

The Filking Times

April/May 1989

The Official Filkzine of Con-Chord 5

Issue 4

BAYFILK REVIEWS & POSTMORTEM

Bayfilk 5 has come and gone, to the delight, regret and joy of all concerned. The results: attending memberships approximately 150 (about a 40% decrease from Bayfilk 4). The Convention do-it-yourself songbook was collated and distributed (although somehow I missed seeing it myself). Firebird reports that financially, "We lost our shirts." Convention tapes may be released someday, perhaps after the tapes from Bayfilk 4 are done. Nearly all of the scheduled activities and acts

came off OK. The Elephant Men didn't make it, and neither (I think - but I wasn't up then either) did Frank Hayes' Sing It Yourself Handel's Clementine (but who was alive, anyway, on Sunday morning?). Mama Colleen's 'birthday party' was a great success, with perhaps 10-12 people attending her party who declined to get Convention memberships. This last Bayfilk may not have been the best one ever, but it was a fond farewell from an era whose good times we'll always remember.

"Quoth the FilkLord . . ."

by Quentin Long

An eccentric column from an off-centered filker

Since everybody else seems to have a Bayfilk report, I might as well go with the flow and give you one of my own. I think I'll start with some juicy gossip . . .

DELETED - see the Policy Statement in this issue (the editors)

Bayfilk 5 is the last one. Wall Songs will pick up the ball in the future, with a Bayfilk successor named Consonance (I prefer ConNotation, myself) . . .

For those of you who care, the Coulsons feel that the Off Centaur mess really isn't up there with the Great Moskowitz/Wollhelm Feud of some 5 decades ago. The present Imbroglio's legal/business aspects do set it in a class apart, however.

On Saturday, I tried to talk to Teri Lee, but she cut me off before I'd gotten four words out and handed me over to Frank Hayes. Thus, I was unable to thank her for giving Barbara Konigsjord that free membership. Frank assured me that Teri wasn't pissed off about my *Thor Records* jacket, but rather because I: a) write monumentally stupid things (*but everybody already knows this, Quentin - ed.*) and b) make mistakes about what I've written. The former charge is not surprising (even if I'd say "as tactful as a charging rhino" instead of "monumentally stupid"), but the latter was news to me. From the sole example Frank gave of "my" mistakes I conclude that his informants are of sub-optimal accuracy. (*Or could it be sometimes, your informants?? ed.*) Frank, by the by, is admirably devoted to Teri. Another good thing about Frank is that he hasn't lost his

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Bayfilk 5:

Things that go bump in the night

A review by Gary Anderson

Well, I have been to every Bayfilk, and this was the strangest one yet. I freely admit that one of the major attractions for me was that Buck and Juanita Coulson were going to be there. Any chance to hear Juanita is a treat, and Buck is always fun to talk to. Seeing Joe and Gay Haldeman was also high on the list. So off I went, late as usual, to listen...oops, got there just as Juanita's set was ending. An ever-present criticism: don't schedule the stars on Friday for big things, and especially not early on Friday, when the out-of-towners are still enroute. But since this will in all probability be the last Bayfilk, this is more a general comment. Yes, folks, it's true...Next year the Northern California filkcon will be chaired by Bob Laurent, and is called Consonance. Time for the filking community to come together and be a community once again, and put a sad era behind us. Join early, join often (not forgetting to join Conchord, which is right here in Southern Cal in October - see elsewhere this ish for particulars, or stop by Eric Gerd's or Bob Laurent's table at the next con).

Most of the action was in Room 269, which acted effectively as a consulte, though not funded by the con. Steve and Colleen Savitsky (Much thanks to them) went out on a financial limb and rented it, and a lot of folks came and had a good time. I hope they got contributions; Janet and I added in our bit. On both Friday and Saturday nights, a good Midwestern-style chaos sing was going strong. Cindy and Dr. Jane, Joey Shoji, etc. were there and it was the old community feeling once again, so long missing in the set/piece audience-theater style doings.

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UPCOMING EVENTS**Future Filksings:****Los Angeles Area:**

- April 15:** Rod Stansfield, host, Garden Grove, CA
May 6: Terry Hopwood, hostess, Sylmar, CA
June 15: LASFS Clubhouse, No. Hollywood, CA
June 17: John & Mary Creasey, hosts, Torrance, CA
August 5: LASFS Clubhouse: Maxi-Filk
 No. Hollywood, CA

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

San Diego Area: 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Barney Evans, 619/282-2892, for information.

SE Bay Area:

- April 15:** Bob Kanefsky, Palo Alto, CA
 Space/Science theme

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

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

Our Apologies

We never quite got our act together in March. This issue (#4), should have been out at the March Filk. It wasn't. The dates of future issues will be slipped one month. Please note that subscriptions expire by issue number, not date, so subscribers aren't losing anything.

