

SOCIOPOLITICAL
FACTIONALISM IN
ROADGOING
ORCHESTRAL
CONVEYANCES

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PREFACE

The following “scholarly” work is the result of years of travel on the road with different musical aggregations. It gives an insight, however biased, into the different types of personalities I have found on the band bus. It was written about 18 years ago while I was on tour with one of the better – known bands I've played with.

One nighters with a jazz band include numerous hours of travel time, largely on buses. On a particular tour in Sweden, I found that we were spending copious amounts of time on the “band bus”, as we call it. Having about 3 weeks of one nighters ahead, and a craving to poke fun at my fellows, I took it upon myself to “signify” in a literary manner. This I did by describing different members of the band (with appropriate exaggeration, of course) in writing.

I thought it might be fun to frame this exercise in derision in the self – important, self – satisfied, authoritarian manner of a textbook or scholarly work, hence the title and the pseudonym. In this edition, some of the names have been further altered to protect the guilty.

I hope you have as much fun reading it as I had writing it!

MOTIVE FORCES OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Genre and stylistic differences lie at the foundation of a great deal of social stratification. In extreme instances, the differences cause secession and the formation of new entities. In less acute situations, it creates the factionalism described in the title of this work

When differing sonic concepts are forced together by economic necessity, a power struggle ensues. Both factions desire control, but dominance usually falls to the faction with the greatest number of years in existence, or seniority. The “established” faction usually gains the upper hand in economic and policy matters, leaving the neophyte faction with only rhetoric as a means of socio- political leverage. Violent overthrow of the “established” faction has never been recorded.

The rhetorically – based neophyte faction naturally resents the aforementioned state of affairs and develops, either wittingly or unwittingly, a mindset we will label “the Upstart Ethos”. This “Upstart Ethos” is a political / rhetorical concept based on constant faultfinding and piecemeal criticism with the sole aim of showing the established to be inept and incompetent. For this approach to be successful, criticism of the leadership must be constant, and whenever possible or expedient, loud. The underlying idea is to make a case for the argument that the established leaders are undeserving of their dominant positions.

This antagonism, although intellectual in nature, manifests itself in the physical terms, the most common of which is territoriality. Both factions desire physical separation from the other. Therefore, they create well – defined, protected spaces inside of which they operate under their own rules and directives. These territories remain constant at all times and throughout changes in conveyance. Each side respects the boundaries of the other, and trespasses only occasionally. Due to the necessity of the two factions having to cooperate on at least one level, a certain degree of accommodation on each side is required. The degree of tolerance or intolerance varies according to changing factors. Much of the tolerance shown at any given time can be traced to the necessities imposed by economics and contractual obligations of the group. If factionalism is allowed to prevent the orchestral entity from fulfilling its contractual obligations, the economic repercussions would eventually collapse the infrastructure that supports both factions. This condition is dreaded by both sides, and they therefore endeavor to avoid this scenario at all costs. Tolerance is exercised to the extent that breach of contractual obligation is avoided. And only to that extent.

Intolerance, on the other hand is pervasive and even exists between groups within the same general faction. However, in most cases this intolerance does not escalate into full – scale confrontation.

OUTWARD MANIFESTATIONS RESULTING FROM SOCIO – POLITICAL FACTIONALISM

The territoriality fostered by seniority, establishment, upstart ethos, and intolerance manifests itself in a phenomena known as “rank induced conveyance position”. This term developed from observation of groups within the orchestral conveyance. It was observed that seating position on a given conveyance appeared to be linked to one's rank in terms of seniority and lobbying power. Another factor that seems to affect conveyance position is sociopolitical outlook. Instrumental prowess can inspire inter – factional respect, but this plays a very small role in conveyance position as observed in this study.

All of the foregoing hypotheses can be put to the test in the realm of actuality. In this particular orchestral conveyance study, the factions observed were the “executives”, made up of individuals who had amassed money, property, seniority, and longtime political affiliations, and the “lounge”, largely made up of struggling individuals engaged in diverse and unrelated endeavors, who were trying to acquire some semblance of regular cash flow. Within each of these groups were various splinter groups, but that phenomenon is the topic of a more detailed study at a later point in this work.

Although these groups were well defined territorially, behaviorally, and visually, there were exceptions to the general rule. During the study, it was found that certain individuals of “lounge” characteristics (unstable economics, multiple paltry revenue streams, etc.) could be found residing quite comfortably in the executive territorial realm. Conversely, certain persons with executive characteristics (property ownership, etc.) were found in the lounge sphere without any arising complications. This phenomenon is known as the “spillover factor”. It is explained as follows; the person of lounge characteristics panders to the executive faction hoping to curry favor and improve their status, while the individual of executive characteristics panders to the lounge faction hoping to gain grassroots acceptance or “street credibility”.

