

# The Filking Times

June 1990

Issue 16

## DAG Joins The Publishing Biz

by Tera Mitchel

To date there have been only two publishers available to the filking community at large: Unlikely Publications in Berkeley, CA (who is not taking on any more clients at this time) and Firebird Arts and Music, Inc. of Portland, OR. Therefore, DAG, located in Southern California and a long-term merchant in the fannish community as a dealer and producer in filking, is announcing its entry into the publishing realm of the music business.

This all happened due to a late night call from one of DAG's songwriters, proclaiming DAG as his publisher and asking "So, who are you registered with--BMI or ASCAP?" To serve the obvious need, DAG applied to and was thus recently accepted by BMI as an affiliated publisher.

See DAG on Page 6.

## Convention Report

### FILKING FLOURISHES IN MISSOULA, MONTANA

by "Dr. Jane" Robinson

Great people! Great Music! Great convention! For the second time in three years, I was treated to warm hospitality and formidable filking at one of the best-run conventions it has ever been my pleasure to attend--MisCon V. To make things even better, two of my fellow Guests of Honor, Elizabeth Scarborough and Phil Foglio, proved to be competent, enthusiastic vocalists with overtly filkish tendencies--yup, they were almost always there singing with the throng, contributing wild and witty ditties whenever the chance presented itself. (Next time you see

Elizabeth, ask her to sing her famous "You Picked a Fine Time to Leave Me, You Seal!") Local pro John Dalmas exercised his awesome basso profundo in renditions of ancient (but lively) curiosities in several languages--which were funny even before he translated them for us! And Kathy Tyers was there--<sligh>, and to my delight, played her harp briefly in the dealers' room right across from the Unlikely Publications/MZB Enterprises table.

The local Missoullians are actively involved with the SCA, and for many See MisCon on Page 7.

## WESTERCON 43 ARRIVING IN PORTLAND, OREGON

Filk Panels and Concert Planned

by Deborah Leonard

My thanks to Tera Mitchel for reading her Progress Reports over the phone at the last minute so I could present the best information available at this time. DL

Independence Day is fast approaching again and with it comes another Westercon. This 43rd annual gathering of the fen (July 5-8) promises to be one of the most interesting cons yet. Guests of Honor include Ursula K. LeGuin, Vonda McIntyre and Kate Wilhelm. Membership rates are currently \$40 by mail until June 20, then

\$50 at the door. Children ages 6-12 are half price and those under 6 are free. Supporting memberships are \$15.

A feature that seems most curious is that Westercon 43 will be held at TWO hotels simultaneously, the Jantzen Beach (party) Red Lion Hotel and the Columbia River (quiet) Red Lion Hotel. According to Tera, functions for the convention will be split between the two hotels. (It may be advisable for attendees to examine closely the daily programming guide for any changes to room assignments [shades of Westercon 41 or NolaCon?].)

However, there's another interesting note: Telephone reservations for these two hotels WILL NOT be accepted, due to the limited number of rooms blocked for Westercon 43. This is because there is a spectacular July 4th fireworks celebration held on the Columbia River each year and the hotels book up for this event. Room rates are \$70 for single and \$80 for double/triple/quads. If you need a hotel reservation at this time, contact Debbie Cross at 503/774-7592 and she will help you.

There is an overflow hotel (the Delta Inn) located about 5 minutes down the freeway with hourly shuttle service to the Red Lion Hotels. Convention rates are \$43. For more information, contact the Delta Inn, 9903 No. Whitaker Road, Portland, OR, or call them at 503/289-1800 or toll free at 800/833-1800.

See Westercon on Page 2.

Corrected Date  
For OVFF:

Oct 26-28, 1990

More info in next issue.

## Westercon Filking

Continued from Page 1.

Now to the best stuff--filk programming. Cecilia Eng and John Andrews are in charge of Filk Programming for Westercon 43. They have really gathered together a large lineup of major filk talent for your filking enjoyment. Filk related activities will include a Saturday (July 7) concert, panels and open circle singing into the wee hours of the night(s).

The Saturday Concert is planned to start at 10:00 PM. Confirmed performers include Heather Rose Jones of Oakland, CA; John Hedtke of Seattle, WA; Meryl Korn and Jean Lamb of Klamath Falls, OR; and (our own) Tera Mitchel of Southern California.

