

# A&E

arts and entertainment

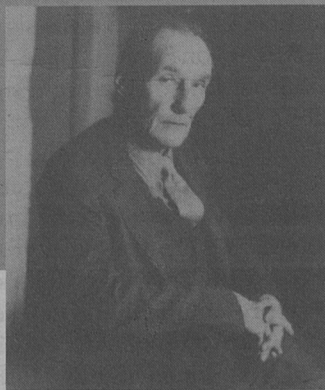
## The end of a queer Beat era

BY SAL INGLIMA

The standard bearers of the Beat movement took their tandem leave of our century right before it speeded to its hasty close; Allen Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs jumping off hand in hand, within six months of each other into the non-time void.

The Beat movement doesn't seem to fit quite right as a stiff historical movement, Ginsberg and Burroughs constant ubiquity in the eye of the media and other poets and artists lives seem to ensure the spirit of their age and unique sensibility won't die with their passing. A scanning of films, albums, cd's, music videos, and magazine articles throughout the last 25 years would reveal the enduring presence and relevance of these two founders of what will probably be the last of the clearly recognizable literary movements as we move into what is surely, with the Internet and TV's help, the post-literary age.

WHAT might be the most accurate way to reflect on the impact and import of this duo would be to look at the terrain and landscape before their arrival. Ginsberg and Burroughs alit on the surface of a lies-induced bourgeois Eisenhowerian Middle-Ameri-



William S. Burroughs

can coma and held a mirror up to the truth with all the furor and splendor of the Jungian Disowned.

Ginsberg lauding, praising and elevating the underbelly of Repressed America in his Whitmanesque and heroic way, and Burroughs using Doctor Benway's scalpel to reveal what kinds of ulcers and infections the repression had caused, albeit with a mixture of Rabelaisian hilarity and the sardonic accuracy of the executioner who has tasted the blade.

Which is to say what? Which is to say whither Gay America without these two? When would we have come out and how, without *Naked Lunch*, without *Howl*, without *Queer* and *Junky* and *Plutonian Odes*? Remember Ginsberg sitting squat and cross-legged singing "America", affectationless, pumping the concertina while Nixon staged the Apocalypse in Vietnam. Remember Burroughs looming gaunt and saurian, in a suit and fedora in "Drugstore Cowboy" - Two prophets in the wilderness, fitting revelations for our age

## Allen Fletcher Says...

The Craftsbury Chamber Players are to be applauded for their "Summer Music Festival 1997" series of six weekly programs, each presented in three different Vermont forums during the months of July and August. Attendance at four of these at the UVM Recital Hall on the Redstone Campus in Burlington provided an opportunity to hear some seldom performed works for smaller ensembles.

Reperetory was carefully chosen to represent all periods of musical development from the Golden Age Baroque through this very minute, and, by and large, was well played. The mindset of the ensemble player has to be very different from that of the soloist, and these musicians were very clearly present to work together to serve the art, not any individual.

Moments approaching greatness were achieved in the third concert by the ensemble playing Prokofief's Opus 39 Quintet (marred only by excessive wind-business: where does all that spit come from?) and by Mary Anthony Cox, Piano; Marshall Coid, Violin; and Peter Schoettler, Horn; in Brahms's Trip, Opus 40. Shoettler played this work on a valveless instrument, as specified by the composer, and made it - top to bottom - without cracking a single note. Marshall Coid impressed again in the fourth concert, with his marvelously insouciant reading of the Poulenc Sonata for Violin and Piano. The last concert included Phillip Lasser's relatively new sonata for Flute and Piano, a thoroughly approachable and engaging work, played admirably (definitively, one supposes) by the composer and James Zellers, Flute.

Not so great moments included Karel Husa's Evocations of Slovakia, which might have been subtitled "Preludes to Suicide on a Tuesday in late February." Dark instrumental colors and depressive, dour expression are to be tolerated for only so long; and this work was much too long - for me, anyway.

