

IT'S JUST THIS LITTLE **Chromium Switch** HERE!!

February 1974

This Issue...ANYTOWN USA TOUR... VINYL DISCOGRAPHY...CARTOON

The roots of avant garde humor will be unearthed in many cities this next month as The Firesign Theatre gets back into the realm of live stage shows. Billed as "Anytown USA," the two act production will include elements of previous Firesign works such as *Bozos*, *Dwarf*, *Danger*, *Two Places*, and others. The possibility exists of television coverage of this TFT tour via syndication or even educational outlets (NET.)

The only verified dates thus far are Chicago on March 1st and New York City on the 10th. Those interested in booking TFT should contact Creative Management Associates at 8899 Beverly Blvd., LA 90048.

Record World will soon have an ad concerning the new album and latest tour dates. Confirmed dates can also be checked with me by mail or phone (402-488-3630.)

THE FRANCHISE MOVES ON

Here are more Firesign disc productions, either planned or nearing release: A possible effort by Ossman/Austin based on the early work, "Pass The Indian, Please." A second Proctor/Bergman LP known as *What This Country Needs* with parts in script for David and Phil A., art work by Joe Garnett *Roller Maidens from Outer Space* is a semi-musical production by Austin, just finished and set for release in a month or so. Deals in terms of Nick Exxon, TV, Ozzie, cars, Jesus, and who knows what. Will be out on Epic records.



BIG MYSTERY JOKE BOOK

Here's a look at the upcoming second paperback by Firesign set for publication by Straight Arrow this fall. It includes: Money Song - An Invocation From the Book of Punter - The Mysterious History of Firesign - The Tale of The Giant Rat of Sumatra - The Further Adventures of Nick Danger - Mark Time, Star Detective of The Circumsolar Federation - Young Guy Motor Detective - Temporarily Humboldt County - \$100 Ben - The Year of The Rat - Gramp's World - Rubbergon Dumn Toyko - Le Trente-Huit Cunegonde - The Dream Play (For Monkey, Mudhead, Grasshopper, and Dreamer)

This book manuscript has opened many possibilities for TFT in the way of written words, and the "history" section proves most interesting, tracing "Fyre Sygne" from The Elizabethan period on through the "Buffalo Show" and early radio/movie careers right up to the current (electric?) Craze Guys franchise consisting of the late greats Pete, Phil, Lip and Donny Austman. "Mystery Joke Book" preface by Philo Gemstone and, of course, Darlene Yucamoto.

MONEY SONG

Where do you go
when you're Toad Away?

I went into the valley
And looked into the face of greed
And now I'm back among you
To tell you what I need

I need a dime and a penny
To pay the Big Parking Meter
Or HE will tow my car away
And I won't have a heater

\$ \$ \$

So give me all your money
And I'll give mine to yours
It doesn't matter who does what
As long as no one's poor

(By Uncle Petey from "Firesign's
Big Mystery Joke Book")

N.S.L.P.P. platform hides in White House as proved by this
Papoon-related headline in LA paper....

ROSE MARVIN LEARN MY LITTLE SECRET



Gillman (left) and Bill Driml during sessions for TV OR NOT TV

OTHER HOT FLASHES

Several ideas being discussed for movie features based on TFT. One is like *Giant Rat* or *Waiting For The Electrician*.....Peter B. has several appearances on the KPFK midnite show "Live From Mr. Jays".....March 3rd will be final Sunday of David and Linda's "Easy Street" heard over Santa Bee's KTYD.....David Miller and Univ. Mass. Amherst producing stage version (and probably first such version) of *Waiting For The Electrician*.....idea for next TFT album (all four crazy guys) could be something like *Devils Wyves and Sailors Wyndom* which dates back to the early 1600's.....For Canadian TV viewers, Phil Proctor did a commercial for Midas Mufflers.

A LESSON FROM BOSCO

"What was 5, is 2 / What was 2, is 1 / What was 1, is 0" turns out to be a flip-flop command in base 10. Done in base 2 it becomes "What was 101, is 010 / What was 10, is 01 / What was 1, is 0."

FARYAR & SHEARER

Former Firesign producer Cyrus Faryar has an album of his own on Elektra Records. Faryar also appeared as a musician in the movie "Martian Space Party" and the album *Not Insane*.....Herb Shearer, who portrayed Jim Housefire on Ossman's *How Time Flies* is a member of the comedy group Credibility Gap whose new Reprise album is *A Great Gift Idea*.

HUNTER'S GIRLS

From the LA Herald-Exterminator.....

