

The Filking Times

June 1989

Issue 5

Filking at Westercon 42

Gary (the Grim) Anderson is in charge of Filking at Conosaurus. He has some really good plans for filk activities at the Con. How these plans will turn out remains to be seen. In the left column below is the letter he sent to the ConCom requesting space for filksinging at Westercon. In the right column is the latest available information on what space has been granted by the ConCom, and what we can try to do about it. Don't blame Gary for what we've got, he asked for a lot more.

Filking: Preliminary Estimate And Program For 1989 Westercon

This is the full text of the letter Gary Anderson submitted to the rest of the ConCom requesting facilities and time slots for filking at Westercon 42.

.....

Filking will have three main events:

1. The general, open filking with the usual three flavors; bardic circle, midwestern chaos, and anybody's guess. This is a late evening activity, lasting until 4 or 5 in the morning (or later).
2. The filk concert, where the better performers, having been invited and warned ahead of time, play to the filk audience. This is usually an afternoon activity, on one or two days.
3. Filk programming, wherein various knowledgeable people get up and explain what it is they are knowledgeable about. This is an afternoon or evening activity, usually a single room, and organized much better than the other two.

Basic needs:

One room, 50 to 75 people capacity, in the afternoon from 1 or 2 to about 6 PM.

Three rooms, 35 to 50 people capacity (One should be the 50-to-75) from 8 or 10PM until ???.

Water service in the room(s). Intense in the afternoon (once an hour), decaying toward evening to once every 2 hours, picking up to once an hour at about 8, and dropping off to once every 2 hours after midnight.

Rooms not near dances, movies, or other noisy activities. This will keep the filkers out of the halls, or at least in the halls by the filk rooms, and avoid the repetition of filk wars.

See Westercon on Page 6.

From the DAG BBS

Filk Room At Westercon

The latest available info on filking at Conosaurus is from the DAG BBS. Here are the relevant messages, straight off the board.

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Msg Title: We're under attack!
Name: Eric Gerds
Date: Thu May 11 20:02:09 1989

Have you seen or heard about Westercon? They are only going to give us one small room for the whole convention, which is smaller than one living room!

Well? What are we going to do about this?

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Msg Title: Westercon Filking
Name: Gary Anderson
Date: Fri May 12 00:35:46 1989

Because of the unfortunate fact that we are only going to be given 1 (yes, that's right - 1) room at Westercon for filking (And it ain't a big one either) I am not going to try to defend the committee on this one. I sent my request in, and explained why we needed more space, but we didn't get it. Right now, the hallways are our only refuge. And with the ghodawful bands that they want to have playing (Another GH*****M rock band, no less) there is no way we can use the upper level. So we are in a rather small room on the lower level (occupancy 75, as I recall) which may make the filk concert rather cramped. I explained all about filkstyles and the rest, but to no avail.

Have at'em.

Gary

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

See BBS on Page 6.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Future Filksings

Los Angeles Area:

- June 15:** LASFS Clubhouse, No. Hollywood
June 17: John & Mary Creasey, hosts, Torrance
July 15: Rick Weiss & Deborah Leonard, hosts.
 Garden Grove
August 5: Maxi-Filk, LASFS Clubhouse, North
 Hollywood

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

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

SF Bay Area: For info/mailling 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 above).

Conventions

BayCon '89, May 26-29, 1989. P.O. Box 70393, 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 (see page 1 of this issue of TFT for further information).

Con-Chord V, 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/master: Open (see Quick News). 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; Wail 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. Hotel: Radisson Hotel, 408/298-0100, room rates: \$52 sgl/dbl, \$62 trpl/quad.

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.

Corrections:

The address given last month for Pegasus Publishing was incorrect. Their current address is in the Filk Sources and Resources column on Page 8.

THE FILKING TIMES Editorial Policy--TAKE HEED!

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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) using the Z: File to Sysop command.

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.

