

Geoffrey Hendricks & Sur Rodney (Sur)
2003 YEAR END MAILING
Issue No. 7

Last year's letter was never finished. Completing the Critical Mass catalog, trying to meet the printer's deadline, and organizing the exhibition and events at Amherst thwarted our good intentions. So, this has become a special two year posting. Reflecting on what we had started last year, we decided to juxtapose the newspaper events noted in last year's calendar with quotes from An Anthology of Black Folk Wit, Wisdom, and Sayings, collected by Venessa Cross. This little volume has since been mailed on a bed of dried rose petals to Sur's newborn cousin Zahira, in Victoria, BC.

Proverbs are the daughters of experience.
--Sierra Leone

December 2003

The moon moves slowly, but it crosses the town.

On the 8th Hildamarie has spine surgery. Janet visits Putney, VT to assist with Hildamarie's return home and care. We drive up to Putney and on to Glover, VT to return puppets and visit Elka Schumann. We return artwork to Carolee Schneemann and Mead Museum en route. We return to NYC via Hudson, NY days later in a snowstorm and visit Uncle Larry and his Chuck in their barn remodeled spectacularly creating a comfortable residential duplex with two fireplaces. On the 10th Sur is in a meeting discussing a Downtown New York decade exhibition proposed by NYU's Grey Art Gallery concerning the late 1970's and early 1980s. The evening of the 11th we find ourselves at Plaid, a Manhattan nightclub, in the early hours of the morning waiting for *The Velomptuous Horror of Karen Black* to appear on stage. We take a Greyhound bus to Montreal on the 19th to visit Sur's family and friends. On the 24th we return to Putney, and with Hildamarie, Janet, Nye and Nat wait for Santa Claus. William Pope L.'s exhibit *eRacism* is being installed at Mason Gross. We begin to organize the information for this double issue mailing.

The 28th is Sur's birthday. Sur invites Geoff to see Gus Van Sant's film *Elephant*. We are joined at the theater by Jack Waters and Peter Cramer. After the movie we dine at Souen's, our favored New York Macrobiotic restaurant.

On the 31st we stay close to home and watch videos as the New Year arrives. Friends visit Greenwich Street. Ronald, Jon and Joanne, Greg and Yves, all at different times and we watch videos of Francois Ozon film shorts and the British version of *Queer As Folk*.

We retire at 3:30am on January 1st, 2004.

January 2003

Don't look where you fell, but where you slipped.

We spend New Years Day with brother Nat's clan at Nick & Kim's open house in Cold Spring NY, driving up there through a storm of snow and ice.

On the 6th Francesco Conz has an accident that leaves him paralyzed. On the 27th we begin installing *Critical Mass* at the Mead Art Museum, Amherst, MA, with Jill Meredith, Trinkett Clark and their great crew. Donna Mabelli will win a design award for her brilliant design for the *Critical Mass* announcement booklets from the American Association of Museums .

February 2003

The face of water is beautiful, but it is not good to sleep on.

On the 16th Geoff directs a re-staging of George Maciunas' *Flux-Mass* at Johnson Chapel, the exhibition opens at Mead. At dinner that evening we realize a Yoko Ono score with food on canvas. We are in the biggest snowstorm of the year. The college campus closes down. Slowly through the snow we return to NYC with Shauna McCabe, curator of the Confederation Art Centre, where Geoff will exhibit his work in June. Conversations on the drive back to New York become the genesis for her catalog text. On the 20th Geoff attends a book signing for Hannah Higgins' *Fluxus Experience* at Printed Matter.

March 2003

The fool looks for dung where the cows never browsed.

On the 17th, our Cape Breton neighbors Gerard MacPhee and Laurel Browne are wed in Peterborough, NH. Nye Ffarabas attends the wedding representing our family.

April 2003

The shoe knows if the stocking has a hole.

