

The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

Abbot's Report

Winter Solstice, 2005

War Sucks!!!

Our Abbot has embarked upon a new business venture. By combining the recent controversy over the public display of the Ten Commandments with the continuing controversy over the anti war protests, he hopes to confuse both issues beyond all recognition. Our Abbot is having 1,000 six inch diameter



magnets manufactured and he hopes to market them somewhere in cyberspace. In the same week that *The McLaughlin Group* reported that 119,500 Iraqis have been killed since the beginning of the war, our President reported that "about 30,000" Iraqis have been killed since the beginning of the war. Although the numbers are arguable, this much seems clear. Killing people is not a good way to make friends and influence people. One of the Benevolent Order's stated purposes is to "promote acts of peace and goodwill." With the recent revelation that the government is investigating groups that promote peace, we can rest assured that Brother Donald's FBI file has just gotten a little bit fatter.

Happy Birthday Brandy!

Brother Scribe (a.k.a. Brandy a.k.a. Ellen Westfield) recently moved to her home town of Waverly, Missouri. Last we heard, she was planning on returning to college. She asked us



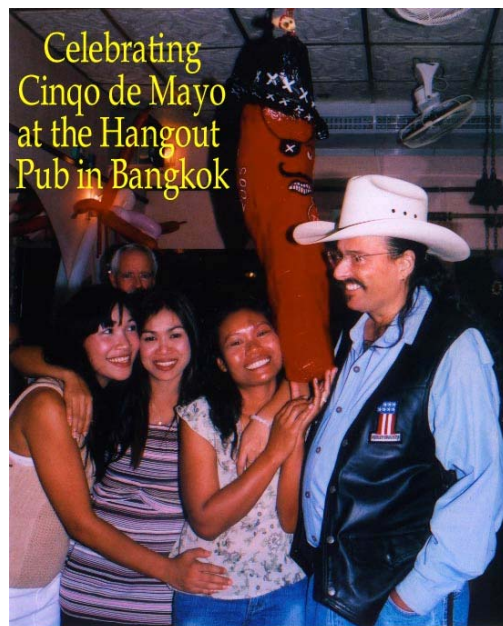
to publish her Email address and since her birthday comes on the Winter Solstice, we are happy to oblige.

brandy2rising@yahoo.com or better yet,
brotherscribe@boosm.org

Brother Pompadour Cheats Death!!

Brother Pompadour, (Dennis Cooper, age 47) suffered two heart attacks this year in the Kingdom of Thailand. He'd been short of breath and was finding himself tiring easily. Since his liver has been somewhat defective (go figure) he's been having

trouble fighting off infections. It turned out that after the doctors drained more than two gallons of crap out of one of his lungs, his heart unknicked and started working much better. He spent five months of this year as a guest at the Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok. He recommends it highly for anyone in need of any sort of medical attention. The hospital was recently profiled on the CBS news program *60 Minutes*. Apparently, it looks more like a resort hotel than a hospital. Most of the doctors were trained in the United States but the care and service is vastly superior to that which can be found in most American hospitals. As soon as a patient pushes the bedside button, he or she is attended to immediately by a Registered Nurse. The cost of care and medical procedures is one eighth of that which one would pay in an American hospital. Brother Pompadour lost sixty five pounds this year



and when he's sober, he looks remarkably healthy. Here he is with his wife Kumruen and two of the lovely hostesses at his *Hangout Pub* in Bangkok. He plans to open another bar soon. It will be in the city of Surin, Thailand and he plans to call it, *The Rice and Elephant*.

Goody Goody!!!

Titus Grimmley, mortician, and his ever faithful assistant and gravedigger Blogsworth performed their Christmas program *Raven Lunatics* last week at the Rose Marine Theatre in Fort Worth, Texas. They are also known as Smee and Blogg, The Singing Executioners; Eustace and Floyd, Country Music Comedians; or simply, Al Olson and John Doering. In addition to the ubiquitous Smee and Blogg T shirts, the duo has also marketed Smee and Blogg bobble head dolls, Smee and Blogg Temporary Tattoos, Smee and Blogg jewelry and now, Smee and Blogg CDs. But they're not really Smee and

Blogg CDs at all. Its a re release of their 1979 LP, *Goodies*. Good news for those of us who no longer maintain our record players! We'll have to wait a while longer before we can sing



along with *An English Country Garden*, *Let's Go to the Block* and *You Should Never Ever Belch Before the Queen*. Who knows if we'll ever get to hear Eustace and Floyd's Country Classics? As Brother Mutha nears the completion of his definitive History of the American Renaissance Festival, more stuff keeps happening and the finish line keeps moving further away. For more details, visit www.SmeeandBlogg.com

The Lost Princess is Found at Film Festivals!

