

# The Filking Times

January 1991

Issue 22

## BBS'ing For The Novice

by Kay Shapero  
Part I of II

First off, you need a computer and a modem, which is a device for connecting your computer to other computers over the telephone line. Choosing a computer is a topic for another article (and several books), for the purposes of talking to a BBS anything that isn't impossibly slow and will connect properly to a modem will do. Modems come in various data transmission speeds; pick one that is at least 1200 baud, and 2400 is even better. I don't care how cheap it is, you **don't** want 300 baud, trust me. You'll go crazy waiting for a response from the terminal if the BBS will accept you at all. Most boards accept 2400 these days. Now that you have the computer and the modem, you're going to need some software to tell them what to do. Specifically, a telecom program. At a minimum, it should be able to let you call the BBS, read what's on the board (and keep a copy), type messages into the message areas, and send and receive files (frequently a BBS will have things far to big to put into a message that you may want to read; a number of boards carrying the FILK echo also have large compilations of filksongs available for download, such as Joe Bethancourt's folk and SCA collection, or the FILK-files - collections of filks from the echo itself.) Sending a file to a BBS is called uploading, receiving a file from a BBS is called downloading. There are a number of simple telecom programs available in the public domain (ask someone you know who already has a computer & modem to get you one), or you can buy one at the local computer software store. Some good commercial programs include ZTerm for the Apple MacIntosh, and Procomm Plus for IBM (this latter is the one I use, and can be a little confusing to set up, so don't be afraid to ask questions of the salesman.)

**See Modem on Page 5.**

## LosCon (1990) Horror Stories

by Lee Gold

Loscon 1990 was held at the Buena Park Inn on November 23-25, 1990 -- the Editor.

Got to the convention at noon only to find out that the hotel wasn't letting people register for rooms until 1:00 PM because it was booked up. My letter said that as a Panel Participant my reg materials would be in the Green Room. Went there to be told they were with the other pre-registered members. Picked up badges, Program Books, and pocket (?) programs for Barry and myself, and looked to see where the filking was.

All that the Program Book said was that gamers and filkers shouldn't worry; they'd have a space. The pocket program didn't add anything to this. I went back to the Green Room and was told that Chuck Donahue, the guy in charge of Special Programming (i.e. Gamers and Filkers, among others), wasn't there yet. Found out that the newsletter was by Dwain Kaiser and Chuck Donahue. Checked it, but found no information on where the filk was scheduled. Went to the Green Room and asked again for help from some responsible committee member.

Mike Glycer told me one side of the third floor (ballroom) was the Rock Dance and the other side was the Heyer Dance, both using amplifiers. He then found me Robbie Cantor who told me that filking was wherever we put it; no place had been assigned. We could go in the central area, in the con suite which was four rooms (each normal size, none of them large enough to fit 20-40 sitting people, let alone guitars and songbooks), or the gaming area if it were empty. (I never checked the gaming rooms, but Cheryl Cascadden told me they were two long thin rooms, each filled up with a loonnnng table, so you could only run one game in each. Again, the layout was not suitable for filking.) I told Robbie in parting that I hoped the central area would be quiet enough, and she called

me back to remind me in a raised voice that in addition to the room walls (meaning the sliding partitions) there were corridors and that it would be fine. (The next day she said she'd merely told me that it would be fine.)

We spent that night clearly hearing both neighboring rooms, with no help from the Concom even at the job of trying to keep the doors closed on the Rock and Heyer rooms. I know the gamers wouldn't have minded being in the central area (and would not have bothered the Heyer or Rock areas with their noise). I didn't check to see if the two gaming rooms could be thrown together. I wonder if the Regency dancers with their loud speakers would've noticed the rock music.

**See Loscon on Page 4.**

**From the DAG BBS**

## Philking at Philcon

posted by Rich Kabakjian

Philcon was November 16-18, 1990 (I was probably busy registering people at the door at the time Eric popped the question). Filking was absolutely amazing for an East Coast regional. I haven't seen this much filk talent in one place outside of a filk convention or a Worldcon. Among those present were Duane Elms, Heather Rose Jones, Jane Sibley, Jennifer McGowan, Barb Higgins, Crystal Hagel, and roughly 1/3 of ConCerto's attendees. Those present who were **not** at ConCerto certainly heard about it at Philcon... Carol & I were **commanded** to do ConCerto '91 by practically everybody. I suppose I really have no choice in the matter; I'm going to go for it.

