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Bern Porter

Sheila Holtz

Natasha Bernstein

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THE TRAVELS OF BLACK BEAR BOB
(excerpts)

May 1, 2000: BELTANE.

!HI SHEILA!
2:23pm
North Carolina, Coastal Plain

THE TRAIN HAS COME TO A COMPLETE STOP aside a large stubby brown dirt field with long straight furrows that are exactly perpendicular to rails... a kite-like bird has been circling overhead, probably looking for mice...pine-lands. Thin gauzy cirrus clouds, hazy sun showing through (plus a few lonely puffy cumulus.) Now train moving again (slowly)... You know, I know it's hard for you to imagine this up there, but IT'S SUMMER DOWN SOUTH ALREADY, AS OF TODAY, BECAUSE warm front just moved in (I'm trying to write on a little fold-out table in front of me.)

Black Bear Bob HAS DONE IT, SHEILA -- he has acheived his GOAL!!!!

* He got his bags packed on Time.
* He got all his research done.
* He got his VIATICUMS.
* He copied all his maps.
* He got himself in reasonable shape physically.
* He got his cat taken care of more or less.
* He acquired all the gear he needed.

AND he reached the 9th rung of his (metaphorical) ladder at midnight last night, as Beltane arrived, as he finally was able to relax and drink a cup of some kind of strange infusion tea that Leslie left behind from Essene... at that point he originally was going to write you then, but was too tired and went to bed (after watching "Deliverance" one more time) and smoking a VICTORY CIGAR.

Forever after, remember that this day, Beltane, 2000, shall be called:

BLACK BEAR BOB BELTANE

!!!

(To distinguish from all past and future Beltanes, in the Archive of History) for, this is the day BBB's lumbering was finished and he stumbled upon his Goal.

* * *
We just passed some UTTERLY TYPICAL railside Southern small manor-type houses in the town of ENFIELD... (manor-type, but worn-looking.) Now a long stretch of dark swamp water, hiding deep Southern mysteries entombed forever... Old Black lady seat in front of me talking about seeing her mom (boy, SHE must be old!) -- talking to younger Black lady with hairpin. They don't sound like Philadelphia Black women, but like NORTH CAROLINA Black women! Awe-inspiring. (They sound like supporting characters in Gone With The Wind.) THEY'RE PROBABLY NAMED "HATTIE" AND "DILSIE"

Here's a puzzle: we just passed a town called ROCKY MOUNT, not too small, not too big -- like Belfast. But its FLAT around here fur as fah as mahn ahs kin see, Effie Mae -- so how come they called it "Rocky Mount?" Mebbe they wuz nostalgic fur the Apple-lashuns, eh? Naw, couldn't be, cuz all the settlers moved from here west -- they none of 'em came back dis-a-way... (They lakked it in dem mountains and stayed.)

Little spring crops coming up (alfalfa maybe?)

...Or mebbe they jest WISHT they wuz in the mountains! Thinking of smoking my pipe (that YOU GAVE ME) in Raleigh when we stop briefly for leg-stretch, because its, like, the tobacco capital of the world, like... (I think) ... OR SOMETHING...

Mar. 14 - "Hold the mental picture of what you desire until it comes into visible expression."
FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT - 1911

postcard from BBB received by S. Holtz, June 19, 2000

(Later, HIGH POINT, NORTH CAROLINA)

BBB is drunk -- he just drank two beers (that's BEERS, not BEARS) at Pizza Hut, along w/ eating a miserable little "pan pizza," and getting charged the outrageous sum of $9 for all told... This is where I got off train. A DEAD city (as in DAY-UD, Effie Mae) after dusk anyway -- it's 9 pm. From here take Greyhound to Asheville -- 160 more miles... (Nort' Carry-uhn's a beeg state, Effie Mae!) Now here's ANOTHER town with a name that belies its geography -- there's nothing HIGH around here -- we ain't NO WHERE'S
NEAR the mountains! What's going ON in this state?? Maybe everyone in NC wants to live in the mountains but they can't (because, after all, if whole state of NC moved west into mountains, BBB would find it too overpopulated for his tastes...) so they VICARIOUSLY name their towns as though they lived there -- INNARESTING... All I need to confirm hypothesis is the find another town named "Summit" or "Peak City" or something!

*** to be continued) ***

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Travels of Black Bear Bob will be serialized in this and upcoming issues of BERN PORTER COSMOGRAPHICAL. It comprised five letters written to Editor Sheila Holtz, detailing his adventures on his two and a half month Hejira (vision quest) in North Carolina and adjacent states. His Trek On Foot took him to among other places, Cold Mountain, made famous by the prize-winning novel of that name, and, in the opinion of the editor, reveals DEEP KARMIC ISSUES, involving the terrain in question. Black Bear Bob had been planning in every detail this significant journey in his humble room in West Philadelphia, pouring over maps and related documents to insure an extensive knowledge of the area before departing, as well as meditating deeply on the significance of his journey... for more than half a year prior to his departure.

