

The Filking Times

May 1990

Issue 15

Filk BBS's: Down, Up and Echoed

by Rick Weiss

DAG BBS Back Online

After being down for a month with hard/software problems, the DAG BBS is back online as of May 12, 1990. Eric Gerds, the Sysop, relates the trials and tribulations of trying to troubleshoot an uncooperative, old, non-standard computer system that won't even boot

up. Was it the hard drive? No. Was it the hard drive controller? No. Was it the clock? No, although the clock was somehow running backwards. The final fix was found within the MS-DOS(?) operating system software where it tells the computer to look at the hard drive during boot up to find the DOS files. The system had developed a bug, which, among other things, made the clock run backwards, which was very confusing to the BBS software which indexes everything off of the clock time signals. Anyway, the system was repaired and is now up.

StormGate Aerie BBS Has Filk Echo

While the DAG board was down this past month, another BBS in the LA area made itself known to filkers and

bade them welcome. This is the Storm Gate Aerie, run by Nicolai and Kay Shapero. This board started

with an emphasis on FRP gaming, and quickly grew to include Furry Fandom, *Intercepted* (a very interesting multiverse APA of classified advertising - ask Kay about it), general SF fannish stuff, and filking. For filking, StormGate Aerie is notable for being a link on the FidoNet - a nationwide group of BBS's which automatically exchange, or "echo", postings. Stormgate participates in the Filk Echo part of this network, so postings can be occasionally found from all over. If you speak modem, call them up at 213/822-6729 and try it.

**Related story:
See FIDONet on Page 3.**

Filksong in Space!

Frank Hayes' "Cosmos"
Used For Astronaut
Wake Up Call

Filk Phone Tree Activated
To Spread News

by Rick Weiss

On Friday, May 27, filkers all over California sprang to their telephones as the word quickly spread: "Cosmos" ("There's a hole in the middle of it all...") by Frank Hayes was going to be used as the musical portion of the Shuttle Astronauts next wake up call at about 10:30 PM PDT that evening. I had a call from the Creasey's. When I tried to help spread the word, I found that Lee Gold had already heard from the Creasey's, and Bohemia North (the Dierschow-Mar household) had heard the news from Bob Kanefsky. I went back to trying to locate the NASA TV feed on my cable, even going outside to switch the cable connection to the second feed that we never use. Alas, I found that Paramount Cable doesn't carry that signal, so I missed it. John and Mary Creasey did have the NASA signal on their cable and tried to make a VCR recording, but they lost the audio feed. They do report, however, that Teri Lee got it recorded off of CNN, so that moment is saved for posterity.

The Creaseys also report that this was the first use of the national Filk Echo (carried on StormGate Aerie and The Annex) to spread a news bulletin. The information on this was posted by Mary Creasey on StormGate Aerie from which it was copied to BBS's all over the country. (See related stories at upper left and on Page 3.) Rich Kabakjian in Philadelphia picks up the echo on Ophiophle Opus (on the East Coast).

Con Report: Con2bile

copr. 1990 by Mike Stein
reprinted from Harplings #22

While I didn't think there would be many Americans with the resources to hop over to England for a filk con, I did think there would be a few. But due to the Great Filkish Unpleasantness, I was the only Yank who crossed the water.

I had heard about the con from Valerie Housden, whom I had met at NorEascon. The idea "it might be nice to go" turned into hard plans when the airlines started offering insane prices for London roundtrips

- \$301 on British Airways. That's nearly \$100 cheaper than a super-saver to California!

My flight left Dulles at 8:00 PM on Thursday, the first of February. BA calls itself "The world's favorite airline," and I must say that they've got some basis for making that claim. The cabin crew was uniformly polite and eager to help, noticeably more so than on any of the domestic carrier flights I have taken in the last
See Con2Bile on Page 7.

Calendar of Events

Filksings

Los Angeles Area:

May 19: Rod O'Riley, host
Garden Grove, CA

June 16: Lee & Barry Gold, hosts
Los Angeles, CA

July 14: Barney Evans, Rilla Heslin
and the San Diegans, hosts
San Diego, CA

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

SE Bay Area:

For info/mailling list, contact Bob
Kanefsky, 415/324-2001, Kathy Mar,
415/481-5736, or Colleen Savitzky,
408/294-6492.

San Diego Area:

June 2, 7:00 PM at Barney Evans'
house, 8150 Jefferson, Lemon
Grove, CA 92045. Usually held the
first Saturday of each month. Call
Barney at 619/697-3844, Rilla Heslin
at 619/469-4874 or Karen Rogers at
619/265-0069 for more info.