It was interesting, however... many of the filkers at Philcon who were also at ConCerto were attending Philcon for **See Philcon on Page 6.**

## Calendar Of Events

### Filksings

#### Los Angeles Area (LAFA):

- Jan 12: Harry & Mara Brener, hosts  
Arcadia, CA
- Feb 23: Jim & Sue Fox-Davis, hosts  
Tujunga, CA
- March 23: House of the Prancing  
Skiltaire. Rod O'Riley &  
Mark Merlino, hosts  
Garden Grove, CA
- April 20: Brandy Hall  
Lee & Barry Gold, hosts  
Los Angeles, CA

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

#### San Diego Area:

February 2, 1991 (usually held the  
first Saturday of each month) at Barney  
Evans' house, 8150 Jefferson, Lemon

Grove, CA 92045. 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 general 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).

### Conventions

**Treble**, February 1-3, 1991. Info:  
18 Glynde Road, Brighton, East Sussex,  
BN2 2YJ, England. American GoH's:  
Bill & Brenda Sutton. British FoN:  
Zander Nyronnd.

**Consonance '91**, March 1-3, 1991.  
c/o Wail Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oak-  
land, CA 94604. GoH: Gytha North  
(British filker and filk producer). Toast-  
mistress: Rilla Heslin (member of Wind-  
bourne). Memberships: \$20 thru Con-  
Chord, then \$25 thru February 1, 1991,  
then \$30 (tentative) at the door.

**FILKOntario**, April 12-14, 1991.  
Info: Office of the Artistic Director,  
1260 Marlborough Ct, Apt. 902, Oak-  
ville, Ontario, Canada L6H 3H5. Com-  
puserve #75126,2744. Internet  
#75126.2744 @ compuserve.com. GoH:  
Bill & Brenda Sutton. Hotel: Holiday  
Inn, Mississauga, Ontario. Memberships:  
\$25.00 until 3/20/91, then \$30.00 at the  
door. Hotel: Holiday Inn Mississauga,  
2125 N. Sheridan Way, Mississauga,  
Ontario, Canada L5K 1A3. Phone: 416/  
855-2000. Rates: \$75.00 per night  
(please mention FILKOntario when you  
call). **Note:** All amounts listed are in  
Canadian dollars.

**Westercon 44**, July 4-7, 1991 (V-  
CON 19), Info: WesterCon 44/V-Con 19,  
P.O. Box 48478, Bentall Station, Van-  
couver, B.C. V7X 1A2, CANADA.  
Phone: (604) 433-8817 or (604) 420-  
3316. Hotel: Gage Residence & Student  
Union Bldg., University of British Col-  
umbia, Vancouver, B.C. Memberships:  
\$40 until 5/31/91, then \$50 at the door.

**Con-Chord 7**, October 11-13, 1991  
(tentative dates). Info: DAG Produc-  
tions, 1810 - 14th Street, Santa Monica,  
CA 90404, or on the DAG BBS.

**Concerto '91**, date, etc. TBD. Info:  
Rich & Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis  
Avenue #3, East Lansdowne, PA  
19050-2614.

### THE FILKING TIMES Editorial Policy

**Rick Weiss, Publisher** Deborah Weiss, *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.

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

## Who's Singing on "Hip Deep in Heroes"?

by Nick Smith

There seems to be a little confusion around filk fandom about one of the new tapes, to wit: "Hip Deep in Heroes", and whether or not it is by the L.A. Filkharmonics. I blushingly admit to having helped cause that confusion, and herewith present the definitive answer: well, yes and no.

You see, a couple of years ago, some of the Filkharmonics and a few friends decided to put together a studio tape of music related to the television series, "Blake's Seven". However, since not all of the group were fans of the show, and since not all members had the time or energy to work on it anyway, a second, studio only group was put together: The Zen Nine From Outer Space. Simple, right? Just nine people working on a tape . . . Only we talked to Larry Warner about being on it, too, and he was agreeable. Okay, ten. Then, we discovered that Jackie Clarke, the roommate of some of the members, had a perfect voice for one of the songs. Eleven. But we still needed the banjo player and the harpist. Thirteen. Chrys Thorsen played a bunch of instrumental tracks when we needed them. Fourteen. We turned our backs while Chrys was mixing the final tracks and a second bodhran player appeared out of nowhere. Fifteen. No problem.

