

SPY RAY

THROUGH TIME AND SPACE WITH FILK SONG FANDOM, II:

The oldest known representation of a fannish hoot. From excavation at Umm Banin dated to Hellenistic period, thought to represent the lost paintings done by Zeuxis to illustrate the Susacon II Memory Book. *The performers are just hitting a chorus of I Was Born About 2,000 Years Ago...*



Look, why don't I skip the hearts and flowers bit? You don't really care why we're getting so much work laid on us at the office (though you should; it's your taxes), so why pester you with an explanation why SPY RAY is skimpy and was entirely absent last time? The fanac, now, that's different: I'm finishing up the report on that poll I took last year. The statistics are tougher than I thought -- try doing Student's t test with a hand calculator instead of a computer some time and you'll see what I mean. (Of course, Student had to do it that way, and so does Art Rapp...) The forecast is for a very severe and specific evil balancing widespread general good, but if I told you All I wouldn't have anything to go on about in the final report. Oh, by the way, I ought to mention that this is Operation Crifanac 545 and

- - - - -
It's Eney's Fault
- - - - -

SAPS CIX and you know how I feel about having skipped your egoboo last time.

marvelous claxons: You know I never thought of that? There must be some form of international labor solidarity as between the Loch Ness monster and Japanese film BEMs, but I didn't ask what it was.

SUNSET Damn! Don't skip the environment as you do with the brief dismissal of the tissue culture hall. Excellent chance for some deductions about the invisible(?) builders. And to what gambit did the average nice figure respond? More deductions would follow.

PRATTLE The Annotated Holmes, two quarto-size volumes in slipcase, still runs \$15-17, but the Doubleday Complete Sherlock Holmes is only \$4=5.

THE MOTHER HEN Surely even in Seattle there aren't any people who don't know what a redneck is. Don't anybody tell him; he has to be putting us on about this, mathematician or not.

SUPERSQUINK But don't you see, Toskey, that if we commented on any of this it would be tantamount to admitting that we read it?

THE YELLOW FLOWER ...but I admit I do wait with a little sadistic glee for the comments of any of our female members on "Night into Day". You and John Norman, oink oink oink!

LIBEL Uh, no, I meant noncommercially -- like Toskey's stuff (if that wasn't the wrong comparison to make. What, it was? I was afraid of that...) I thought you were thinking of amateur publication because of the license/copyright problems that would arise in your using either Cap Future or Sarge in one of your stories, except as a possible walk-on.

COLLECTOR Well, if your prices have gone up to 25¢ for mint UNKNOWNs isn't it only fair that you should pay \$26 for a huckster table? But I hope to be able to discuss this with you at Minicon or thereabouts. ** One never knows, but most of the Ann Arbor group seem to know what to do to avoid breeding. I mean ill-breeding, of course, nothing worse...

BLACK BIKE The mixed nature of the returns on "2001, A Space Oddity" hint to me that a lot depended on whether the hearers caught the dialogue quite right. ** Plans were to screen people on the first run-through, but Chalker's

initial hope of handling things went glimmering when about a quarter of the contestants turned out to have performances to put on. Current thought: two costume balls, one for show and one for shticks.

SMILES AND GRINS What works for my sinus headaches is to take two cups of coffee first. Antihistamines and like that after the fact are little help. (I've been pestered by the damned things since childhood.)

ETHEREAL VIBRATIONS Now it can be told that Ted Pauls boobed with the "Vote for One Only" line on the ballots for DisCon II. About two out of five voted only for a single choice; unfortunately there's no way to tell which would have done that anyway. ** Do you mean a mundane commercial outfit, there where you speak of having the ballots counted by some impartial, reputable, outside agency? Since there were partisans of each bidder checking the vote, we think cheating was ruled out. As for the problem of honest error, I'd rather (as Russell said of philosophy) be second-guessed by my strictest opponent among fans than my most sympathetic friend among Earth People. The gee-there's-money-in-it idea gags me as an approach to convention-throwing, but to quasi-quote my room sign at Westercon the world won't really be plunged into ~~war~~ war if Columbus or KC win.

INVIDIOUS Leadership and character cannot be taught, but you can be taught to act according to a Code ~~which~~ which allows you to Fake It when your native conscience fails to give guidance. Faking it when you haven't got original literary ideas presents a different problem, unless your tutor is Nikolai Ivanovich Lobachevsky. ("...only be sure please always you call it research!") ** You do have responsibility for the actions of the North Vietnamese. When you represent a group in a favorable light you are making a powerful defense of them (and that's not my view, but a quasi-quote from Bernard ~~Shaw~~ Shaw, who has more experience in propagandizing than either of us). As an adult human being you are responsible for what you defend: and *quid facit per alium facit per se* is a maxim ~~is~~ nobody's repealed yet.

