about teaching Shelley, gathering with Gregory & Anne & W.S. Merwin to read "Ode to the West Wind" aloud, each of them, to illuminate it that way.

Reports drifting east from students say it all sings.

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Poetry readings continue at Naropa, in the persons of John Ashbery & W.S. Merwin (July 21); Larry Fagin & David Meltzer (July 28); Kenward Elmslie & Ron Padgett (August 4); Ginsberg, Corso, & Waldman (August 9); Peter Orlovsky & Jackson Mac Low (August 11); and locals Jack Collum, Reed Bye, Marc Campbell, & Sidney Goldfarb plus import card-sharks Lewis MacAdams & Michael Brownstein (August 18).

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Ms. Susan McCarthy & Ms. Dale Stoneman will perform dance impressions of famous American fishes in front of the Santa Cruz City Hall the evening of Saturday, July 26; beginning at dusk.

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Bobby Dylan wasn't the only person who thought Patti Smith was dynamite at the Other End.

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Latest Capra chapbook is The Disorderly Poet, authored by Edouard Roditi, & available from 631 State Street, Santa Barbara, California 94115.

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Wednesday afternoon readings occur five times this summer at the Whitney Museum. On July 23, Charles Reznikoff & Bob Nichols appear; succeeded by Russell Edson, Hugh Seidman, & John Yau (July 30); Al Lee, Diane Wakoski, & Nathan Whiting (August 6); Richard Grossinger, Geoff Hewitt, & John Tagliabue (August 13); and Joseph Bruchac, Bob Hershon, & Lyn Lifshin (August 20). A dollar admission; readings, in the lower gallery, begin at 12:30 p.m.

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And may all her children be Pakistani: Indira Gandhi wins this month's Watergate Award, for chomping on the civil liberties of every Indian, proving a cancer can grow on any presidency.

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Best newspaper caption, international division: The Hindustan Times sidestepped censorship by salvaging a week-old wire service photo of a Japanese class for the handicapped, printing it prominently on its front page, simply titled: "Unable to speak, he uses sign language to tell the story to deaf-mutes in the audience."

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New Directions stands behind Minds Meet, Walter Abish's latest book; \$3.45 at your local bookshop.

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Indecent Exposure (NAL, \$1.25) by Susan Quist is a mouthful.

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Eagle-eyed Newsletter readers note that if Herman Melville did indeed pick up his monthly government paychecks at the Customs House in Battery Park (as claimed last issue), he did so posthumously: Melville turned in his earth shoes in 1891, sixteen years before the Customs house was built. Neatest trick of the fin-de-siecle, as they say.

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Reprint honors go to David H. Charney's Magic: The Great Illusions Revealed & Explained, Quadrangle's \$9.95 resurrection of a seventy year old classic.

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The Adult Life of Toulouse Lautrec is the most recent outgrowth from the over-active cranium of The Black Tarantula, alias Kathy Acker. This adorable little sex & mayhem pamphlet is available for a dollar, change, c/o The Project.

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The new number of Painted Bride Quarterly features Margaret Gibson, Gerard Malanga, John Tagliabue, Cesare Pavese translated, Joel Colsten, Randal Rupert, other souls. A dollar fifty in public places, or from 527 South Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19147.

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Ted Berrigan's A Feeling for Leaying and Rochelle Kraut's Circus Babys are Frontward Books' first contribution to arts & letters. Graced by original Kraut crayon drawings, the books bring \$1.50 at ethnic restaurants or from 437 E. 12 Street, Apt. 17, New York 10009.

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Due this month from Penman Press is Gerard Malanga's Rosebud, launch book for a series which will eventually include books by Ginsberg, Eberhart, Eichenberg, and William Saroyan. Five dollars from Michael McCurdy, Old Sudbury Road, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773.

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Ed Ch To

The Sara Teasdale Memorial Fund is now accepting submissions for two annual awards. The first, a prize of thirty dollars, for the best poem including the lines:

"I want to see again in the eyes of youth  
the gleam of the beast of prey."

The second, a prize of twenty dollars, for the best poem entitled:

"On the Plumpness of the Northern Peoples"

Entries should be sent to the Sara Teasdale Memorial Fund, c/o The Newsletter no later than September 1, 1975. The contest is open to poets of all nationalities but only poems written in English stand a chance of winning. Results will be announced on October 15, 1975.

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The Art of Love, Kenneth Koch's book of poems, has been released by Random House. A dollar ninety five. Recommended.

