



**Monthly Newsletter of the
Southwest Costumers and Pizza Consumption Guild
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Ryo-kun's Special Noodles
by Sean Martin

- 1 bag Oriental Ramen noodles
- 1 tsp. Powdered Wasabi
- 2 tsp. Ginger
- 1 tsp. All Spice
- 1 tbsp. Black Pepper
- 1/3 cup Soy Sauce

Add black pepper seeds if wanted spicy. The pepper seeds give most of the spice so if only wanted mild use only a pinch. Include the mix for the broth before adding extra ingredients.

Love's Savage Bindings
by Euripides Pansov, F.B.I. ¹

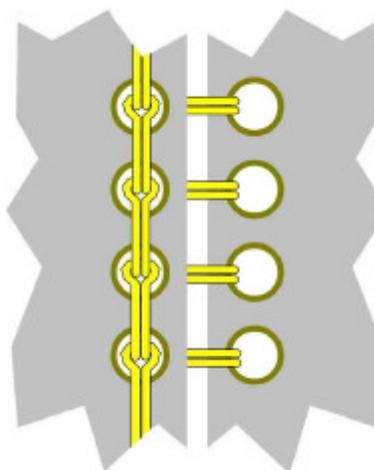
You see them next to the checkout at any grocery store, those steamy historical fantasy novels whose covers feature a buxom maiden in a passionate kiss with some un-shirted body builder, both of their long hair streaming in the breeze ².

These books are called "*Bodice Rippers*" because they inevitably include a scene where our sensuous-but-not-too-far-from-innocent heroine and the desert prince, pirate captain, wounded confederate soldier, or other dashing-but-socially-unacceptable leading man lose control and tear out of their period costumes for several pages of sweat-soaked literary exposition.

Now wait just a whale-boning minute here!

Bodices and corsetry for most of these historical periods were marvels of structural engineering, with stiff boning, sturdy stays, and strong cordage. It's no coincidence that an armored breastplate is called a "corselet." Zippers weren't invented yet. Unless Fabio has a can opener³, the unmentionables aren't coming away quickly. Actual tearing or cutting isn't a good idea since our heroine needs something intact to wear for the long coach ride home.

The lovers are no boy scouts, but they could learn something from the motto, "Be Prepared." With a bit of advance planning, this technical problem can be avoided.



Suppose clever Lady Yoyoknickers were to use an alternative method to lace up her corset?

Instead of crossing the two ends of a cord over and over each other through the eyelets in the traditional manner, she⁴ could form loops of cord to be drawn through each pair of eyelets. Each loop

passes through the previous loop in a kind of chain stitch, in much the same way that feed sacks are closed. A button hook would be useful at this point⁵.

The end result is a complex slip knot. Pull the ripcord and "Geronimo!" the celebrated "heaving bosom" is deployed and ready for action⁶.

Notes

1. Freelance Bodice Inspector
2. Apparently wind storms have previously undocumented aphrodisiac effects.
3. Not available until Napoleon's time.
4. Or her comic-relief handmaiden.
5. Now you know why your great-grandmother kept her button hook as a sentimental heirloom.
6. The author would like to thank his wife, Bodicea Popov, for her assistance in the experimental phase of this scholarly research.

Civil War Battle at Picacho Peak

by Randall Whitlock

Upon Paula's recommendation (see last issue), I drove down to Picacho State Park to witness the re-creation of Arizona's only civil war battle at Picacho State Park on Saturday, March 8, 2003.



Besides the properly noisy and smoky battle re-creation itself, the event featured a period encampment, traveling troubadours, a photography booth with period equipment, and a casino tent with demonstrations of period games like "Faro" and "Wheel of Fortune" (without Pat & Vanna). The sutlers' row and food merchants were a bit sparse, with long lines to get a burger. I guess short rations are part of the wartime experience.



Of particular interest to guildsters was a fashion show in which some of the reenactors (mostly ladies – the guys were setting up for the battle) described their costumes one by one. First off, a tag team of two union ladies built up a widow's complete outfit on a mannequin, applying the underthings layer by layer.

They were followed by two soldiers, one a Soave (New Orleans Confederate volunteer) in colorful clothing described the history of his uniform (the Soave's striped pants were made of ticking commandeered from a mattress factory).

