

Greenwich

Melting pot lives

It's summertime in the big city. And it's a Thursday night, like any other Thursday night. It's close to midnight. The moon is out and stars are visible through the billion-watt glow of the big city. The temperature hovers at 70°.

Trees and shrubs are in bloom.

And a girl glides by in a purple, see-through, plastic jumpsuit. Another coasts past in cutoffs and a T-shirt, carrying a copy of the morning New York Times.

A thousand young people are out — many on roller skates or bikes, while others flip a Frisbee, pass a volleyball or keep a soccer ball suspended in air for kick after kick after head butt. Still others listen to music or make their own, but most sit and talk, drink and smoke, watch and listen.

This is Washington Square in lower Manhattan, New York City, in the heart of the Village, Greenwich Village.

You've seen Jane here and a barefoot Robert, an unmarried Jill and countless others from countless other films. But the film crews aren't out tonight. Only the regulars are out. All 1,000 or so of them.

ANYTHING GOES in the Village and the action is nearly non-stop. The sites, the sounds, the smells. The park is packed with ragtag-looking young people. The dress-code is as strictly enforced as labor laws in Taiwan.

Whites, blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, hippies, punks, tourists. Skaters, bikers, after-hours athletes, vendors, musicians, jugglers, con men, bums. Everyone is out and everyone is having a good time — except maybe the bums.

The roller skaters are acrobatic. They weave and duck, dance and twirl and sidestep passersby — as well as each other — all in long, fluid motions and to the disco beat of a dozen blaring radios.

Like most New Yorkers, they mesh like cogs on busy factory wheels, yet they function largely in isolated worlds. By themselves, together, they number in the dozens. Back and forth, in and out, against the noises of car horns, sirens, whistles and disco, non-stop.

The bikers mostly come and go, but the volleyballers and the soccer players have corners of their own in the square. The musicians and the jugglers draw the crowds, temporarily.

But after the swell has witnessed the best they have to offer — and offered the performers the least-money they could in return — it's back to sitting and talking, drinking and smoking, watching and listening and passing by.

YOU MIGHT strike up a conversation with a stranger, but you wouldn't want to. Not in the square. Either you're with someone, don't want to be with anyone or you maintain a constant banter with those around you. But not a conversation.

Squaregoers — the regulars — are like people in their livingrooms. They're at home. And if you haven't planned for guests, you don't want to entertain strangers. Idle chatter from porch to porch is OK.

And all squaregoers have one thing in common: a need to score.

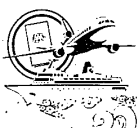
Scoring can mean showing off on skates or with a ball, out-blasting a competitor's radio with your own, making a drug deal or just seeming like you belong. Maybe that's the main thing.

Perhaps every Washington Square regular would like to say to every tourist or passerby: "This is New York, love it or leave it. Or hate it and stay here. I could care less."

This is New York, though — love it or leave it or hate it and stay. It really doesn't matter. And to some, scoring simply means sitting in the square and thinking about the city and the people in the park. Just like this.

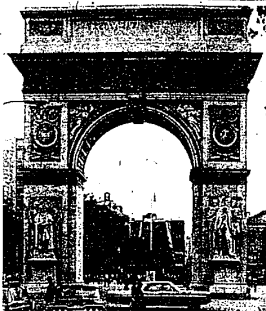
— Tom Panzenhagen

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The Washington Arch, northern entrance to Washington Square, is at the foot of Fifth Avenue in Greenwich Village.

'Wake up in the city that doesn't sleep'

(Continued from Page 4C)

den's than out-of-towners. In all cases, half price tickets on the day of a performance are available starting at 3 p.m. at the "kits" office in Times Square.

Quiet — For rest and relaxation, try the park. Bad jokes aside, Central Park is a safe, a nice place to take a stroll, watch the joggers or see a softball game. And you won't believe how quiet it can get within the confines of its walls.

