

OPERATION

AN
ANARCHS INTERPLAN PROJECT

ARMAGEDDON No 2

Produced by A. Vincent Clarke, 16 Wendover Way, Welling, Kent.

"It will split fandom apart"

(Solicited testimonial...EJC)

PROGRESS REPORT I am happy to report that up to the date of writing no snags have arisen, and comments upon OAI show an attitude of restrained approval....Ken Bulmer, for instance, read his copy in a doctor's waiting room and was nearly thrown out by outraged invalids for laughing out loud. I am still waiting for the original suggestions sheet composed in Belfast (the boys have been busy Hyphenating) and Bert Campbell has not been available yet, but it's early days yet. Continuing the suggestions started in OAI:-

- 10 (a) The Mancunians seem quite taken with the idea of putting Bert Campbell on trial. It is a good one, but it can be jazzed up a little. Besides odd comments from the body of the hall ("That man is the father of my child!" etc) B.C. should make a grand entrance accompanied by a bodyguard with toy trumpets, Roman Candles, etc. Ted Tubb should be well briefed for the defence...this is too much of a prestige item to allow of too much extempore wisecracking.
- 11 (a) One of the wilder ideas...during a dull moment Shirley Marriot or another femme fan rushes into the hall in a torn, dishevelled dress and a state of great excitement, screaming, and when the centre of attention, lets go with a crack such as "The sun's shining outside!", or "The strain of waiting for something to happen..it's too much", or "Flying saucers!"
- 12 (a) Londoners wear 'Committee' badges, and issue alarming reports to neo-fan.. "Yes, it'll be a good Con if the Treasurer comes back", or "Are you staying to see the magic lantern?", or "Toilet? Haven't you got any control? ", or "Oh, the Committee resigned this morning..I'm a substitute".
- 13 (a) Suggested that all London feminine fans wear green wigs, all males beards. (See 3 a) Fancy dress would be interesting...a covey of LCers dressed as Space Guards would be picturesque, and useful too....bodyguards for fan undertaking disapproved of activity, ease of identification and prestige value, able to carry water-pistols openly, morale value, etc etc.
- 14 (a) Peter Hamilton is a Scottish Nationalist. Suggested a plaster-of-paris rock-cake is mounted on a whisky bottle (he's teetotal too,) presented to him as the Scone of Stone.
(b) A miniature gallows, Fantasy Award to Vargo Statton.
- 15 (a) Before the Con opens, London Circleites perform a snake-dance at one end of the Hall, accompanied by tom-toms, (small fire on sheet of corrugated iron?), answer queries by explaining that it is a rite calculated to ensure success of Mancon. (Sermon by Tubb?)
- 16 (a) Efforts are made to get at least 2 of the Committee drunk.
- 17 (a) One of the wilder ideas..that a small rotary duplicator and a portable typer are taken to the hall, and a blow by blow account of the Con. is published on the premises. An opportunity for a couple of hard-working characters to win undying egoboo. (If decided upon, full size newspaper placards can be prepared beforehand announcing various details which will be 'news')
- 18 (a) A London Circle stall must be exhibited..if possible, with something on the lines of perpetual motion machines, etc. working on it. An occasional gush of flame and a cloud of smoke would help. This can be a semi-public operation and most of the electronics experts and gadgeteers of the Circle can be invited in on it.
- 19 (a) The fireworks season is at hand. Indoor fireworks should be bought and stored. Don't wait for the other fellow to get some...have a bunch of your own.
- 20 (a) Jim Ratigan and self have been investigating mask situation for use during fancy dress parades or any other time. A number of grotesque masks can be bought in certain districts of London, but if we can make our own out of papier-mache, we can go to town on the effect. Anyone had any experience? I'd be inclined to experiment with flesh-coloured rubber from ordinary toy balloons.

COMMENTS ETC. Errata in OA 1. Page One, Fifth para.: For asterisk substitute exclamation mark.

Page Two. Second para. For 'fiendish' read 'fannish'

MEMBERSHIP Phillip Duerr joins OA (bc hearing from you, Phil.)

