

# Guild at a Glance

South Vancouver Island Potters' Guild meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 4733 West Saanich Road, Victoria

Dec. 1, 2007

[www.mypottery.com](http://www.mypottery.com)

Volume 8, Issue 4

## JOY FINLAY DEMO

Joy Finlay is a truly unique potter with a very personally developed process and set of techniques. She shared these with her colleagues after the meeting on November 12. Joy signaled her special approach when she announced that we would all participate in the production of what she called an "impromptu" pot. Our job was to develop a textured surface on a small, soft piece of clay.



Joy had previously mixed two colours of clay and wedged them a little to create a swirl. She prepared each "patch" and placed them in a baggie so that we could manipulate them more easily. It was at this point that many of us discovered that we had interesting shoe sole patterns and that this approach was fun and engaging.

Using a bowl as a mold she applied the patches to the sides and created a new bowl. Our textured pieces faced outward and she smoothed the inside with a home-made rib. Joy likes to have a natural and soft rim so she tries to leave the patches as they are

**Don't Forget The Raffle!**

Next Guild Meeting is  
Monday, January 14, 2008  
7:30 p.m. at St. Michaels Hall

(within reason).

Lastly she stuffed newspaper inside to even out the drying and covered it with a plastic bag.

After bisquing Joy applied a watery slip to the outside which she then lightly wiped, highlighting the textures. The inside will be finished with a conventional glaze, either black, white or cream. In keeping with the natural look, she waxes the outside up to the rim and the glaze line follows a soft brushed line.

Joy creates tools as she goes such as ribs from plastic food container lids, a tamping tool made from a sand-filled balloon and a joining tool using a scalloped shell. She creates bowls, cups, goblets and small to large plates and platters. Her work is wonderful in the real sense of the word, fun and very natural. Thank you for sharing your process Joy.

Roger Champagne



### CONGRATULATIONS

Our very best wishes go out to Faro Sullivan and Armand Wassink on the birth of their baby girl, Nova Saskia Roan, at home on November 16th, weighing in at 6 lbs. 14 oz. Perhaps, in due time, another Guild member following in her Mom's footsteps???

Congratulations are also in order for Helen Hughes! She has been given an honorary Doctorate of Laws by University Canada West at convocation ceremonies November 24, 2007. Well done, Helen!

### Upcoming Guild Programs

Dec.— Members Display & Party

Jan.—Tobias Tomlinson: Carving/Altering demo.

Feb.— Ester Galac.

## Library Corner

To Members all, and special welcome to new members. It thrills us, the Library Committee to see all our Guild's wonderful books coming and going at our meetings. Sometimes we're so busy we can't give each one the help requested. So to help members help us, it is easy to help yourself if you know the routine.

### 1) To take out a book

- Find the Card in the pocket, usually pasted on the inside of the back cover.

- Enter the meeting date, (Not due date, today's date).

- Print or sign your name.

- Put card in OUT box.

- Now the book or video is yours on loan until next meeting.

### 2) To return loans

- Find the card from the OUT BOX.

- Check mark by your name (so there is a record of your returning).

- Place card back in pocket pasted inside book cover, usually on the back cover.

- Place book or video on table so someone else may borrow it.

### 3) No need to be overdue

- If you can't return the book when it is due, send it back with a friend who is coming to the meeting.

- Or, phone one of us and ask to have it renewed until the next meeting.

- OVERDUE fines are \$5.00 for each book or video, for each meeting missed. We are pleased to take your overdue "donation" so we can buy more books, but we are sad at the same time if you didn't take advantage of our lenient renewal procedure.

Joy, Alice, Kyoko and Judy



For those of you who like to plan ahead:

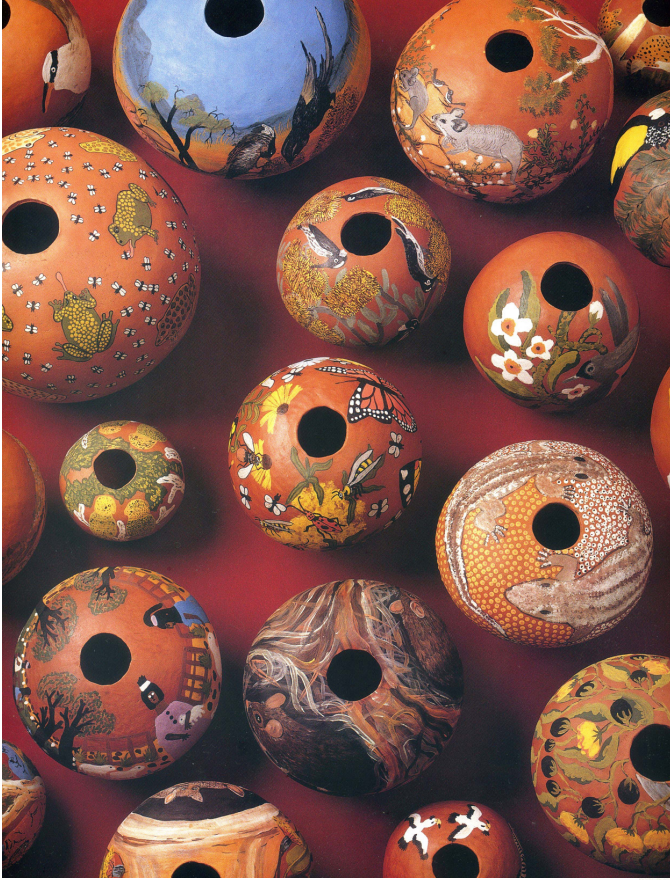
**NCECA 2008** will be held in March in Pittsburgh, Penn.

**NCECA 2009** will be held in March in Phoenix, Arizona

## Upcoming events

**BC in a Box ~ Call for Entry Deadline, February 1, 2008** -- Similar to the first BC in a Box exhibit, entry is open to all individual members (limited to one entry per artist) and required to fit specific dimensions: maximum 6"x6"x6". All miniature creations will be included in an inaugural show at the Port Moody Art Centre in March/April 2008. From there 50 pieces will be juried into the travelling exhibit, with non-juried pieces having the option to sell. **As the exhibit moves through BC, each participating community has the option to organize a local show as a complimentary component to BC In A Box.** See Entry form at: <http://www.bcpotters.com/FingerPlay%20Call%20For%20Entry%20Form.pdf>

## ABORIGINAL POTTERY IN AUSTRALIA



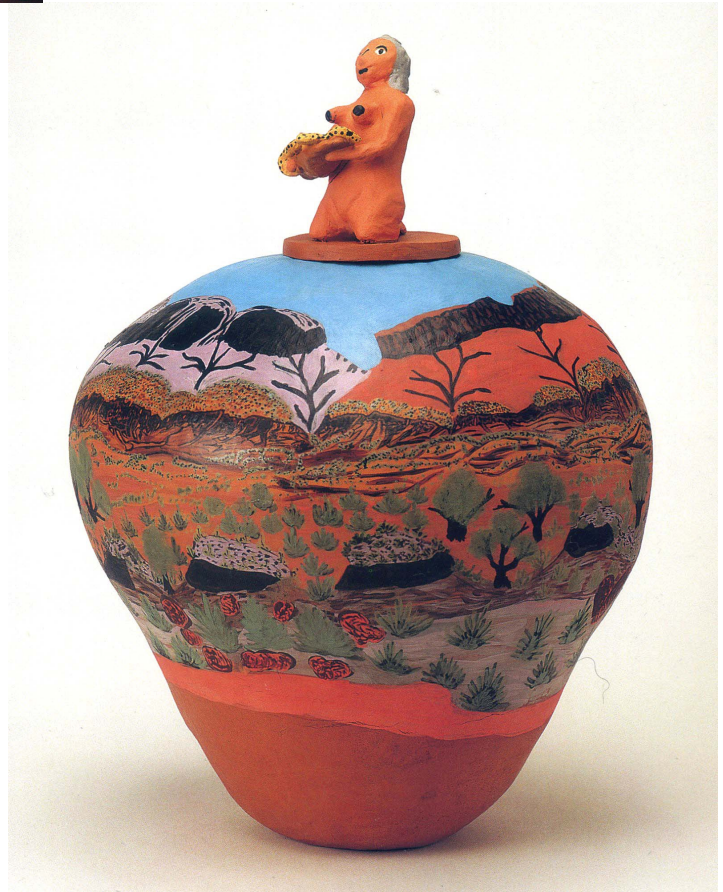
I have just returned from 5 weeks in Australia. The first 3 weeks were spent in Queensland where I have brothers and their families, and the last 2 weeks in Sydney where we have many friends.

