

An excerpt from "The Misadventures of SCAR"

Machelle's presence did lead to us acquiring several props to be used in our videos, though. Among those was a pink dress with a flower bonnet that had been used in a school play at some point or another. This wasn't like a *Little House on the Prairie*-style bonnet, this looked like an actual flower, like a daisy or sunflower, with the person's face making up the center of the flower.

Braunle and Bo had no problem slipping into the pink dress. Braunle actually took it one step further for a video: he ditched the flower bonnet in favor of truly a hideous makeup job. In the end, he looked like a deranged mime wearing a pink dress, combat boots and dangly earrings. Braunle and Bo also had a tendency to moon the camera whenever they had a chance. It had nothing to do with the dress, either, as they'd moon the camera whenever they felt like it.

One day Steve showed up with some new props: two full-head rubber masks. One was the *Looney Tunes* character Marvin the Martian, the other was a hideous hooded skull. It was snaggletoothed, heavy-browed, colored various shades of brown, and overall, it looked deliciously evil.

Naturally, it made sense to wear the skull mask with the flower costume. That's how Skullface Flowerhead was born. He didn't last too long, but he was around for a couple of memorable incidents.

One night, there was a larger group than usual at Andre's filming. Steve, Bo, Braunle, Andre, Machelle and myself were all there, as usual, but so were Andre's sister and a couple of Steve's other friends. As the night progressed, we decided to take a break from filming and go to the local Burger King. Steve was wearing the Marvin mask and Bo was in full Skullface costume. We got there, and saw that the place was packed. Being a Friday night, that really wasn't surprising. But we were hungry, so we headed inside anyway.

Neither Bo or Steve bothered to remove their masks.

As people began to realize that something unusual had entered the restaurant, the conversations began to die out. The employees noticed us at the same time. No one said a word as we headed for the counter. It was so quiet in there that the sounds of food cooking were practically echoing off the walls. Whether they thought we were there to rob the place or were just startled by the hilariously hideous specter that was Skullface Flowerhead, I'll never know.

We ordered our food, and went to sit down. People actually cleared the way for us, and we were given quite a bit of space around our table. When everyone realized that we were just there to eat and not disrupt the place, though, everything slowly returned to normal. We still kept getting the occasional uneasy glance in our direction, though.

After eating, we headed back to Andre's place to continue. As usual, we ended up in his driveway to do most of our filming. We were having fun, like always, until we saw the headlights of an approaching car. It was slowing down the closer it got to the driveway. As it pulled up to where we were filming, we could make out the row of lights on the roof, and a sheriff's star on the door.

Everyone stopped what they were doing as I shut off the camera. A few seconds later, a cop got out and approached us. No one said a word.

"Evening," he said. Then he took a closer look at Bo. Whatever he was going to say next was forgotten as he got a good look at Skullface Flowerhead.

In fact, it looked very much like he was trying his hardest not to laugh.

"Officer," someone said. The cop couldn't reply for a moment, but he quickly recovered.

"We received a report that you were destroying public property," he said.

"No sir," I volunteered. "We were just filming."

The cop looked at me. "So you're not out here trying to tear up that stop sign?"

All of us glanced at each other, baffled. Where had he gotten **that** idea?

"No sir," Steve said, having removed the Marvin mask before the cop showed up. The cop

walked over to the stop sign at the corner and inspected it. Upon seeing no signs of it being uprooted or damaged in any way, he shook his head and walked back to his squad car.

“Okay then,” he said. “You all have a nice night.”

I had the distinct feeling that as soon as he was out of sight, he burst out laughing.

Before we resumed filming, we addressed the question of just who would have reported that we were trying to rip up the stop sign to the cops. Andre was positive he had the answer—one of his neighbors was a mean-spirited old coot who was always complaining about the kids in the neighborhood. There was a good chance he'd been the one to make the call. We never did find out for certain, though.

Unfortunately, no footage of Skullface Flowerhead still exists. I'm not sure exactly what happened to the footage we shot, but it's been lost to time. A pity, that.

Written by Rob Strangman. This excerpt from the book *Eating Candy in Outer Space* is © 2024 SCAR Productions. Please do not distribute without the author's permission. Direct all inquiries to Rob Strangman at [gradiusone \[at\] yahoo \[dot\] com](mailto:gradiusone@yahoo.com).