



THE MEGAPHONE



A Vestigial Organ of the Rascals, Rogues, and Rapsclions

Vol. 2, No. 15

June 22, 2022

SECOND ROGUES' DINNER FINALLY HAPPENS Twenty-Five Years After First "Annual" Event

The first Rogues must have underestimated the difficulty of a Rogue Challenge or overestimated the toughness of their company because at the first Rogues' Dinner in 1997 the blithe assumption was that the group would meet again the following year to witness the elevation of the first Rapsclion.

As it turned out, not one, but 25 years were needed for the first aging Rogue to hobble across the finish line. That happened at the Doylestown Maennerchor on January 8, 2022, when **Dan Morrison** answered his Rogue Challenge: Prepare first-class relics of all current RR&R members, confecting them in accord with customary procedures, using standard thecae.

A Rogues' Dinner is an all-Lairs event to which all Rogues are invited and the assumption from the beginning was that it would be an annual affair. At the First Rogues' Dinner, at **Dan Morrison's** house in Pittsburgh, the first Rogue Challenges were distributed. At that meeting were Rogues **Jeffrey Campbell, David Dunn, Brian Holly, Don Kellander, Dennis Looney, Dan Morrison, Don Pickerine, Greg**

Scheer, Glenn Vernon, and Lee Wolfson. Also present was British filmmaker **William Moul**, who happened to be

Barr, Dan Bramer, Ray Hull III, Roger Hull, Sean McVan, Calvin Morrison, Dan Morrison, Leon Moscherosch, and Michael



Dan Morrison gives his Rogue Challenge presentation at the Second Rogues' Dinner.

visiting with **Morrison** on a project related to the Kingdom of Araucania and Patagonia. Moul took the only photos that survive of the event.

A Rogue Challenges is the entry ticket to the Order of Rapsclions and is issued by the Order. Through the years, there have been four sets of Challenges issued. The set of currently available Rogue Challenges is posted on the Ephorate archive website.

There were nine Rogues at the second Rogues' Dinner: **Jim**

Moscherosch. As a bonus, **William Moul**, witness to the First Rogues' Dinner, flew in from the United Kingdom to make his second appearance at an RR&R event.

The meeting was the first Rascal event at the Doylestown Maennerchor since December 2019, after which the world and the RR&R were beset by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The food and amenities at the Maennerchor were as elegant as ever. **Morrison** provided tablecloths to dress



William Moulton, left, and Jim Barr look on as Dan Morrison confects a relic of Ray Hull II.

things up a bit and the RR&R flag hung in silent witness to the proceedings.

In his pre-station, **Morrison** explained the history of relics in the Roman Catholic Church and gave an account of his three-year effort to confect a set of Rascal relics. A first-class relic is a portion of the body of the saint. Thus, **Morrison** was dependent on all the living Rascals contributing nail parings, hair clippings, teeth, and drops of blood. The first set of relics to arrive in Morrison's mailbox was from **Ray Hull II** – nail parings and beard clippings. **Hull**, who died in December 2020, did not live to see the completed project.

After his lecture, **Morrison** sat down at a table with all the Rogues gathered around and confected a couple of relics of **Ray Hull II** before their eyes.

Morrison confected two full sets of relics in completing this

Challenge. One set will be kept permanently in the Rascal Reliquary. The other set was distributed among the Rogues present at the Second Rogues' Dinner.

After his presentation, the Order of Rapsallions – minus **Morrison** who is a member – conferred privately and brought the judgment that the presentation met the requirements of the challenge. **Michael Moscherosch**, Abbott of the Order of Rapsallions, then made it official by placing the decoration of the Order of Rapsallions around **Morrison's** neck.

As is required of all Rogue Challenge presentations, an issue of *Occasional Papers of the Doylestown Institute* was published titled *Of Relics and Rapsallions: the Dubious Business of Preserving Pieces of Human Tissue*.

