

# Care for a Whopper, Mr. Spock?



Several years ago I had a summer job at the Santa Fe Opera in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Part of my job included running a follow spot for all of the performances. Because operas are usually very long, and getting down for a break during intermission was difficult (if not impossible) due to focus and color changes for the conventional lighting, we usually took a supply of snacks up to the follow spot position. One of the snacks that we often brought was a milk carton-sized container of "Whoppers" malted milk balls. The follow spot area had a chicken wire screen to keep stray items from falling into the seating below, so we never thought twice about it.

One evening we heard that Leonard Nimoy had been spotted in the audience. In the follow spot area we were keeping an eye out for him. Sure enough, we saw him sitting directly underneath us in our position above the audience. Several of us, being Trekkies, thought that this was very cool.

Just before the opera started, I put my hand out for my buddy Rob to pour me a handful of Whoppers. As he did so, one of them fell out of my hand and started rolling towards the edge of the catwalk. I put my

foot out to stop it, but my save was not in time. It fell off the edge of the catwalk and into the audience below. I looked down to see if anyone had noticed it fall, and I saw Mr. Nimoy with his hand on his head, looking up with a puzzled expression on his face. Oh man! I had just beamed Mr. Spock in the head with a Whopper! I turned to my buddy and I said, "Fascinating." We almost choked to death trying to stifle the laughter. For the rest of the show we giggled like fiends.

Mr. Nimoy, if you are reading this, I am truly sorry for having hit you in the head with a Whopper. I trust that it did no permanent damage and I hope that you'll forgive me.

*Charles R. Kaiser  
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