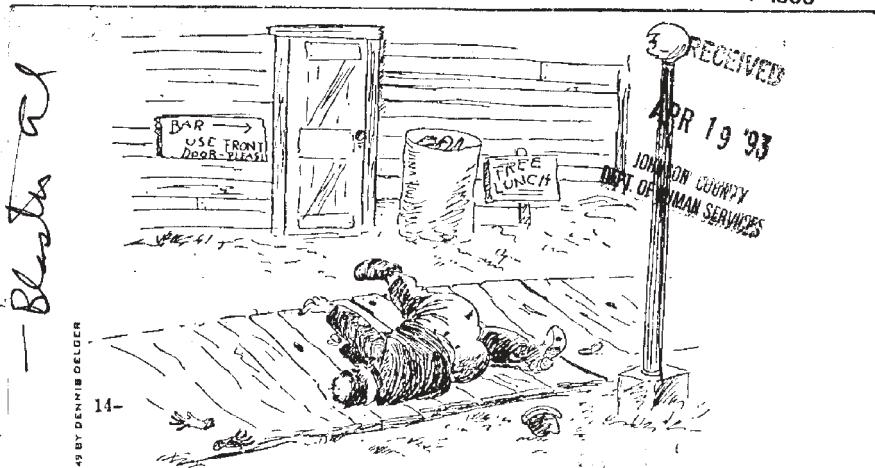


APR 21 1993

Deen Lloyd -
 Needless to say, all of us
 here in Baltimore have been
 having a lot of fun with
 Stewart's art strike YAWN
 article. Thanks!
 - Blaster Al



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I'll CLIMB THIS FENCE
 IF IT TAKES ME ALL NIGHT



LE GROUPE ABSENCE

APRIL '93

(1.)

THE STEWART HOME ART STRIKE HISTORY

(AN APPRECIATION by BLASTER AL ACKERMAN)

THE HOME IS AN IMPORTANT WORK BECAUSE OF ITS GREAT INTELLECTUAL AUTHORITY AND SCOPE AND BECAUSE IT IS STAMPED ON EVERY LEVEL WITH INTEGRITY, HUMANITY, AND, ABOVE ALL, COURAGE; THE HOME IS AN IMPORTANT WORK BECAUSE IT DRAWS TOGETHER, WELL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BOTH A COGENT AND WELL-EXEMPLIFIED DEFINITION OF CINEMA VERITE AND A CRITICAL HISTORY OF THE FLOWERING OF NEW ENGLAND; THE HOME LEAVES US MORE BREATHLESS THAN LAMBERT'S MUSIC HO!; THE HOME IS A RIPOSTE AT LIGHTNING SPEED TO A STAFF OF UNDERPAID SECRETARIES; THE HOME LEAVES OUR NERVES VIBRATING LIKE MANDOLIN STRINGS AT A PARKINSON'S CLINIC; THE HOME IS GREAT PIPE AND SLIPPER SCHOLARSHIP; THE HOME TELLS US, NOT SUCCINCTLY, THAT ONE MUST COME TO TERMS WITH THE REALITIES OF THE WORLD, AND THAT ANYTHING SHORT OF THIS INVITES SPIRITUAL DESTRUCTION, SYMBOLIZED BY A LOVE FOR

(over)