Black Bear Bob received his name in a dream/hypnagogic state, as he saw a BLACK BEAR in a meadow at the edge of a forest LUMBERING STEADILY TOWARD ITS GOAL. His full vision-name is "Black Bear Lumbers Toward Goal.”

“Man's real home is not a house but the road, and life itself is a journey to be walked on foot.”

~BRUCE CHATWIN
THE SONGLINES
(on a post card from Black Bear Bob to Sheila Holtz
June 2000)

San Francisco considers honor for historic beat-era bookstore

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The birthplace of the counterculture beat movement may soon be recognized by the establishment it rebelled against.

The city's Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board unanimously voted Wednesday to recommend landmark status for City Lights Bookstore, the quirky building where Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac and a 1950s literary bunch derisively known as "beatniks" drank coffee and questioned authority.

Final approval must come from the City Planning Commission and then the city Board of Supervisors. The process is expected to take about two weeks, bookstore co-owner Nancy Peters said.

The alternative bookstore opened in 1953. Long before bookstore chains installed cappuccino machines, City Lights scattered stools and cafe tables throughout the store to encourage browsers, dawdlers and debaters.

In 1957, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the store's co-founder and current owner, and his then-associate, Shigeyoshi Muraro, were arrested on obscenity charges after City Lights published and then sold Ginsberg's sexually graphic poem "Howl" to an undercover police officer.

The two were acquitted, but the trial and the bookstore's practice of featuring books and holding readings by writers far outside the mainstream put San Francisco on the literary map.

The landmark status would put the 1907 building on the architectural equivalent of an endangered species list.

-- Katherine Donithorne
Scholar of the Institute of Advanced Thinking.
This rope sculpture is part of an outdoor lawn display at the Institute of Advanced Thinking at the home of Bern Porter at 50 Salmund St. in Belfast. The institute features indoor and outdoor art and is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 338-4303.

100 Your place in Cosmic Scheme

Concept 5 Mars: "One only becomes real at the point of action." Anonymous

Dr. Robert Anthony said:

Concept 1. Sun: "Others can stop you temporarily. Only you can do it permanently."

Key phrase for the Sun is: I Am.

Concept 2. Moon: "Ultimately you have no choice but to feel what you are feeling."

Key phrase for the Moon is: I Feel.
THUMBS UP! for "Physics on All Fours"

FORBIDDEN LOVE between science and mysticism. Not for the squeamish. Each time I crack open Nick's book joy spills out. I don't like poetry but I love this!
--Kelly Evans, creator of "PneumaticOMics"

FUNNY, EROTIC, and philosophically provoking, Nick's imaginative mix of science, sex, and extraterrestrial wisdom delightfully unveils the secrets of quantum tantra.
--David Jay Brown, author of "Virus!", "Mavericks of the Mind" and "Brainchild"

PROFOUND, MIND-EXPANDING! I keep Nick's book and Omar Khayyam's next to my hookah.
--Jabir 'abd al-Khaliq, Imam of Radio Beach

SASSY, LUSTY, BRASSY! At last I can savor all Nick's mash notes to Dame Nature in one volume. These poems will help you feel, see and touch reality in ways you never would have imagined. Good medicine for our times.
--Beverly Rubik, CEO Institute for Frontier Science author of "Life at the Edge of Science"

HOT QUANTUM LOVE SONGS by a smitten physicist. As Tantra is about union, so poetry is the praxis of Quantum Seduction. And like seduction, playfulness perhaps nudges us closer to Truth than the Mechanical Rigor of Nature's voyeurs.
--Dale Pendell, author of "Pharmako/Poeia: Plant Powers, Poisons and Herbcraft"

SEXY, INTELLIGENT and vividly imagined, Nick Herbert's poems lustily French kiss life, peck death on the cheek, and climb into bed with the mysteries of the universe.
--Adrianne Blue, author of "On Kissing: Travels in an Intimate Landscape"

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(Full Price $12 after publication date: June 5, 2000)
Excerpts from REEFER JIVE by Harry Nelson AKA D.A.R., being a collection of essays and stories

The Journal

IS/WAS once- uponna
lost in the tall skunk grass (impenetrable) it grew nine feet high.
"Phenomenal," I said aloud to myself. "I love..."
going to getchu covered withy ellowm, ustard, egg/man eaten whole by

Meanwhile in Babylon
static interference in Peoplespeak.
"Ee-gad! " I exclaimed aloud at the sudden unexpected Knowing. "I've been crawling blind through the skunk grass ever since I was a baby, and all I have to do is stand up? All I had to do all these years was..."
"Yes. Just stand up and you see right over it," said my left foot. "View the millennium three hours before any other human.

