

800 - Critical Essays
of
Crazy George Takes a Holiday

The Fourth ~~Book~~ Study Guide

in the

Dragon Bound

a.k.a Dra@g©n B©und a.k.a

a.k.a **The D-B©und Adventuring Series** a.k.a

starring

Ruby FireHaven

and so on and so forth

as conceived, written, and enchanted by

Celli

the

Happy Go Lucky Celaphopod

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and in the Earthen Vortex

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Happy Birthday to the LeeZards

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800 - Critical Essays

Intro

It should come as no surprise to discover that while writing the notes to the study guide for Crazy George Takes a Holiday, I glanced -- however briefly -- at a few other study guides to see what the genre was all about. And believe it or not, the last guide I looked at was actually The Guide to Garg, a teacher's resource for integrating Garg I: The Endless Quest Begins into the classroom.

Now, I won't bore you with all the stupid things the guide said about Garg, you know, that he was revolutionary and a man before his time; and then of course, just to contradict itself, the guide went on to claim Garg was timeless, as well. You would think they'd vet those study guides. I mean, there is no way a man -- and a caveman, at that -- can be both before his time and timeless all at the same time. It just doesn't make any sense.

Still, hidden deep down, between the wasted words and idle chatter (something you won't find in this here study guide!), there was a great idea: critical essays. The Garg Guide included a full dozen essays written by top name university professors. But what was truly odd about the essays (and therefore worthy of comment) was they weren't about all that gobbledygook professors usually go on about (symbolism, context, plot, characterization, and meaning), but rather they outlined how the individual professor had integrated Garg XXIV: The Quest That Will Not End into his own class.

Of course, we won't be doing that here -- or at least, not exactly -- because reading anything written by a full blooded university professor is just mind numbingly boring. Let's just say,

after reading the cure for insomnia that is The Guide to Garg, I now have a full and complete understanding as to why I could never understand a single word -- not word one -- that my Imaginative Literature 2022 professor had said... and not just because he insisted on conducting his lectures in that obscure dialect of Haughty High Elf that is better known as elfish pretentious obscurous extremis).

Anyhow, the point of all this -- and yes, there is a point -- is that I thought it would be neat if we included something like the aforementioned class integration guidelines here. And believe it or not before settling on that idea, I even considered writing actual critical essays myself -- like me, personally -- for a minute or two. But then, I came to my senses and realized writing something that complicated would be similar to work. So in the end, I decided against it. Still, I'm pretty quick with the quill and in a minute or two I had put together a few notes -- an outline, if you will -- that somebody else (an under-appreciated university professor in desperate need of a few extra coins) could follow whilst they wrote the course guides.

I mean, it shouldn't be so hard. Your typical university professor is pretty darn brilliant -- not brilliant enough to get someone else to do their work, mind you, so we're not talking genius level here, but brilliant nonetheless.

Of course, some of you may have gone to university and therefore will be most unwilling to take my word on the existence of a brilliant university professor (like anywhere), so I give you the following -- totally random and completely unsolicited -- quotes from members of the aforementioned elite of academia as proof of their brilliance.

"Crazy George Takes a Holiday is the quintessential work, which defines the slacker period in adventuring fiction." (How much more insightful can you get?)

“What Celli has done is nothing short of amazing... truly revolutionary. It will change genre fiction writing forever.” (I like to think so.)

“Personally, I found it to be an even more disjointed affair than K’fr Road. What a pile of... Oh. Oh! OH! I see what you’re proposing, now. Why didn’t you say so in the first place? At first glance, Crazy George Takes a Holiday seemed a bit circular and redundant; but after I realized what it was all about, the story grew on me. I’m currently using CGTaH as the core textbook in ALL my classes -- in everything from the History of the Dwarven Words to Humanities for Soul Snatchers. My students love it and I enjoy the kickbacks... er, the courtesy checks I receive from Dragon Bound Publishing’s generous profit sharing plan at the end of every semester. Thanks, Dragon Bound Publishing!” (All’s well that ends well, that’s what I say. And of course, that you’re welcome.)