Brother Hermes (Doug Kondziolka) sent us some news about the most recent Don Juan and Miguel Movie: The Lost Princess was recently screened at the sixth annual Santa Fe Film Festival. Jose, Dakota and I attended the event. Shown at the historic Scottish Rite Temple, The Lost Princess was presented as a special feature for families, with



children admitted free. Over 100 folks showed up, as well as some fans from Dallas and the Rennie troupe - Clan Tinker. The artistic director of the event - Jon Bowman - came up to us at a VIP party and said that we had a great little film here, and that he was particularly pleased with us having submitted to their festival because finally there was a film that he and his eight year old boy could watch together. Also, The Lost Princess will be screened at the People's Choice Film Festival in Hobart (!) Indiana in January!! Plans for a third film are in the making!!! For more information, visit www.donjuanandmiguel.com

Gypsy Guerilla Band Records *Ernie Rocks!!*

The Gypsy Guerrilla Band, with Antonio Albarran on drums, has recorded and mixed their newest CD project called "Ernie Rocks!". It should be available sometime soon in 2006. 24 tunes on an hour CD of straight-on (no holds barred) Irish, Scottish, and French music. For more information, visit home.earthlink.net/~jimlillq/



Brother Jack Benny Sent Back to Eighth Grade!

After earning his degree in English Literature from the University of Central Florida, Brother Jack Benny (David Casey) just finished his first semester of teaching 8th grade English. Here is an excerpt from a recent Email: *We've been reading Mark Twain, Maya Angelou, Jack London, and Langston Hughes. I haven't been called to the Principal's office yet, but I did get in trouble for remaining in my classroom, planning, while the rest of the faculty was Turkey Bowling. I have balanced a couple of chairs on my chin, but only as an incentive for entire classes turning in their*



homework on time. Lucy is teaching teachers how to teach reading as a Reading Coach in two local high schools. (Nice to have our schedules finally in sync.) Her Lyme Disease is in remission. We're agreed that our move back to the ocean and warm weather is the best thing decision we've ever made.

Brother Francis Electrifies the Ozarks!

Brother Francis, (David Doyle) recently spent a couple of weeks helping our Abbot to upgrade his plumbing and electrical systems on our Abbot's Acres in Missouri. After two weeks of back breaking ditch digging, he finally escaped the Ozarks and made his way down to The Texas Renaissance Festival. In a recent Email, he reports on the recent expansion of Renfaire Drive:

I arrived in Toontown on 11/11 at 11am, jumped out of my van into the weenie roast. As TRF ran a week longer than NCRF



this year, a number of rennies from NC were able to visit TRF on their way to homes in Texas or farther west. The Renfaire subdivision has expanded by more than 50 lots. All lots have been surveyed and sold. A road has been graded but not improved. Utilities are lacking. Some properties have been cleared enough (by rennies) to permit habitation. A very few people are camping on their properties. It had been very dry for months (even the hurricane brought no significant rain). I left

ToonTown on 12/4 after Mercury went direct (and after I had replaced the last old bald tire and the five year old battery.) Have been in Tucson since 12/8. Must go to the desert soon - city is too busy, noisy, irritating etc.

Brother Francis has posted some of his most recent astrological observations at boosm.org/francis/ You can send him Email at brerfrancis@boosm.org

An Announcement from Brother-Can-You-Spare-a-Dime!

Here's an excerpt from a recent Email:

Brother Can-you-spare-a-dime announces that he has finished



his novel, Road Dogs and Elizabethans (7 years in the writing, 28 years doing the research), and is currently looking for a literary agent with the help of a professional writer's service. Actually, I'm still tweaking it, currently half way through the

third rewrite. The manuscript has grown to 615 pages double-spaced on Microsoft Word, a real epic. If I find an agent and then a publisher, it'll go through a couple more rewrites and take at least another year to get published. If none of that happens and I have to self publish, it'll be available within the next six or eight months I imagine. Although all the characters are fictional, some may bear a resemblance to actual persons on the festival circuit. I apologize in advance to everyone I'm about to piss off.

Brother Reverend Doctor Merlin Tours Europe!

Here's an excerpt from a recent Email from Brother Reverend Doctor Merlin:

I am enjoying the heck out of my retirement. This past summer, I went to Europe and visited my friend Ulf Bolling -



Borodin, who is one of Germany's greatest magicians, also retired. During the 2000 (Texas)Renaissance Festival, I was busy translating his book Sheherazade which I published in 2003. Now I am winding up the translation of his book Final Curtain, which we hope will reach its market quickly.

After my trip to Germany and the Netherlands, Carol and I spent 10 days in London for the Magic Circle Centenary celebrations. I was interviewed by BBC 4 for my rather outspoken stance against magical exposure.

It was a very enjoyable trip -- except for the sporadic terrorist activities. The Holiday Inn we stayed in was directly above the site of the King's Cross - Russell Square bombing. We did not arrive until 10 days later, but we were kind of shook up about that.