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Suggested Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for a Filk

With comments by Deborah Leonard

Part 3 of 4

II. Filkers' Rights and Responsibilities (Continued)

B. AS A PERFORMER:

1. While performing, the right to the undivided attention of filkers present.
2. The responsibility to be ready with a song when it's your turn--don't keep the rest of us waiting, please.
3. The right to entertain the rest of us with your musical talents. If you have something to sing/perform, take your turn.
4. The responsibility NOT to be a filkhog. Let others have a chance to perform too.
5. The right to pass WITHOUT HARASSMENT.
6. The right to choose your form of torture, be it filk, folk, synthesized, accompanied, a capella, instrumental, OSE, bawdy, whatever.
7. The responsibility to announce any caveats to your performance. Some people are offended/upset by some types of filk, such as OSE, bawdy, etc. This is neither their fault nor yours. Don't let it stop you from performing, but allow them to leave gracefully (see Listener #3).
8. The responsibility to keep your introduction short and to the point. Your song should stand on its own merits without apologies or long explanations.
9. The right/responsibility to define/request your desired accompaniment, i.e., vocals/no vocals (it's a solo, general sing-along, chorus only, etc.) and instruments/no instruments (solo, harmonizing, all together now, etc.). If nothing is said, anything is fair game!

C. AS A LISTENER:

1. The responsibility to give the performer your undivided attention and to respect his/her choice of music (i.e., NO chitchat in the filkroom during the music!).
2. The responsibility NOT to hog any down time (time between performers), i.e., don't rush in to fill the void with conversation.
3. If you don't like the song/performer/whatever, you have the right (if not the responsibility!) to leave the filkroom (see Performer #7).
4. The responsibility to leave the filkroom quietly so as not to disturb the rest of us who are enjoying the performance. (Hint: If you leave frequently, sit near the exit.)
5. The responsibility to respect the performer's choice of accompaniment and NOT to join in without invite/consent (if not immediately clear, ASK FIRST before joining in).
6. The responsibility to move to an alternate room/space if you want to converse.

Continued next column.

From the Editors Regarding the R & R's

Over the past few months we have heard several thirdhand rumors and complaints about the Filking R&R's. This is really disappointing because it seems that the people complaining either have not read them or have not understood what we have said about them. When they were first published in the Con-Chord 4 program book, we said we were looking for comments and discussion on them. The only comments we have ever received have been when we backed someone into a corner and threatened them with violence unless they talked. We are still looking for comments and public discussion on the R&R's. Would someone please send us a letter???

There is a tremendous body of unwritten, understood conventions and traditions covering filking and filksings, many of which are regionally unique and specific. All we did was collect those most suited to us (Southern California) and set them to paper for reference purposes only. Nearly every item came to mind as the general solution to a specific problem encountered at past filksings and conventions. We feel that, to a large extent, most of these problems originated in ignorance of filk customs and etiquette.

Most or all of the old-time filkers are familiar with these customs. What about newcomers? Some people are astute enough to pick up on our silent signals very quickly; many are not. And how about someone new to hosting? How do you help them become aware of what is expected at a filksing and what options are available to them as a filk host? We tried to write the Filking R&R's to have a short, written list that new (and some not so new) filkers could read and learn from.

The last point to be made here is that these are rights and responsibilities, NOT, repeat NOT, rules and regulations. This is still our personal opinion of good filk etiquette. This is what we expect at a filk in our home. Other hosts can (and have!) run a filk however they prefer. We do hope that eventually many of the R&R's can be accepted as universal standards for good filk etiquette, with local variants as needed.

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7. The right as an audience (en masse) to short circuit an unpleasantly long intro (see Performer #8 above).

Here we go again--the high season for filking is nigh upon us, what with BayCon, Westercon, Worldcon, Con-Chord, and OVFF fast approaching. This is the next to last installment of the Filking R&R's and covers filking listener/performer etiquette/abuse, a topic hotly debated in most circles. You know what I mean--who trashed what filksing in which horrible fashion (filkhog, boring intro, breaking the mood, talking over and around the singing, etc.). **See Rights on Page 7.**

Point/Counterpoint

Beginning a continuing debate between two distinguished (?) filkers.

