

# READER

March 22, 1973

SAN DIEGO'S FREE WEEKLY



**DAVID BOWIE IN L.A.**

## A SPACE ODDITY

—Brandon Wander—

"I laid David Bowie! I really did!" The titillated young woman descended a flat-lit escalator at concert's end. Her red and blue streaked hair swirled as she slashed the air with her green ostrich feather. "I really did!" she chanted. The escalator plopped her on ground floor. Elated, spinning on five-inch silver platforms, she pirouetted, her silver-sequined pants pulling tight against a supple rump. With pitter-patter steps she floated amongst the spilling crowd. "I really did!" Breasts jiggling under flaming satin, she tip-toed her way into the cool sea air.

David Bowie is real! Here to save us with dazzling projections on the shape of things to come! Wonder what it'd be like to sleep with a real, live flying saucer? Blast-off! No matter. David Bowie, our boy Ziggy Stardust, fluttered into LA not to the gentle swaying of a glass space ship but by bus and the Queen Elizabeth. You see, the Queen of Glitter Rock takes a Queen ship across the sea to play in the shadow of Long Beach's Queen Mary, all because he's afraid to fly. Who ever heard of a spaceman that didn't fly, but whose propulsion power lies in a Greyhound pass?

Long Beach. There are 14,000 seats in the Arena. There is a Queen Mary, with escalators that don't work, and freight elevators lined with original Victorian carpets. There is the Pike, ancient fun spot of a 1920's Miami West. If you're 30 and live in Long Beach, you don't have friends. There are a million people over 65 with their Broadway cafeterias. There is David Bowie.

David Bowie was in Long Beach last Saturday. So was the Frito bandito. And Donald Duck. And gentlemen in full chinchilla coats. Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Fourth Movement of "Ode to Joy" (the *Clockwork Orange* Theme) pulsed from the speaker bank. Ray guns flashed. Ziggy and the Spiders from Mars leaped to their energizers. A sea of roaches

sparkled brighter from the arena bowl (Marijuana is in at Long Beach). Red flood lights snap on. Drums roll and "Changes" pounds.

Bowie, in the first of four distinct acts, is dressed like those famous European clowns. He walks bow-legged, stiff-kneed in an elaborate costume, with black and silver-striped pantaloons held taught by his outstretched arms. He wheels on one heel, then the other in a Chaplin imitation. Wheels to the microphone and jerks his head back. "Ch...ch...ch...changes." His carrot-colored hair stands on end. His face is panuake white. He is animated, sharp boned. He plays very little music himself. The audience tends to lose the music in deference to his theatrics. His years in mime, mixed with feminine posing, is totally engrossing. He is a delicate, sensual woman.

The music breaks. Bowie raises his arms, legs spread, spotlight trained upon him. He looks up. The Spiders rush to his side, grab his costume and flash. Bowie's arms come down in a karate chop, he sheds the clown's cocoon and is in his space suit, red-booted with three-inch magnet soles for walking on walls. The band smashes into "Ziggy Stardust." Ziggy plays guitar, jamming good with *Weird and Gilly... with god-given ass... like a leper messiah*. The voice is high and emotional. Into "Moonage Daydream." *I'm an alligator... I'm a space invader... freak out in a moonage daydream.*

Space ballet. Bowie, his thin

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body elegant, graceful in the shiny jumpsuit, leaps amongst the skitters to the edge of the stage, leans back, with arms raised in a halo above his head.

Music terrific. Incredibly professional. Wizard costumes but no cues missed. The core of the band is Mick Ronson on lead, with blond hair, five inch heels, and a white Flash Gordon suit. Trevor Bolder on bass is dark and quiet. He's dressed in a cheap sci-fi movie costume. One left over from *Invasion from Mars* or maybe that *Planet of Space Queen* flick with Zsa Zsa Gabor. The kind of suit where the monsters walk down the cave and you see the zippers. Mick Woodmansy, yet another Mick — everyone has to be a Mick — sits high above Ziggy with his spider drum set.

"Space Oddity" is appropriate here. The blue jeans and bi-sex cult crowds both know this tune. A sparkle ball is turned on, spotlights hit its mirrored surface sending flitting stars around the arena. Remember that St. Elmo's fire schtick from the movie version *Moby Dick* with Gregory Peck?

