



The Mockingbird

If the Truth fits, share it

Summer Institute 2006

Volume Two, Number 2

Photographic Truth

Editorial: On moving pyramids, removing lights in the sky, and otherwise being truthful with you, our readers.

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SI Fairy unharmed in crash during rainstorm



Aliens and the SI Fairy, can it get any weirder?

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Nullam hendrerit

Nullam auctor enim quis nibh. Maecenas fermentum. Morbi placerat dign. Praesent fringilla sollicitudin neque. Fusce eleifend dolor.

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Personals Column

In search for that special UUU someone? Need advise on personal relationships from the UUU perspective?

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SI Fairy Crashes in Rainstorm

Stunned children look on in horror; some say unidentified flying objects are to blame.

Last evening at about 6:30, in the midst of the torrential downpour, the SI Fairy was involved in a catastrophic landing down the hill behind Gund Cafeberria. Witnesses describe the impact as "like a lightning strike" as the fairy, overburdened with carrying John in from Pittsburgh and clearly fighting the storm rains and wind, apparently struck a tree on the edge of the clearing.

Upon seeing the flash of the initial impact, witnesses in the Cafeberria turned to see the tree topple into nearby power lines, flames rising in the midst of the rains. Our intrepid

reporter was on the scene, and obtained this photograph of the crash site.

Mysterious Luminous Objects

We are not normally to be found in the tinfoil-hat section of Rosse Hall, but you can see from the photo of the impact that our beloved SI fairy was being followed by some mysterious objects as she came in for her ill-fated landing.

We are certain the wind and rain, not to mention the extra load she incurred trying to bring in every SI attendee

possible, would have been enough to tax any lesser fairy. But our SI fairy is formidable, indeed (we remember!), and such a difficult landing would have been well within her abilities. But what nefarious craft were in close pursuit last night? Were these aliens? Or was the Department of Homeland Security tailing our Fairy in stealth aircraft, revealed only in the glare of the conflagration? Time will tell, dear readers.



Fairy miraculously unharmed

The SI fairy was taken to Mount Vernon Hospital by the Gambier EMTs, where she was treated and released.



Advice for the Lovelorn

The unique outlook of our own Ann Slanders, and UUs seeking...

Communication

Dear Ann,
I have heard all this talk over the last several years at S.I. about “hog warts”. Knowing that you are a highly acclaimed Swinette player and thereby frequently handle hogs, I was wondering if it is true that you can contract warts from handling hogs. I ask, because someone I know, my, uh, daughter, yeah, that’s the ticket, recently had a lot of physical contact with a hog. She, uh, touched one at the,

uh, State Fair, yeah, that’s it. Also, do you know if there are any other diseases that can be transmitted to humans by any kind of physical contact with a hog?

Sincerely, Hype
O’Chondriac

*Dear Hype,
My great friend and cohort, Dr. E. P. Idermis, stated the following: “People cannot get warts from handling hogs – that is an old wives’ tale, similar to the myth*

about getting warts from handling toads. To my knowledge, with the exception of Swine Flu, there are no other diseases that can be transmitted to humans by hogs.” After having heard your voice mail, the doctor quickly added that he is a dermatologist, and not a psychologist.

Brachial Brawler

Arm-wrestling atheist male seeks strong-armed female for hot nights under the

Gambier stars. Enjoys Pub, Peek and pot roast. Balding, but my friends say I wear my comb-over well. Join me for long romantic walks in nature (I need the exercise -- 30 lbs. still to lose).

Rally ‘round her

All natural UU female seeks social justice-type male for long-term relationship. Ideal person likes attending N.O.W. rallies, letter-writing and snuggling on long bus rides to Washington DC. Ability to

carry protest sign for 4+ hours really turns me on.

Desperate SI Camper

Desperate UU seeks anyone. My idea of a romantic evening: Share a mac and cheese dinner with me at the Kenyon cafeteria, watch me perform in the SI orchestra during vespers (I’m the guy playing the armpit), topped off with a drink at the Pub (dutch treat).

The Veracity of Photographic Images



Well, you can’t say we didn’t try. Despite the scurrilous treatment the *Mockingbird* suffered at the hands of the Cinemascope last year, we decided to let bygones be bygones and try to hold out a helping hand to the other so-called “newspaper.” Despite their inability to get a simple photo of the most amazing SI event in years, leaving us in the position of scooping then entirely (as usual), we took a bold step.

We offered them our photo because we take our responsibility to you, our gentle reader, so seriously that we wanted you to be able to see our astonishing photo at dinner, knowing you would still buy our paper at night for more details (commercial, I know, but business is business, after all).

And where did our generosity get us? they not only doctored the photo to try to lull you into complacency, but they had the gall to admit it! Outrageous! We had hoped they had turned over a new leaf, but sadly we see how it really is.