IN MEMORY OF GREGOR SAMSA Well, the problem isn't an easy one. When people subscribe to the idea that a totalitarian group should be given a free hand in its efforts at takeover, that the blame for any bloodshed rests on those who resist, and that a police state may be necessary as a means of straightening out the problems of a part of the world, it's not hard to draw up an indictment against them and call them names. But, after all, they called themselves America Firsters, appealed to a powerful and vocal segment of the electorate, and were supported by national figures such as Charles A. Lindberg, so they'd have had a case if they had wanted to try insisting that they should't be called isolationists. In the case of the pacifists, I can and do distinguish between people like Jerry Rubin and Bella Abzug and suchlike and "pacifists" who don't wear the Crooked Cross but actually do avoid coercing other people, supporting aggressive war, and accepting decisions imposed by violence. But what are you going to do when the daily papers treat as "anti-war" everybody from those who honestly are opposed to warfare to those who are employing a gambit to secure victory for their side? If you remember that screed from John Boardman I reprinted, I have tried -- and when I failed I'm sorry for it -- to distinguish genuine pacifists from the fake sort and specify that my invective isn't aimed at them. When I talk about "pacifists who want to inflict on their opponents tortures that would make the SS lose their appetites" (or whatever I said -- it was something like that) I understand that no genuine opponent of coercion and violence would actually want that. That their calling themselves pacifists doesn't mean they are is exactly my point.

BASINGSTOKE Golly, the rubber marks are out in force! ** +Sigh+ I wish I could have made both Westercon and the G&S presentation, but too much time pressure. ** Did I ever remember to send you the shots of the air show and the Museum visit?

OUTSIDERS Heck, Buz' Cage a Man was even at the small bookstores here. The distribution is Weird Indeed...

ROGER'S REVENGE The natural rate of increase in Viet Nam runs around 100,000 a month...no, wait; increase is about a tenth of that. It went up from 14½ million in the mid-50's to just over 18 million in the early 1970s. Unless you specifically count the period of the three main Communist offensives (1968, 1972, and today) the ~~main~~ cause of death which of itself takes off the largest number of Vietnamese is tuberculosis and related ills, and after that dysentery/diarrhea.

FROM SUNDAY TO SATURDAY The difficulty with vis-a-vis conversation may well be, not that fans don't think rapidly enough, but that they see too many subtle points which defy instant analysis. Just because you and I are candid and avoid double meanings, you know... ** Marriage, though, has nothing to do with love, but with cohabitation and procreation. Society does have an interest, and therefore in equity a right to be considered, in social relationships and socialization (i.e. childraising). That a couple should not be forced to live together because they have ceased to love one another is, as you say about warmonging, "reasonable". That the engagements of others made in good faith, and the support of children who weren't consulted about being born, should be brushed away because X and Y have exhausted all the possibilities of their emotional relationship is a very different proposition. ** Well, you can root for the idea that we (or anybody) shouldn't be the Police-man of the World, but I'm not going to let you forget that that strips you of any right to complain about lawlessness. Who wills the means wills the end.

AFTER THE GOLD RUSH Thought the reason no animals could survive in Stalingrad was that after the supply lines were cut rations got so short that fresh rat was a special treat. (Since the final struggle took place in a Russian November I suspect that the story of the fires making the city too hot -- for more than the last couple of days, anyway -- is a Garbled Message.)

IGNATZ Never came to visit? Hah! How come YOU never replied or even used the AmEx invitation I sent you? Grump.

SPACEWARP Migawd, you didn't know that G-8 was being reprinted? And if that wast the best WW I flying fiction I don't want to thik of the worst.

DEEDS IN DETAIL The Guest Book at the Aussiecon party wasn't a bit of Em-pah formality, but a souvenir for Mæ Strelkov. ** You wouldn't believe what you did for my ego, creebing about shoofing four rolls of 35mm during the con. When I think of the seven rolls I shot during the masquerade ball alone...

BAGARTHACH Viet Nam has had a north-south split ever since the Viets started to move out of the Red River valley. Mainly due to the thin population of the coastal belt between the RR valley and the Mekong. Do the similarities of language between Spain and France mean they are one country at heart? ** Well, New Orleans did OK on \$180, but second best is still second best. Maybe they proved that the most faaaanish promotion can be beaten with enough money.

Now, all you non-Anachronists duck for cover, 'cause here comes an SCA song...

