

Ampersand

IN ONE EAR

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OUR COVER

Comedian George Carlin drove to Ladi von Jansky's studio in downtown Los Angeles. Carlin has no fear.

I recently saw a copy of *Ampersand* dated January/February Volume V, No. 4, 1982. It is unavailable in any stores in my city. I was wondering if it would be possible for me to order this issue.

Mary Wilcox
Eau Claire, WI

We have, alas, many such complaints; we are distributed within, and only within, college newspapers. No newsstands. But back issues can be ordered, \$1.50 per issue, or you can avoid any future problems by subscribing. Costs six whole dollars per year (send check and address information to *Ampersand* Subscriptions, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028).

At the ripe old age of twenty-four I am about to do something I have never done before: write a fan letter. As I sat half asleep and bored to tears in my Federal Jurisdiction class last Friday, I happened to spy a copy of *Ampersand* (January/February '82). The cover alone was enough to snap me out of my boredom and the article — on Timothy Hutton — was enough to bring me back to life.

Russell Harris, Fan

Send letters to *In One Ear*, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.

Consuming Mass Quantities

IN THE WAKE of irrepressible funster John Belushi's death from a synergistic mix of heroin and cocaine come these two coke-laced reports from a recent *LA Times* edition. First, actor Lou Gossett (you loved him in *Roots*) and girlfriend Honey Rufner were recently arrested for, among other things, giving her two children and his seven-year-old son drugs. It's called "Child Endangerment" in these parts. Detectives found cocaine and freebasing equipment in Gossett's home. Freebasing is a highly volatile method for cooking out the impurities — baby laxative and worse — that greedhead dealers routinely mix into cocaine. Freebasing also cooked out most of comedian Richard Pryor's epidermis between phallus and adam's apple a few months back, and helped Pryor cut his time in the 100-yard dash to practically nothing.

Second, corpulent Beach Boy Brian Wilson — whose apparently permanent drug-induced psychosis has been public knowledge for years — has reportedly resumed cocaine consumption, with the help of his brother Dennis. The news came to light because of a Santa Monica court action. Dennis Wilson and Stan Love, former collegiate All-American and Los Angeles Lakers basketball player, agreed recently via a mutual restraining order not to "harass, molest, threaten or strike" each other.

Love, a first cousin to the Wilson brothers, had spent the mid-Seventies as a sort of nurse/coach to Brian Wilson, trying to cure the once highly creative singer/songwriter's bouts with dependency and binges with drugs through an exercise program and strict supervision (which, apparently, was abandoned some time ago). He alleges that representatives of Brian Wilson, including Wilson's business manager, told him that the Dennis-to-Brian cocaine connection had re-

New Contributors

DENNIS CARLYLE DARLING (*Buch Hancock, Jimmie Gilmore photo*) teaches photography and graphics in the Journalism Department of the University of Texas at Austin. His credits include *Rolling Stone*, the *Washington Post*, *Popular Photography* and *Modern Photography*. Clinching an *Ampersand* assignment was a major career thrill but, avers Darling, "I won't give up my day job yet."

RICHARD GRAHAM (*In Print*) lives in San Diego and signs his letters with impressive calligraphic flourishes.

MIKAL TOOMBS (*In Print*) had better write to us soon and tell us where to send the check.