

Ah, so. This is Rownbazze, the sometimes fanzine, written, printed, censored and published by June M. Konigsberg, in residence at Fangorn House, 480 Fairview Avenue, Sierra Madre, California. Elvenhome 6-1615. Published on the ditto machine at work, which would be suprized as anything to find out that it is Fangorn Press.

Well, if you think "suprized" is unusual, I almost wrote "soup-riced", which, as those of you who are Marx Bros. buffs may know, was Harpo's rebus for "surprised" in "A Night In Casablanca". I've got Marx Bros. on the brain--just saw a lovely Marx Bros. film festival at the Esquire in Pasadena--"A Day At The Races" and "A Night At The Opera". They were advertised as "new, uncut prints", and Bah George, I do believe that they are! Beautifully clear, just like looking at a brand-new picture, and chock-full of that inspired nonsense. Whether it's Chico and Groucho doing one of their stand-up routines or Harpo and Chico communicating charade-wise, or Harpo at the breakaway piano with harp tendencies, or anything else in their many and varied routines -- yippee!

These two pictures of course have just whetted my appetite for more--I wonder when they will show "Cocconuts" or the aforementioned "Night In Casablanca" or "The Big Store"--lovely chase on roller skates in that one--or--oh, well, ANY Marx Bros. pic! Thank good-ness I saw them as a child, and had sense enuf to appreciate them, but there is nothing like renewing an old acquaintance.

"Hoo-ray for Captain Spaulding, the African Explorer....."

And no, there isn't anything to say about seeing them on television. I have seen them listed many a time--at about one o'clock in the ayem, cut to ribbons and interrupted forty-'leven times by commercials. Besides, I understand that at least once they cut the stateroom scene out of "A Night At The Opera" because it didn't "advance the story"! Ye gods, if you cut everything out of a Marx Bros. picture that doesn't advance the story, you don't have a Marx Bros. picture any more!

Margaret Dumont: "Do you have everything, Otis?"

Groucho: "Well, I've never had any complaints up to now."

Any plot in a Marx Brothers (betcha thought I couldn't spell it out) picture was merely a sop to the Screen Writers' Guild. An excuse for the magnificent foolery that was promptly woven around it. The sheriff comes to get the racehorse--what more natural than that Harpo should take the horse's place in the halter while the sherrif's back is turned--and not be discovered until he balks? Whereupon Chico and Harpo escape on the horse, while the baffled sheriff rages. The "Bad" Guy is getting the operatic part that should go to the Good Guy? What more natural than that his hash should be settled by Harpo's mad careering through the theatrical backdrops--raising and lowering backgrounds and curtains--a chase scene in the vertical as well as the horizontal!

Chico: "This-a book's-a one-a dollar."

Groucho: "I only have a ten-dollar bill."

Chico: "That's-a okay, I give-a you nine more books in change!"