THE CAVESWAY CRYER STYLE SHEET

or, Annotated Graphic Guide to U and Non-U Methods of Suicide, for the use of contributors to the SUICIDE CLUB NEWSLETTER and occasional Papers of the Self Destruction Society, Uninc.

The following observations have been condensed from culture-specific decisions by respected club members and other connoisseurs of the Great Work. *All members and probationers are advised to make the fullest use of this Style Sheet in an effort to reduce the number of personal rulings which the Officials of the Club are called upon to make.* In case of doubt, no ruling can be far wrong which takes account of the requirements of Style, Novelty, and Good Taste.



FIG. 1. The typical case may arise under any circumstances. In this classified (EXDIS) photo our respected Demoiselle President has been called upon to decide a problem which came up at a recent SCA tourney.

Most of the illustrations which follow show needless examples of the confusion and hard feeling which may arise when probationers try to qualify without guidance. Remember that *only the unusually gifted manage elegant suicide without special guidance by the more experienced Members.* In our campaign to win wider support for Suicide we should remember the pragmatically established fact that the Happy Dispatch ought never to be attempted without discussing one's plans with a representative panel of previously successful suicides.



FIG. 2. Typical "Closet Suicide".
 ← This undignified avoidance of celebrity suggests residual inhibitions and encourages the young to regard suicide as something shameful or socially unacceptable.

FIG. 3. Collaborative suicide. The → demonstration of these probationers' open assertion of their rights ("Slay Pride") is excellent. However, the excessively relaxed attitude detracts from the dignity of the occasion. *Not recommended.*



FIG. 4. Case of W.D. The probationer ← found the taste of *orsere* disagreeable and dissolved it in Cold Duck. Principle sound but applied in a manner not calculated to reflect credit on the concept of suicide. *Ruling: Suicides involving rubber tubing are in dubious taste anyway. Probationer not accepted into Membership.*



FIG. 5. Case of the Chevalier G. → Very poor planning. The probationer threw himself on his sword in proper style but was pronounced dead before his Secretary could finish his suicide note. *Ruled not acceptable.*





FIG. 6. The suicide note properly arranged. Case of Ms. F., one of our most celebrated members. Note that the message (which extends to five pages in the original) is on large-size sheet vellum. Ms. F. properly preferred legibility to the facile convenience of typescript. Our esteemed Demoiselle President remarked on this occasion: "A suicide note which cannot be read over the finder's shoulder can never be effective in expanding consciousness among Survival Freaks!"

FIG. 7. Desolation of the survivors. → (Photo from the file on the case of Member C.J.) An essential too frequently disregarded by youthful probationers. The potential for the expansion of the Suicide Club through careful timing, tasteful methodology, etc. (the so-called "multiplier effect") is so important that anyone who would not be regretted ought to hesitate before attempting the Great Work.



FIG. 8. Case of (deleted). This probationer had a novel idea for inducing feelings of regret among his survivors but unfortunately was interrupted before beginning the work and then distracted when a skinny-dipping session ensued. Case rejected with prejudice.



FIG. 9. Group activities
 ← activities
 (Case of Ms. D.M. & Messrs. P.D., R.B., J.B., D.L., C.B., F.M.E., E.L., J.C., E.S., D.H., L.E., L.N., A.S., L.E.B., B.D., L.S., B. McC., and J.H.) These are among the most rewarding yet difficult of all Club activities. Naturally, all participants must be qualified as probationers. Ms. D.M.'s successful extemporaneous session displayed real genius, in the judgement of a special evaluation panel convened to consider this unusual Case. All participants accepted for membership with honors.

NEWS NOTES FROM ALL OVER: Our distinguished Asian Corresponding Member I.G. has outdone herself since our last issue by obtaining an honest-to-Kali nuclear bomb!!! (Plutonium fission.) Well done, Ms. G! Are our other overseas correspondents going to let themselves be outdone? ## Probationer W.A.F.: We regret to say that the decision went against you. Burning down a contraceptives warehouse is quite inadmissible in the "bank shot" category unless you can definitely establish that you will be the one starved. ## Probationer Y.A. blew his chance when he attended the UN without pausing on his way in or out. To manage a proxy suicide requires better timing. A.'s heart is in the right place and his active promotion of mass suicide sounds all right, but it's performance that counts, remember. ## Our beloved Demoiselle President reports that progress in her task of accounting for all the modes of suicide ever employed is slow but steady. She expects to complete her work and be able to select a unique method of her own not later than 15 January 2088. Slow but sure does it every time, Ms. N.! ## Probationer K.G.: Remember the requirements are novelty, elegance, and of course effectiveness. Trying to photograph Bonnie Dalzell's art work is about as effective as any other method. Arranging the elegance is your problem. ## Member Z.P.: We prefer not to have it spread around, but the evaluation panel convened for the case found insufficient grounds for terminating Hugh Hefner's Probationary status. If he were really spreading pro-Survival propaganda that might be different.

