

**WHY DOES THE  
PORRIDGE BIRD LAY  
HIS EGG IN THE AIR?  
A Firesign Fable**

Vol. 1 ☾☾☾☾ # 2



...And so, having pushed the blue button with his twitchy little nose, smart little Bobby Bunny is free once again to go hippity-hopping down the well-worn bunny trail, turning right at the shining new fence and, tucking his furry little head between his furry little legs, tumbling ear-over tail down the big bumpity landfill, remembering not to look at the bright light that's There and Not There and then There again, and plippity-plop-ker-plunk! The dusty little bunny lands in a heap at the door to his house. And who do you think he finds barring his way in?

"Hi, Dr. Tentacle," says Bobby.  
"Technical, Bobby. It's Technical," says the doctor, offering him a big white pill.

"Oh! A Bunny Treat!" Bobby eats the pill all up.

The doctor pulls out a big pad of paper and a soft lead pencil and then he asks Bobby a question. "Does the pill make you feel (A) sexual, (B) yond help, (C) sick, (D) pressed, or (E) collegy?"

"Gee!" expostulates little Bobby, "None of the above, Dr. Testicle!"

"It's *Technical*, Bobby," corrects the Doctor kindly. "Your're such a dumb bunny."

"I'm a hungry bunny!"  
"That's what I wanted to know!" exclaims the Doctor. "That's all for to-

day." and he vanishes, leaving the hungry little rabbit at the R.A.T. house, just in time for dinner.

Bobby knocks at the door with the secret knock. "Quo vadis?" asks a voice from within.

"Lepus Cuniculus," answers Bobby.  
"Intro, in troth, entrotter," says the voice, and the door opens revealing Bobby's brother Rat.

"Hiya, Lepus!" says Rat.  
"Hiya, Rat," says Bobby informally.

"Mus Rattus to you, Lepus," replies Rat, pulling rank. "I'm Door Mouse tonight."

"Hey, Bobby!" yells Jimmy Pig, emerging from the maze. "Shake a tail!"

Tommy Cat also hurries him along. "Get motivated, kid! Everybody's down in the Reinforcement Room."

"Yeah! Let's go lean on the bar and get rewarded!" says Jimmy, pawing Bobby's arm.

And so, happy to be back among his brothers, the thirsty little rabbit joins Jimmy and Tommy. They pause on their way to greet the new pledge, Pavlov, The Two-Headed Dog.

"Semper Scientificus, Pavlov!"  
Both of Pavlov's heads wag slowly from side to side. "What? What?" he says.

Tommy laughs. "You'll catch on, Pav!"

Pavlov nods wisely. "Guess I will. Guess I will. Or I won't eat. Or I won't eat."

"Want to join us for a couple of drinks?" asks Bobby.

"No, thanks," both of the heads say. "I've already had one," they continue.

"me too," they say, nodding at one another.

Bobby and his friends trot on, waving goodbye to Pavlov. "They sure are a nice guy!" says Bobby.

As they enter the Reinforcement Room buzzers and bells are buzzing and ringing, and many glasses are being filled.

"Semper Scientificus!" shout the animals. "Semper Inebreus! The drinks are on the mouse!" And they sing the old R.A.T. House Song, which goes something like this:

*I'm not on anybody's food chain,  
No one wants to eat my legs.  
There's no teeth marks on my shoulder  
No one wants to fry my eggs.  
We're happy together  
though we don't get much lovin',  
We may not be in Heaven,  
But we ain't in the oven!  
No one wants to knosh my rib-cage  
No one wants to broast my arm!  
Our gullets filled with pills and pellets,  
We'll never come to any harm!  
(to be continued)*

...from the ARCHIVES



*Spaghetti make you rap!*

*Phil Proctor IS VINNIE GUMBA on the new single "RAPPA THIS" from Laurie Records*

DAVID OSSMAN, who is in various stages on a number of projects sends along the following poems, which appeared in the Santa Fe News & Reviews in 1984. They are "found" poems which have been collected and rearranged from prose material originally published in the Official Guide Book of the "Century of Progress International Exposition" held in Chicago in 1933. It was with this World's Fair that art deco came to America and modern science was given responsibility for bringing the world a better future. The Firesign Theatre's *We're All Bozos On This Bus* (now available on CD from Mobile Fidelity) pays tribute to the "Future Fairs".