"Quoth the FilkLord..."

by Quentin Long

An eccentric column from an off-centered filker

If I were Dictator of the Universe, there're a few things I'd like to change; taxation would be revealed as the Government-sponsored theft (or extortion at best) it always has been, all lawyers would either be summarily executed or else receive \$50k per year to *not* practice law, and people would take responsibility for the consequences of their own actions rather than shift the blame onto the nearest source of Big Money. Since this *is* a filking column, I'll focus on the changes I'd make to filking in particular...

1) There should be a minimal standard of quality: if you can't sing at least as good as Quentin Long, you won't sing at all. I don't claim to be perfect, but I've gotten enough feedback to know that I'm at least an okay singer, so I figure it's not too unreasonable to use myself as a standard of vocal quality. I don't see that more than four to six filkers in ten would be silenced by this decree, but so what? The gain in quality would more than make up for the loss in quantity, and the qualified filkers could easily fill in the dead air left by the silence of the unqualified ones. If you think that *more* than four to six filkers in ten would be silenced, thanks for the egoboo. I don't know who the standard of quality for guitarists would be, nor for any other instrumentalists, but I do know it won't be me...

2) Vocal/Instrumental tutoring would be free for all filkers who want to take advantage of it. Maybe Joe Filker sings like a dolphin with laryngitis *right now*, but who says he'll be that bad forever and ever, worlds without end, Amen? The idea is to improve the general level of quality, not merely to expel the bad performers.

3) Bob Kanefsky would find his every worldly need supplied for him, so he could devote all his time to writing more songs without having to worry about paying the rent or other such trivial nonsense. Bob's voice isn't good enough to sing his own stuff (or anyone else's, for that matter), and I'd keep him busy enough writing that he wouldn't have time for vocal lessons, but this is a small price to pay to enlarge Kanef's body of work.

4) Any and every filksing would have an Autocrat to keep the filk going. The Autocrat gets to decide whether it's going to be a bardic circle, "chaos", or what, and his (or her) word is final and unchallengeable. The poor, subjugated filkers would always have the right to "vote with their feet", of course -- if an Autocrat's power goes to his head, he may find himself without a filksing to lord

See FilkLord on Page 7.

Quentin, You Insufferable Yahoo

by Jane Mallander

A calm and impartial look at some of Mr. Long's views
by Mel Gilden's Evil Twin Skippy (MGETS)

As soon as Quentin finishes editing Asimov's Best Of anthology, advising the Bush administration (his mundane crap), and deciding what changes he'd make if he were the Filk fuehrer, I'd like to throw my tuppence into the ring. Of course, Quentin would no doubt pounce on it as a start to the Royal filk treasury.

It is dangerous to tease a Democrat, *especially* a tax-and-spend Democrat. (One might add that this seems better than living under a *borrow*-and-spend Republican.) I would *increase* taxation -- I would tax ignorance and stupidity. High School grads who point to China on a globe and say "California!" automatically forfeit their college trust funds; their *parents*, who neglected to keep a globe or at least a subscription to National Geographic in the house, cough up their IRA's. People will lose a dollar every time they say "You know?" or "I mean, like..." Everyone involved with the Iran-Contra coverup would forfeit all their pocket change (a considerable amount, to judge from Ollie North's stash). People who think Ollie North is a hero will lose everything they've ever dreamed of owning.

As for lawyers, Murray Porath and my older brother Martin will speak to you about that later, Quentin. In a small windowless room. Accessible only to other lawyers.

But don't stop your reform of filk. You've only laid down six commandments. You need four more if you're going to be Ghod-Emperor of Filk. Let me help.

7) Anyone who is more arrogant than Quentin Long is out. We will lose maybe two people in all of filkdom once this rule is in effect.

8) Automatic execution for *any* neo requesting "Banned From Argo". Cuts down on the neos considerably. Also, cursory death for anyone coming up with any more "Drive" songs, or parodies of *anything* (after the original song has been parodied twice).