I grew up in Brisbane, which was then quite a backwater – an overgrown country town – but now it has grown up. It started with Expo 88, at which time they developed the south bank of the Brisbane River, opposite the city, which had been industrial and quite run-down. The Expo site was built to carry on as a pleasure park and cultural site, and today the cultural site contains a centre for performing arts, which has cinema, theatre, music halls, dance and opera all flourishing. Beside this is a museum, which is very open and instructive, compared with the dusty old brick building I remember. Next come two art galleries and the state library. It is now conceded that Brisbane is a cultural centre to be reckoned with. The architecture is very contemporary, the landscaping all native plants, and the exhibits beautifully displayed.

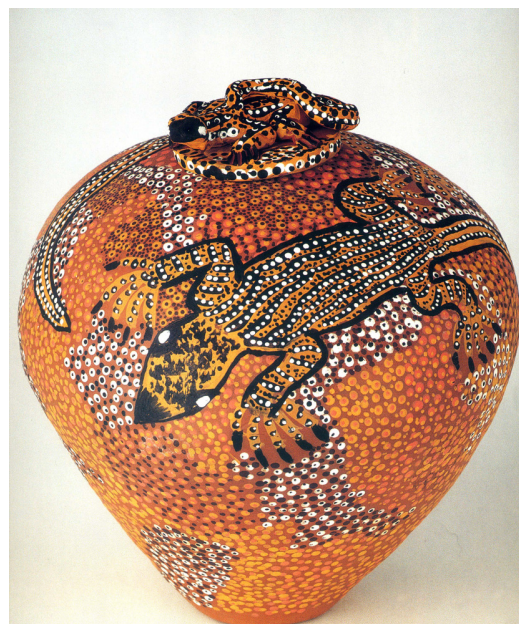
When we were there, the Gallery of Contemporary Art had two exhibits of Aboriginal Art, comprised of painting on bark and canvas, and on wooden objects ranging from hanging snakes to hollow funeral poles. There was wonderful basketry both useful and ornamental, and also pottery.

Pottery is not a traditional craft, but was introduced to the people of Hermannsburg in the 1970's by a New Yorker, Naomi Sharp, who has been there ever since. Hermannsburg was originally a Lutheran mission set up to house and feed aboriginals during a bad drought, and to shelter them when cattle ranchers moved on to their land. From the start it was an artistic community. Artists came to teach them painting, and soon the landscape and in particular the stark, white ghost gums were known throughout Australia from the paintings of Albert Namatjira.

The missionaries have gone now, but the aboriginals retain the buildings, and the artistic traditions started by the Lutherans. They were look-



ing for someone to teach pottery, when Naomi Sharp walked into the employment office in Alice Springs in 1990. She had traveled widely, and learned pottery along the way. She showed them pictures of pots and of Native Americans and New Guinea women making pots, and once she had their interest, she began to teach them to make coiled pots. They are then burnished with a spoon and painted with underglazes in vibrant colours depicting the Aranda landscape and animals and birds. Most have animals or birds or reptiles on their lids. Following the success of Hermannsburg, other aboriginal people have started to make pottery of startling beauty and simplicity.



I felt honoured to have seen these exhibitions as I have always wanted to visit Hermannsburg, and have a book about their pottery, but it is some distance from Alice Springs in Central Australia, and I have never made it. On my next visit I hope to go there.

Jocelyn Steedman

### **Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, BURNABY, BC, Visiting Guest Ceramic Artist Workshop**

Register now for Robert Barron's two day workshop and wood firing.

Robert Barron: Direct from Down Under (18+ years)

Robert Barron has an international reputation as a ceramic artist, presenter and lecturer. Influenced by his many years of travel studying the techniques of potters throughout the world, Robert provides a unique perspective delivered with typical Aussie humour. This is a workshop you really won't want to miss!!! Demonstration only.

\$84.20, 2 sessions February 23 & 24, 10:00am - 6:00pm Course Code: 146897 Call 604-291-6864 to register.