The second soldier was a more typical Union infantryman who described his carrying gear and weaponry in detail.

There were seven or eight ladies in well-made dresses to follow. They described their outfits, with emphasis on what these garments said about their social status and how they adapted to material shortages.



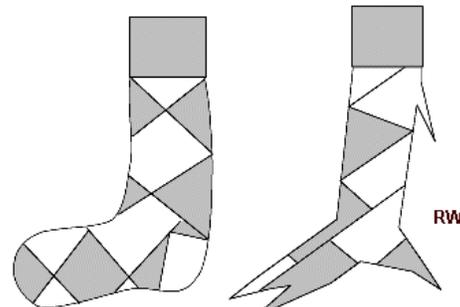
I broke from the fashion show early to grab a good view spot for the battle.

I learned many things that day:

- The civil war was actually caused by a trademark dispute between southern planters and northern sweatshop owners over rights to the slogan, "Slavers: Our Business is People."
- The Battle of Picacho Peak took place early in the war, when the Confederacy was still winning. Soon thereafter, President Lincoln realized that clean-shaven General McClellan could never defeat Robert E. Lee. The Union needed a general with a beard big enough to compete with Lee's.
- Confederate soldiers are much easier to photograph than the men in those way-too-dark blue Union uniforms. My admiration for Matthew Brady soars.

Maybe I should recycle my old "Dances With Werewolves" outfit and join the festivities next year?
- Randall

Know Your Fashion Accessories



Argyle Socks

Gargoyle Socks

And now, back to the opera.

Calendar

*Indicates an event organized by SWCG.

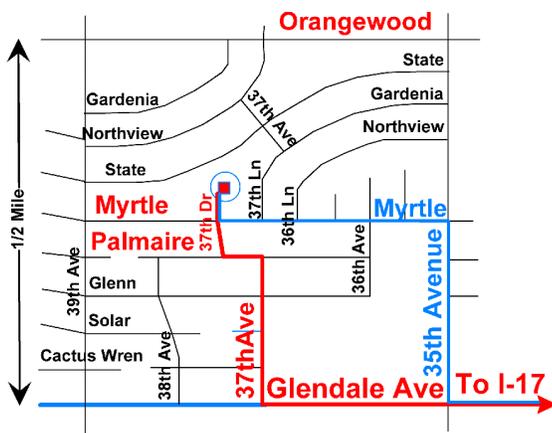
March 10, 2003 - June 15, 2003 - **Trompe l'oeil Style: Fashion's Art of Illusion** at the Fashion Design Gallery in the Phoenix Art Museum at 1625 North Central Avenue.

Trompe l'oeil, meaning 'fool the eye' in French, is the artistic ability to depict objects so exactly as to make them appear real. One of the more familiar forms of trompe l'oeil is the painted simulation of interior architectural elements, such as columns and moldings. Originating as a painting technique in ancient Greece, this virtuoso use of realism often has a humorous intent. This exhibition illustrates its whimsical nature as used in clothing and accessory by various designers. Complementing the fashions in this exhibition will be trompe l'oeil paintings by Gregory West and other members of the Trompe l'oeil Society of Artists.

Go to http://www.phxart.org/index_events.html for more information.

April 13, 2003 9AM to 3PM – **Phoenix Cactus Comicon** at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 West Glenn Drive. Featured events include writer and artist guests, door prizes, panel discussions, auction, art contest, and COSTUME CONTEST. Admission is \$6 (\$5 with flyer). go to www.phoenixcomicon.com for details.

April 18-21, 2003 – **Costume-Con 21** at the Doubletree Northshore Hotel in Skokie, Illinois. A full weekend of costuming workshops and masquerades. Site of the ICG annual meeting. Visit <http://www.jennifarse.com/cc2003/> for more information.



**Map to Stephanie & Craig's Place
7213 North 37th Drive, Phoenix
"Knock Until Dogs Bark"**

April 27, 2003 – **Basic Seaming and Chemise Layout*** SWCG workshop at Stephanie's place. Learn how to cut a basic medieval/renaissance underdress and practice some basic stitches and seams.

