

IN ONE EAR & OUT THE OTHER

Since Ampersand does not publish over the summer months, we've received very few recent, relevant or even pitby letters from our readers (only fair we didn't write either).

That was then, and now is now, so send those cards and letters, full of information and opinion, to In One Ear, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.

BY STEVE GINSBERG

Pythons Pursue Plethora of Projects

MONTY PYTHON'S CREW is hard at work on several films, a couple of television shows and at least one book—but only one film, Monty Python's *Meaning of Life*, is an all-together-again Python presentation. They are being absolutely silent about the content of said film, telling the world that it's a "film for ichthyophiles," because "there are millions of fish out there and no one has ever gone for that audience."

The individual projects include *Yellowbeard*, written by Graham Chapman, Peter Cook and Bryan McKenna, starring Chapman and Cook and lots of famous cameos. It's a pirate movie, a comedy. *The Frog Prince* stars Robin Williams and Teri Garr and will appear on Showtime cable television in the U.S. It was produced by actress Shelley Duvall, written and directed by Eric Idle.

Privates on Parade stars John Cleese, who sings and acts and dances, but did not write any part of this. Should be out by the time this page is read.

Terry Jones, the alleged intellectual of the group, has just directed and hosted a film for British TV based on the Rupert Bear cartoon strip. He's also written a book called *Fairy Tales*, original tales he wrote for his daughter, to be published in the U.S. this fall. He's directing the *Meaning of Life*, too, which is locationing in exotic Glasgow, among others.

Animator and designer Terry Gilliam is collaborating with award-winning playwright Tom Stoppard on a screenplay which will be a followup—but not a sequel—to last year's hit, *Time Bandits*.

Michael Palin wrote and stars in *The Missionary*, with Maggie Smith, Trevor Howard and Phoebe Nichols (she was Cordelia in *Brideshead Revisited*).

It may never see the light of cinema, but there's a film afoot called *Club Paradise*, supposedly starring John Cleese and Bill Murray—sublime casting with a ridiculous plot. Cleese plays the British governor of a Caribbean island, Murray the proprietor of a resort; the island natives rebel, Cleese takes refuge in Murray's club, and from then on it's snobs vs. slob vs. rebels.

Profit Cycles

NATURALLY, YOU'VE SEEN *E.T.* But did you know that the bicycle

chase stunts trace to a Southern California-bred subculture called BMX (bicycle motocross) racing? Director Steven Spielberg even polled a group of BMX fans, generally kids about the same age as those in the blockbuster film, and the majority claimed Kuwahara as their favorite brand. So it was a Kuwahara that levitated past the roadblocks, stolen milkcrate and hunted extraterrestrial attached. And, thanks to the supremely profitable merchandizing that always accompanies a hit movie, fans can add to their *E.T.* doll, their fuzzy-eared Yoda cap and their "Spock Lives!" iron-on patches a genuine, official *E.T.* bicycle. Kuwahara makes 'em, Spielberg takes a piece of the action. There's no business like (fill in the blank).

Who Thought up This Ad?

WITH THE AVERAGE film costing at least \$7,000,000 to market and about \$10 million to make, film companies are forever thinking of catchy new ad lines. But if we were going to give out awards for the best remembered phrases we'd have to say that Paramount, the studio who last year advertised *Mommie Dearest* as "the biggest mother of them all," would have to win hands down.

Right now the company is test marketing *Jekyll and Hyde Together Again*, a bizarre comedy based on the old tale that stars *Fridays* Mark Blankfield. One of the key ad lines:

"The medical community told him to shove it up his nose—and he did."

Wait. It gets better. This Christmas Paramount is launching *Airplane II: the Sequel*, which follows the adventures of a space shuttle that is hijacked to Uranus on its way to the moon. Although the official logo is "a comedy with a new twist," the Paramount marketing department is toying with another idea: "Voyage to Uranus." (We don't write 'em, we just report 'em.)