Chamber music places certain sorts of practical limitations upon those who perform it. Smaller forces (one player per part) get lost in big spaces, playing has got to be surgically accurate, and audiences have to be extremely well behaved. Craftsbury gets high marks for the quality of the playing and their audiences get high marks for comportment. Unfortunately the UVM Recital Hall is not a congenial acoustic environment for this sort of music making. (Whoever designed the hall seems to have been aiming to-

ward a big, bright sound.) The mark was missed.

There were genuinely distressing moments in each of the four concerts I heard, which made me wonder whether anyone had bothered to listen from the hall during the rehearsals. Most profoundly were a phantom Horn player in the Brahms Trio who was just a tad behind and lurking in the fire exit; and the astonishing balances of the closing work of the series - a Borodin Quintet which was a real pot-boiler - during which the players were clearly working very hard, flailing away in the best "this will really whip 'em up" manner, but producing a very small and inconsequential sound. It was very much like watching an old film with a badly engineered soundtrack.

The good points outweigh the bad, however, and I can't wait until next summer. Be there!

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# CALENDAR

## september

7

Gay Guy Get Together in Ludlow: "A Summer Lawn Croquet Party" 3-8pm RSVP Michael 228-4479. FMI call Carey (802) 254-8263.

8

Brattleboro Area Gay Men's Reading Club. 6:30-9pm Richard & Michael's 254-6239 18 Forest St., Brattleboro. The evening includes a potluck and a discussion of the book, "Our Lady of the Flowers" FMI Jonathan Campo 258-2693.

GLITTER, Monday Nights 7:45-10:00pm at Rhombus Gallery, Corner of College and Church St, Burlington. Book Night, *Tales of the City* by

Armistad Maupin. Available at Chassman & Bem on Church St, B'ton (10% off if you mention GLITTER). We'll pick a book for Oct.

9

Social Alternatives for Men (SAM) movie night. Bring your favorite movie to share with the boys and we will decide then. Call 649-3133 FMI.

11

"Bottoms Up!" Gay/Bi men's workshop devoted to exploring anal pleasure & health. This free, confidential event, to take place in a private residence in Brattleboro, will include fun, frank discussions and a demonstration of the female condom for anal sex btwn men. 7pm. FMI Carey 254-826

12

Steph Pappas Experience at 135 Pearl as part of The Burlington Music Conference. 8pm.

12-14 Radical Faeries Work Weekend on the land just purchased in Grafton. FMI contact Moon Morgan 254-6276.

Late summer gay men's weekend in the Berkshires, contact Brothers Together FMI (617) 247-3964.

13

NH Women's Music Festival. Contact POB 311 Concord NH 03302 or call (603) 255-3501 FMI.

Women of The Woods end of the season campfire in Williamstown, VT. 7 p.m. FMI call 422-5990.

Vermont's 2nd Annual Women's Economic Security Conference, Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT. 8am-4:30pm. No Cost. Free child care with advance registration. FMI call (800) 464-7232.

AIDS Walk in Montpelier, to Benefit Vermont CARES. Walk starts at Montpelier High School at 9:30 AM. FMI call Leah at VT CARES 863-2437.

"Welcome to Yolanda World", performed by Yolanda and The Plastic Family at 135 Pearl as part of the Burlington Music festival. 8 pm.

13-14 Tunbridge Worlds Fair & Mount Cube Hike Bob Bland 333-9448 bland@sover.net. Join us for one day or both. On Saturday, we will attend the Tunbridge World's Fair. On Sun-

day, we'll hike Mount Cube in Orford, NH. Starting at 9 am from the "locals-only" trail off Schoolhouse Road. Free limited lodging for those who wish to overnight.

14

Brattleboro Area AIDS Project Volunteer Appreciation picnic. Call Michael 254-8263.

Tea Dance in Rutland, at Rio's. 4-10pm.

Join Cherrie and Yolanda crashing the Tunbridge Fair with thier special date, Fred Tuttle.

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