UPCOMING EVENTS**Conventions:**

BayCon '89, May 26-29, 1989. P.O. Box 70303, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. Attending membership: \$35 till April 30; \$40 after May 1 & at the door. Located at San Jose Red Lion Inn.

Westercon 42, June 30-July 4, 1989. Conosaurus, P.O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Attending membership: \$45 till June 15, \$60 from then & at the door. To be held at Anaheim Marriott (across from Disneyland); room rates: \$78 (sgl); \$88 (dbl); \$108 (quad); \$20/extra body. Of special interest to filkers: Gary Anderson is Filk Chair.

Con-Chord 5, October 6-8, 1989. Paul Willett, Chairman; 1810 14th Street #102, Santa Monica, CA 90404. Attending membership: \$20 till September 20; supporting: \$8. GOH's: Bill Roper & Carol Poore. Toastmistress: Cathy MacDonald. Hotel: Quality Hotel (LAX Airport), 213/645-2200; room rate: \$50.00 (sgl/dbl) per night.

OVFF V, October 1989. P.O. Box 211101, Columbus, OH 43221. Annual Midwest Filkcon.

Consonance 1990, March 2-4, 1990. Bob Laurent, Chair, Wall Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, CA 94604. Membership: \$15 thru 04/15/89; higher later. GOH's: Barry & Sally Childs-Helton. Toastmaster: Chris Weber.

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

Con-Chord 5
 Do you have your membership yet?

THE FILKING TIMES Editorial Policy and General Information--TAKE HEED!!

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CONTRIBUTION POLICY: Those who send items for print that generate 3-4 column inches of text (3.75-inch width and 10-point type) in one issue will receive that issue free; subscribers having a published item conforming to the above will have their subscription extended by one issue.

RATES: \$5 for 12 issues; \$4 for backdated subscription (Issues 0-12); 1st class mail. Single or sample copies are available for \$0.50. Send cash, check or money order payable to: Rick Weiss, 13261 Donegal Drive, Garden Grove, CA 92644-2304. We will also trade for other filkzines.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the editors. We will try to publish different viewpoints and responses on issues of interest. Do

be aware that "No Comment" is a response, albeit rather unenlightening.

REVIEWS: Have you attended a filk in your area recently? How about a filk at a con? Write us a review of the event! What about that new tape/book/song? Tell us what you think/feel about it! We'd like to print and share your view with other filkers.

ARTICLES, COMMENTARIES, LETTERS: We are looking for items on topics of general interest to filkers, be it local news, tips on songwriting, filk history, local filk customs, comments on previous articles, or whatever else you can think of. Please write!

EVENT LISTINGS: We will publish information about upcoming filk events and conventions. So send us something, gang, so we can print it!

SUBMISSIONS: Send your submissions to the above address in hardcopy OR Atari ST diskettes (3.5") with .DOC or ASCII files OR upload ASCII files to the DAG Electronic BBS (213/546-1861 at 1200 baud.

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

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

Filksinging in Hawaii

by Debbie Sanders

Filking in Hawaii is probably a little different from what is generally found on the mainland. For one thing, we have yet to hold a sing indoors (we've been lucky with our weather so far!). The islands are so incredibly beautiful that folks just naturally want to get close to nature.

And sometimes, nature wants to get close to us, as well! One meet we held in Kapiolani Park was graced with the presence of a tiny, green praying mantis, who scrambled over the assembled filkers, inspecting everything and everyone. The little green guy was passed around and introduced, and at one point, he was actually swaying rhythmically in time to the music! When he showed signs of wanting to leave, we took him to a nearby tree and let our little "ET" go home! In some parts of the Orient, praying mantises are considered signs of good fortune. If this is so, then we were truly blessed!

We're a little isolated out here, a little cut off from the mainstream of filking society (not to mention real conventions!), and often all we have to content ourselves with is the lovely music we receive from people like Eric. We have yet to gain a member of our group who plays an instrument, so we improvise in true hawaiian style. If you live in Hawaii and are handy with guitar, don't be shy! Join us. Also, if some of you are passing through, and we can fit you in with one of our get-togethers, please let me know ahead of time. We're very informal, very laid-back, and always open to sharing new ideas and enjoying new talents.

For those of you who don't know her, Debbie Sanders is the publisher of Na Mele O Na Hoku (The Songs of the Stars), the newsletter of the Hawaiian Filksinging Society. It was a pleasure to meet her, albeit briefly, at Bayfilk. And likewise, Debbie, if any of you Islanders ever get to visit the mainland here, drop me a line and I'll let you know of any events happening. Did anyone write a filksong yet about the filksing that was visited by the alien?

