

# The Filking Times

November 1989

The Official Filkzine of Con-Chord V

Issue 10

## TFT Address List To Be Published

The (current) subscription list - names and addresses - of *The Filking Times* will be published in Issue #12. This is intended as a public service for you, the filkers, and not for use in any commercial application. If you do NOT want your name and address printed, let me know! If you DO want your telephone number added, let me know. If you know anyone who does not subscribe to TFT, but would like to be added to the list, let me know. I will be glad to add or delete anyone from the list, but I can only do so if you tell me to. If I don't hear from you, your name and mailing address will be printed. Your telephone number will only be printed if I do hear from you.

## Rumor Control

by Tera Mitchel

This is an excerpt from an open letter which I wrote last month. The entire letter was printed in the last issue of *Harpings*, (available on request), but this one point I wanted to make sure got heard.

I am going to skip some of the "hot dirt" that has been passed around this last year and a half and get to the latest journey into the realms of the ridiculous. I have been able to track down this rumor all the way to its origins, and I think it is funny and pitiful how a conversation in Northern California can spread and become distorted. It was mentioned that in the real world, a music company can (and does) charge an artist for studio time, perhaps as much as \$20,000. Within three weeks, the rumor was going around that Thor Records was charging **See Rumors on Page 7.**

## OVFF V About To Arrive Last Chance To Vote For Pegasus Awards

OVFF V gets underway this coming Friday, October 27, at the Ramada-University Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. If you've thought about attending, call your travel agent NOW - airfares have dropped dramatically in recent weeks - and see if you really can afford it. Whether you're able to attend or not, this is your last chance to vote for the fifth annual Pegasus Awards. A ballot is attached with this issue and MUST be received by

Friday, October 27. If you don't feel safe mailing it, try to find a local fan who is attending and have them deliver it for you.

**Wanted:  
OVFF  
And  
ConChord  
Reports**

**Con Info:** P.O. Box 211101, Columbus, OH 43221. Memberships: \$20 at the door. GoH's: Barry & Sally Childs-Helton. Toastmaster: Joey Shoji. Hotel: University Inn, 3110 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43202. Call 800/262-7468 (800/282-3626 in Ohio only) for reservations.

## Filkers OK After NoCal Quake

As of press date, October 22, no injuries have been reported among San Francisco Bay Area filkers from the October 17 earthquake in Northern California. People specifically heard from and confirmed OK include Kathy Mar and family, Jordin Kare, Mary Kay Jackson, Peter Thiesen, Alta Brewer, Quentin Long, Jeff Rogers, Stacy Jenkins, Teri Lee, Frank Hayes, Andrea Mitchell and

family, Joey Shoji, Jeff Rebholtz (up there on business), Cynthia McQuillin, Dr. Jane Robinson, Carolyn Hauksdottir, Steve Savitzky and family, Bob Kanefsky, and Leslie Fish. Bob Laurent missed it; he was in Chicago (his cat was REAL upset, though). *Information courtesy of the DAG BBS and all the people (especially Gary Anderson) who were posting the updates.*

## Filk Invades Mundane Restaurant

### Vampires and Werewolves Heard in Walnut Creek

Halloween, 1989. Cynthia McQuillin, ghoulish filker of renown, is scheduled to appear at the Melting Pot, a restaurant in Walnut Creek, CA, where she will demonstrate the proper technique of preparing werewolf fondue. Accompanying her will be the infamous "Dr. Jane" Robinson, who will show how a pot of boiling oil can be used to strip the flesh from the bones when preparing a fossil. Patrons are warned to beware of vampires, werewolves, and possibly dragons lurking in the moon shadows that night.

But seriously, folks, the restaurant owner apparently heard about the Moonshadows tape project from one of the people working on it, and expressed immediate interest in having Cynthia appear to do a special Halloween show. The gig is Tuesday, October 31, from 8:00 to 10:00 PM at The Melting Pot, 1532 N. Main Street, Walnut Creek, CA. Phone: 415/937-1006. Come in for dinner, and a show that will haunt you for the rest of the night.

## Upcoming Conventions

**OVFF V**, October 27-29, 1989. See Page 1.

**LosCon Sixteen**, November 24-26, c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., No. Hollywood, CA 91601. GoH's: Writer, Spider & Jeanne Robinson; Artist, Erin McKee; Fan, John & Bjo trimble. Membership: \$20 until ?, \$25 at the door. Hotel: Pasadena Hilton

**Sillicon '89**, November 24-26, 1989. P.O. Box 8029, San Jose, CA 9515, 408/993-0140. GoH's: Charles de Lint, David Cherry, Nancy L. Cobb. TM: Diana Paxson. Membership: \$25 thru 11/1/89, \$30 at the door. Hotel: San Jose Red Lion Inn, 408/279-0600.

**Consonance 1990**, March 2-4, 1990. Bob Laurent, Chair; Wall Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, CA 94604. Membership: \$20 thru 10/09/89; \$25 thru 2/2/90; higher later. GoH's: Barry & Sally Childs-Helton. TM: Chris Weber. Hotel: San Jose Radisson Hotel 1471 N. 4th St., San Jose, CA 95112, 408/298-0100. Room rates: \$52 Sgl/DbI, \$62 Trip/Quad. Call or write the hotel for reservations.

