

## MOONING OVER CAMP

continued from page 17

### Camp Greylock

Becket, Massachusetts  
Founded 1916

**360 boys, ages 6 through 16**  
**100 staffers**

**Cost:** \$3,600 for grades one through six; \$3,950 for two older groups

**Dates:** June 24 to August 16

**Uniform:** no

**Activities:** Water sports, tennis, golf, woodworking, photography, dramatics, computers, radio/electronics, cultural events

**PHC:** Alan Jay Lerner, *Hill Street Blues* actor Bruce Weitz, Jon Tisch, Walter Hoving, Peter Falk, director Michael Gordon, Stanley Marcus (Neiman Marcus), Stephen Albert (Pulitzer Prize winner for music composition), former U.S. Assistant Treasurer Stan Surrey, city planner Larry Halprin

**Waiting list:** yes

Alan Jay Lerner told me that when he was spinning *Camelot* in his head, he'd reach back into his memory and picture his days at Greylock," recalls camp director Bert Margolis. "He did this for pure inspiration. He'd think of Greylock and his heart would almost break with joy."

Inspiration is what you'll find at this camp. Got your walking shoes ready? This is some spread: Facilities are grouped around 60 acres of the total 350-plus acreage.

Stand by the instructional swimming dock on Center Lake and look off to your left. You'll see an elevated

Both were involved heavily in the Ethical Culture Society and felt that nurturing a child while emphasizing fair play produced strong leaders. One camper notes, "It's lush here but no one is spoiled. You have to be a team player. Bullies are never tolerated. It's *verboden*. If bullying continues, you're sent packing." The camp has a strong anti-drug policy. Parents of overweight boys are respectfully requested to help the lad trim down before summer begins.

In its early days, the camp was predominantly Jewish, though it now attracts boys from many religious backgrounds. Culture is dolloped out more generously at Greylock—Pulitzer Prize winner Stephen Albert received his first piano lesson here—and frequent trips are made to nearby Tanglewood, Jacobs Pillow, the Norman Rockwell Museum, and the Berkshire and Williamstown theaters.

Even the food is better than average camp fare. Says Margolis, "I'm not a fanatic about food, but I encourage the kids to develop an anti-junk-food philosophy. No sugar bowls on the tables. No sugar cereals. Lots of pasta, big salad bars, low-fat milk. We serve meat. I'll satisfy their pizza fix every week."

Not every Greylock moment goes off without a hitch—as in the case of a recent dance with nearby girls' camp, Romaca. The Greylock boys were guests one night for a party and then a respectable sleep-over, with a fenced-off sleeping area for the girls and an all-night patrol. But when the boys came in for breakfast the next morning, says Margolis, "They were all wearing Romaca T-shirts. I didn't want to think what the girls had on. I smiled a bit and pretended not to notice."

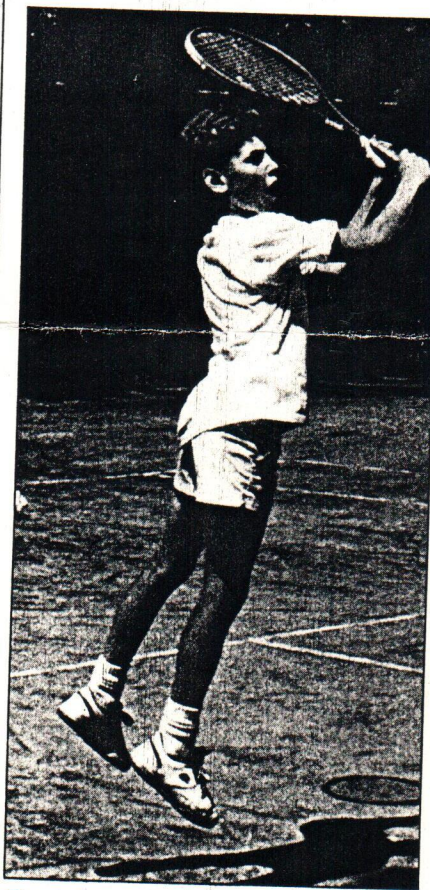


sun deck, junior campus cabins with showers, requisite Kukamonga village (a little outdoor meeting area), five basketball courts, theater, social halls, ecology woodcraft hut, scout ranger grove. An older woman is reading a story to children old enough to read themselves. Off to the right, the grounds swing away like the slopes of Camp David. But even presidents don't enjoy such a generous supply of fast-dry tennis courts—fifteen in all. Confides Margolis, "I may have overbuilt a bit. I got a little criticism from some folks who asked me if I was crazy. But I didn't want any kid to have to wait for a game. We opted for clay because it's more accommodating to a child's knee."

The feel of Greylock is total resort. Off to the east, a huge break in the greenery yields six softball and baseball diamonds in perfect condition. Explains Margolis: "I became an agronomist and learned what special grasses will grow in the acidic New England soil. As a child fields a ball, he should have wonderful grass under him."

But with all of these coddling touches, does Greylock produce wimps, spoiled brats, or what? Part of the answer is traceable to founders George and Gabriel Mason. Gabriel was a high school principal and head of the University Settlement House. George worked at Yellowstone and earned a masters in forestry at Yale.

No wonder the return rate for Greylockers can be as high as 90 percent. Margolis admits to a waiting list but modestly hates the impression such a list can convey, adding, "We're just a popular camp."



*Tennis is smashing at Greylock*