

RANDOM THOUGHTS

'Who's on first?' and other burning questions

By ELIZABETH ELLEN
Staff Writer

Without context, all is meaningless. My roommate speaks of it as a major in the journalism school but to me, PR is a system of distributing partisan power electorally. Somebody probably sees PR as an American island way south of here.

When you mind your P's and Q's, you could be watching your alcohol intake or doing your grocery shopping. (The original meaning was to mind your pints and quarts when going to a pub.)

Without context, roles and reason become distorted. Just what will become of Billy Warden when the Floating Children grow

up? Or sink? Why do economics teachers look funny wearing crash helmets while driving slowly down little residential streets? Is passing a referendum favoring bottle deposit laws a step on the road to totalitarianism?

In the absence of context, humor falls flat. Why is there no right fielder in Abbott and Costello's "Who's on first?" routine? This burning question only keeps you up at night if you know something about baseball. Blessed are those who do not know, for they shall have uninterrupted sleep.

The eight ball players are Who, What, I Don't Know, I Don't Care, Today, Tomorrow, Why, and

Because. The routine is funny but disturbing in its incompleteness even today, 43 years after the film "The Naughty Nineties" was made. There seems to be no sense in playing a baseball game when any ball hit to right field will go unfielded.

Taking the absence of context to its logical extreme leads one to the concept of a vacuum, a strange thing indeed. Without air pressure, cold water can boil and not get hot.

This concept works in the opposite way for radical politics, which must not operate in a vacuum. The U.S. Constitution is an amazing structure. It allows a great deal of

latitude for action if people would just push it to its logical extremes. Sweeping change can take place by applying the basic concepts of the system to the current state of affairs. Society would indeed boil, rapidly enough to cook macaroni, but perhaps it would not have to endure the heat of armed rebellion.

Not absence of pressure, but properly applied pressure could bring this about. It would be a beautiful country indeed if everyone's concept of PR were considered and respected, if right field were occupied by the most competent available fielder and if any girl could grow up to be the president.

Quartet goes to the roots of jazz, putting heart back into New Age

By ALLISON PIKE
Staff Writer

If you'd like to jazz up your life this week, Friday night the Cabaret features local jazz players, the Jim Troy Group.

This quartet performs mainstream classical and modern types of jazz, including originals and familiar tunes by jazz artists Miles Davis, John Coltrane and Bill Evans.

The members of the Jim Troy Group are all local musicians: Bill Warren (drums), Mark Risjord (bass), Sam Bruton (piano) and Jim Troy (saxophone and flute). This is the group's third year together, and it has performed in this area often. Members of the Jim Troy Group also perform with other local jazz musicians. Warren plays with the Masabi Brothers, and Bruton has album credits with Silver Wave Records.

The group members have different backgrounds, which Troy says gives the band a good "fusion."

"This is one of the virtues of having the same core of people (in a band). We have a good rapport going — we're spontaneous, but in unison." Risjord has been trained in classical music and studied jazz in the Virgin Islands. Bruton works on new age LPs and used to run a recording studio in Los Angeles.

Troy began playing jazz in the early '60s. His interest in saxophone led him to familiarize himself with the music of Charlie Parker. In the late '70s, Troy formed his first jazz trio.

Although he puts emphasis on classical, mainstream jazz, Troy has also played New Age music. He said it allowed for new innovations, but felt that along with the merits of this type of jazz come some dangers.

"It tends to take the heart out of the music. We pay attention to

the music. We use fewer effects than New Age, but the music is technically challenging."

As a professional musician,

Troy's long term goal is to record LPs under his own name. "This band is ongoing and we will take it as far as it can go."

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