

Disgusting *Candid Camera* Segment on Flatulence Filmed at Rancho Romero November, 1991



*'Tis an unweeded garden, that grows to seed;
things rank and gross in nature ...
That it should come to this."*

Hamlet could have been lamenting the situation at Rancho Romero elementary school in Alamo. On Nov. 15, a "Candid Camera" crew showed up there to prepare a particularly tasteless episode for the mesmerized delight of the TV-addicted hoi polloi.

"Here's the gag," related SRV Times staff writer Vince Golla (*Times*, Nov. 16): "(Bert) Goodman poses as a visiting author who wants to try out some story lines on elementary school children. Just a few minutes into his first story, though, Goodman drops something on the floor, bends over to pick it up and, to put it delicately, breaks wind, with the help of the remote speaker and sound man Scott DePalma.

"Goodman played the role of offensive author to perfection, occasionally fanning the air behind him, harrumphing once or twice and excusing himself, 'for a breath of fresh air.' "

Children's reactions to the flatulent factotum were then taped for the amusement of *Candid Camera* couch potatoes.

Naturally, "Rancho Romero Principal Marilyn McCurdy, who looked on from the control room, said she was impressed with the temporary restraint of some children. 'They were adorable,' she said."

Well, how precious. One supposes that vulgar sight and sound gags are the next logical step for the San Ramon Valley school district. It's the current leadership of the same outfit, after all, that has also approved the classroom showing of R-rated films ("R" ratings being assigned for violence, profanity, nudity and sex) and such rude, crude and lewd live shows as "Secrets" and "Nightmare on Puberty Street."

Plato once said that souls take with them to the next world only education and culture. Increasingly, it appears that SRVUSD graduates will take neither.