Frances says bring: basic sewing kit, sewing machine, 2 colors thread, note-taking materials, a pen to write on your sample, 8 1/2 by 14 sheet of paper for chemise pattern, 8 1/2 by 20 sheet of paper for shirt pattern (preferably at least as heavy as typing paper)

May 16 -18, 2003 – **LepreCon 29**, a fan-run Science Fiction convention at the Embassy Suites at the southeast corner of Interstate 17 and Greenway Road in Phoenix, Arizona. Guests of honor include author Charles deLint, artist Larry Elmore, media tech guest Richard Coyl and music guest Karen Willson. The con also features a masquerade directed by SWCG Prez Frances Burns. Go to www.leprecon.org for more information.

May 25, 2003 – **Comfort Caps*** SWCG workshop at Stephanie's place. We'll sew some comfort caps for chemotherapy patients. Design to be determined. Bring your basic sewing supplies.

May 31 & June 1, 2003 - **Renaissance in the Pines** at Fort Tuthill in Flagstaff, Arizona. This renaissance faire moves from Williams to Flagstaff this year. Jousting, Beer Garden, Swordplay, Comedy, Music, Merchants (Including your Editor's *MoiRandall's* pavilion).

We are not amused, Sir Guillaume by Scott Farrell
Book reviewed by Ld Randwulf Witlac of Axed Root

I have sometimes heard short, humorous essays described as, "Good bathroom reading." This is literally the case with *We are not amused, Sir Guillaume*. The folks selling the book at the recent Estrella War posted excerpts inside the doors of the privy chambers, at reading position for those comfortably seated. Good advertising, and handy if the T.P. runs out.

Sir Guillaume, who has served as Baron of Calafia and King of Caid, is sort of the Dave Barry of the SCA. The book is a collection of his humor columns from the Caid newsletter, *Crown Prints*. The stories are rollicking accounts of SCA life and fractured medieval histories, always with a warm heart and returning to the ideals of chivalry and friendship. My copy should properly be called "Kung Pao Guillaume," because of stains from the many spit-takes it induced during lunchtime reading.

Yes, there is a costuming connection. One of the best essays in the book centers around Sir Guillaume's childhood Batman cape. (Admit it, you had one too.)

Look for the book at larger southwestern SCA events: order it from Shining Armor Enterprises, 8539 Dunwoodie Road, Santee CA 92071; or at www.sirguillaume.com. The price is \$12.99 plus \$3.50 Shipping.

Random Thoughts From Your Editor

by Randall Whitlock

May Glitziana have mercy on my draggin' butt! I let Carl Mami talk me into accepting nomination for International Costume Guild Recording Secretary this year. I'll know if the axe has fallen right after Costume Con.

If you're not going to CC, be sure to send a proxy with someone who is. From the buzz on the ICG-BOD list over the past few months, it's going to be a whopper of an ICG general meeting this year. Many crucial issues for the future of the ICG will be decided.

Okay, I'm hooked. After attending the Battle of Picacho Peak and Festival of the West in the same month, I'm now committed to building a costume for wild west events. I already have a black frock coat, suitable for Scrooge/Maverick/Lincoln/SnidelyWhiplash/Dr.Who #1. Input would be welcome on pants, shirt, vest, boots.

Torcon 3 Costumers Suite Needs Help

From the editor's e-mail box:

Dear Fellow Costumers;

It's that time of year again when we are starting to think about plans for Worldcon. Toronto is proud to be hosting the 2003 Worldcon, TORCON 3, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Fantasy Fibre Artists, our Toronto area costumers group, are getting ready to host the ever popular Costumes' Suite. We are hopping to have the suite open from Thursday evening August 28th through Monday evening September 1, 2003. Torcon 3 will be allocating suites in May of 2003 so we can not say yet, if we will be in the main party hotel -The Royal York.

WE NEED YOUR HELP, and we can't do it without your support. We would greatly appreciate any financial help you can give us. No donation is too small.

Please consider contributing in one or more of the following ways:

1. Have your guild chapter, convention or event sponsor a night in the Costumers' Suite.
2. Send a donation to help pay the cost of the suite, food and drink. As said above, no donation is too small.
3. Buy a prize ticket on one of our draws. See below for our great prizes offered.