Wood Firing with Robert Barron (18+ years)

Robert Barron brings with him the knowledge gained from many years of international travel studying the techniques of wood-firing potters in South Korea, England, New Zealand, North America and Europe. The experience of firing his own 1,000 cubic -foot, five chamber kiln at his Gooseneck Pottery in Australia is certain to make his firing of our ombu kiln a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Be prepared to be physically involved in firing and bringing cone 10 bisqued pots to fill four cubic feet of kiln space.

\$318.00, 4 sessions, March 6-March 9, times vary Course Code: 146898

Call 604-291-6864 to register.

**To Guild members.....**

In 2005 my husband Alan and I led a tour to potteries, Fine Craft galleries and Archaeological sites in England and south Wales. It was a great success so we have planned it out again, trying to find comfortable but more affordable accommodation. Can I ask you to pass this information on to your members? We have some interest but need to fill 14 seats. preferably during December, but at latest in Jan. '08 to secure the bus and hotels. If you could pass on the word for us we'd be most grateful.

Thanks for any assistance you can give us,

Gillian McMillan (www.cabc.net, www.circlecraft.net) cmillan@sfu.ca 604 937 7696

**POTTERY & ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR OF SOUTHWEST ENGLAND**

Alan and Gillian McMillan have once again organized a holiday in England, primarily for potters. The tour is planned for next Spring, May 25 - June 6, 2008 and will start and end in London. It is scheduled at that time of year for lovely weather and to avoid the peak season cost. We plan to visit the studios of Walter Keeler, John Leach and several others, Fine Craft Galleries and take walks around interesting archaeological sites and castles in the West Country. The comfortable journey in a 24-seater coach will take us to St. Ives, Salisbury, Wells, Bath, the Wye Valley and Stoke-on-Trent to see Pottery Museums and factories. Accommodation in good quality hotels, most meals, all transportation and entrance fees are included.

If you would like to know more please email or phone us. Let us know soon if you are considering joining us for this unique holiday. Registrations close at the end of the year. Gillian McMillan

Tour cost: \$3,496.00 Cdn. per person based on 14 participants in twin share accommodations. Should the number of participants drop below 14 it may result in a higher per person cost

mcmillan@sfu.ca 604 937 7696

**ISLAND ARTISANS**

Island Artisans Association is planning their second Wholesale Show of Fine Craft to be held Sunday, March 2nd, 2008 in Victoria.

This will provide owners and buyers from gift shops, galleries and other retail outlets from the Islands, the West Coast and possibly further to meet with and see the work of artisans living on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

IAA's mandate and the aim of this show is to promote the work of the world-class artisans living on the Islands. Therefore, it will not be open to those from other areas. We are not doing it to make money; in fact the show will be heavily subsidized by IAA with a cost of only \$50 for IAA members and \$100 for non-members. Attendance will be free for wholesale buyers.

If you are an artisan from the Islands or a retailer interested in such a Wholesale Show, or know of anyone who might be interested in either exhibiting or attending as a purchaser, please contact Danny Lineham by email at: info@greatlittlebooks.com or by telephone at: 250 381-0683

**Surrey Art gallery Presents: Mobile Structures: Dialogue Between Ceramics and Architecture in Canadian Art until Dec. 16, 2007.**

Jeremy Hatch's Tree House –a life-size, porcelain cherry tree–is part of a Surrey Art Gallery exhibit tapping into "dialogues between ceramics and architecture".

This is worth visiting, for an experience that challenges what one might expect to see when you enter an exhibition of ceramic sculpture.

It was our good luck when grand parenting in Richmond to also attend the panel session, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 18. The discussion was most powerfully inspiring and thought provoking, all about connections (and disconnections) between ceramic art practice and the ideas of architecture.

As reported in the Georgia Straight review, the most spectacular sculpture in the exhibit is Jeremy Hatch's Tree House, set in a life size cherry tree, all in white matte porcelain. The entire porcelain work is cast from more than 30 moulds taken from a fallen cherry tree and real planks. The interface between nature and built, between ceramics and architecture is impressively illustrated in this one. The ideas in some other works were more obscure.