The all – pervasive problem of economics rears its head in all organizational situations, and the roadgoing orchestral conveyance is no exception. In order to effectively exploit the resources of the lower socioeconomic classes, taxes and other such levies are imposed. In the orchestral conveyance studied, the tariff was imposed by an organization dubbed the “Bat Club”. This tariff was in existence long before most of the lounge faction was of school age, and was in fact created by members of the dominant executive faction. Its premise is simple; to extract monies from any individual, of whatever faction, when that person is seen with a member of the opposite sex judged as “ugly” by a majority in the sole judicial body of the orchestral conveyance, the Marsupial Court.

The political dominance of the executive faction is seen clearly here, as both the judge and persecuting attorney of the Marsupial Court are long – established members of that social stratum. The system of justice is as simple as the basic premise of the Bat Club: if the Bat Club turns a profit, justice has been served. One hallmark case was Singleton vs. the Bat Club (1987) in which no timeline was ascertained for the alleged offense and all evidence in favor of the defendant was ignored. This resulted in the divestiture of a portion of Mr. Singleton's earnings levied by the judge and unanimously approved by the court. Singleton was deported during a rest interval, and has not been heard from since.

The roots of “bat” justice are as deep as the roots of mankind. These roots go far down into the human traits which produce greed, petty jealousy, revenge, betrayal, opportunism, lust, and the like. It should be added that the “lounge” faction of the studied group was a veritable spawning ground for these traits. It may simply be that the lounge faction was less skilled at concealing them under a veneer of respectability than their counterparts in the executive faction.

The dominant executive faction possesses two advantages over the lounge faction in this Machiavellian battle of trickery and intrigue; reduced sexual drive and strong political affiliations. The obvious advantage of political affiliation is combined with the not – quite – as – obvious advantage of reduced sexual drive (which renders sex – related distractions and / or sexual bribery less effective) to create an effective machine of exploitation. With these two advantages, the executives can scrutinize the actions of the more impetuous lounge members, charge them with an offense, and quickly wrest a tariff from them through their strong legal alliances. The lounge member can only lodge complaints that fall on deaf ears and unfeeling hearts. Due to the nonexistent political unity in the lounge, there have never been any serious challenges to executive supremacy. As a result, the lounge faction's morale has degenerated into resignation and pettiness. Exacerbating this low morale is the unfortunate appearance of a lack of intellectual acumen in the lounge. Consequently, whining has become the main outlet for political expression.

Economically speaking, the fines levied by the Bat Club have a far more devastating effect on the convicts of the lounge faction due to their lower per capita income and assets. Fine – paying in the case of an executive convict is a minor annoyance, while to the lounge convict it is a setback of significant proportions (occasioning privations of smoking materials or prophylactic equipment). This situation elicits no sympathy or consideration from the dominant faction, and the collection of Bat funds continues apace, with no abatement of intensity.

Lounge challenges to this executive dominance have been rare, but insurrections have been cited. Challenges cited have been described as well – planned and even well executed, but they seem always to have proved futile. There have also been legislative attempts to restructure the Bat laws, but again, these attempts were usually ignored or filibustered by the executive faction. Also, the weak political unity of the Lounge makes their advancement all but impossible, as evidenced by the many thwarted efforts of valiant political scientists in the past.

A final note on the Lounge faction; their sociopolitical and economic squalor is to a large extent a condition fostered by their own outlook and actions. In most cases, the Lounge members busy themselves with narrow – minded, short – sighted pursuits solely intended to satiate their immediate appetites. They are fond of complaining and seem terrified of collective action or intellectual effort. Add to this a total lack of procedural knowledge and will to persevere, and one can only forecast a dim future for the hapless Lounge faction.

**AN IDENTIFICATION OF SOCIOPOLITICAL
GROUPS
WITHIN A PARTICULAR ORCHESTRAL
CONVEYANCE**

Trorians

This intellectually – inclined group is of classic lounge economics. The Trorian will tend toward aloofness and an outward appearance of discontent or anger. This group shows a marked Pan – African orientation, although generally on good terms with all ethnic groups. Trorians sometimes display a degree of haughtiness which can be unbecoming. They also tend to be of crusading temperament, welcoming opportunities to battle with authority or orthodoxy. In addition, Trorians tend to be iconoclasts, and are often seen in this capacity on a daily basis.

Hibughes

Hibughes are another intellectually – oriented group, but are of an older, more established sector possessing executive economic status. Sociopolitically, the Hibughes are moderate and pragmatic. They are often found in the upper echelons of the orchestral conveyance hierarchy, especially in the legal and information fields. Periodically, Hibughes are the target of defamatory diatribes spread by another group, the Chnites (pronounced ch-`NITES). Generally, the Hibughes triumph over these fulminations due to the Chnite tendency toward unfounded accusations.

Wilreeds

Of nervous, excitable, and erratic nature, Wilreeds are a strongly impulsive group. Due to this, they are fanatic observers of social decorum. Extremely judgmental in areas which they themselves have little or no expertise, they can be found condemning everything from governments to religions outside of the Islamic faith. The Wilreeds occupy executive territory and appear to be of executive economics. However, they are ill at ease in most observed territorial realm.