LONDON(AP) — Soho's shivering strippers gamely carried on Thursday, braving flu and goose pimples in London's power crisis. "Get'em off" is the traditional cry of the cockney strip-club fan, and get them off is what they do, 20 times a day in side-street cellars of the Soho entertainment district. Business is bad. The house lights are blacked out on government orders and clients, known as "punters," are few, especially in the eve.

Subscription/Production Info

Lifetime subscriptions to CHROMIUM SWITCH are 75 cents, payable in cash or postage stamps. This newsletter will be published at least four times a year; the time dependent on the frequency of TFT news. Helping with this February issue were NEW MORNING PRESS (offset printing).....THE LINCOLN GAZETTE (type composer).....PAUL TAKAKJIAN, Funny Name Club of America (Firesign photo).....JEAN DE LAMIRANED (Gillman/Driml photo).....JOE GARNETT (Driml/Proctor photo).....SCOTT STEWART (TV OR NOT TV photo)

WORKER SPEAKING

(All contributions to this column will be considered for publication...could become an interesting exchange system for the thoughts of the many TFT fanatics and novices. Just one letter this time around but more on the way.)

A quote I thought quite peculiar perhaps shares a common background with the Mr. Fosterfreeze radio cut on cryogenics.

"Now, that Lazarus should lie stranded there on the curbstone before the door of Dives, this is more wonderful than that an iceberg should be moored to one of the Moluccas. Yet Dives himself, he too lives like a Czar in an ice palace made of frozen sighs, and being a president of a temperance society, he only drinks the tepid tears of orphans."

(from *Moby Dick* by Melville)

Do you know the origin of the expression "Orphan's Tears"? How could it link up with cryo (don't cry)—genics?

Pull the curtain, Fred,
RANDY EIDE
Manistique, Mich.



CRAZEE GUYS DISCOGRAPHY

This list is no doubt missing some needed information, but it is a basic structure to which additions can be made. These are vinyl recordings, not tape, and include both consumer releases and promotional releases. Bootleg versions may exist although that is uncertain. I've listed catalogue numbers and release dates if available.

SINGLES:

Forward Into The Past/Station Break (4-45052.....Fall of '69)
Back From the Shadows Again (part of Columbia's "Playback" record service)

40 Great Unclaimed Melodies/Live from the Senate Bar
Communist Love Song/Nasi Goring (4-45833.....April '73)

ALBUMS:

Waiting For The Electrician or Someone Like Him
(CS9518.....February '68)

Nick Danger (serialized with chapter intro's)
How Can You Be In Two Places At Once When You're Not
Anywhere At All (CS9884.....August '69)

Don't Crush That Dwarf, Hand Me The Pliers (C30102.....Aug. '70)

I Think We're All Bozos On This Bus (C30737.....Aug. '71)

Dear Friends (12 LP's syndicated for radio stations)

Dear Friends (KG31099.....February '72)

A Firesign Chat With Papoon (White Album) (AS41.....Sep. '72)

Not Insane or Anything You Want To (KC31585.....Nov. '72)

TV Or Not TV (KC32199.....April '73)

How Time Flies (KC32411.....October '73)

The Tale of The Giant Rat of Sumatra (KC32730.....Jan. '74)

Roller Maidens from Outer Space (release pending)

What This Crazy World Needs

AFFECTION NUMBER 54 (A SWEET TOMATO NAMED MARY)

Her gown was embroidered with a moon-faced lake
And when it thundered She wondered
How much she could take of it
It hardly fit.
Her Nanny/Mammy dressed herself in gold and yellow
While a solitary fellow With one cold eye
Watched the marriage of the maiden
That he could not buy.

A sweet tomato named Mary
King Yi is her father
She's in such a hurry
That no one will bother
She could take a Martian lover
But no one knows her story
But no one knows her story...

Her face was reflected in the moon-fed lake
And the thunder Made her wonder
How much she could make of it
To make it fit.
Her happy Pappy loved the sun all cold and yellow
But the solitary fellow With one gold eye
Married up with Mary
Whom he could not buy.

A sweet tomato named Mary
Nothing could further
She's moving away now
And now she's much closer
She could take a Martian lover
But no one knows her story
But no one knows her story...