So see, some university professors are smart, some are even brilliant, or at least, quick enough on the ball to know which side their bread is buttered on. But really, I don’t know why I feel compelled to mention that. I mean, the snacking preference of our beloved educational class is neither here nor there.

Suffice to say, after forwarding the rough notes of the notes to the study guide that is to be Crazy George Takes a Holiday to a privileged set of teachers to test the feasibility of a Dragon Bound Publishing’s profit sharing plan, some of the brighter ones provided feedback on their preferred modes and methods of teaching CGTaH.

What follows, then, is what the cream of the crop (or that portion of which that can be easily bought off) had to say about teaching Crazy George Takes a Holiday in the classroom:

“I like to ask the class to discuss the work [i.e. CGTaH] in light of its many perspectives; and then, invite my students to look at it from their own point of view, as well.” (See. Just like I told

you. This guy is brilliant! What else can you call getting someone else to do your work for you?)

“I don’t like telling my students what Celli means by any given statement... and apparently neither does Celli.” (Note to self, remove this guy’s name from my mailing list.)

“During my first lecture I presented my interpretation of CGTaH to the class. Well let me tell you, I’ll never make that particular mistake again. The next week, I got 141 papers that spit back exactly what I had said. Doesn’t anybody think for themselves anymore?” (No. The answer to your question is no.)

“Unfortunately, when reading a book like Crazy George Takes a Holiday, many students look to their teacher for the answer, the solution, [and/or] the official interpretation. But providing such an analysis would only miss the point. The job of a good teacher is to ask the type of questions that will lead to an inner discussion and more complete understanding of CGTaH.” (Yes, exactly! I couldn’t have said that better -- like even if I had composed these fictitious blurbs myself!)

“Truthfully, most first year students aren’t at a place where they can understand the intricacies of CGTaH; that’s why I like to revisit Crazy George Takes a Holiday with my second, third, and fourth year students, as well. In fact, I’ve found that if I assign the “Contest” at the back of the book as homework, I get some really good ideas for my own work.” (Ah, a man after my own heart. If this isn’t brilliance, I don’t know what is.)

“Next summer, I’m going to Lang’dan and taking a trip down the canals retracing Celli’s route. And guess how I will be paying for this vacation? No, not from the money I received from Dragon Bound Publishing generous profit sharing plan, but from the fees I will be charging to the many cute coeds who will be accompanying me on said journey. Some students will do anything to get an A -- and I do mean anything.” (Well, hot darn! Dip me in oil and throw me in a room full of naked Elvin coeds desperate for an A. Based on that last letter, I’m thinking I should accept that guest lecturing position I was offered recently (Mythic Stories 221, don’t

you know). Anything for an A, you say? It sounds like an exaggeration, but I'd sure like to put it to the test. Get it? Test... because their coeds. Fine, don't laugh. I'll just move on to the next section, then.)

Format

Just like the previous sections, this is where I chew up a few lines by pointing out the obvious and explaining the format of the entries to come... as if you couldn't figure all of that out for yourself by simply reading the first one. But hey, I get paid by the word. And somebody's got to explain these things to those guys teaching Contemporary Lit 101.

Name... of course. It's a double entrée, which means it's two -- TWO! -- great meals (and/or meanings) for the price of one.

Department: because it's not just enough to study CGTaH by itself, you have to study it in relation to something else.

Preferred author: eventually (one would hope) these essays will actually get written. This is who I predict who will bother to waste... er, I mean, invest their time in such an obviously rewarding manner.

Thesis: a.k.a. the main point that the preferred author of said essay will inevitably drive home, hammer into the ground, and pound to death until everyone reading the piece is rendered senseless and/or unconscious out of sheer boredom.

Criticisms: everyone's a critic. But more importantly, for every thesis there is an antithesis (or the thesis isn't really a thesis). In this section we highlight the faults inherent in the thesis.

Further Reading/Bibliography/Etc: truthfully, I haven't got the slightest idea if we'll use this last item on the agenda or not. But if we do, don't be surprised if its use morphs from entry to entry. Who knows? If I'm feeling energetic, maybe I'll write the first few lines of the essays myself. But none of this first two and three paragraph stuff. When I say a few lines, I mean a few lines.