Meanwhile, two Con-Chords came and went, and the L.A. Filkharmonics were asked to perform at both. Unfortunately, 1989 was The Year Everyone Moved, and it looked like we would have trouble putting together a quality set, after several people had to bow out on that performance. Brainstorm time! Why not add new members to the group, out of the people we'd been recording with? So three of the Zen Nine became L.A. Filkharmonics. No problem . . .

Did you know that any group of singers who perform together for several years develop both stylistic and personal idiosyncrasies? Singing groups that get paid for it, or that spend all their lives rehearsing, can smooth them out fairly

quickly. In a group like ours, which rehearses only when we're getting ready to record or perform, smoothing out the wrinkles gives whole new meaning to the word "AAAAARRRGHH!" Even the politics involved in choosing what songs to sing undergo a whole new dynamic when you change members. When you also are changing who sings what kind of parts, and who sings harmony to whose leads, and who works out the harmonies and arrangements . . .

By Con-Chord 1990, we had dragged yet another Zen member into the Filkharmonics. This means that if we ever get all the Filkharmonics on stage at the same time we'll have to sing in rows, or form a human pyramid.

The result of all this is that most (but not all) of the current or former Filkharmonics participated in "Hip Deep in Heroes", either as singers or songwriters or both. However, since not all participated, and since not all of Zen Nine are in the Filkharmonics, the two are still separate and distinct. Sort of. And that's why the credits on "Hip Deep in Heroes" list it as an L.A. Filkharmonics Byproduct, but not as being BY the L.A. Filkharmonics.

Buy it anyway. Trust me.

### Con Report

## OVFF '90

by Mike Stein

Published in *Harpings* #25

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I think I'm going to become known as the Mad Filker. I went to every filk con in the world this year (or at least every one I heard about), including the one in England. Fortunately, OVFF closes the season for this year.

The concom had trouble finding a hotel; the traditional weekend ran up again Ohio State's homecoming football game. The Hilton Inn in Worthington was not a great place for a filk con, to put it mildly. It had very long halls, one elevator at the end of the hall, and more fire doors than the containment lab in "The Andromeda Strain". Since I had driven in from DC with all my instruments (a cello, a keyboard, two acoustic guitars, and a Unisynth guitar synthesizer) plus two belonging to Linda Melnick and Lucinda Brown, plus my suitcase and a humidifier for the instruments, I was not pleased. There were other problems as well, such as the fact that the closet had one (yes, one) hanger -- and this problem was not just in my room.

Unfortunately, I got a late start and did not make it in time for the high tea held for the listener guest of honor, Mary Frost-Pierson. By the time I got down to the filk room, some people had already turned in.

Technical Difficulties were originally going to be the musical guests of honor, but between T.J. Burnside's new baby and Sheila Willis' broken ankle, that had to be changed. Instead, we were treated to Linda Melnick's new group, Musical Chairs, consisting of Linda, Lucinda Brown, and Jean Stevenson, who took one of the Saturday concert slots. Among the other performers were B.J. Willinger, Barb Riedel and Carol Poore Roper, Peter Thiesen, Barry and Sally Childs-Helton, Henry Roberts, and MaryEllen Wessels O'Cain.

The one-shots were filled and then some -- there were fifteen performers and several on a standby list who did  
**See OVFF on Page 6.**

## 1990 Pegasus Award Winners

### Best Filk Song:

*Lullaby for a Weary World*

by T.J. Burnside-Clapp

### Best Writer/Composer

Julia Ecklar

### Best Performer

Mitchell Burnside-Clapp

### Best Fannish Song

*Weekend Only World*

by T.J. Burnside-Clapp

### Best Literature Song

*Daddy's Little Girl*

by Julia Ecklar

## "Quoth the Filklord..."

By Quentin Long

An eccentric column from an off-centered Filker

Now it's time to dip into the Filk-Lord's bulging mailbag and reply in the patented FilkLord style to select a few letters. First up to the plate is Jerry Herleps, of East Overshoe, Wisconsin, who writes:

"You must be the most arrogant being in the known Universe. How can you stand to live on the same planet as the rest of us inferior scummoids? Drop dead and rot, bozo!"