P.S. Debbie, if you're wondering why this took so long to see print, blame Eric Gerds, not me. He just excavated it from his "file" last week and forwarded it to me. Suggest you try to send any future contributions direct. --RW

Decoding Your Mailing Label

Your subscription status is shown on the line above your name. The number at the right is the expiration number, showing the last issue you will receive. The cryptic code before it is the type of subscription you have. **Introductory:** Three free issues to all newcomers attending a SoCal Filksing. **Regular:** A regular paid subscription. **Complimentary:** Given on the editor's whim. **Trade:** Issue in trade for another filkzine. **Contributor:** Contributors of articles receive that issue free.

From Your Editors

POLICY STATEMENT OF THE FILKING TIMES

Due to recent circumstances, and questions from various people, it has become necessary for The Filking Times to state its policy regarding publishing unpleasant, controversial, or possibly libelous news, articles or letters, especially regarding the current unpleasantness with the Off-Centaur/Firebird affair.

The Filking Times was started in order to inform the general filking community about filksinging and filksings in all their various forms. We hope that this information can improve and solve problems in the filk community. We pursue this goal by providing an open forum for communication both among individual filkers and between the various filk locales while being amusing and entertaining. Thus, when something of interest to filkers happens, we will try to publish some account of it. This can include both controversial and unpleasant topics, when publicity can serve some constructive purpose.

Sometimes, however, publicity (especially rumor and hearsay) can only serve to instigate or prolong a feud or promote ill will. We decline to publish such material. We also feel no compulsion to publish either to satisfy the curiosity of uninvolved bystanders or to promote the case of any involved parties. At the present time, this applies to most of the "news" regarding Off-Centaur/Firebird.

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PASSINGS

Barbara Kongsjord, March 18, 1989, of cancer.

Barbara was the archivist behind Denver Filkers Anonymous, hosting nearly all of the Denver filks at her house for several years. We met her at Bayfilk 5, where you may have seen her (the filker in a wheelchair). After the Convention, she visited the Los Angeles area for a week and saw Disneyland, the Pacific Ocean, etc., fulfilling her last wishes to attend a Filk Con and see the ocean.

Barbara had had cancer since sometime last year and had undergone chemotherapy once before. When that remission ended, she declined to undergo that ordeal again, choosing instead to die with dignity. Although we had just met her, we will miss her and send our deepest condolences to the Denver community and all who knew her.

THE FEBRUARY 1989 FILK

by Mara Eve Brener

I have no idea whether or not it is proper manners to critique a filksing held at my own house, but having heard nothing to the contrary, here goes.

The February filk was held on the fourth at the home of Harry, Mara, and Madeline Brener; a date chosen carefully to attempt to avoid all known standing gigs, out-of-towns, weddings, and to put as much space as possible between it and Bayfilk 5. (If I picked a time YOU couldn't make it, sorry.) As filks go, I think this was a pretty good one. We had a large collection of old friends present, as well as many new friends who included at least one professional musician and several appreciative listeners. The only problem seemed to be that of space. We were unable to remove the wall between the family room and the living room to accommodate all the music-minded people more comfortably. But as it stood, we had a separate singing room and talking room, which were much appreciated by both factions. And of course the nearby computer room was also fully operational. We even had a few non-allergics who went to keep the exiled "attack cat" company.

The singing arrangement was not terribly rigid, for the most part following a loose association KAOS by subject. I would say that the filkers were quite polite in not overstaying their welcomes as far as the singing, and in including the new people. Even within the talking room, there seemed to be a near-to-total absence of the ongoing political disputes that lately have been casting a dark cloud over our little group. Okay by me. Bear in mind, I will agree that there are things that will have to be hashed out sometime, but I'm all for keeping them out of these social gatherings which (lest we forget) are supposed to be held for fun. Now off the soapbox.

Something new I experimented with was beginning the filk at the much later hour of 7:00 PM, after dinner. *(Editor's note: historically, SoCal filks have started at about 3-4 PM with a semi-organized dinner break at 6 or 7.)* I felt that this was less disruptive than a dinner break, in or out of the house. Furthermore, much as I enjoy serving my unusual concoctions, it had begun to come to my attention that, regardless of pre-preparation, I was spending more and more time in the kitchen when I'd rather be out filking. In fact, this is an opinion I have heard from some other hosts as well. We provided a dessert bar featuring make-it-yourself sundaes (Great hot fudge, Marj!), baked goods, and a variety of teas. As more guests added to the dessert table it became a sumptuous feast indeed, winding up with two birthday cakes! I'd like to get some feedback of people's ideas,

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SoCal Filkers Plan a Business Meeting

by Rick Weiss, Deborah Leonard & Tera Mitchel

All of you SoCal filkers, mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 29! A business meeting and social gathering is planned for 7:30 PM at John and Mary Creasey's home in Torrance (see the May filk flyer for directions). The purpose: to hold a forum and talk about what we're doing as a community. A separate date is being planned for this so as not to disrupt the atmosphere of the monthly filksing with lots of talk.