**Random Realities, The Convention**, a.k.a. Randomcon I, April 13-15, 1990. Keith Williams, Chair. P.O. Box 2690, Bell Gardens, CA 90201, 213/927-3200 (phone 6-10 PM only). GoH's: Frederick Pohl, Bill Conlin. Membership: \$25 thru 1/1/90, higher later. Hotel: The Hacienda Hotel, 525 N. Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo, CA, 800/262-1314 (from CA), 800/421-5900 (from outside CA). Rates: \$49 Sgl/DbI. Free Parking. The Random Realities group ran the LA bid for Westercon 40, and has/had local filkers Paul Willett, Eric Gerds, Chris Weber and more on the committee. **MisCon 5**, May 11-13, 1990, P.O. Box 9363, Missoula, MT 59807. GoH's: Author, Elizabeth Scarborough; Artist, Phil Foglio; Fan, "Dr. Jane" Robinson; Gaming, Steve Jackson. Membership: \$14 to 12/31/89, \$16 to 4/15/90, then \$20 at the door. Hotel: Executive Motor Inn, 201 E. Main St. 406/543-7221. We hear that the Miscon crowd is getting into some good filking. See Page 4.

**ConCerto**, the East Coast Filkcon, June 8-10, 1990. c/o Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis Ave. #3, East Lansdowne, PA 19050-2614. GoH: Julla Ecklar. TM: Spencer Love. Memberships (payable to Carol Kabakjian): \$20 to 12/31/89, \$25 to 5/15/90, then \$30 at the door. Supporting: \$10. Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rte. 70 at Sayre Ave., Cherry Hill, N.J. 08034 Phone: 609/663-5300. Rates: \$60 queen, \$65 dbI/dbI, \$70 king.

**Westercon 43**, July 5-8, 1990. P.O. Box 5794, Portland, OR 97228; 503/283-0802. Attending membership: \$25 till July 4, 1989; higher later. Supporting: \$15.

### Halloween Party

Hosted by Steve and Colleen Savitzky, on Saturday, October 28, starting at noon until whenever. Bring something to eat or drink; costumes encouraged but not required. 343 Leigh Ave., San Jose, CA 95128. Phone 408/294-6492 for info/directions.

## THE FILKING TIMES Editorial Policy

Rick Weiss, *Publisher* Deborah Leonard, *Contributing Editor*

The Filking Times is a fanzine for the general filking community and will publish articles, commentaries, reviews, editorials, and letters on topics of interest to filkdom. Contents copyright 1989 Rick Weiss and Deborah Leonard. All rights reserved. All materials bearing notice of prior copyright are reprinted hereby permission of the authors. All rights are to revert to the authors upon publication. Permission to reprint granted provided proper credit (author, The Filking Times, issue number) is given.

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### REVIEWS, ARTICLES, COMMENTARIES, LETTERS:

We are looking for items on topics of general interest to filkers, be it local news, filk reviews, tips on songwriting, Convention reports, filk history, local filk customs, comments on previous articles, or whatever else you can think of. Remember, we are only the editors. YOU write this 'zine!

**CONTRIBUTION POLICY:** Contributors of items which generate a minimum of 6 column inches of text (2.25-inch width and 10-point type) in one issue will receive that issue free; subscribers will have their subscription extended by one issue.

## Upcoming Filkings

### Los Angeles Area:

**Nov. 4:** Harry & Mara Brener, hosts Arcadia, CA

**Dec. 16:** Jane Mallander, hostess Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

For info/ mailing list, contact Rick Weiss, 714/530-3546.

**San Diego Area:** Usually held the second Saturday of each month at 7 PM at Windbourne's studio: 1039 7th Ave., S.D. Call Rilla Heslin 619/469-4874 or Karen Rogers at 619/265-0069 for more info. Next filk: November 11.

The San Diego filking on Dec. 12 may be held on board whichever US Navy Aircraft Carrier is in port at the time. Call Mike Leibmann at 818/362-1322 for updates on this.

**SF Bay Area:** For info/ mailing list, contact Bob Kanefsky, 415/324-2001, Kathy Mar, 415/481-5736, or Colleen Savitzky, 408/294-6492.

**RATES:** \$7 for 12 issues via 1st class mail; Single or sample copies are available for \$0.75. Back issues are available as a set; inquire for current cost. Send cash, check or money order payable to: Rick Weiss, 13261 Donegal Drive, Garden Grove, CA 92644-2304. We will also trade for other filkzines.

**DISCLAIMER:** The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the editors. Different viewpoints and responses on issues of interest are welcome.

**EVENT LISTINGS:** We will publish information about upcoming filk events and conventions which feature filk artists or programming.

**SUBMISSIONS:** Send your submissions to the above address in hardcopy OR on 3.5" diskettes (Atari ST or IBM 720k format) with ASCII files OR upload ASCII files to the DAG Electronic BBS (213/546-1861 at 1200 baud) via the Control Z (upload to Sysop) command.

**CLASSIFIEDS/ADVERTISING:** Classifieds will be published on a space available basis. Free classifieds up to 4 lines for subscribers; additional lines and non-subscribers: \$0.25 per line. Other advertising--call or write us and we'll negotiate.

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## ConChord 5 Coverage

Paul Willett reports that ConChord 5 had a total of 148 members (including one-days), and is real close to the break-even point financially. I know I heard some of the best filking - with real energy and enthusiasm - in recent memory. *The Filking Times* is looking for YOUR reports on ConChord 5.

