

THE POETRY PROJECT NEWSLETTER

No. 24 1 Apr. 1975

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

William Burroughs, Gregory Corso, Allen Ginsberg, and Peter Orlovsky will appear April 17 at Columbia's Macmillan Hall, remaking, updating, expanding the already legendary 1959 "Night at Columbia", when the beats blitzed the world, thrilling Diana Trilling against her will. The four have never appeared together on the same stage.

Held under the joint auspices of Dharmadhatu & Barnard's MacAc Council, the reading will begin at 8:00 p.m., but be early. A \$2.50 contribution is requested. Macmillan Hall locates itself at 117 St. & Broadway.

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Other Thursday MacAc Spring readers include Keith Richard-look-alike Patti Smith (April 3); Mark Strand & James Reiss (April 10); and Bill Berkson & Lewis Warsh (April 24). Barnard Hall, directly across from Macmillan, is the scene of these festivities. Contribution: a dollar. Starting time: 8:00 p.m.

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The Poetry Project has things up its sleeves, too. Galway Kinnell & Clayton Eshleman share a podium, some sarsaparilla, Wednesday, April 2. Then, on the 9th, Lindy Hough, hubby Richard Grossinger emerge from remote Vermont forests to regale us with poetry & prose. Keith Abbott & Jim Gustafson read April 16, followed one week later (April 23) by Californians Michael Palmer & David Meltzer. A dollar contribution, 8:30 p.m.

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Lawrence Ferlinghetti makes a rare visit East this month, stopping off at St. Mark's, Wednesday, April 30, for an evening's poetry, the pause that refreshes. Two dollars. At 8:30.

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Flaming Youth, featuring budding rock stars Allen Ginsberg & Peter Orlovsky, will perform at the Church, Monday, April 14, at 8:30 p.m. Two dollars gives you a seat, something to tell your grandkids.

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Meanwhile, Harper & Row offers Harry Mathews' The Sinking of the Odradek Stadium and Other Novels (\$12.50/\$5.95), a rare treat, grouping not only out-of-print fictions The Conversions and Tlooth, but also Mathews' more recent Sinking. Plus an attractive cover drawing by Jim Dine. Recommended.

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Any more
delectable
concern

Friendly John Giorno tells all in an exclusive Gay Sunshine interview, alternately scathing & affectionate. Also featured in the Spring issue are poems by Giorno, Lorca & Wieners, an interview with Charles-Henri Ford, articles, and ribaldry. Seventy-five cents in select bookstores or from P.O. Box 40397, San Francisco, California 94140.

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Irish Musicians by Terence Winch deserved mention here long ago. A dollar ninety five from O Press, c/o Michael Lally, 1908 Florida Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

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And this month's Andy Warhol one-upmanship award goes to Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn, who not only accepted a lifetime supply of ball point pens from the Bic Pen Corporation, but confided that he prepares all his mss. with the Bic F/29 Fine Point Model. (Take that, you Commie slave-masters.)

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Due late April from Adventures in Poetry are Lines For the New Year (Poems 1963-65) by Tony Towle, with a cover by Allan D'Arcangelo; and For the 82nd Airborne, poems by Rebecca Brown, with a drawing by Robert Sargeant. Two bills apiece from 437 E. 12 St., New York City 10009.

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Juan Hamill & Barbara Kruger read from their respective works, Thursday, April 17, at Artists' Space, corner of Wooster & Houston. 8:00 p.m.

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Glimpses of Joel Oppenheimer's The Woman Poems leave us thirsting. Now Bobbs-Merrill promises a late April release. \$7.95, hardcover; \$4.95, paperback.

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With some justification, George Quasha complains about the groupings of names in the April Newsletter capsule on his Active Anthology. He sees the differentiation made between "Olson's brood" and "others" as artificial. "Even the New York Times Book Review would be more sensitive to distinctions than this", he argues. "Rothenberg barely read Olson until we started America: A Prophecy and Economou always kept his own distance. Of those mentioned (as Olson's "rightful heirs") only Kelly and Stein show the Olson influence in their work. I came very late to Olson's work...and I think it's unlikely that Olson would have wanted my name among his 'brood'. In short, the Active Anthology is NOT an Olsonian publication."

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Duncan Hines recommends: Dual-Art rulers; Monteverdi's Il Ritorno d'Ulisse (Harnoncourt on Telefunken); Chelsea Vacuum Cleaner Co. (for rebuilt Electrolux); Red Grooms at Brooke Alexander (26 E. 78 St.); A Letter for Queen Victoria (Anta Theater) and the text (English & French, \$5, at the theater, or through The Byrd Hoffman Foundation); Monty Python's new series (starting April

o); containers & wrappings at Japan House; Fleetwood Letter Service: The Ambidextrous Universe by Martin Gardner (NAL, \$1.25); "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore"; Although by Miroslav Holub (Grossman, \$1.50); Brice Marden at the Guggenheim; Hotel Perreyve in Paris.

