er 27,1989

le you ders.

t now.

It! 'S and

sic.

t the Stones an to

been Bridget

st gig A. Big

hNO

to

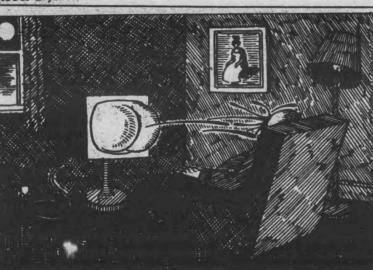
al

20

1 10 28

principle, then it was surely the big shake that hit downtown San Francisco last Tuesday. Within moments, every network pulled out the stops to go digging in the carnage and every third-string political dick head and disaffected geekoid geologist was at hand to utter some of the most inane rhetoric you could possibly hope for. Doubtless every sympathy was in accordance for the family and friends of the lost; but did we really have to sit through three straight hours of regional news anchors combing through "the massive tangle of concrete and steel that once was the Ninety

October 27,1989



UNCLE STEVIE TAKES A GANDER AT THE EARTHQUAKE AND ROLLER GAMES. TWO MORE EXAMPLES OF **HUMAN SUFFERING THAT HAVE** MASSIVE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE.

NUMBER TWO IN AN OCCASSIONAL

SERIES. THIS WEEK

CUGDENF

Schadenfraude: a gratuitously American way."

Little did Bush know however, fellow human beings. If there that, even as he spoke, thousands has been one event in the past of tourists were flooding into the decade that has exemplified just area and armed to the teeth with how much networks feel that zoom-lenses and video cameras. their ratings are affected by this Put a price-tag on that George.

Now that we knew all the amateur video-tapes off by heart the car disappearing into a crack on the 880 Bay bridge; the waitress falling down behind the bar; the kid on the duck with wheels the real test of endurance began. Witness after witness had a lens poked in their face and were asked to describe how they felt about losing a loved one or about the fact that "somewhere under all those tons of rubble your son might still be alive?"

Again the Questions arises -how do these sensation-hungry Ice Hockey of NFL and required a bastards sleep at night? Easy. considerable amount of skill and Because they know that millions stamina. But what we get on

The Germans call it way and will continue to be the we were to become intimately associated with the general heath of our new mascot.

CBOP

MONITOR

MONITOR

Indeed it was the earthquake that prevented me from catching the first ten minutes of the atrocious Roller Games (NBC Saturday 2 am) in premise, the concept for this potentially rather exciting arenal sport is quite good. Take a handful of good-looking athletes (men and women) suit 'em up in Spandex and items from the Road Warrior wardrobe and sen 'em hurling around attrack to score a few points and more importantly, bash seven shades of shit out of each other. During the earlier games of the excellent Roller Ball (1975) we saw how effective this could be. In reality it was o more violent than

continuing proto-soap opera animals. Shananigans concerning some of right dickhead that looks as similar in return. frightening as a passion fruit) to Later on. .. "There's a time and Stephanie (who, incidentally, is break you like a dry twig!" eerily reminiscent of Carla from Oh go suck a lemon Wally Cheers)? Basically, who gives and go back to the used car-lof a shit? The icing on the skunk- where you belong. Total crap. vom for me comes with the

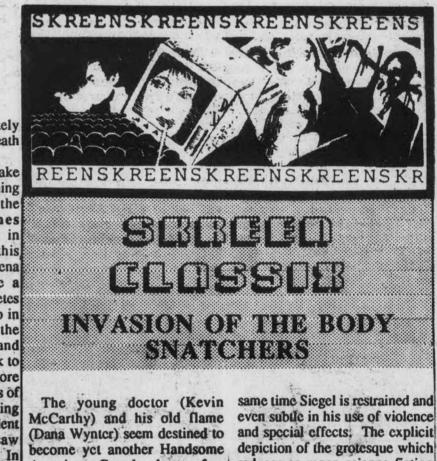
The Brunswickan 21

women are the stuff of a school mock sports round-up with boys best want-nightmare- Wally George. Wally, a fantasy: screeching squealing repulsive white-haired Mort Playboy centrefold bitches on Downey sound a like, has a beef wheels! Imagine! (opps gimme a about alligators and is disgusted Kleenex!) Also borrowed from that another roller team, 'the wrestling in recognition of the Maniacs', regularly fills the fact that this shit has to be made conveniently filled pool at the interesting somehow are the centre of the track with there

"Return these slimy green the players. This week Jennifer lizards to th swamps where they Van Gilder (one of the T-bird belong!" bellows Wally causing twins) had been more of less several hundred thousand viewers kidnapped by the evil skull (a to yell something remarkably

play on the Violators team, a place for senseless violence would her ex-boss save her? (sic) and if you don't happen to Would 'Dar the Star' help her agree, meet me behind the in a clinch with sweet stadium after the show and I'll

Steve Griffiths



troublesome incidents threaten films to the level of empty their security: recognize her spectacle is largely lacking; fear strange. Gradually horror their world.