{And then, having wasted both your and my time by putting together a format section, I promptly ignored it. Turns out, it's a lot more fun putting together a list of fictitious classes (a course offering of sorts) than it is to write essay notes, so that's what I ended up doing. Those interested in consistency may, therefore, wish to revisit the introduction to this section and make corrections as necessary. Me, I'm not big on either consistency or making corrections, so I'm not going to bother. And once again, that's why this work is being billed as the notes to the guide, rather than the guide itself... much less, the actual book.}

The Classes, Essays, or Whatever I feel like writing about on any given day. I should hope that would cover it.

CGTaH and YOU!

Humanities 101: the dreaded breadth requirement

Dr. Pretension Himself

Thesis: Crazy George Takes a Holiday is the quintessential novel of our times -- i.e. it is essential for every Quint to read CGTaH.

Since no one in the class is a Quint, most students will be at a loss as to why they -- themselves -- must read it. And inevitably after the third or fourth class period, some enterprising young student will point out:

A) They are not, personally, a Quint.

B) No one else in the class is a Quint.

C) And to be perfectly honest, the word on campus is that "the good" Dr. Pretension simply invented the entire thing about Quints so that he could ask questions about Quints on the final exam and thereby arbitrarily flunk any student who had tried to embarrass him over the course of the semester by asking disrespectful questions, like this one... just as a for instance.

Of course, Dr. Pretension is not one to suffer fools (or incoming freshman) gladly. No doubt, he will throw the

aforementioned “Close-minded Philistine!!!” out of his class and seek to have him expelled from school, altogether. But even in his absence, the student’s words will continue to haunt the class and throw a chill over the topic for the rest of the semester. Finally, in an effort to diffuse the tension, Dr. Pretension will locate a Quint and invite him to speak to the class in order to explain why CGTaH is such a meaningful piece of art for all Quint-kind. Sadly, halfway through the Quint’s talk, it will be discovered that he is -- in point of fact -- actually one of Dr. Pretension’s graduate students in disguise. Still not knowing when to call it quits, at the next regularly scheduled class meeting, Dr. Pretension will try to explain that it was all a joke... or, er... a bit of performance art that he had planned from the beginning of the semester... as was the final, a take home essay in which the students must justify Dr. Pretension’s actions in light of the pending disciplinary tribunal the university has scheduled against him.

Criticism: not if you want to pass this class you won’t.

Etc: anyone who has ever taught a class knows it is silly to expect everyone (or in fact, anyone) to have read the assigned reading. But with CGTaH as the textbook, everyone is sure to be on equal footing because the novel does not yet exist and therefore cannot be read by anyone -- even the most dedicated of curve-wrecking students.

Celli is a Cad! The subjugation of women in the Dragon Bound series.

Women’s Studies 9669: a.k.a. why men (and especially Celaphopod’s) suck.

Dr. Jeannette Stevens, and/or Professor Stevie Jean

Thesis: Celli is a cad... as you may or may not have gathered from the course title.

Of course, as we all know, Jeannette Stevens -- that most rambunctious of Elves -- wants me, needs me, craves me, and desires me... beyond the point of good taste, restraint, or reason. So when she spends the entire semester “complaining” about how I

-- Celli the Happy Go Lucky Celaphopod -- treated Nadia during the writing of Minataur Tails, the one thing you've got to realize is that she's bitter she didn't get Nadia's role. Anyway, as the class is supposed to be about CGTaH and not Minataur Tails (a fine book in and of itself that I highly recommend), Jeannette might be forced to spend a lecture or two on CGTaH, and while she is doing this, she may try to force the story into some sort of silly metaphoric framework -- you know, maybe mention how Lane has four arms and this is supposed to be some sort of reference to how women's work is never done... or maybe some weird lesbian thing. Really, I don't understand Jeannette sometimes: not only is she an Elf (and therefore immune to my charms and mind reading ability), but she's a cute Elf. So when she says -- well, pretty much anything -- I find it hard to pay attention, and just sort of concentrate on the bouncing beauties at the bottom of the screen.

