

HARPINS

#20
(November, 1989)

Published by The Filk Foundation
Mail: PO Box 45122
Little Rock, AR 72214
Phone (501)327-8272
CompuServe 71525,1372

Published every other month as a filk newsletter. Deadlines for news are Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1, and Nov. 1.

If you want to send pasteup-ready copy, type it on a 10-pitch machine on a 43-character line. Dot-matrix print if done with a fresh ribbon is acceptable. Text will be reduced to 75% of original size during pasteup. Current availability is to Filk Foundation members, contributors-of-news, and on Editorial Whim.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR MAILING LABEL

Besides the basic address-lines, there are two code-marks; one alphabetic and the other numeric. The A, C, or E indicates why you are getting this issue. A=active member, C=contributor, E=extended subscription. (If none of these appears, you may assume Editorial Whim). The numeric code is YY/MM for your expiration date. If YY/MM falls between 30 days before and 60 days after the postmark date on this issue, you need to renew NOW to be sure of getting the next issue. Foundation membership remains \$15 per year.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

All the Bay-Area fen of my acquaintance are present and accounted-for. I phoned Eric Gerds in Santa Monica on the Wednesday following, and he reported then that most of the fen had either been reached by phone or had contrived to call in. I spoke to Teri Lee the following Monday and she reported that all the Firebird crew were okay, though some of them had had to sleep in their cars that Tuesday night on account of being away from home and not being able to get back til the next day.

NEW AND CORRECTED ADDRESSES SINCE LAST ISH

Catherine (Cook)MacDonald, 82 Montana Dr.,
Stephenville NF, Canada A2N 2T1

EDITORIAL MATTERS

Now #19 was the kind of issue a faned likes to put out. Plenty of contributed material, plenty of comment. Keep it coming, folks.

What with my scheduling problems the last couple of issues it didn't seem appropriate

to dun y'all for membership updates, but if this issue goes out on schedule in early November there will be re-up reminders enclosed where appropriate.

Another policy change I am implementing is the Extended Subscription. A LoC an issue or so back proposed that FF members should get credit for contributions of material same as non-members, by receiving additional issues beyond the nominal end of their membership if their contribs appeared during the term of their membership. This being the annish of the zine seems an appropriate time to begin applying this. Now all I have to do is figure out how to work this into the roster database so the computer will be able to select the appropriate names and print mailing labels.

YOU WON'T READ IT HERE

After H19 was mailed out, Cindy McQuillen phoned me requesting I not use her press release after all. So I won't. I have also decided, after talking to various folks and listening to their advice, to wait til the court decision(s)-if-any are handed down before attempting any more coverage of the Firebird Flap. I've had my fling at Yellow Journalism and it wasn't as much fun as Geraldo makes it look like.

PRODUCTS OLD AND NEW

Unlikely Publications, 1741 8th St,
Berkeley, CA 94710

This comprises Cindy McQuillen and Jane Robinson, and offers tape-and-book sets of their publications Wackademia, Dark Moon Circle, & Moon Shadows. Wack is a re-do of Dr. Jane's Science Notes with the Primordial Oohz replacing the O-C House Band. Dark Moon Circle is the tape originally released by Off-Centaur: Cindy took her back pay in merchandise. Moon Shadows is a new recording, about 50% "old classic stuff off tapes no longer in print" and 50% new material. All 3 tapes are \$10 each; DMC & Wack books are \$5.00, and MS book is \$4.50. The books contain lyrics and guitar chords. Huckster discounts are available.

Other Worlds Books, PO Box 1124, Fair Lawn
NJ 07410

This is Roberta Rogow, perpetrator of the Rec Room Rhymes series. She is up to vol. 7 now, which features cover-art depicting Worf and Data as lead singers and the rest of the ST:TNG crew as backup. The songs are not limited to Trek material; I spot Vincent, the Dr.'s Jones,

Merovingen, and a few folks I don't recognize. There is also some fannish history recorded here: "The Ballad of the Pousse Cafe" and Roberta's Nolacon Report song (to the tune of "City of New Orleans"). Inside the back cover she lists other tapes and publications of her own, and on the page facing lists other people's filkzines (including this one) and provides addresses of other filk tape publishers so you can write for catalogs.

The Filkindex originally compiled by Sourdough Jackson is being revamped, revised, and reprinted. Carol Kabakjian and Roberta Rogow will be doing the job, which will attempt to update the first edition, while correcting some of the typos and computer errors. This Second Edition will be printed in the Summer of 1990; send any corrections, revisions, or comments to Roberta.

