City Greets Pope John Paul II

Papal Mass Heard by 1.3 Million

By ANDREW KDTTZMAN

PHILADELPHIA-Three of Philadelphia's four new subway stations, coming to Center City in 1979, will have a "very happy memory" of and were greeted by thousands of cheering Philadelphians at the airport, in South Philadelphia, and at a Mass in Logan Circle.

In his major speech of the day, after an estimated 1.3 million at the Mass, a basic ritual of the Catholic faith, the pope reiterated the message that the city's archbishop, Cardinal John Krol, had issued earlier in the day.

If the pope stopped off the airplane, "Stand by the line." It was greeted by Mayor Frank Rizzo, who later kissed the pontiff on the cheek. "I am truly pleased that you are here, in your city's midst," the pontiff said.

But students did show mild interest. "I Continued on page 3"

The platform on which the pope stood, looking much like a triumphant train station, was the scene of controversy last month when it was announced that local tax revenue would be used to finance its construction. The announcement at that time made it clear that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia would not pay for the station.

The platform was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and made of concrete. It was defined by a line of yellow and orange barriers, which stood about 3 feet high.

The platform was sewn with a blue cross.

The pontiff arrived in his own car and was driven to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, professionally the first of several public visits to the city.

The platform was built by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York City and was used for the first time in Philadelphia.

The pope said yesterday of the department - "I am truly pleased that you are here." The pontiff was welcomed by the city's archbishop, Cardinal John Krol, and the city's mayor, Frank Rizzo.

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Two University Students Staged Three Times In City Subway

By BETTY BROOK

The separate incidents were staged three times Tuesday night by bunches of teenagers, once on a subway car, once at the 13th Street stop and once on the platform at the Market Street stop.

The first attack occurred around midnight Tuesday on the Market Street subway platform. The victim, a female student, was approached by a group of three men, who held her down and made off with her purse.

The second attack occurred in a subway car, at the 13th Street stop. A male student was approached by a group of two men, who pulled a knife on him and stole his wallet.

The third attack occurred on a subway car, at the 13th Street stop. A female student was approached by a group of two men, who pulled a knife on her and stole her purse.

These incidents are part of a larger problem of muggings and robberies in the city, particularly in the subway system. The police have increased patrols and are working with the city council to find solutions.

The police are urging citizens to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity immediately. They are also warning students to avoid the subway system at night, if possible.

The police are seeking the public's help in identifying the suspects involved in these incidents. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the police department immediately.
City Halts Activity To View Ceremony

His Message Is Morality

Many people in the crowd were following the pope's schedule on their portable radio, breaking into cheers when it was announced that he had entered the city.

The pope, formerly Karol Cardinal Woytowicz of Poland, Poland, and his father, have been close friends since they met in Italy in 1956. This close friendship has been advanced at the main event.

Both men were received in the same day, June 26, 1957, and both men's ancestors can be traced to the same region of southern Poland, the Tatra Mountains.

This friendship has led to rumors that Krol may be promoted to an important Vatican post, but they have never been confirmed.

As a cardinal, the pope has visited Philadelphia twice before, in 1968 and 1974, as a gesture to the Catholic faith, but while a few actually went to see the pope yesterday, the University spent its time preparing for today's expected crowd near campus, when the Pope heads for the Civic Center to give a Mass for priest and laymen.

Campus Security scheduled every single one of its regularly scheduled events from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., bringing up with a number of students of Philadelphia's own school.

Because Franklin Field will open later for its upcoming football and basketball games, and the Pope's visit, it was decided that Franklin Field was not the best location for the pope's visit.

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January 9, 1979

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Crimson In Africa: No Place To Stay

By Doug Silver

DAY 47, January 1, 1979 Wednesday in Pretoria, South Africa.

I am now living in a motel at the City University of Dakar. The motel is located on a main road about a mile from La Grand Rue, in the middle of Dakar. Each day I go to the nearby University of Dakar to work on my research project. The motel is small and simple, with eight rooms and a small kitchen. The rooms are painted white and are furnished with two beds, a table, and a chair. The bathroom is small and has a stop-and-go water heater and a shower. The motel is owned by a Senegalese family and is run by a Senegalese manager. The motel is located near the University of Dakar and is convenient for students and faculty.

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University Fails To Save SAMP

By LISA GREEEN

Although the reason that SAMP faculty members have demanded a Jefferson program be a reality for students to be offered is clear health and safety reasons, the inclusion of other universities in the state to share SAMP facilities, faculty members who favor SAMP, would prefer to remain at the University rather than come to a career of SAMP which opened.

"I don't want to discard SAMP, but the housemaster, I have been negotiating with the University for three years. These are people who have been given lives to SAMP. They don't want to do just anything. We have to keep the good faith of the agreements carefully reflect the feelings of SAMP faculty members and administration. In interviews last week, they said that any option they would consider besides functioning after 1981 would have to include having mem-

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"Through the efforts of the Strauss's daughter, Susan, a Junior, in the University, we've been "delightful."

According to interviews with several SAMP administration, the option of a Jefferson program has been on the table for a few weeks.

"I'm trying to bring an honorable conclusion to SAMP," Gregorian said.

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You’re probably one of countless Philadelphians who thought that Pope John Paul II was not just a pope, but a rock star. You’ll be happy to hear that he was indeed a bit of both yesterday. He arrived in Philadelphia for the start of his 3-day visit, and was received with a massive welcome.

The Pope’s arrival was met with widespread enthusiasm. Thousands of people lined the streets to greet him as he traveled through the city. People sang, danced, and waved flags to show their support. The atmosphere was electric, and everyone was filled with joy and excitement.

**Bill Green**

**“Quit Talking, Let’s Do It!”**

Bill Green, a candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, has been vocal about his plans for the city. He recently spoke at a town hall event where he discussed his vision for the future of Philadelphia.

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The student media is wondering why the University administration is not doing more to foster a culture of reading and learning among its students. The student newspaper, The Undergraduate Times, has been running a series of articles on the importance of reading, highlighting the benefits of reading for personal growth and professional success. However, the University's administration has not responded to these articles or taken any action to support reading initiatives on campus.

Attention Graduate Students: Updates & Changes to Graduate Programs for the 2023-2024 Academic Year - GradaCat.

The University's graduate programs are undergoing significant changes for the upcoming academic year. Graduate students are encouraged to attend an introductory seminar on the changes to their programs, which will be held on the first day of classes. The seminar will cover the new requirements, as well as changes to course offerings and funding opportunities.

FSU Update: New Policies for Spring 2024 - GradaCat.

The University has implemented several new policies for the spring semester, including changes to the academic calendar, requirements for graduation, and procedures for students seeking financial aid. Graduate students are encouraged to review these changes and make any necessary adjustments to their plans for the upcoming term.

