

Quinumvirate Seizes Power in Bloodless Coup

On June 20, 2004, operating from their home base in Laurel, MD, a group of five insurgents seized the reins of power of the Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumers Guild in a bloodless early-afternoon coup. The whereabouts of the previous governing officials is unknown at press time, although reports indicate that they remain in good health. They are presumed to be in "protective" custody.

Now occupying the President's chair is Ann Stephens, presumed to be the mastermind of group, which is increasingly being called "The Gang of Five." Stephens has frequently been seen in the company of Ric Rader, a known international rabble-rouser.

Stephens' second-in-command is Marvin Bryant, who commands his own squad of crack terrorists.

Stepping into the office of Corresponding Secretary is Judy Mitchell, aka "Tree." She is a master of disguise and is very active in both the international LOTR fan group, and the infamous Tuesday Night organization.

Although her official title is Recording Secretary, Deborah Sears is well-known in foreign intelligence circles for trafficking in information of all kinds. She is linked to Gregory Sears, notorious member of the so-called Klingon Underground.

The final member of the Gang of Five, Treasurer Sharon Landrum, has for many years been a member of the ICG and has ties to both BSFS and Tuesday Night. Landrum maintains a notorious cat house in Catonsville.

All of these individuals are considered mad, bad, and dangerous to know.



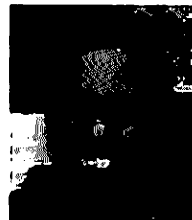
Stephens



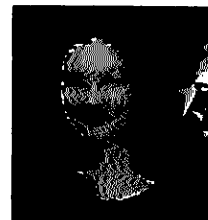
Bryant



Mitchell



Sears



Landrum

Newsletter Sighted

No sooner have the the 17-year cicadas settled down, than comes word of another event that we never expected to see in our lifetimes. Credible observers have reported sightings of a new issue of *Threadneedle Street*, the occasional newsletter of the GCFCG. If these sightings can be confirmed, the implications are tremendous. Stay tuned for further information and wild speculation.

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Upcoming Events

Next Meeting: August 1, 2004

Maryland City Library, 1:30-4:30 pm. There will be a short planning meeting followed by Show & Tell. Bring a project that you're working on, or one that you have been meaning to work on, or one that you'd like other people to work on.

NYC Museum Expedition July 17, 2004

To the Metropolitan Museum of Art for "Dangerous Liaisons: Fashion & Furniture in the Eighteenth Century" - details to be announced.

Pennsic August 6 - 21, 2004

Medieval fun & frolic in the woods of Pennsylvania.

Noreascon September 2 - 6, 2004

The 62nd World Science Fiction Convention in Boston, MA.

Renfair Pirate Weekend September 26, 2004

Join the GCFCG in Renaissance costume or pirate garb. Meet outside the entrance at 10 am.

Beadfest Oct 8 - 10, 2004

In Fort Washington, PA. For information, see lapidaryjournal.com/beadfest/

Exhibits of Interest

Museum of the Native American opens in DC Sep 21, 2004. Many events are planned on the Mall.

Form Follows Function at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Oct thru Dec 2004.

Natural Materials in Costume & The Couture Arts both at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Nov 9, 2004 thru Feb 13, 2005.

Mary McFadden Exhibit in Allentown, PA thru Oct 3, 2004.

Balticon

May 28 - 31, 2004

The GCFCG had a tremendously-successful presence at Balticon, the annual Baltimore-area science-fiction convention. Many GCFCG members were in attendance, and a grand time was had by all.

The GCFCG Auction, one of our major fundraising events, earned \$309 for the organization, even though it was reduced this year to a single hour. Kudos to auctioneer Ric Rader, who kept things moving along while still managing to get top dollar for all the merchandise.

The post-masquerade party, sponsored by the GCFCG, was also a rousing success. The food purchasing may need some fine-tuning next year, but on the whole worked well. Leftover food was donated to the Con Suite.

This year a new tradition was launched: at the party, a costumers "yard sale" allowed people to buy, sell, or swap things they brought along. Everyone who participated had a great time, and we would like to continue this tradition in the future.

Finally, the GCFCG Room Party, which went on into the wee hours of the morning, was well-attended; a grand time was had by all.

About The GCFCG*

The Greater Columbia Fantasy Costumers Guild is the founding chapter of the International Costumers Guild (ICG). The current officers are:

President: Ann Stephens 301/445-1849
ricrader@mindspring.com

Vice-President: Marvin Bryant 301/736-5948
temoral@aol.com

Corr. Secretary: Judy Mitchell
judymitch@oldwaylane.net

Rec. Secretary: Deborah Sears 301/474-2282
hsjade1@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Sharon Landrum 410/744-0316
saffronrose@cs.com

* properly pronounced "Founders"

Meeting Notes

A GCFCG Meeting was held at the Maryland City Library on June 20, 2004. Thirteen members were present, which set a record for recent meetings.