② BIZARRE TRAMP-DRESS, THE FLOPIER, FLAPPIER AND GREASIER THE BETTER; THE HOME ASKS, IS A PERSON WITH EYESTRAIN BLIND?; THE HOME ENCOURAGES SERIOUS ARTISTS EVERYWHERE TO CURL UP IN A HOLLOW TREE; THE HOME LOVES SEXLESS BEINGS IN THE WOODS; THE HOME HAS DONE MUCH TO ENCOURAGE A RECIPROCAL FEELING IN THEM; THE HOME DENIES THIS WITH ALL THE SIGNS OF EXTREME DIGITAL AGITATION; THE HOME IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON A PROGRESSIVE VIEW OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE FICTIONAL SENSE; THE HOME EXPLAINS THAT THE "TEMPLARS" WERE CONNECTED WITH THE EARLY LODGES OF THE MASTER MASONS, OR PLUMBERS, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT; THE HOME MEANS MORE THAN EAST LYNNE OR BIRTH OF A NATION TO OLAF CAGLE, THE OLD STAGE-DOOR WATCHMAN, COMPLETELY MOIST-EYED NOW AS HE SUCKS ON HIS CORNCOB WITH TOOTHLESS GUMS JUST MINUTES BEFORE STRIPPING OFF HIS STREET CLOTHES AND DASHING DOWN THE STAIRS TO THROW HIMSELF INTO THE STRONG EMBRACE OF A WAITING PADDY WAGON; THE HOME AFTER A STONES CONCERT SHOWS SIGNS OF COMING DOWN WITH A BAD CASE OF THE ROCKING-PNEUMONIA; THE HOME PROBABLY NEEDS A SHOT OF RHYTHM AND BLUES; THE HOME FORTHWITH ENROLLS IN THE MT. ELGON SCHOOL OF REGIONAL BALLET AND VOILA! — BEFORE THE DECADE IS OUT, THE HOME REALIZES ITS DREAM OF DANCING ON POINT BEFORE ALL THE CROWNED HEADS OF EUROPE; THE HOME KICKS AROUND DISCONSOLATELY ON STAGE, IN OMAHA — IT HAS BEEN TIED IN A GUNNY SACK BY CHARLISH STAGEHANDS; THE HOME KICKS YOU RIGHT IN THE GROIN (BUT NOT REALLY) — IT'S A METAPHOR, GET ME?; THE HOME IS ALSO LIKE SENSITIVE SAFE-CRACKER'S FINGERS CARRESSING THE WEIGHTED TUMBLERS THEY LOVED ALL TOO WELL; THE HOME MAY WELL BE THE MOST AUDACIOUS EXPLOIT YET, ON THE PART OF A SINISTER, WELL-GROOMED INDIVIDUAL NAMED RAOUL (MONTY CANTSIN); THE HOME WAS FORESHADOWED SO LONG AGO AS 1883 FROM A PHYSICAL POINT OF VIEW BY FARADAY IN HIS WELL-KNOWN LAWS OF ELECTROLYSIS — AND IT IS TO ISTVAN HELMHOLTZ IN HIS CELEBRATED FARADAY

(3.)

LECTURE THAT WE OWE THE COMPLETE ELUCIDATION OF THE SUBJECT, GOD HELP US; THE HOME MAKES YOUR THROAT ITCH WHEN YOU ARE EATING IT; THE HOME ACCOSTS THE ENTIRE PLAYBOY EMPIRE AT A TIME WHEN THE BEAVER ON ITS HEAD IS STARTING TO STIR RESTLESSLY AND SLAP ITS FLAT TAIL ON THE NAPE OF THE HEP'S PENCIL-NECK; THE HOME SEES SNAKES CRAWLING EVERYWHERE, EVEN IN EXPENSIVE HAIR WEAVES; THE HOME DECIDES THAT ANYONE CAN TALK ABOUT A SNAKE HEAD WITH SQUASH TEETH AS EMBLEMATIC BUT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET A DATE — (I.E., HAVE A NOONER) — WITH VAGINAL CREME DAVIS; THE HOME DISDAINS USING THE WORD "NECKT", PREFERRING "LIVING BRAIN OF TEXAS MILLIONAIRES"; THE HOME IS ASKED TO REWRITE ROSS'S FAILURE OF MODERNISM; THE HOME SCRATCHES ITS HEAD; THE HOME CONSIDERS THIS REQUEST; THE HOME CONSIDERS THIS REQUEST FOR A FORTNIGHT, TEETERING BACK AND FORTH ON ITS HEELS; THE HOME WAVED, THEN HESITATED BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION; THE HOME POSTPONED ANY FINAL DECISION UNTIL IT HAD FINISHED THE NOVEL IT WAS WORKING ON — MOBY RICHARD, A CLEVER RECASTING OF THE MELLVILLE OPUS; THE HOME FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE ORIGINAL REQUEST; THE HOME WAS JOLTED AWAKE BY THE RINGING OF THE TELEPHONE; THE HOME HEARD A VOICE ASKING, I WONDER IF WE'RE BEING QUITE FAIR TO THAT DESPICABLE CAD "SWARTHY" TURK SELLERS?; THE HOME, UPON HEARING THE WORD "SWARTHY", IS REMINDED AGAIN OF THE ORIGINAL REQUEST AND SEARCHES ~~IN~~ IN HIS LAP FOR AN ANSWER; THE HOME DECIDES THAT THE OPPORTUNITY OF REWRITING ROSS'S FAILURE OF MODERNISM WOULD PROBABLY NEVER COME TWICE IN A LIFETIME, AND DECIDES TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE; THE HOME SETS TO WORK AND LABORS LIKE A BLONDE MILKSOP (ANDY WARHOL); THE HOME FAILS AT THIS DUE TO A CERTAIN RAVEN-HAIRED CUTIE (DAVE ZACK) IN THE CUSTARD DIVISION, BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, STANDING UP AND PEERING THROUGH NIGHT-GLASSES, THE HOME SAW A TALL, DARK FIGURE ON THE ROCK-CUT STEPS; THE HOME REALIZED THE FIGURE WAS UNMISTAKABLE —