Funds Allotted To Build 38th Street Cable Link

By BETSY BINDER

The University's development department is hoping to begin laying electrical cables on 38th Street by the end of the year, with completion of the project expected by the spring of 2005. The $2 million project is funded by the Student Activities Fees, which will be used to support the new cable system.

The 38th Street Cable Link will provide high-speed Internet access to all University students, faculty, and staff. The project will involve the installation of fiber-optic cables along the length of 38th Street, from the northeast corner of campus to the southeast corner. The cable system will be designed to support the needs of the University's growing number of students and faculty who are using the Internet for research, teaching, and learning.

The University's development department is working with contractors to award bids for the project. The contractors will be responsible for the installation of the cables, as well as the design and construction of the cable system. The project is expected to take several months to complete, with the goal of providing high-speed Internet access to all University students, faculty, and staff by the spring of 2005.

Starting Soon Reading and Study Improvement Courses

20 evening Spring Seminars Offered

The University is offering a series of evening seminars on reading and study improvement for the spring semester. The seminars will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and are open to all University students and faculty.

The seminars will cover a range of topics, including effective note-taking, time management, and test-taking strategies. The seminars are designed to help students improve their reading and study skills, and are taught by experienced instructors.

The seminars will be held in the University's newly renovated reading and study improvement center, which features state-of-the-art technology and comfortable seating. The center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, and is available for all University students and faculty.

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It's only been a few months, but Tony Price is now light years away from the Ivy League. Last semester he had control with Georgetown (17th) and North Carolina. His latest is the adversity in his life and the knowledge that his days with the Detroit Pistons may be numbered.

Tony
A Rookie's Struggle With NBA Uncertainty

By JONATHAN LANSNER

DETROIT.-After all that he's been through, you wouldn't think I was ready for it. But I'm ready, and I'm ready for it to be tough. I'll be ready. I've been through it before. I'll be ready.

The Detroit Pistons are on the court tonight and the rookie who made his debut on Wednesday will be Tony Price. Price has been in the NBA for only a few months, but he's already become a household name.

Price's story is nothing new. He was drafted by the Pistons in the second round of the 1984 NBA draft. At 6'8" and 225 pounds, he was a power forward with the potential to be a long-term contributor for Detroit.

Price's journey to the NBA was a long one. He attended the University of Michigan and played four years of college basketball. He averaged 13.6 points and 10.8 rebounds per game, earning All-American honors.

He was selected by the Pistons in the second round of the draft, but his path to the NBA was not smooth. Price didn't make the team as a rookie and was sent to the Pistons' affiliate in the American Basketball Association (ABA) to develop his skills.

He averaged 20.4 points and 12.1 rebounds per game in the ABA, earning All-Star honors. He was later traded to the Pistons in 1986.

Price's time in the NBA was up and down. He played in 98 games over four seasons, averaging 13.7 points and 8.6 rebounds per game. He was a key contributor in the Pistons' 1989 NBA championship run.

Price's career continued in the NBA as a reserve player. He played in 236 games over eight seasons, averaging 10.7 points and 7.1 rebounds per game. He won three NBA championships with the Pistons.

Price retired from the NBA in 1999 and went on to play in the Mediterranean Basketball League. He played for two seasons, averaging 20.5 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.

Price is now a television analyst for the Pistons and is a mentor to young players, including his son, who is also a professional basketball player.

Price's story is a testament to perseverance and determination. He overcame adversity to reach the NBA and leave a lasting legacy on the court.

Rams Roll Past Stickwomen, 3-0

By GREGG SHERMER

WEST CHESTER, PA.-Last night the West Chester University women's ice hockey team defeated the University of Pittsburgh at the Schuster Ice Arena, 3-0. The Rams scored on a power play goal by sophomore forward Christine O'Donnell in the first period and added two more goals in the second period.

The Rams dominated the game from the start, outshooting the Stickwomen 34-10. They scored on a power play goal by O'Donnell and an empty net goal by sophomore goaltender Lindsay Caputo in the third period.

The win moves the Rams to 12-3-2 on the season and 4-1-0 in the Atlantic Hockey Association. The Stickwomen fall to 5-10-1 on the season and 1-3-0 in the AHA.

The Rams took control of the game early, outshooting the Stickwomen 10-1 in the first period. They took a 1-0 lead on a power play goal by O'Donnell at 15:01 of the first period.

In the second period, the Rams added two more goals on the power play, increasing their lead to 3-0. The Stickwomen were unable to capitalize on any of their nine power play opportunities.

The Rams outshot the Stickwomen 24-1 in the second period and dominated them throughout the game. They scored on a power play goal by O'Donnell at 18:01 of the second period and an empty net goal by Caputo at 19:21 of the third period.

The win moves the Rams to 12-3-2 on the season and 4-1-0 in the Atlantic Hockey Association. The Stickwomen fall to 5-10-1 on the season and 1-3-0 in the AHA.

The Rams will be back in action this weekend, taking on the University of Akron at the Schuster Ice Arena on Saturday and Sunday.

On net, Caputo had a stellar performance, allowing only two goals on 34 shots. She made a total of 32 saves in the game.

The Rams are currently in third place in the AHA, just one point behind first place Bentley College. They will look to improve their standing in the conference with back-to-back games against the university of Akron.

The Rams have scored 57 goals in 16 games this season and have scored at least three goals in 10 of those games. They are averaging 3.6 goals per game.

The Stickwomen have scored 37 goals in 16 games this season and have scored at least two goals in 11 of those games. They are averaging 2.3 goals per game.

The Rams will be looking to maintain their strong performance on the ice and continue their winning streak against the university of Akron.

DAVE SHERMAN

NETMEN STRUGGLE A BIT, THEN PASS BY WEST CHESTER STATE, 6-3

By STEVE SHERWYN

The Netmen's women's volleyball team had a bit of a struggle against the West Chester State Rams last night, but they were able to pull away in the end, winning 6-3.

In the first set, the Netmen were able to put together a strong performance, winning 30-27. However, the Rams came back in the second set to win 30-27, tying the match at 1-1.

In the third set, the Netmen were able to pull away, winning 30-24 to claim the victory.

The Netmen were led by senior captain Lisa Lewis, who had 10 kills and seven digs.

West Chester State was led by senior captain Sarah Davis, who had 13 kills and 14 digs.

The Netmen improve to 15-5 on the season, while the Rams fall to 8-12.

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I had a traumatic experience last week. For the first time in my life, I bought an outfit at full price. It wasn’t out of season, off the back of the truck, in a discount outlet, or from a Hong Kong tailor. No, it cost 100% of what Saks Fifth Avenue (the Saks Fifth Avenue) charges everyone.

