GO! WEEKEND

Viva la Vega

By Christopher Muther, Globe Staff, 5/30/2003

TODAY

The ever-earnest Suzanne Vega stops by the Paradise Rock Club tonight to play songs from her new greatest-hits collection. You know the drill ... "Tom's Diner," "Luka," yada, yada, yada. Sorry, we don't mean to minimize Vega's achievements, but we're eager to talk about how darn good she looks. Twenty years in the business, and this porcelain fox is still working that Shelley Duvall bob cut like she just stepped out of a Vidal Sassoon commercial. Mercy. And just when things couldn't get any sexier, lovely local Kay Hanley lends her pipes to the proceedings. But this is Go!, not Maxim, and we certainly don't mean to minimize the talent of these dames by commenting on their looks at length. Attend the concert, enjoy the music, and think of the eye candy as your bonus for surviving an otherwise ghastly gray week. The show starts at 8 p.m.; 8; $25.969 Commonwealth Ave., 617-423-6398.

CAMP IT UP Even though you're getting a little long in the tooth, you can probably still recall the breezy pleasures of summer camp. Salty limericks scrawled on latrine walls, budding pubescent romances, and embarrassing swimming contests. Ah, yes, Kristy McNichol, it feels like yesterday. Tonight, you can help share the camp tradition by attending a benefit called Send a Girl to Camp at the Berwick Research Institute. There are a host of musical and spoken-word performances from the likes of Alicia Rock, Sallie, and Shumai, plus a grand old yard sale with artsy snapshots and T-shirts. There's even a kissing booth. A minimum donation of $7 is requested, but you are encouraged to cough up more if you can. The proceeds will benefit Rock 'n' Roll Girls Camp. The fun starts at 7:30 p.m. 14 Palmer St., Roxbury, 617-442-4200.

STRIP AND SPIN On a chaste Memorial Day jaunt to Las Vegas, Go! accidentally ended up in the audience of a musical revue that featured 50 singing, dancing, topless ladies wearing enormous feather headdresses. Some people may find this sort of business entertaining, but not Go! (bring on the Thunder from Down Under, s'il vous plait). It was nothing like the genial burlesque we've observed back here in sober and prim Boston. Now that we have safely returned, we're thrilled - and more than a little relieved - to revisit some genuinely sweet burlesque entertainment, rather than the plastic Vegas showgirls who have the nerve to wear
nothing but feathery thongs. Tonight, at the Coolidge Corner Theatre, see an extravaganza you won't find in Vegas. It's a show called Burlesque and Batons. The Oh de Twirlette troupe of baton spinners and dancing queen Missy Conundrum join local beauties, starting at midnight. Tickets are $10 and $20. 290 Harvard St., Brookline, 617-734-2501.

TOMORROW

SHOCKED TO THE SYSTEM Michelle Shocked's story could fill three episodes of VH1's "Behind the Music." She went from punk rocker to homeless peacenik to political crooner to mainstream star, all in less than 10 years. Then she sued her record label using the 13th Amendment - the reform abolishing slavery. The one constant throughout these episodes has been Shocked's ability to write everything from rock to swing to blues. Tonight, you can hear her amazing range when she performs at the Regent Theatre in a show to support public radio; $25. 7 Medford St., Arlington, 781-646-4849.

SUNDAY

CLOSER TO HEAVEN Whenever Go! needs a dose of sunshine, we simply watch a DVD, starring the luminous Gwyneth Paltrow. She's like a glistening drop of golden light to us. But lately, personal tragedy has befallen our sweet flaxen princess. And by personal tragedy, we're talking about "A View From the Top." But let's not forget that a movie starring Paltrow is usually a spiritual experience. And lest you believe that Go! is the only person who feels this way, we point your attention to an event taking place Sunday in Natick. An organization calling itself the Insight Center for Conscious Living(!) holds a film festival called Spiritual Cinema: A Conversation, beginning at 10 a.m. Gwynie's 1998 masterpiece "Sliding Doors" is shown alongside the 1984 film "The Never Ending Story," best known, of course, for Limahl's theme song. You'll spend the day watching these flicks, then discussing their spiritual messages with film producer Stephen Simon. The all-day program is $60.5 Chrysler Road, Natick, 508-310-0150.

Events can always be canceled, rescheduled, or sold out; call to confirm. Go! can be reached at go@globe.com or by calling 617-929-8257.