

# General Embarrasses Emperor

ENY – Rumors of General Edward Syke’s alcoholism have sparked the creation of a new job in the ENY’s public relations department. Although ENYPR already has three full time staff whose job it is to monitor the activities of his fan club and products that either claim his endorsement or use his name, the department has decided that in order to keep Syke’s alcoholism from being an embarrassment to the government and military of the ENY, another full time staff member is needed.

“Many people like to say that this is the private business of the General and his family, but they couldn’t be more wrong,” said John Montessori, the newly appointed ENYPR attaché to Sykes. “And let’s be clear here, neither the Emperor, nor the military, have any problem with the General being a lush.... That’s almost required in a job like his. The problem is that when he drinks, it’s embarrassing. Wait... turn that off! You said this was off the record!”

Reports of Sykes standing on top of a statue in front of the Imperial Palace in nothing but a pair of boxer shorts and his uniform cap, performing air guitar while singing Thin Lizzy’s “Cowboy” at the top of his lungs, are fore-

most on the list of information that Montessori is supposed to keep from appearing in the media both within and outside ENY.

“We’ve been sorely needing to add someone to the staff for this work for years, but things have really come to a head once he started arranging all of these wakes for some shard no one has ever heard about,” complained ENYPR director Mario De Lucca. “If the bureaucracy of the Imperial office weren’t so clogged with red tape, we might have prevented the distribution that film clip of him wearing a tutu and bunny ears and dancing to a song we’ve been told is called ‘The Hamster Dance’ in the metaverse. Luckily, now that we’ve hired John, that sort of thing will no longer be a threat to ENYPR and instead will continue to amuse the upper ranks of the military and the Benedetto family at private parties, as is proper.”

Suggestions that Sykes’ drinking problems are related to the ENY military SOP regarding paradox, which consists of drinking heavily and then whoring, are vehemently denied by ENYPR representatives.

# Technosphere Gets Sense of Humor

BERKLEY, Silicon Valley, July 3 (YNS) – Before a gathered crowd of scientific dignitaries from other Threads and several Technomages, Dr. Scott Thompson, Head of Berkley’s Department of Humor Studies, who was known in the pre-Event world as “Carrot Top”, announced today that Silicon Valley has achieved “Tech Level Eight with regard to TEH FUNNY.”

Dr. Thompson went on to say, “Of course, we have had HyperFunny Devices for a long time now, but that’s rated on a different track, not unlike TickleMagick.”

Dr. Thompson proceeded to then tell several HyperFunny jokes, drawing strange sigils in the air and occasionally pulling out a rubber chicken coated with Teflon and waving it around. Only his fellow Technomages laughed.

In the silence, Dr. Clint Toris of the Empire of New York said, “Of course the Technosphere thinks a fucking PROP COMEDIAN is funny. Hand me my flask.”

“Of course,” Dr. Thompson told the crowd. “Normal people cannot get these jokes without an implant, because they use a multi-dimensional notation that no one else in the whole universe can ever, ever, ever understand. So there.”

Dr. Carrot Top then proceeded to produce the head of George Carlin in a jar, which emitted a wave of post-hippy bitterness which resulted in the dispersal of the crowd.

Dr. Pikov Andropov of the TL7 USSR went on to say that the USSR has developed a way to deflect humor using nuclear weapons. “There is a chance this technique will cause a renegade Comedy Tour to sweep across the known Threads, but the USSR will take that chance if someone doesn’t explain the joke to us.”

Attempting to explain further to the dispersing crowd, one of the assembled scientists, Dr. Alpha Kenny Wun of Berkley’s Department of Departmental Departments said, “It’s

like that joke about prisoners that number their jokes... only more complicated.”

The representative from the Hive, Sweetie-77345663 said that the Hive has “an Avogadro’s Number of the Comedian caste working on the problem, but they just don’t get it.”

Dr. Fook Yu of Rising Sun didn’t laugh, but claimed to have gotten the joke anyway. He went on to say that anyone who claims that Rising Sun didn’t get the joke will be preemptively invaded by mecha carrying TL7 cream pies.

Via satellite, Dr. Al Fakher from TL7 Malaysia reported that Malaysia got the joke first, but it isn’t actually as funny as their own material.

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# Black Hearted Villain or Misunderstood Madman

## General Sykes

By Jack Mahone

In our continuing series of even-handed and insightful analysis of people misunderstood and vilified by the masses, we take a look at our most infamous subject yet.

General Edward "The Sykes" Sykes.

What kind of man has a pair of guns just for shooting his own men? What kind of leader encourages alcoholism, dissolution, and murder among his own troops? What kind of husband owns his wife? What kind of General deploys nuclear weapons against Rhode Island? What kind of public figure has the foresight to kidnap a newspaper reporter's wife and children just in case an article like this might ever get written?

The answer? One hell of a great guy, that's what kind!

For details, we went right to the world's greatest living expert on Edward Sykes: Lt. David Costa (Ret.) owner of CostaCo, developer of the Sykes System for Self-Improvement, author of the yet-to-be-published unofficial unauthorized no-holds-barred biography of General Edward "The Sykes" Sykes.

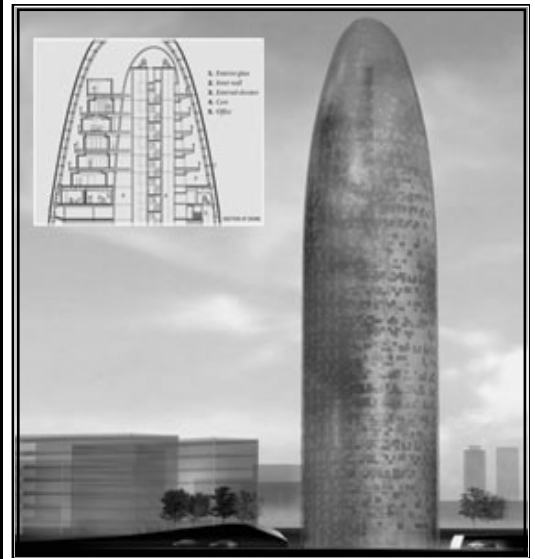
Sykes was born; of this much we are sure. Probably somewhere in upstate New York, but details of this legend-in-the-making are understandably cloudy. Saved from a humble career as a college professor by the for-

fortunate destruction of time and space, young Edward was all alone and with no witnesses when he purportedly said, are going to make up a lot of absurd and funny stuff that I did, but I'll be all humble and stuff about it."

A diligent student and a brutal schoolyard bare-knuckle champion, Sykes was bound for greatness from the start. Rumors that Sykes organized his 4<sup>th</sup> grade class into regiments and launched an unsuccessful rebellion against the Nuns of Our Lady of Perpetual Misery (aka PS 27) have never been confirmed ... or denied. But this much is known, Sykes went directly to military school very shortly after the unconfirmed event either happened or didn't.

At the height of his career, Sykes was pressured into marrying (and later taking legal possession of) Christiana DeLuca. This was intended to make the powerful and intractable young general more tractable. In retrospect this was a pretty dumb ass idea.

Among Sykes' many colorful (and downright bizarre) accomplishments are changing the timeline, shooting down Godzilla, out drinking a goddess (and smooching said goddess while doing it), and entirely destroying at least two threads.



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