I have come of age, and it is all due to an insurance company. Thanks, Liberty Mutual, I needed that. Let me explain. Some time ago the car that I was driving was broken into by a woman, or transvestite, of my height and build. I must presume so because a bag of my clothing was stolen, and nothing else was touched.

The items taken were among my favorites: a comfortable pair of worn-out pants; my invaluable pair of designer pants; my first stolen, and nothing else was touched.

Cat that I was driving was broken into an insurance company. Thanks. Charges everyone.

Anyway, the items stolen were solid game subjects. And to replace them I would take weeks, because there are no real sales this early in the season. (That is one drawback to the clearance method. One must postpone all interviews, dates, and other events requiring nice clothes until about six weeks into every season. It takes some getting used to, but can be done.)

So, forgive us, O Mighty Insurance Company, but we filed for the replacement cost of all the items stolen, even if they were a bit old and ragged. We received every penny for which we filed. And I have decided to take advantage of it.

My life is going through all sorts of changes, I just left my teens; I am about to enter the working world; I am thinking in terms of permanence. I guess paying full price for a suit is just another link in the chain of maturity. What will my mother say? “For that you paid $107?”

“Describe your fantasy date.”

Steve Alter: “A nice evening on a quai along the Seine with some nice wine and a little bit of grass. Not a waterbed, a nice cozy bear skin rug. Actually, a night with someone right under Ben Franklin and spend the evening afterwards sleeping on ‘We Lost.'”

Rich Highbloom: “I guess it would have to be going out with a girl, any girl, for an evening in the winter next to a fireplace with a bottle of wine and a cozy atmosphere.”

Mirwan Beydoun: “With a Brazilian chick. Long black hair, skin a little dark, exotic, wild, energetic. You want explicit details?”

Ann Knapp: “Hiking in the mountains with my boyfriend.”

Roland La Fontant: “That I can answer with no problem. A JAP, lavish hair, tight Sasson pants, Fiorucci top, and cowboy boots. We'd go to Xenon in New York and dance the night away, and after that we'd go to Plato's Retreat.”
Most people run for their health. James Fixx runs for big money as well.
by John Reiss

Twelve years ago James Fixx was like most 35-year-old men. He was unknown, unheralded, and completely out of shape. He smoked two packs of cigarettes a day. While he had once possessed the streak 170-pound body of a college tennis player, his weight ballooned to 214 pounds.

Today James Fixx runs between 10 and 15 miles a day; asserting that he feels as good as most 20-year-old college students, and has written The Complete Book of Running, which has become the runner’s bible.

What happened to change Fixx’s life so drastically? “At age 35, despite my physical condition, I could still play a pretty fair game of tennis,” says Fixx. “That’s why I got so angry when, in a little weekend game, I pulled a muscle in my leg. I was angry at my body. I felt it had betrayed me. I still thought of myself as an athlete.”

“So I started to run to strengthen my leg. I wasn’t very good at it and it hurt at first. But, I stuck with it and managed to shuffle a half-mile or so three or four times a week. Then, I began to see results. I stopped smoking, began to lose weight (I now weigh 159), and I really began to feel better. Both physically and mentally.”

The big turning point for Fixx came in his very first race in Greenwich, Conn., his hometown. “It was a five-mile race which I though I was sufficiently prepared for. Anyway, out of 100 runners I was 160th.”

He could not understand why he had fared so poorly. “I’ve always been an excellent researcher so I headed straight for the library.” The result of this effort was his 1977 book, which the author calls “the first extensive exploration into the territory of running. Practically institutionalizing the nascent sport, the book is divided into three sections: “The Whys of Running,” “The Art of Running;” and “The World of Running.” It covers such diverse topics as the effect of the magazine Runner’s World (“It is the best and most influential running publication ever devised by the minds of men”), and the existence of the World’s Sickest Running Club (compromised of those runners who take up the sport after they have had a heart attack).

Fixx went to Oberlin College, where he majored in 18th century English literature. Once out of school, he was hired as a beat reporter for a Sarasota, Florida newspaper. His career flourished, as he went on to become the senior editor of the old Life magazine, managing editor of Horizon Magazine and editor-in-chief of McCall’s. Finally, Fixx began to write. His first two efforts were games for the super-intelligent. The Complete Book was his third. Bringing him international fame, the book made him a near-dirty to 20 million runners and a scourge to 20 million who do damn sick of being told that they too should be runners.

The author has a very difficult time explaining why his book has received so much attention. Fixx admits that it was published at a propitious time. “When I wrote this book there was nothing like the present running boom. I didn’t set out to write a statement on an important subject. I set out to write a book to satisfy my own interest and hopefully to sell a few copies (it has sold over 1 million to date).”

“I think Americans have always wanted to be fit, to look good and to feel energetic. Excises like the Canadian Air Force Execises are plain boring. Running is like taking a walk. You can go pretty places, you can enjoy the scenery.”

What if I giving people? “I’m showing them an exercise that will do everyone worlds of good, and yet, at the same time it is not a hard exercise. It will make you feel younger than you have ever been. Sure, you can swim or bicycle, but, in order to run you don’t need any equipment and you can do it anytime you want.”

The Complete Book of Running

My book also had such an impact because I gave people hope that they could do it. There had to be an interest in health, a willingness to devote time to the pursuit of health. But, a catalyst was also necessary. My book came out and I showed the younger and look better. Sure, you can enjoy the scenery.

Moreover, Fixx’s book is successful because it is check-full of pertinent information. It will add to one’s store of running knowledge whether one is a novice or a marathoner.

“I’m just a self-appointed expert,” he says. “I had no more knowledge about running when I started than anyone else. However, by doing a professional, comprehensive research job I charted out previously un mapped territory. Whatever authority I possess comes from the fact that I wrote a book which is accurately and completely researched.”

Yet, Fixx is a true devotee of running. Despite deadlines, numerous personal appearances, family commitments (he has four children) and coast- to-coast traveling, he has missed a day of running since his book came out. His usual distance covered is 10 or more miles.

“Some people ask me how I integrate running into my life. I try to do it at times when no one will really notice. I don’t watch TV; I work hard; I play hard; and I don’t waste time. Students can run. It’s just essential that they carefully allocate their time. It’s not always easy, but it can be done and it is definitely worth it,” he says.

The success achieved by The Complete Book has not had appreciable effects on Fixx’s life. “I have always led a quiet life, which for all intents and purposes has not been altered by the publication of my book. I write and run and really go out very little. I am recognized more frequently than I had ever been, but I think that is from my appearances on the ‘Tonight Show’ and from my American Express commercial. People say I don’t look like the picture on the jacket cover of my book.”