An oak leaf archway in white porcelain was intriguingly beautiful. I didn't have time to respond to a bunch of real moss overlaid with Lego size ceramic pathways, didn't even read the blurb nearby. But I was intrigued with a kiln attached to a brick wall, designed to create "ceramic graffiti" by firing glazes on the wall.



There are 10 Canadian artists in all. Admission is by donation.

I came away from the exhibit and the panel conversations, my head abuzz with weaving together a bunch of ideas. Not often have I taken in a show that was so much about ideas, interpreted through different artists use of techniques with a mostly clay medium, and all the same theme. Go see it if you can, on until Dec. 16.

Joy Finlay

**CLAYWORKS Westshore, November 17, 2007, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Hall**

Betty Burroughs, Betty Fulton, Ester Galac, Cindy Gibson, Andre Gogol, Meira Mathison, Sophia Morrison



Photos by Tony Mochizuki

**YOUR 2007-2008 EXECUTIVE**

<b>President</b>	Nancy Wall	479-3524
<b>Vice-Pres</b>	Pam Wood	642-0638
<b>Secretary</b>	Rachel Coward	721-2976
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cindy Gibson	592-8257
<b>Archivist</b>	Roger Champagne	388-9642
<b>Library</b>	Joy Finlay	479-9833
	Judy Kranjc	642-5368
	Alice McLean	642-3522
	Kyoko Kusano	592-4638

**Membership**  
 Betty Burroughs 382-0974

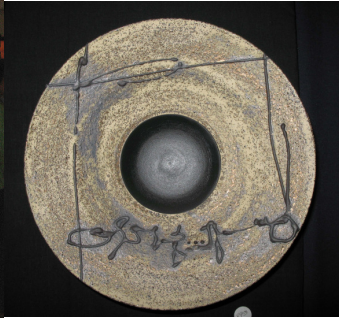
**Newsletter Committee**

Betty Burroughs	382-0974
Roger Champagne	388-9642
Jane McAllister	383-6240
Tony Mochizuki	474-1532
Jocelyn Steedman	920-0196
Caryl Wilford	642-7169

**Program Coordinators:**  
**VACANT**

<b>Raffle</b>	Ester Galac	658-4523
	Tobias Thomlinson	383-3893
<b>Coffee</b>	Betty Fulton (October and November)	

**Directors:** Meira Mathison, Betty Burroughs, Betty Fulton



## EXPLORE THE SURFACE

January 11-13, 2008 | Berkeley, California

Hosted by Rikki Gill and the Berkeley Potters Guild

Put EXPLORE THE SURFACE workshop on your Holiday List. What greater gift could you give someone you love or yourself than an opportunity to expand or learn new ceramic skills and techniques. Register before December 31, 2007 to receive early bird pricing and SAVE UP TO \$60.

Watch, learn from the experts!

EXPLORE THE SURFACE is your opportunity to listen, watch and learn from some of today's most influential artists, including David Hendley, Gerald and Kelly Hong, Willie Hulce, Julia Kirillova, along with:



Virginia Cartwright

Handbuilding Folded Forms with Inlaid Colored Clay

Virginia will share her expertise working with thin slabs of clay to create unique folded forms. Her previous metal smithing experience influenced the development of these techniques. She is known for her inlaid colored clay work, and she will show you how to enlarge the clay patterns so they will be suitable for large sculptural pieces. Recently, Virginia has discovered a quick new way to create textured stamps. She will tell you

how to do this and will bring lots of them for sale.



Sam Chung

Handbuilding a Teapot

Sam has been using paper patterns with slabs to construct handbuilt functional pottery forms. He will construct a teapot and all of its parts using this technique while discussing aspects of function, ergonomics, and design. This is a slower process that incorporates the more intuitive act of drawing with the more precise method of building with pattern-based shapes. He will discuss his design process

and how a two-dimensional idea evolves into a three-dimensional form.

Don't miss a minute!

You'll want to attend the many entertaining and educational events at EXPLORE THE SURFACE, including:

\* Two days spent with like-minded artists learning the following techniques: slab construction using paper patterns, cutting and altering thrown pieces, coloring and inlaying clay into patterns, using the extruder to make different shaped pots, and constructing a teapot just to name a few.

