

10/24/04 Vol#4 The Springfield Astonisher Issue#XXXVIII

In This Issue.....

Katherine Rules Supreme	p1
Computers, Bane of Existence?	p1
Into "The" Woods	p2
Riddles Never End!	p2
And oh, so much more...	

SO NOW THAT KATHERINE'S EDITOR...

Katherine walked into the Ex-Editor Elspee's office. She looked around in awe. "Man," she said under her breath, "She was living the high life."

Katherine sat down in the leather upholstered chair that had belonged to the once powerful editor. The walls were covered with empty bookshelves. She jumped to her feet as someone entered through the giant oak doors.

"Hey! I am your personal assistant," said a tall mussily man in a pin-striped suit, "My name is Bjorn."

"Bjorn? Personal assistant," she asked, bewildered, "Wha? So, like, what do you do?"

Bjorn gave her a dashing smile, he had incredibly white teeth, and well quaffed hair "I do whatever you ask!"

"This is too good to be true!" Katherine said.

Bjorn asked her if she would like a creme filled donut.

"A donut? Are you serious? This is what Elspee complained about day and night?" She told Bjorn that what she would really like was a cup of coffee.

"I'll get it, and be back in a minute."

Katherine opened the drawers of her big desk, they were all empty.

"Man," she thought "I'll have to get a lot of stuff to fill this office."

Bjorn returned with the cup of coffee and went back to the reception desk. The coffee was perfect temperature.

After a while, Katherine called Bjorn back in, using the intercom, one of the two things still on the desk, the other one being a chrome plated telephone.

She asked him to help her move some of the book shelves, so she would have room for her plasma TV and X-box, a gift from the other people in the building. "You can use these in the reception area" she said.

The first bookshelf was very heavy, but she and Bjorn moved it in a few minutes. They came in to move the other one, and it slid out of place easily, like it was on wheels, revealing a doorway.

Katherine stared, and then looked at Bjorn, who looked as bemused as she did.

"What is this doing here?" she asked quietly.

Bjorn said that he hadn't worked here

long at all, because the secretary before had been the infamous Stiny.

Katherine said, "Well, Elspee never told be about THIS! Maybe she didn't even know, what do you think is in there?"

"I don't know," Bjorn said, "the only way to find out is to open the door."

So Katherine turned the handle...

MORE NEXT WEEK...

K

MARGARET HAS FLUTE TYPE CONCERT

On Tuesday, Margaret had a band concert that the Rowleys and bunches of other people attended.

"This was the first band concert where I wasn't totally bored!" Katherine said to Margaret after the concert.

One of the four different conductors came out before they played "A shaker melody," and told the audience about the Shakers, and how there were only seven left in the world.

"Only seven?" Said Katherine, "I feel so sorry for them!"

"Yeah, but they can't marry, and they won't let any new Shakers into the 'club'" Margaret told her.

"Oh, never mind" Katherine said.

The best piece was the last one, it was composed in the style of traditional "Native American" Music. It had a lot of percussion parts that were really funky.

Everyone thought that it was a really great concert and are actually excited ofr the next band concert.

K

EDITORIAL ON A COMPUTER

Hello, all you valued reader types, this is your beloved, newly elected, Editor Katherine. I have chosen to write an article on our computer this week. You might learn something you didn't know before (probably not), or you might decide to throw out your computer. I would not recommend the latter. If this makes you that frustrated, send your computer to me. That would be a better idea.

Computers have been around for a few years now, they have been getting ever more complicated. I don't mind that, having been around computers for most of my life, but there are a few things that even I can't figure out.

Take for example, what has been happening to our computer, i.e. it is slowly dying.

Late this week, Pop was trying to install a copy of Photo Shop, and the computer informed him he couldn't.

"It said something like the program wouldn't work out of MS-DOS, or something. Why?" Pop asked.

I told him I was writing an article on computers, and he said "Oh," and started playing his newly set up violin.