The Rascal Reliquary is an empty cigar box from the Canary Islands obtained (with cigars) by **Michael Moscherosch**.

It now holds 17 first-class relics and one second-class relic. The second-class relic is a scrap of **Allen Surdyke's** shirt obtained after his death by Allen's brother-in-law **Peter Marino**.

The Rascals represented in the Reliquary are: **Jim Barr, Dan Bramer, Eric Erb, Timons Esaias, Jordan Goretti, Ray Hull II, Ray Hull III, Roger Hull, Hayes Lewis, Peter Marino, Mark McDowell, Sean McVan, Calvin Morrison, Daniel Morrison, Leon Moscherosch, Michael Moscherosch, Dan Mundy, and Allen Surdyke**.

Relics of future Rascals will be added to the collection and lapsed Rascals are encouraged to contribute bodily tissue.



The Rascal Reliquary, made from a Canary Island cigar box, contains relics of 18 Rascals.

FIRST TRANS-MISSISSIPPI ROGUE: Hayes Lewis Answers Rascal Challenge

Pornography, Tik Tok pranks, and conspiracy theories are the primary ingredients of the colossal torrent of online sewage. Those who spend most of their time on the web and not in the real world inevitably become malformed mutations, like pop-eyed albinos in the sewers of Manhattan.

Because of the extreme low quality of inquiries received over the internet, our Rascal webmaster adopted a snail mail-only policy several years ago. Send a letter to the RR&R post office box and you'll get a speedy response. Send an email saying, "so I wanna be a rascal can I join and can I be president I know how to make websites???" and you will have to wait until **Al Gore** re-invents the internet to receive a reply.

As a considerable number of hours have been wasted responding to low-intelligence sewage surfers, the creation of this minor hurdle to communication has been a real boon.

The first man to navigate this obstacle was **Mr. P. Hayes Lewis**, a brainy Texan who wrote to the Ephorate in 2020 asking about how to form a Lair in the Lone Star State. **Lewis** was the creator of an intellectual cigar-friendly men's club similar to the RR&R called the Willoughby Club. Perhaps the Willoughby Club could become a Lair within the RR&R.

That letter opened a conversation which led to **Lewis** becoming the first non-resident member of Lair No. 3 in December 2020. Since then, he has participated in six Lair No. 3 meetings (five online and one in person), including two Mass Challenges and one Research Reports. In December 2021, he took the Mass Challenge honors via zoom and in March 2022, he successfully answered his Rascal Challenge in person at Swine Hall in Huntingdon



Hayes Lewis makes his Rascal Challenge presentation at Swine Hall, March 13, 2022, becoming the first person west of the Mississippi River to attain the rank of Rogue.

Valley.

Lewis's Rascal Challenge was hopelessly vague: something musical. He responded by using a primitive software to produce a jukebox musical based on **Dante's Inferno**. A jukebox musical is a show consisting of popular songs rather than songs written especially for the show.

Traveling from Texas to Pennsylvania with **Lewis** was his friend and fellow Willoughby Club conspirator **Jason Enelow**.

Lewis has a degree in Medieval History and English Literature from Vanderbilt University. He lives near Fort Worth with his wife **Shana** and two children. He is a Life Member of the Association of Old Crows.



STILT-WALKING BUTT-BARING DEMON-CHASERS: Topic of Jordan Goretti's Rogue Challenge

Men dressed as women, baring their prosthetic backsides, while mounted on stilts – that once was a sure prescription to set the demons running. And it was the impetus of an excellent Rascal Challenge presentation by **Jordan Goretti** on June 11, 2022.

The Doylestown Maennerchor Society building in Doylestown was again the scene of a Lair No. 3 meeting as the Doylestown Institute met to hear Goretti's response to his Rascal Challenge on Moko Jumbie, an Afro-Caribbean folk tradition. This was the first Lair No. 3 meeting in Doylestown since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Goretti gave a detailed lecture, supported with PowerPoint presentation, on the history and current practice of Moko Jambie. At first, Moko Jambie was a way enslaved people in the English-speaking part of the Caribbean would chase away demons. In time, it would become a colorful and comic dance art form.