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Visiting firepeople Bill Berkson & Lynn O'Hare will need a place to stay May 1-14. Prospective benefactors, contact The Project.

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Just out from Telephone Books is Joshua Norton's Pool, \$1.00@, at florists or from 412 W. 110 St., #42, New York City 10025.

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Prolific Ted Greenwald authored the just-published Miami, two dollars from Doones Press, 133 1/2 East Wooster, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, and The Life, spanking new from Big Sky Books, Box 272, Bolinas, California 94924, for a couple of bucks.

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The Maintains by Clark Coolidge is difficult, but delicious. A This Press book, distributed for \$3.00@ from Serendipity Books, 1790 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California 94709.

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Thoughts to live by, #7: "The mereness of mortality is not in degrees."--H.R. Haldemann.

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Women/Poems III boasts works by Marge Piercy, Mary Selby Ferrari, Adrienne Rich, and Jean Boudin, among others. One dollar at quality bookshops or from Celia Gilbert, 107 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass. 02140.

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Black Sparrow continues its output of distinctive, post-modern paperbacks. This month's entries in the arts & leisure derby include Median Flow: Poems 1943-1973 by Theodore Enslin, Stephen Stepanchev's Mining the Darkness and Sherril Jaffe's book of stories, fetchingly entitled Scars Make Your Body More Interesting. Each book, \$4.00. (Also available in hardcover, \$15.00@) Looming in the future are volumes by Spicer, Blackburn, D.H. Lawrence, Reznikoff, Rakosi, Oates, & Eshleman. P.O.B. 25603, Los Angeles, California 90025.

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Andrei Codrescu's The Life & Times of an Involuntary Genius (Braziller, \$7.95) traces its author from a Transylvanian childhood to eventual total immersion in the East Village art scene. Suggested springtime reading.

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Three Monday night readings occur this month in the Penthouse Restaurant of the Museum of Modern Art. Jerome Rothenberg, Charles Reznikoff, & John Wiener appear April 7, with George Economou in charge of introductions. Reading April 14 will be Helen Adam, Anne Waldman, & Rebecca Wright, with Paul Violi doing the honors. Finally, on April 21, Larry Fagin will m.c. an evening with Lewis Mac-Adams, David Meltzer, & Carter Ratcliff. Admission is free, drinks are optional, seating is limited. Time is 6:30 p.m.

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Maureen Owen's No-Travels Journal is high-spirited & healthy, a pleasure from Hugh Kepets' cover to cover. One dollar & fifty from Cherry Valley Editions, Box 303, Cherry Valley, N.Y. 13320.

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Alcheringa, a magazine of ethnopoetics, resurfaces any minute with an issue center-staging Gary Snyder, Anita Barrow, Charles Doria, George Quasha, Jaime de Angulo, Jerome Rothenberg, even the first full English translation of a Babylonian creation myth. Yours for \$3.50 from Boston University Scholarly Publications, 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass. 02215. Also, Alcheringa is searching for mss. for its next issue, "to be devoted, in large part, to contemporary response, in poetic & essay form, to ancient & tribal poetries". Editorial offices are at Boston University, 270 Bay State Road, Boston, Mass. 02285.

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The Vanishing Rotating Triangle Press, under the imprint of Viper's Tongue Books, is priming, just ready to publish the complete Childlike Life of the Black Tarantula by, of course, The Black Tarantula. Racy, crazy, & overdue. Still persisting, a special prepublication offer of \$3.00 a copy. Also available from T.V.R.T. is Amour A Mort by Cesar Moro, elegantly translated by Frances Le-fevre Waldman. Four dollars@. Send money, stamps, slugs, your mother's jewels to 25 E. 4 St., New York City 10003.

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Poet-film fan Regina Beck offers Photo Screen scoop that Charlton Heston "swaggers more than usual these days and seems unduly arrogant." "But then," the film mag opines, "what should you expect of an actor who's played two geniuses, one cardinal, three Presidents, and two saints?"

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Saturday afternoon poetry at Dr. Generosity's (Second Avenue, corner 73 St.) commences its April schedule with Ken Irby & George Quasha on the 5th. Then Phillips Appleman & Lopate (April 12); John Duffy, supplemented by open readers (April 19); and Harvey Bialy & Chuck Stein (April 26). Initiation begins at 2 p.m.

