

# FROM THE ROOFTOP

The Newsletter of The Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning

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## WE LIVE HERE — WE EXIST...TOO

This summer one of the more curious things that I read was a *New York Times* article that instantly caught my eye. Appearing in the July 24, 2005, *Times Magazine* its title asked the question “What Does an Aging Chimp Do When His Working Days Are Done?” Did you see it? It was the cover story that Sunday and featured a great photo by Zachary Scott of a chimpanzee in a chaise by the ocean. I don’t know whether it was the idyllic white-sand beach (I love anything to do with the shore) or the jaunty way Mike (the monkey’s real name) wore his straw hat, but the story by Charles Siebert took this reader on a journey into the realm and the issue of primate retirement sanctuaries.


It seems that at the end of the Clinton Administration it was a congressional guilt trip (yes, they do have them every once in a while) that led to the Chimpanzee Health Improvement Maintenance and Protection Act, a \$30 million bill that provided for the construction of a facility, a sanctuary, for the country’s growing number of aging chimpanzees. I was indeed squeezing my skin black and blue when I came to the author’s absolution that we higher primates “living in this country in the year 2005 when the future of social security and old age pensions is very much in doubt — could be forgiven for trying to pinch ourselves awake.” It turns out that Chimp Haven, as it was called, had to first raise its own private matching funds to qualify for any of the government money. Being a fundraiser as well as an academic administrator, I sympathized. Furthermore, after reading of their tough and torturous lives no one would deny that these *simian seniors* were certainly owed something having spent most of their years in scientific and medical research projects, circuses and the always detrimental experience of performing for the cameras on television and in the movies.

After spending a while on a warm summer afternoon reading about this planned planet of the apes community, I ultimately found comfort and satisfaction knowing that there were people out there who offered a great deal of care and compassion to these animals who had done such a great service for mankind. A field primatologist quoted in the article recalled for me of the numerous vaccines that had been tested on many them so that my health would be better.

Describing a time when they arrived en mass at the haven, one of the caregivers told about the great noise she would here on their first night in the sanctuary, the chimp-to-chimp talking that was going on among them. Claiming to understand it she maintained, “They were announcing themselves to the world. They were saying, ‘We live here. We exist.’”



WHAT DOES AN AGING CHIMP DO  
WHEN HIS WORKING DAYS ARE DONE?



“So what?” you might be asking yourself. “What does this have to do with anything around the Fromm Institute and why are you telling us about it halfway through the session?” Quite frankly, as I read page after page it just occurred to me that there were enough similarities in the story to warrant comparisons here on our newsletter’s pages, especially since we are an institute established for other retired primates, albeit higher up the intellectual tree than these relatives.

While the *Times* asked the question “Can we repay them by easing them into their sunset years,” I was strongly reminded that we take a slightly different position. Our organizational reason for existence is not for easing anyone into anything, but rather to challenge older people by asking them to consider, “What better times than these ‘graduate’ years to learn the lessons of the whole life?” In doing so, through that manifesto, we engender an atmosphere where our intellectual growth continues and keeps pace with our years. We are not put out to play in a pasture. We are constantly redefining ourselves (once bankers, teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, administrators and laborers of all kinds) to take up the mantle of student and scholar in our retirement and to keep on learning. By doing so we redefine the pasture and make it our playing field.

Certainly both haven and institute were created out of a common but not exactly similar intent, but again the Fromm Institute philosophy moves us beyond just a reward for past service and recognizes that having lived our life contributing to society, we should have the future opportunity to continue to do so as well. This elemental and vital participation in life should not stop or be denied just because we’ve grown older than most. In *our* lifelong learning world, the chance to stay intellectually active is perpetually reinforced and consistently encouraged. Rather than enabling benign leisure time, we empower our members to continue to make important social contributions, which the culture as a whole greatly needs.

Finally, while the article doesn’t specifically mention the blending of generations, I hoped that in their retirement enclave, these other animals were surrounded, as we are, by both older and younger generations. At the Fromm Institute we learn so much more sharing with others who are decades younger and years older than us. It is through this intergenerational experience on our campus that we realize our special place and manifest it as a valid part of our society.