And the same to *you*, Jerry. First off, whatever gave you the idea that I was arrogant? Yes, I have opinions on a number of subjects; I believe that my opinions are correct; and I'm not willing to abandon them merely because Joe Schmuck claims, with no hard evidence in sight to back him up, that I'm wrong. If you think that constitutes arrogance, then by your own definition, *you* are as arrogant as you claim I am--maybe more so--and a hypocrite to boot. I agree that I do tend to come on rather too strong for some delicate sensibilities, but so what? If you don't like my stuff, I'm certainly not holding a gun to your head to force you to read it; in any case, that's more rudeness than arrogance. Do come back when you learn to tell the difference, eh, Jerry ol' fruit?

Next is Sheila Bruce, a Down Under correspondent: "Well, I guess Nick Smith showed *you*! If you still think the disappearance of the ozone layer isn't a serious problem, you must be more than halfway daft!"

Wrong-o, Zombie Lips! Yes, CFCs do catalytically accelerate the natural disintegration of ozone; and I agree that we don't want to such up any more UV than absolutely necessary. **However!** What makes you think that ground-level UV flux will increase if the ozone layer goes away? Suppose the ozone layer vanished tomorrow; how likely is it that any UV photon could penetrate the Earth's atmosphere all the way to where we vulnerable humans are without either a) getting absorbed by a few oxygen molecules which, in turn, will use the extra energy to turn into ozone; or b) running into one of the ozone molecules created by one of its ill-fated

brother UV photons that got there ahead of it? Remember that the whole atmosphere contains roughly  $10^5$  times more oxygen atoms than are contained in the ozone layer alone, and that CFCs do not prevent ozone from being formed--they just make it decay back into oxygen a bit sooner that it would normally. And yes, ozone is nothing you want to breathe, but 99.99% of the oxygen in the atmosphere happens to not be within breathing distance of where we humans are, and will further be responsible for far more than 99.99% of the newly-created ozone (figure it out for yourself), so who cares? Nick says that since the ozone layer absorbs about 2/3 of the Sun's UV, its removal would be tantamount to tripling the amount of UV we must deal with. The flaw in his reasoning is plain: he assumes that the atmosphere *sans* ozone layer must be perfectly transparent to UV because only ozone can stop UV. But this ignores the inconvenient (to eco-freaks) fact that oxygen turns into ozone when you shine UV on it! So if the ozone layer vanished, there might well be *some* increase in ground-level UV, but how much and how long would said increase last before atmospheric ozone increased enough to block it off? I note that people who promulgate the "no ozone equals 3 \* UV" theory in my presence haven't yet bothered to cite any UV measurements taken from the Arctic or Antarctic regions; given the ozone holes which regularly occur over these regions, you might think that such data would be highly relevant to apt subject at hand . . . One wonders why eco-doomsters don't bother to use this data. You don't suppose those eco-doomsters would be dishonest or self-serving enough to conceal data which tends to make hamburger out of their theories, do you? Or am I just out of touch? Anyway--yes, Sheila, Nick sure did show me. What he *believed* he was showing me, however, is almost certainly not what he *did* show me. . . to wit, that eco-freaks love to run wild with hare-brained Doomsday scenarios for which little (if any) hard supportive

## Loscon Horrors

Continued from Page 1.

The next day I told Robbie the arrangement hadn't worked out; she didn't seem sympathetic. I told her I was telling her for future reference in case she ever was involved with a similar setup again. She didn't say she'd try to avoid the problem next time. I asked where the filk tonight was to be. She didn't know (or seemingly care).

I checked with Gary Louie who said Loscon had never specified places for filking. I told him this was untrue for all the recent Loscons at least. Even last year's Loscon had had a specified filk-site, though it hadn't been printed in the Program Book due to Alex Pournelle's sloppiness. He seemed to think I was lying and refused to continue the conversation. (Gary Anderson has saved old Loscon Program Books and newsletters which show I was telling the truth. Some previous Loscons actually had two filksites: smoking and non-smoking.)

Anyway, I then had the sense to get in touch with Elayne (Pelz) who checked with the Lobby personnel and got them to agree we could use the the Lobby Pit during the Masquerade, then got us a small room on the third floor. And got the news announced in the newsletter.