So after a few days of the computer being messed up, he put in the Windows XP CD and it asked him if he wanted to install Windows XP.

He decided, "What the hick," and pushed yes. The computer started installing XP again.

He decided that it might help, and waited until it was done.

When it was, everything was working again.

"I guess," said Pop "That Windows un-installed itself without really un-installing itself."

So, computers continue to confuse and baffle the masses, but what would we do without them? K

INTO THE WOODS

On Friday evening, Elspee hurried to get ready to go see "Into The Woods," a play that was being put on by the SMS theater department. Earlier that week, Geraldine had persuaded her to go, and earlier that day (Friday) Elspee had persuaded Matthew Huckabey, a.k.a. Huck, a dreamy and nice boy, to go with them as well.

Elspee was a bit late meeting her friends, but still before the show time.

"Sorry, I'm late!" she panted, "My whole family decided to come!"

She then spotted Huck, who was dressed in a dress shirt and tie.

"WOW!" thought Elspee, "You look nice Huck," she said. She then reflected that it was a good thing she had worn fancy earrings, or she would have been really under-dressed compared to him.

While Geraldine and Elspee had gotten free tickets it turned out that the dumb theater department did things exactly opposite as Hammonds Concert Hall. Usually students can get "student rush" tickets half an hour before the show. These tickets cater to the college students thin wallet, and are usually about five dollars. Turns out that the theater tickets have to be purchased beforehand, (which doesn't cater to college students, who never know what they will be doing at any given time) and another ticket was fourteen dollars. Elspee tried to buy it, but Huck said that he would, and did. Elspee felt bad, because she had persuaded him to come.

The seat that Huck had purchased was one away from the two that Geraldine and Elspeth occupied, so when the other people came to sit down, Huck asked if he could switch seats with them. Happily, they had no problem with that, and so the three friends got to sit together.

Thee play, which Elspee had seen before on video, was very well put on, and had a great cast and a wonderful set. It was a very funny play, although it was also sad at times, Especially during the second half.

Elspee was forced to admit that maybe the SMS squirrels wouldn't have done such a good job, although she still maintained that they might have run the box office better.

All had a great time at the play, and afterward Huck dropped Elspee and Geraldine off at their respective houses. Elspee went to sleep still humming the music from the play.

E

FROG OR TOAD

While walking one day this week Allison almost stepped on a toad that she later named Cesil. She was going to keep it but since it's fall, and Pop said that toads hibernate, she decided to let him go.

So, since this almost tragic accident, where she almost got guts on her shoe, she has thought up all kinds of questions about our amphibian friends, here they are...

1. What is the difference between toads and frogs other than the skin bumpiness?
2. How old can frogs/toads get?
3. What in the record of the biggest toad in the world?
4. Where are the most toads in the world?
5. What is the frog to toad ratio in the world?

So there the question, Allison doesn't know the answers of any of them, and if any of you readers do, you are encouraged to send them in, and if you don't she will be forced to look them up in some sort of book, possibly an Encyclopedia or Guinness book of World Records.

But if you do send answers in, you will make her life much easier and save her time that she could spend doing other things. Writing more entertaining articles, for instance, like this one, even though Katherine rewrote most of it... By the way, this is Katherine writing now, and Allison doesn't know. Don't tell. K+A

WINNERS!!!

This week, we have received record amounts of correspondence... From four people!

They were all winners this week, so we will give reader of the week recognition to the following people: Judy Paul, who was the first to answer the riddle and guessed Allison, George and Jackie Kregas, who both guessed Margaret, and the Kregases friend Pat Casey from Wisconsin who guessed Margaret also and yes, her guess counts, we love to hear from new people!

Everyone was right this week, of course, the answers were ether Allison, or Margaret.

So, here is a new riddle,

What's blue, and black, and crooked?

If you think you know, please send in your answers! Even if you don't get it right, you still get your name in the newspaper, and you'll know that you don't not exist!

K