(4.)

IT WAS DR. FU MANCHU!; THE HOME SAW HIM BECKON TO THE SECOND PASSENGER IN THE LITTLE MOTOR BOAT; THE HOME SAW THE SECOND PASSENGER*, A MAN WHOSE HAIR SHOWN LIKE SILVER IN THE MOONLIGHT, JOIN THE INSIDIOUS FU MANCHU ON THE STEPS; THE HOME SAW A THIRD FIGURE** REMAIN IN THE BOAT AT THE WHEEL; THE HOME WATCHED AS DR. FU MANCHU, ARMS FOLDED, STOOD FOR A MOMENT LOOKING OUT ACROSS THE RIVER, NOT WATCHING THE APPROACHING CUSTOMS CRAFT THAT WAS SO SWIFTLY BEARING DOWN UPON HIM, BUT RATHER STUDYING THE SHADOWED AMERICAN BANK, THE FRONTIER OF THE UNITED STATES; THE HOME HAD IT COME TO HIM, AS HE DREW NEARER AND NEARER TO THE MOTIONLESS FIGURE, THAT DR. FU MANCHU WAS CONTEMPLATING A WARM, VIVID AND HUMAN STORY WITH JUST THAT TOUCH OF GASH THE FAN DEMAND; THE HOME FELT HIS OWN THOUGHTS TURNING TOWARD HIS OWN GREATEST CHERISHED DREAM — PROCUREMENT AND HAVING A LOT OF HOOKERS WORKING FOR HIM; THE HOME SIGHED, BUT THE EXCITEMENT, COSTS AND LASCIVIOUSNESS OF THE STRENUOUS TASK HAD NOT BEEN FOR NOTHING; THE HOME HAD PUT HIS ESTABLISHMENT ON THE MAP, AND HE HANDLED IT AFTERWARDS IN A SPIRIT VERY MUCH TO THE ADVANTAGE OF HIS PURSE; THE HOME BECAME RICH AND FAMOUS — IN FACT, SO MUCH SO THAT, AFTER HIS DEATH AND AFTER HIS FAMOUS SALON HAD LONG BEEN CLOSED, ANYONE IN LONDON COULD POINT OUT HIS HOUSE, JUST AS IN PARIS IS STILL POINTED OUT THE FAMOUS ESTABLISHMENT OF MADAME GOURDAN, WHO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO WAS KNOWN ALL OVER EUROPE AS THE BEST MADAME IN THE WORLD, UNDER THE PET NAME "THE CUBANOLA GLIDE!"
(HUH?)

* PROBABLY EDWARD TELLER = END =
** PROBABLY SANTA CLAUS