

ZOUKI'S LIST OF UNFAVORITE THINGS

A surprising number of people have contacted me to ask what things in the world I find most distasteful. After mulling the question over (nothing like a good mull now and then), I have distilled a very lengthy list to the following:

- (1) Bonnie Fleemburger of Snohomish, Washington, attempting to sing "She Moved Through the Fair" as therapy at her tone-deafness support group
- (2) Pizza with pineapple and/or black olives on it
- (3) Politicians, particularly those willing to provide solutions (usually costly) for problems they have caused
- (4A) Prostate checkups (except if performed on # 3 above)
- (4B) Root canal work (ditto)
- (5) Other folks' lists of "tunes I can't stand" . . . like, who cares?
- (6) Al Kretchmer's YouTube in which he proudly shows off his collection of unshaven bodhrán skins
- (7) The regularly-recurring debate between paleolithographers and bioethno-sexologists over pretty much any topic you can think of. Dammit, can't we all just get along?
- (8) Statements like the following:
"Irish traditional music represents to me the primordial effusion of the prevailing cultural dialectic, tinged occasionally with melancholy and occasionally with unmitigated happiness, requiring a delving into the Spiritus Mundi, a grasp of Zen (*make that TWO grasps of Zen, Timmy, and a double for my lady friend*), and a concretion of fully realized irony. Only when you have mastered these principles can you even think of playing 'The Kesh

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Jig' correctly." (In Zouki's ancestral homeland, statements like these are referred to generically as "owl shite".)

(9) Pay-per-blast tire inflation machines. \$26 for 18 seconds and then you can't find the goddam cap to the left rear tire stem. The dwilf who invented these atrocities should plan on an Afterlife that would make Dante's Inferno look like Disney World.

(10) Cool Whip

(11) Quantum entanglement. For goodness' sake let the poor quantum lead the lives they want to lead, regardless of how weird it looks to us!

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As soon as the furor on IRTRAD that the above is sure to engender calms down, Zouki will perform yet another exercise in self-indulgence and share with everyone his List of Really Favorite Stuff. Though many of you probably won't care in the least, just creating such a list is helpful to restoring a sense of balance and - dare one say it? - equipoise in Zouki's frenetic life.

Thank you for caring, deeply. Now please excuse me while I go mull some more.

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