Another project of hers is "Futurespeak: a Dictionary of Science Fiction", which will include mini-essays on Filk and filking, Bardic Circle, "Pick, pass, or play", "ose", and other filk terms. Any input on these (derivation, exact date of coinage or use, etc.) will be much appreciated and will be duly acknowledged. Send info to Roberta at the PO Box at the top of this article. She is supposed to hand in the first draft of "Futurespeak" in January, so write fast and beat the holiday crunch.

NOREASCON REPORT
by Michael Stein

Noreascon was a marked contrast with New Orleans. The latter was utter chaos which came much closer to total disaster than the vast majority of fans were ever aware of. NESFA was so well-organized it was scary.

Filking at Worldcon was well-accommodated. I arrived Thursday night and retired to my room to practice for my short (15 min.) concert set. I had a program laid out in a very logical order, but threw it out when I was told that a) things were running behind schedule, and b) Robin Nakkula was there, which meant that I could perform the duets Carry On and Hive Dance. I bobbled a couple of things, but on the whole I'm fairly pleased with my very first concert slot. I'm finally getting good enough as a guitarist to be willing to accept concert assignments.

The filk programming was laid-out very nicely. On Friday there was a parody panel. Saturday had "Filk As Technopropaganda" which included Jordin Kare, Mitchell Burnside Clapp, Bob Kanefsky, Harold Groot (I think; my memory for people is as good as George Bush's memory of arms-for-hostages and voodoo economics) and yours truly. I also participated in a two-hour song clinic with

Sheila Willis, Rilla Heslin, Barb Higgins, and I Abra Cinii which saw the writing of three filks on the spot by members of the audience. There was also a panel on filk as poetry, a guitar clinic, and a MIDI workshop. My duties as Handicapped Access staff kept me from some concert programming I wanted to hear, unfortunately. Crystal Hagel and Spencer Love were the filk program organizers; they did a remarkable job. Crystal said that the anticipated problems with personality conflicts over the Off-Centaur Wars did not materialize, for which many were grateful.

On Friday and Sunday nights they had what they called "short takes." Rather than a one-shot, which is one song, they had signups for ten-minute slots. I took a slot on both nights (there was no waiting list, unfortunately). Sunday night I premiered Not All Songs Are For Heroes; I also performed Frozen Dreams for the second

time (the first was very late at a regular filk). Taping for all events was done by Wall Songs with the able assistance of Paul Willett.

Also in its first and last performance at Noreascon was Smoflahoma!, John Pomeranz's hilarious musical telling the story of the rise and fall of the DC in '92 bid (which, as expected, lost by a huge margin). I contributed just one half of one song; the rest of the writing was John's. However, I was one of the performers. The show went over very well; afterward, Joe Siclari of the Magicon committee asked everyone for their autograph on the program (yes, John printed one). Right in the middle of the show we had a fire sale of leftover DC in '92 shirts and calendars.

Colin Fine, Valerie Housden and someone whose last name is Illingworth (the first name escapes me) were there from Britain; they did a half-hour set Sunday night. There's a lot of stuff on both sides of the Atlantic which does not cross. Valerie gave me a flyer for their filk con in February. Given that I can get a roundtrip flight to London for around \$300 right now, I just might be crazy enough to go - Frank Hayes is GOH, so I wouldn't be the only Yank.

Notable filkers in attendance (besides those already mentioned) were Technical Difficulties, Windbourne, Heather Rose Jones (who drove from California with a monster harp), Duane Elms, Bill and Brenda Sutton, Nate Bucklin, Kathy Mar (whose new tape was released there), Mary Ellen Wessels, Barb Riedel (who is not as well known as she deserves to be), and Roberta Rogow. There were others I think were there but never actually saw - most notably Bill and Carol Poore Roper.

Biggest pleasant surprise: Duane Elms's greatly improved voice. For a long time

I've wept inside hearing Duane's wonderful music, lyrics, and guitar work fall victim to the weaknesses of his voice. (The latest Firebird flyer lists a tape of Duane Elms playing the guitar for his songs while Larry Warner does the singing!) Five seconds into his concert set, and I couldn't believe I was listening to the same person I had heard just last May. He had power, he had control, he had diction - I spoke with him afterwards, and he admitted that he had been working on it. If that's the product of only a few months' effort, I'm impressed. I think he could carry his own singing now for a studio tape. There are other brilliant songwriters out there (I won't mention their names) whose material could get a much wider audience if they would only take some voice lessons. (I will pointedly refrain from commenting on those who really ought to take guitar lessons - something about glass houses and all that.)