The author has himself competed in, and finished, six Boston Marathons, and has experienced the infamous “wall” (the typical runner hits the wall, the point where his body simply quits, and the rest of the run must be made purely on spirit, at about 20 miles). “I was running in the 1978 Charlton marathon. A young strong runner passed me and breezily commented that he wasn’t worried about the wall; he thought it was all psychological. Around 22 miles I choked by him and he yelled, ‘It’s not in your head.’”

On the other hand, he has never experienced the runner’s high. “A lot of my runs can be a struggle, and I can’t say that I’ve ever reached that euphoric level known as the runner’s high, but when I am done running, I feel exhilarated and much more alert.

“Interestingly enough I never know what kind of run I’m going to have. Sometimes I’ll feel terrific and expect a superb run and when I get out on the road I may experience a very difficult run. On the other hand, sometimes I’ll feel awful. It is a struggle just to lace my shoes and then I’ll go out there and have a beautifully carefree run. Never not run because you don’t feel you will have a good run. You just never know.”

Fixx, unlike many runners, does not concern himself with the top-rated running shoes. Magazines such as Runner’s World publish annually the results of elaborate scientific tests conducted on the many brands of running shoes. “I happen to wear low-rated shoes. They’re clearly not made well, but I tried the highly rated shoes and these work much better for me. Any runner should try as many shoes as possible to find out which ones work best for him. Try friends’ shoes. Try the shoes with and without socks. Ratings are convenient, but I don’t think much of them. You have to find out for yourself.”

Fixx is currently racing against an imminent deadline to complete a second running book which will deal with the most recent advances in the study of running. “Running is a ceaselessly advancing sport. In the last three years I have witnessed a quantum leap in the amount of scientific research devoted to the study of running. Most interestingly, the most recent advances in the study of running have come in the area of women’s running, where their records have been falling significantly faster than the men’s records.”

And more advances will certainly bring more fame to Fixx. However, keeping with his low profile, he will be taking it all in stride.
RESTAURANTS
Fine Food and Knicknacks Too

by Lesley Jane Stroll

Astral Plane offers an escape from the grayness of the city dining, providing an atmosphere that combines an interesting collection of knickknacks and memorabilia with sophisticated elegance. A large parachute covers the ceiling of the downstairs dining room and helps create a warm feeling. There is a dining room upstairs which is pleasant, but if you have a choice, sit downstairs. Wherever you do sit, an enjoyable meal awaits.

You may be surprised that, in a fashionable restaurant like this, none of the silver or dishes match, all the tablecloths are different, and even the glasses vary. Even though the setting seems haphazard, however, the food is not. So much attention is given to its preparation that it is sometimes at the expense of the diner. One might feel occasionally ignored. But poor service at Astral Plane is compensated amply by the food itself.

Gazpacho soup ($2.00) is always on the menu, as well as a daily special. The gazpacho, a chilled vegetable soup from Spain, is both unique and excellently prepared. This soup can tend to get spicy, but here the seasoning, which included cayenne pepper and savory, was perfect. For those who prefer a hot soup, spinach is offered, a thick creamy soup of which even “Popeye” would approve.

Solar Salad ($3.00) was the most interesting of the greenery lot. It is a vegetable salad of cauliflower, romaine, and bibb lettuce, mushrooms, chickpeas, capers and other seasonal vegetables. Once again the spices in the simple dressing enhanced the taste of the fresh vegetables.

Appetizers are a tough choice to make. They all sound worth a try. The Shrimps Romanoff ($4.50) are wrapped in a spring roll with fruit sauce. The Clams Posillipo are worth ordering just for the smell. The taste is sweet and tender but the smell of garlic, lemon, limes, and red wine easily could be mistaken for perfume. The crepe “Cozumel” ($3.00) is stuffed with fresh seafood and covered in a light onion sauce. The filling was mixed seafood, but was a bit heavy on the onions. The crepe shell, which tasted like a flapjack, needed a lot of work.

The seafood garden salad as an entree ($7.00) is a tossed salad complete with shrimp, mussels, and other fresh seafood. The homemade mayonnaise sauce is a nice touch. It is a good choice for a light dinner. Steak Escargot ($10.30) is a heavy meal, but give it a try (remember: there are always doggy bags). Fillet tips stuffed with escargot offered with a well-made bearnaise sauce is nothing short of delicious.

Bouillabaise ($12.00 when offered) is amazing because of all the ingredients that go into this single soup. Because many of the small fish and crustaceans that are part of the original ingredients can only be found in the Mediterranean, substitutions must be made, but Astral makes tasty ones, including salmon and shrimp. Also available is a Chicken Tropicana ($8.00), a boneless breast sauteed with honey, curry, nuts and fresh fruits. Roasted Duckling ($10.00) looked good as well. It is stuffed with root vegetables during roasting and finished with a fresh fruit sauce.

One of the nice things about Astral Plane is that careful ordering can result in a check that is under $30.00 for two. This is a rarity for such a relaxed and enjoyable dinner.
Books

Bizarre 'Rendezvous'

by B.J. Turtletaub

Secret Rendezvous
Kobo Abe
179 pp. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. $8.95

Secret Rendezvous is Kobo Abe's seventh book to be translated into English from his native Japanese. According to the liner notes, Mr. Abe was educated as a doctor, but has never practiced medicine. His extensive medical knowledge is utilized from page one, as he weaves a mysterious tale of darkened hospital rooms and rare, outrageous diseases.

The main character, known only by his code number M-73F, is disturbed in the middle of the night by a pair of ambulance attendants who hurriedly bundle up his wife and take her away. Immediately the mystery begins: why didn't M-73F put up some sort of resistance to protect his wife? Later one learns that he really doesn't care "awholeholelovalot" about his wife.

The following morning — yes, he waited until the morning to seek help — M-73F meets with a perverse "chronically impotent" doctor referred to as the "horse". From the doctor, M receives clues as to his wife's disappearance and current whereabouts. As one immediately suspects, the "horse" is full of manure, and sends M on a wild goose chase through the hospital. On his chase, M crosses paths with all sorts of "monsters", who are actually people suffering from the most bizarre diseases. One of these monsters is a thirteen-year-old chronic masturbator and nymphomaniac in room eight, whose bones liquify every time she stands up. (This is called osteolysis for all so inclined to care about such details.) Her father, whose lower half eventually becomes the "horse's" hind quarters, is chief of security at the hospital. His wife, after suffering from watafuki disease, becomes a red quilt. This disease causes cotton to be excreted from the victim's pores. The chief and the nymph were "picking cotton" every day until she died. Then they made her into a quilt. You get the picture.

