

COOKING WITH UNCLE FESTER

*an interview with the country's most dangerous and prolific underground author

What kind of man authors books such as "Secrets of Methamphetamine Manufacture", "Home Explosives Workshop", "Vest-Busters" and "Silent Death", all of which contain innovative techniques for the safe manufacture of meth, poison nerve toxins, explosives, and teflon coating? Hopefully, a man who knows what the hell he's talking about. I'd hate to be following chemical recipes from some hack like the guys who wrote the "Anarchist Cookbook". Fortunately, Steve Preisler, a.k.a. Uncle Fester, happens to be more than knowledgeable on the subject of clandestine chemistry; he's an innovator. In fact, his work is so cutting edge that the DEA uses his books as "unofficial" field manuals. He has been called "public enemy number one" by our government because of the dangerous information he makes so readily available. Bill Patrick, the country's foremost expert on biological weapons, is impressed by Preisler's work, but also feels that this literature is so balls-on accurate it constitutes a threat to national security. Attempts have been made and continue to be made by our government to violate our first

amendment rights in the name of security; knowledge is potential power, but security is a huge concern, especially in these last few years. Uncle Fester's actions are both amusing and informative, but have manifested symptoms of a greater challenge we face as a people: freedom or security? Can we have both?

Now many of you have been so conditioned by our media and the government's fear-based propaganda, that you're probably already envisioning Fester as some paranoid militia man living in the wilderness, building weapons of mass destruction in his lonely, isolated cabin. Well, you couldn't be farther from the truth. As it turns out, this Green Bay, WI resident is an average, hard working Joe by day and a dedicated single father of two when he gets home. His intelligence and creativity are unparalleled in his field, and his life is simple and full. In between his full-time job, parenting, updating his books and filling out book orders, training for the marathon, and watching SG-1 and Simpsons on the TV, I managed to pick Uncle Fester's brain so all your fears, concerns and questions can be answered or intensified (depending on how you choose to react) by the man himself.

First off, why the moniker 'Uncle Fester'?

Fester: I used to watch the Addam's Family show on TV in the 60s when I was a kid. I thought it was just wonderful and so hilarious! All the characters were so well played, but Fester had that endearing combination of being a well-meaning maniac. As I moved on to college life in the 70s, I had pretty much forgotten Fester, but had begun experimenting with making my own high explosives. I didn't make large amounts of them, and they were solely for the enjoyment to be had of setting off a gram or two at close range, and feeling the shock wave of the explosion move through your body while seeing the flash through safety glasses. What a thrill! As I made a few batches of high explosives in college, and played with setting them off, my classmates gave me the name of "Uncle Fester". I had zero resemblance to Jackie Coogan at the time, but now at age 46, my balding head may give that some play... if only I could get that light bulb to blaze away in my mouth.

What specifically inspired you to write your books?

Fester: When I started doing my clandestine chem back in the 70s, there were popular lines of "how to" books available at the head shops by guys going under the name of Dr. Atomic and similar pseudonyms. I read them all, and was very disappointed in all of them. The part that ground on me the most was that none of them cited references back to the scientific lit, so I could read further at the University library. This was a big impediment to my own research, as at the time, digging through the Chem Abstracts and other reference material to the original scientific lit was just a bit beyond me. It meant just taking their printed word at face value without recourse to the original sources, and background material. I told myself that I could easily turn out better books than what I was buying at the head shops, but the idea just bubbled in my head over the next few years because I was busy cooking and finding out new things. I also began to read the catalogs put out by Loompanics, Palladin Press, and other publishers. I could spend hours just reading the book descriptions... what wonderful lives these authors must have led, I thought to myself! Then I had the unfortunate experience of falling into the clutches of Johnny Law himself. I had just cooked too long, and my string of "associates" had gotten too lengthy. In a flash, Uncle Fester was doing time for cooking meth. On the good side, my 6 year long bender had come to an end. On the bad side, I was locked up with a bunch of people who had trouble spelling their names. Hanging out with them was just no fun. My salvation came the day Barbara Walters did a piece on what she called "terrorist publishers" on her show. Whining as only she can, she wailed about the books available on the subjects of explosives and other subjects, while



back-dropped with images of exploding trailer homes. "Oh, can't something be done about this!" she said. That's when I remembered how badly I wanted to rewrite those old head shop recipe books, and make them genuine. I got a guy down the cellblock to pass me his typewriter, and I started to turn out the first edition of "Secrets of Methamphetamine Manufacture". The next day I wrote to Mike Hoy at Loompanics asking him to publish my book. It wasn't until I sent him the clippings from my bust that I got a reply from him. Since then I have written on many aspects of clandestine chemistry, ranging from drug manufacture to poisons and chemical warfare to explosives and defeating body armor.

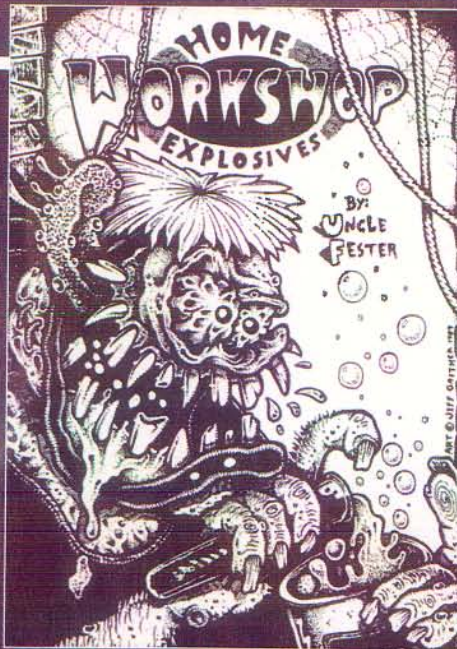
Do you experience any ethical dilemma in that this information that you've published could fall into the wrong hands and many innocent people could be harmed or killed?