### Kazoo Awards

by Rick Weiss, John & Mary Creasey

The First Annual Kazoo Awards for outstanding filk achievement were presented at ConChord 5 in an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the Totally Tasteless Review. Conceived by Tera Mitchell, and implemented by John and Mary Creasey, the Kazoo Awards pay tribute to those individuals who have created a lasting and deep impression (cf. the SCA filksong, "The Banks of Cooper's Lake") among fellow filkers. The awards themselves, as everyone who was there knows, consisted of an individually customized and decorated kazoo, created especially for each category.

Without further ado, here are the categories and nominees of the 1989 Kazoo Awards. Award Winners are shown in **bold**.

**Category:** OSEMASTER for the ability to depress a filk with one word or note; **Award:** Black enamel with a dangling sword; **Nominees:** Gary Anderson, Bill Roper (tie), Cliff Flynt, Bram Stoker, Mary Shelley, Stephen King.

**Category:** SWEETNESS & LIGHT for those "sugary sweet" songs; **Award:** Candy covered; **Nominees:** Barbara Reidel, Cathy Cook-MacDonald, Carol Poore, Care Bears, Smurfs.

**Category:** DUET for those who are well known "Couples"; **Award:** Two units glued together, back-to-back; **Nominees:** Chris Weber & Karen Willson, Joey Shoji & Mary Ellen Wessels, Simon & Garfunkel, Fish & Alexander, Jan & Dean, Tom & Dick Smothers.

See Kazoo on Page 6.

### "Quoth the FilkLord..."

by Quentin Long

An eccentric column by an off-centered filker

*Hey, Rick, ya bowd! Last issue's "FilkLord" was supposed to scan - a case of form matching content - and your editing botched up the scansion in a couple of places! Mumble, frolyz, intolerate! yer lucky I don't rip your lungs out, grumble grump...*

[Sorry about that, Quentin, but it was a real tight squeeze fitting in that last line at all. Anyway, I just looked at it again, and I still don't notice a regular scansion--your Editor]

ConChord 5 has come and gone, as cons are wont to do. This con had something most others don't [and probably shouldn't - Ed.] however . . . namely, the Totally Tasteless Review. Most of you are probably expecting me to blather on about the TTR, but I won't. I mean, sure I did the typesetting and layout for the Programs and the condom covers, but that's it, okay? Fortunately, I managed to get a few words from the Revue's Master of Ceremonies, Basil St. John Volesmirth VII, before he flew off to Ireland for KellCon XII. The next words you read will be Mr. Volesmirth's.

To be perfectly frank, Quentin, I must say that your Totally Tasteless Review more than lived down to its given name. One could hardly expect otherwise, in view of the number of Americans who laboured upon it. For my part, I regard my presence upon the dais of the Revue as a lone island of elegance in a veritable ocean of shabbiness and generally lower-class behaviour. Even so, one must admit that the Revue exhibited a certain philosophical unity: No one portion of it, barring my own, could be regarded

## Renew Your *TFT* Subscription Now Special Discount Until December 1, 1989

The current subscription rate for TFT is \$7.00 for twelve issues. Until December 1, 1989, renewals for current subscribers or new subscriptions for members of ConChord 5 or OVFF 5 will be accepted at the special discount rate of \$6.00 for twelve issues. (ConChord members, please give your membership number; OVFF members, please include a photocopy of your membership badge.) Any current subscription may be extended at this rate if paid before December.

The monthly LAFA Filk Flyer is now available separately for \$4 for twelve issues by first class mail. However, subscriptions to *The Filking Times* will continue to include it, so duplicate subscriptions are not necessary. This gives you the option of receiving only the Flyer (without *The Filking Times*) at a lower rate.

as unambiguously more *declass* than any other. In truth, one might regard the Revue as perfect of its kind, damning with faint praise though that be.

And you claim that this Chrys Thorsen person intends to put on a second Totally Tasteless Revue during next year's ConChord? I would call that compounding her offense against civilized society, were the Colonies such! Yet, if Miss Thorsen is well and truly determined to repeat this year's errors, I (nor any other gentleman) cannot but point out to her wherein she has erred most grievously, that her errors not be of the unwitting sort.

I fear I must first give you a figurative caning, Quentin, for your part in creating the (rather poor, actually) programme. I can scarcely imagine what you were thinking of, if, indeed, thinking you were, when you inserted that mysterious word "fnord" into the back-cover remarks! And if one is to See Tasteless on Page 7.

## A Plea For Tolerance

by Robert D. Coleman

Science Fiction and Fantasy have been a big part of my life most of my life - for something close to fifty years now. I was a Fan when it took a lot of nerve to be one - when I was the only kid in school who "read that crazy stuff" and wanted to go walking on the Moon. Vocal music, particularly folk music, was a big thing with me too. I learned oral tradition "at my Mother's knee", starting back in the thirties. Filk music was a dream come true - the combination of my two most favorite things. And the best thing of all was that some truly extraordinary talent was writing and singing these things, not for Money primarily, but for Love - from the Heart.

One of the great things about SF&F was that it was tolerant. In a world gone mad, during and after World War II, I saw an awful lot of hatred. In Europe, the Jews (and not a few Christians) were persecuted and executed for their religious beliefs. In the United States, we had a lot of race hatred, some of it enshrined in the law. SF&F showed us worlds and ways where all races, creeds and ideas could exist in harmony and mutual respect.

So it was, at least, for about forty years, from 1940 to the early 1980's. I am therefore deeply saddened to see that SF&F in general, and Filkdom in particular, now harbors and nurtures a Bigotry that is biting and painful to many of its own members.