*(Words: David Ossman, set to music
by Phil Austin and TFT for "The
Martian Space Party")*

PROCTOR & BERGMAN/1973

Los Angeles(Ahmanson Theatre and The Ashgrove)...San Diego
(Civic Auditorium)...Portland(Paramont Theatre)...Seattle(Para-
mont Theatre)...Denver(Theater Auditorium and Ebbets Field)
...Philadelphia(Bijou Cafe)...Roslyn, L.I.(My Fathers Place)...
Boston(Paul's Mall)...Chicago(The Quiet Knight)...New York
City(The Bitter End)...E. Lansing, Mich.(The Stables)...Atlanta
(Great Southeast Music Hall)...Woodstock, N.Y.(Joyous Lake)
...Great Gorge, N.J.(The Playboy Club)...Grossingers, N.Y.
(National Entertainment Convention)...Univ. of Delaware...
Univ. of Wisconsin...Univ. of Washington...Univ. of Rhode
Island...Hofstra Univ....Yale Univ....E. Michigan Univ.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To facilitate in the keeping of my address files and to stay away
from paying address correction fees, please notify me when you
make a change in your mailing address. I appreciate it.

WHAT?

From Penthouse, January 1974.....

"Teaming their wits for the purpose of satirizing various
illegal activities of the underground culture, Cheech and
Chong soared to heights previously the exclusive domain of
beatniks."

MUDHEADSKI OR SOMEONE LIKE HIM

Combined News Services release, 12/13/73.....

George Metesky, the "Mad Bomber" of a generation ago, was
discharged today from a state hospital after 17 years in mental
institutions. Certified sane, Metesky said that after completing
errands at the Queens hospital he would travel home by bus.



Proctor & Bergman tell us WHAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS

FYRE SYGNE AT THE FAIRE

A Preview Press Party on December 19 of last year brought
The Firesign Theatre to the Hollywood Palladium for their
first live performance together since "Martian Space Party."
The Firesign show came on the evening before the opening
of the "Christmas Faire" put on by LA station KPFK. The
performance was scheduled for sometime around 8:00, but
Fire Marshalls held it up for fire prevention reasons. People
were admitted by 8:30 with still another delay until 10 p.m.
when TFT finally made it to the stage(actually a corner in
the tent.) The production unveiled turned out to be that
classic of Firesign, "The Count of Monte Cristo." The fans
cheered for an encore until Phil Austin had to come back
and tell them "...there'll be a new album in January. Thank you."

In the dressing room area (before the show began) Phil P. and
several folks on hand passed the time by searching through a
Forest Lawn lottery chest. (Does anyone remember Ruth de
tur Biland?) Among those visiting on this eve were Peter
Bonetz ("Bob Newhart Show") and Avery Schreiber (Burns &.)

(Anyone having a copy of the KPFK broadcast of this Firesign
Palladium show, please get in touch.)

SOONER NOT INSANE

Robin Cook, a University of Oklahoma student, ran for Student
Body President early in '73 on the N.S.L.P.P. ticket. His cam-
paign consisted of riding a bike throughout the campus pro-
claiming himself "Not Insane!" When election time came to be
he collected 204 votes, the most by any previous non-machine
candidate at OU.

Other efforts of Robin and his local N.S.L.P.P. workers included
the urging of voters in the Fall Student Congress Elections to
vote "No" rather than for any one candidate.

THE INTERIOR OF THE
FILTHY PIRATE
PUB



from "The Chague-Book of Hemlock Stones"

(This information arrived after the offset portion of this newsletter was printed)

FIRESIGN TOUR DELAYED

The "Anytown USA" tour by The Firesign Theatre has been postponed until April or May. The reason for this is to give TFT more time for rehearsals and to work out the technical aspects such as lighting, done by The Electrician! If interested in booking TFT, contact CMA (address on page one). I should have verified dates coming in by the end of March.

PROCTOR/BERGMAN TOUR

Toronto.....Febr. 25-27
Stonybrook.....March 3
Washington DC.....March 8
Phoenix.....March 26

TOUR PROGRAM

Proposed layout of the "Anytown USA" production:

Act 1 -	Visit the world of Yourtown, USA with Porgy and Mudhead. Go to the Little Church Around the Corner (with Pastor Flash). Take a ride on the Spoilsport Freeway. Stay at a Nice Motel and participate in an American Pageant.
Act 2 -	Join the Army and See the World. Welcome to the World of the Future, Bozo! Break the President, Hide on the Funway, and Escape into a World of Danger (Nick's Haunted Mansion). Beat the Reaper and Count Mrs. Presky's load so far. Enter the mind of Dr. Memory, then leave it with The Gypsies.

ADD TO DISCOGRAPHY

Firesign on the Chad and Jeremy album "Cabbages and Kings."

MORE ON P/B LP

"What This Country Needs" by Proctor & Bergman will be a flashback look at their careers as comedians on the night of their 35th Anniversary in Show Biz. Recording sessions at RCA Studio B. Release possibly in April.

(Mailing list of SWITCH growing every day due to mention on new TFT album. Getting at least a dozen letters a day. Thanks to all!)