Sitting in our wintertime “Wonders of Science Series,” I have often heard from our lecturers that, genetically, the chimpanzee is our closest living animal relative and I’m glad to be able to report that we higher primates, it seems, have finally started to look out for the others on our family tree. As I read this article in the *Times* it was reassuring to me that the self-centered world we humans often construct for ourselves might be shifting to a more shared understanding of the ecosystem. Could this all be a product of lifelong learning? I certainly hope so, for just like that caregiver who heard the great evening noise of the chimpanzees in a sanctuary where they were appreciated and respected, I too have heard your roar at Open House, during breaks in the middle of a class and even as you sit in the cafeteria din. The belonging message of that sound is similar. It proclaims your legitimacy as students on a university campus. “We exist. We live here.” It rings so familiar, real and true.

– Robert Fordham, Executive Director

## TWO HOLIDAYS NEXT WEEK

Next week, the Fromm Institute faces a week with only Tuesday and Wednesday classes as two holidays occur. **Monday, October 10, is Columbus Day and a Fromm Institute holiday, as is Thursday, October 13, Yom Kippur. Please make a note that on those two days all our classes are cancelled.** The University of San Francisco campus will be open, however, with USF classes in session and library facilities available. Certainly, the three holidays that have occurred this Fall 2005 Session will make for a very full “Make-Up” Week — a ninth week where classroom space has been reserved specifically to accommodate cancelled classes. “Make-Up” Week this session is Monday, November 7 through Thursday, November 10, 2005.

# HONORING GENEROSITY AND DEDICATION

## *Our 2005 Commencement Salutes*

### *Victor L. Marcus & Roger Boas*



On Saturday, October 15 at our 2005 Commencement, along with three faculty members and six Fromm Institute students, we will be honoring two very important people in the history of our organization. Back when the Fromm Institute was hardly more than a vision in the mind of Hanna Fromm, her husband Alfred began helping with the financial planning. With the assistance of Carlisle Lane of the law firm of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, Mr. Fromm created a nonprofit 501 3(c) organization to support our operational budget. It was his vision that his newly created board of directors, the Friends of the Fromm Institute, would not only have a financial responsibility for the sustainability of the school, but an oversight role as well.

To make it an effective board Mr. & Mrs. Fromm assembled businessmen and women, educators, philanthropists, and civic leaders. Their first meeting was held on March 1, 1976, in the Board Room of Fromm & Sichel at 655 Beach Street in San Francisco. When they gathered for that first time nearly thirty years ago, among the twenty-two peers at the board table were two who are still on that distinguished panel today. Victor L. Marcus and Roger Boas have faithfully served our board, our mission and our students for three decades and during that time they have never declined our request for help or advice, for practical or for financial assistance.



**Mr. Victor Marcus** was born in Berlin, Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1936. In 1950 he founded the Victor L. Marcus Company, a real estate firm specializing in commercial and industrial properties. He is still involved in that world today, but limits himself to counseling others now that he has reached the good age of 90 years.

His reputation for hard work and leadership has earned him the recognition of many community agencies and philanthropic organizations in the Bay Area. Mr. Marcus has been active in the AJC for more than forty years and has served as the President of the Jewish Home, just to name a few of his public service affiliations.

Along with his unwavering dedication to others, especially the older people of our community, Mr. Marcus is well known for his impeccable taste and high-class standards in every aspect of life. More than just his good taste, however, he is better known to us for his good heart.

Victor Marcus takes the meaning of “Friends,” as in the Friends of the Fromm Institute, and gives it extra significance. There is a wonderful proverb that urges us to hold our friends with two hands. Mr. Victor L. Marcus has held all of us at the Fromm Institute in his two hands — and in his big and kind heart — for three decades. No one could have a better ally.

At a recent meeting **Mr. Roger Boas** introduced himself as just “a San Francisco car dealer.” The laughter quickly erupted in the boardroom for everyone knew him as much more. Roger Boas has had a long-term interest in government, politics, television and business. When he joined the Friends board in 1976 he was listed on our reports as “President of Boas International Motors.” This was true of course, however, most San Franciscans also knew him as an elected politician who had served on the Board of Supervisors from 1962 until 1973. Later, he would be appointed Chief Administrative Officer and serve in that office with great distinction and to great effect.