You don't think so? You wouldn't do that? You wouldn't write or sing a song or make a remark that is grossly offensive to a minority? Not to Blacks? How about Orientals? Latinos? No? How about Witches? No-o-o! We are very tolerant of Witches. Barbara hamblly even apologizes in "The Witches of Wenshar" lest she offend a Witch. OK, then, how about Buddhists? Muslims? Would you sing a song that a Muslim would find blasphemous and grossly offensive, knowing that there were Muslim filkers in your group? No?

Then how about Catholics? Protestants? Christians of any stamp? Now the answer is different, isn't it? Christians are fair game. Why is that? Why is this one group excluded from compassion? Being an SF&F fan doesn't prevent you from being a Christian, or vice versa. We are among you, in considerable numbers. We don't write or sing filk songs that question or insult your beliefs. Why do you offend against ours?

I'm not complaining about harmless satires like "Old Time Religion". We know that one's just for fun; and I know, if you don't, that you would run like hell if any one of those Old Gods tried to get you to practice some of their bloody religious rites. Such satires have been around for many years, and I have enjoyed and sung them myself. And I will wince, **See Religious on Page 5.**

## "Dr. Jane" Robinson Fan GoH at Miscon 5

by Cynthia McQuilllin

"Dr. Jane" has been asked to appear as the Fan GoH at Miscon 5 in Missoula, Montana in May 1990. Due to the growing filk population in the area, they have started getting filkers as Fan GoH's. This is a fun little convention which is held on a yearly basis. Although there was some trouble at the Con last year, apparently a misunderstanding with the hotel, the Con goes on. Jane was a regular guest two years ago and so impressed the folks there that they decided to get her back again. She will speak on panels and give a concert and Masquerade half-time show. Also attending will be Cynthia McQuilllin (a regular guest) and notable author and filker Elizabeth Scarborough, Author GoH. It should be a great convention. See the Con listings on Page 2 of this Issue for more info.

## A Reply to Mr. Coleman

by Ember Craycraft

We found Mr. Coleman's article, "A Plea For Tolerance", to be of such immediate interest that we requested Ember to present another viewpoint. Ember has been active in fandom for several years and, while a practicing Christian, is currently studying the Craft and hopes to be declared Witch and Priestess early next year. Ember is also the Associate Southwest Regional Coordinator for the Pagan/Occult/Witchcraft Special Interest Group (POWSIG) of MENSA. -- The Editors

Thank you for showing me Mr. Coleman's article, and giving me the opportunity to respond to it. As you know, the issues he raises have been of concern to me for some time. I hope that what I have to say will be helpful; I have tried to be clear about emotional issues, and that is not easy.

Much of what Mr. Coleman says I might have said any time in the last several years. You might expect, at first, that any group of people which has been the target of the extreme prejudice that Pagans face today - not to mention historical persecution - would be more alert than usual to the dangers of generalization and especially of declaring any group "the bad guys". And yet, last year at a Pagan gathering I saw a T-shirt with a cross on it with a red

circle-and-bar over it and the slogan "Bad Religion". The fact that every Pagan I have mentioned that to is horrified by it does not change the fact that a Pagan wore it, or eliminate the pain I felt in seeing a religion that I love degraded in that way.

Nevertheless, it was much more appropriate to wear such a shirt there, among "just us", than it would have been to wear it to a convention. The close community filkers share can too easily lead those of us who are Pagan to act as though no one present differs from us in beliefs or values, and that's not true. If we want tolerance from those whose beliefs differ from ours, we must - not because of some abstract ethical principle, but because of human **See Reply on Page 5.**

## Religious Tolerance

Continued from Page 4.

but not seriously object, when Leslie Fish borrows a traditional hymn tune for a pagan song.

"The Lord of the Dance" is a little different case. Each time I have heard it, it was sung with a spiritual fervor amounting to a religious rite. It is a deliberate direct perversion, and inversion, of a hymn. Woodie Guthrie, not the world's greatest advocate of Christianity, included the original hymn in "Rise Up Singing". I can't sing the filk version myself with a clear conscience, so I don't. But I don't question your right to sing it.

What I do object to is songs that really aren't funny, and seem to be written for no other purpose than to vent someone's venom against Christianity. Also, I don't appreciate the verbal anti-Christian sneers, with the assumption that everyone agrees. I can well imagine that some of you were oppressed in Catholic schools, or suffered the harsh Puritanism of a fundamentalist home. I've lived in a Catholic orphan's home, and had Protestant relatives who prayed at the top of their lungs for several hours while I was trying to sleep at night. I can understand anger about these things. I still couldn't write, sing or speak that anger where people could be hurt by it.

Don't imagine, either, that I am just being over-sensitive. My son and daughter, son-in-law and daughter-in-law, my daughter's best friend, and my wife are all Christians who enjoy SF&F. All of them also enjoy folk music, and most of them sing. They would like to join me in filking - but each of them has grossly offended by one or more anti-Christian songs or remarks, and they are wary of trying any more.

The very last straw, for me, was when my daughter-in-law's brother - a very bright and personable young man, and a good recruit for Fandom and Filkdom - came with me at the recent WesterCon to try filking. With exquisite timing, two very offensive anti-Christian songs in a row were

## Reply

Continued from Page 4.

nature - offer that tolerance to others. Mr. Coleman talks about taking friends and family of his to a filk at which the Christian religion was, as he presents it, treated with a great deal of disrespect. It wasn't only filking that lost out because of that; the Craft lost Christian friends, people who do not share our beliefs but understand that ours is a life-loving, positive path.

