

San Francisco Examiner

★ Wednesday, November 8, 2000 D-

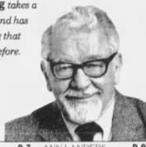
**TOP 10 TV Shows**

Rank	Network	Rating
1.	ER*	NBC 18.1
2.	Friends*	NBC 15.2
3.	Everybody Loves Raymond*	CBS 13.9
3.	Millionaire*	ABC 13.9
5.	NFL Monday: Titans Redskins*	ABC 13.8
6.	Will & Grace*	NBC 13.0
7.	Millionaire*	ABC 12.8
8.	West Wing*	NBC 12.7
9.	Millionaire*	ABC 12.5
10.	The Practice*	ABC 12.5

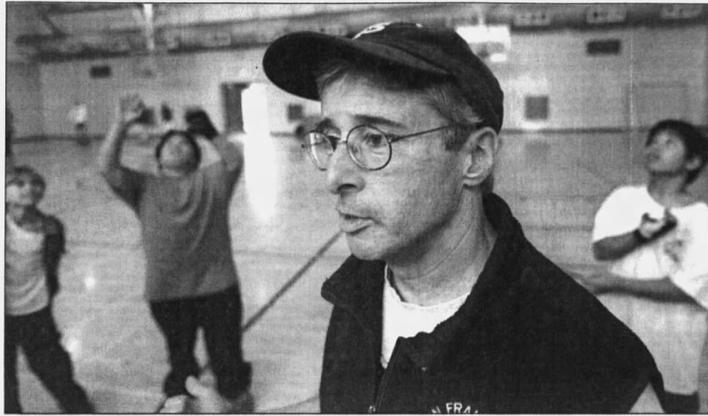
\*For the week ending Nov. 5 according to the A.C. Nielsen Co.  
Story and additional Nielsen ratings (D-3)

# STYLE

**David Steinberg takes a look at the past and has the oddest feeling that he's been there before.**  
[D-9]



COMICS D-7 ANN LANDERS D-9



Mike Gallegos has spent about 30 years leading an ear and offering an outlet to kids at city rec centers.

## Keeping kids first

Recreation director Mike Gallegos is proud of his impact on young people

By Craig Marine  
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

**T**HE DIFFERENCE between Mike Gallegos and a politician — well, one difference — is that to a politician, “the kids” are, of course, “America’s future.” Which means nothing, post-election, when the same people will sell them down the river when it’s time to find money to build a new prison.

To Gallegos, “the kids” are not an abstraction. They are the people he has seen every day for more than 30 years as a recreation director in his native San Francisco. They are the ones he coaches, talks to and, even more importantly, listens to. Just by showing up every day for work, Gallegos gives a lot of children one of the only models of consistency and rela-

bility they have seen from an adult. Along with teaching a jump shot or a batting stance, Gallegos is also, almost subliminally, teaching kids right from wrong, conflict resolution (or whatever the current term is for breaking up playground scuffles and making sure they don’t happen again) and scads of other things that aren’t in his job description and certainly aren’t compensated for in his modest salary.

All of which, if you actually point it out to Gallegos, he’ll wave off as he sees how fast he can change the subject.

“To be honest with you, it’s not like I sit around every day thinking what a great guy I am,” said Gallegos, sitting in an office among the basketballs and batting helmets of Sixth Street’s South of Market Rec Center, where he has been director since 1991. Before that, he spent a

decade in the Western Addition at Hamilton Rec Center. Before that, he spent 10 years out in the Excelsior District, back when the Unified School District actually believed it was a good idea to open the schoolyards after classes to give kids a place to go.

“I just think I’m one of the lucky few who wakes up knowing he’s going to a job he enjoys. Kids are great every kid, if you catch them early enough. They only get into problems when they have nothing to do, nowhere to go,” Gallegos said.

Gallegos, 52, started as a director when he was smoking his way through the University of San Francisco. At the time, it was a way for him to make a few bucks, work outdoors and get a tan on those rare days when the sun broke through the

[See GALLEGOS, D-9]

## Walkers shed light in memoirs

Alice writes of marriage; Rebecca writes of finding self

By Kim Curtis  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**B**ERKELEY — Alice Walker’s life has been one headlong charge against racial barriers. She overcame her share-cropper childhood to emerge as a civil rights activist, and she challenged Southern law by marrying a white, Jewish lawyer.

Years of pain and struggle brought her joy and Pulitzer Prize-winning success, but not without scars. Her marriage crumbled under the strain of passion and politics, violence and racism. And she wasn’t the only one left wounded — her daughter, Rebecca, grew up angry and confused.

In a new, cathartic memoir, Alice Walker comes full circle, revealing details of her 10-year marriage and subsequent divorce from the man who nurtured her talent and celebrated her heritage.

And this January, readers can get a distinctly different glimpse at the same family in the writing debut of

[See WALKER, D-6]



Alice Walker opens up and discusses her marriage in her new book, “The Way Forward Is With a Broken Heart.”

## Another look behind the veil of Turkey



Alice Lytle Croulier feels caught between her native Turkey, though she never quite fit in, and her adopted home of the United States, where she is seen as a foreigner.

S.F. author’s latest novel takes her closer to her heritage

By Judy Stone  
SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

**L**IKE TURKEY, her native land, forever split between East and West, Alice Lytle Croulier is still trying to integrate those two parts of herself. The San Francisco author uses fiction to bridge that divide in her two new novels, “Seven Houses” and “The Palace of Tears,” which is just out from Delacorte.

She left Turkey when she was 18, with a scholarship to Oberlin College in Ohio, but her adolescence had been marked by that division. For years, living in Istanbul, she took the

ferry across the Bosphorus from her home in the Asian sector to the European side to attend an American-sponsored school.

In the mid-19th century, the Suez Canal offered a new link between East and West — that moment provides the setting for “The Palace of Tears.” The story follows the travels of a French winemaker lured to the Orient by a miniature portrait of a beauty with one blue eye and one yellow eye. When he finally finds her in a sultan’s palace, he converts to Islam, changes his name and eventually becomes a wealthy gunpowder manufacturer. The novel was inspired by a family tale told to Croulier by her paternal grandmother.

That same grandmother — who had grown up in a family haven in Greek Macedonia, then part of the Ottoman empire — also triggered Croulier’s curiosity about the cloistered lives of the women in the imper-

ial Topkapi Palace in Istanbul. Her 10-year pursuit of that mysterious, elusive community, so romanticized in European art, resulted in her first, handsomely illustrated, nonfiction book, “Harem: The World Behind the Veil” (1989), which was translated into 11 languages. It was followed by the nonfiction “Taking the Waters,” an exploration of hot-spring spas.

The novel “Seven Houses” characterizes a prodigal daughter’s return to Turkey as a moment of reconciliation with the past. It has already been published in Europe and South America and will be released next year in the United States.

There were some very early indications that Croulier, also a kind of prodigal daughter, would find a world outside of national boundaries. Even her name held a portent of sorts, she mused over a Turkish-inspired lynch in a sunny nook outside the Green-

[See CROUTIER, D-8]