So, friends, here in these pages find the actual, unretouched photo and our preliminary findings on this episode. You may find a larger unretouched copy of this image on the web at www.pitalabs.com. Journalists from the esteemed National Geographic on down to the most lowly summer camp newsletter, have learned that trifling with photographs, whether to move the pyramids to make for better composition, or particularly to remove important aspects of an incident in blatant attempts to cover up the truth, is certain to outrage readers and diminish their credibility. This will not serve.

“Ceiling lights” indeed. Do they really think you’re that gullible? We, on the other hand, respect our readers’ intellect and discernment. No wonder they have to give that rag away for free.

FROM THE FOLK ORCHESTRA

Every good orchestra needs a good conductor. Our orchestra is led by none other than Pat Lorelei, known throughout the Erie, PA area for playing the flute-a-phone in a band known as the Shan Tells. Pat admits that he and the other band members have day jobs. Pat works as a pirate (ARRRRRRRRR!)

When the SI folk orchestra meets for its first practice, it's like watching people rearrange the chairs on the deck of the Titanic. There's lots of moving around. Once everyone is settled, Pat distributes parts for the different instruments. We know that Pat spends a great deal of time providing these arrangements. Sometimes they can even read Pat's arrangements.

The unique sound of the folk orchestra is made possible by collecting a diverse group of instruments and musicians. An accordion is essential as is a harp and tuba. Loud instruments and really quiet instruments sound so lovely together.

As with all UU groups, there's always a lot of talking. During a recent practice, the orchestra spent 23 minutes talking about how to play a piece. Time spent practicing: 3 minutes, 25 seconds.

During any given practice, the orchestra will take a song and consider at least 35 variations of it. Most SI musicians admit they don't know which version is the final one selected for performance. Several musicians pretend to play their instruments during Vespers.

Finally, the secret of the Orchestra is that the song the audience will enjoy the most is the song the orchestra has practiced the least. Happy listening!

Etiam Tincidunt

Polka Fight Breaks Out During Recent Orchestra Rehearsal

Members of the Folk Orchestra were battered and bruised after yesterday's practice. According to Orchestra Conductor Pat Lorelei, the musicians fought over which polka to play during the group's final performance.

"The clarinets wanted to play the Clarinet Polka and the trombone section wanted to play the Out Behind the Barn Polka and things just got nasty from there," said Pat. Musicians argued and fought about whether to play the Beer Barrel Polka, the Chicken Dance, the Popping Corn Polka, the Scarecrow Polka or the Up, Up and Away Polka (made popular by the Fifth Dimension).

Editor's Note: These are all actual names of polkas.

Turning to the democratic process, Pat made the final decision of which polka will be played. Pat has several new rules for the musicians as well:

- Musicians may not use their instruments to poke anyone nearby; and
- All musical spit must be discarded responsibly.

News From the Choir

You've probably enjoyed the music sung by our SI choir at morning worship. Mockingbird reporter Mel O'Dee offers an insider's look into this magical musical experience.

As you know, Choir Director Hal Runner is an exceptionally talented musician. He plays a number of instruments, including the guitar, piano, babagonoosh,

harmonica and thimble. Choir members love the music Hal teaches them. Sometimes there's even written words and music. That helps the choir members immensely.

As a special treat, Hal takes the choir on "field trips" to other locations around the campus to sing and hear how their music changes in various locations.

One special singing place is in the atrium of Storer Hall, outside the Brandi Recital Room. Other field trips have included singing in the kitchen of Gund Cafeberia, while riding their bikes (reminiscent of that scene in the Sound of Music) and in the men's bathroom of Storer Hall.

Mel O'Dee reports that the choir sounds the best while singing in the men's bathroom at Storer. According to O'Dee, the sound of voices resonating off the porcelain fixtures seems to bring out the best in the choir.

Another reason to attend choir is that communion is served during onerehearsal. Communion consists of M&Ms, York Peppermint Patties, Oreos and other assorted chocolate cookies. Who says UUs don't engage in sacred experiences?

Small Ensemble Program Change

The Tuba Quartet, scheduled to play Beethoven's ever-popular Ode To Bah at Thursday's Small Ensemble concert, will not perform due to a lip injury. The SI Main Planning-Like Entity apologizes for an inconvenience and sadness this may cause.