Yes, many of us are angry, and many have reason to be. Anger is not wrong or out of place, although like any other emotion, holding onto it too long can delay our growth. But we owe it to each other and to Paganism, and to our Gods, not to dishonor any name under which the Lord is known and loved. Insulting and denigrating others' beliefs, and especially doing so to their faces (and when objecting is considered being "uptight" or "humorless"), is completely contrary to what I was taught from the beginning of my Craft studies, namely, to dishonor no one's Gods, for to do so is to dishonor our own. "All Gods are one God, and all Goddesses are one Goddess." Even the ones

sung just after he came in ("I Slept With Jesus Last Night" was one). He didn't stay for more. Anyone want to bet he'll be back?

How many more, I wonder, were at Conventions and might have been recruited, except for offensive anti-Christian songs or remarks? It could be that most of you don't care, and others would really like to exclude this group. But do you really want to set a precedent of offending and excluding just one particular group? Who's next?

I'm not proposing censorship - just a little human kindness and restraint. If a song or song idea is really funny, write it and sing it. If it is also really hurtful or offensive, is it worth it? Think twice - maybe it isn't all right. And maybe the body of Filking would not be fatally diminished if such songs were omitted altogether.

whose followers have hurt us.

Mr. Coleman, as I hope you can tell from the foregoing, I am generally in agreement with you. However, I'm afraid I have some bones to pick with you, too.

Modern Paganism is not an attempt to reproduce the worship of pre-Christian Gods as it was practiced, but an attempt to, as my teacher puts it, "have a personal relationship" with them (due credit to Christian phrasing). Gods, like anyone/anything else, change and evolve over time to suit changing circumstances. Smug references to "bloody religious rites" are no more appropriate in reference to Paganism than are the smug references to past Christian misdeeds to which you are objecting.

I am sorry that you are distressed when Pagans borrow - or borrow back - the tune to a Christian hymn. The church was certainly not above doing the reverse in the days when Paganism was stronger and more public - check our hymnal sometime and see how many are "Old Irish Melodies". Chances are good that many of those were once Pagan hymns. I think this situation is best considered "share and share alike".

More seriously, I am really disturbed that you find "Lord of the Dance" to be a "perversion" of a Christian hymn. Whether you are talking about "Simple Gifts" or the modern Christian "Lord of the Dance" (by the way, friends of mine who know the author of the Pagan version tell me she did not know of the Christian version), I do not understand how you can see the Pagan song as a perversion. "Lord of the Dance" (either version) is a song about the Lord, the God, who dances life for and with us, and calls us to rejoice in the life we are given. I do not see how either can be considered a perversion or inversion of the other.

Please try to remember that all of us, Pagan and Christian and Muslim and Jew and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in your own blanks) are doing the best we can from moment to moment. See More on Page 6.

## More on Tolerance

Continued from Page 5.

The harsh anti-Christian remarks hurt me deeply because they are coming from my family. So do the careless "She's a real witch" when that's not the word they're looking for, or "pagan" being used to mean "barbarous" or "primitive" (in a negative sense).

Remember that Pagan people are, in the world outside fandom, truly an oppressed minority. People I know myself - not my friend's friend's cousin's neighbor - have had to move because once the neighbor's kids knew they were Craft, they started spitting on my friends' young children, and my friends' garage "caught on fire" (by accident?). I spoke to a woman at a convention in Oklahoma who had been beaten (by people with the gall to call themselves Christian) because she and her friends has used the open campus chapel to sing songs to the Lord and the Lady. It is not just childhood hurts that lead to bitterness...it is the bitterness of being afraid of losing your job, or your house, or even your health, if your so-called Christian neighbors or co-workers learn you are a Witch. I believe very strongly that such unavoidable bitterness should be kept for those times when few, if any, people will be hurt by it (it is not easy to say this because I am one of the few and it hurts quite a lot), such as at specifically Pagan gatherings.

It is not right to turn that anger towards people who are truly trying to practice their religion and who are not responsible for the behavior of those who fail to live up to the love and compassion demanded of all Christians. Some of us will continue to call people on it (although I have tended to bring it up in private rather than in public) when we hear inappropriate generalizations, but where pain and fear are so great, change will be slow. In the meantime, however, I hope that when Pagans, being human, fail to live up to their own religion, and sing or say hurtful, anti-Christian things in public gatherings, you will be able to live

## Kazoo Awards

Continued from Page 3.

**Category:** SCHTICK-for the highest quality ham; **Award:** Sequin covered (vaudeville performers wore sequins); **Nominees:** Bill Sutton, JordIn Kare, Ph.D., Jane Robinson, Ph.D., Murray Porath, P.S.C., George Burns.

**Category:** PARODY; **Award:** Ant Covered - Don't parodies sometimes "bug" you?; **Nominees:** Frank Hayes, Bill Sutton, Jane Mailander, Bob Kanefsky, Tom Lehrer, Alan Sherman.

**Category:** MR. GOH for being the highlight of ConChord 5; **Award:** Silver; **Nominee:** Bill Roper.

**Category:** MRS. GOH for putting up with Mr. GOH! **Award:** Gold; **Nominee:** Carol Poore-Roper.

**Category:** LIBERACE MEMORIAL AWARD for keyboard performance; **Award:** Silver glitter with candelabra; **Nominees:** Peter Thlesen, Mike Liebmann, Heather Alexander, Chrys Thorsen, Victor Borge, Vladimir Horowitz.

up to the religion you live by, and understand, and even forgive.