Our Los Angeles members will recognize Our Respected Demoiselle President as Neeters (Anita Gross, a petite LA femmefan who had been making unhappy noises but, thank heaven, was only kidding or at worst exaggerating). And how many of us could think up a really original way to commit suicide? There's a challenge for you!

SAPS CX which for some reason comes out shorter this time than last mailing's comments:

WHEREIN WE PREDICT That's funny, you didn't ACT drunk! Perhaps though it was a case like my own at Westercon, when I was having such a good time that I had to reassure people that I wasn't high or drunk, that in fact they'd never seen me drunk at a convention. "I've never seen you except at a convention", responded Dan Goodman. "How do we know that really we've never seen you sober?"

INVIDIOUS Any person who likes Grape Nuts can't be a sick kill-crazy kid clear through. ** See last mlg comments about the mail ballot foul-up. ** What is Markstein's number on the oysters? The one whose punch line is "-- and the last three didn't work!"?

THE GAME OF SAPS Wrong forum. You would drive APA-L's game freaks out of their minds sending this through a disty. In fact, I think I'll get some extras from you and...

LIBEL No substantive comment, but "Being the wave of the present isn't as exciting as being the Wave of the Future used to be" is so good I had to mention it.

PRATTLE What can you be thinking of? Why, Perry Rhodan is still only 95¢! ** Censorship may be practically senseless, but why do most of its opponents put it like that rather than explaining why it's necessary in an artistic sense to use "hell" or "damn" (or "fuck", mutilation on camera, nudity in Shakespearean plays, or like that)? I am willing to accept the idea that any notion which has no many funnymentalist preachers on its side is *de facto* suspect, but a little more candor and intellectual rigor on the part of the opponents of censorship would not come amiss.

SPACWARP But I hardly ever drink beer... ** I didn't know about the Official Persuader until after I'd been OE.

world FAAAN CONVENTION PROGRESS REPORT If I weren't already scheduled to visit an SCA MidSummer blast in New Joisey that weekend I'd call Markstein's bluff on this, \$5 or not.

BAGARTHACH Well, if it's a foreign language, try Spanish, in which *zorra* (female fox) is slang for a wench of whose virtues least said is soonest mended. But I don't know if Los Angeles/SoCal generally would be likely to translate rather than taking the actual Spanish word.

COLLECTOR ...And of course you told the anthologist that you do run the P.O.?

MOONBANE Of course, in the Swiss Alps. Wasn't the *Poseidon* originally a troop transport in the Swiss Navy, after all?

OWL The Craynes told me the name of that board-game with the pebbles and cups: kalaha. Have you seen any of the boards that use cowries instead of pebbles (which is the way the Filipinos originally did it)?

OUTSIDERS/BASINGSTOKE And it looks as if no G&S this year either because of conflict with the SCA's midsummer revel, which I'll be helping set up as well as participating in. Argh!

LETTA But doing right what past committees have goofed is only half the job. What arrangements have you for not goofing what past committees have done right? All the information about what good people you have (granted) and what good plans you have (maybe) doesn't answer the great question: what happens when something goes wrong and the Chairman tries to deal with a problem in Orlando Florida from his place in New Jersey?

!PORQUE! But in mixed groups wouldn't the recruitment possibly offset the, er, attrition? One of the stories is that Streaking was really all an elaborate hoax to get some pretty co-eds to undress. Well, I suppose that success justifies any gambit... ** As far as I heard nobody ever found out what happened to that banner, the one that KC lost to thieves unknown.

STUMPING The kalimba, or Finger Piano, is that little musical instrument which looks like a sounding box with a dozen steel-band springs fastened to it. Gives a sound vaguely like a cultivated xylophone. ** Of course I have peaceful biases, and I'll bash anybody that claims different. Or as I once said to Boardman: "No, no, I'm not anti-war -- I really am working for peace!"

TOADSTOOL TYPO Well, at least you don't have to apologize for the handwriting as well as the fact of the zine being handwritten. Suppose you had *handwriting like mine?*

DAWN Eat a hand-fed catfish? I'd feel like a cannibal. Or a pognibal. ** Good grief! What would you do with an entire turtle shell?