Other filkers listed as Program Participants (in no particular order) include Lee Gold, Bob Kanefsky, Bob Laurent, Kathy Mar, "Dr. Jane" Robinson, Chris Weber, Karen Willson, Joey Shoji, Meg Davis, Duane Elms, Leslie Fish, Joan Gausted, Jordin Kare, Mercedes Lackey, Jane Mallander (who will also be moderating an Origami workshop), Tom Payne, D.F. Sanders, Peter Thiesen and Roy Torley. Further information regarding specific filk programming topics/activities is currently not available at this printing.

For additional convention and registration information, contact the Westercon 43 ConCom at P.O. Box 5794, Portland, OR 92778 or by telephone at 503/283-0802.

## Calendar Of Events

### Conventions

**Westercon 43**, July 5-9, 1990. P.O. Box 5794, Portland, OR 97228; 503/283-0802. See article on Page 1.

**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 10-5-90, 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.

### Filksings

#### Los Angeles Area:

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

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

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

#### San Diego Area:

July 7, 7 PM at Barney Evans' house, 8150 Jefferson, Lemon Grove, CA 92045. Usually held the first Saturday of each month. The San Diegans will also host the monthly LAFA filk in July. Call Barney at 619/697-3844, Rilla Heslin at 619/469-4874 or Karen Rogers at 619/265-0069 for more info.

#### SF Bay Area:

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

#### 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).

### 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 1990 Rick Weiss and Deborah Leonard. All rights reserved. All materials bearing notice of prior copyright are reprinted here by permission of the authors. All works not originally copyrighted are to revert all rights to the authors upon publication. Permission to reprint granted provided proper credit (author, *The Filking Times*, issue number) is given.

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 word processing (ST: Wordwriter, IBM: Wordperfect) or 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.

**TRIVIA:** This 'zine was produced on an Atari 520ST upgraded to 1 MB using Time-works Word Writer ST and The Time-works Desktop Publisher and printed on a Citizen MSP-10 9-pin dot matrix printer.

## Paid Advertising Will Appear in *The Filking Times*

### Ad Policy and Rates Now Set

by Rick Weiss

At the insistence of eager advertisers, the policy and rates for paid advertising in *The Filking Times* have now been set by the Publishers. While advertising was always mentioned in the Editorial Policy statement of *TFT*, exact details were never quite thought out, at least until someone came along with cash in hand saying "I want to buy!" So, for all of you Publishers, Retailers, Con-Coms, and other interested people out there, here they are.

#### Basic advertising rates

For advertising on white paper within the body of *TFT*.

- Business card \$1.50  
(2.00 by 3.50 inches)
- 1/6 page \$2.00  
(2.25 W by 4.75 H inches)
- 1/3 page \$3.00  
(4.75 by 4.75 inches or  
7.25 W by 3.25 H inches)
- 1/2 page \$4.00  
(7.25 W by 4.75 H inches)
- 2/3 page \$5.00  
(4.75 W by 9.75 H inches or  
7.25 W by 6.5 H inches)
- Full page \$7.00  
(7.25 W by 9.75 H inches)

On outside (colored) cover, opposite address label:

- Half page \$5.00  
(5.00 by 8.00 inches)

Colored paper insert - guaranteed next issue only:

- Full page, single \$10.00  
or double sided  
(8.50 by 11.00 inches)

#### Type of Space

Advertising in *The Filking Times* will be accepted either on a space available basis or on a guaranteed next issue basis. *TFT* subscription rates are based on a mailing weight of one ounce, first class postage, each month. This places an absolute limit of eight pages (four sheets) for *TFT*, one sheet for the LAFA flyer, and another bit for renewal notices or other special needs. Space avail-

able advertising pays only the basic rates given above and will be included to the extent that the eight-page limit is not exceeded. One-half page of interior advertising space and the half-page outside fold will be made available in future issues for space available ads on an equal priority with regular articles. Ads larger than one-half page, or additional ads beyond the first interior half-page bought, will be included after regular news and other articles are in, or else will be delayed to the next issue. If every issue is full, there is no guarantee that a space available ad will ever be published. See Advertising on Page 8.