Leslie Lipson, a beloved Fromm Institute Professor of Political Science, a distinguished emeritus member of the UC Berkley faculty and our first academic advisor, knew of his friend Roger's sharp mind, his quick insight and direct style from their days on the PBS program "World Press." His suspicion was that Roger would indeed be a commanding presence in our classroom on governmental matters. He was right. For several years in the 1990's Roger Boas conducted our well-received and incredibly successful Urban Studies Series. At his 80th birthday party, Mr. Boas was engagingly generous when praising Hanna Fromm for giving him the one thing no one ever had. "I've served in World War II with General Patton, held many offices in state and local government, I've been a TV producer and moderator, but it took Hanna Fromm to make me a professor."

Now it is time for us to return that generosity and thanks. For his service on the Friends board and as a Fromm Institute Professor of much acclaim, it will be a pleasure to raise him up in long-due and well-deserved tribute at our 2005 Commencement for his unique contributions to the Fromm Institute.

As our 2005 Commencement auditorium is now filling to near capacity, we hope that along with the friends and family of these two good men you will be joining us for our 30th Anniversary festivities. As part of USF's Sesquicentennial Weekend, we will toast our board, our faculty and ourselves in rare style. Everyone in the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning is invited to be a part of this milestone event both for us and for the University of San Francisco. In keeping with the core philosophy behind the Fromm Institute, students who wish to attend, but can't afford \$100, are encouraged to complete a reservation form, paying whatever they can, as accommodations can be made thanks to the generosity of our Table Sponsors (two of whom are here) in this story of generosity and dedication to the Fromm Institute. As with everything we do, *all are welcome!*

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## "OUT OF SIGHT" ITEMS ADDED TO THE SILENT AUCTION

Reviewing last Thursday's update on bids so far received for our Silent Auction Items, it seems that it is off to a great start! Charlotte Prozan who has generously offered her home in Stinson Beach for a week or a weekend has added an additional night to the week long rental. It's now yours for 7 nights (not just 6) and 7 days if you are the high bidder — and she tells us it comes with a DVD player as an additional amenity. Thanks Charlotte!

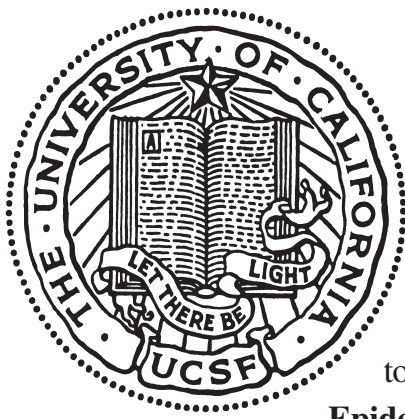
Also some extra items such as **Sasha, The S.F. Seal, Zuni Cafe, Symphony Tickets** and a **Box at the Opera** have been added as an addendum to the Catalog. If that's not enough to get you to think of more bidding, just look at two more exciting items on that addendum sheet courtesy of Professor John Rothman. Imagine a **night with him on his radio show** and a **ride in the KGO News helicopter!** Has this benefit for the Fromm Institute become one high-flying affair or what?

Make sure you've bid for an item or items this week and next, or at the final day of the auction on Saturday, October 15. All proceeds go to benefit the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning.

**If George Lucas invites you to his Presidio campus on October 15th,  
tell him you'd rather be on Fr. Privett's campus.**

**OCTOBER 15TH  
IS THE DATE!**

**The Force is with the Frommies.**



## The Dr. Walter Birnbaum Medical Lecture Series THE MID-POINT IN THE MEDICAL LECTURES SERIES

Having heard all about memory loss caused by disease and dementia, aches and pains, and the demands placed on our physicians in today's medical world, this week on **Wednesday, October 5 in McLaren 252 at 10 a.m.** our Medical Lecture Series turns to the Global AIDS epidemic as its mid-point topic. Our series guest speaker will be **Merle Sande, M.D.** His lecture "**The Epidemic that Threatens the World: Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel?**"