Criticism: although Jeannette's "arguments" are beyond reproof, it's all for show; I mean, it's got to be. Besides, Jeannette is just a girl, so who cares what she says, anyhow?

The First Day: No doubt, Jeannette -- that frisky Elf -- will explain how The Dragon Bound Quartet is nothing more than a S&M primer -- the story of a little girl who is captured, placed in bondage, and forced to do the ferocious beast's -- a.k.a. The Dragon's -- dirty work. Me, I'll just be in the back row, quietly taking notes, and getting ideas for my next book, while hitting on whatever cute coed happens to be sitting next to me -- lucky girl, her.

Dragon Bound: Breaking the Chains

Dwarven Studies 224 (meets the Dwarven Studies completely optional breadth requirement)

Master Hammersmith

Thesis: none.

In this lab course, students will take turns reading excerpts from Celli's works, while others work on their lab projects and laugh, grumble, or snort disparagingly (as is per there clan

practice) at the Celaphopod's nearly incomprehensible (and patently suicidal) philosophical outlook. Not recommended for those intending to pursue a career in the Military Sciences.

Criticisms: where there is no thesis, there can be no antithesis. More importantly, since the product of forge and fire will not be graded (only attendance), this class is viewed as the ideal mixer for those non-Dwarven students who wish to gain a greater understanding of Dwarven culture. Of course, Gra'gl only knows why anyone would want to gain a greater understanding of Dwarven culture.

Recommended Projects: for non-Dwarves include a nail (singular), a horseshoe (also singular), or a chisel (once again, if you're not a Dwarf, trust me, one will more than take up all the allotted time). Those with artistic inclinations may, instead, wish to try their hand at forging a Twisted Scrap of Iron, which in certain circles have also been nicknamed Morpheus Unbound, Meteor, or A Study in Metal. Some of these "works" (and I use the term loosely here) have actually won artistic awards, although not in any Dwarven competition. Try visiting your local modern art museum if you need inspiration.

Behind the Feathered Quill

Elvin Studies 004 (but seeing as its more of a club than a class, no credit will be offered)

Stef'fan (and if I'm still sleeping on his couch at the time, maybe I'll be a guest lecturer as well)

Thesis: Celli's stories would make a lot more sense if he heeded an Elf's advice now and again.

Now, get off my couch and out of my apartment, you couch-squatting bum!

Criticisms: the thesis lacks a certain poetic beauty that is normally associated with the Fair Folk. Besides, have you ever heard of a Celaphopod listening to an Elf? It just doesn't seem very likely. And as to that whole couch thing, you're right: I been sleeping on Stef'fan's couch for far too long. Starting tonight, I

will begin to leave my mark on the master bedroom. I can only hope Stef'fan is not as "open minded" as many of his brethren seem to be.

Etc.: "What! No! Get the H\$rlk out of my bed! That's it! I'm calling my sister, right now! She'll know how to handle this."

Friends and Family: The Culpability of CGTaH under the Law

She Who Cannot Be Named, Stef'fan, Mi'lay, Jeannette Stevens, et al v Celli the Happy Go Lucky Celaphopod (a legal brief)

The Right Honorable Henry Moss Flower (presiding)

Thesis: one way or another Celli owes an apology to all Elvin-kind and maybe a bit of gold on the side for good measure.

On the advice of our legal counsel, and due to the pending lawsuit, we cannot go into any further details at this time.

Criticism: now, don't be getting the idea from all this that my girlfriend and me are getting a divorce. We're not married, so how could we divorce? Nor are we breaking up. This is just one of those legal maneuvers Elvin women are famous for. It's sort of like when Jeannette got a restraining order against me in Minataur Tails. That didn't mean anything then, and this doesn't mean anything now.

Settlement: the exact details of the settlement are confidential, which means I'm not supposed to talk about them, but I think I can still give you a brief outline without breaking the spirit of the agreement.

1) I have to start paying my girlfriend royalties for her contribution to the story. Apparently all of our friends know who I am talking about when I say "my girlfriend." So, go figure.

2) If I don't move out within the week, I have to start paying Stef'fan rent. I guess, fair is fair.