Speaking of the newsletter, I never saw it mention check out-time, where to submit news items, or much else of importance. Chuck Donahue never made any attempt to contact the filkers, neither as co-editor of the newsletter or as person in charge of special interests.

As a Panel Participant, I noticed that the Green Room wasn't gathering panelists in advance of panels. It didn't even have a copy of the day's schedule posted. Even after I'd suggested this.

I think it was the worst run Loscon I've ever attended.

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evidence exists. This trait is not particularly harmful in and of itself; unfortunately, eco-freaks also insist that effectively unlimited amounts of cash must be spend to forestall their pet catastrophes, and never mind the flimsy foundations on which their Apocalyptic scenarios are built. I just wish they

See FilkLord on Page 6.

## Modems and Filk

Continued from Page 1.

One other type of software you will probably want before long is a simple text editor capable of producing a plain ASCII file (i.e. nothing but letters and numbers, no weird symbols, no embedded control characters etc.) For example, QEDIT is good for IBM PC compatible equipment, while other systems have equally good simple editors. More complicated word processing programs usually allow you to create ASCII files, but you should be careful to check the result. Word Star, for example, allocates fixed sizes for the output file and tacks nonsense onto the end if the file does not fit exactly and Word Perfect does something similar. This can be dealt with - I store my filksongs in a WordStar file, and if I want to post one someplace I simply print to an ASCII file, then go in and delete the garbage at the end with a text editor. This saves your phone bill if you're calling long distance, and also allows you to spend more of the connect time the BBS allows you (some allow as little as half an hour per day) reading other messages. And if you're like me and write your filksongs on the computer in the first place, you won't have to retype one to post it. Saves aggravation, too, dealing with BBS editors that won't allow you to change anything you typed more than one line back (WWIV), or cause the display to skip about when you get to the end of the page (Opus' OpEd). Remember to keep the messages under 75 columns wide and 60 lines long, and most BBSs will be able to handle them. Check with the one you call for details. Also ask if they support any off line readers such as XRS or Silver Express which allow you to call the BBS, collect your messages, get back off of the line, read through your messages and post any replies, then upload the whole mess back to the BBS. This really saves on connect time!

Now you get to find your BBS... If you're at all near Santa Monica (or can afford the call) you want to call the DAG board, Eric Gerds, sysop. 213/546-1861, will handle up to 2400 baud, up 24 hrs per day Tuesday through

**DAG BBS**, 213/546-1861 at 300/2400 BAUD. 24 hours/day, Tuesday through Sunday. Filk, costuming, SCA, gaming, books/media, general fannish interest. Information central for Con-Chord filk conventions. Eric Gerds, Sysop.

**StormGate Aerie BBS**, FidoNet Filk Echo, 213/822-6729 at 300/2400/9600 BAUD. General SF, FRP Gaming, Filk-singing, *Intercepted* Multiversal Party Line, Furry Fandom. Kay Shapero, Sysop.

Sunday, discussions of filk, costuming, SCA, gaming, books/media, and other items of fannish interest. The BBS program being used is called WWIV, and is reasonably user friendly (and if you get confused, Eric is good at helping figure it out; I speak from experience.)

You may also be interested in BBSs carrying the FIDonet FILK Echo. An echo is a message base that is carried by several boards at once, with the individual boards passing on the day's complement of messages to a central point from which they can be passed on to others (actually it's a bit more complicated than that, but this isn't an article on net topology, mercifully!) So you can talk to folks all over the country without having to call all over the country. Boards that I know carry the FILK echo currently are listed in the BBS listing on this page.

If none of these are nearby, and you can find a local FIDonet board, it is possible to ask the sysop to get the FILK echo for you. By the time this article sees print, FILK will be "on the backbone" and at least theoretically accessible all over North America (and maybe even overseas - one BBS in Germany has asked me to notify them as soon as the echo is on the backbone so that they can try and have it added to the feed to Area 2 (Europe)...). If he or she can't get it from the backbone, have them send netmail to me at StormGate Aerie.

