San Ira

to hate

you love

top-notch improv zips along using ex, Lies show

Gross National

takes comic jabs Product troupe

at all the politicians

By David Armstrong
EXAMINER STAFF CRITIC

tion of the Clintons, of course, Kenneth Starr's investiga-IT WON'T LAST as long as

ent, pricey and plodding efforts, the Washingof August. Another thing: Unlike Starr and his pruri-

ed sketch comedy, with a good number of musical paroabout one-third improvisation. The balance of the show, minutes without an intermission. Running Friday and ton, D.C.-based GNP are funny on purpose. Saturday nights at the Plush Room — the die-hard dies thrown into the mix. performed by a three-man, two-woman troupe, is scripthome of cabaret in San Francisco — "Sex, Lies . . ." is GNP's "Sex, Lies and Zippergate" is a fast-paced 90-

show at the Plush Room, which opened in April, has just been extended through the end but Gross National Product's political cornedy

worked smartly off audience suggestions and news items such as the Federal Reserve Bank's move to prop

The players

Christine Thomp son and John Sim

Product founders **Gross National**

be funny on the face of it. dispersed National Theater of the Deranged, took the comedy fans will remember for his work with S.F.'s nowup the Japanese yen, which doesn't sound like it would America and Japan that ended with "Godzilla is coming clever, fast, finger-snapping "Beatnik poem" about yen suggestion and ran with it. Pray improvised a However, San Francisco actor Chris Pray, whom

Room.

mance at the Plush mons in perfor-

our way - and he's gay!" Bill Clinton's libido, Hillary Rodham Clinton's wooden The GNP players are especially good at lampooning [See SKETCH, C-6]

top-notch improv 'Sex, Lies' uses

aciousness. and greedy evangelical couple New Age brand of presperity con-("Wayne and Ellen") who push a riority, and a transparently goofy head Jane Alexander's prim supe knowing innocence, former NEA disapproval, Monica Lewinsky's

between audience and performer. show, with its frequent interaction audience that's small enough to be vated stage that's big enough to intimate, is a good venue for this hold the troupe and space for the The Plush Room, with an ele-

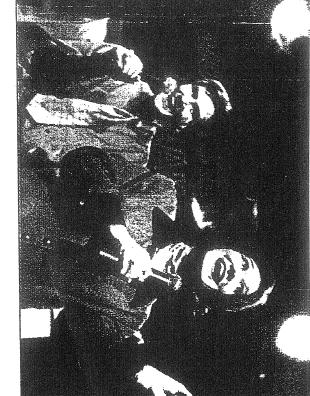
honors California's no-smoking Blessedly, the Plush Room also

> that matter? type to do? Or a politician accuscan't drink out there." What's a rueful glance toward the door, a tomed to smoke-filled rooms, for guy complains "I'm trying to forget. But I can't smoke in here, and l nardboiled, angst-ridden, film noir Perched at the bar, casting a

poses questions. To a woman who said she works in a high school. a fine turn as Bill Clinton, comtour of the executive branch." plete with a presidential press conbetter job. You might like a private inflections — quips "I can get you a voiced warmth and good old boy Keck-as-Clinton — all scratchyference in which the audience A gray-wigged Scott Keck does

and much more better." all live our lives much more gooder stuff is what life's all about. We can us that "Getting money and getting tossing her hair and barking "Go for it!" and "Whoaana!" they assure ly working the room giving their get-rich pitch. With Thompson son as Wayne and Ellen, frenetical-Simmons and Christine Thomp. Best of show, though, are

are lorever ages fast. But greed and self-delucome and go, and topical humor sion, fueled by the huckster's art This worked for me. Politicians



* Akeltal from C