3) If I say anything crass about Jeannette, Mi'lay, or any other "fine hunk of Elvin delight..." (Slap! Slap!), they have the legal right to slap me.

On the brighter side, that sweet Elvin beauty, whose name cannot be uttered for legal reasons, is now vacationing with me in the islands; we are sleeping in Stef'fan's bed; and I have discovered why I have been striking out with so many Elvin women -- most notably Jeannette and Mi'lay. They are closet dominatrixes and can only get off when they are humiliating some poor sap. (Slap! Slap! Slap!)

“That's it baby, I've been a bad Celaphopod... Hey! What gives? Where are you going? You've got to slap me. I've got a court order. Hey, this isn't fair. Come back here and humiliate me!”

Sex Sells: Sex and CGTaH

An informal gathering to be held during Lucky Tavern's Friday Night Happy Hour... or its local equivalent.

As hosted by Hank the Centaur... or his local equivalent.

Thesis: CGTaH gets really raunchy towards the end, but there is plenty of sex in the rest of the Dragon Bound series if you know where to look for it.

Criticism: you can find sex in a puddle of mud if you look hard enough, but all you're really seeing is your own reflection.

Hank Rebuffs: “Oh, yeah? Then what's with the insinuation that Warlord Grave and me have a love affair in Ruby [i.e. The Dragon Bound Quartet]? And if Warlord Grave wasn't trying to get rid of me -- all quiet like -- after our relationship went south and everything turned sour, what's the justification for me being gagged, bound, and headed for a meat packing plant in Minataur Tails?”

What? Oh, that was a question directed at me?

Well, let's see?

Oh, I know. The only way to answer a question like that is with another question. So, how do you know the reason you weren't bound and gagged and sent off to a meat packing plant is because you start spouting mindless gibberish whenever you get

too many malted milks in you? I mean, clearly you're a national security risk and are in need of silencing. Besides, if your theory was correct and word got out, this could severely impact sales.

(Note from Eddy the Editing Editor: I don't think you have to worry about word getting out at this point. If there was (still) any doubt in anyone's mind that the Dragon Bound series was intended for children, you have succeeded in setting the record straight. Congratulations. You have sunk as low as a Celaphopod can sink. If you are quite finished, can we please just get back to the list of clubs and classes? Or better yet, weren't you going to write an essay or something. Whatever happened to that idea?)

I thought we went over that: it sounded like too much work. But I can get back to the classes if you like.

Miscellany

Racial Studies 454

Quint E. Sun Shell

Thesis: If every Dwarf, Elf, and sexually frustrated Centaur who comes along gets their special interest class, the rest of us should get one as well.

Being designed for "the rest," this is one of those easy courses where everyone who shows up gets an A. But to be fair, this is more of a design flaw of that whole Racial Studies thing as a whole than anything to do with this particular class. Or if that isn't clear, let's just say tests, reports, homework, class participation, and so on go against the cultural norms of many groups: Orcs, Orks, O'rks, and so on (just to name just a few). Not that I have anything against O'erks, but an Orc by any other name is still an Orc -- and smelly to boot.

Antithesis: well, if the Orcs are the thesis, then the antithesis to them must be a group of adventuring heroes; and in this particular syntax, I guess those particular heroes would be known as anti-heroes. And since that sounds sort of confusing -- or to be

quite honest, something of an oxymoron -- maybe we should just use the colloquial and call them by their more common descriptor: Orc slayers.

Etc.: “See! This is what I’m talking about! I’m trying to better myself and get an education, but everyday, somebody wants to slay me, rack up a few miscellaneous experience points, and search my pockets for gold. Hey! Listen up! I’m a student, OK? I don’t have any gold. And if I had any experience, I wouldn’t need an education. Geez!”

Yes, well. Now that we’ve covered the Orcin point of view, perhaps we should move on to something worthwhile.

“Hey, I heard that!”

CGTaH: The Magic Comes to Life

Magical Studies - CCXIV-&\$\$!

As taught by none other than Crazy George: “Hey, cool! I always wanted to be an absent-minded professor. Hey, Lane, want to be my T&A?”