Unfortunately this lunatic starts off at such a furious pace that Kobo has trouble sustaining the laughter and interest. What starts off as a raucous, farcical, black-humored story quickly dissolves into an almost surreal account of M-73F's "nightmarish" experiences, though often alluded to, great philosophical revelations never materialize and we are left feeling slighted. For a book written by what the liner notes call "one of Japan's greatest living writers", Secret Rendezvous is a disappointment... but, then again, there is that "woman with the strongest and longest orgasm" competition...

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Bellantine Books

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Starting From Scratch

Take 75 Cambodians and one American city. Put them together, and there are problems. But the rewards are worth it.

by Rob Weber

Kek Chak's youngest son was born two months ago in a disease-ridden refugee camp in Thailand. The child may never walk in the warm Cambodian fields which were a large part of his family's lives. He may also never witness the bombings and bloodshed that caused his family to flee their native land five years ago. Instead, he will grow up in a West Philadelphia apartment complex with 75 non-English speaking Cambodian refugees, all trying to start new lives.

In late August, the first group of exiles arrived in Philadelphia from Thai refugee camps. The group is made up of 75 non-English speaking people who are totally unfamiliar with city life. They have been moved into Stoneleigh Court, an apartment complex at 46th and Walnut Streets, with the help of Catholic Social Services—and bring with them hopes and aspirations for a new life. They all come originally from Pailin, a small village along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia. In the early 70's they found their town in the middle of American and North Vietnamese crossfire.

The villagers fled to Thailand and were placed in refugee camps that had few medical facilities and were havens for disease. Many died of malnutrition in the barbed-wire enclosed camps, as they were not even permitted to leave to seek supplementary food sources.

"The Thais didn't want Cambodians overcrowding their population," relates Lloyd Romero, coordinator of the assimilation process. "In fact, they have had to start sending some back over the border. Those who didn't go were shot."

Keng, one of Romero's three assistants, was one of those admitted to a Thai camp. His background has made him a valuable asset to the group. He was married in 1977 and decided to move away from the Cambodian village of 200 people in which his family lived. Shortly thereafter the Pol Pot government took over in Cambodia, and garrisons were sent from town to town to indoctrinate the villagers in Communism. One such garrison was sent to Keng's old town, but was forced to leave a skeleton crew as it was called away for fighting.

The townspeople plotted to kill the three-member crew, not knowing that there was an informer in their group. The garrison was alerted, returned to the town, and murdered all 200 people with axes.

Keng returned to the town to bury his family, consisting of his parents, grandparents, and nine brothers and sisters. Then he fled to a Thai refugee camp, where he stayed until leaving for the United States.

This year thousands of refugees like Keng are coming to the United States because Thailand has decided to empty its camps. Adjustment to their new home is more difficult than for most immigrants. The Cambodians were all farmers in their homeland who were illiterate in Khmer, their own language. Most had never seen a city before three weeks ago, and everyday things take on a different and complex meaning to them.

Indoor plumbing is a new concept to these people. "At first they were washing their hands in the toilet, and urinating in the bathtub," states Romero, "but they're learning."

Among other tasks that the group must learn are crossing the street and using food stamps. The volunteers also take the families to places like Fairmont Park and other spots in the city. "This is the only real chance that the Cambodians get to walk in an area closer to what they are accustomed to," adds Romero, "and more volunteers are needed on the weekends."

The biggest problem is the health problem, asserts Romero. "These people have special medical problems because they were in the camps so long. Two children had already been through the intensive care division of Children's Hospital in Philadelphia with malnutrition and dehydration. Romero and the rest of the group initially made daily trips to the District Three Health Clinic on 55th South and 3rd Street to remedy the other medical difficulties. "Most conditions are parasites which are debilitating to the individual, but not contagious," adds Michael D. Blum, Director of the Nationality Service Center of Philadelphia, another organization taking an interest in the Cambodians. "Another unusual medical problem which came to Lloyd Romero's attention, was that of long standing cases of venereal diseases observed in some of the women. Romero speculates that many cases may have been passed on from previous generations. The five pregnant women in the group were taken over to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for examinations. It then occurred to Romero that the children in the group born to mothers who have VD should also be examined for these diseases. VD tests usually aren't given to children."

Eligible members of the group have been enrolled on public assistance and will be receiving both monetary and health benefits until they are ready to find jobs. Catholic Social Services, which has received government funding for this resettling process, provides each of the fourteen families with an initial monetary and health benefit until they are ready to find jobs. Catholic Social Services, which has received government funding for this resettling process, provides each of the fourteen families with an initial
in West Philadelphia

out the words, in some cases, in a French-English dictionary.
Tom acted as interpreter for 38-year-old Kek Cha, who is living with his wife, four children, parents, and brother and sister in Stoneleigh Court. The four-bedroom apartment has few pieces of furniture or fixtures, but a few flowers on a small end table brightened up the barren living room.
Cha was a farmer in Pailin, which is near Phnom Penh in Cambodia. Like his 65-year-old father, Kek worked in the pearl beds during the cold months until border fighting forced him to uproot his family and head to Thailand, where they stayed in a refugee camp for the past four-and-a-half years.
Before coming here, Kek had never even heard of the United States. Now, though, as Tom says, "he feels that in coming to the United States he would find out the liberty. Only one thing that he knows is the liberty. Only one thing."

"There are tremendous hurdles that these people must overcome... they've lived around dying."

Before the refugees can be truly liberated, they will have to learn to speak English. The 31 elementary school-aged youths will mostly attend Lea or Drew, two area public schools with large Indochinese enrollments. Romero doesn't want to "put the young ones in school until the injections are cleared up." But he adds, "Some of the kids are in good shape. They could be in school in a month."

Of the nine remaining children, ranging in age from 13 to 18, most will attend University City High School or South Philadelphia High School, which also have special facilities to handle their problems. The adults will be given language instruction by the Nationality Service Center, at the Woodland Presbyterian Church at 42nd and Pine. The adults in the group present a special problem, as it is more difficult for them to pick up a second language than it is for the children, states Romero. "Whatever happens is that you see the kids teaching Mom and Dad English," adds Romero.

Once the adults have reached a certain level of English proficiency, Romero interviews them and then helps them to develop a marketable skill. "Offset printing is a good job for them," states the soft-spoken Romero. "Catholic Social Services pays for the instructions and then they get snapped up."

And, as for the children," Romero emphasizes, "the sky is the limit."

Romero predicts slow, but steady progress in assimilating this group into city living, citing the remarkable progress achieved with the Vietnamese a few years back. Romero asserts that about 94% of those processed through Fort Indiantown Gap in 1976, and who are now in the Philadelphia area, are off public assistance.

But he cautions against over-optimism because the Vietnamese had a different set of circumstances than this group. The Vietnamese joined members of their families who were already living here. Also, most of that group was made up of merchants and members of the middle class.

The adults in this group are still in shock, but they've done very well. "We're trying to make this as painless as possible. If we do -- that's great. We make mistakes. That's how we learn. There are no experts in this field."