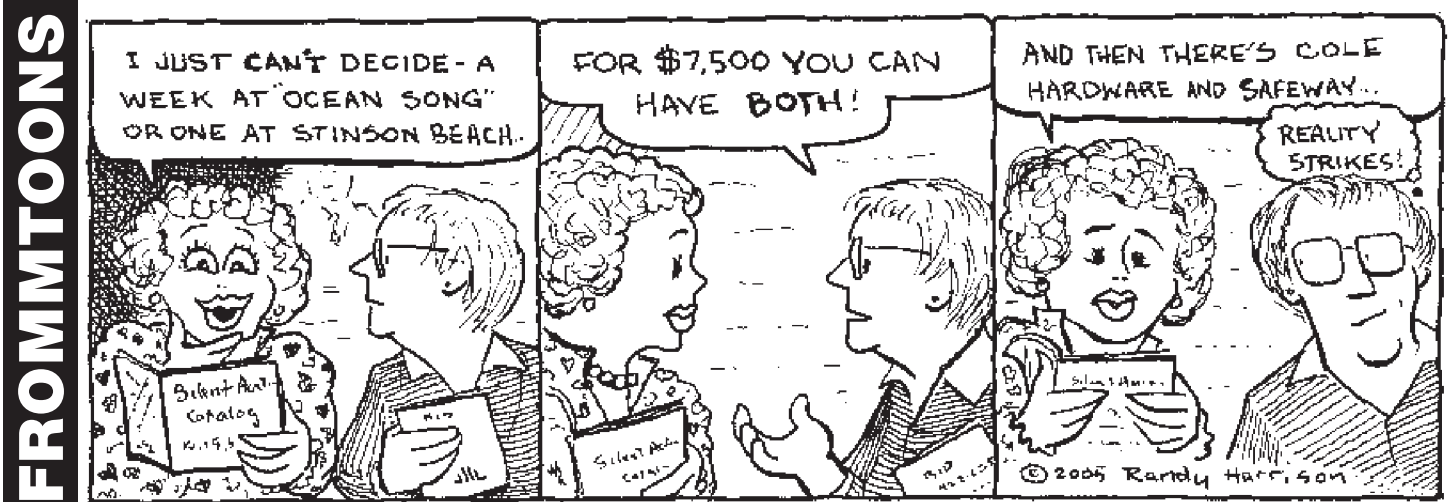
will be an expert examination of both the medical and cultural strategies that must be adopted in order for there to be any hope for what has become a global crisis of unimaginable proportions.

Next week on **Wednesday, October 12**, a lecture is scheduled of particular interest for everyone of "frommage," which is our clever way of saying over 50 years. All Fromm Institute students are welcomed to be present in **McLaren 252 next Wednesday at 10 a.m.** when **Dr. C. Seth Landefeld**, Director of the UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Aging speaks about "**Geriatrics' Role in Achieving Vitality and Longevity Today.**"

### **SUBJECTS OVER 60 NEEDED FOR FREE MRI STUDY OF THE BRAIN**

Dr. Michael Weiner at the University of California, San Francisco is researching healthy brain aging and the causes of Alzheimer's disease, using MRI scanning. Subjects over the age of 60 are needed for this research. These subjects could either be healthy, or could have varying degrees of memory impairments including Alzheimer's disease. The research involves a short interview and an MRI scan, conducted by enthusiastic staff. MRIs are examined by a radiologist. Subjects are paid \$20/hr for their time and transportation reimbursement may also be available. **Those who are interested should call Jessica at any of the following numbers, and say that they want to participate in this research: (800) 773-4883, (415) 221-4810 ext 4385 or email Jessica at [jblack@itsa.ucsf.edu](mailto:jblack@itsa.ucsf.edu).**