After his presentation, the Lair conferred and agreed that **Goretti** had successfully met his Rascal Challenge and was thus elevated to the rank of

Rogue.

Present at the meeting in Doylestown were Assistant Director **Dan Bramer**, Rascal Challenger **Jordan Goretti**, **Jon Haines**, **George Hindley**, Keeper of the Humidor **Roger Hull**, **Mike Landis**, **Sean McVan**, Buchanan Prize winner **Calvin Morrison**, Director **Dan Morrison**, **Leon Moscherosch**, Treasurer **Michael Moscherosch**, and **Noel Wolfe**. Present online were **Jason Enelow** and **Hayes Lewis**.

Goretti's Rascal Challenge presentation also was **Dan Morrison's** 100th Rascal meeting. A business meeting was conducted before dinner and Assistant Director **Dan Bramer** took minutes in lieu of Secretary **Ray Hull III** who was on the Isle of Man rather than in Doylestown.

A Moko Jambie issue of the *Occasional Papers of the Doylestown Institute* is in the works.



Back row, l. to r.: Dan Bramer, George Hindley, Noel Wolfe, Jon Haines, Leon Moscherosch, Mike Landis, and Roger Hull. Front row, l. to r.: Michael Moscherosch, Dan Morrison, Jordan Goretti, Calvin Morrison, and Sean McVan.

Jim Barr and **Ray Hull III** recently traveled to the Isle of Man to see some motorcycle racing. It was a trip **Ray Hull II** had planned on attending, but COVID and cancer got in the way.

Dan Bramer still teaches philosophy and religious studies at Holy Family University in Philadelphia. He is still not a Roman Catholic.

Timons Esaias appeared for the sixth time in the pages of *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* with his May/June 2022 story "Beachhead," about clones in battle.

Charles George, who long has been involved in scouting, attended the 2022 West Point Invitational Camporee in April.

Jordan Goretti has been preaching twice a month in the English-language service of the Brazilian church that nests at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church.

Karl Halter attended his mother's funeral, which was conducted by **Dan Morrison** at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church. **Halter** is at Neshaminy Manor, an assisted living facility in Doylestown, and welcomes visitors.

Ray Hull III, after travels to Isle of Man and Amsterdam, spent his birthday, bachelor-style, chilling with his three children.

Roger Hull added five new bricks from an old chimney to the growing brick collection at Swine Hall.

Hayes Lewis has thus far



survived the Texas heatwave. LinkedIn reports he bears the postnominals CISSP and SMIEEE and the pronouns he and him. Thanks be to God and biology.

Dennis Looney was seen in Santa Cruz, Calif., at the Dante Alighieri Society meeting in February. His 2011 *Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy* still garners attention. **Filippo Gianferrari** noted, "There's been a lot written about the reception of **Dante** by the poets that worked around Harvard like **Longfellow**, but what **Looney** does with his book is tell a different story. The African American reception of **Dante** shows a very different view of *Comedy*. They saw the poem as one that does not serve established, imperialistic power but one that goes against it."

Peter Marino engaged a pied-à-terre in Todi, Umbria, Italy, earlier this year. He still drums in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mark McDowell has been seen around the neighborhood but not at RR&R meetings this year. Foul play is suspected.

Sean McVan works for Gilmore & Associates, a civil engineering firm with six locations in eastern Pennsylvania.

Calvin Morrison plans to relocate to Bethlehem where his Morrison grandfather and great uncles once lived.

Dan Morrison's great-great-great grandmother was **Sarah Landis** (1832-1900) and she may be a relative of **Michael Landis**. A Rascal genealogist is needed.

Leon Moscherosch is an application and data engineer at CSL Behring.

Michael Moscherosch continues to drive social innovation at Johnson & Johnson. He has not met an African dictator in a while.