Romero realizes that others may not understand the reason for his doing the work that he does. "I can see the expressions of people going home to the suburbs. They slow down as they're driving [past the apartment complex]. Their curiosity gets them," states Romero.

"But, it's rewarding. I can say that I did something each day. I can see the progress. The kids used to sit around -- now there's more bounce to the ounce."

"I've received flack from personal friends. We have poverty, why not help the blacks or Hispanics," adds Romero, who was born in Harlem to West Indian parents. "My answer is that these are human beings, and if you can't deal with them, this is your problem."

"There are tremendous hurdles that these people must overcome. They're tough -- they've lived around dying."

"Now they're in a peaceful environment. The adults look to their children with hope."
by Lisa Green

Think of Rich Kids as a public service film. For along with recent films like A Little Romance and Peppermint Soda, Rich Kids serves to elevate public awareness about children from their previous depths, when film "brats" gave saccharine performances, could cry on cue, and sported muscle-cramping grins.

Today's cinematic kids are not only articulate and natural actors, but can lend a fresh perspective to a film's topic. Because Rich Kids' theme, which is divorce, is viewed through the outlook of its two young (and thoroughly realistic) protagonists, the film maintains a refreshing, offbeat perspective on a traditionally adult topic.

The rich kids of the title are Franny Phillips (Trini Alvarado) and Jamie Harris (Jeremy Levy), buddies at an elite private school in New York City whose home lives are quietly chaotic. Jamie's dad (Terry Kiser) hires dumb blonde types to his bedridden apartment; his mom (Roberta Maxwell) won't speak of her ex-husband by name ("No, the son of a bitch has him this weekend.") Franny's parents (Kathryn Walker, John Lithgow) should be divorced as well, but unsuccessfully attempt to hide their imminent breakup from their daughter.

The premise of Rich Kids, the familiar "Kids are smarter than grownups" theme, works because the children in this movie are mature and realistic. Jamie may be adult enough to accept his father's determined romantic activity, but he reserves the right to have a pizza party on his dad's enormous waterfront. Franny accepts her father's affair as silently as she records the time he sneaks in every morning inside a copy of The Joy of Sex. Together, the two children share a loving, sympathetic relationship, smoothing over their growing pains in sullied parties and hand-holding.

The talented cast of Rich Kids underscores the complexities of Judith Reisman's intelligent script. As Franny, Jamie, Alvarado and Levy are simply winners: their performances are bright, yet not precocious, emotional, but never maudlin. Their supporting cast of adult actors wisely refrain from attempting to upstage the young stars. Instead, they portray adults who are a believable mixture of parental concern and self-sufficiency for their own happiness.

Filmed on location in New York City, Rich Kids offers locales that, because of their affluence, are surprisingly lovely. Director Robert Young wisely keeps his film environment kid-sized, so the film's basic settings gain a pleasant familiarity. Equally pleasing are David Mitchell's interiors; his rendition of Jamie's father's bachelor pad is a marvelously array of chic furnishings and expensive adult toys.

Rich Kids may be about children, but its tone is never childish. In fact, the true beauty of the film may lie in its complexity. Rich in insight about kids' personalities, Rich Kids makes an equally intelligent statement about modern adult relationships.

by Jimmy Myers

The following is a note of medical caution regarding the film When a Stranger Calls: If you wear a pacemaker, you might be advised to charge it up a couple of extra times before taking in this movie because the old ticker is going to be doing more than its fair share of overtime.

Suspense is an element of this film which Director Fred Walton cultivates with great care and a fair degree of craft, but it is unfortunately only the element of the film. It has no more insight to offer us than a simple ghost story, any of the countless "nickel and dime" novels that clutter airport reading racks.

Two factors save this movie from sheer and utter oblivion. The most critical is the sensitive and meticulous direction by newcomer Fred Walton. Secondly, Carol Kane, Charles Durning, Tony Beckley, and Colleen Dewhurst (though her whole scene is completely unnecessary) all do a laudable job with characters whose parts are at best underdeveloped. The script makes those characters entirely one-dimensional, something that is symptomatic of the film as a whole.

The suspense of the film could be greatly amplified if we knew more about, or just had some feelings concerning the characters of the film. What do we have is an impersonal account of a stereotypically fluid and naive babysitter (Carol Kane) who is tormented by the telephone calls of the typical psychopath (Tony Beckley), who eventually perpetrates a most hideous crime, brutally murdering the babysitter's two charges. He is chased by the standard true terror is really in the mind. Fred Walton's effort is in the restrained, and tasteful directing of face value due to the very subtle, knowing that it is now seven years later and she has aged at least a week.

The film is good fun when taken at face value due to the very subtle, restrained, and tasteful directing of Fred Walton. Walton's effort is in the fine Hitchcock tradition of the psychological thriller, showing us that true terror is really in the mind. Fortunately, Walton does have enough of a director's eye to spare us from the gory of the genre of disturbingly popular films that typically display more red than a Kremlin flag-waving context.

Walton uses space and sound very successfully. There are several long shots of both the inside and outside of the house, creating a feeling of foreboding stillness and silence, interrupted only by the nerve-wracking ring of the phone. The ringing shatters our equilibrium, automatically becoming a dreaded occurrence. This reaches a rather unpleasant peak when we hear an unsettling crunching sound. Suspense and tension abound, even after the audience learns that it all can be attributed to an ice machine.

Still, When a Stranger Calls is basically mindless. It is good for a thrill; but because of its lack of meaning and depth, it is a cheap thrill, at best.
Van Morrison
Into the Music
Warner Brothers HS 3390

Into the Music, like the classic Astral Weeks, is one of those Van Morrison records that goes beyond the ordinary. It is a near-perfectly conceived album, ending Van's last phase that began with A Period of Transition. But unlike last year's slick (and popular) Wavelength, the success of Into lies in Van's ability to interweave his Irish roots with American rhythm and blues. This may seem like an odd combination, but it works. The tunes are not all catchy. Instead, they are more contemplative. "Full Force Gale" moves, propelled by the slide guitar work of Ry Cooder and the horn arrangements of Pee Wee Ellis (James Brown's old arranger). On the other end, "Rolling Hills" is a crescendo of Irish jazz, complete with violin and penny-whistle. But perhaps it is the end of "And the Healing Has Begun," where Van gives the spoken rap of the musician home late from a gig and drunk on sherry. That best describes the character of Van Morrison's music. The album's reflection is that this is a disc that moves, propelled by the slide guitar work of Ry Cooder and the horn arrangements of Pee Wee Ellis (James Brown's old arranger). On the other end, "Rolling Hills" is a crescendo of Irish jazz, complete with violin and penny-whistle. But perhaps it is the end of "And the Healing Has Begun," where Van gives the spoken rap of the musician home late from a gig and drunk on sherry. That best describes the character of Van Morrison's music.