There have been some changes recently in the way we're doing things and we would like the opportunity to get everybody together to discuss what we have done, what else we would like to do, and what we will do in the future. In particular, are we reaching the full potential of which we are capable, are there higher goals which we can attain, or are we satisfied just the way we are?

Some possible topics for discussion include:

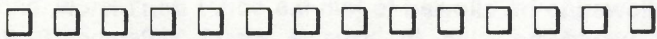
- * Organizing SoCal Filkdom - Do we want any organization? If so, what should it do? Suggestions: set up carpools to filks, have a phone tree for quick news relays, follow up on newcomer contacts with phone calls etc. to get them to the next filk, hold other social activities besides filks - parties, picnics, RenFaire, etc.
- * Fundraising - Additional funds (money) could be very useful in a number of ways, such as: paying for additional flyers to be passed out at conventions, mailing flyers to local fans, running workshops, or defraying the costs of an invited BNF to attend a monthly filk.
- * Growth - Getting new and/or former filkers involved with our community.
- * Setting up workshops - Songwriting, instrument playing, vocal training, etc.
- * Method of selecting filksites - Right now, it's usually he who volunteers first, gets it.
- * Options for scheduling the monthly filks - Preferred start time, type of circle, dinner break, etc.
- * Manners - What can/should be done about discourteous people or filkhogs being disruptive during the sings?

If you have any other topics to bring up, let us know. The only thing NOT allowed will be personal attacks on individuals - whether present or absent.

Please come to the gathering and let your views be known. If you can't make it, please try to tell someone else or write a letter to us so that you won't be forgotten. If you don't come or don't tell us what you think, don't blame anyone but yourself if you don't like the results!

QUICK NEWS

Joey Shoji and Larry Warner were at Thor Records the weekend of March 18-19 finishing up Larry's tape, *Through My Eyes*. (We got to listen to some of the rough cuts on our trip up to BayFilk. Good stuff, Maynard! -- editors)



Anne Harlan Prather dropped in with her travelling companion, Gall Barton, at Rick Weiss' unsurprise birthday party in late January and managed to sing some songs before being overwhelmed by the infamous LA smog and having to leave. She even brought her new harp (three weeks new!). Ann was recording her new tape, *Skybound-A Harper's Flight*, at Thor Records at the time. We saw her later that week (she stayed nearly two weeks) and she gave Rick a birthday present he will always treasure--a planxy written especially for him. Strange, though, she seemed to know him rather well for only having known him casually in filkdom. One would think that--nah, she must have had outside (inside?) help. (Well, what do you think we women talk about when we get in the kitchen? Besides, she SAID she wanted all the "good stuff". --Deborah)



It's up and running, it's easy and fun (free, too!), so fire up your modem and log on! It's Eric Gerds' new BBS, the DAG Electronic Bulletin Board System. You can find it at 213/546-1861 at 1200 BAUD, Tuesday through Sunday, 24 hrs. daily. Callers can post and receive messages on the several boards available, including general & e-mail, books & comics, media, games (FRP), filking, costuming, and the "Garbage Chute" (latest gossip is that there is some nefarious plot involving mutant turtle eggs).

This is THE place for finding the latest info in ConChord 5 and CostumeCon 8 and to input convention ideas/feedback directly to the ConChord/CostumeCon con-coms. There are also various files to download and you are encouraged to upload files of your own. In fact, the monthly SoCal filk flyer can be downloaded from the "dATA bASE" directory. There may even be an electronic edition of *The Filking Times* sometime in the future. An even bigger plus is that you can order anything from the DAG catalog through the BBS! So, c'mon, give Eric a call.



At long last! Thor Records has just announced the winners of their first filk contest. In the category "Lyrics Only", Robin Nakkula of East Lansing, Michigan, won for her lyrics titled "Something Lingers In The Fridge" to the

Continued in next column.

NUPTIALS

FORTHCOMING

Peter Thiesen and Alta Brewer, two well-known and popular Northern California filkers, will be celebrating their wedding on Saturday, May 6, somewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area. We're glad to see them tying the knot at last! --Contributed by Rick Weiss.



FAIT ACCOMPLI

John J. (Sean) Cleary, an enthusiastic and prominent Southern California filker, married Linda Charlene Sewell in a double-ring ceremony at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Monrovia on March 4.