Roads — They're easy to remember, at least north of the Village. The avenues run north-south; 9th Avenue is on the west side, 1st Avenue on the east. The streets, running east-west, run into the 100s up north, around Harlem and the Bronx, and down to 12th, 11th, 10th to the south, in the Village. South of 3rd you're on your own. One tip: Tourists will read the street signs and say "Avenue of the Americas"; locals call it 6th Avenue.

Sun — Here's a sidetrack: Trains leave Penn Station for Long Island all the time. One such train will take you each morning to the town of Bay Shore where you can catch a ferry to Fire Island. Total travel time is two hours, and you'll be on a 20-mile-long beach fronting on the cool Atlantic. Return in the late-afternoon. Train schedules available from the station. Ferry runs tie in with the train arrivals and departures.

Transportation — Meaning subways. Don't be afraid of them. There are three main lines that run between midtown and downtown, and you can't go too far wrong by taking any of them. Just remember: 7th Avenue line, west side; Broadway line, central; Lexington Avenue line, east side. They all run north-south, stopping every eight or nine blocks. Fare is 50 cents.

United Nations — Skip the tour, check out the lobby. A Foucault Pendulum proves the earth rotates on its axis, and moon rocks remind of man's visit to the moon. Walk around the outside of the complex — the flags of all the nations are something to see.

Village, the — A must see. Walking tours available (check New York magazine for times and starting points).

Waterways — Circumnavigate Manhattan Island. Tour boats leave from the foot of 42nd Street on the Hudson River six or seven times a day. The sites include an up-close look at the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, the industry-riddled northern portions of the East River, the supple north end of the island and the wide, wide Hudson. Well worth the four hours it takes, and when it gets hot in the city, there's no better way to cool off.

X-rated — Deep in the heart of old New York there is a thoroughfare that Ruby Keeler wouldn't recognize. No, 42nd Street isn't quite what it used to be. Massage parlors, strip shows, magazine shops, drug dealers and hookers dominate the scene. Not for the week at heart, but would a trip to New York really be complete without a stroll down 42nd Street?

Yankees — Those damn Yankees — John, Jackson, Randolph, Nettles, Murner et al. — play in the south Bronx, easy to get to via the Lexington Avenue subway's "Yankee Express" direct to the stadium. The park has been remodeled, as has Tiger Stadium, but Yankee Stadium looks about 10 times better. And the bleachers may be safer, too.

Zzzzzzz — Don't forget your rest. Try to get some sleep, even if you are paying \$40 for a bed.

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Travel trends

Plenty of gas this year

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

Gasoline will be readily available at fuel pumps in the United States this summer, barring some unpredictable disaster.

The price rose 68 percent this last year, and is still going up, but that doesn't seem to stop us from using it.

Travel patterns are changing because of the energy problem, the depressed economy and changing social patterns.

Last year, for the first time, foreign visitors to the U.S. increased to the point where there were more travelers coming in than going out.

THOSE ARE just a few of the trends reported in a variety of surveys done by the travel industry, private, non-profit and government. All segments of the industry are eager to avoid the disastrous summer of 1979, when the real energy problem was magnified by the public perception of it.

Americans assumed that there wouldn't be enough gasoline to get them to their destination and, so they often didn't go at all. Millions of dollars were lost to the travel industry, which is among the top three industries in 42 states, employs four million people directly and two million indirectly nationwide.

The U.S. Data Center reports a 24.8 percent jump in the travel price index this year, primarily because of increased fuel prices. The Travel Industry Association (TIA), formerly the Discover America Travel Organization, surveyed 30 travel industry executives to measure the effect of energy and rising prices on travel. Their tentative conclusion was that Americans are still planning vacations but they are doing it more carefully.

"No other industry relies so much on energy as the travel industry," said J. William Hudson, vice president of industry and Government Affairs for TIA. "We can't convert to coal."

"This summer, travel by motor vehicle will constitute two-thirds of vacation travel. Every indicator, every survey, shows that there will be an adequate supply of gasoline, at prices that have already increased 68 percent this year."

