

F I R E S I G N A L

A thrice yearly news-letter about the members of the Firesign Theatre and Dear Friends thereof

Sparks has acquired the former Four-Alarm Firesignal and presents it in this new version, with the hope that this will remain a participatory project. We welcome input, advice, criticism, thy neighbor's wife, thy neighbor's oxen, thy neighbor's house or anything that is thy neighbor's. To date we have received plenty of nostalgia that we plan to present in this and future issues along with updates of the activities of the four or five crazy guys; Phil, Phil, Phil, Pete and Dave and Phil.

This time 'round we offer a four page graphic recollection of the events in Grand Rapids, Michigan during the 1989 visit by former Vice-resident and illustrious star of stage, screen and radio George Leroy Tirebiter. Also featured are updates and the current week's menu from the Hollywood area Junior High School courtesy Phil Austin. It is our hope to present old and new writings by the boyz as time and authority permits.

Thanks, of course, must be extended to the aforementioned four, for bringing levity to the gravity of the situations we are all faced with and for extending a reality that is as sure real as it is surreal. Thanks also to Elayne Wechsler, for running with the flame and keeping it lit through the eighties, to the past newsletter and fanzine publishers and everyone that has supported us with donations, subscriptions and general encouragement. We hope to hear from more of you in The Future.

PHILIP PROCTOR has been in Texas recently working on a pilot of a new Tee-Vee sitcom. He hosted a Firesign Festival as part of the recent membership drive on Santa Monica station KCRW 89.9 FM. The Festival included famous, rare and well done Firesign pieces and the debut of an Italian rap song (with Phil featured as the rap master), slated for national release later this year.

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PETER BERGMAN reports that he has been busy developing ideas for television and eluded to a possible sitcom that would be "a cross between LEAVE IT TO BEAVER and ROSEANNE." Peter and Patricia Stallone continue to present the award winning BALDY & SCOUT show on KPFK-FM every Wednesday morning beginning at 7:30 a.m. Peter is again performing his one man show HELP ME OUT OF THIS HEAD, which was created at the Pipeline Theatre in downtown Los Angeles under the direction of Scott Kelman. To date HELP ME OUT OF THIS HEAD has won both the Drama-logue and Los Angeles Weekly theatre awards. Peter's daughter, Lily Oscar, turned one on April 16.

HOLLYWOOD AREA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MENU FOR THIS WEEK

•Monday/Boys Day•

Pounded Vegetables, Research Rats on Toast, Dried Fluids, Silly Cake, Saltpeter Soda.

•Tuesday/Girls Day•

Delicate Buns, Pouted Mounds, Panty Slaw, Lipstick In a Blanket, Daquiris, Little Thin Cigarettes.

•Wednesday/Sports Day•

Leg of Lettuce, Spiked Carrots In Lime, Crutches, Balls of Ice, Croca-Ade.

•Thursday/Hygiene Day•

Sterile Chicken Pie, Nurses Surprise, Potato Supporter, Venereal Pudding, Mystery Liquid.

•Friday/Teacher's Day•

Apple Pan Dowdy, Falling Leaf Salad, Wasted Opportunities In a Blanket, Jello Mold, Mixed Drinks

PHIL AUSTIN can be heard as the voice of a car in a recent Nissan ad and continues to contribute the commentary of Nick Danger to D. C. Audio's DAILY FEED (with the recent revelation that, yes, even George Herbert Walker Bush is a long-time fan of the sleuth, and you know what that means for Nick's pocketbook). Phil has also been writing an original screenplay for Ed Pressman films. Entitled BROKEDOWN PALACE, the film is slated to be a feature vehicle for the Grateful Dead and John Candy. More information on this project will be featured in a future issue of Firesignal.

DAVID OSSMAN is traveling this Spring; first to California, then on to Louisville to a new plays festival to see new works for possible production, then on to Mexico. The first two chapters of the George Tirebiter Story are now available (see advertisement on back cover) and there are many possible projects afoot. The GULLIVER project awaits production as ten 1/2-hour shows, with a 60 minute documentary feature and a colloquium on Swift rounding out the project. Other possible upcoming projects include a radio noir series and a 13 part speculative fiction series.

Judith Walcutt & Otherworld Media are exploring a possible cable audio link, to expand the opportunities for audio works. Judith's production of DOOR IN THE WALL was presented nationwide this past December and featured the debut of Orson Broderick Ossman, who turns two on May 25. Happy Birthday! More news on all of these projects as it becomes available.

Sparks makes available some Firesign related audio and video. Send a SASE for more information. If you have questions about TFT send them to us at PO Box 3540, Grand Rapids, MI 49501. We'll answer them in Future issues.