

## BLACK BIKE ELEVEN

Dooded by Leigh Edmonds for the 102nd mailing of the Spectator Amateur Press Association. See O-O for mundane details like address etc.

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THIS MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MINAC BUT IT SURE IS, Miniac I mean: Well, here I am but four days into the new year and even now my my new year resolutions lie in the dust. Of course any fan with more than an ounce of brains would know not to make new year resolutions about SAPS in the first place. Unfortunately... Anyhow, here I am sitting at my new typer (did you notice?) and within the next few hours I have to get as much done of passable interest that I can manage for the 102nd mailing. That which doesn't get done tonight doesn't get done at all. As for why I am in this highly unfortunate position... anybody who is in the habit of pushing the deadline shouldn't need to ask.

ALL'S QUIET ON THE PERSONAL FRONT; I sometimes amaze myself when I come to write these little quarterly reports on what I've been doing. Usually I can't think of a single thing to write about and usually that is because nothing has happened to report, I can't even claim that I've painted something or dug up the back lawn. Hmmm, well I did spend Christmas with my parents and Bruce Gillespie and I did put on a kind-of convention between Christams and the New Year and there were a few other minor things but none of them really seem to rate more than a passing mention here.

And so we go onto the:

### MAILING COMMENTS:

INVIDIOUS: That's some kind of an introduction to fandom, not the kind of thing which most fans can claim. I guess that most fans just sort of drift in and gradually get to where they are at the moment, no sudden flashes of brilliance and even if I had been you with your knowledge of Joyce I probably wouldn't have said just that right thing at that right time.

Then of course I've never seen Harlan, or any other US pros for that matter. I have had the 'kinda' pleasure of hearing lots of tapes from the LACon which Robin bought back. Come to think of it I haven't met very many writers at all, just the few Australians who write stories now and again but I don't think of them as writers at all.

SECOND INVIDIOUS: From the little that John Foyster said when I gave him this mailing to read through I got the impression that it has been something he has been coming to for a year or so, the May 8th (?) bombing being just the last straw. When I first got into fandom he told me that one of the reasons he was in it was because by getting SAPS mailings and the like he could, as could I, be reminded that there are still people in the United States. Well, he disappointed me when he gave it away but maybe I just don't feel this kind of thing as deeply as he. And I'll tell you that when I think of the bombing of North Vietnam which is going on at this moment I need every scrap of faith that I can get together to remember that you are all still people and that you might not agree with what is going on. It is only our recent change of government which now puts Australians against the bombing as a nation which saves me from feeling very guilty about the whole thing. Anyhow, John's point is partly this; it is the Americans who are fighting the air war against North Vietnam and you are Americans, whether you voted for Nixon or not.



Serconism is very much enjoyed on my part but I find it very hard to get into the discussion myself. I read just about any fan zine or article which I come across that has something interesting to say and only a very few times do I find that I have a worthy addition to make. So go to it.

**LIBEL:** It seems to me that just about the only time families ever get together is at either a wedding or a funeral. The last time I saw most of my Aunties and Uncles was over a year ago when my sister got married and really the next time I expect to see them is when my grand mother dies. There was a family reunion a few months ago but I didn't get to it even though it was for my grandmothers 86th birthday. I do believe that as time goes on I write more and more about her, she is a quite wonderful old woman, far more lively than I hope to be when I'm her age and interested in just about everything that goes on. She lives on the highway we have to go on to visit my parents so that every time Valma and I go up to visit them we call in for an hour or so on the way back. The first time we did it we arrived and sat down and talked for a bit and I asked her if she minded if I had a play with her piano and she said yes, she didn't know that I knew anything about music. So anyhow I played a bit and Valma played a bit and Nana played a bit and we sang some old songs and talked about music and at one stage she was crying. She was so glad that one of her grandchildren was interested in music because she loves it and none of the others seemed in the slightest interested. She was quite overcome and Valma had a little cry as well and I sat there going "Aw, shucks". In the end we said that we really had to go and she wanted to give us things of hers, pot plants, food, old bits of stuff she liked. We had to forget to take a lot of it or else her flat would have been half empty but I did get a book of very old sacred songs pressed onto me, stuff which I'm really not very interested in but which I must take the trouble to learn a couple of songs from so that I can take it up one time to play to her and kinda forget to bring back. I'm sure that it means a lot more to her than it does to me.

**The DOM:** Like you I wasn't too interested in going to see CABARET but I have heard so many people saying such absolutely good things about it that I must make the effort. Getting to see films is something that I don't do much of, though I saw maybe fifteen last year only about four of those were ones which I really wanted to see, the rest were just cases of going to see whatever happened to be on at the time at a close drive in or theatre.

I was very impressed by the Concorde, more from what I have read than what I saw. Standing alongside even a Boeing 707 it is not a very big machine but whereas a 707 or 747 looks like just any old aeroplane a Concorde looks like a real work of modern technology. Just as all the SAPs who have seen a Saturn V liftoff can't really describe it, I am at a loss to describe the Concorde. There is a very great difference, of course, but even if I tried really hard to describe how one looks as it sits on the ground I would be lost for words. Except to say that it looks beautiful I can't think of any words at all to describe the way it looks (and the way I felt) when it comes tearing down the runway and it's nose lifts off. But then there is always something almost magical going on when a **supersonic aeroplane lifts its nose and runs** along on it's rear wheels just before it takes off. I dunno, it's like there it is on the runway promising so much and then it lifts up into the sky and it more than fulfils that promise.

I could probably spend the rest of this issue just going on about aeroplanes and the way they make me feel. At odd times I take great pleasure in standing in stations while a diesel train is roaring past but in terms of POWER a train comes nowhere an aeroplane with it's engines set at full thrust.