## On the Care And Feeding Of A Home Filksing

Part 3 of 3

Copr. 1983 by Paul J. Willett  
reprinted from Philk-Fee-Nom-  
Ee-Non Number 17

In Part 1 (*TFT* Issue #13), Paul discussed the factors to consider and how to rate the ability of your home to host a successful filksing. Part 2 (in Issue #14), covered preparations for the filksing. Paul concludes in Part 3 with the actual filk and the aftermath.

Once people start arriving, the way in which your filksing is actually run is pretty much up to you and the style in which your section of the country runs its filksings. On the West Coast, we're a participative bunch, so the bardic circle is used to give everyone a chance. When you've gotten a few people settled and the first guitars tuned, start in.

For simple logistical reasons, you should try to keep pathways clear through the people. Use that second room for guitar cases and anything else that's not needed immediately. Try to keep the doorways clear! In

## Filktape Review

### Shake The Dust Off by Bill Sutton

by George "Lan" Laskowski

Published in Lan's Lantern #32

Reprinted by permission

I don't care for country-western music. Unfortunately most of the music on Bill's tape is done in that style. In spite of that, I did enjoy the tape, although there is a fairly large number of songs I don't care for (even if he did write all of them). That is, they fall below average of what I expect from Bill, especially after his first tape, Past Due. Still, there are some gems here.

Bill Sutton's humorous songs are always masterfully done, so "Beer Bed," "The Electron Waltz," and "To Be Announced" are good selections. His more serious songs, such as "I Saw My World Go Down," "Cobra," "Heros," and "Solitary" are better, but he reaches his best with the title song, "Shake the Dust Off," which is about relationships and a person's worth. This song alone is worth the price of the tape.

Quality? There's a lot of talk about quality of the recordings in filk tapes among the filkers and listeners. There is no question about that with DAG tapes. The vocals are clear; the blend of voice and instruments is even--neither overwhelms the other.

Overall, I was surprised to have enjoyed the music as much as I did, given my dislikes. But a good song is still good, no matter how it's arranged.

Shake The Dust Off by Bill Sutton, from DAG Productions, 1989, \$10.00, 1810 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404)

practice, the fire laws won't apply, but in theory they do and for good reason.

Filkers are human (well, semi-human) and the use of liquor at filksings is a long and hallowed tradition. There will be a *1/2* fewer See Filksing on Page 6.

## "QUOTH THE FILKLORD..."

by Quentin Long

An eccentric column from an off-centered filker

*"Revenge of the Ozone Scaremongers, Part I: Hmmm...Nothing there I didn't already know, and Mr. Smith seems to have missed my point. Let's see if Part II is any better..."*

Comes a time when one's fancy turns to thoughts of...the Ultimate Filk Recording. As should be obvious to the veriest dunce, numerous and diverse are the ingredients which coalesce to form a filk tape; to create the Ultimate Filk Recording, therefore every last one of the ingredients with which one works must clearly be of the ultimately high level of quality.

For the medium on which the Ultimate Filk Recording is recorded, there can be only one choice: Compact Disc. And not just ANY old CD, but something akin to the (literally) golden audiophile-quality CD's produced by the good burghers of the Mobile Fidelity Sound Labs. It is true that the finest and absolutely most state-of-the-art analog disc systems (i.e., the legendary WAMM) can reproduce sounds with fidelity that equals (some would say exceeds) that of your average CD system, but it is not clear how many filkers can afford the \$50,000 or so that such an exceptional analog system costs....

The studio in which the Ultimate Filk Recording is recorded must be chosen with great care. As an example, any studio whose next-door neighbors include a power plant or transformer would clearly be incapable of producing anything of interest to anyone save connoisseurs of 60-cycle hum. If an artist's muse demands that a left-handed blivet flute be employed in a particular song, an Ultimate-calibre studio will either a) have a left-handed blivet flute on the premises at all times, or b) have a top-notch supply of left-

**See Ultimate on Page 7.**

## Filk DataBase Program Available:

Music Manager From Filkoholic Press

by Harry Brener

Picture this: You're sitting there in a filk circle and the person whose turn it is says, "Hey, does anyone have the words to BLAH BLAH BLAH?" There then follows 10 minutes of "filp, filp, filp, filp" and then a general chorus of "Nope!" I just hate when that happens. Don't you?

Well, an answer is in sight--in the form of a data base called "Music Manager", designed by Harry M. Brener of Filkoholic Press.