The church is of special note to SF and fantasy fans for its stained-glass window honoring the late theologian C.S. Lewis, who also wrote the three-volume Perelandra science-fiction series. In fact, the window honors Lewis' acclaimed seven-volume *Chronicles of Narnia*: his typewriter is at his side, the lamppost from *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* is behind him, and over his head is an emblem with a lion and a boy carrying a triangular shield bearing a single large "N"--Aslan and King Peter of Narnia. --Contributed by Jane Mailander.

Sean Cleary's wedding was well attended by local filkdom. Fannish guests present included Jane Mailander, Rita Prince Winston and Tim Merrigan, Terry Hopwood, Andy and Marjorie Rosen, Harry and Mara Brenner, Steve and Elyse Swernofsky, Arthur and Ronni Rubin, and Lee and Barry Gold. (Lyndon Baugh and Diane Lee Myers were invited, but were unable to make the wedding. They did show up at the party the night before, hosted by Barry and Lee Gold.)

The wedding was beautiful. The reception was delightful until the disc jockey began to turn the volume higher and higher with each song, and fans responded by exiting the hall. --Contributed by Lee Gold.

Continued from previous column.

tune of "Madcoll" by Julia Ecklar. For "Music Only", our very own Quentin Long of Los Altos, California took the big one for "The Bagpipes Who Wouldn't Say No", composed for the lyrics (same title) by Shel Silverstein. And finally, Catt Kingsgrave of Tucson, Arizona won with her song, "Medea: Heart of the Dark", for "Lyrics and Music".

All winners have been notified and we will hear their works on the forthcoming anthology album to be started in late 1989.



"Quoth the Filklord . . ." - Continued

parodic touch - during his concert slot, he publicly debuted a wicked, wicked Kipling/Fish (*that should be Kiplied Fish - ed.*) parody ("We drove south in a Dodge for the sake of a bimbo in a Bikini. . . I've lost Peter and I've lost Paul/And I've lost Dave, and worst of all/I've lost the Dodge."). Also, the program credited him for something called the Sing It Yourself Handel's Clemen-tine, but I missed it (mumble, irritate, sumbitchin annoyance!), so I can only imagine how delightfully warped it was. . .

The Bob Kanefsky Songwriter's Revenge was good; it consisted of a selection of Kanef's victims getting up on stage and performing one or more of his mutated versions of their respective songs, with an occasional musical slam at Kanef (i.e. Heather Alexander's "Where's Bob Kanefsky?" to the tune of the Empire March). If you weren't there, you missed seeing the only performance of Heather Rose Jones will *ever* give of "Kiss of the Canopian Spider Woman," to the tune of "(What I Did On) My Summer Vacation." Kanef said that filking this song was rather like working The New York Times crossword puzzle. Heather replied that if Kanef ever tried to filk "The Bird of Gold", a song with an even more intricate internal structure, the pain he'd suffer in the attempt would be all the revenge she would need for that sacrilege. (*This sounds like a challenge - will he go for it? --the editors*)

Mama Colleen Savitzky ran a politics-free zone in Room 269 - "That's 2 69 or not 2 69" - wherein all were welcome and political remarks were fined. So were particularly bad jokes/puns, as I was surprised to discover (*serves you right -- ed.*) . . . It was here that I first heard GoH Joe Haldeman, who can sing pretty good and play the guitar likewise. Fortunately, the Ayatollah hasn't heard his more sacrilegious songs ("My name is Jesus, the Son of God/Hello hello hello, hello hello."). A new San Franciscan named Howard Harrison, late of Minnesota, surfaced in Colleen's Neutral Zone to unanimous approval - I most liked his songs about Reincarnation and "I Hate Songs With *N* Chords (*N* = 1 to 13)". The highly chaotic filking "arrangement" confirmed my suspicion that filksings, large ones in particular, need some sort of demighod/autocrat.

As Steve Savitzky didn't want to fry his voice any worse that it already was, his concert slot was half as long as the schedule claimed. People were vastly disappointed to find that the first half-hour of Steve's slot was given to a talentless unknown (*you left out neo -- anon.*) named Leslie Fish, who (among other things) commemorated the two off-site Filkish weddings with a singalong of "The Sergeant's Wedding". Steve himself sang a few of his golden oldies (i.e. "Bugs", "Programmer's Alphabet") and debuted a new song, "Cyberpunk Blues".

Continued in next column.

BayFilk 5 - Continued

I can't comment on some of the goings-on, since I wasn't there to give witness, and hearsay shouldn't be in print. But there were mutterings of Leslie Fish challenging Jordin Kare to a duel, which led to a set of amusing cartoons playing themselves back in my mind (I'll see your ose, and raise you by three sniffles).