William Moul was seen warming up on the Banfield Football Club pitch.

Lee Wolfson noticed **Sam Hazo** received a nice birthday shoutout from columnist **Gene Collier** in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* on March 30.



RASCAL, ROGUES, AND RAPSCALLION: 1993 RR&R Stamp Finally Makes Sense

“What ever happened to Tannu Tuva?” was the question posed by physicist **Richard Feynman** that prompted the sixth meeting of the Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS.

Known to the world by its distinctive triangle and diamond postage stamps, the Republic of Tannu Tuva was the topic of the August 21, 1993 meeting of Lair No. 1, which happened at Tramp’s Grand Olde Saloon in Pittsburgh.

It was a memorable meeting. **Bill Cipkala’s** wife learned the hard way that we were serious about “men only” and was sent to sit alone at the bar. At the long table in a private dining room were 14 men, including one Chilean, one Nigerian, and one Brazilian, discussing jokes that one ethnic group tells about another. The Hausas of Nigeria came up short. Rascal Hall of Famers **Jon Landgraf**, **Reg Litz**, **Harry Plantinga**, and **Greg Scheer** were present. **Bill Cipkala**, perennially plagued by debilitating panic attacks, was pranked by **Karl Williams** with an exploding pen. Once recovered, **Cipkala** handed out Cambodian banknotes as party favors and took a British money order from **Nnamdi Nwanko** to pay for his evening.

Since I intended to use Tuvan postage on the meeting’s invitation, I thought a distinctive RR&R cancellation mark would be in order. I went to a Pittsburgh stationer and ordered a round custom-made stamp, a compass rose in the center,



This cover (7 by 4.25 inch) of the invitation to the August 21, 1993 meeting of Lair No. was the first appearance of the RR&R rubber stamp. The faulty stamp was never replaced and has been used continuously since 1993.

surrounded by the name of our club. When the rubber stamp arrived, I saw that it was close, but no cigar: the final “s” had been dropped.

Since 1993, the quasi-official seal of the RR&R has read “Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLION.” Almost right, and yet annoyingly wrong.

Until now.

With my elevation to the rank of RapsCALLION in January 2022, our organization, in the flesh, if not on paper, is the Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLION. And so the RR&R stamp finally makes sense.

But perhaps in 2023 another Rogue will ascend to the lofty rank of RapsCALLION, and we will really be Rascals, Rogues, and RapsCALLIONS. I propose that we should, at that time, 30 years after its creation, retire the original RR&R stamp and get one that is letter perfect.

– Dan Morrison



Twenty-five Years Later, Guest at First Rogues' Dinner Turns Up for Number Two

Mid December 2021. Holed up in Nottingham in the British Midlands, I sense that the long tentacles of COVID may slowly be releasing their grip on our minds and bodies.

It will soon be Christmas, a bright moment in these winter months and then New Year 2022. Will it bring a return to normal life? Travel? Could I get off the island once more?

As I muse these matters, a letter drops through the door. I pick it up, there's no mistaking the handiwork of **Daniel Morrison**, the beautiful stamps, the imprint of the Bryn Athyn Post Office.

I scan through the contents, my mind racing; a dinner invitation, Rascals, Maennerchor, Rogues, and now Relics and maybe even a Rapsallion. All happening very soon. But... 3,500 miles away. I couldn't, could I? Could I? I check with her indoors – I could!

I pack my fur trapper's hat and extra layers. On the plane I dream of snow, trains, and turnpikes. I am about to see them all, and more, in a whirlwind tour of Pennsylvania that looking back I can scarcely believe all happened. It would take too long recount all I saw, but in brief, I can now report that I have eaten Scrapple, checked out a Book Barn, know what a Stogie is, been on the Strasburg Railroad, can recognize an Amish washing line, own a pair of Mennonite red braces, seen downtown Philly, and by way of the USS New Jersey, almost visited Walt Whitman's house, actually seen his tomb, been down on the Delaware across the Schuylkill, and ... attended the Second Rogues' Dinner.