This program is designed to locate songs by page or track, within each of the various publications in which they appear, be they books, 'zines, or cassettes. Data fields for each song can also be used to identify the author, composer, and performer; and to describe the song by type, subject matter, tune and key lyrics, if desired. Additional fields are available for the key, chords, and one more field for any additional information.

There is a table for publications, which includes such information as the publisher, publication date, price, and a description of the work. This keys into a publishers' table, which contains such information as the publisher's address and the contact person. The authors' and composers' table similarly has fields for the address, phone number, and birthday of each person listed.

Reports can be printed to list the entries in various ways. All songs in the system can be listed in alphabetical order by title or by author or composer. An alphabetical list of key entries can be prepared, as can a list of songs written to the same tune. Song type and subject matter may be used similarly. Directories of the individual publications can, of course, also be printed.

This system can either be used from scratch or provided with data already input. At this time, I am in the process of inputting the data from my own, admittedly limited, collection. At this point, it is my plan to offer to include any additional publication in return for a copy of same. (It goes without saying that my choices for "type", "subject" and "key lyrics" for any given song do not necessarily agree with everyone else's interpretations.)

We anticipate this system to be a useful and necessary tool for all those filkers out there who have suitcases full of songbooks, but not necessarily such photographic memories as to be able to identify the contents of each.

MUSIC MANAGER is now available at a cost of \$50.00. As an introductory offer, a start-up data set (as far as completed at the time) will be included without charge. If interested, please contact Mara or Harry Brener at 818/447-1664 for more information.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Ozone and the FilkLord

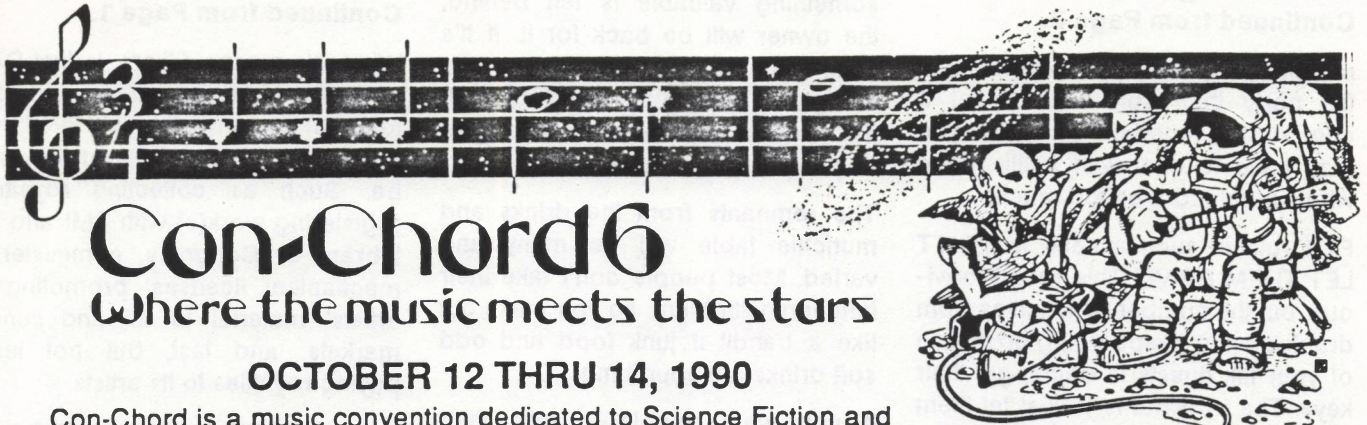
A reply to the "Quoth the FilkLord..." column in Issue #14.

Part 2 of 2

Nick Smith, Pasadena, CA

Quentin, your third apparent question is whether the depletion of the ozone layer is important enough to treat as an emergency. After all, if it's not an emergency, then we can afford to wait for more information about both the problem and the solutions. The answer is: what is your definition of an emergency? The destruction of the ozone layer will not bring about direct end of life on earth as we know it, but it would be pretty bad. You see, the ozone layer absorbs about two-thirds of the UV radiation that would normally

**See Ozone on Page 8.**



# Con-Chord 6

Where the music meets the stars

OCTOBER 12 THRU 14, 1990

Con-Chord is a music convention dedicated to Science Fiction and Fantasy Folk Music, which is an unusual cross between music in a coffee house and singing songs around a campfire. You do not have to be a performer to attend this conference, however, new performers are always welcome (check with us if you have questions). All you have to do is 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

Since we tend to sing late into the night we highly recommend getting a sleeping room at the hotel.