There was a strong rumor that some folks were not allowed/to be allowed to join the con. I don't know, and it would be nice to have a direct statement from OCP/FBD on that, since it would be a first time for something so antithetical to the nature of conventions and fandom in general, not to mention filking. If such were true, it would indeed be just as well that Bayfilk died.

On a happier note (pun intended), Frank Hayes, who has been missing from filking for some time, actually put on a set and showed some of his old spark.

On the other hand, there was some ghodawful rock group performing on Saturday night. As part of the con. Don't ask.

To summarize, Janet and I had a lot of fun, sang old/new songs, listened to a lot of good stuff, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. A lot of the credit goes to Steve and Colleen, who provided a place where all filkers could meet, sing, and forget the wars. Shal Dorsal.

Continued from previous column.

Overall: Bayfilk 5 was a pretty good Con. I did have some bad moments (countable on the fingers of one hand), but these were comparatively trivial; the many good moments far outweigh the other kind.

* * * * *

Quentin ended his column submission with an additional hand-written note, which follows:

"I'll print almost anything (Quentin Long has graciously consented to do a column)," eh? *snicker* Okay, guys, you've asked for it (evil smile) . . . I'll just have to think of some more suitable revenge, heh heh heh. . .

Okay, Quentin, you want for it and you got it. This 'zine goes through MY computer last and the delete key is mightier than the tongue! Actually, what you wrote wasn't that bad and if things hadn't been just a little too touchy - see our Policy Statement - they might have gotten printed. If you want to claim that you've now been censored, go right ahead. You were. You're also free to repeat the original to anyone who calls you and asks - should I print your phone number in the next issue - and urge everyone to call collect? --Ed.



The February 1989 Filk - Continued

pro and con, on this arrangement for occasional filks. I was sorry to note that the flyer neglected to mention the plethora of fast-food and other restaurants in proximity to my home, and I hope this didn't put anyone to inconvenience.

We only had two overnights, an all-time low for this house, but the plan had remained to go out for the traditional dim sum brunch the following day. Unfortunately, these plans collapsed, due to the fact that my husband was called out on an emergency just as we remnants were hitting the sack (about 4:00 AM), and didn't drag back in until about 9:00. A word for future filks in this location; there are acres of crash space, and the dim sum brunch still stands.

Well, I guess this just about covers it. I reiterate; feedback is most welcome. I would call this a successful filk, and I attribute the success to the synthesis of those present. And if I am tooting my own horn too much, feel free to swipe my mouthpiece.

HOST OR DEMIGHOD?

by Tera Mitchel

A successful filk needs three things - a host, a demighod, and filkers. The host and the demighod are not necessarily the same person - in fact, it may be better if they are not! "Why?" you may ask. Because the host and demighod have different functions to fulfill. A host tries to keep the entire party and household running smoothly through the event. This includes greeting arriving and departing guests, watching the kitchen, the toilet paper supply, and trying to make sure that everyone is enjoying themselves. The demighod has only one responsibility - seeing that the filk circle (no matter what style it is!) keeps moving smoothly without interruptions, filkhogging or arguments. The difference between the perfect host and the perfect demighod is that the host is always courteous, and a demighod may not be. One example of this would be the December 1988 filk at Rick Weiss'. I pushed Rick into the computer room to put out the next issue of *The Filking Times*, Ronni Rubin took over and ran the kitchen, and Michelle Cox was the demighod in the filk circle. This was one of the best filks I'd attended in a long time. The responsibilities were nicely distributed so that no one person was overwhelmed. This allowed everyone to enjoy themselves.

Lost Filker

The April flyer mailed to Valerie Shearer was returned marked "Not Deliverable As Addressed - Unable To Forward". The address was on Picadilly St. in Riverside. If anyone knows where she is, please let us know.

Policy Statement - Continued

Although, as a member of the Fourth Estate, The Filking Times has the right to print pretty much what we or our readers want to say, in harsh cold reality, this right can become damned expensive to maintain. That is, if anyone decides that they have been libeled and wants to sue us, they can. They may probably lose the case, but we will have to hire a lawyer to defend us and that means REAL dollars out of our pockets (so much for freedom of the press).

So, with this in mind, here is a brief history of Off-Centaur and Firebird, (or at least as much of it as we understand). This has not been checked for accuracy with the principals, and so may not be totally correct. Our apologies for any mistakes; we will gladly print any corrections of fact we receive.