The title track from the new album, *Aladdin Sane*. These are Ziggy's last days on earth. If he returns he will be A Lad Insane. But Bowie might quit concerts and go into flicks. The lead role in Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* sci-fi novel is a possibility. RCA just wants their "product" to record the soundtracks with them.

Their product shines in the Te'l Commandments production of

"Aladdin Sane." This is the first time in the concert that the five sidemen shine too. And they're truly sidemen, Robin Hood's merry lads tucked into dark stage corners, frozen stiff. They dress in Sherwood Forest green suits with white tuxes. The men are prototype Xaviar Cougar sambaites. Bowie handles marachos. "Aladdin Sane" is better skelter ancient tunes, lyrical bones that should take a carbon 180 test. Primeval Roger Williams is the pianist. Can't remember the Stardust, Venusy names that jangle about the hypnotic rhythm held by the core of spiders. The tension between sidemen and space invaders is nice. The sissies are

(Continued on page 6)



# events

**Amherst Quarterly**  
California State Univ.  
Cassius Carter Theatre  
City College Theatre  
Cortez Theatre  
Coronado Playhouse  
Crystal Palace Theatre  
Fine Arts Gallery  
Folk Arts  
Jewish Community Center  
La Jolla Art Assn.  
La Jolla Museum  
Mission Playhouse  
Old Globe Theatre  
Palomar College Theatre  
Patio Playhouse  
San Diego Art Institute  
San Diego Public Library  
Sports Arena  
Towers Art Gallery  
UCSD  
USU  
USU Conservatory  
Valley Music Theatre

480 E. 246-9428  
San Diego 286-5204  
Barboa Park 239-2255  
14th & C Sts. 278-1910  
3904 B St. 583-3300  
Silver Strand, Coronado 435-8856  
3785 Ocean Front Walk 488-8001  
Barboa Park 232-7931  
3743 14th Ave. 201-1786  
4079 4th 583-3300  
7917 Grand Ave. 459-3001  
700 Prospect St. 454-0183  
3950 Mason, Old Town 239-2255  
Barboa Park 239-2255  
Palomar College 744-1150  
373 Hale Ave., Escondido 746-9899  
254-5471  
820 E Street 236-5000  
3500 Sports Arena Blvd. 239-5548  
La Jolla 453-3382  
P. O. 239-3211  
350 Ocean Street 239-0391  
1340 Broadway, El Cajon 442-0473

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La Jolla Art Association

**THEATRE**

THE BOY FRIEND, North County Community Theatre, 1020 Grand Ave., San Marcos, Fridays and Saturdays, 8:30 P.M., Sundays, 8:00 P.M. through March 18.

GETTING MARRIED, Cassius Carter Center Stage, Barboa Park, Thursdays and Sunday at 8:00 P.M., Friday and Saturday at 8:30 P.M. through April 1. (Matinee Sunday, March 11 at 2:00 P.M.)

HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES, Coronado Playhouse, Fridays through Saturdays until March 24, 8:30 P.M.

OLD TIMES, Mission Playhouse, Old Town, Fridays 8:30 P.M.

PEER GYNT, UCSD Theatre, Friday through Sunday, March 9-11, Thursday through Sunday, March 15-18, 8:00 P.M. Call 453-2000, ext. 2491.

BUS STOP by William Inge, Actors Quarter, Saturdays through April 14, 8:30 P.M.

BOYD LITTLE MICHAEL FINNEGAN, Mission Playhouse, Saturdays, 8:30 P.M.

SAY WHO YOU ARE, Old Globe Main Stage, Barboa Park, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays 8:00 P.M., Fridays and Saturdays 8:30 P.M. through March 18.

SEE HOW THEY RUN, Ben Polak Fine Arts Center, Fridays and Saturdays through March 17, 8:30 P.M.

AFTER THE FALL by Arthur Miller, Mesa College, April 2-5, 10 and 16, 7:00 P.M.