"Be the Journeyman shaman, said my right foot: The toe and instep chakras had learned con gather - link with the three (different) energy palms of my right hand.
"What...?" Asked Doctor Willard Wilson Dupree, owner of the brothel.
"Who are you? The Manager?" I wanted to know. "Am I really what I'm trying to do? Channel the Great Pyramid of Cheops? Before I'm... ?"
"AIRshafts left to right, right to left, nobody will understand," counseled the Doctor
"Most people don't care about evolving their awareness, their link with the spirit."
"This is the best- I-can..."
"You could die."
"Yeah, I know."

Awkward Sex

FLASH- POP! went the camera in my face, and I turned my head and coughed. The Doctor whistled through thinpursed lips, a tuneless phrase known only to himself. But the was still-shadowed (like the second attention) however OakStreet and the panhandle of Golden Gate Park. An artist's pad. Library books too. And San Francisco and one-way streets. And Sheila Rose.

Beautiful roadhouse brogue-Irish and willing. The creamy tops of her full breasts oozed provocatively from the red-peasant scoopneck blouse she wore over a full suit of bulletproof Kevlar bodyarmor darkly - feeling I went
cellar to meditate on burgeoning springtime. Long down her back ran the thickgolden tresses. Between her legs the Yeti and sea monsters wore a Glock pistol in a polished brownleather holster on one hip. A full automatic AK-47 with a 50-round drum magazine hung from a strap - across one shoulder, the one she always hitched upward a little bit when she was annoyed. She was doing that now.
I reached for my
Church organist, play those canvas bandolier straps: Khaki with the multiple loops stuffed with red and green shotgun shells. Held - with insouciant attitude against her pelvic nest, across the mound of Venus Sheila Rose cradled a sawed-off 12-gauge pump.
I had to have her and she knew it. So much for the pillbox assault.

copyright 4-12-00 by Daniel A. Russell.
Concept 3. Mercury: "Consciously or unconsciously, you always get what you expect."

  Key phrase for the Sun is: I think.

Concept 4. Venus: "Whatever you want, want you."

  Key phrase for the Venus is: I Want.

Concept 5. Mars: "One only becomes real at the point of action." Anonymous

  Key phrase for the Mars is: I will.

Concept 6. Jupiter: "Life is a journey, not a destination." Key phrase for the Sun is: I Expand.

Concept 7. Saturn: "Freedom of will is the ability to do gladly that which I must do."

  Key phrase for Saturn is: I Choose.

Concept 8. Uranus: "Whatever you are willing to put up with is exactly what you will have." Key phrase for Uranus is the Awakener

Concept 9. Neptune: "God don't make faulty products.".

  Key phrase for Uranus is the Inspirer

Concept 10. Pluto: "Things are not what they seem, they are what they are."

  Key phrase for Uranus is the Transformer

Gleams from the American Astrology: (Nguyen Ducmanh)
THE ANXIETY IMAGE-BANK, OR
SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT BERN
PORTER BEFORE I EAT LUNCH

by miekal and

He does not live in a mail
box as I had once thought.
Can one acquire virtuosity
to FINDING the exact pecu-
liar pieces of information
as to reveal unheard of no-
tions, & would it all fit
into a scheme in some one
man’s head in faraway
Maine? Has as Bern
Porter's books suggest, an
ecclectic anarchy changed
the course of pages of pa-
per between covers? In a
generation with video dis-
play instant access infor-
mation & other forms of
hypodermic information
processing, can the needs;
desires, & wants of books
be drastically rerouted so
as to include previously
unhad ideas & images? Is
it that Bern Porter has
constructed with his
books an universal epic
of signs passing before
our eyes daily, or how
you say? everything is
passing for something else
until we know what were
seeing.

The abnegating of treaties
The acidifying of alkalis
The affiliating of bastards
The aligning of booby-traps
The ambulating of cripples
The annuling of covenants
The assessing of polls

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A very brief note from the editor. In honor of the millennium and its implied
expansion of global & cosmological perspective, we changed the name of
BERN PORTER INTERNATIONAL to BERN PORTER COSMOGRAPHIC. As of
JANUARY 2000 we began Volume 1 Number 1. But the widespread inflation
with the turning of the millennium is over. Next issue we will resume the name
NUMBERING with Volume 4 Number 8. BERN PORTER INTERNATIONAL, Sheila Holtz

ed. Sheila Holtz, PO Box 10, Orland, Maine 04472 USA