“It’s TA, darling. Well, OK. I see what you mean. Maybe, I can just be both.”

“Cool beans!”

Thesis: who knows?

“Oh, don’t get me started on that Celli; he’s a bad seed and never listens to a single thing any of us characters have to say. I mean, all of these courses, opinions, and what not are supposedly coming from the characters point of view, but he obviously never consulted any of us -- least of all me. Oh, and all of that crap about Celli giving us freewill? It’s all a bunch of hogwash. Freewill? Bah! That Celaphopod is nothing but a sullen bully.”

Antithesis: as with most of your better courses, you may expect your instructor in Magical Studies to cover his pet peeves in excruciating detail. But whether he, she, or it ever mentions a single thing pertaining to magic, well, that’s another matter altogether.

Etc.: “OK, so seeing as this is the last class, I thought I should mention CGTaH at least once and maybe comment on it from a wizard’s perspective. So, ready? OK. Here we go. As a wizard I am more in tune with the many omissions and contradictions which exist throughout CGTaH than the average reader; and this, in turn, leads to a more open-ended, multi-dimensional interpretation of the saga.

“For instance, with a single strip of manna, a snap of your fingers, and all of the extensive research that you should have been doing on your own since the beginning of the semester, many of the scenes from CGTaH can be recreated with ease. Your final assignment, therefore, which incidentally will count for 100% of your grade, will be to recreate the scene of your choosing. Your projects will be graded on overall quality, consistency with the plot (a contradiction in terms if I ever did hear one), and my ability to win the contest at the end of the book when I turn your work in as my own. Thank you. That is all. Class is dismissed.”

Karthrax vs. All Comers: The Cosmic Smack Down
Comparative Religion 101

As mediated by Pete the Paladin: “Yes! Score! Even if you’re just going to put words in my mouth and fabricate the dialog, I still get full compensation for my participation in the project, just like if I had a full walk on role, right?”

Thesis: Even the good guys have to eat.

“Since Celli called me at the last minute on this thing, I don’t have the details worked out yet -- maybe I can get an acolyte or an assistant to do that for me -- but the gist of the thing is: Karthrax is going to flunk your heretical @\$@ if you don’t accept him as your personal savior. Um, gee? That sounded kind of harsh. I wonder if I’ve started to speak in tongues.”

Criticism: the Seven Realms supports freedom of speech, religious tolerance, the pursuit of happiness, and so on. Don’t ask me what got into Pete, he’s usually a lot more tolerant -- not to mention, docile.

Etc.: “Right, right. Sorry about that. In this course we’ll cover the age old feud between Karthrax and Gra’gl. And owing to the fact that he doesn’t eat your soul, why many feel that Karthrax is the better choice. Also, I’m being told I need to cover K’fr, the Mystic Waters, and that heresy which goes by the name of the Church of the Kingdoms. Repent, ye sinners! The Day of Your Judgment (and final grades) is at hand!”

Note: full conversion is no longer a course prerequisite.

The Lang’don Canals

Special Projects in Geography 4409

Some Gnomish Mapmaker, maybe Gimly, he’s always looking for another walk on role.

Thesis: art reflects life.

CGTaH starts in Market Harbor (a real life location in the Kingdoms) and ends in the Sandwich Isles (a newly annexed part of the Realms). By use of slides, maps, newspaper clippings, and personal interviews with locals, the class will follow (viscerally) in the adventurers’ footsteps (every step of the way). Upon completion of the course, students will have gained an in-depth awareness of a trivially small portion of the Five Kingdoms -- a knowledge base which is of absolutely no practical use, unless one is planning on becoming a tour guide on one of those “follow in their footsteps” river trips.

Criticism: participants in the class will be eligible for a 10% discount on Dr. Gimly annual river cruise down the Lang’don Canal. Though, why anyone would pay to go on a trip they will be making endlessly for the rest of their lives as part of their career is beyond me.

Etc.: “This slide shows Bridge 223. It is almost indistinguishable from Bridge 222, which we just saw, except for the increased crumbling of the bricks in the lower left-hand corner. Here is an enlarged detail of that area. Notice how the mortar has crumbled away leaving a .25” crack. At Bridge 224, next, we see the crack has widened to .375”... an ominous sign.”