9) Everyone who will not be allowed to filk on the basis of Quentin's First Rule will spell each other outside Quentin's door, and they will not be allowed to sing anything that does not meet with the approval of Muzak, Inc. Think of it, Quentin: hordes of alley-cats screeching "Feelings" and "We've Only Just Begun" *all night long, outside your window. I get tingly and nauseous just thinking of it, and I'm not going to hear them!*

See Yahoo on Page 6.

More On Bayfilk 5

A Few Subjective Impressions of Bayfilk

by Peter Thlesen

One of my greatest pleasures in life is to hear a wonderful new song for the first time.

The first wonderful new song I heard at Bayfilk was "Pickin' Up Stones", by Leslie Fish. The song deals with self-righteous hypocrites, from the ones in the Biblical story who were eager to "cast the first stone", to modern religious zealots, such as TV evangelists or the Ayatollah Khomeini, who try to impose their beliefs on others. I think this is Leslie's first pro-Jesus song. I plan to add it to my repertoire.

In a completely different vein, Anne Prather sang a delightful song about the sexual prowess and other skills of Rick Weiss. I loved watching Rick blush. I was delighted to discover a great deal of humor in Anne's repertoire, including a vasectomy song and a song about the spelling of Anne's first name ("the letter E, silent and proud").

I also loved Howard Harrison's song about reincarnation and karmic revenge, involving a bird, a dog and a dog-catcher. I enjoyed meeting Howard.

I caught the tail end of Kathy Mar's new song dedicated to a friend of hers who has cancer (*Barbara Kongsjord, who has since passed away; see TFT Issue #4--ed.*). I will have to ask Kathy to sing it again.

I was delighted to hear new material from virtually all of the concert performers. Cecilia Eng's set was almost all new. I particularly enjoyed her "Rest Stop" filk about driving through a snowstorm to Bayfilk, and her song, from the point of view of a horse, explaining that "life is a lunch counter, laid just for me".

Frank Hayes had at least two new songs. My favorite was his clever, silly "Rimini" parody:

"When I left home in a Dodge for the sake of a
bimbo in a bikini,

I knew her heart was mine to take, with whatever was in
the bikini."

I also talked Frank into performing his delightful but rarely heard "Moby Dick" song.

Steve Savitzky had a wonderful song about the inevitability of bugs in computer programs:

"And when the final program's run, and all its data
saved,

They'll take the last dead programmer, and lay him in
his grave.

Continued next column.

Bayfilk 5 Report

by Kathy Mar

I am regretfully informing you that I was personally touched by the Bayfilk (non-existent) "Blacklist". Friday evening I was detained by my attempts to gather Barb Kongsjord and her belongings from my house after four days of whirlwind tourist activity (I was exhausted). Since he is a sweetheart and had to talk to Steve Savitzky and Rick Weiss anyway, Dean offered to pick up my membership for me to save time. Unfortunately, when he told the registration desk who the membership was for, he was asked to wait while a phone call was made to verify that I would be allowed to purchase one. The answer was yes, but I was sorely disappointed to learn the call even had to be made. Bayfilk and Firebird this year had been so gracious to Barb Kongsjord who came to Bayfilk as a "last request". They gave her a free membership, prime seating, and all the assistance she needed to have an optimum experience.

I can never thank them enough for taking my music out of the streets and to an audience that seems to love it. (I don't know why.) I can never thank them enough for all that they've done to put filk on the map. I wish I did not have to be the one to confirm the sad rumour about Bayfilk 5, but others have been blamed for it who are undeserving of the blame heaped on them as a result.

I think the wisest possible action has been taken in passing the fine tradition into neutral hands so that we can mend some of the rifts in the community. Once again these people have shown their true love for the music and ultimately the people who make it. We owe them a debt we can never repay. Maybe it's time we found some way to say thanks for all they've done. They've heard endless complaints and less compliments.