On the 11th Geoff and Sur give a tour of the *Critical Mass* exhibition for gay students and alumni at an Amherst mentoring weekend. On the 28th the exhibition, *A Happening Place* opens at the Gershman "Y" in Philadelphia. Geoff is on one of the panelists discussing the Art Scene in the 60's. During our Philadelphia visit we see Yvonne Rainer's exhibition curated by Sid Sachs at the Rosenwald Wolf Gallery, University of the Arts. Back in New York *Critical Mass* catalogs arrive from the printer.

May 2003

You cannot shave a man's head in his absence.

On May 30th Geoff gives a tour of the *Critical Mass* exhibition and performs a headstand for his 50th Reunion. He donates his Joe Jones' *Steel Drum* to the Museum's collection, in celebration of the occasion.

June 2003

If something that was going to chop off your head only knocked off your cap, you should be grateful.

We drive to Portland, Maine for the viewing of Skowhegan's 2002-2003 Faculty Exhibition at the ICA, Maine College of Art. On the 8th we're in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, for Geoff's exhibition *Between Earth and Sky (in knowing one, one will know the other)*. Geoff performs *Eating. Breathing.* with Christina Read enveloped in projected images of cloud formations and a projected film of a Cape Breton cow slaughter. Lydia Grey documents the performance, and shares the driving back to NYC. We stop in Lewiston, Maine to visit William Pope.L and stay for dinner.

On the 12th we arrive in Venice just in time for dinner at Cipriani's in honor of Fred Wilson, who represents the US at the Biennale this year. It's hot, though we missed the hottest day. At Ben Vautier's exhibition *Life Goes On* at Emily Harvey's air conditioned gallery, we visit with Ben as well as Emily, Davidson, Marianne Bech, Elisabeth Delin Hansen, brother Jon, and others. We see the exhibitions of the Venice Biennale. We then travel to Verona and pose with Francesco Conz wearing hats in front of a Madonna sculpture in a garden on a sunny day. We also visit Henry Martin & Berty Skuber in Fié (Bolzano)

Back in New York AA Bronson photographs us nude. On June 30th, the following day, we fly to Naples, Italy.

July 2003

Cussing the weather is mighty poor farming.

3rd, 4th, & 6th: 31 *Headstands* in Castel S. Elmo for the exhibition, *Living Theater, Labirinti dell'Immaginario*, and visits with Allan Kaprow, Hermann Nitsch, Judith Malina, Ira Cohen, John Giorno, Rosanna Chiessi and others who are all participants and in attendance for the event. Raffaella Morra works so hard to bring it all together. Then on the 8th we board a train to Genoa to meet up with Caterina Gualco as a surprise for Berty at her opening, *Under Penalty of Law*, at the Villa Croce. Sur discovers an intriguing label he offers to Berty for her collection. We travel to Rome for a night with Baldo Diodato & Maddelena before returning to New York. We're given wonderful olive oil.

On the 13th we travel to Naushon Island to visit Tyche, Amelia, Nye et al. Amelia is photographed with all her grandparents. Grandson Jonah visits NYC. We visit Skowhegan on route up to Colindale, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. David Martin and family are settled in our Family House, we nest in the Fish House. We clear woods trails and along the line fence with Fenn Martin.

August 2003

The tyrant is only the slave turned inside out.

On the 12th Cléa Rose is four. On the 16th Gerard & Laurel have a wedding party in Colindale. Step dancing. Bagpipes. Margaret MacLean expires. On the 19th we visit Joan Jonas and by chance get video taped for a film that will be part of her retrospective at the Queens Museum in New York. Sur's long time friend Eden Muir drives up from his 200 acre apple orchard in Quebec near the Vermont border for a surprise visit. His visit provides Geoff much needed advice on pruning his apple trees now grown enough to survive the deer. On route back to New York on the 22nd we stop by Naushon and visit with Bracken, Alice, Galen, Cléa Rose and friends. Nye, Tyche & Amelia return to join us. Granddaughters Amelia and Cléa Rose announce they are getting married.