As far as non-filkish activities go, I saw the full-length version of *The Wizard of Speed And Time* at a nearby theatre. Mike Jittlov is having a battle with his distributor about whether the movie can make it in commercial theatres - he's trying to keep it from going straight to the videocassette market.

I had some lovely meals at a couple of Thai restaurants, a seafood place, and a nice little restaurant called St. Botolph's which donated one of the door prizes for the DC in '92 thank-you party. Said party ordered from catering two turkeys, a baron of beef, and some veggie trays; things were pretty well demolished within 35 minutes. Locusts. I made exactly one non-filk panel (on submitting manuscripts), and missed the art show completely - a lot of the time not spent as a program participant or Handicapped Access worker went to practicing, as one of my new songs has a very fast G - a7 - b7 run which scared the hell out of me. I managed to attend one session of ~~paper~~ a seminar on the redistribution of economic resources using statistics and psychology.

The Hynes was great; the elevators performed about as well as could be expected under the circumstances; there was only one fire alarm at the Sheraton; and I'm already looking forward to 1998, which according to the 1971 + 9n formula is the next Boston year.

FILK CONS AND OTHERS

SOONERCON 5
Nov. 17-19, 1989
Central Plaza Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK

guests: Walter Jon Williams (pro), Brad W. Foster (artist), Roger Allen (fan), Randy Farran (filk), Brian Thomsen (TM), David Brin (tentative) Also planning to attend: Robin Bailey. Late Flash: Leslie Fish will also be there.
info PO Box 1701
Bethany OK 73008

TROPICON 8
Dec. 1-3, 1989
Ft. Lauderdale Holiday Inn, Florida

Guests: Lynn Abbey (pro), Leslie Turek (fan), C.J. Cherryh (TM), Julia Ecklar (filk). Also Linda Melnick. Filk Concert Friday nite; open filking Fri. & Sat. Reg. \$15 til July 31, \$20 til Nov. 1, doesn't say what after that. Hotel \$59 single, \$69 double.
info SFSFS Secretary
PO Box 70143
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307

MOSTLY EASTLY CON
Jan 13-15, 1990
Holiday Inn North, Newark Airport, NJ
Emphasis on Media; Jean Stephenson in charge of filk. info Devra Langsam, Poison Pen Press, 627 E.8th St., Brooklyn NY 11218

CONTINUITY 1990
Feb 9-11
Holiday Inn Med. Center, Birmingham AL

guests: Roger McCammon (sf/horror), Jennifer Robertson (fantasy), Charlotte Proctor (TM), Buck & Juanita Coulson,, Bill Bryer, Larry Elmore, Doug Chaffee, Ruth Thomson. Reg. \$10 til Oct. 31, \$15 til Jan. 15, \$20 thereafter. Write for dealer & art show rates.
info PO Box 55302
Birmingham, AL 35255-0302

CONSONANCE 1990
March 2-4, 1990
San Jose Radisson Hotel

Guests Barry & Sally Childs-Helton, TM Chris Weber. Reg. \$20 thru ConChord; \$25 til Ground Hog Day, higher at the door. Hotel room \$52 single/double; \$62 triple/quad.
Write for info to Wail
Songs, PO Box 29888, Oakland CA 94604

NAME THAT CON III: CONFLAKES
April 27-29, 1990
Radisson Hotel Downtown St. Louis MO

guests: George Alec Effinger (pro), Todd Hamilton (artist), Suzette Haden Elgin (TM) reg. \$12 til 1 Jan, \$16 til 1 March, \$20 thereafter.
info St. Charles SF & F Society
PO Box 575
St. Charles, MO 63301

ROC*KON 14
May 4-6, 1990
Holiday Inn Otter Creek
Little Rock, AR

"Back to The Rock-Con". Guests George Alec Effinger (pro), Randy & Lisa Farran (fan/filk). Reg currently \$10; will be more after 1 Jan. Info PO Box 45122, Little Rock, AR 72214

STOP THE PRESSES!
LATE FLASH OF O V F F NEWS!