Phoenix, AZ:

Contact Charles Coons at P.O. Box
14245, Phoenix AZ 85063-4245 or
on the DAG BBS for more info.

To have your (or any other) filksing
listed in this column, call or write
Rick Weiss (see above).

Conventions

Baycon, May 25-28, 1990, P.O. Box
70393, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Mem-
bership: \$40 at the door. Hotel: San
Jose Red Lion Inn. At press time,
both the Red Lion and the Hyatt are
reported as full. There may still be
rooms at the Howard Johnson's.

ConCerto, The East Coast Filkcon,
June 8-10, 1990. c/o Carol Kabak-
jian, 17 Lewis Ave. #3, East Lans-
downe, PA 19050-2614. GoH's:
Kathy Mar and Linda Meinick. TM:
Spencer Love. Memberships: (pay-
able to Carol Kabakjian) \$25 to
5-15-90, then \$30 at the door. Sup-
porting: \$10. Hotel: Holiday Inn, Rte.
70 at Sayre Ave., Cherry Hill, N.J.
08034 Phone: 609/663-5300. Rates:
\$60 queen, \$65 dbl/dbl, \$70 king.

Westercon 43, July 5-9, 1990. P.O.
Box 5794, Portland, OR 97228; 503/
283-0802. GoH's: Ursula K. LeGuin,
Vonda N. McIntyre, Kate Wilhelm.
Attending membership: \$40 to 6-
20-90, then \$50 at the door. Kids: 5
and under Free; 6-12 half price (with
adult). Supporting: \$15. Hotel: Red
Lion, Jantzen Beach Center.

Con-Chord 6, October 12-14,
1990. c/o DAG Productions, 1810
14th Street, Santa Monica, CA
90404; 213/546-4935. GOH: Julla
Ecklar. Toastmaster: Joey Shoji.
Memberships: Attending \$25 to 10-
6-90, higher at the door. Supporting:
\$8. Hotel: The Holiday Inn (LAX),
9901 La Cienega Blvd, Los Angeles,
CA 90045. (At the corner of Century
and La Cienega.) Room rates: \$59
Single, \$69 Double, \$79 Triple/
Quad. For reservations call 213/
649-5151.

THE FILKING TIMES Editorial Policy

Rick Weiss, Publisher Deborah Leonard, Contributing Editor

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All items sent to us will be considered open for publication unless specifically requested otherwise. We reserve the right to refuse and/or to edit any item sent. All submissions must include your correct name and address - pen names will be used for publication on request.

ARTICLES, REVIEWS, COMMENTARIES, LETTERS: We are looking for items on topics of general interest to filkers, such as local news, pre-Convention filk plans and guests, filk reviews, tips on songwriting, post-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 3-4 column inches of text (3.75-inch width and 10-point type) in one issue will receive that issue free; subscribers will extended one issue.

RATES: \$7 for 12 issues via 1st class mail. Single or sample copies are available for \$0.50 plus postage. Back issues are available as a set; inquire for current price. 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.

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

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.

SUBMISSIONS: Send your submissions to the above address in hardcopy OR 3.5" (Atari ST or IBM 720k format) OR 5.25" (IBM 360k format) diskettes with ASCII files OR upload ASCII files to the DAG Electronic BBS (213/546-1861 at 300/2400 baud) via the Z: Upload to Sysop command. Direct modem transfer is also possible - call by voice telephone to arrange.

CLASSIFIEDS/ADVERTISING: Classifieds will be published on a space available basis. Subscribers: four free lines/issue. Additional lines and non-subscribers: \$0.15 per line. Other advertising--call or write for rate schedule.

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Filk At Boskone

by Lee Gold

Filking at Boskone was very sparse. Cathy Cook MacDonald was there running the Wall Songs table, her first-ever attendance at a Boskone, but only looked in the filk room for an hour or so one night. Maybe due to depression at her 12-string having gotten a busted string which she'd forgotten to stock a replacement for. Maybe due to depression at ALL her filkbooks having been misplaced during her most recent move - and apparently lost for good. Duane Elms also showed up a couple of hours per night. And there were a number of lesser singers, with Barry carrying most of the load. Of course, the fact that the filk room wasn't scheduled to begin until 11:00 PM Friday and Saturday night may have had some effect. Sunday night, when the filking started at 8:00 PM, we had a fair number of people. Larry Niven was there for several hours, and Fuzzy Pink claimed we were the liveliest party in the hotel - because we were the only one.

The NESFA Filksong Contest only awarded two prizes. First prize went

More Filk BBS

FIDONet And The Filk Echo

by Kay Shapero

ATTENTION FILKFEN!!