Editor's Afterword

We would like to point out that no one has claimed that they were denied a membership. Thus, there is no proof it ever existed. But still, why was that phone call made?

And the very last bug left in sight, a cockroach passing by,
Will walk across his coffin there, as if to say, 'Nice try!'

I thank Colleen and Steve Savitzky from the bottom of my heart for hosting their wonderful party suite. Much of the fun at the con happened there. I also thank my friends I sang and partied with at the con or at the party suite, simply for showing up and giving me a chance to see them again.

BBS continued from Page 1.

Msg Title: Westercon Filking
 Name: Kay Shapero
 Date: Fri May 12 12:44:16 1989

Good grief! And I thought this was an EXPERIENCED con com. What'll we do (besides write filks about "What do we do with the Con Committee?") Threaten them with obloids all over the hotel? Seriously, let's each write the con com. Pass the word to folks who don't read this bbs. At least it may give them some idea of what a mistake they're making. It can't be lack of space...

--Kay

○ ○ ○ ○

Msg Title: Filking
 Name: Rich Kabakjian
 Date: Fri May 12 15:13:30 1989

Is Westercon planning 24-hour programming? Philcon usually assigns one of the larger programming rooms to filking after 11:00 PM... I'm sure more than one would be obtainable, but there hasn't been much demand for more than one. This wouldn't help the concerts much, unless you schedule them for the wee hours.

Filkers don't get no respect.

○ ○ ○ ○

Editor's Afterword

FYI, the address of Conosaurus (Westercon 42) is:

SCIFI/Westercon 42
 P.O. Box 8442
 Van Nuys, CA 91409.

ConCom members of interest are:

Deck Chair (chairman): Lex Nakashima
 Programming: Craig Miller & Alan Winston
 Special Interest Programming: Therri Moore

The Filking Times urges all Westercon members to let the ConCom know NOW how you feel about this.

Yahoo continued from Page 4.

10) Proper punishment for Beasties (Beauty and the Beast fans) and sf/fantasy writers who include a talking cat in their stories. Any female (I know, three guys in the United States watch BatB too) who salivates when shown an 8x10 glossy of Vincent will be forced to write a BatB filksong with the theme **Why You Shouldn't flush Your Kitten Down The Toilet**. The writers will be made to write a short story about the mutilation of a cat and the rewarding of the mutilator.

Okay, rule 10 was if I was Ghod-Emperor of Filk... Until next issue, Quentin!

Westercon continued from Page 1.**Tentative schedule:**

Opening Day: (Friday) Evening filkrooms only. Begin 8 PM.

Second Day: Afternoon concert starts at 3 PM, runs through until 5, with programming from 2 to 3. This features one-shots and the first day of performers. Followed by evening open filk, 8 PM. Need only two rooms. (Masquerade day)

Third Day: Afternoon concert starting at 3 to 4 PM, runs through until 6 to 8 PM. Programming from 1 or 2 to 3 or 4 depending on wishes of filk community. Followed by evening filk, 8 PM. This is heavy night, need all three rooms.

Fourth Day: Afternoon programming from 2 until 5 PM, with perhaps some late-arriving performers. Evening sing as usual, 8 PM, possible last concert section.

Fifth Day: By now, even the filkers are tired. No formal activity planned.

Programming schedule:

Second Day: What Is This Stuff Called Filk?? - Introduction to filk for the neo or neofilker or amused bystander. Basic explanation, history, "In" jokes, traditions, and demonstrations. No throwable vegetables permitted. (1 hr)

Third Day: Whatever Happened To Filk Communication? - The demise of The Philk Phee-nom-ee-non, or perhaps its resurrection (depends), the demise of a lot of other filkmags, and suggestions (and commitments) for their replacement. A short treatise on the use of Compuserve and other nets to Get the Word Out. Info from The Filking Times and Xenofilkia. If Paul Willett's wife Janet isn't having her third child, a short explanation from the pre-eminent filk publisher on why two kids and a 16 hour-a-day workday impacts publishing activities. Otherwise his friends will provide whatever seems likely explanations, and mail him a tape of the result. (2 hrs)