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

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

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.

For more information write to:  
**CON-CHORD 6 • 1810 14th St. #100 - Santa Monica, Ca. 90404. (213) 546-4935.**

## Filksing Survival

Continued from Page 3.

number of intoxicated people at a filk party than you will see at a comparable mundane party, but you may have to deal with a filk friend who's indulged a bit too much.

First rule in such a case is DON'T LET THEM DRIVE! This seems obvious, but the number of fatalities from drunk driving keeps going up. If one of your filk guests is drunk, get their keys. The best bet is to just let them keep singing. Who knows, maybe they'll be easier to listen to that way. Afterwards they can just sleep it off. Should they get obnoxious (not terribly likely), you can call on friends to help with the problem. You should ask for outside help (the police) only as the very last resort.

While not being paranoid, you should also avoid being naive. Most of the filkers you or someone will know, but be aware of the possibility that someone may wander in who really doesn't belong there. Some people consider any party to be an open party, and filksings don't have too much in common with mundane "parties". Also, in such a crowd, a stranger could take the opportunity to snoop in to burglarize you or catalogue your house for future burglary. Common sense and an average amount of keeping your eyes open as a matter of simple existence will prevent 99% of the problems here.

The next morning, your house will look about like a small thermo-nuclear device has gone off in the living room. Don't worry, it's not as bad as it looks. (IN CHORUS NOW: "IT'S WORSE!") After you get all of the sleeping bodies off of the floor and get everyone to gather up their filk books, guitars, sleeping bags, and other garbage, you can always get help in picking up the mess.

As people are leaving, ask them to make sure that they haven't left anything behind. There will always be some stuff left behind anyway (see page one of this issue), but this

will cut down on the problem. If something valuable is left behind, the owner will be back for it. If it's semi-valuable, hold onto it and you can give it back at the next filksing. If it's garbage, the owner will tell you to chuck it, but check first.

The remnants from the drinks and munchie table will be many and varied. Most people don't take their leftovers with them, so you make out like a bandit if junk food and odd soft drinks are your thing.

If you want people to take their leftovers with them, you should put that into your house rules. Otherwise, go through the leftovers and toss anything which isn't immediately appealing to you. Trust me; if it doesn't look good now, it won't look any better later. If it's garbage to you and someone else wants it, let them have it. If you have a full, sealed bag of something, consider taking it to the next filksing and leaving it at someone else's house. (You laugh, but we had a bag of cheese puffs that made it through four filks before it finally got back to our house, still unopened, whereupon I tossed it.)

Do the same with the drinks in the refrigerator. If the jar of guava pulp and tomato juice mixture doesn't turn you on, dump it.

The end result of this is usually a nice supply of palatable munchies and drinks that will last you for a week or so. This is your profit for having hosted the sing.

Within 24 hours of the sing, you should have gotten your life (with the exception of your sleep schedule) back to normal. Your furniture will be back where it should be and you will at last be able to kick back and relax. Do so. You've earned the right.

Now, to start planning your next sing.....

Editor's afterword: Hardly anything has changed in this area. A Sunday morning breakfast/brunch expedition - especially for Dim Sum, if available locally - has become a popular custom. There have been times when my house was

## DAG: Publisher

Continued from Page 1.

What this means, filkers, is that DAG now stands ready, willing and able to assist any and all artists in all their publishing needs, whatever they may be. Such as collecting royalties, registering work(s) with BMI and the Library of Congress, administering mechanical licenses, promoting its artists' material to all and sundry markets, and last, but not least, paying royalties to its artists.

One of DAG's hallmarks will be the flexibility of its contracts and agreements with its artists. According to Tera Mitchel, DAG Vice President of Contracts and Publication, anything is negotiable, from full publishing coverage (artist's complete works) to limited scope administrative agreements (on an individual song basis). All anyone needs to do is ask. Contact Tera at 1810 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404, 213/429-2948.