Some music Hal Runner might use, if he had brought it. -- file photo

SPEED DATING WITH THE BUDDHA LIVING IN VERMONT I EXPECT TO BE BEHIND THE TIME TWO OR THREE FAS
 N STEPS BEHIND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY MENTION BLACK BERRIES HERE AND FOLKS STILL IMAGINE YOU
 ALKING ABOUT A PIT FILLING AND BEING A MINISTER I PROBABLY LAG A LITTLE BEHIND EVERYONE ELSE Y
 ONT ALWAYS CATCH THE LATEST TRENDS READING THEOLOGY TODAY SO IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT I HEARD
 UT THE NEW PHENOMENON THAT'S BECOME THE RAGE AMONG YOUNG URBAN PROFESSIONAL IN MANY BIG CITIES:
 EED DATING I VAGUELY REMEMBER HOW EMBARRASSING AND SCARY IT COULD BE ASKING SOMEONE OUT THE FI
 S OF REJECTION OR OF HURTING SOMEONE'S FEELINGS THE TENTATIVE MATING DANCE AT HIGH SCHOOL AND
 LE GEMIXERS BLIND DATES WERE PROBABLY THE WORST BUT ALL THAT'S CHANGED NOW SPEED DATING IS AN AI
 ER TO THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM THAT SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN FACE OF HOW TO MEET SOMEONE ATTRACTIVE AI
 ICETHOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE AND WILLING GATHER IN A RENTED HALL OR RESTAURANT BUT UNLIKE BARSS I
 DDATING SESSIONS DON'T REQUIRE ALCOHOL AND UNLIKE CLUBS THERE'S NO LOUD MUSIC THAT MAKES CONVI
 ATION DIFFICULT SPEED DATING IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT YOU REALLY DON'T NEED TO SPEND AN EN
 EEVENING WITH SOMEONE IN ORDER TO TELL IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THEM AGAIN YOU CAN USUALLY DETERMIN
 JUST A FEW MINUTES WHETHER YOU FIND SOMEONE INTERESTING AND ATTRACTIVE OR TOTALLY UNSUITABI
 NDS SO SPEED DATING LIKE BOXING HAS THREE MINUTE ROUNDS CONTENDERS GO TO THE IR CORNERS AND COMI
 T COURTING EACH ROUND WITH A DIFFERENT POTENTIAL PARAMOUR AFTER YOU JUST CHECK OFF A BOX WHETI
 YOU WANT TO EXCHANGE EMAIL ADDRESSES AND IF THE FEELING IS MUTUAL TAKE IT FROM THERE IN THE COU
 OF A TYPICAL EVENING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET A COUPLE DOZENS OF SINGLES IN SEARCH OF THAT SPECIAL
 EQ NEW WITHOUT THE AWKWARDNESS OR EXPENSE OR SPENDING AN ENTIRE EVENING WITH SOMEBODY WHO TURI
 UT TO BE A BOZO. THE REASON WHY THIS HAS TAKEN OFF SO FAST IS BECAUSE IT'S A PERFECT CHURCHES IS SUSPE
 NFACE TO THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH. IT'S A PERFECT PLACE FOR A FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF A CONGREGATION IN THE FIRST SIX MINUTES AFTER THEY WALK INSIDE THE DOOR THAT'S NOT ENO
 SI
 TIME TO HARBOR ANY EGOTISM. IT'S A PERFECT PLACE TO MEET SOMEONE WHO'S SPIRITUAL AMBIENCE THOSE SE
 OU WHO ARE HERE FOR CHURCH SHOPPING PROBABLY JUST HAD TIME TO HEAR THE PRELUDE AND OPENING WORDS BI
 RE YOU'D FORMED SOME JUDGEMENT ABOUT THIS PLACE WHETHER THE PEOPLE SEEMED LIKE ABLE ORDINARY AN
 ETHER THE ATMOSPHERE FELT WARM OR COLD IT MAY NOT BE ANYTHING YOU CAN PUT YOUR FINGER ON JUST AH
 OF DISCOMFORT OR DELIGHT AND IF THE EXPERTS ARE RIGHT MANY OF YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE A DECISION

The Kowalski Code, Revealed

Mystic Predictions Encoded in Reverend Kowalski's Writings

Careful cryptanalysis, run overnight on our massively parallel computing complex here at PITA Labs, reveals underlying meanings within the writings of that Eastern teacher (isn't he from New Hampshire or somewhere?) Rev. Gary Kowalski.

We readily admit that the fumes from our alcohol-fueled computing complex (we were warned not to rely on the electrical supply in Gambier) make it hard for us to understand the direct meaning of the Theme speaker's words. Besides, that talk continues to be scheduled at the same time and location as the Nap workshop, adding to our confusion. But the late hours spent in meta-analysis are beginning to pay off.

Using the techniques outlined by Drosnin (1997) and Witztum, Rips, and Rosenberg (1994), we took one of Rev. Kowalski's sermons and discovered interesting concordances, using a letter spacing period of 42, of course.

For instance, the words "Summer Institute" are crossed by the fragment "torrential downpour" near the end of this document. And in the fourth paragraph, the word "Stethoscope," a thinly-veiled allusion to another so-called newspaper to be found at Kenyon in mid-July, is crossed by the words "Mooga Booga," which of course is the Hebrew for "absolute hogwash."

Of most concern to us, however, was the correlation in a second sermon we tried, in which the phrase "SI fairy" is crossed by "tragic accident." Our hearts leapt into

our throats, for despite the unfortunate goldfish misunderstanding, we share a fondness for the Fairy. We were gratified to then observe the final member of the triplet, "all is well." "We are divided by our answers, but we are in union by the questions we ask." We will continue to seek for the answers in the good Reverend's works. Feel free to use the word search puzzle above for your own investigation.



Use your Secret Decoder Ring to understand the Reverend Kowalski's meaning.