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In a letter dated "3/23/75", Tony Towle threatened the Newsletter editor with extreme bodily harm if he did not mention that on Sunday, April 20 at 3 p.m., Towle will read with Lewis Gardner at the Fugue, 16 St. & First Avenue. I will not be intimidated. Admission is free.

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WBAL,
p.m. Co-pr
of verse

WBAI, 99.5 on your FM dial, features poetry every Tuesday evening at 8:45 p.m. Co-producers Susan Howe & Paul Oppenheimer cram their half-hour slot full of verse nuggets, promising Charles Reznikoff, Maureen Owen for openers.

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Boston Blackie suggests: The Red Sox at Fenway; Michael Palmer reading at Emerson College, May 1; Frederick Manfred's Lord Grizzly; Arturo Barea's The Forging of a Rebel; Nichols Garden Nursery (1190 North Pacific Highway, Albany, Oregon 97321) for its catalogue of herb seeds & plants; finish of the Boston Marathon at the Prudential Center, April 15; not least, Lorine Niedecker's T&G.

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Amidst reports of mind-boggling record offers ("Gonna be a millionaire", she giggled), Patti Smith highstepped her way through her CBGB engagement, showing the Bowery some style.

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A weekend of readings at Boston University's George Sherman Student Union leads off, Friday, April 25, at 8 p.m., with Paul Metcalf, Paul Hannigan, & Fanny Howe. On Saturday, at 2 p.m., Liz Fenton, Rosellen Brown, & John Wieners make appearances, followed that evening at 8 by Grace Paley & Charles Simic. Sunday afternoon's slate offers John Cheever & Denise Levertov at 2.

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Converging on Boulder, Colorado's Naropa Institute this summer will be swarms of poets: William Burroughs, Ted Berrigan, John Ashbery, Joanne Kyger, Diane diPrima, Ron Padgett, Gregory Corso, Larry Fagin, Ed Sanders, Jackson MacLow, & Philip Whalen, not to mention Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics full professors Allen Ginsberg & Anne Waldman. Sessions run June 9-July 12 & July 21-August 23. Please, inquiries to Admissions, Naropa Institute, 1441 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

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Workshoppers exchange advice, cryptic phrases, sappy shoulders, three times a week in the coincidentally-named "workshop room" to the left of the main entrance of the Church. Charles North leads his troops, Monday evenings at 8; Lewis Warsh arrives Thursdays at approximately 8:30 p.m.; and the Tuesday gathering is conducted by Bernadette Mayer & The Living Rosary, at 8:30 p.m.

For Project information, try dialing 674-0910. Office hours are Mondays (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), Tuesdays (2-8 p.m.), Wednesdays (2-5 p.m.), and Thursdays (10 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4:30-6 p.m.).

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Some/Release Press need an associate editor. "We can't offer any pay", editor Larry Zirlin confesses, "but it is a sort of an apprenticeship situation: you'll learn a hell of a lot about editing, publishing, and production." Both clerical & editorial duties are involved. For a place on the masthead, write Some, 311 W. 91 St., New York 10024 or call 362-5477 & demand to speak to Alan.

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Accredited members of the counter culture may participate in an international meeting of their brethren to be held at the Biblioteque Nationale Du Quebec Palais Du Commerce, April 21-27. Invited are Americans John Giorno, Charles Plymell, Ed Sanders, Mary Beach, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, & Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Frenchies Danial Biga, Claude Pelieu, Jean-Louis Brau, & Michel Lancelot, and Canadians Raoul Duguan, Paul Chamberland, Lucien Francoeur, Patrick Straram, Dennis Vanier, Claude Peloquin, & Leonard Cohen. For information, contact Marc Desjardins, 4015 Patineau, Montreal, Quebec. Telephone: 514-521-1724.

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Implore your local bookseller to order copies of Revolution of the Word: A New Gathering of American Avant Garde Poetry 1914-1945 (Seabury, \$12.95), edited by Jerome Rothenberg. From Walter Conrad Arensberg to Louis Zukofsky, it covers the field.

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Wednesday, April 30 will be a day filled with activity at St. Mark's, beginning with the formal ecclesiastical opening of the churchyard and ending that evening with the Ferlinghetti reading. Betweentimes will be various church gatherings, a poetry reading in the churchyard, the dedication of a tree to the memory of St. Mark's parishioner W.H. Auden, a dance performance by Meredith Monk in Theatre Genesis, and a reception. Everyone is welcome; the ceremony begins at 4:30 p.m.