DAG wishes to emphasize that this new service is offered as an option for its clients, and that it is NOT necessary to sign a DAG publishing contract to appear on a DAG tape. DAG will continue to license songs from individual artists or their representatives for use on its tapes.

Current artists listed with DAG include Bill and Brenda Sinclair-Sutton, Kathy Mar, Tera Mitchel, Chrys Thorsen, while many others are now in negotiation. DAG looks forward to continuing serving the filking community with the fullest range of services now available from the oldest filk company in the world.

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cleaner *after* the filk than before it, due to the enthusiasm of the volunteer clean-up crew. Then there are the stories of the memorable items left behind at filks - ask Paul about the boxer shorts sometime - or the can of sauerkraut I once acquired after a filk. In fact, I still have a blue sleeping bag someone left at my Simi Valley house about 3 years ago.....

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## Ultimate Filk?

Continued from Page 4.

handed bilvet flutes within an easily accessible radius of no more than 50 miles or so. Finally, the studio for an Ultimate Filk Recording must have none but the finest of microphones, sound-manipulation equipment, recording facilities, et cetera ad nauseum.

The performers whose performances are included on this Ultimate Filk Recording must, similarly, be chosen with great care. The quality of performers is a subject upon which untold thousands of words to cover all the various aspects of Ultimate quality, the present discussion will necessarily be somewhat brief (not to say cursory). As far as instruments are concerned, there is really no reason to employ flesh-and-blood musicians--not when there are any number of Macintosh-based MIDI sequencers (i.e., Mark of the Unicorn's Professional Composer/Performer programs) to handle such chores. With these tools, the filk composer is assured that the music which ends up on tape is EXACTLY what he intended, and there is no need to concern oneself with the vagaries of mere human musicians.

Unfortunately, there is no adequate substitute for a vocalist. In an ideal world, the filk composer himself would always be of sufficient vocal quality to handle the lyrics himself, with no need to bring in any other musicians (whose unreliability, previously touched upon in connection with instruments, is equally evident in the vocal realm). Here in the real world, unfortunately, this situation rarely obtains, and outside vocalists all-too-often MUST be brought in. One must exercise great care and discrimination, needless to say; a performer may have a certain degree of stage presence, but this may or may not come through in a recording session. And while a singer may have an exquisite voice, they may not have the correct vocal range to fit the song and/or arrangement.

## MisCon In Review

Continued from Page 1.

years (before they got older, wiser and busier) spent an evening every week or so practicing the classic SCA-worthy songs and learning/writing new ones. They know the Westerfiks inside and out, and have an enviable command of the songs of Cynthia McQuillin (MisCon's Fan Guest two years ago), Leslie Fish and Heather Rose Jones. Their filking style is what I would call gang bardic chaos, where majority sometimes rules and the quick and loud don't always win, but everyone somehow gets a turn and they all have a wonderful time.

MisCon filkmaster Glen (Scruffy) Hammer and his 12-string guitar are the foundation of Missoula's filk community. Glen writes great parodies ("Holiday Inn" to "Louie, Louie" leaps to mind) in addition to both serious and humorous original material (my favorite was "A Hard Day's Knight", whose tag line is "She likes dragons more than she likes men!") His versatility is astounding--he can make you laugh with one song, cry with the next and emit a battle cry at the third. And--he's the finest amateur auctioneer in the West!

If you should be lucky enough to make it to a MISCON, be sure to ask Julie Austin to sing some of her brilliant, wicked parodies ("The

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There are a number of other facets of the Ultimate Filk Recording which bear examination, but this column will end with a discussion of only one such: Publicity. In the past, filk companies have contented themselves with announcing new products in their catalogs and hoping for word-of-mouth to spread the good work to the rest of filkdom. This method, which perhaps adequate for the more mediocre cassette releases, can no longer be deemed sufficient in and of itself. The Ultimate Filk Recording will, of course, be announced in the catalog(s) of whichever filk companies

**See Recording on Page 8.**

Guest" is the best...). And, after gentle persuasion, she and Kathy Guschausky just might perform some of their closely harmonized showpieces for you (over protestations of "We never get to practice any more!" Don't believe them!).

One of the treats of the convention was hearing some songs from an authentic Alaskan filkbook. Seems like there's an active fannish community 'way up there, and they sing those I-o-n-g Alaskan nights away...As might be predicted, many of the songs have a lot of verses, but the tall, blond lady who sang them (sorry, no name--but she's a harper and she's bound to turn up again eventually!) managed them easily; and Annie Scarborough, who lived in Alaska for several years, offered some shorter, but no less interesting, Alaskan material.