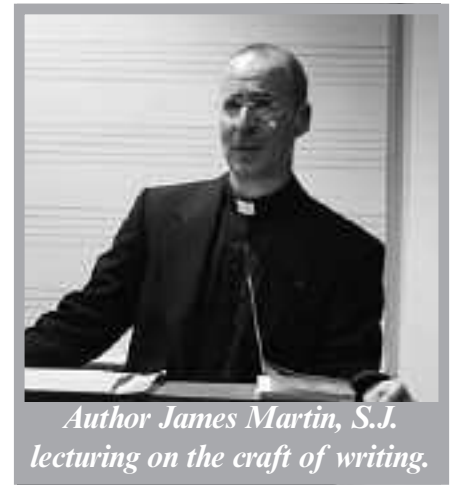
## BY RANDY HARRISON



## STUDENT BY-LINES

If you want proof that Fromm Institute students are avid readers, look no further than this newsletter. Since school began, your book reviews have been falling from the "Rooftop" faster than Newton's apples. This week, we're happy to present a great review from **Sr. M. Thomas Magee, P.B.V.M.** who rumor has it can be often found roaming through the stacks of Gleeson Library searching to find that "new read."

James Martin, S.J. In Good Company — The Fast Track From the Corporate World to Poverty Chastity and Obedience. Sheed & Ward, 2000 *A Book Review by Sr. M. Thomas Magee*



Ever wonder about the Jesuits? Who they are? Who joins them? What do they do? James Martin, S.J., currently associate editor of *America*, the national Jesuit magazine, answers these questions in In Good Company — The Fast Track From the Corporate World to Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

Martin relates his own experiences from working at General Electric for six years to joining the Jesuits for life. The tone is light, the information interesting. He knew if he stayed at General Electric, "If I did well, I could go far, and make pots of money."

After six years, and moving up the corporate ladder at General Electric, Martin realized he had achieved most of the goals he had dreamed about in college, including, "making pots of money," and began "to give renewed and more serious thought to looking for something new."

"Something new" included getting himself on the Jesuit mailing list, and receiving numerous announcements explaining the Jesuit formation program. At the time, making a 30 day retreat and vowing poverty, chastity and obedience did not appeal to Martin, "So, I put it all out of my mind for the next two years."

In May 1988 Martin changed his mind. He called the Jesuits, and began a series of interviews. On August 15, 1989, Martin got two replies. From the Jesuits, "Yes, come." From his friends, "Are you Kidding?"

What happens in a Jesuit novitiate? The daily schedule includes Mass and other prayers, work, both within and outside of the house, and conferences about religious life. Martin's outside work included caring for the seriously sick and dying in the neighboring hospital. "It was an entirely new type of work. The opposite of what I had done at General Electric."

Being assigned to work with the poor in Jamaica was another part of Martin's training, "The first night, I lay on top of the ancient metal bed and listened to the sounds of raucous reggae music, barking dogs, gunshots, screeching lizards, and the hum of innumerable mosquitoes. God, what was I doing here? I thought about my nice, air-controlled office at GE.

On his return to the United States, Martin began his preparation for taking the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Preparation began with a long retreat, which was followed by working full time in the Jesuit ministry at Nativity Mission School in New York. A student asked, "Were you really making a lot of money before you were a Jesuit?"

"Yeah, I guess so." Martin replied

"Man, why did you give it up?"

"Because I like this better than anything else I've done before."

To which the student replied, "Man, you must be crazy."

"I felt infinitely more satisfied than I had at any of my jobs at General Electric. At a point in my life when I expected to have a secure job, a good salary, a well-appointed house, and a car (or two) I had instead none of these things, and it didn't seem to matter at all to me."

**\* Editor's note: Sr. Thomas wants you to know this book is at Gleeson Library now.**

***Well, that is, she returned it.***

## TOUR AND TRAVEL NEWS

### DO YOU KNOW YOUR "B A C's" ?

You will if you sign on for the SUNFARER CRUISE sailing over Spring Break, April 4-14, 2006.

The letters stand for Bahamas, Aruba and Curacao, the first three stops in this 10-day cruise of the Western Caribbean and Panama Canal.

Half-Moon Cay in the Bahamas is a privately-owned island just for guests of Holland American Cruise Lines with a two-mile crescent of perfect beach plus an interior lagoon, all manner of watersports, or private beachside cabanas.

Aruba and Curacao are both islands in the Netherlands Antilles. The ports of Oranjestad and Willemstad offer colorful floating markets and the waters around are filled with wondrous coral reefs. Landside there are duty-free shops and the famous blue liqueur named for the island.