## Filkish Computer Bulletin Board Systems

The following BBS's also carry the FidoNet Filk Echo:

### United States

- Arizona
  - Deus ex Machina (1:114/29), (602) 439-8070 (Phoenix)
  - The Lion's Den (1:114/64), (602) 985-1861 (Mesa)
- California
  - Sci-Fido II (1:161/84), (415) 841-9481 (Berkeley)
  - StormGate Aerie (1:102/524), (213) 822-6729 (Los Angeles)
  - The Annex-Studio City (1:102/832), (818) 766-0911 (Studio City)
  - The Fur Side (1:204/2), (415) 571-1486 (Foster City)
  - The Tigers Den (1:103/143), (714) 539-6547 (Garden Grove)
  - Yellow Submarine (1:161/69), (415) 481-7158 (San Leandro)
- Florida
  - The System (1:363/69), (407) 859-2243 (Belle Isle)
- Minnesota
  - Fire Opal (1:282/8), (612) 822-4812 (Minneapolis)
  - Terraboard (1:282/341), (612) 721-8967 (Minneapolis)
- New Mexico
  - The Mountain Oracle (1:301/9), (505) 884-6600 (Albuquerque)
- Pennsylvania
  - Ophiophile Opus (1:273/715), (215) 279-9799 (Bluebell)
- Virginia
  - Ten Bowl BBS (1:271/238), (804) 599-6401 (Newport News)
  - The TARDIS BBS (1:264/711), (703) 951-9461 (Blacksburg)
- Wisconsin
  - Modern Pastimes (1:154/77), (414) 384-1701 (Milwaukee)

### Canada

- Alberta
  - Jaguar's Lair (1:134/50), (403) 255-9522 (Calgary)

If none of these are nearby, find a local FIDonet board and ask the sysop to get the FILK echo for you. The FILK echo will be "on the backbone" and theoretically accessible all over North America. If your Sysop can't get it from the backbone, have them send netmail to Kay Shapero at StormGate Aerie.

To Be Continued.

## OVFF Report

Continued from Page 3.

not get to go. I didn't even bother signing up, I arrived so late on Friday. The song contest this year was on the theme of aliens, and there were fifteen entries there as well. I sang two of them -- Philip Soehnen had a cold and needed someone to do his. Fortunately, it was to a tune I knew. My own "Ballad of the Hubble", a fantasy about what happens when aliens take offense at those nosy earthlings peeking through windows with a telescope, took third place. Renee Alper's "Alien Landing", a serious song, took second, while Tom Smith won for the third year in a row with Facehugger: His Life and Untimely Demise", a nicely creepy number about the movie "Alien".

At the Saturday night filk, the midwestern chaos collision resolution algorithm had an unusual amount of trouble. The room mostly turned into a performers' circle. However, at Bob Laurent's suggestion, I set up well outside the circle to encourage others to feel free to join in. (I also needed a lot of space for my instruments.) Robin Nakula set up next to me, as we planned to do a couple of duets.

Before the midnight brunch/awards banquet, things went relatively smoothly. However, afterwards, there was some problem coordinating things even within the circle, and it was very difficult for people outside the circle to get in. Robin tried several times to start a song and was repeatedly walked on. I know she was at the back of the room, but a Martin 12-string is rather hard to ignore. I got so disgusted that I was just about ready to match her tuning and back her with my own Martin 12-string, which can drown out anyone short of Juanita Coulson. It took the efforts of a couple of audience members to get the circle to let her in. When I tried to follow a song, announcing a "follower," someone in the circle pointed to Peter Thiesen. I acquiesced, as Peter's a pretty quiet guy, and if someone notices he's been waiting to play for a while, then he's really been waiting to play for a while. However, the person who asked me to defer then grabbed the next song, which did not follow the

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topic. There was one other person in the middle of the room who looked like he wanted to play, but was totally intimidated and did not go until the filk was pretty well dead. Pity; he was a fine classical guitarist. Perhaps part of the problem was the lack of an overflow room.

The Pegasus Awards were a source of contention. This year, one of the nominees for best filk song was Fred Small's "Cranes Over Hiroshima", and a number of people thought that it was not really a filk song, even though some filkers perform it. However, T.J. Burnside-Clapp's "Lullaby" took the honors. The award was accepted by T.J. herself, who changed her mind and brought Mitch and the baby. T.J. took home the Best Fannish award as well for "Weekend-Only World". Julia Ecklar picked up Best Literature for "Daddy's Little Girl" as well as Best Writer. Best Performer was Mitchell Burnside-Clapp.