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Upcoming Monday night performances at the Church include an open reading (April 7); Rebecca Rass, Phil Smith, & Eugene Williams (April 21); and Margot de Silva, Michael Sappol, & Suzanne Kauffman (April 28). These performances are free, beginning at 8:15 p.m. in the parish hall. (The April 14 Flaming Youth-Ginsberg-Orlovsky performance will take place in the main church and, as noted, will cost two dollars.)

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Meanwhile, chief performer Ed Friedman finds time to pursue the arts while vacationing in California. "I have a sunburn", he reports, "and have at last perfected my backhand."

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The Alternative Press, formerly of Detroit, has moved to Grindstone City, Michigan, population 44. Ann & Ken Mikolowski are the owners & sole proprietors there of a printing press that produces a charming & attractive array of broadsides, postcards, bookmarks, foldouts, whatever. Recent packages include new work by Creeley, Snyder, di Prima, Berkson, Hollo, Ginsberg, Waldman, Owens, Bly, Notley, Guston, & Berrigan. Three mailings, ten dollars. The zip code is 48467.

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A Suzanne Harris show is on view at the Whitney Museum, Resources Center, 185 Cherry Street, April 1-15.

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A lending library, serving poets & the St. Mark's community, is opening in the workshop room. It needs books & people to read them. People with crowded bookshelves and/or hungry eyes should appear Tuesdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., or contact librarian Regina Beck, c/o The Project.

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Mudra/Zephyrus Image Magazine has just published a handsome bilingual edition of Robert Bly's translation of Ten Sonnets to Orpheus by Rainer Maria Rilke. Two dollars. Distributed by Book People.

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Edgar Allan Poe will be resurrected for two nights only at St. Mark's Theatre Genesis, Monday, April 7, and Tuesday, April 8. Conrad Pomerleau portrays Poe reminiscing, gabbing about politics, reading his poems, joking. A two dollar contribution. The show commences at 8:30 p.m.

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Rochelle Owens' He Wants Shih!, a play about civil war & human transformation in China, is pleasing audiences at the Gate Theatre, Second Avenue & 10 Street. Performances, Friday to Monday, until April 14.

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Manroot 10 is The Jack Spicer Issue; tributes, letters, poems to him, fifty pages of work by him, much of it previously unpublished. Robert Duncan, Stan Persky, Jess, George Bowering, & Larry Eigner are among the contributors. Four dollars from Manroot, Box 982, South San Francisco, California 94080.

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Everyone here heartily recommends the Byrd Hoffman/Robert Wilson production of "A Letter for Queen Victoria", at the Anta Theatre (245 W. 52 St., CI6-6270), four acts in three hours, a gradual unfolding of music, voice, & movement. Elegant music, composed by Alan Lloyd; scenery that steals away your breath; Queen Victoria (Wilson's Grandma Alma) pacing the stage, screaming for her pills; Christopher Knowles wandering through microscopically orchestrated scenes seeming to be the only human; whatever you remember, you will. Simply astonishing: this says go.

The Sundance Kid really is beautiful.

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COME APRIL

While the air is soft, before the thunder,
fourth graders with tattered notebooks haunt
the cuchifritos and their older brothers plague
a few stairwells crossing town to Nathan's
Eggplant bristles in sidewalk boxes on Avenue C
adjacent a larval well formed by an empty treebed
A smile in street cats' eyes could be any kind of dope
Voices universally spit out shrill colloquial jive
Regardless of her husky mastiff, Amos Rico asks
a young blonde in maxi passing the laundromat
if he might plunge his tongue in her timid chasm--
she doesn't answer, hardly looks, and her Fido
drops an enormous, awesomely firm turd at the crosswalk
The widow of an old pensioner passes at a shuffle
carefully steering her almost-empty shopping cart
She looks distrustfully at someone and tells herself "Everything's wrong!"
But the three school girls on this busy sidewalk
are still enchanted, with each other's dark prettiness
and the filth and cobbled avenue are for los otros

These streets are like clouds in the valley where I am giant
And I am not stoned-out in a silver garbage can about to
attempt the falls surrounding ponce or Candelabra!
Let me be overpowered by lecherous spring, as the busdriver
is, holding the door open an extra few moments, the more to
gander at two long, slim brown legs in candyapple hot-pants!
Naked to the toes, let me sweat the days longer, pausing
with aching tongue and dong in the unmistakable!
Bump Lulu in her toggle, peck a groove, squander tadpoles
bounce laughing down stoops of box springs, forget that
King Kong love will spoil, except for crazy slaves
except for juicy handicraft, clown to dawn!

-- John Godfrey

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TO _____



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300 Page St

S.F. Ca. _____

First Class Mail