News From Norway!

In response to an Email request from our Abbot, we recently received Email from Brother Beandog (Jonathon Crocker.)

Here's an excerpt:

Dear Brethren,

I sit at my desk overlooking the snowy fields and pine-decked rock knobs surrounding our little farm house in Åby, Norway and I heed my abbot's call for news from the brotherhood. Though my life as a part-time immigrant is often frustrating, my Norwegian does improve, my contacts do increase and it is not out of the question that I might eventually manage something like a career on this side of the pond as well. Meanwhile I commute to Ohio to perform what

has become the classic Theatre in the Ground repertoire with Pat Johnson and David Epley and to Arizona to be one of the Wyld Men, along with Douglas Mumaw and Dave Macejka.

Here is where the news comes in: The Wyld Men have a new-ish CD called "Veggie Music". Yes, music from vegetables, and more! I just finished taping an interview for the NRK 1 nation-wide morning show, one of the most listened-to radio shows in Norway. Population-wise that's like saying one of the most listened-to shows in southeastern Michigan, but hey, I'll take it! The day after Christmas all of Norway will be able to hear me describing what I do in



Norwegian (will anyone truly understand?) and -- even better -- hear 'Danny Boy' sung by one Monk (Doug Kondziolka) and accompanied by another (me) on potato (with Eddy Jeff Cahill on guitar). Hearing is believing. You can follow the links to more info and free samples from www.wyldman.com.

Last summer I took the veggies to the streets as Dr. Cranius Lunch at the local Porsgrunn International Theatre Festival, and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

as well. The great thing about inventing something new is that you get to make all kinds of First-ever claims, e.g.: 'Scotland the Brave' and 'Auld Lang Syne' on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh played on a potato. Heck, I'll claim First-ever in all of Scotland until I hear a challenge.

I have also just finished editing the for-DVD production of Beowulf -- in the Mud! which should be available via www.moremud.com soon. Final Cut ate my autumn. I edited, I cooked, I edited, I picked the kids (Løvetann 15, Avery 6) up from school, I edited, I ate, I edited, I cursed because some dumb thing I did cost me a day's work, I edited, I edited, I edited, and sometimes I slept.

For distribution we are trying a print-and-ship-on-demand service called lulu.com. Can't vouch for it yet, but monks with media (print, cd or dvd) they would like to make available for order on the net without having to put money up front (or manage filling orders) might want to look into it.

Gotta go throw more wood on the fire, it is 2:30 and the Sun has gone behind the hill, not to return til tomorrow. Happy Solstice! Soon the Sun won't go down til 3:00 -- but by then I'll be in Arizona! Greetings especially to all of you I have not crossed paths with these last few years, and My best to you all, Brother Bean Dog (JonathanCrocker)
You can send Email to Brother Bean Dog at mudroot@yahoo.com

We Have a Bulletin Board!!

Here are some excerpts from recent Emails from Brother Geek (Joni Massengale:)

I haven't officially closed the doors on "Women's Racing Journal" but they might as well be. My last order of business

is to refund the subscribers. Then I can proudly say I gave it my best shot, but couldn't make it work. I learned a lot and had a great time trying and I did manage to get one issue into print. I'm working again albeit part-time as a photographer. Kiddie shots in a mall but hey, it's something.

I have the new BBS on BOOSM set up. I just need to link it to the site (I'm putting it in the "For Monks Only" section) and do some cosmetic work. Should work well for us if people use it. I've started a number of different discussion groups there. I'm going to ditch the password protection to the "For Monks Only" section. It makes it too hard for monks to get into. Especially those who only have sporadic internet access and don't use logins very often.



Our server has an easy blog tool which can be set up in minutes. We can add as many as we'd like to the BOOSM site. I've tried out the blog creator and it seems to work well. Here's my result: <http://sugarshots.net/joni/index.html> As I said before, I can set up as many blogs as we'd like onto the BOOSM site. This might be something that several of our more outspoken monks might be interested in and is more of a public forum than the discussion board method. If you need help working the Bulletin Board or if you want to set up a blog at boosm.org, you can send Email to Joni at brothergeek@boosm.org

Brother Emeritus just sent us a picture from the 2005 Dickens



Christmas in Skaneateles, New York. Its Brother Twang, Brother Costello (with mistletoe hat,) Brother Emeritus and Brother Can-You-Spare --a-Dime in the Christmas spirit.

Obituary

We got an **unconfirmed** report from someone who heard from someone who read in a Colorado craftsperson's newsletter that Rex Starbeck died. Rex started his Renaissance Festival career as an obscene jester managing a maze for the Nichols Gaming Corporation. He later became the crafts coordinator at Scarborough Faire and last we knew, he was selling wooden swords and shields.