**BASKETBALL** Conquistadors play Utah Stars at Peterson Gym, Cal State U., March 20, 7:30 P.M.

**BASEBALL** Azeics vs. Utah 12:00 noon, Azeics vs. Oregon State, 2:30 P.M., Cal State U., Sminn Field, March 21.

**TENNIS** Azeics vs. Cal State Northridge, Cal State U. tennis courts, 2:30 P.M., March 21.

Please submit items for the **READER events calendar** by calling 276-3866 or type them on a 3x5 card and send to:  
**READER**  
P.O. Box 80803  
San Diego, California 92138

**MUSIC**

CHAMBER FESTIVAL, UCSD, 409 Matthews Campus, March 15, 4:30 P.M.

ELECTRONIC MUSIC, UCSD, Matthews Campus Recital Hall, March 15, 8:00 P.M.

VIOLINIST ROBERT EMILE and pianist Larissa Janczyn play at Fiddlers' Guild Recital Hall, March 16, 8:00 P.M.

GROUNDED IN RED, Simpson and Karen Njole play at Folk Arts, March 16 & 17, 8:00 P.M.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND CHOIRUS, UCSD, Sherwood Hall, March 18, 3:00 P.M.

AZTECA, Tim Weisberg, Benefit for the United Farm Workers, USD Gym, March 18, 8:00 P.M.

LA JOLLA CIVIC UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA & CHOIRUS, UCSD, Sherwood Hall, March 18, 8:00 P.M.

THE ANNUAL WOODCHUCK CULTURE BENEFIT, Will Gier, John Gardner, Gary White, Elica Cory and the Source with Adam the Aquarian plus special surprises, La Paloma Theatre, Sunday, March 18, 7:00 P.M. (all proceeds to fight genetic diseases).

SAN DIEGO OPERA, Beverly Sills in "Daughter of the Regiment," San Diego Civic Theatre, March 20, 8:30 P.M., March 21 and 23, 8:00 P.M.

CINDERELLA (a musical), San Diego Junior Theatre, Casa del Prado, Barboa Park, Friday, March 16 and 23 at 7:30 p.m.

FLOWER DRUM SONG, Valley Musical Theatre, El Cajon, at 8 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays and 7 p.m. Sundays, through April 1.

THE EFFECTS OF GAMMA RAYS ON MANKIN: THE MOON MARIQUIDS, Mira Costa College Campus Theatre, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8:00 P.M.

HERMAN and the FROWARDY CAT, Actors Quarter, 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through April 15.

**TELEVISION**

**THURSDAY MARCH 15**

THE NATURALISTS, profile of Theodore Roosevelt, Channel 15, 8:00 P.M.

"NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY", Rod Sleiger, Channel 6, 9:00 P.M.

FIRING LINE, William F. Buckley and Shirley Williams discuss the Welfare State, Channel 15, 10:00 P.M.

60 MINUTES: Pertinent and interesting subjects are presented in a magazine format, Channel 5, 8:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY MARCH 16**

INSPORATION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - John Hirten, Assistant Secretary of Transportation, is the guest on The City Game, Channel 15, 8:30 P.M.

THE NATURALISTS: A series profiling four great American naturalists - "The Captain of Huckleberry Party" about Henry David Thoreau, Channel 15, 10:30 P.M.

CUSTOM CAR AND MOTORCYCLE SHOWS, March 16-18, Community Concourse.

MOVIE: "Nisei: The Pride and the Shame," a poignant portrayal of the evacuation of Japanese-American interned during World War II, Fine Arts Recital Hall, Grosvenor College, Friday, March 16, 8:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY MARCH 17**

THE NATURALISTS, a repeat of Friday's show, Channel 15, 3:30 P.M.

YOJIMBO, Samurai drama by Akira Kurosawa, Channel 15, 9:00 P.M.

BASKETBALL: NCAA Championships (live), Regional finals double-header, Channel 10, 1:00 P.M.

**TUESDAY MARCH 20**

FIRING LINE: Repeat of Sunday's show, Channel 15, 7:30 P.M.

FROM CAN CAN TO BARCAROLE: a tribute to opera composer Offenbach, Channel 15, 8:00 P.M.

ALEXIS WEISSENBURG plays Stravinsky on film, and discusses film with Boston Pope producer Jordan Whiteleaf, Channel 15, 8:30 P.M.