Fourth Day: The Business of Filk. - How do those tapes, etc., get produced, what to watch out for, some basic copyright/contract stuff to absorb, and a rousing debate over whether filk is/can become a real business. (or should, for that matter) Some info on where to buy tapes, songbooks, etc. (2 hrs)

Filk Etiquette, or Why You Don't Eat Potato Chips Over Someone Else's Songbook... - What to do and not do at a sing, the different kinds of sing, and how "host's rules" applies at house sings. The Two Big Bananas, Bardic Circle and Chaos - differences and similarities, and when they break down. (1hr)

These are tentative, and may be split, but the time slots are correct and the rough emphasis correct.

See Westercon on Page 8.

SoCal Filksing

May 5th at Terry Hopwood's

A Review, by John Creasey

The Filk was well attended. However, everyone arrived somewhat later than anticipated. Some of those who planned to come were "swamped" with household emergencies and could not make it. All who came had a good time, at least until we had to leave (at 10 PM, Mary had to work). The Filk room was better arranged than it was at their last Filk, and we were not too crowded. I personally want to thank the efforts of all involved for keeping the cat "sequestered" for the evening.

The Filk was in the modified "Poker Chip" (*non-topological bardic circle - ed.*) style, as pioneered by Lee Gold; with one slight modification, no poker chips. The Demi-Ghod (Richard Hopwood) kept good control over the group as a whole, and kept extraneous talking down to a minimum. All of the regulars helped to encourage the guests to join in and sing. The Golds had friends visiting from Australia, and they performed "Waltzing Matilda" in the style we are familiar with. They stated that there is another version sung in another region of Australia, which surprised us all.

Dinner was "alphabetical pot luck", which worked out well. The best dish there was the Golds' delicious chicken curry.

Quick news

Paul and Cathy (Cook) MacDonald and family will be moving to Newfoundland, Canada, in the near future. This is pretty far from California, and we'll miss seeing them at conventions and such. Good luck with your move and new home.

Con-Chord 5 has a vacancy for the Toastmaster/mistress position (see above item). Send your nominations in now!

Congratulations to Jordin Kare on moving into his new house. We'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mary Kay Jackson to California.

Dr. Jane Robinson, Cindy McQuillin and their new band have been using the Tabernacle at Marion Zimmer Bradley's home in Berkeley as a recording studio. They're working on their new tape for Thor Records, hopefully due out at Westercon 42.

Heather Rose Jones has cut her hair! It's *short!!* It's *Real Short!!!*

Kathy Mar and Mary Ellen Wessels will be in SoCal for a week or two in May doing recording sessions at Thor Records in Downey. They'll be working on Kathy's next tape, Plus C'est La Meme Chose, and on MEW's project, a children's tape.

SoCal Business Meeting

by Deborah Leonard

The April 29 meeting at the Creasey's was pretty good. We all got to share our thoughts and feelings very openly with good dialoguing. We managed to cover all topics on the agenda (in 4-1/2 hours, no less!) and still have room for more discussion. Those who were able to attend the meeting expressed intense interest in improving filk and filk opportunities in the Los Angeles area. Naturally, this covered many topics, but no conclusive decisions were arrived at, except that further thought and discussion were needed. A full account of the meeting is planned in the next issue of *The Filking Times*.

Rights

continued from Page 3.

Well, these are some basic guidelines for good filkish behavior, appropriate for both the new and not-so-new filker (and just in time for convention season). They are not meant to be rigid or mandatory rules, but instead try to target some areas of frequent filker abuse.

Let's be upfront and open among ourselves and clearly state what behavior will and will not be tolerated. What better way than to have a short list available for easy reference? While such a list can never replace common courtesy, it can ease the way for new filkers unsure of what to do and also pointedly illustrate group expectations to repeat offenders (especially those who can't seem to decipher group dynamics and need written operating instructions).

Next issue will present the final installment of the Filking R&R's, including a comparison of revised points with the original and the complete revised version of the R&R's.

