

# BITS AND PIECES

# TIME OUT

## Peck and Bacall together on film again

In what promises to be a great rematch, Lauren Bacall and Gregory Peck have been signed for the film adaptation of Tina Howe's stage play *Painting Churches*, which will premiere on TNT in 1993. Peck and Bacall have not appeared together in a film since 1957's *Designing Woman*. *Painting Churches* will mark the first TV-movie assignment for director Arthur Penn (*The Miracle Worker*).



Lauren Bacall

Great exposure is a terrible thing to waste. The players of NBC's comedy series *A Different World* have been named as the first official ambassadors for the United Negro College Fund. William H. Gray III, president of UNCF, said that the series' cast members (Jasmine Guy, Kadeem Hardison, Dawn Lewis, Darryl Bell, Charlene Brown, Cree Summer, Glynn Turman, Lou Myers, Jada Pinkett and Cory Tyle) are "some of the most potent role models for minority youngsters considering higher education."

The series, which is set on the campus of a predominantly black institution, began its association with UNCF last year when its producers and writers celebrated their 100th episode by underwriting a scholarship program which is currently enabling three black students to attend a university.

All's fair, it seems, in politics. Fearing conservative support for rival Pat Buchanan, President Bush recently dumped his chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Jonathan Frohnmayer. During his tenure, Frohnmayer funded hundreds of hours of arts television, and weathered a storm over photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe. Shortly before his dismissal, Frohnmayer spoke of "the attack on the National Endowment, on ... literacy and thought in this country. "If we as a society stand to continue our leadership, we must be leaders in the realm of ideas and of the spirit," he concluded.

## WLAF finds more fans in Europe than U.S.

By Steve Paschal

Last year, the United States staged a successful cultural invasion of Europe with the debut of the World League of American Football. However, the troops weren't as successful on the home front where they faced competition from baseball and basketball as well as having to contend with America's annual migration to outdoor activities.

But, since Americans have an insatiable appetite for sports, the WLAF is back for a second season, with Saturday games on the USA network and Sunday matches on ABC. This week, ABC viewers will see either the Ohio Glory taking on the Orlando Thunder or the New York/New Jersey Knights against the London Monarchs.

The biggest challenge facing this made-for-television league is the absence of a grass roots following in the United States. In contrast, the WLAF exploded onto the European sports scene where the fans are discovering this American game without the league being saddled with a September through January viewing tradition or superior competition from the NFL. The Barcelona, London and Frankfurt, Germany teams averaged over 33,000 fans a game, and London's 21-0 victory over Barcelona in the first World Bowl drew 61,108 in attendance, just slightly less than the first Super Bowl.



Cheers star Kelsey Grammer appears on this week's syndicated *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.



The last weeks of Monroe's tragic life are examined in *Marilyn: Something's Got to Give*, Saturday on Fox.



Weekdays on The Disney Channel, Elisabeth Harnois plays Alice in *Adventures in Wonderland*.