Old Business

The NJ/NY Costumers Guild, aka The Sick Pups, has created a subchapter ("The South Paws") for Sick Pups members living in the Maryland/DC/Virginia area. There was discussion of the status of this group under ICG rules.

Several members attended the Strawberry Festival on June 12 at the Benson-Hammond House, sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Historical Society. The GCFCG may give some help & advice on display and preservation of historic garments.

A field trip to the Textile Museum on June 5 was enjoyed by all. Members reported that they had trouble resisting the urge to touch the exhibits; President Stephens triggered a security incident, but no one was harmed. Special Kudos to Judy Mitchell for handling Dupont Circle in heavy traffic like a trouper.

New Business

Elections were held, votes counted, recounts scheduled, appeals made, Supreme Court decisions announced...with results as reported elsewhere in this issue (see page 1). The new Supreme Rulers of the GCFCG were welcomed into office with merriment, vigorous huzzahs, and the traditional loyalty oaths at gunpoint.

Many upcoming events were announced and discussed (see page 2). The GCFCG will be doing an expedition to NYC on July 17; details will be announced.

Of late, meetings have been rather business-heavy, which deters some members from attending. It was decided that future meetings will be divided into The Business Segment and The Fun Segment, with strict limits on the length of the Business Segment. Those who wish to skip the Business may come later, just for the Fun.

We are looking at the possibility of a late-summer/early -fall "picnic" meeting at the Gears', if a proper time can be found when the Gears are out of town, and duplicate keys to their house can be secured.

(continued next column)

Announcements

The GCFCG website is online and improved at gcfcg.org. A calendar of events and birthdays is available, but is password-protected so only the *cognoscenti* can access it. To become one of the chosen few, use the following:
user ID: GCFCG
password: gcfcg
(spelling and case both count)

To access the Secret Areas With Plans For World Domination And Other Stuff, you must prove your loyalty and eternal devotion to the Gang of Five. Only then will you be given access to the Kewl Stuff.

The GCFCG listserv is also up and running, with valuable news, updates, and information. To get on the list, email Ron Robinson at fanish@robinsbollow.com. If you don't have email, please call Ron Robinson at 410/740-4114 and ask him for recommendations of email services. If you don't intend to get email, then why are you worried about joining the listserv? It's the 21st century, already, get out of the 20th and join the world, you Luddite! (Have a nice day.)

Starting July 1, 2004, ICG membership goes up to \$6. Accordingly, GCFCG dues will go up by \$2. If you have not already paid your GCFCG dues...well, it's too late, now, isn't it? (Those who paid dues prior to the June 20 meeting were grandparented in at enormous expense to the organization. While immediately sending \$2 for each member to Treasurer Sharon Landrum would be the decent thing to do, no one would *dream* of suggesting that those who do not are freeloaders and bottom-feeding parasites, draining the lifeblood from this fine organization and forcing the rest of the members to take up the slack. We only remind you that the Gang of Five keeps meticulous records, and they Know Where You Live. If late one evening there is a discreet knock upon your chamber door, followed by the appearance of several large, jackbooted thugs armed with various implements better left undescribed, then you Have No One To Blame But Yourself. Wink-wink, nudge-nudge, say no more...)



Members' News

Former GCFCG President Ann Stephens is currently on an extended visit to relatives in an undisclosed location. She is out of reach of phone, email, streetmail, or any other means of communication known to humankind, so don't try to get in touch with her. If you know what's good for you.

Marvin Bryant, previously Vice-President of the GCFCG, has embarked on a long ocean voyage aboard a primitive sailboat with no modern communication equipment. There is absolutely no truth to unpatriotic rumors that Mr. Bryant is a political prisoner of any sort. Those spreading such rumors should be reported immediately to the Gang of Five.

Amanda Allen, the former Secretary of the GCFCG, is undergoing an extended hospital stay due to nervous exhaustion. Her doctors say that she cannot at the moment deal with the stress of personal contact. In her absence, her correspondence is to be forwarded to the current Corresponding Secretary of the GCFCG.

Contrary to certain unreliable reports, the former GCFCG Treasurer did not, in fact, exist. There is not, and never has been, a person by the name of Sharon Landrum.

Synthroid Man, along with his sidekick Bobbin Girl, is currently investigating the disappearance of several prior officers of the GCFCG. When his Synthroid Senses began tingling on or about June 20, Synthroid Man started to suspect foul play. Leaping into the Synthroid-mobile, he and Bobbin Girl rushed to the vicinity of Laurel, Maryland. His keen investigatory skills led him to an area Chinese restaurant where he spied the miscreants celebrating their triumph. With the synthroid-arang in his hand and joy in his heart, Synthroid Man was about to jump out and confront the evildoers, when suddenly — a waiter lifted a lead-lined plate cover, revealing a glowing lump of iodineite...Synthroid Man's one weakness. In moments, the bad guys had Synthroid Man and Bobbin girl bound, suspended over a huge cauldron of boiling Wonton Soup. Will Synthroid Man escape this fiendish plot? Find out next issue!

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