This is just the lead-up to the famous Panama Canal, a true wonder of the engineering world. Entering from the East, you'll pass through three locks into Gatun Lake, source of the Canal's constant water level that controls its operation. One of the world's largest artificial lakes, you will cruise its 23-mile length while marveling at the human genius involved in its creation.

Then sail on to Costa Rica, with its rain forests, jungle wildlife and famous Jade and Gold Museum. These five stops, together with delightful days at sea, make this cruise an unusual and inviting way to both relax and discover. The cruise is roundtrip out of Ft. Lauderdale.

Details on cruise prices are on the flyers in each classroom and complete brochures are available in the office. You can save up to \$1,700 with our special group discount. AND the Fromm Institute also benefits. Without adding to your cost, Holland American will donate \$100 to the Fromm for every stateroom booked. Your fellow students benefit...but you get the vacation!

Extra savings of \$100 per stateroom for deposits before October 31! Remember as with all of our tours, space is limited and there are deadlines. Come to the Brown Bag on October 17 for a "virtual cruise" by video and start planning your Spring Break now.

Contact me at my direct line (707) 257-1804 for any questions.

Happy Travels!  
*Susan Kennelly*

## COMMAND PERFORMANCES

The *San Francisco Opera* student subscriptions are now over for the year and many of you took advantage of this amazing 75%-off price. We will have new student subscriptions in May for the '06-'07. Remember that you can still get student tickets for individual performances by calling the *Opera* box-office at 10 a.m. and asking if there are student tickets available that day. It is cash only and they usually allow you two tickets per student ID. And as a gentle reminder, be sure to carry your Fromm Institute Student ID with you at all times. Without it you will be unable to get student discounts anywhere. Once again this year Fromm Institute students were the top student subscribers to the *Opera*.

The *San Francisco Symphony* student subscriptions are still available at 50%-off. All of the 7-series are still available even though some of them have already begun. If you are still interested please send them in right away as you only have till the end of October to take advantage for this Symphony Season. You may pro-rate any series that has already begun and if you have any questions please see me or call the Symphony Box-Office as soon as possible. Over 200 of your fellow students have already taken advantage of this great offer.

I've advised you in the past of the wonderful *THEATRE BAY AREA (TIX)* organization and how they offer 1/2-price tickets for many of the performing arts organizations throughout the Bay Area. They have just begun an on-line service that will allow you to order the day-of-performance (or even a few days ahead in some cases), pay for your tickets and pick them up at the theatre box office that night. They also continue to have the *TIX* booth in Union Square across from the St. Francis Hotel as well as the *TIX-by-Mail* to order 1/2-price tickets months in advance. By calling 415-433-7827 at 11 a.m. every morning (except Mondays) you can hear the 1/2-price tickets that are available that day and even some a few days in advance. Their website is [www.theatrebayarea.org](http://www.theatrebayarea.org), and their blue cards are in the display racks in the classrooms. Also look out for *A.C.T.* and the *Marin Theatre* brochures as their student subscriptions are still available.

Lots more to cover in the weeks ahead.

*Bob Morgan*

## Fromm Institute Events & Reminders

**Tuesday, Oct. 4**

*Rosh Hashanah Holiday*  
Classes Do Not Meet

**Wednesday, Oct. 5**  
10 a.m., McLaren 252

*Medical Lecture Series presents Merle Sande, M.D.*  
“The Epidemic That Treatens the World: Is There Light at  
at the End of the Tunnel?”

**Thursday, Oct. 6**  
1 p.m., UC 400

*Australian Film Series presents*  
“A Town Like Alice” part 3 of 3

**Monday, Oct. 10**

*Columbus Day Holiday*  
Classes Do Not Meet

**Wednesday, Oct. 12**  
10 a.m., McLaren 252

*Medical Lecture Series presents C. Seth Landefeld, M.D.*  
“Geriatriccs’ Role in Achieving Vitality and Longevity Today”

**Thursday, Oct. 13**

*Yom Kippur Holiday*  
Classes Do Not Meet

### **ONGOING:**

**Mondays and Wednesdays,**  
12:20 p.m., Library Lawn

*The Mid-Day Stretch with Jack Bray*  
A 20 minute exercise program.



**The Fromm Institute**  
**For Lifelong Learning**

*at the University of San Francisco*  
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