



# Mariel

writes cookery books" and who stayed in Idaho.

Working on *Creator* with director Ivan (Cutter's Way) Passer and O'Toole has been a thrill for Mariel "because Peter is legendary. I was so nervous. I didn't know what to expect. But it turned out great. He'll try anything. He'll go and make such a fool of himself and then he'll make it work. He's taught me to be freer in what I do."

For his part, *Creator* screenwriter Jeremy Leven sums up the feelings of the production people when he says, "Mariel was a surprise and is a continuing surprise. She's a superb actress — as far as I'm concerned the most underrated young actress around."

Mariel Hemingway is not likely to be underrated for much longer. Besides, she feels "the fact that it has been sort of slow for me has been good. Apart from *Manhattan*, my movies haven't been huge boxoffice hits and that's been OK. To live up to a really big movie is hard. I've worked with strong directors and I've been lucky that at least two of them — Robert Towne and Bob Fosse — are the kind of people who do keep in touch and do continue the relationship after the film is finished, which is very unusual in this business. Some nice projects are coming to me now and I'm getting excited. For a long time, not much came in because no one knew if I could play a woman or if I was still a teenager. *Star '80* sort of settled that."

**You can take the girl out of Idaho, but country-bred Mariel Hemingway will always be a Sawtooth Mountains gal at heart.**

out what it takes to be a world-class one," she says with a grin. Exercise remains a top priority in her life, so much so that she's recently made a video of her personal routine. "Please don't say it's me competing with Jane Fonda. It's just an alternative."

Hemingway remains close to her family but spends less and less time in Idaho, where she passed a summer building her own cabin with a group of friends. Home now is a New York apartment and she has to keep in touch by phone with Margaux in Los Angeles and third sister Muffet who's "a cook and



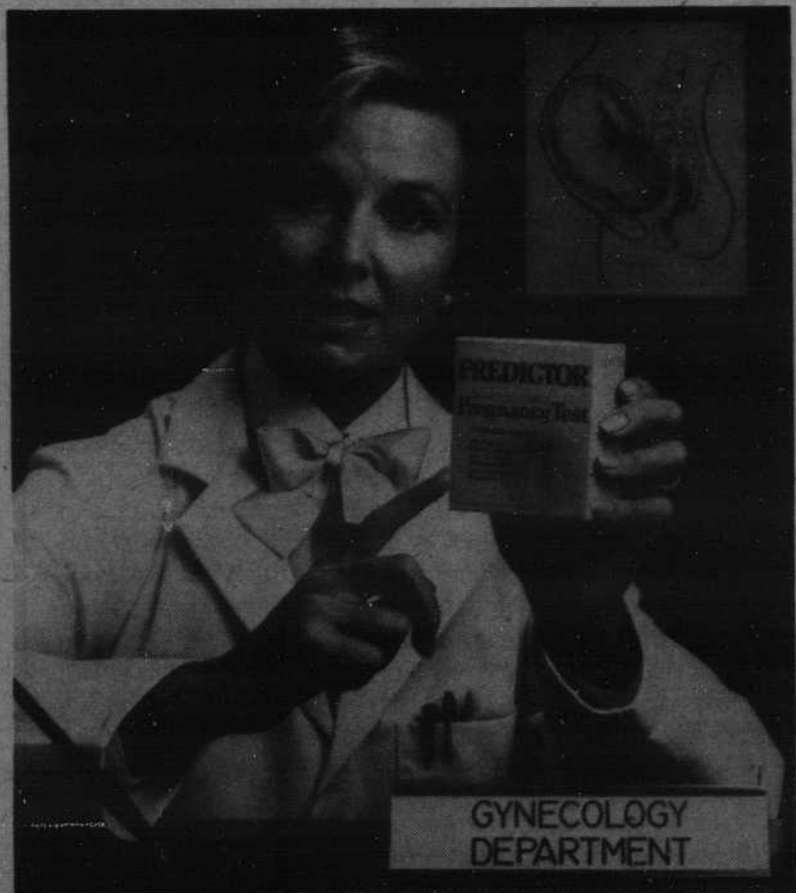
## Pachyderms and Asses

### POLLS APART

**T**rying to figure out whether or not — deep down — you're a liberal or conservative? Palms getting sweaty over the prospect of choosing sides this election year? Drinking yourself half to death trying to figure out whether Fritz 'n' Gerry or Ronnie 'n' George should be in charge of spending the nation into bankruptcy over the next four years? Is that what's bothering you, Bunky?

Then lift your head up high, square back your shoulders and take a walk in the sun! *Polls Apart* — A Handy Guide to Knowing Your Ass from Your Elephant is the book for you. Covering such political necessities as sports, suicide, money, kissing, stupid lawn decorations, booze, art scandal and playing the ponies, *Polls Apart* humbles not only such "serious" books of political nonfiction as *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, *All the President's Men* and *Ball Four* but — what with almost one hundred cleverly etched cartoons — has a leg up on such American fiction giants as *Moby Dick* and *Marjorie Morningstar* as well.

That's right. Strange as it may seem, there are no cartoons in *Moby Dick* — quite a missed opportunity. However, the cartoonery of *Polls Apart*, rendered by sometime *Ampersand* contributor Bill Plympton, is classically frantic and the prose is a lot more digestible than Melville's. In fact, the prose is essentially a string of captions for visual jokes. *Polls Apart* is one of those "concept" books that will be found near the cash register, priced at 2-1/2 times the cost of a greeting card. The publisher has referenced it handily as "Humor/Politics," but *Polls Apart* is really for people who see the two entities as one. Or maybe that's meant to be read "Humor Slash Politics," which actually sounds like a good idea.



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