Fester Knowledge is a powerful thing. That's one of the main reasons why slaves in the Old South were kept illiterate by law. I am at times torn by thinking of the possibility that the knowledge could be used in a way not intended. My intention when writing the mayhem book "Silent Death" for example, was to turn out a piece of lit so scary that politicians would head for the hills for fear of being on the receiving end. Silly of me to think they would so easily be gotten rid of, but I was 29 when I wrote the first edition, and so was kind of foolish to think they would just pack up and run away from the bribe-and-kickback package that had taken them a lifetime to build. The idea that what people may know is a problem is an authoritarian viewpoint. We should all strive to be educated in as many fields as we can take in. Ignorance is not bliss, nor is it an ideal to be strived for. At present our problem is with foreign Jihadis. I think they should be just kept out of the country, so we can carry on our lives in the liberty we have had for the past 200 plus years.

What are your political and ethical views?

Fester I have always been a libertarian on personal issues, but I disagree with the court's rulings that corporations, or for that matter unions and political action committees, are individuals deserving of full access to the political process. I think the latter groups should be excluded from anything to do with elections. On matters concerning foreign affairs, I have been a follower of the philosophy of Pat Buchanan. We should protect our own country's industries and borders. Trying to police and occupy the rest of the world is a losing proposition, and we will go broke between having the industrial base sucked out of the nation while we wage war all over the globe. In this respect, I would be classified as an "old style" republican, the type which was ascendant before the coming of the "neo-cons". Maybe Barry Goldwater could be dug up for another run.

Describe the things you think our government is



doing wrong, and tell us what you think it would take for these fundamental flaws to be fixed.

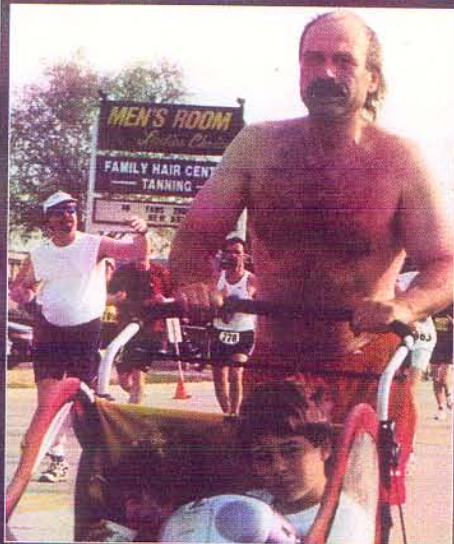
Fester The most distressing thing about government at present, besides the control that a few media giants have over them, is the tendency to increase their power. All the new laws coming out are about centralizing their power, and snooping on us. Where do they find these ideas in the constitution, which is their governing document? In that document, most laws should originate from the states. At that level, some of us have the chance for our voices to be heard. At the federal level, we have next to no input.

Our government has taken steps to ban 'underground' literature and to attempt to shut down or hinder publishing houses such as Loompanics Press.

Fester There were attempts written into the Meth Act of 1999 to make publishing info on drug manufacture a crime. That bill died because it was wrapped up into the bankruptcy reform bill, and Clinton vetoed it because he didn't like some of the proposed bankruptcy provisions. They all liked the idea of banning books and shutting down internet websites.

Do you feel that they will eventually be successful?

Fester I'm not sure if this attempt to outlaw sources of information will come up again in this country. I do know that in many other countries very similar laws have been passed. In Aussie and New Zealand, and half of Europe, if I want to send someone a book I had best dress it up as a birthday present complete with a pretty little bow to slow up the customs agents. I might soon have to use phoney names on the return address and customs declaration too if my name gets on their "red flag" list. It is a shameful act to burn books, but some countries that claim to be free democracies just revel in watching the flames. I would welcome another attempt to ban books being made in this country, because I love a good fight. The Supreme Court has already ruled on a very similar matter roughly 40 years ago in what is called The



Dennis Decision. A man named Dennis was out there teaching the tenets of Marxist-Leninism, and there was a law at the time banning that. The Supremes ruled that teaching is protected free speech, regardless of content. I'd feel pretty confident getting into that fight with them.

Do you believe that if our countrymen become enraged enough about censorship, that we can affect change?

Fester I'm convinced that most people wouldn't get enraged about anything, so long as the ball games stay on free TV and the shopping malls stay stocked.

Describe a day in the life of uncle fester.

Fester My daily like is really pretty ordinary. I get up in the morning and work my slaving day job until 3 or 4 in the afternoon. Then I pick up my two little children from school or daycare, and after watching a couple of cartoons with them, we go outside and for the next hour or so they tag along as I get some training in. I like to run a Marathon or two a year, and so have to train to keep from keeling over in the race. After that, I cook and serve supper while attending to book orders. Finally, around 8 PM, I can kick back in front of the tube with my clan while I get ready to do it all over again the next day.

Your favorite entertainment?

Fester Watching wrestling with my son.

The best beer?

Fester Without a doubt, City Brewery Pale Ale. The fruity aroma mixed in with hearty helpings of hops... the glistening sheets of Brussels Lace coating the glass... the 6% plus alcohol content. One couldn't ask more from a beer, and at a very reasonable price too.