Nov.3: I took today off work because Sharon Amanda's school had the day off for "parent-teacher conferences" and I could afford the vacation day easier than the babysitter. So we did *fanac*, and spent most of the afternoon at KINKO'S Xeroxing this issue of *Harpings* and an *apa* contrib. When I got home I found a care package from Juanita Coulson, containing a copy of the OVFF 5 program and a *conreport*. Herewith:

At the "Whither OVFF?" session, Van mentioned that the con had around 150 non-committee members and almost sold out the banquet, which pleased them tremendously, as you may suppose. The discussion dealt mostly with the major scheduling problems OVFF will have next year -- when OSU will have back-to-back home games surrounding Hallowe'en. Debate is still ongoing whether to keep as close to the general date (which will clash, as it has previous years, with World Fantasy Con) and move to an outlying hotel or another city...or to move the date and stay at the same motel. Moving means bumping uncomfortably close to either ConClave in mid-October or WindyCon in early November. There was also some batting around of the Pegasus awards. They drew circa 200 voters, but nominations were terribly thin and the *concom* wants suggestions on how they can increase or encourage the latter. ((send copies of the form to me, Paul Willett, Rick Weiss, Lee Gold, John Boardman, and anyone else who has a *fanzine* and is at all involved with filk perhaps especially as an avid listener and request us to circulate them with the approximately March issues of our publications))

There was very good representation at the con from the West Coast. Apparently there was a sudden price war on the airlines, making it easier for a larger than usual contingent to make the trip. Their presence was welcomed with great enthusiasm. Just off the top of my head...we had Joey Shoji, of course, as TM; Cindy McQuillen, Bob Laurent, Kathy Mar, Tera Mitchel, Chrys Thorsen, Jordyn Kare, etc. etc. Spencer Love of Boston Worldcon was there from the East, along with others of that area. Big midwest contingent, as predictable. A good time had by all, so far as I could see, and if we, as hucksters, are typical of the batch, no complaints on that score either. I believe there were 11 tables in use.

Only glitch was not getting the function space until 5 p.m. Friday, but after that good cooperation from the hotel. One big room for main filking. A smaller room for spinoff filks and rehearsals for one-shots and concerts. Big con suite. Lots of comfy chairs. Newly decorated rooms and so forth. Too bad OSU insists on playing football right in that area next year. Rats.

Pegasus awards:

Techie Song: "Do It Yourself", Bill Sutton
Fantasy: "Winds Four Quarters", Lackey/Fish
Best filk: "Dawson's Christian", Duane Elms
Writer/Composer (Tie): Elms and Mar
Performers: Technical Difficulties

Concerts by Joey, Mark Bernstein, Naomi Pardue, Peter Thiesen, Cindy McQuillen, Barry & Sally Childs-Helton, and Duane Elms. I didn't get a list of all the one-shots.

On a personal note, I was delighted to see that people seemed to park fannish politics at the door. The Midwest has no particular axes to grind and fervently hopes to stay on good terms with everybody as much as possible. Being a neutral (and forget wimpy) zone, this made for an easygoing and very laidback con. It was Midwestern Chaos Filking at its best. I got the impression a few times that some of the West Coasters were a tad startled by some of the results. Leading up to the midnight break for the banquet, Barry and Sally and a bunch of us nuts got into the now-traditional filk rock mode. Good thing the hotel staff shut off the Muzak in the hall earlier; it couldn't have competed with the amps and the enthusiasm.

I imagine Van and Carol Siegling would very much appreciate input from filkers who didn't attend this year but might be considering attending next year to write with opinions and preferences on what they (the *concom*) should do re the scheduling conflict in 1990. It's tricky enough to try to work around conflicting cons and dates in this geographical region. Filkers--potential attendees--from other regions ought to keep the *concom* apprised of anything that's likely to bump scheduling heads with OVFF in their regions of the country. Maybe if we all cooperate well in advance we can figure something out.

Repeat the address: PO Box 211101,
Columbus, OH 43220
Phone (614) 2-MARCON or (614) 475-0158

There was a good array on the freebie table. Ads for ConCerto, Julia to guest; ConSonnance, Congenial (which is a kind of non-declared, very heavy on filk Milwaukee con), surveys, and ads for non-filk conventions hither and yon.

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The Filk Foundation
PO Box 45122
Little Rock AR 72214



Edith Stern
4599 NW 5th Ave.
Boca Raton FL 33431
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