TIA, with hotels, airlines, tourist attractions, convention bureaus and travel associations as members, has fought to keep travel from being the

scapegoat of national energy legislation. Less than 3 percent of our fuel is used for recreational travel, but legislators tend to think of it as a luxury rather than a major industry in America.

Rachel Nilsson, public relations director for the American Automobile Association nationwide, believes that public response to the energy problem is based on availability, price and the conservation ethic.

"AVAILABILITY is apparently more important than price," she said. "The price keeps going up, but there is no sign of a breaking point yet. People keep buying it. But they want to know that gasoline is available, whatever the price."

"Nobody in the industry understood the allotment system last year. There was a glut where there was no people, and a shortage where there were lots of people. City dwellers saw a shortage at home and assumed it applied everywhere. So they stayed home."

Nilsson said that the White House, which last year emphasized conservation of home heating, is this year focusing on travel. "They assume that people are not conserving, but we believe that Americans are already actively conserving energy."

Some of the patterns seen so far are shorter trips, closer to home, with fewer family members along. More people are using trains, buses and other public transportation, and more are combining various forms of transportation to achieve a travel goal. People are saving energy and money for the big trip once taken casually.

Inner city rail and bus business has increased. Amtrak is up 6-10 percent. Airlines business has decreased 5-8 percent causing layoffs in the industry and a flurry of special discount prices, but the gap in price between car travel and air travel is narrowing.

Ed Stone, director of public relations and marketing for Opryland in Nashville, recently spoke to a group of travel publicists and travel writers about specific steps that can be taken to ease the cost-and-energy strain on travel.

"Travelers are exploring our packages, bus tours, no-frill options, special discounts and free local activities in an area," Stone said. "Gas cost 50 cents in 1978 and \$1.20 now, which means that 400 miles of car travel now costs \$12.60 more than it did in 1978."

Stone also talked about how the changing family is affecting travel patterns. "By the mid 1980s the typical nuclear family will be 2.25 persons. The nuclear family is now only 13 percent of U.S. households."

"Thirty percent of homes are childless and more than 20 percent are single. The travel industry is already beginning to reflect this movement away from family travel as we have known it."

ONE OF THE most interesting trends in the travel industry is the increase of foreign visitors to the United States, a situation created by the drop in the dollar value overseas. Americans once enjoyed this situation in reverse, because our dollar bought a lot of travel in other countries.

Nowadays German marks and Japanese yen buy a lot of travel in the United States, making America a favorite travel destination for foreign visitors.

Unfortunately, we are not as well prepared to host foreign visitors as they have been to host us. Few sections of the travel industry have employees who speak languages other than English. Few employ interpreters.

The industry is scrambling to change that, so that we can take advantage of this economic boost to our economy.

Foreign travelers do not necessarily see the United States as we do. The Japanese, for example, are eager to visit Dodge City because of their exposure to American westerns on television.

The highest number of overseas visitors come, in descending order, from Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Japan. Their numbers increased 19 percent last year.

tripping

MUSICALLY YOURS

And now from downtown Adrian, Mich., musical merriment from the stage of the Crowell Opera House.

The Crowell summer musical theater schedule includes "The King and I," through June 29 and July 2-6; "The Pajama Game" July 16-20 and 23-27; and "Annie Get Your Gun" Aug. 6-10 and 13-17. All productions begin at 8 p.m.

Season tickets are \$15 adults, student-handicapped-senior citizens \$9, or individual tickets at \$6 adults, and \$4 (s.h.s.c). For information, call 1-517-263-5674, or write Grace L. Kaled, Crowell Summer Musical Theater, P.O. Box 724, Adrian 49221. The box office is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and 5-9 p.m. show nights.

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As of Sept. 1, American Airlines will provide discounts up to 55 percent for travel throughout domestic U.S.

The discounts would be 45 percent days and 55 percent nights and 35 and 45 percenters nights Fridays through Sundays. Tickets must be bought 30 days before departure, and stays must be seven to 60 days long. Seats will be limited, and the fares do not apply for the New York-Los Angeles or New York-San Francisco flights.

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