FilkLord

continued from Page 4.

It over because all his filkers went off to form a sing of their own, with a newer, (hopefully) more congenial Autocrat to deal with...

5) There would be a universally-recognized "Generic Standard Filksong Library" of "standard" versions of every known filksong. Nobody would be required to sing the Library's version of any given song, but at least there would be universally-accepted "default values" for those songs that have two or more regional variants.

6) The filkers Bill of Rights and Responsibilities would be enforced in force. If BoRaR turns out to not work so good in practice, I'd modify the silly thing until it *does* work properly.

Well, that's enough for now; I think I've stirred up more than enough hornets' nests for one column...

Westercon continued from Page 6.

Concert participants: Kathy Mar, Cathy and Paul MacDonald, Duane Elms (if in town), Cindy McQuillin, Jane Robinson, Karen Jolley, many more. (We are still dragooning them.) One shots (Get up and do your thing, but only once) will be held as part (or most) of the Saturday concert session.

Schedule should be known in advance, but I need some kind of easel or other approved stand outside the filkroom door so as to advise all the filkers as to what the latest schedule changes are, and what needs to be done. I can take care of the signs and info, but I'll need some posterboard. There needs to be one room, on a noon-to-6 AM basis, which is THE filkroom, so program participants, singers, out-of-towners, and anyone else who wants to participate will be able to find us. Besides, the first thing filkers do is rearrange all the chairs, so one might as well go with the flow. The second and third rooms are only needed during regular filking hours, 8 or 10 PM to 6 AM.

Signs needed from the regular signmaker:

1. MAIN FILKING ROOM - CONCERTS, PROGRAMS, AND CHAOS
2. FILKROOM # 2 - BARDIC CIRCLE
3. FILKROOM # 3 - DO YOUR OWN FILKTHING

The above are regular, big, information signs. I also could use three small signs, about the size you wrap around your head, saying "Filk Ghod", "Demighod #1", and "Demighod #2". These are intended to go on baseball caps, if I can't find someone to actually print them on the caps.

It is my intention to appoint the above 2 demighods from time to time, like during the Masquerade, when I can't be in the room. I will need a contact in Con Security to be able to make sure we have the bases covered, and someone else is informed. (Although a bright yellow or red plastic baseball cap with the above logos would be kind of obvious).

Noise. The filkers make a fair amount, but if you give them competition, they will either make a great deal more, or more likely become a moving target, roaming throughout the hotel, and in general causing problems. The main filkroom, at least, is going to have to be free of much outside noise. (We will also be taping the concerts, one shots, programming, and most of the sings.) Also, the 2 main filking styles, bardic and chaos, are mutually incompatible, and this is why at least 2 and preferably 3 rooms are necessary. The usual tactic is to assign them to the filkers after 10 PM, when everyone else is off at a party and the other programming has died.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on this. I have left some flexibility in the schedule to allow you some, but if you need definitization, that can be supplied also.

FILK SOURCES AND RESOURCES

DAG Productions. 1810 14th Street #102, Santa Monica, California 90404. Telephone: 213/546-4935 (voice) or 213/546-1861 (BBS). Eric Gerds, owner, producer and publisher. Write or call for FREE CATALOG and UPDATE FLYERS.

DAG BBS (Electronic Bulletin Board System). 213/546-1861 at 300/1200 BAUD. 24 hours/day, Tuesday through Sunday. Filk, costuming, gaming, books/media, general fannish interest.

Firebird Arts & Music, Inc., P.O. Box 453, El Cerrito, California 94530. Telephone: 415/528-3172. Andrea Mitchell, proprietor; Teri Lee, executive producer. Write for FREE CATALOG.

Pegasus Publishing. P.O. Box 150471, Arlington, Texas 76015-6471. Write for further information. (This is a new address.)

Quicksilver Fantasies. P.O. Box 1660, Post Falls, Idaho 83854. Write for FREE CATALOG.