### Walk in light

If anyone wants to correspond directly with Ember, please direct your mail/comments to:

Ember Craycraft, c/o LA Area Pagan Information Line, P.O. Box 3522, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670, 213/719-9097.

A final word in explanation--NOT justification--is that we are all trapped by the limitations of the English Language. I have often heard followers of the Craft bemoan the misuse of their chosen name, "Witch" from the Old English "Wicca", as the term used to describe adherents of Satanism, which I believe is the only "religion" that is a conscious perversion of another religion--Christianity. Witches are thus trapped in the popular media with the sentiment that "Witch (or Pagan) equals Satanist".

Likewise, Robert, you are caught by the word "Christian", which is the only term we have to refer to the Pope, Mother Theresa, Jerry Falwell, Jim Bakker and Tammy Faye. I can see the difference between the first and last

**Category:** COMPUTER SONG for the techie song generating the greatest number of versions; **Award:** Binary - It's only "Ones and Zeros"; **Nominees:** Bill Sutton for "Do It Yourself", Kathy Mar for "Calm Down", Steve Savitzky for "Old Time Computing", Duane Elms for "Threes, vers. 1.1", Bob Kanefsky for "I Wonder What the VAX is Doing Tonight?"

**Category:** SILENT for "Strange" performances in p\*\*r taste; **Award:** Plugged with silicone sealant; **Nominees:** Gary Anderson for "Ian the Grim", John Creasey for "Mongol Wedding Song" (sung AT a wedding), Rick Weiss for virtuoso silent guitar playing, Tiny Tim for "Tiptoe Through the Tulips", Florence Foster Jenkins for "Downtown".

**Category:** X-RATED - need we say more? **Award:** Plain Brown Wrapper; **Nominees:** Leslie Fish for "Good Ship Venus", Mara Brener for "Funiculi, Funicula", Cynthia McQuillin for "Gilda and the Dragon", Diana Gallegher Wu for "A Reconsideration of . . .", Brenda Sinclair-Sutton for "On the Horn", Kay Shapiro for "Fuzzles".

**Category:** SPECIAL AWARD for hard work; **Award:** Rhinestone covered; **Nominee:** Paul Willett, ConChord 5 Chairman.

**Category:** SPECIAL AWARD for the best dressed guitar; **Award:** Black Tie and Tails; **Nominee:** Tera Mitchell.

With special thanks to JordIn Kare and Jane Robinson for "volunteering" to be the Awards Presenters, and to John Creasey for stuffing the ballot box.

names on this list. Can you? Would you be pleased to be called "A good Christian just like Jimmy Swaggert"? No? Then the next time you hear someone use "Christian" as a pejorative, stop and ask yourself who is being referred to. Yourself? Or someone whom you do not like very much either?

Further comments or discussion as they relate to filking and the filking community are welcome--The Editors.

## Tasteless Review

Continued from Page 3.

Insert a list of performers (and performances!) into a programme, one perhaps ought to bend a certain degree of effort towards ensuring the accuracy of this list. Really, Quentin; fully one-third of the twelve performances did not occur in accordance with the programme! As I've always said - you American fans may be a definite cut above your mundane countrymen, but this is only calling out the best of a bad lot.

The problems continued with the Revue's first "number", *To Anacreon in Heaven* - but you call it *The Star Spangled Banner* in the Colonies, do you not? Not only was Miss Karen Jolley unexpectedly unable to perform (necessitating her replacement by Miss Chrys Thorsen herself, as I'm told), but the backstage wiring caught fire, releasing great, choking gobs of smoke that obscured the stage most thoroughly! Fortunately, the technical crew managed to extinguish the conflagration by the time of Miss Thorsen's premature exit - which exit was perhaps just as well, in view of her evident inexperience with the electric dulcimer.

Second on the boards was *Nobody's Moggie*, performed by Mrs. Lillie, Millie and Tillie Android. I understand they have recently changed their stage name to "The Tacky-Ons", which rather makes them "a book appropriately bound". One cannot fault the Androids' vocal abilities, insofar as song and harmonies are concerned, yet one can't help but feel that certain bits of their "business" are perhaps somewhat end-of-the-plier; they needn't go quite as far over the top as they did.

The third song, *Fly on a Plane*, was rather a showcase for Mr. Peter Thiesen's guitar and voice. I *do* feel that that third Android person ought to have vacated the stage with her siblings, however, as her presence tended to detract from Mr. Thiesen's skillful performance. At that, Mrs. Android was scarcely the worst offender; were I in Mr. Thiesen's

position, I should very much want to discover the identity of that bearded, tutu-clad lunatic with the small wings on his back and spring-mounted antennae on his head, whose incessant capering drew so much of the audience's attention away from Mr. Thiesen.

*The Snol Song* was to be performed by a Dr. Jane Robinson, Ph.D., but Dr. Robinson's place was inexplicably taken by a Miss Pearty White. I expect that the former may have wisely taken the opportunity to return to her palaeontology? in common with the other performers in the Revue, Miss White's muse is not fettered by such inhibiting factors as taste - yet her *particular* style of tastelessness is, arguably, rather more overt than most. If she is to appear in next year's Revue, I pray that she acquire a handkerchief!

The next performer was indeed Mr. Jordin Kare, yet his song was *The Bloody Bowl of Suncon* (its tune stolen from *The Ballad of Inverness*, if I'm not mistaken?), rather than, as was listed in the programme, *The Fan Marines*. I shouldn't be surprised to find that Mr. Kare's song was scrupulously factual, Suncon having occurred where it did. There is little else to say, other than to observe that if the other personnel at the Lawrence Livermore Radiation Laboratories are as depraved as this song proves Mr. Kare to be, little wonder the recent decline in America's scientific establishment.