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"Time of the Assassins", a monthly column penned by William Burroughs, appears in the August Crawdaddy. Discreet rumor-mongers claim that at some point during the series, Burroughs will unveil a preliminary sketch for a Field Theory of Word. Meanwhile, such topics as the Psychological Stress Evaluator, eighteenth century pirate communities in Central America, laser truths, remain on tap.

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Milk Quarterly 8 arrives, sizzling from Chicago, bearing unambiguous gifts, wonderful poems from Aram Saroyan, Allen Ginsberg, Lewis MacAdams, David Henderson, Lorenzo Thomas, oldie-but-goodie Richard Crashaw, Peter Schjeldahl, Alice Notley, Anselm Hollo, and rotating editor Darlene Pearlstein. A dollar twenty five through America's disintegrating postal system; 2394 Blue Island, Chicago, Illinois 60608.

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The summer installment of Gay Sunshine features Taylor Mead & Peter Orlovsky interviews, John Wieners poetry, Joe Brainard artwork. Convince your local newstand vendor to stock this diverting tabloid, or send three quarters to P.O. Box 40397, San Francisco, California 94140.

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Decked by a Philip Guston cover, Fire Exit folds open three times, offers up poems by Alfred Starr Hamilton, Rebecca Brown, Thomas Meyer, Charles Simic, John Yau, Stratis Haviaras, John Wieners, its editor Bill Corbett's best wishes. For only fifty cents from 9 Columbus Square, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

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The Maximus Poems: Volume 3 (Viking, \$8.95) and The Post Office: A Memoir of His Father (Grey Fox, \$3.00) are two Charles Olson books retrieved from the ebb tide by loving archivists.

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John Ashbery, Kenneth Koch, Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, Ron Padgett, Ed Sanders, Frank O'Hara, Helen Adam, Alfred Starr Hamilton, David Meltzer, Charles North, Mary Ferrari, Ted Greenwald, Michael Palmer, John Wieners, Tony Towle, and others invite you to read their work in Adventures in Poetry 12, just published. Copies available from editor Larry Fagin, 437 E. 12 St., New York 10009. Two dollars each.

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The Funny Place, Richard Snow's Coney Island steeplechase-epic, and Bruce Marcus' Muck Arbour: The Speculations of William Trainor emerge from J. Philip O'Hara Books, 20 East Huron, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Five ninety five, hardcover; two ninety five, paperback; worth it.

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Regular readers of City Moon break out in hives, list to portside, become transvestite New York bag-women, achieve beatific vision. If any of these possibilities seem inviting, hook yourself to this lunar module by sending five crisp bills to P.O. Box 842, Canal Street Station, New York 10013, for at least eight issues; a year's subscription. Highly recommended: more than five white dwarfs for this one.

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8:30, the magazine offspring of Lewis Warsh's Thursday night workshop, boasts a line-up of future stars: Rebel Owen, Guy Gautier, Maggie Staiger, Michael Polizzi, Pat Jones, Robin Messing, Diane Raintree, Bill Kushner, Richard Edson, Jim Drummond and Yuki Hartman, among others. \$1.00 at bookstores; free on request c/o The Poetry Project.

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Sheltered Life, Charlotte Carter's first book, appears imminently in bookshops or from Angel Hair Books, Box 257, Peter Stuyvesant Sta., NYC 10009. Cover by Raphael Soyer. \$1.50.

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Happy birthday John Ashbery! July 28!

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The Newsletter naps, reawakens in October, expanded, revitalized under the deliberate craftsman's hands of new editor Ted Greenwald. I'm not disappearing; my body grows more agile.

Editing these two years has been an immense honor, an exhausting pleasure. Thanks, hugs to all my families. Summer outside.

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from MORRIS

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The head of a giant is up in the sky--the moon  
his body like a golden mummey cooling in the water  
he has a cotton bandage around his head  
misteriously moves to his lips and then to his jaw  
On this New Jersey river at 5 a.m. I have a fantisy  
of making a movie for us young people to let in free  
It dont seem right to let the sun burry us  
5 a.m., working, dressed in white, like a standing upright cigaret  
that will come to ashes under this new days sun  
On the drive the cars go by  
The nurse in charge is asleep forgetting clean  
I have to work  
must fill the ink wells  
--I'll put this red rose in the ink well--  
its the only immediate sense-I can see on this mental ward  
I never came across a mental patient who said he was Whitman  
On the ward the pts. have dreams about keys  
O but the locks scattered throught the hospital!  
Going off duty, handing over my keys--thinking  
what treasure am I giving up?

Peter Orlovsky  
c. 1959

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TO PHIL WHALEN  
c/o Zen Center  
300 Page St  
S.F. Ca.

First Class Mail