Coppola Copes

ALTHOUGH FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA'S beleaguered Zoetrope Studio is still for sale, the man himself is not sitting around biting his nails. He's directing films and biting his nails: *The Outsiders* is finished and he's now in the midst of *Rumble Fish*, which stars many of the same actors and is also based on a book by S. E. Hinton. Both are contemporary youth dramas, although *The Outsiders* is "optimistic and heartwarming" while *Rumble Fish* is described as "expressionistic."

Make Us Laugh

The *Ampersand* staff needs some yucks, folks—and we depend on our readers to keep us howling. What's more, we'll pay real bucks for these guffaws. Details follow:

Send us your favorite joke. Keep it concise, typed, double-spaced and printable. If it's a cartoon joke, that's fine too—just be sure it's drawn in black ink on sturdy white paper.

We'll pay \$20 to each and every jokemaker whose artistry we print.

The rigorous criteria for judging the jokes: at least one editor has to fall down laughing. Since most of our editors fall down frequently, whether laughing or not, this could be a piece of cake. *Ampersand* keeps all the jokes. We need them.

Send those hilarious words to *Ampersand Jokes*, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.

AMPERSAND OF THE MONTH

This streamlined, Art Deco *Ampersand* came to us from Scott E. Pringle of Yoncalla, Oregon. He earns \$30 for the beauty. Others of our readers who are artistically inclined may also try to win big bucks: just send us your original *Ampersands*, in black ink on sturdy white paper, with your name and address clearly printed on the artwork. Art will not be acknowledged or returned. Send the squiggles to *Ampersand of the Month*, 1680 North Vine, Suite 900, Hollywood, CA 90028.

When You're Hot, You're Hot

MYSTICAL TEXAS-STYLE guitar rocker T-Bone Burnett, celebrating a soon-to-be released E.P. on Warner Bros. Records, drew a crowd to the Lingerie (a Hollywood New Wave and roots rock hangout) that included Jeff (*Tron*) Bridges and Jamie Lee (*Halloween*) Curtis. Conspicuously absent was Pia Zadora, though Burnett dutifully scanned the crowd for her.

& When You're Not, You're Not ...

NO LONGER WILL THE MASSIVE, gleaming teeth of Donny and Marie Osmond emit pro-Hawaiian Punch messages. According to *Advertising Age*, the pair has been dropped from future marketing plans for the zippy, juice-based soft drink. Look for images of "fun and sun" to supplant the Osmonds, heretofore the principal export of Utah.

TV Hits Make New Pix

DAN AYKROYD IS IN CHICAGO shooting a new comedy, *Dr. Detroit*, wherein he plays a college professor "of chivalry and literary themes" who winds up protecting a band of prostitutes as the fictitious "Dr. Detroit." Aykroyd is contributing to the script penned by Bruce Jay Friedman and Carl Gottlieb.

As to the rumored *Three Caballeros*, which was at one time to star Aykroyd, Belushi and Steve Martin, plans have been scratched for the foreseeable future. But Aykroyd will do a cameo as a boss of N.Y.'s Holland Tunnel in *Nothing Lasts Forever*, a comedy by former SNL writer Bob Schiller. Also doing brief bits are Bill Murray, Mort Sahl, Sam Jaffe, Imogene Coca and Eddie Fisher.

SCTV COMICS John Candy, Eugene Levy and Joe Flaherty will finally make a movie together. The picture, starring Candy as a part-time drummer-limo driver who gets brainwashed by a fanatical religious aerobics group out to assassinate his politician father-in-law, was originally called *Drums over Malta*. Although the SCTV kids liked that one, the powers-that-be thought it a little innocuous and tried to come up with something better. Next was *Numnuts*—*The Special Edition*, which several execs liked but the guys vetoed. As of this writing the monicker stands at *Go in' Berserk*, a nice middle-of-the-road name but certainly not in the tradition of blasphemy we've grown to expect of SCTV. Universal, the cast and director David Steinberg are in need of outside help. We can't promise a movie deal, but anyone with their own title ideas could send them to

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