The sixth "number" was *Fido*, performed by Miss Sandra Kleinschmitt. After so many errors in the programme, it was odd to find an accurate entry. Her costume, which resembled a flea, contributed to the total effect of her performance, as did a small, inoffensive person playing a Jew's-harp accompaniment to Miss Kleinschmitt's singing. One could argue that this was the Revue's finest moment.

*The Thrillseeker's Waltz* was then played and sung by its author, Mr. Steven Savitzky. Its appropriately inappropriate accompaniment, a videotape of some of the more

embarrassing moments of your early experiments in rocketry, would have had more impact had it been properly synchronized with Mr. Savitzky's song.

The conservatively dressed eighth vocalist, Miss Mara Eve Brener, mounted the stage stating her misgivings as to her ability to provide a performance worthy of her predecessors. As it happened, all such worries were groundless; Miss Brener's material belied her dignified, upper-class attire. Her *FCC Disclaimer Song*, the even-numbered lines of which comprize a rather remarkable collection of carnal euphemisms, made a most fitting prelude to the strikingly obscene **See Review on Page 8.**

## Rumors

Continued from Page 1.

their artists \$20,000 to do a tape. In the middle of August we got news from the Midwest of a rumor being circulated that Thor Records charges \$35,000 to do a tape. Believe me, Thor does not charge its artists anything to do a tape. Thor Records' budget is very modest. \$20,000?? Whom do you know among the filk artists with that kind of money to throw around? But (giggling insanely), if someone wanted to invest a large amount of money into a project, I am sure that Thor would be willing to talk.

## Read Your Mailing Label

Your subscription status is shown on the line above your name. The first "word" indicates the type of mailing received: **Intro** - three introductory issues are sent to newcomers to LAFA filksings. **Reg** - a regular, paid subscriber. **Comp** - complimentary issues given out on Editorial whim. **Trade** - issue in trade for another filkzine. **Contrib** - free contributor's copy.

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## Review

Continued from Page 7.

*Funicula, Funiculoo*, which Miss Brener also performed.

Next was Miss Cynthia McQuillin, accompanied by Miss Pearty White on guitar. This duo performed *Every Time I Think of You*, or, *The Chocolate Song*. The curtain - more a set of Durex-fastened swaths of Christmas paper, in truth - was drawn back to the reveal the immensely talented, black-neglgee clad Miss McQuillin, but only *after* Miss White started her accompaniment. I trust Miss Thorsen will not tolerate any such example of poor timing in next year's Revue, presuming that there will be one?

The decade was completed by the team of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Burnside-Clapp, whose *Chernobyl Blues* is a far more cogent analysis of Soviet policies than Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition has yet provided Parliament. The song was marred, alas! by the re-ignition of the backstage wiring. Mr. Clapp's birth is against him, yet one cannot be too critical of an American who would rather hold citizenship in a Commonwealth nation - even if it is only Australia.

Your penultimate performer, Mrs. Kathy Mar, sang *Dear Departed*, a heart-warming ballad (on the joys of necrophilia) whose author, by rights, should reside in Bedlam. Mrs. Mar's makeup was a fright; she appeared to be rather more dead than alive! This effect was greatly enhanced by the thanatic illumination provided by Mr. Michael Liebmman, whose idiosyncratic lighting techniques contributed so much to the overall ambience of the Revue.

The finale was a surprize replacement for the missing Miss Jolley. I, myself, must confess to a certain degree of perplexity; was, "Woof, the Party Animal," the name of the **song**, or of the **performer**? Mr. Woof was either a costumed man, or the subject of an experiment in genetic engineering, and I would

## Filkzines Around The Country

**Harpings:** Published by the Filk Foundation and edited by Margaret Middleton, 34 Barbara Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204; 501/666-8466; Compuserve 71525,1372.

**LOOSE NOTES:** A Zine for Filk-Minded Fans. Published and edited by Susan Landerman, 3327 West Luke Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85017.

**MetaFilk:** Published and edited by Charles Asbjornsen, 2026 East 55th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

**Na Mele O Na Hoku--Song of the Stars:** Published and edited by Debra F. Sanders, 1415 Victoria Street #206, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

**Philk-Fee-Non-EE-Non:** Published by Philk Press. Paul Willett, editor. P.O. Box 4128, Panorama City, CA 91412, 818/893-7397.

**Philly Philk Phlash:** Published and edited by Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis Avenue #3, East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050-2614.

**Xenofilka:** Published and edited by Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Road, Los Angeles, CA 90066, 213/306-7456.

I prefer not to hazard a guess as to which one. Oddly enough, Mr. Woof's presence elicited scarcely more than an occasional raised eyebrow from the native Los Angeles residents, which is a rather unflattering comment on them, I should think.

I trust that Miss Thorsen will find the preceding remarks to be useful? Do see that she gets a copy, Quentin. You may make any other copies you like.

Your obd. servant,  
Basil St. John Volesmirth VII

We would like to express our thanks to Quentin, not only for forwarding Mr. Volesmith's comments to us, but also for yielding his accustomed place in The Filking Times to our esteemed guest columnist. The Editors.

## Filk Sources And Resources

**DAG Productions.** 1810 14th Street #102, Santa Monica, California 90404. Telephone: 213/546-4935 or 213/546-1861 (BBS). Eric Gerds, owner, producer and publisher. Write or call for FREE CATALOG and UPDATE FLYERS.