Announcing the FIDONet FILK ECHO! This echo is for discussion of filk and items related to filk. (Just about everything, actually...) If you're interested, but not within easy call range of any of the following, have the sysop of a nearby FIDO board get in touch with me via the Aerie to start receiving the echo.

FIDO Net BBSs currently carrying the FILK echo are:

- StormGate Aerie (FIDO node 1:102/524), (213)822-6729.
- Ophiophile Opus (FIDO node 1:273/715), (215)279-9799.
- The Annex-Studio City (FIDO node 1:102/832), (818) 766-0911.
- The Fur Side (FIDO node 1:204/2), (415) 571-1486.

to Duane Elms for "Don't Touch That Button" and Honorable Mention went to Lee Gold (me) for "Blow the House Down".

Kazoo Awards Revisited: A Reply

by John and Mary Creasey

The Kazoo Awards were presented at ConChord 5 to various deserving (?) recipients. The idea originated with Tera Mitchel, but John and Mary Creasey have earned the undivided ~~blame~~ credit for implementing the idea. A few rumors of discontent have been overheard in the past months, and John and Mary wish to set the record straight. *The Editor.*

It has been insinuated that we stuffed the Ballot Box. We resent that remark. The ballot box was not stuffed; because in order to stuff a ballot box, you have to have one to begin with!

The award recipients were chosen with several criteria in mind:

1. They would be present at ConChord 5 to receive the award.
2. They had not been properly recognized in the past.
3. For the appropriateness of the categories.
4. Just for the Halibut.

The design of the kazooos themselves determined the categories chosen to be awarded. Several of the awards were created for specific personalities in mind (such as the Osemaster). Others were applicable to all the nominees in the category. After all, you can only do so much with vinyl, silicone, and candy sprinkles! The fabrication of the awards took several crazy hours, waiting for the silent kazoo filling to set up.

We do not promise to refrain from Ballot Box stuffing in the future as the whim takes us; however, we still need a ballot box, and ballots to stuff it with first. Please send us your suggestions and/or nominations for the 1990 Conchord Kazoo Awards; by regular mail (see address listing in Sources on Page) or by E-mail through the DAG BBS. Remember - to avoid a repeat of ALLEGED Ballot Box Stuffing, please send us your ideas!!!



Who are these people and what are they doing?

CON-CHORD 6

October 12-14, 1990

Con-Chord is a music convention dedicated to Science Fiction Folk Music (also known as Filk music). You do not have to be a performer to attend this conference. Just bring yourself and plan to sit back and enjoy some of the best music around.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

(in no order)

- Concerts both Saturday and Sunday
- Performers Circle
- Music and song writing workshops
- Open Singing room
- The Totally Tasteless and Tacky Concert
- Kazoo Awards
- One-shots (Where anyone can get up on stage and perform one song)
- Dealer's room
- And many surprises

WHERE:

All this fun is going to take place at the Holiday Inn (LAX), located at 9901 La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, Ca. 90045. That's right off the 405 (San Diego) Freeway at Century Boulevard. For those of you flying in there is a free airport shuttle. For Hotel reservations and information call (213) 649-5151. When you call be sure that you tell them you are with CON-CHORD.

CONVENTION ROOM RATES:

- Single: \$59.00
- Double: \$69.00
- Triple/Quad: \$79.00

OUR GUEST OF HONOR is the outstanding **JULIA ECKLAR**, who can be heard on Divine Intervention from Air Craft Recording Studios and on many other tapes. Besides her musical talents, Julia is also author of the new Star Trek book: The Kobayashi Maru, now available at better book stores everywhere.

OUR TOASTMASTER is no stranger to the west coast; **JOEY SHOJI** is a marvelous performer and can be heard on more tapes than we have room to list here. Joey's material is extensive, he can make you laugh with songs like Uhura and then turn around and make you cry with Cranes Over Hiroshima. You don't want to miss him.

Full ATTENDING MEMBERSHIP is currently \$25.00 thru October 5, 1990. It will be higher at the door.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP is only \$8.00 at anytime and can be converted for attending membership for the difference in price at the time of conversion.

For more information write to:
CON-CHORD 6
 1810 14th St. #100 - Santa Monica, Ca.
 92644. (213) 546-4935.

If you have a computer with a modem you can call our BBS at (213) 546-1861 - 24hrs a day (8,N, 1) for current information and coments.

Or subscribe to THE FILKING TIMES, the official newsletter for Con-Chord. 12 issues (one year) is only \$7.00. Contact Rick Weiss at 13261 Donegal Dr, Garden Grove, CA. 92644.