WHAT'S AT THE END OF THE BUS LINE? Psychologist Ed Leshan discusses busing with parents. Part I, Channel 15, 10:00 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY MARCH 21**

WHAT'S AT THE END OF THE BUS LINE? Repeat of Monday's show, Channel 15, 7:00 P.M.

GLORIA PENNER and WILSON RILES discuss State and Federal budget cuts, Channel 15, 7:30 P.M.

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## How Not To Lose Your Buttons

Nowadays, the new generation, they don't want to get into laundry business. Too much work. The old generation, they the ones who got into laundry business... It was probably because it was a small investment — some soap, an iron, a little place to hang clothes.

—Kevin Malloy—

Pity the Chinaman. He left the China of the Mandarins and the long-fingered dowager empress to find life in California. Colic labor, they called him in California. And labor he did.

### RY QUICK SERVICE



Here when they on business trip... Mr. Wong Lee looks up at the shelves stacked with the blue packages. His hair doesn't have any gray, but his round face wrinkles when he smiles. No tie, but his light green well-pressed shirt is buttoned all the way to the top.

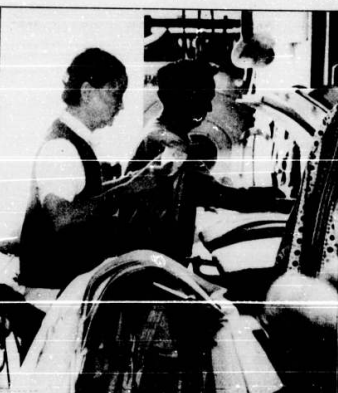
"What's so special about hand laundry, you ask? Look at these shirts," he points behind the counter at some racks of perfectly-pressed long-sleeved shirts. "Big commercial laundries, they just put shirt in one end of machines and it comes out the other. Here, we put in machine, but we touch up shirt with iron and fold 'rirt by hand. If it has a wrinkle or a bit button,

"We fix. Personal attention." Behind the folding counter is a counter on which they do a counter on which they do a touch up with a hand iron. But the clothes all apparently first go through a big press, and they aren't washed by hand. Three shiny metal washers chug away behind the big press.

"Used to be lots of Chinese laundries in San Diego. Now there's only about twenty. Most of 'em are small, one-room hand-finishing places run by old couple who get washing done at big laundry and only do the hand-finishing themselves. The biggest Chinese laundry is New Life in North Park. They have machines, like we do, and a lot of smaller places send clothes there for

washing. We're about second biggest, I think."

"Yeah, we're the second biggest," another Wong Lee chimes in. This one (a daughter) is named Susie. Red sweater and plated skirt, lipstick and fingernail polish, no accent; third generation. Two others, an elderly Wong Lee woman and a male Wong Lee about twenty, join the conversation, mixing multi-tonal Chinese with English. It must be strong Confucian loyalty that keeps them all working here. Mr. Wong Lee says it's only three cents a shirt more here than a big automated laundry, so one can't earn very much money. "I don't know how much longer we're gonna be here," he says wistfully.



"Nowadays the new generation, they don't want to get into laundry business. Too much work. The old generation, they the ones who got into laundry business... It was probably because it was a small investment — some soap, an iron, a little place to hang clothes." Ernest Wong Lee philosophizes behind his counter at the Wong Lee Laundry. Mr. Wong Lee, about forty or fifty years old, is one of nine family members who work at the brick building on State Street below Broadway.

He said he came here about 1940, before World War II.

"Uh, oh, you left China before the war, to escape the Japanese?"

"No. I left San Francisco." The Wong Lee family came to northern California during Gold Rush days and started a small

"waaaaage? Oh, language!") But Mr. Wong Lee is very friendly, not a smiling, Cheshire-cat friendliness but an openness that reflects a contentment with his situation.

The location of the Wong Lee Laundry isn't exactly the best for a small business. The buildings across the street are torn down (Horton Plaza Redevelopment), two wooden houses next door creak and groan with age. And the U.S. Courthouse kitty-cornered across State Street is scheduled for demolition. Yet Mr. Wong Lee's shelves are full of laundry wrapped in bright blue paper.

"Oh, a lotta people come from all over, some from Orange County, some even from Los Angeles. They don't here come just for laundry, but they come

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