What Light in Yonder Fitzpat Breaks, or, The Hidden Secrets

Three species while away parts of their existence in the Fitzpat: paying customers, thesps and techies. No one is going to read an article about an audience (5 åAπ words in a row there!) and thesps get enough publicity without my help. Even the engineers amongst you should now have realised that I am going to focus on the techies from now on.

What kind of creature, then, is the techie? How may one be recognised? The foremost characteristic of a techie is that he (or even she) is AT ONE WITH THE FITZPAT. This symbiotic spiritual and physical relationship is easily observed. Simply ask the subject how many entrances there are to the Fitzpat. If the subject reels off ten or more, also mentioning the type of key required for access, before pausing for breath, then you are questioning a techie. Non-techies are unable to reach five. No one ever falls into the intermediate category.

There are three tribes of techies; Ents, Films or Bats. The wisest of techies have been known to belong to two tribes, and the legends of the past speak of giants who have been honoured by all the tribes. The tribes differ in their rituals, with two worshipping twice-weekly in the temple and the last worshipping once a month. The week-long devotions of this tribe are a true test of stamina and courage, and revered indeed is the high priest (traditionally addresses as the åTDπ) who can lead his acolytes safely through this torment.

Relations between the tribes are generally peaceful, though conflicts have occured; for example, if one tribe has allowed harm to fall upon a sacred relic (such as an amplifier).

Within the temple, we may observe the interaction of the techies, clad in their sombre ebony robes, with the other two species. Only one of the tribes has meaningful interaction with the thesps. Due to the extreme cultural differences between these two, meetings are fraught with danger. At the crux of the matter is an unspoken dispute over the thorny question - who are the true masters of the temple?

All tribes interact with the most numerous species, the paying customers. To aid them in their ådiscussionsπ, Ents techies call on the aid of fearsome warriors, one of which is normally a huge black dude. The presence of these warriors calms the most heated ådiscussionπ. Film techies have difficulty when interacting with this species. There are never enough of them for one thing and some of them dare to comment on the state of the åmodern projection equipmentπ used (and abused) during the rituals. Others just want popcorn. Bats techies are too involved with the thesps to notice the brief visit of paying customers.

To conclude, we must ask ourselves whether techies are a force for good within the College. The are undoubtedly higher beings, with powers beyond mere mortals and they seem willing to exercise this power for the good of all. We must beware though, we have not yet experienced their wrath and I fear that it might be mighty indeed (ever noticed how the lights dim in Cripps and Fisher occasionally?). So donπt even dream of complaining about the sound, lighting or changeovers.

This monthπs $64,000 question - How many doors are there into the Fitzpat anyway?