American Couple, but a few' reduces so moan science fiction uncle, a father suddenly seems ... is established through the accumulation of relatively invades their comfortable little innocuous incidents. Body town, and reaches out to embrace Snatchers provides a classic example of terror asserting itself Don Sicgal's early science- in the midst of the mundane. fiction feature has worn well: The horror lies not in the Hollywood remade it in 1978 difference that marks the Pod (with Donald Sutherland as the People, but in their eerie hero), and serious film critics sameness. There ought to be have begun to treat it as some sign to mark the vampires emblematic of the American among us, we feel; there is Psyche of the McCarthy Era. something terrifying about an Sicgel-probed the human based upon an unremarkable pulp susceptibility to insecurity with a novella by Jack Finney, and was sure hand. His film has had ignored by reviewers when countless imitators, including released in 1956. Its subject was television's current War of the commonplace enough: however Worlds series, which owes at it is explained, whatever least as much to Siegel as to technological or theological Byron Haskin (and nothing at all to H.G. Wells). Together with is a familiar concept. The such classics as Forbidden Planet (an exact contemporary), It Came From Outer Space, and When Worlds Collide, Invasion of the Body Snatchers created the modern science fiction film, and continues to exert a powerful influence on the genre.

every seven minutes. In an ideal T.V. world one would be apprised of the disaster, informed of telephone hotlines for concerned relatives and have done with it. What we don't want is a shamconcerned Tom Brokaw using his Sunday. Long-shoreman Buck getting above designated lines on entire repertoire of epithets and Helms was found alive in the 'the wall of death' and then euphemisms to fill in between collapsed bridge and -- presto! -- leaping over 'the Jetway' to pointless commentary of A symbol was born. Whether it accumulate a maximum of eight spineless polyps representing the is three trapped grey whales or points. On the second trip they hopeless constituents that were the 'jogger' victim of Central have to rum the gauntlet of sadly not directly beneath any of Park wilding, Americans turn to blockers. This is where the fun the falling masonry.

morbid interest in the suffering of

Pretty soon the powers-that-be aggrandizing interest despite the from an opposing player, the were thrown into the public fact that ordinarily they wouldn't recipient of an are to the side of forum to share a tear with the give a fuck about things that, in the body will go screaming over victims. Quayle was actually at these instances, concern the the rails clutching their hand rather too quickly, almost extirpation of indigenous wildlife stomaches; instead of trying to suggesting that somebody in the or urban atrocities. Within hours get around a 'blocker' a White House knew rather too of the discovery, hundreds of 'jetter' will go full tilt into much about the inevitability of well-wishers gathered at the his/her agent of misfortune with severe aftershocks. Not long hospital to pay their respects and barely an arm lifted in defense. afterwards it was Poppy's turn. Mr. Helms was otherwise the People actually pay to see this? "There is no ceiling at the talk of the town. Helms was If anybody is actually getting

compassion of the American recognized as an all pervasive hurt though, it is the women. people. . ."

of towners offering their metaphor granted given the far stuffed down the back of their residences to homeless strangers

tag on it ?... it is the American Over the next forty eight hours the boob. In essence, these

free way?" No. Especially not of ghouls lap this televisual pus Roller Games is the most up like foetid honey and banal and crass choreography that frightening clarity.

American society was neatly score. These are 'the Jetters' encapsulated by an event on and they have one chance of these stories with a rabid self- starts. Receiving barely a nudge manifestation of survival and True they do have what looks Sniffled Bush referring to out perseverance. A blind and trite like coenozoic strata of pasta greater suffering surrounding shorts but you can't simulate ... how do you put a price- them, but a symbol nevertheless. pulling hair or a stiff clbow to

480 Oueen Street 459-7578

advertisers recognize this with even transcends the standards of professional wrestling. Basically Finally another aspect of one member of each team can

The durability of such a film is evil so cunningly normal. somewhat surprising. It was

machinery is invoked, possession particular attraction of the movie sems to lic in its combination of commonplace setting and an earnest (even insensitive) hero, with the assertion of an inexorable extra-terrestrial conspiracy. The style--deadpan and unsophisticated for the most part--heightens the contrast between the ordinary setting and the extraordinary events. At the