Note: Non-Gnomes are advised to drink plenty of coffee or other heavily-caffeinated beverages before attending class as snoring will not be tolerated.

CGTaH and Its Derivatives

Art Marketing 4728

Artismo Bones (Art, Arty, Just Call Me Art, and so on). You may remember him from his work as Bones (the evil skeletal warlord) in Minataur Tails.

Thesis: if someone has a bit of gold and you want it, you can either kill them for it and face possible jail time or manufacture some cheap piece of plastic and sell it as part of a slick marketing tie-in to their favorite book. Might I recommend the later.

“Originally, this course was conceived as having some sort of sissy curriculum wherein we compared CGTaH the book to CGTaH the movie, film, play, opera, and so on. But we’re not going to do that. Oh, and just so we can get this out of the way at the start -- and not have it hanging over the class all semester like some dark cloud -- if any of you were planning on doing CGTaH the Pantomime Routine for your final, just come to the front of the class right now, so I can gut you like a pig and put us all out of your misery.”

Criticism: I like Bones. I think he’s like totally spot-on -- especially about that whole pantomime routine thing. Those pantomimers will only be getting what they deserve, if you ask me. And then I remember that I don’t, actually, condone violence -- no matter how justified it may seem. So really, if you were planning on doing a pantomime routine in this particular class for your final, it might just be best for all if you slipped out during the break and dropped the class quietly without making too much of a fuss about it (which means without throwing a fake hissy-fit like some demented mute, spastic pantomime).

Etc.: “This here is a fully loaded AK-47/5889ty -- one of the more popular items in the overall Dragon Bound arsenal of marketing products. But before we begin today’s lecture, do we

have any commie arms control nuts in the class... or as I like to call them, target practice?"

CGTaH: The Celaphopod, His Art

Art History 203

Irwin Mosswood, curator

Note, classes will be conducted at the recently opened Rigor Pass Modern Art Museum.

Thesis: I know what I like; and if I like it, you can rest assured it's art.

"Personally, I don't understand all the hubbub surrounding CGTaH the Pantomime. It's much better than the music video, and don't even get me started on the board game. Please! But a dozen beautiful souls, gracefully, prancing across the stage... Oh, wait. I was thinking about CGTaH the Ballet. Come to think of it, I never did like CGTaH the Pantomime routine. Let's just cross that off the syllabus and move on to the next item on our agenda: The Eyes of Desolation. Is it just me, or do The Dragon's eyes just sort of pierce through you in this painting? Makes my heart flutter and knees go weak every time I look at it.

Criticism: I don't know if it's art, but I know what I like. Which is to say, when are we going to get to the bikini posters starring Nadia and Lane. That little Pixie sure rings my [tinker] bell, if you know what I mean.

Etc.: I hear tell Nadia will do "nude modeling" for your "art class" if the price is right. Whereas Lane, I also hear tell, will punch you in the nose (four times, one for each hand), if you so much as broach the subject -- no matter how tactfully.

Romanticism, Pragmatism, and Celli

Romance Languages 224

Celli, a Celaphopod who has been known to speak the language of love

Thesis: Baby, you can earn that A the easy way or the hard way; but truthfully, no one ever gets an A doing things the hard way.

Wherein the Celaphopod explains where CGTaH belongs in the greater lexicon of literature.

P.S. Nestled right after The K'fr Road: To Ve'kahn and Back Again and before Rigor Pass 1866: The Manna Boom Years -- i.e. between books III and V of the Dragon Bound series respectively.

Criticism: "This isn't an Open University course, so if you're going to disagree with me, you might as well drop the class right now."

Etc.: "You in the front row, with the beautiful... er, smile. You had something you wanted to say?"

And while it is theoretically possible that I could go on, I simply don't feel like it. But on the brighter side, those of you who are (both good looking and) unable to find Romanticism, Pragmatism, and Celli listed in their local university course catalog may contact me directly to arrange for a private... um, er... tutorial.