(By the way...if you're anywhere near Missoula and you've forgotten the words to a song, sit next to Elaine. After watching her during four days of marathon singing, I'm convinced she knows the word to everything--even songs she hasn't heard yet! [So does Lisa Waters--but don't tell MZB!!!])

Alas, encyclopedic filkmind Robyn Meadow had laryngitis this time, but she managed to whisper above the melee that the Missoula filkers are assembling a soon-to-be-massive filk collection, and are soliciting contributions of material suitable for singing at SCA functions. The book will be sold for cost (i.e., it's NOT profit!) and copyright notices will be printed on each song. For more information and release forms contact Robyn Meadow, 614 No. 2nd Street West, Missoula, MT 59802, 406/549-1435

Needless to say, I had a marvelous time at MisCon V. I thank Jeff and Dot, Christie and Trent, Gentle Ben, Black Brenda, Robyn and Bill, "Scruffy", Kathy, Joanie, Barrett, Elaine, Ron, Karl, Scott-the-Damp, Kim and a cast of dozens. MisCon is alive and well, and I'm looking forward to my next trek north...perhaps I'll see YOU there!

## Ozone

Continued from Page 4.

strike the surface of the earth. Remove that layer, and suddenly you get 3 times as much UV. If it were visible light we were talking about, you might understand the idea more clearly. Think what life would be like if sunlight were three times as bright. You'd be facing glare blindness and heat stroke every time you stepped outside your front door. Well, UV light isn't visible, and doesn't glare in your eyes or heat up your car. What it does do is hit things with enough energy to cause some interesting reactions. For instance, UV is the part of sunlight that goes farthest toward cooking auto emissions into the stuff called "smog". Oddly enough, that ends up creating ozone, but down at low levels, where it does more harm than good. You see, ozone is very reactive. Think of it as being like a gaseous cloud of weak acid. It eats away at almost anything organic that it touches, like the rubber in your tires, or the lining of your lungs. And it only takes tiny amounts of ozone to do damage. Example: Take a full-sized basketball court (with air, of course). Add one shot-glass of ozone. Now play a game of basketball on the court. Congratulations, you've just damaged your lungs. The scar tissue will go away, with time and pure air.

In addition, and to me, scarier, is the fact that UV radiation is (big word coming) mutagenic. That means UV can give DNA chains such a thwack that they break down and reform, with changes. On a human being, since the UV only travels one or two layers of cells in before being absorbed, the main harmful result is what is commonly called skin cancer. Most forms of it are non-lethal, that's the only good news. What is less common knowledge (probably because it isn't as scary to the kind of people who read USA Today) is that the UV radiation can have harmful effects on other species. You know, things like plants, insects... You see, a one-celled creature is only one cell thick, and so UV can change its DNA linkages or kill it

## Recording The FilkLord

Continued from Page 7.

carry it, but this will merely be part of the overall publicity campaign. These Ultimate catalog listings will be supplemented by advertisements in filkzines (i.e., *The Filking Times*), by cross-country airplay on hundreds of the United States' more "Independent" radio stations, by "point of purchase" displays in book/record stores, and by (in sum) bringing modern marketing techniques to bear upon the problem of selling filk beyond the walls of the ghetto in which it currently resides.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: The above column reflects the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Publisher (e.g., he writes 'em and we prints 'em--with some "minor" surgery to avoid nuisance libel suits).

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outright (that's called a non-viable mutation). It has been known for 25 years that some insect eggs are small enough to be mutated by UV. (I have personally seen not only data, but living results. From the data, it seems that specific UV frequencies may make specific DNA breaks. In other words, you won't get just isolated mutations, but perhaps new sub-species. It works that way with fruit flies in a laboratory.)

So, you see, Quentin, even if it were just a matter of people having to wear darker sunglasses and stronger sunscreen lotions (anyone got any SPF 457--yes!--eds.), you can't smear it on plankton and insects. Also, the extra ozone at low levels (read "altitudes"--eds.) isn't good for anything with lungs, and for some reason also interferes with plant photosynthesis. That would mean both less oxygen production worldwide (a thrilling concept) and less actual plant growth. Overall, not a good thing.