The December 2021 *Megaphone* states that, as a witness of RR&R activity, I made a first appearance (slightly out of frame) at the First Rogues' Dinner in Pittsburgh in 1997. So now I was very pleased to be asked back again. As a card-carrying Irishman, I felt at ease in a room with a plaque commemorating the Hibernian of the Year.



William Moulton dons his trapper's hat in the British Midlands in anticipation of his January 2022 tour of Pennsylvania.

Somewhat ignorant of local cuisine, I was glad of some guidance with the downstairs menu, and I think my singing got better as the night progressed. In 25 years, I observe some things have changed – beards are more popular, Hong Kong is no longer British, but I judge that the spirit of restless male inquisitiveness, the ingenuity of Rascals remains the same if not greater than before. There is so much to learn, the Boars and the Bees, the Clerihews and the Relics. Thanks to Dan for his exposé on that one, at times almost gruesome at times hilarious, and totally intriguing. After all, if you are going to smoke your last cigar off the blue Canary Isles it seems only right that your relics should be kept in box from the same place.

– William Moulton



A POSTMORTEM DISCOURSE ON THE CHALLENGE: On the Highlighting of the Overlooked

Pardon my gaucherie in addressing you from beyond the grave, but I felt something must be said, and the sooner the better. I have often seen (don't ask how) your discomfiture in concocting Rascal Challenges. You trouble your minds to find some curious or amusing topic, but your labor is misplaced. It is the job of the Challengee, not the Challenger, to be clever.

Give your man a laundry ticket, I say, or a scrap of newspaper found under the bleachers.

It is his job "to discover the extraordinary in the ordinary, the heroic in the mundane, and the historic in the forgotten." Yes, those are the words of our divinely-inspired Constitution.

Ordinary, mundane, and forgotten. That the stuff of a Rascal Challenge. The Challengee assays his unpromising subject and digs until he discovers gold. His search for the interesting thing takes him off the beaten track, lightyears beyond Wikipedia, for as our Constitution also says, "the fun begins where the road ends."

Anyone dullard can find something interesting in London or Paris; the trick is making a discovery in Little Egypt, New Jersey.

I suspect our worry is that if we give a Rascal a boring Challenge, he will come back with a boring presentation. But that's wrong-headed. Let's not do the work for would-be Rogues. Let's trust our Rascals to be relentlessly driven by curiosity so that they will turn up something good. And if they fail, let's have the courage to not make them Rogues prematurely.

I recall **Dan Krewson's** 2002 Rascal Challenge. At the time, Lair No. 3 met at the Doylestown Moose Home and a dog tag with the impression of the Moose Home showed up in Missouri bearing the name **Albert R. Haldeman**. Don't ask how this information reached the RR&R, but it did. And **Rev. Krewson** chased down the long-dead **Haldeman**, interviewed his family, and told a fascinating tale about an ordinary man. The prompt was a scrap of

aluminum the size of a postage stamp found west of the Mississippi.

And who can forget the random longitude and latitude challenges used several times in Lair No. 1? Lenny the water mite was found by **Jeff Campbell** in a puddle on the Pennsylvania-Ohio border and Pauline the pig was found by **Greg Scheer** living in a hardware store on Main Street in Burgettstown. Who could have predicted?

Every square inch of the planet is home to some "interesting thing" that needs only an enterprising Rascal to discover it. That's why I never spent more than two weeks in any one bed during all of my adult years.

Which reminds me of a favor I'd like to ask. I would be grateful if someone could discover my final resting place. Sure, I've seen the entry in the ledgers of the US Consul at Malta noting I died aboard a ship enroute to Egypt. But what did they do with my bones? I would be more at rest if some modicum of my remains were to find itself in the Rascal Reliquary.

– Pliny Miles



The Megaphone

"Mostly True ... Since 1994."

Pliny Miles, editor

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