Jordin Kare, Cathy Cook and Teri Lee formed a three-way partnership in 1980 called Off-Centaur Publications (OCP). OCP published the two Westerfilks, sponsored Bayfilks 1 through 4, and was the first large producer of Filk Tapes - both live convention and studio recordings. Sometime in 1986, Cathy Cook apparently ceased being an active partner. In 1987, Andrea Mitchell joined the company. Jordin Kare also apparently stopped being an active partner sometime later that year. Around this time, difficulties arose in trying to formally dissolve the old partnership and much of California filkdom started splitting up into a variety of (armed) camps.

In Fall 1987, Andrea, Teri, and various other investors formed Off-Centaur Inc. (OCI). Soon after forming, OCI sent out new contracts, but negotiations with many of the artists were unsuccessful. As a result of this, many of the old OCP tapes, songbooks, etc. are now out of print. At the present time, neither OCP nor OCI appear to be operating businesses. In 1988, several of the principals of OCI formed Firebird Arts and Music, Inc., which hosted BayFilk 5 (the last BayFilk).

At the present time, neither we nor The Filking Times are in any way involved in any of the above and have no desire nor inclination to change that situation. While we wish to encourage open communications with everyone, The Filking Times will remain strictly neutral and will maintain this posture by not printing any rumors, hearsay or opinions regarding the above situation. Verifiable facts of public record may be reported as they become available.

Renaissance Pleasure Faire

RenFaire has found a new home at Glen Helen Regional Park in San Bernardino. This is off I-215 at the Devore exit (just south of the I-15 junction). Faire will be held weekends from May 13th to June 25th. Tickets \$14.50 at the door. Advance purchase discounts available. Call 800/52-FAIRE for ticket orders and other information.

FILKZINES AROUND THE COUNTRY

Harpings: Published by the Filk Foundation and edited by Margaret Middleton, 34 Barbara Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204; 501/666-8466; CompuServe 71525,1372. This filk newsletter is published every other month. Deadlines for news are Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1, and Nov. 1. Current availability is to Filk Foundation members, contributors-of-news, and on Editorial Whim. Contact the editor for contribution specifications.

Filk Fax: Published by Truffan Enterprises, P.O. Box 690694, Tulsa, OK 74169-0694. Edited by Marie Garrett. Subscription rate is \$18 for one year with a projected monthly production. Make checks/money orders payable to TRUFFAN ENTERPRISES. The first issue is due out in March 1989. (*excerpted from Harplings #16 & #17*)

LOOSE NOTES: A Zine for Filky-Minded Fans. Published and edited by Susan Landerman, 3327 West Luke Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85017 and printed by Buffalo Chip Press (aka Jim and Melody Rondeau), 1853 Fallbrook Avenue, San Jose, CA 95130. Issues 1 and 2 are still available for \$3.50 from Buffalo Chip Press. Susan is looking for "homeless" filksongs and art for upcoming issues. Write for details/information.

MetaFilk: an international filk newszine from New York. Published and edited by Charles Asbjornsen, 2026 East 55th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11234. The purpose of this zine is to open the lines of communication between filkers, keep filkers informed about upcoming events and projects...The zine would be bi-monthly, and would cost \$5 per year, \$7 for overseas shipping (please use US currency)...the MetaFilk will be strictly a newszine...will not publish articles nor new filks...will list all filk fanzines, filk cons, and filk contacts. (*excerpted from Harplings #17*)

Na Mele O Na Hoku--Song of the Stars: the newsletter for the Hawaiian Filking Society (*see Debra Sanders' article on Hawaiian filking elsewhere in this issue*). Published and edited by Debra F. Sanders, 1415 Victoria Street #206, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. Annual dues are \$5.00.

Philly Philk Phlash: a quarterly zine featuring filks, convention information, filks, games, filk-related articles, and more filks. Published and edited by Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis Avenue #3, East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050-2614. \$10.00 for 4 issues, single issues \$2.00 delivered by hand and \$2.75 by mail. Local LA filker Mara Brener has had several songs published here. Wall Songs also carries several back issues for your purchasing convenience.

Continued in next column.

FILK SOURCES AND RESOURCES

DAG Productions, 1810 14th Street #102, Santa Monica, California 90404. Eric Gerds, owner, producer and publisher. Our very best SoCal filk supplier, DAG carries all types of audio tapes (filk, folk, audio dramas, books on tape) and also many other items of interest for sale. You can find Eric at his dealer's table at most West Coast SF and gaming conventions, not to mention many conventions across the nation. Write for FREE CATALOG and UPDATE FLYERS.

Firebird Arts & Music, Inc., P.O. Box 453, El Cerrito, California 94530. Andrea Mitchell, proprietor, Teri Lee, executive producer. Filk studio and purveyor of filk and folk tapes, songbooks, musical instruments, plus artwork and other fancish items of interest. Write for FREE CATALOG.