The Concorde with it's four Rolls-Royce Olympus engines going at full power and the afterburners cut in gave such an impression of power that the power transcended purely physical power and went into the realms of the metaphysical. I can understand the need to quieten the engines down but I think it a pity as well on the basis of aesthetics.

Actually the way you describe IQ tests makes it sound as if it can be a test of something for an intelligent man. He has to be intelligent enough to be able to figure out what the answer that the testers are looking for is.

ROGER'S REVENGE: Geez Roger, I thought that you made up all those jokes for yourself so when some people complained that the magazine I do for the social club at work didn't have any funny stories in it... guess where I got the funny stories from.

SPACEWARP: Like lots of other members I will resist the temptation to use The Squink Blog Handy Plotter to fill up pages. Three or so years ago a Squink Blog story appeared in ANZAPA by the kindness of John Foyster and John Bangsund, a little something which provided no end of fascination and thanks to your printing it there will be another one in the next mailing through the madness of this reprint of it here.

I'm at a loss to comment on this monster except to thank you for providing me with so much entertainment while I stood in a queue to get tickets for the coming Rolling Stones concert. I stood in the queue for over five hours with this issue clutched in my hot little hand and if I hadn't had it I would surely have died of boredom or something.

IGNATZ: Big projects always seem to flop and little ones grow like acorns until they too flop. Therefore the only course left open to one is to adopt the middle path, "Moderation in All Things". I'm afraid that Art has not been at all moderate with his SPACEWARP this time and I praise you for your sensibility in so doing.

FRANK: Talking as OE to OBE and with Doreen listening in, it seems that in our own ways we've all come to the same solution on how to run an apa; be as strict as hell. Of course we all have our own little variations on this theme, Doreen puts hexes on members of SAPS, you rule APA-45 by cool iron rod type discipline and in ANZAPA I rely upon the simple use of personal abuse.

Every so often I publish little sheets yelling the members out a bit, the latest one is not yet a week old and reads (if I can find a copy): "The trouble with a lot of ANZAPA members is, I am sure, that they are unable to read or count". Oddly enough this system seems to work, ANZAPA has never been in better shape. Though nobody has suspected it yet in that apa, what I am working towards is a time when I can suspend the constitution and take over control of it as a permanent dictator. All I need to do is to get John Foyster upset until he complains in print, I then accuse him of some unconstitutional activity charge him with attempting to cease control of the apa from himself, toss him out and the apa is mine.

COLLECTOR: I dunno what went on this year with TAFF but the first I heard of it wasn't until after the deadline. Usually fans in Australia get a month or two to do something but nobody bothered to let us know what was going on for some reason which I am sure they can explain but I can't. It's a little sad that you didn't get to win, does anybody know anything about the Deitz', I had a couple of letters from them years back but I've heard nothing since then.



POR QUE: I could have used some kind of instruction in how to play chess when I started, neither of my parents knew anything about it and my sister and I couldn't work out how you actually checkmated. The rules said that you had to stop the opposing King from moving and the only way we could figure out to do that was to fill up all the squares around it with our own pieces. It's not an easy thing to do. Now, if somebody had been there who could have helped us along the whole thing would have made a lot more sense and I wouldn't have gone back to playing draughts and I might have been able to play chess a whole lot better than I do now.

GRYFFYN: I've never seen an Offenbach oper and don't have much of an inclination to. The Australian Opera Company starts its's season here in a month o so and today they announced it in the papers. Verdi's "Nabucco and 'The Force of Destiny', Puccini's La Boheme and three operas which go under the combined title of the Tritico AND Beethoven's Fidelio. Not too bad even if I don't swoon on Italian opera. I am furious though. Having subscribed to pervious seasons and being a member of the Friends of the Australian Opera I should have received a prefferential subscription form in the mail a few weeks ago and it didn't come and now I have to put up with inferior seats. Maybe if I write them a nicely nasty letter pointing all this out they might do something about it.

I am beginning to think that is is the Post office's fault because right next to the Opera announcement there is an announcement from the Musica Viva Society of their concerts for this year. I have also been a subscribe to them for a few years and I got nothing from them in the post either and once again I end up with not so good seats. I think they might be getting a not so nice letter as well. They have people like the Beethoven Quartet of Moscow, the Bartok Quartet and the Guarneri Quartet and if I miss out on them I will be very crapped off.

SMILES AND GRINS: One of the most enjoyable parts about working on the film was not so much being in front of the camera but wandering around behind it in a pair of shades and looking asif I really knew what was going on. A couple of people at work saw me while we were doing the filming and asked me where and when the film was going to be shown. So, not feeling inclined to have to explain all the ins and outs of fandom I simply said that we were doing it for distribution in the United States and they went "WOW!" and I went up in their estimation two points which might be worth something.

PAPYA: A public loo is a a public dyke.

MEDITATIONS: This was very interesting to read, mainly because it helped to point out to me that not only are there a lot of differences between the US and Australia but also a lot of differences between Australia and the UK. When Lesleigh was over here on DUFF sometimes we would get tangled up trying to explain things to each other in words that meant the same thing. No particular cases come to mind but as for different ways of doing things I think that Lesleigh was quite amazed when at one stage we told her about how at one time the Minister for the Army had been on the verge of resigning his post because his wife had been indiscrete enough to go and advertise sheets as the wife of a Minister. Apparently this sort of thing just doesn't happen over there, or does it?

It looks like this is all I'm going to be doing this time, I had hoped to get my standard six pages done but for the last couple of days things have been so hectic, Valma is working in a pontomime, and doing this has had to be squeezed in when there were a few spare moments. See you all next time.

KAPUT