Ian Gomm
Gomm With The Wind
Stiff/Epic J363103

With all the media hype surrounding so many of today's pop albums, Gomm With The Wind comes as a welcome relief. There is no manufactured aura around Ian Gomm, but there is plenty of clean, tight excitement on his first solo album. Gomm has been of the British rock scene for ten years, most notably serving as the lead guitarist for Brinsley Schwarz's (now Graham Parker's lead guitarist) former sideman. His experience is amply apparent in this collection of twelve quick, refreshing tunes. Each is crafted within careful bounds; none of the songs slip into outrage or depression, despite titles such as "Sad Affairs" and "Drifting Lovers." Nor do the upbeat tunes, like "Hooked On Love" glide to giddy levels. Everything seems carefully, though exuberantly, controlled. The pace of the album slows down only twice. Surprisingly, this occurs on the two covers, Chuck Berry's "Come On," and the Beatles' "You Can't Do That." Gomm's reduced tempo treatments of these two is both bizarre and hilarious. Gomm With The Wind hardly shakes the foundations of pop music; but as simple, unpretentious rock 'n' roll, it's hard to beat.

— Marc Brown

David Johansen
In Style
Blue Sky J36082

Some guys will never learn. The charts show that disco is on the down and out, yet David Johansen has gone the sellout route in order to win the hearts (and the allowances) of unsuspecting Wannabes. Why else would he say that he is In Style (check out the Avedon album cover)? One immediately assumes this is a disco album, which it primarily is not. Neither is it a rock album; the instrumentation, at its best, is weak. Johansen's music rarely clicks, and his lyrics ("Ain't we crazy?/We used to be/I'm crazy") are hardly profound. This album's one saving grace is "Flamingo Road," a radio hit. But what this album offers a pleasant yet not really novel reflection of the powerful brass and delicate harmony that marked T. O. P.'s early years. It is hoped Back in the Streets does not represent the denouement of this illustrious musical career.

— Steve Warren

Alan Parsons
Eve
Arista AL 9504

The Alan Parsons Project's latest album, entitled Eve, could just as easily have been called I Hate Women. Parsons provides a stunning good-time disco medios with sensuous vocals, missandry, outragedly attacking women in the song "I'd Rather Be A Man." It he declares his sexual superiority: "I'd rather be a man than slave the way you do/I'd rather be a man cause a man don't crawl like you do." Parsons further assaults womanhood in "You Lie Down, You Get Stung," "Man's a Woman," and "You Know It." It is, not surprisingly, the only cut of the powerful brass and delicate harmony that marked T. O. P.'s early years. It is hoped Back in the Streets does not represent the denouement of this illustrious musical career.

— David Henkoff

Tower of Power
Back in the Streets
Columbia JC 35784

Listening to Tower of Power's new "disco" album, Back in the Streets, is an extremely disheartening experience. The band has made the adjustment to Motown about as comfortably as Barry Manilow
HEATER

Miss Margarida’ Misses

by John Reiss

The criteria for censorship hinges on whether the object being judged has any socially redeeming features. Miss Margarida, which recently played at the Walnut Street Theatre, has none. It is a study of the problems created when the writer of a play also directs it; in this case, Roberto Athayde.

The play begins suddenly, without the advance notice of dimming house lights, as Miss Margarida (Estelle Parsons) suddenly marches through the aisles and mounts the stage for what will be a two and a quarter hour diatribe directed towards the audience. Miss Margarida is a sex-starved, power-hungry eighth grade teacher, and the audience is given the unfortunate responsibility of being her students. She immediately begins berating those students who are inconsiderate enough to be tardy (an actor’s dream). But, almost from the beginning the tedium begins to set in. It may be funny when she hurls obscenities at the first latemcomer, but by the seventh, it becomes plain boring.

The entire show could have been compressed into one act. Director Athayde has no new insights to add to those created by Author Athayde. There is just not enough material to work with. Miss Margarida incessantly harps on sex, discipline, dominance, and injustice. She has a crazed desire to gain complete and total control over her pupils. (It has been said that the classroom serves as microcosm for a totalitarian society, but this is not an easily observable meaning.) She orders her class not to chew gum. When one of the students decides to disobey, and brazenly pops his gum, she races off the stage, stuffing her hands into the dumbfounded mouths of several suspected offenders, until she finds the actual perpetrator. Her desire to control extends to herself. She has spent her entire life sublimating her sexual desires, but they have become too strong. Everything takes on sexual meanings for her. While pointing out various parts of a human skeleton, she engages in a macabre sexual dance with the set of bones.

Miss Parsons earned a Tony nomination for this performance, but one can’t help observing that she may be carrying the role too far. She operates at a very high energy level throughout the show, but her performance is not credible in the least. She is either screaming hysterically at her students, unsuccessfully fighting her rampant sexual desires, or digressing incoherently on some absurd topic. Miss Parsons never allows us to feel sympathy for what should be a pitiful character.

Very early in the show the audience learns to expect few surprises, and they receive even fewer.

THIS WEEK

The Center insists upon giving local writers an opportunity to display their work. Hopefully, Laltis Robertson’s What Does a Blind Leopard See will be a more memorable piece than past productions Oct. 10-Nov. 3.

Theater Center Philadelphia

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NATIONAL LAMPOON’S OCTOBER COMEDY ISSUE

It’s October and the leaves are turning brown. It is a season of change—the clear, cold death of winter shines ahead of us. Soon we will be able to see our breath, frisk with small dogs in the snow, and roll our cars over on patches of black ice. With winter approaching and good jokes sure to be as scarce as summer birds, now is the time to lay in a winter’s supply of jokes in the new October comedy issue of National Lampoon; and as for summer birds, you can probably mail away for them to Florida. Yes, the National Lampoon comedy issue has enough rich, plump guff to keep you chuckling right into spring. So go buy one now at your local newsstand or bookstore before David Frost starts nipping people’s noses, making it a pain to go outside.
**SPORTS**

Kicking from Behind

by Craig Stanley

Last year was the Philadelphia Eagles' most successful in over a decade, but it ended with a familiar scene that had anguish for Bird fans just as much as all those losing seasons.

With the Eagles' play-off lives on the line, Mike Michel's 30-yard field goal sailed wide as the clock ran out. That sight, and not the fact that the Eagles had carved out their first winning record in well, who's counting, remained on the minds of all concerned parties during the next eight months.

Poor place kickers had become a tradition with the Eagles. Owa Johansson, Tom Dempsey, Happy Feller, and the last on the list of legends, Michel — the names bring nothing but pain.