\* The Opening Reception, held on Friday, January 11, 2008, from 6-8 pm, and sponsored by Leslie Ceramics Supply Co. Inc. During the reception, attendees will have the opportunity to meet with the presenters, register, listen to live music with singer Jennifer Lee and guitarist Robin Lewis ([www.jennifer-lee.net](http://www.jennifer-lee.net)) and enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

\* A Book Signing will also take place during the opening reception with Clayton Bailey, Arthur Gonzalez and Richard Whittaker. Clayton will have his book available for sale: "Clayton Bailey: Happenings

in the Circus of Life" ([www.claytonbailey.com/book.htm](http://www.claytonbailey.com/book.htm)). Arthur will sign his book, "The Art of Rejection," and Richard Whittaker, editor and publisher of Works & Conversations magazine will be signing his new book: "The Conversations, Interviews with Sixteen Contemporary Artists."

\* Win a Nabertherm Kiln! Nabertherm has provided a Top 16/R Kiln valued at more than \$1400 to be given away in a Potters Council drawing, with all proceeds benefitting Potters Council of The American Ceramic Society, a non-profit organization. Each ticket costs \$10, or you can buy three tickets for \$20. The drawing will be held at the opening reception. Shipping of the kiln is courtesy of Nabertherm, and a Nabertherm representative will be available to answer any questions you may have during the opening reception. Read more about the Top 16/R Kiln by Nabertherm.

Thanks to our sponsors!

EXPLORE THE SURFACE is sponsored by the following:

- \* Leslie Ceramics Supply Company
- \* Nabertherm
- \* AMACO-BRENT
- \* Industrial Minerals Company

Register today, save up to \$60!

Be an early bird and register before December 31, 2007, and you'll SAVE UP TO \$60 off your registration.

The Ceramic Surface, by Matthias Ostermann is #101, our latest book. Meira Mathison presented it to the Guild at our November meeting on behalf of the artists in All Fired Up. Meira explained that it is their way of saying thank you to our members who helped on site during their show. So THANK YOU All Fired Up - the book looks very attractive and is already catalogued and out on loan..



### Alberta Slip Clays

My name is Joe and I work in the lab at Plainsman. ....Please be advised that Alberta Slip 2 is not available. I apologize if you have read information about this product on the internet, there have been instances where we have removed reference to it, but there is obviously more to be deleted from website info. Alberta Slip when applied to bisque ware has a very high shrinkage and will tend to crack and quite often flake off the ware. The purpose of Alberta Slip 2 was to help alleviate this problem, the only issue was that we could not get the colour quite right in a production type atmosphere as compared to a lab testing procedure. Alberta Slip is a unique product to Plainsman as approx. 60% of the clay in this mix comes from our own clay quarries. If you are presently attempting to use Alberta Slip on its own and with no other additives, it will help the shrinkage problem a lot if you can calcine half of the quantity of Alberta Slip that you intend to use. You must ball mill it once this is completed as it will be too coarse to screen as is. I have mixed Alberta Slip plain and calcined half and half and milled for one hour and the liquid easily screened 100 mesh. At cone 10R. this material produced a tenmoku like glaze, in cone 10 oxidation you have to add 10% Frit 3134 to help a better melt. At cone 6 oxidation, a mixture of 20% Frit 3134 and 80% Alberta Slip (50 percent calcined and 50 percent raw) produces a beautiful, beautiful golden brown coloured glaze on light coloured clays and enhances the colour of dark coloured clays. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Joe [www.plainsman@telus.net](mailto:www.plainsman@telus.net) ----- from a posting on Clayart.

Unique topics, classics and handbooks

# Ceramic Arts Bookstore

Information and inspiration from inside the artist's studio

The Ceramics Monthly Archive CD Set

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ORDER BY DECEMBER 11

And receive The Archive CD Set in time for the holidays!

When you shop.....

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is ONLINE!

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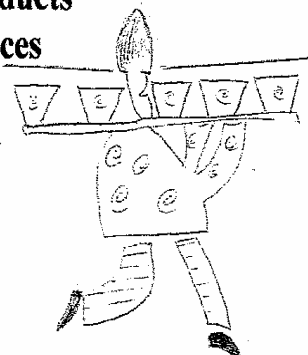
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