Thor Records, P.O. Box 40312, Downey, California 90241. Telephone: 213/862-1722. Chrys Thorsen and Ralph Mason, music producers. Write for information and flyer.

Unlikely Publications. 1741 Eighth Street, Berkeley, California 94710; 415/525-5534. Cynthia McQuillin, filk publisher.

Wall Songs. P.O. Box 29888, Oakland, California 94604. Telephone: 415/763-1128. Bob Laurent, proprietor, producer, and publisher. Write for FREE CATALOG.

FILKZINES AROUND THE COUNTRY

Harpings: Published by the Filk Foundation and edited by Margaret Middleton, 34 Barbara Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204; 501/686-8466; Compuserve 71525,1372.

Filk Fax: Published by Truffan Enterprises, P.O. Box 690694, Tulsa, OK 74169-0694. Edited by Marie Garrett.

LOOSE NOTES: A Zine for Filky-Minded Fans. Published and edited by Susan Landerman, 3327 West Luke Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85017.

MetaFilk: Published and edited by Charles Asbjornsen, 2026 East 55th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

Na Mele O Na Hoku--Song of the Stars: Published and edited by Debra F. Sanders, 1415 Victoria Street #206, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

Philly Philk Phlash: Published and edited by Carol Kabakjian, 17 Lewis Avenue #3, East Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050-2614.

Xenofilkia: Published and edited by Lee Gold, 3965 Alla Road, Los Angeles, CA 90066, 213/306-7456.

FILKSING

June 17, 4 PM to ???

The House of Perpetual Commotion

AKA John & Mary Creasey, 213/329-6772

3754 W. 170th Street, Torrance, CA 90504-1204

TYPE OF CIRCLE: Moderated Kaos. John and/or Mary will be Demighod.

DIRECTIONS: See Thos. Bros. LA Cty, page 63, grid B-5.

FROM THE NORTHWEST: Take the San Diego Freeway (I-405) south to the Redondo Beach Blvd. exit. Turn left onto Redondo Beach Blvd. Go to the second stoplight (Ainsworth Ave.) and turn right. Take the second left onto 170th Street. 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 the Artesia Blvd. (Hwy. 91) exit. Follow the mandatory right turn at the end of the ramp. Stay in the right lane and turn right onto Prairie Avenue. Turn right immediately after the freeway overpass onto 171st Street. (If you miss the turn, take the next right onto Redondo Beach Blvd and follow the directions above.) Turn left at the first stop sign onto Ainsworth Ave. 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.

NOTES --

1. Mucho crash space available.
2. There are no multilegged, fuzzy beasties in the house (allergists, rejoice!).
3. There are carpet commandos (aka rug rats aka kids)--be warned! All kids will be banished upstairs (with TV, VCR and Atari videogame machine) where there will be an on-site babysitter. Resident kids' curfew is 10 PM. Contributions are requested to cover hazard pay.
4. Dinner break (at about sevenish) will consist of a Pizza, Chinese, or Fast-food run to the vendor of choice.
5. Bring all of your usual filk stuff.
6. **NO SMOKING -- PERIOD!!** Tobacco *only* may be burned outdoors. Some household members have allergies.
7. There is a piano, but it's tuned to 435, not 440, since it is very old. However, it is in tune and usable.
8. There is no oscilloscope, but there is now one silicon-based lifeform (PC clone). Silicon life will be in hibernation for the night. This is a filksing, not a bytebash.
9. The last survivors on Saturday night will be conscripted into cleaning up the remains.

13261 Donegal Drive
Garden Grove, CA 92644-2304



Maxi-Filk

IS BACK!

**Sat. Aug. 5, at 3 PM
at the LASFS Clubhouse**

11513 Burbank Blvd., No. Hollywood

Good Times!

Good singing!

Good People!

**Bring your voice, your guitar,
Your filkbooks, and your friends!
Come join us and sing until dawn.**

Sponsored by

Kushyon's Flyte House

**For more info, call (before 9 PM):
714/775-5580 or 714/530-3546**