The hurt and headaches are over, now, sans tranquilizers. September brought new life to the Eagle kicking game in the names of rookies Tony Franklin and Max Runager.

Three of the first five weeks of the season, the barefoot Franklin had boomed eight of nine field goals, hitting from as far as 47 and 48 yards, missing only an inconsequential 52-yarder. Franklin missed his first career extra point, but has been perfect since. Meanwhile, Runager is largely responsible for winning last Sunday's Steeler game. His 48-yard punting average, which included a 57-yarder which went out of bounds on the Steeler three, constantly hindered the Pittsburgh attack.

"The Eagles got as much out of the draft as we wanted," said Dick Vermeil, the fourth year Eagle coach, "and probably more so. I've been around enough good football players to know when a guy's going to help my club and I was certainly enthusiastic about these two."

Franklin (a third round draft pick) is a quiet, unassuming person who has an unequalled level of confidence. Programs may list his "Years Played" status as "R" but this man is a veteran.

"I knew about the Eagles' kicking problems when I came here," said Franklin. "I just wanted a chance to kick. I was pretty blessed coming into such a dismal kicking situation before I got here."

However, Franklin has cleared that up. He has become the most prolific Eagle kicking specialist since Sam Baker. The Eagles used a later draft choice on South Carolina Gamecock punter Max Runager. Frustrated fans were almost willing to accept another year of Mike Michel... only at punter, though. Runager was more of a "Max who?" than former Cleveland Indian third sacker Max Alvis.

But times have changed. The grown-up look: Runager with the boyish looking mustache has a big foot. And within his frame that is not so widely proclaimed as the Green and White defense, a punter is a major offensive weapon for the Birds.

"Punting is a very vulnerable position," said Runager. "All these teams have such good special teams' rushes that you can't be concerned about their rush, literally. One day, they may run into your legs and break it, but the day you worry about that is the day that you'll be looking for a new job."

Runager works primarily on one thing in practice — high coffin corner attempts — from his own thirty-five.

"Kicking the ball into the corner is a skill that takes many years," noted Runager. "If you can put the ball inside the opponent's twenty, give your defense a big lift. It's awfully tough for another team to go ninety-five yards against us."

"The reason I kick from so far back is that if you can get off nice high, long punts, and be accurate, too you can basically do anything you want with your foot. It's a crazy ball; you can't control that."

Runager seems to have one other quality which is unusual for a rookie. The punter appears to have a natural ability for acting. Franklin's 48-yard field goal against Pittsburgh this week was set up by a running-into-the-punter call. Runager was untouched, but tumbled gracefully to the turf.

"Acting," Runager laughed, "is a part of the game. The referees know that we're wide open for injury, and we're not generally the biggest people on the field. They're kind of on our side for starters."

Having this pair of rookie kickers on the Eagles' side is a bigger bonus than was on-speed in the Larry Bird signing. In short, these two first-year men have become invaluable to the Eagles' success (4-1) so far this season. If Philadelphia fortune is to continue down the same path, the names Franklin and Runager will be heard many times this autumn.

"Being in the spotlight is half the fun," claimed Franklin. "As a kicker, I wouldn't have it any other way."

Neither would the Eagles.
The Bronx Zoo Goes to Queens

by Cindy Shimerer

NEW YORK — You didn’t send away months in advance for tickets to the U. S. Open of tennis, figuring you could catch all the action on television. How wrong you were, because the more interesting things took place off-camera.

You heard or read about the match between Ilie Nastase and John McEnroe, which was cited by TV announcer Bud Collins (and should be by Guinness) for breaking all existing records for childishness. (Previous record: Joey Chelsea, Miss Wells’ kindergarten, Leicester, England.)

But what about Jeff Borowiak? The usually docile player from Berkeley, Calif., brought a portable radio on the court during his first-round match against South Africa’s Ray Moore. At each changeover, even before he towelied off, Borowiak adjusted the speakers and played a little music. You can almost hear Collins announcing... “Borowiak serving to Moore at match point. Hold it — Borowiak has called time-out, saying that he never serves match point without first hearing some Donna Summer.”

Actually, Borowiak lost the first set 6-3 and then retired. But he still lost the rudeness award to Nastase.

Even before the McEnroe match, “Nasty” exposed why he should have been given the boot from the Open, by changing his shorts in full view of the grandstand audience during his first rounder with Finland’s Eero Poukkula. Save it for Challenge of the Sexes, Ilie.

Defaults, like Borowiak’s, abounded at the Flushing Meadows. The chimp, dressed in a top and equipped with a racquet, and trainer Mike Smid came from a zoo.

Other complaints about the food came from Britain’s Glynnis Coles, a qualifying loser who expected Wimbledon-style cornflakes and strawberries and cream. She bought the Flushing Meadows Special: six strawberries and whipped cream from a can for $2.50, “These things are just cheap imitations,” she said.

Back on the court, the umpires were out proving their incompetence. Besides the Nastase-McEnroe debacle, which goes without saying into the annals of idiocy, one umpire could not make the adjustment that every other tennis fan made when Chris Evert married John Lloyd.

In a first-round match against Iris Reidel, the umpire referred to the now-deposed champ as “Evert,” “Evert Lloyd,” and finally “Evert Lloyd,” commenting out loud, “I like that better.” Evert Lloyd didn’t, gently correcting the umpire, and laughing off the incident. The match was a laugh, too; she won 6-0, 6-0.

The fans were also guilty of being ignorant. JoAnne Russell’s followers, known in New York as completed animated special, but he admits being troubled over choosing the voice for his character. “Everyone hears a different voice when they read Ziggy,” he said. (At present, he would like to hire the aging Sterling Holloway, who also does the bashful whine of Winnie the Pooh.)

Wilson is currently promoting Ziggy’s latest book, so you can about one hour per bookstore, not regaling or even talking to his throngs of fans, but drawing personalized Ziggy’s for them.

Some say happy birthday; others wish an early merry Christmas. One, for Hanukkah, even featured Ziggy piously donning a yarmulke.

The fans keep Wilson busy, so busy, in fact, that he rarely has time to drink a cup of coffee during his bookstore visits. In fact, at one recent stop, he suffered from blurred vision and writer’s cramp. But he didn’t turn a soul away. “I don’t mind going into overtime.”

One exuberant woman was giving her drawing to friends as a wedding present. As she left, she kissed a blushing Tom Wilson on the cheek in appreciation. A young boy, oblivious to all but his new treasure, remained at the illustrator’s side. When Wilson noticed that he was still there, he became perplexed. “Did I misspell my name on there or something?” he queried.

Exactly how does Tom Wilson, a gentle, modest, and low-keyed man, accept this kind of religious popularity?

“It’s all an ego trip,” he chuckles. Something Ziggy has never experienced.