**DAG BBS (Electronic Bulletin Board System).** 213/546-1861 at 300/1200 BAUD. 24 hours/day, Tuesday through Sunday. Filk, costuming, gaming, books/media, general fan-nish interest.

**Firebird Arts & Music, Inc.,** P.O. Box 453, El Cerrito, California 94530. Telephone: 415/528-3172. Andrea Mitchell, proprietor; Teri Lee, executive producer. Write for FREE CATALOG.

**Pegasus Publishing,** P.O. Box 150471, Arlington, Texas 76015-6471. Write for further information.

**Quicksilver Fantasies,** P.O. Box 1660, Post Falls, Idaho 83854. Write for FREE CATALOG.

**Thor Records,** P.O. Box 40312, Downey, California 90241. Telephone: 213/862-1722. Chrys Thorsen and Ralph Mason, music producers. Write for information and flyer.

**Unlikely Publications,** 1741 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710; 415/525-5534. Cynthia McQuillin, proprietor, producer and publisher of Folk and specialty tapes and songbooks.

**Wall Songs,** P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, California 94604. Telephone: 415/763-6415. Bob Laurent, proprietor, producer, and publisher. Write for FREE CATALOG.

## Found

At Conchord, Sunday night, behind the Registration table: a pseudo-bomber jacket, size Small. To claim, contact Rick Weiss.



# LAFAB

# Filksing

Saturday, November 4  
Dinner 5 PM, Singing 7 PM

Hosts: Harry, Mara & Madeline Brener  
325 Sharon Road, Arcadia, CA 91006, 818/447-1664

**Pre-Filk Dinner Party:** A Chinese feast at a nearby restaurant is planned. Gather at the Brener's at 5:00 PM, leave for the restaurant at 5:30 PM. RSVP required by Thursday, Nov. 2. Call for more information and to RSVP.

**Filksing** starts at 7:00 PM. If you arrive between 5:30 and 7:00, you may be waiting a while for the dinner party to return home.

## Directions

See Thos. Bros. p 38, grid D-1. The filksite is between the the Foothill (I-210) and San Bernardino (I-10) Freeways west of the San Gabriel River Fwy (I-605). Approach on either freeway as you prefer.

**From the Foothill Fwy (I-210):** Take the Baldwin exit. Go south on Baldwin (left from westbound, right from eastbound fwy) past Santa Anita Park (Foothill Blvd. is off course.) Turn left onto Camino Real (By a traffic light and a Bob's Big Boy.) Turn right on Holly. Turn left on Sharon. The filksite is on the left towards the middle of the block.

**From the I-10 Eastbound:** Take the Baldwin exit and head north on Baldwin. Turn right on Longden. Turn left on Holly. Turn right on Sharon. The filksite is on the left towards the middle of the block.

**From the I-10 Westbound:** Take the Santa Anita exit. Turn right (north) on Santa Anita. Turn left on Longden. Turn right on El Monte. Turn left on Sharon. The filksite is on the right towards the middle of the block.

## House Rules

**Filk circle:** Modified Chaos

**Food & Munchies:** Bring the usual drinks & munchies, but please be aware that this is a Kosher household. Please check that whatever items you bring are kosher, preferably pareve (any questions, call in advance).

**No Smoking!**

**Warnings:**

- \*Presence of Small lifeform (Madeline) - other children are welcome
- \*Presence of feline lifeform
- \*Presence of silicon-based lifeform

**Crash Space** is available

**Jacuzzi** is available. Bring bathing suits - or not - use is clothing optional

**Computer Freaks:** a large shareware library is available for copying - bring your own diskettes.

***OVFF V***

P.O. Box 211101

Columbus, OH 43221

FINAL BALLOT  
OHIO VALLEY FILK FEST 1989 PEGASUS AWARDS

For Excellence in Filking

Please vote once in each category. You do not need to be a member of the OVFF convention to vote. Please feel free to copy and distribute this ballot as you wish. Final ballots are due by midnight Friday, Oct 27, 1989. Mail to: OVFF V, P.O. Box 211101, Columbus, OH 43221

**BEST FILK SONG**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bloodchild</b><br>by Joey Shoji            | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Arafel's Song</b><br>(Tree of Swords & Jewels)<br>by Mercedes Lackey/Kathy Mar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chess (Ad Astra)</b><br>by Juanita Coulson | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Red Star Rising</b><br>by Mitchell Clapp                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dawson's Christian</b><br>by Duane Elms    | <input type="checkbox"/> No Award  |

**BEST WRITER/COMPOSER**

- T. J. Burnside
- Mitchell Clapp
- Duane Elms
- Kathy Mar
- Cynthia McQuillan

**BEST PERFORMER**

- Juanita Coulson
- Technical Difficulties
- Murray Porath
- Tom Smith
- Bill Sutton

**BEST FANTASY SONG**

- Elf Blade**  
by Meg Davis
- Magicians' Wives**  
by Peter Beagle
- Robin Hood**  
by T. J. Burnside
- Shadow Harper**  
by Cynthia McQuillan
- Wind's Four Quarters**  
by Mercedes Lackey/Leslie

**BEST TECHIE SONG**

- Amphioxious**  
by Juanita Coulson
- Do It Yourself**  
by Bill Sutton
- Drivel**  
by Dr. Jane Robinson
- Flying Machine**  
by Brenda Sutton
- The 8 - 100 Bus**  
by Frank Hayes

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