Our masquerade director is Martin Miller, and his assistant masquerade directors are Carl Mami and myself. In

addition to the masquerade and the Costumers' Suite we are planning other costume-related events such as;

1. A theme costume exhibit called "Critters and Aliens".
2. A mask-making table where fans can design and decorate masks.
3. A show to follow the masquerade called "A Salute to Canadian Costuming".
4. Tours of the Toronto garment district, and the Little India district. Penny Lipman is also preparing a revised edition of her list of our favourite costume-related stores in Toronto.
5. We will also have information on current exhibits at The Textile Museum, The Bata Shoe Museum and the Royal Ontario Museum.

Masquerade information is available on our Web site, and we will also be posting updates of our other plans there.

To raise money for The Costumers' Suite, our hospitality suite at TORCON 3, we will shortly be selling tickets on several donated items, including:

First Prize Draw:

1. A gorgeous doll donated by Alix Jordan. Two additional smaller dolls donated by Alix will also be raffled.
2. The video tape sets of Henry VIII and Elizabeth R.
3. The video tape set of the Black Adder Series.

Second Prize Draw:

A signed cast photo from Buffy The Vampire Slayer.

The draw for these prizes will take place at Torcon 3. Tickets can be purchased by mail. See our web site for details. If you can not be present for the draw and you win a prize, you will be contacted and arrangements will be made to ship or mail the prize to you.

Fantasy Fibre Artists, will be selling items donated by fans, at Toronto Trek 17, to raise money to help pay for the Costumers' Suite.

We urge you to support the Costumers' Suite by buying prize draw tickets, and by making cash contributions to the suite or sponsoring an evenings activities.

We are looking forward to a great costumer friendly Torcon 3. Please help us to achieve that goal.

Yours in costuming - Barb Schofield

From the Mailbox

Our newsletter swap program continues to grow. Here's what has arrived since last ish.

St Louis Costumers Guild *The Scarlet Letter*, 1st Quarter 2003 - Convention previews, "The ICG & U" by Jeff Morris summarizes the role & function of the ICG. "WebCruisers" by Karen Heim & Nora Mai lists some good costume web sites. Pierre & Sandy Pettinger review the Arisia masquerade.

The ICG Newsletter, March/April 2003 – Minutes of 2002 ICG meeting, Agenda for 2003 ICG Meeting, Proxy form, Events Calendar, Chapters & Dues summary.

Catch Randall at the next SWCG meeting to read or borrow the newsletters.

Some New Web Links

Hey hey hey,

A friend of mine asked if I would pass along a link to her cosplay outfits to anyone who enjoys cosplay to boost her hit count. - Jen

<http://images.cosplay.com/showphoto.php?photo=19796&papass=&sort=4&thecat=500>

We've just received link requests from two new costume businesses. - Randall

Bloomers 4 U: Whether you wear them as historical underwear or as colorful modern puffy pants, this is Your Source 4 Bloomers. <http://www.bloomers4u.com>

Dainty Jane's Handmades: Jane Reamer makes pointy-toe and curly-toe suede medieval shoes. The prices are very reasonable. I've paid more for hiking socks. www.daintyjane.com

New ICG Chapter

From the ICG-D Listserve:

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new and different kind of costuming group, which has applied for recognition as a chapter of the International Costumers' Guild.

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild will go by the nickname SiW. Although centered in the Silicon Valley, our group is hoping to draw membership from a population of costumers worldwide, many of whom have no regional chapter within reach.

The Silicon Web Costumers' Guild (SiW) has the following purposes:

* To be a supportive and fully participating chapter of the International Costumers' Guild (ICG).

* To be an educational organization to foster interest in costuming in all its forms.

* To be and maintain a quality group utilizing the resources of the Internet to extend communication and participation beyond geographic boundaries.

That last point is a significant determinant of our form and structure. We will be offering a monthly on line Newsletter (The Virtual Costumer), a web site, chat type meetings, and will be open to activities that can utilize the capacities of the Internet. Our web site and the first issue of the newsletter are in process. Our URL is: <http://www.geocities.com/siwcostumers/>

You will find more about who we are on the site. You will also find a way to join and pay dues on line. The SiW will be utilizing the capacities of Yahoo groups.

We are still in the process of discovering exactly what we will be, and welcome new members to help chart our course.

- Dana MacDermott, President SiW

As of this writing, SiW has just been officially recognized by the ICG Board of Directors. - Randall



Left - Paula's kitty-print gwazee, a work in progress

Below - Our March Picnic at Los Olivos Park in Phoenix.