September 2003

The noise of the wheel doesn't measure the load of the wagon.

On the 3rd Sur posts a response to Roberta Smith's review of a Leslie Dill retrospective on *The New York Times* web site. Sur's lesbian cousin Naomi gives birth to her daughter Zahira Inez Orlando North in Vancouver.

On the 10th we travel to Nice to participate in Ben Vautier's festival, *Fluxus Continue 1963-2003*, exhibitions and events with Alison Knowles, Eric Andersen, Larry Miller, Ben Patterson, and others. We stay in Villa Arson so that Geoff can cook macrobiotic meals.

On the 28th Phil Corner & Phoebe Neville visit and produce a program for Dick Higgins's *Thousand Symphonies* part of the events around the exhibition *Critical Mass: Happenings, Fluxus, Performance, Intermedia and Rutgers University 1959-72*. Geoff's graduate students Lucas Kelly and Shane Seidel help Geoff create Allan Kaprow's tire installation, *Carpets* (version 10 of *Yard*). Allan, along with Geoff's graduate class, and others move the tires from inside the gallery outdoors forming a "carpet" in the courtyard before all are returned to the gallery.

October 2003

Time is longer than rope.

On the 4th Larry Miller organizes some fabulous *Flux-Sports*. *Critical Mass* opening reception. Phil Corner conducts the concert of Dick Higgins' *The Thousand Symphonies* at Nicholas Music Center. On the 9th Geoff's exhibition *Accidental Significance: Collaborations with Brian Buczak* opens at Emily Harvey Gallery in New York with companion catalog printed in Italy *Four Hands Examining the Color of a Thought*. On the 16th we travel to Baltimore's UMBC campus for Dick Higgins's *Intermedia* symposium and an evening of related performances after viewing the exhibition. On the 22nd Visual AIDS opens the exhibition *Share Your Vision* at Artists Space in New York.

The Fire Marshal serves a violation for Allan Kaprow's Tire environment, *Carpets*. Yoshi Wada flies in from San Francisco to perform in his original role as Flux-Priest for the re-staging of *Flux-Mass* and stays with us on Greenwich Street.

November 2003

Wisdom enclosed in the heart is like a light in a jug.

On the 1st George Maciunas' Flux-Mass is re-staged at Voorhees Chapel. We witness a Lunar Eclipse on East 4th Street on the 8th. That night Sur is Master of Ceremonies for artist/photographer/filmmaker Gary Goldberg's Memorial Tribute, organized by his partner Rachelle Starr, in the auditorium of the Millennium Film Workshop.

On the 14th Holland Cotter reviews Geoff's *Accidental Significance: Collaborations with Brian Buczak* installed at Emily Harvey Gallery in *The New York Times*. As the gallery has no program plans Emily suggests the exhibition remain up indefinitely--much like the Walter de Maria *Earth Room*. (Call us to schedule an appointment for viewing.) At 11am on the 16th, Sur is first to arrive at the Visual AIDS *Postcard from the Edge* Benefit Fund-raiser at Galerie Lelong in Chelsea. Doors opened at 3pm. On the 20th we fly to Halifax and in a rented car drive on to Colindale, Cape Breton Island for 10 days. We burn lots of firewood in our wood burning stove and refill the woodshed.

da capo _____

During 2004

We plan to be in Italy in **March**.

In **April** we will visit family and friends on Vancouver Island, and then travel to San Francisco (Berkeley) for granddaughter Amelia's 4th birthday on April 10th.

In **May** Geoff will vacate his office at Mason Gross, ending a 48 year association with Rutgers University. Sur predicts that he will leave the task of packing his office until then.

For part of **June** and the month of **July** we will be at our farm on Cape Breton Island with plans to celebrate Geoff and Tyche's birthday July 30th.

From **August 9 - 21** Geoff will be teaching at the International Summer Academy in Salzburg, Austria. On our way back to New York we plan to visit Reykjavik, Iceland.

We'll attempt a full report at the end of this calendar year.