Ingians

This group is ostentatiously obsessed with the procurement and consumption of foodstuffs. Ingians have little concern for matters outside of food or drink gathering. The socioeconomic status of Ingians is questionable, due to the fact that they are seldom seen doing anything other than gorging themselves with meat, fish, vegetable matter, water, juices, soda, breads, cheeses and other such fare. It is supposed that the Ingian diet requires requires an executive economic structure for support. The Ingian tendency towards freeloading could manage such dietary support without executive economics, however.

Braswils

A group characterized by mild and generally agreeable personalities, Braswils show a marked fondness for intoxicating drink. They are, however, of sober dispositions and are generally quite likable in manner. Although found in the executive territorial realm, Braswils appear to be possessed of lounge economics. An additional observation concerning Braswils is this group's noticeable tendency towards quiet self – aggrandizement and criticism of others, generally occurring in situations where there will be no opposition or where dissent would breach established rules of decorum for the general group.

Waznoians

Generally known for their unique ability to vacillate on any subject or position, Waznoians can be identified by their traditional greeting (“Heyyyy Baby!”) followed by a two – fist handshake. From a factional standpoint, this group has the history and affiliations of the executive

group, though they will fall in with the ideals of what ever group holds dominance. Waznoians hold the office of treasurer for the Bat court and are part of the executive economic strata. In addition, this group seems to be preoccupied with being the premiere group in any type of queue, be it a queue for hotel keys, aircraft entry, or any other purpose. This psychological phenomenon is known as “Queue Primacy Syndrome”.

Conhites

This faction is the established leadership caste of the orchestral conveyance. Conhites are very comfortable giving orders, making demands, issuing instructions and handing down decrees. This group is in control of the orchestral monetary system and wields potent influence in the upper executive sociopolitical realm. Conhites have a propensity for calumny, lechery, and clandestine activities of all types. They are possessed of executive economics and can be distinguished by good manners, expensive clothing, frequent manual gestures when speaking and a ready smile that can be activated in any situation in which it might advance their interests.

Xidonians

This group exhibits the classic benign behavior associated with the combined comforts of executive privilege, seniority, and financial security. Xidonians are on very good terms with all groups in both factions, and they frequently use humor quell any latent dissent or conflict that may arise. This group shares dominance in legal and procedural policy with the Hibugue group. Xidonians are not known to openly oppose anything, but behavioral characteristics suggest duplicity, treachery, circumlocution, and guile. It must be said, however, that the Xidonian caste openly admits to lecherous intents and purposes.

Forbradians

By far the most ambitious and self – promoting sector of the lounge faction, Forbradians are generally seen with the members of the executive caste, and upper echelon members at that. Despite this, they are comfortable in either realm. Forbradians are rather flamboyant and display a certain degree of queue primacy syndrome. Economically, the Forbradians fit into the lounge strata, but they are territorially positioned within the upper executive realm. Their inter – factional mobility allows them to elicit favors from any of the factions of the orchestral conveyance at practically any time.

Terfosaris

A fascinating leadership caste that encompasses many of the best and worst traits of the two factions. Terfosaris are of extremely good natures, but this tends to limit the degree of their effectiveness when they are put in positions of leadership. Members of this group sometimes exhibit confusion and hesitation when in leadership positions and they appear genuinely uncomfortable with authority. They generally prefer to assert authority through their generally recognized prowess in their field. Terfosaris demonstrate a desire a sugar – coated world, which would explain their fondness for confections such as cakes, pies, cobblers, cookies, brownies, ice cream, and the like. Terfosaris, however, have been known to go to extremes to make the world more agreeable to them. To this end they have been observed joining with the lowest castes of the lounge faction engaging in the alteration of consciousness. When involved in these pursuits, they seem to give no thought to possible loss of prestige among their caste (executive). Observation seems to confirm that their continued acceptance in the upper executive caste is due mainly to their widely – acknowledged mastery in their area of specialization.

Tercarians

A recently established class of ecclesiastical vocation, Tercarians are markedly understated in word and deed. This behavioral trait actually seems to complement their other characteristics, such as larceny, fraud, circumlocution, tergiversation, and clandestine activity. Tercarians appear to have executive economic status, and do reside in executive territory. Tercarians generally possess the middle initial of “J”, which denotes their ecclesiastical status (“Jackleg”).

Splintebyrnes

By far the largest sector of the lounge factions, Splintebyrnes manage amiable relations with all factions of the Roadgoing Orchestral Conveyance. They have the ability to achieve this while maintaining subtle hints of haughtiness and disdain in their interpersonal relations. Although strictly of lounge economics, Splintebyrnes will often “dress to impress” and act in a manner that belies their humble beginnings at the Hampton Correctional Facility. Territorially, Splintebyrnes are found in the lounge sector of the Conveyance.

Songibons

This group is found in the executive section by inheritance. Songibons are believed to be of lounge economics, and their general behavior tends to support this belief. Songibons can be unyielding and doctrinaire, but manage to be generally agreeable to most groups. Despite the multi – factional cordiality of the group, they seem most comfortable with the lower lounge groups. Songibons tend to function well in their role within the orchestra, which compensates somewhat for their general lack of refinement and tact.