

## NEVER TOO OLD

What two things do Michelangelo, Benjamin Franklin, Georgia O'Keeffe, Frank Lloyd Wright and Martha Graham have in common? The first one, of course is easy, they were all creative people. The second thing may not be so obvious. All of them continued to create into their '70's and beyond. Michelangelo completed his work in the Vatican at 75. Franklin was 78 when he invented bifocal glasses, something most of us need by our mid-40's. O'Keeffe painted well into her 90's, Wright worked on the Guggenheim Museum until he died at 91 and Graham danced until her mid-70's, and choreographed for another two decades.

Judith Salerno, deputy director of the National Institute on Aging says, "We need to begin thinking about late life as an opportunity for people to explore." Dean Keith Simonton, a psychology professor at the University of California Davis says, "Forget it if you want to take up tennis in your 50's and become a world-class player. But creating things is not a speed test."