Quentin, just because your local eco-freak is running around like a terrified chicken doesn't mean there isn't a good reason to worry, and to

## Advertising In *TFT*

Continued from Page 3.

Guaranteed next issue advertising will be accepted when the advertiser guarantees to pay the additional postage cost for exceeding the one ounce limit **in addition to** the basic advertising rate. Actual postage costs to be billed will be calculated by multiplying the number of issues mailed times the current rate for the second ounce of postage. For example, *The Filking Times* mailed 75 copies of Issue #15, so the additional postage cost would have been 75 times \$.20 per issue, or \$15.00. If two or more advertisers sign up for guaranteed next issue ads in one issue, this postage cost will be divided equally among them. *The Filking Times* will assist advertisers in coordinating multiple ads in one issue upon request.

### Ad Copy Submittals

Ad copy should be submitted as exact size, camera ready copy. Computer graphics files in Atari ST DEGAS, Neochrome, etc. format or IBM formats compatible with Wordperfect 5.0 or 5.1 can also be accepted. (Until we get some experience with computer files, you should also send us a hardcopy.) Text only ads will be accepted for formatting and layout by the TFT staff, but customer approval of the final ad copy prior to publication will not be possible. (You pay your money and you take your chances.) Due to reproduction limitations, we cannot accept half tones or photographs.

### Acceptance and Priority Policy

The order of priority for space available ads will be subscriber submitted, then filk oriented, then time related ads. Non-filk, non-fan related ads will be accepted at the discretion of the publisher. The publisher reserves the right to refuse to publish any ad.

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act quickly. The ozone layer is important, and reducing CFC emissions as quickly as possible looks like the best way to keep it up there.

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# LAF A Filksing

**Saturday, June 16, 1990 - 3 PM to ??**  
**At Brandyhall - Lee & Barry Gold**  
**3965 Alla Road, Los Angeles, CA 90066**  
**213/306-7456**

**DIRECTIONS** See Thos. Bros. page 49, grid E-3

Brandyhall is located southwest of the intersection of the San Diego (I-405) and Santa Monica (I-10) Freeways. If you have time, look for the Space murals on the DMV building on Washington Blvd.

**FROM THE WESTBOUND SANTA MONICA FWY:** Continue west on I-10 from the interchange with I-10. Take the Bundy-South exit. Continue south on Bundy (the name will change to Centinela) past the Santa Monica Airport and Venice Blvd. Turn Right on Washington Place (the next major street after Venice), then see *From Washington* below.

**FROM THE NORTHBOUND SAN DIEGO FWY:** Take the San Diego Fwy (I-405) to the Venice/Washington exit. Turn Right on Sepulveda, then Right onto Washington Place. See *From Washington* below.

**FROM THE SOUTHBOUND SAN DIEGO FWY:** Take the San Diego Fwy (I-405) to the Venice/Washington exit. Turn Left on Sawtelle, then Right onto Washington Place. See *From Washington* below.

**FROM WASHINGTON:** Continue west on Washington Place. Washington Blvd will merge in from the left. The next signal is at Beethoven St. Go another two blocks and turn Right on Alla. Brandyhall is the yellow house on the left about three houses in.

**FILK STYLE:** Non-Topological Bardic Circle, or ad-lib as desired. In a NTBC, everyone gets their turn, but it does not go in a strict rotation. To exercise your turn to pick or perform, you turn in a marker (usually a poker chip). When most of the markers have been used, a new supply is passed out (one to a customer).

## NOTES

1. Crash space available.
2. There is a FuzzDog Warning - one Black & White unit on the prowl.
3. Dinner break about 6 PM. Dinner will be a potluck BBQ with hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments and buns provided by the hosts. Fruits, veggies and desserts are welcome. If you want something else, bring it. Kitty will be passed (suggest \$3-4) for non-food-contributors.
4. Bring all of your usual filk stuff.
5. **NO SMOKING -- PERIOD!!** (Except allowed outside.)
6. Silicon life-form present and working and a mimeograph available.

**Next LAF A Filksing**  
**July 14 in San Diego**

# THE FILKING TIMES

**The Filking Times**  
13261 Donegal Drive  
Garden Grove, CA 92644-2304