Pegasus Publishing, P.O. Box 9394, Fort Worth, Texas 76107. Retails large selection of filk tapes and many hard-to-find folk records, tapes and songbooks. Write for further information.

Quicksilver Fantasies, W1400 Ironhorse Drive, #11-A, Post Falls, Idaho 83854. Filk and folk music. Oddities for SF/Fantasy Fan. Write for FREE CATALOG.

Thor Records, P.O. Box 40312, Downey, California 90241; 213/862-1722. Chrys Thorsen and Ralph Mason, music producers. Motto: *Helping Filkers to Achieve Their Artistic Dreams*. Preferred filk recording studio of several well-known BNF's. Three filk tapes currently available with more (1, 2, 3, many?) to be released in 1989. Write for information and flyer.

Unlikely Publications, 1741 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710; 415/525-5534. Cynthia McQuillin, filk publisher. Write for her definitive pamphlet, What You Should Know About Copyright.

Wall Songs, P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, California 94604. Bob Laurent, proprietor, producer, and publisher. Wall Songs features filk and folk tapes, songbooks, Old time Radio Shows, and more. Wall Songs is also producing Consonance 1990, the new Northern California filkcon (details in EVENTS). Write for FREE CATALOG.

Continued from previous column.

Xenofilkia: a bimonthly zine printing filksongs and brief articles about filking; also song fragments needing finishing and song ideas for someone else to write, plus lots more! Published and edited by Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Road, Los Angeles, CA 90066, 213/306-7456. Issue price fluctuates depending on page count at \$0.05 per page, plus postage if mailed. (*Songs from the previous issues have been lots of fun at LA filks. -- eds.*)

Filksing

May 6, 1989, 4PM to ???

WHERE -- Terry Hopwood's house
809 Lashburn, Sylmar, CA
818/361-6737

DIRECTIONS Thos. Bros. LA Cty, page 2, D-5

FROM ALMOST ANYWHERE: Take the Golden State Fwy (I-5) to the San Fernando Mission Blvd exit. (Southbound - first exit after the 405 split. Northbound - second exit after the CA 118 interchange.) Head northeast on San Fernando Mission (Left from southbound, Right from northbound), then immediately turn Left onto Laurel Canyon. Just after crossing Rinaldi, bear Right onto Rincon Av. Turn Right onto Pearwood, then Right onto Lashburn. The filksite is at the corner of Lashburn and Pearwood. Please use the side door.

FILK STYLE - not announced.

NOTES --

1. Minimal crash space available at the filksite - call in advance for arrangements.
2. There is a triple Feline Warning.
3. Dinner break about 7 PM. Dinner will be a semi-organized potluck. Please bring a dish following these assignments alphabetically by last name:
 - A-F Salad or raw veggie plate
 - G-N Casserole or other main dish
 - O-S Drinks: diet soda or fruit juice
 - T-Z Fruit, melon etc. for desert

Please - No refined sugar!
4. NO SMOKING -- PERIOD!! (Except allowed outside.)
5. Bring all of your usual filk stuff.

SOCAL BUSINESS MEETING - SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 7:30 PM

WHERE -- The House of Perpetual Commotion (AKA John & Mary Creasey)
3754 W. 170th Street, Torrance, CA 90504-1204; 213/329-6772

DIRECTIONS -- FROM THE NORTHWEST: Take the San Diego Freeway (I-405) south to the Redondo Beach Blvd. off-ramp. Turn left onto Redondo Beach Blvd., go to the second stoplight (Ainsworth Avenue) and turn right. Go to the second left (170th Street) and turn left. The house is the third one on the right (it's a 2-story).

FROM THE SOUTH: Take the San Diego Freeway (I-405) north to Artesia Blvd. (Hwy. 91) off-ramp (mandatory right turn). Stay in the right lane and right onto Prairie Avenue, heading north. Turn right at the first opportunity after the freeway overpass (171st Street) and turn left at the first stop sign (Ainsworth Avenue). Turn right onto 170th Street. The house is the third one on the right (it's a 2-story).

FROM THE NORTH OR NORTHEAST: Take any freeway south to the Artesia Freeway (Hwy. 91) West to the Harbor Freeway (Hwy. 110) South. Follow the signs to the San Diego Freeway (I-405) North and then follow the "From the South" directions.

POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS:

- * Organizing SoCal Filkdom
- * Getting new/former filkers involved with our community.
- * Options for scheduling the monthly filks
- * Planning for the Maxi-Filk
- * Fund Raising
- * Setting up workshops
- * Method of selecting Filksites
- * What can/should be done about discourteous people or filkhogs being disruptive at the sings?

**13261 Donegal Drive
Garden Grove, CA 92644-2304**