ACTION REPORTS Ron Buckmaster industriously gathered together a collection of metal scraps, working on 6 (a), and a bunch of us accompanied him upstairs to the WH lavatory, where the collection was emptied on the tiled floor. It was horrible...like a large plate-glass window falling in. Low came dashing up the stairs two at a time, which proves something. Ron is continuing investigations... his attention is directed to the following from James White:

Ref: Section (6) subsection a. REPORT OF ADDITIONAL RESEARCH INTO THE 'BREAKING GLASS' WEAPON, WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS USE BY MEMBERS OF A SMALL GROUP ((splinter group?)) ACTING IN CONCERT.

Research It has been found that the effect is greatly increased if it is thrown first against a wall or ceiling --this results in a double-crash, rather like a brick going through a window. Also, when the weapon is thrown diagonally at a wall or ceiling, it makes a horrible scraping crash---indescribable, but should be effective.

Suggestions Between two & six operatives enter a room (preferably without windows) and begin to talk loudly as if starting a fight (various accents could be used for purposes of misdirection), then they would begin to throw the weapon about as fast as possible while raising their voices still higher (the sound made while picking up the weapon after use is not very loud, but it sounds remarkably like someone walking over broken glass) All entrances to the room would of course be sealed. If the room chosen was one used to contain glassware or china, the effect on responsible persons outside would probably be great. They'd think someone was wrecking the joint..... END QUOTE FROM JW

ADDITION FROM CHUCK HARRIS:-

Suggestion of 'Project Pandemonium' -(or 'How to construct a 10-stage racket') (One hell of a racket!)

- 22 a. Phase 1 Five minutes after the beginning of the Guest of Honour's speech, a live mouse is liberated.
- Phase 2 Girlish screams, cries of 'Rat!', all the London Circle women climb on chairs.
- Phase 3 'Hunt the Rat'
- Phase 4 Lull. Then Dot or Daphne faint.
- Phase 5 Chaos. "Give her air!"--rush to open all windows, "Brandy!"--towel flapping---indignant speech by husband about 'verminous hall', 'wife in delicate condition' (this need not be strictly true) ((Ta))
- Phase 6 Law and order prevail. Guest of H. carries on with his speech.
- Phase 7 Release second mouse.
- Note The mice could be salvaged and freed later at the homes of various Manfans. END QUOTE CHUCK H.

TED TUBB analyses the programme, commenting:

(1) Any idea of a fake programme will mean too much hard work (remember our sweat at preparing the Coroncon programme...) Also, and this is the biggest objection, it would tip our hand and betray our intentions. ((This would be a labour of love, Ted, but the second objection is valid...or would they think it was our only effort?))(2) a. Yes-- the nearer the real thing the better! b. No, not as stated but cards bearing futuristic sounding titles, companies etc. may be of use. Idea! Why not advertise a visiting celebrity, potential publisher? Hands out cards and requests material, etc? ((Too likely to annoy innocent bystanders, I think.)) c. & d. Yes. f. No. Remember, we'll be running our own con after, and any fiddling with the gate can be a double edged weapon. ((So can any of this!)) Suggest concentrate on salable printing items.

Ted agrees with following ideas, with modifications which will be mentioned in later bulletins..I object to more than 1 sheet bulletins at this stage. Further:-

23. (a) Lcers to be swigging constantly at obviously alcoholic bottles (the real thing would be best if funds run to it) Obvious result, a reputation for swinish drunkenness. END OF THIS BULLETIN'S TT QUOTES AND COMMENTS.

22 (b) Add to this suggestion; rat could be imaginative...arrange LCers in zig-zag pattern through audience, at a signal have them raise excited cries, jump on chairs, etc., in turn, to denote passage of rat (Might even get a mass hallucination)

PETE TAYLOR offers to get printing done at reasonable rates, also to assist in 'banners, gadgets, preparation of material, persuasion of Shirley Marriot for screaming virgin escaping lecherous Manchester type and subsequent coaching for part, etc etc.' A vote of thanks to Pete...don't worry, we'll use you!

LATEST NEWS. Harry Turner, Mancon publicity director, interviewed in London, suggest-of fancy dress show made to him, little information extracted. Brian Varley, Treasurer, arrives 'for life', will remain Treasurer, cynical view of Mancon, full report next issue. Send in your comments and ideas, keep watch for interesting gadgets, etc.