#### EXHIBITS IN DENTISTRY (for Phil Proctor)

In the large dental exposition  
you will see the denture  
controlled by heavy springs  
with which  
George Washington  
in his later years  
laboriously chewed

You may read  
for the conception  
of the simplicity  
of early American dentistry  
the advertisement  
of Paul Revere  
goldsmith  
printer  
engraver  
and dentist  
offering to make false teeth

"that looks as well as the natural  
and answer the end of speaking  
to all intents"

#### SCIENCE-AN EPIC THEME!

##### I. Going Back a Century (for Edgar Bullington)

Now you are traveling  
as man had traveled before you  
for thousands of years in a vehicle  
dragged by animals

You live roughly  
in your own tiny  
lonely world  
bound in  
by forest or houseless prairie or  
towering mountains

You wear crude dress, ill fashioned  
for it is stil the era  
when clothing  
chiefly is made  
by women of the household

You eat food that must be  
indigenous to the territory  
in which you live

You read  
slowly  
and perhaps  
pain-  
fully  
by tallow  
candlelight

You fall ill and primitive remedies  
are administered  
or the crude knowledge  
of a restricted  
man of medicine is sought

You live in fear  
and danger of epidemics  
which sweep the community  
unchecked  
time and time again  
and take their deadly toll

Life  
is cruel and harsh

Firesignal subscriber Tom Sanders sent the following bit of historical dada for your personal libation.

Cal Worthington is the inspiration for Lord Jim Crappington on Phil Austin's Roller Maiden's From Outer Space. According to 'Dream House', the unofficial KRLA history book, Cal was a deejay on KXLA, the station that became KRLA 30 years ago. He was the last deejay on country KXLA before it became KRLA at midnight on September 1, 1959. 'Dream House' doesn't mention the Firesign Theatre but there are a few paragraphs devoted to the Credibility Gap and KRLA's resident songwriter and poet Len Chandler. He would write songs about each day's news and the Gap, which at one time included Harry Shearer and KRLA newsman Richard Beebe, would act out skits based on current events. All this, after the last Firesign Theatre show on KRLA in January of '68.

By early '68 KRLA lost its # 1 spot among pop stations to KHJ and had started experimenting with automation on its all night "Collage" program of album tracks. By the end of '68 only 8 hours of a 24 hour broadcast day would be live and that policy may have ruled out three or four hour *Radio Free Oz* live specials.

*The Big Book of Plays* notes that the last *Radio Free OZ* was broadcast live from the station lobby. KRLA at that time was in the old Huntington Hotel in Pasadena and the building had a big front porch. Listeners would go there and hang out on the porch or drift inside to watch the deejay on the air through the studio observation window. Anyone could go in and watch--as did the author of 'Dream House'--but the regulars on the porch became known as "The Porch People" and would often be pressed into service stuffing envelopes or mailing out contest prizes in return for porch privileges. So the last OZ, no doubt, was done in the lobby to a live audience of Porch People.



PHIL AUSTIN is on the third draft of his film for the Grateful Dead. The working title has changed from BROKEDOWN PALACE to THE DEAD SELLOUT.

PETER BERGMAN and PHIL PROCTOR continue to be heard in POWER a weekly five minute radio show which is featured every Thursday evening on John Hockenberry's HEAT (National Public Radio). The series, slated to run 13 weeks, features Paul Power's struggle with life on the edge in L.A. as the radical animal rights group, the bow-wowist, kidnaps his wife and his entertainment empire crumbles around him. Yes, it is a comedy!

Hey, folks! Ever wondered what the Firesign Theatre's favorite jelly bean is? How about pet peeves? Favorite color? Favorite Republican? Well, now you can find out. You too can communicate with the Fab Firesign. Send your questions to SPARKS magazine and we'll either pass the query along to your fave or answer it in this here column. No fear of rejection here. They're all swell guys. Really! Write away, right away!!!