## THE TRANSFORMATION OF A CHARMING WHITE AND BLACK MAMMAL INTO A FILM NOIR BETE NOIRE GATE

Sure We

wandered into a joint called The Manteau de Fourrure for lunch Tuesday. Sure we took a modest Xian lettuce salad topped with Tibetan bamboo shoots and a touch of Jakko smelly maple sap sprinkled o'er all for charm. Sure we're used to the Diables Blanc gawking at us while we eat as we quite often forget to shave our paws for dinner and it is recognizably difficult to hold a salad fork with the large pad that our over furbished paw affords. After an uninspired, yes dreary Urinade de Cheval Mongol sur Coeur d'Endive entrée smothered in what must have been cheap imitation Raisin Feuille Jardin d'Eden, we put up bravely with the obscure, boring Calcutta Gutter rainwater aperitif that The Manteau de Fourrure afforded. We avoided dessert. We declined coffee. We are sugar and caffeine free. Tobacco is our gastronomic denouement of choice. Like sunrise over the brown coal pollution of Changzou,

We realized what must come next.

up out of our ridiculously delicate
our piece and shot the Maitre d'. He
like a well thrashed and trashed smoking indigene of Singapore

unaccustomed out of his tree to mountain bamboo forest ways. As he gasps on the floor, he stares at us rasping, "Why? Why? Why me?" "We're Panda," we sneer as we bite the business end of our Player's Rough Cut Cork Tip and walk out of the joint, "Look it up, Tipe!" The poor fool calls for a richardsnary and gasps in confusion with his last pathetic breath: "Panda! Large black and white bearish mammal. Lovely black rings around ivory black melon ball eyes. Eats shoots and leaves."

Stars shine bright on shatter light. None are f ur black or white. None dine out tonight or any night. Unlike we social genèd mammals oralèd, they dine but in not out in cr ushing bl azing fusion e ngine. Thee. The. That's let us be over gr ateful to our friend almig hty God for providin g that like the stars, Although they may twinkle, pl ay and shine as we walk by, the Pand as have n ot spoken yet, folks.