The attendance appeared to be well over a hundred; many of the people were just there to listen. Programming was very light; there were just a couple of workshops in addition to the concerts and contest. The convention closed with the traditional Sunday afternoon jam session. One especially nice thing about the convention was the well-stocked con suite, which had all sorts of goodies as well as real food.

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## FilkLord

Continued from Page 4.

could content themselves with building ruined castles in the air and not try to strong-arm everyone else into playing along with them.

"Cyclone" Fredrick, of Zymurgy, Connecticut, has this to say:

"Quentin, ol' buddy, you claim that nobody goes to a filksing to hear awful voices. Well, I do, because I know that some of those awful voices will sing absolutely wonderful songs! What do you say to that?"

Sounds like you know Bob Kanefsky, Mr. Fred. Aside from that, note that it's not the voices you want to hear, it's the lyrics. Do you *really* say to yourself, "Oboy, I'm going to hear some *really bad voices* tonight!" when you go to a filksing? No, you say "Oboy, I'm going to hear some *really good songs* tonight (even if I have to put up with some rotten performers)!" In short, it isn't the bad voices you want to hear, it's the good songs. Catch the distinction? So I still say that nobody goes to a filksing to hear lousy voices, nor bad songs, nor rotten guitar-picking, nor . . .

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## Philcon Review

Continued from Page 1.

the first time ever. I'm convinced there is a connection. The Philcon Filksong Contest awards were presented. This year's winners:

**CATEGORY: Fantasy**  
**WINNER** -- "Digging Up the Weans" by Mara Eve Brener  
**RUNNER UP** -- "The Video Game" by Heather L. Preston

**CATEGORY: Science**  
**WINNER** -- "The System Engineer's Anthem" by David Weingart  
**RUNNER UP** -- "Cold Fusion" by Harold Feld

**CATEGORY: Fannish**  
**WINNER** -- "Phrolicon Phire Phollies" by Harold Feld & Doug Ayen  
**RUNNER UP** -- "Wandering Monsters" by Kay Shapero

All of the above will appear sooner or later in the Phlash. No, really. Soon. Honest. I mean it.

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# L A F A F I L K S I N G

**Saturday, January 12, 1991  
7:00 PM until then some**

**Harry, Mara and Madeline Brener's  
325 Sharon Road, Arcadia, CA 91007  
818/447-1664**

**TYPE OF CIRCLE:** Moderated Kaos.

**PRE-FILK DINNER:** A Pre-Filk dinner party will be held at King Ten chinese restaurant in Alhambra. Anyone interested please meet at the restaurant at 5:00 PM. Advance notice (RSVP) to the Brener's will be appreciated but is not required. Go directly to the restaurant - do not go to the Brener's house.

**Directions to King Ten:** From the I-10 (San Bernardino Fwy) take the Atlantic Blvd. exit. Go North on Atlantic. Turn Right on Valley (first major intersection north of fwy). King Ten is on the south east corner of Valley and Eighth, just before the Bob's restaurant.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE FILK:** See Thos. Bros. page 38, grid D-1

The filksite is between the Foothill (I-210) and the San Bernardino (I-10) Freeways west of the San Gabriel River Freeway (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) past Santa Anita Racetrack and Shopping Mall. Turn left onto Camino Real (at the 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 left towards the middle of the block.

## **NOTES:**

1. Mucho crash space available.
2. There is a cat warning. Said cat will not be allowed in the filk room, but signs of its presence may still be detected by sensitive persons.
3. There is a carpet commando (aka rug rat aka kid)--be warned! Other children are welcome.
4. Bring munchies and drinks. This is a Kosher household, so please check that any items you bring are Kosher, preferably pareve. Call and ask if you're not sure.
5. Bring all of your usual filk stuff.
6. **NO SMOKING INDOORS!!**
7. There are silicon-based lifeforms present. Harry's Music Manager program will be demo'd on request.
9. Hot Tub (Indoor) will be open for stewing. Swimsuits are optional.

**Next L A F A Filksing  
Saturday, February 23, 1991  
Jim & Susan Fox-Davis, hosts  
Tujunga, CA**

***The Filking Times***

13261 Donegal Drive

Garden Grove, CA 92644-2304

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE