

# Fanshape 16

EXTRA

selected mailing comments by Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St.,  
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Newsgroups: I love the ability to quote what I'm commenting to simply by marking & moving. It's what I always wanted to do in apas, to free me from the choice between overly-cryptic comments and excessive retying. I do, however, quote sparingly, just enough to provide context. And I never quote sig files unless I'm commenting on them. (My own is a modest two lines.)

There doesn't seem to be any NA snobbery around here based on choice of drugs. It seems that most became heroin addicts, switched to methadone, and along with that used alcohol, Valium, and various forms of cocaine.

I still say that trying to protect corporate profits while jobs vanished is what got George Bush where he is today.

Religion, like sex, is an area where all have the opportunity to feel persecuted if they so desire. Those of traditionally acceptable orientation are condescended to in avant circles; those with less popular preferences are treated badly by governments, corporations, and the masses.

I love the Dennis Hopper crazed-zebra ads. I'm surprised the NFL lets them get away with it. (There was one actual referee--Jerry Seeman, I think--who had such a deranged grin when announcing penalties that I wouldn't have been suprised if he'd added something like, "And I've just eaten William Perry's underwear.")

The problem with laws for dealing with children is that a large number of areas in which individuals attain adult competence at different rates is such an epistemological and policy nightmare that setting fixed

ages seems the least bad way. Example: All children start out incapable of free and competent consent to engage in sex with adults, but presumably we all eventually manage it.

(I am tempted to say that I did not reach that stage until age 29, when I became aware that the default for adult heterosexual males in our culture was to be willing at some point to become fathers, and that I had no intention of ever reaching that point. I do not, however, think that the women I'd had sex with before that statutory-raped me.)

Apparently, once one has learned to score drugs, one never forgets and can do it in a strange town in 5 minutes. (Unlike most of my NA colleagues, I lack this talent and learn where unlawful drugs are sold only by attending NA meetings.)

One hears 12-steppers suggesting that all would be better off "with a Program in their lives." I identify more with the part of the 12-step tradition that says that the only way recovery can begin is with the individual's subjective realization that there is a problem.

I don't think Calvin inhabits a significantly more pathological universe than does any 5-year-old. The school bully beats him; his teacher suppresses his creativity (and sometimes rightly so); and his parents, though by no means abusive, annoy and frustrate him. All this, however, is fairly standard. My totemic hero, Wile E. Coyote, seems to face a more malign world, one which violates even its own physical laws to do him in.

I'm quite conscious of stepping down my vocabulary (and sentence structure) when talking to those whose powers of comprehension are

limited. I feel a bit annoyed about having to do so, but try not to resent these people personally.

In school I resented the slower kids (both as student and as teacher) because they dragged down the pace of the class. To me, teaching colleagues who are approximately equal in ability, but don't know the specifics I know, is a pleasure; but teaching those to whom one has to keep repeating the basics is an onerous and oppressive task.

I suppose one should pity those one is required to tutor who lack the ability to learn the stuff and despise only those who can be convicted of having the ability and lacking the proper attitude, but I am sure I would fail to make that distinction.

Until recently, I was unaware that periwinkle was a color. Then I bought a new parka and was given the option of getting it in periwinkle or spearmint. I would have preferred blue or green, which probably would have been cheaper, but settled for periwinkle.

I just read David Sweetman's biography of Mary Renault. Interesting stuff. I was particularly amused by a story from her nursing days in the 1930s. She had just started the Lesbian affair that would last her lifetime, with a fellow nurse, and one of the supervisors told her lover in shocked tones, "I know what you and Mary are doing!" Before the lover could reply, the supervisor went on, "You were seen on the street without hats."

The bit about Wal-Mart's is another example of how life is a series of Prisoner's Dilemmas. (See William Poundstone's book on the subject.) As a consumer, I want to buy from large, efficient, cheap places, but if everyone does that, all the mom-and-pop stores go out of business, producing unemployment. This resembles the principle that the best way to live is to work for

government (which tends to exploit its captive "customers" and make life easier for its employees) and buy from competing free-enterprise business (which tends to exploit its workers to give a better deal to its customers).

"Race" would appear to divide people into fuzzy sets. There are always individual cases where classification is difficult to impossible, but there are general rules that apply to most. (The same could be said for "sex," though I would guess there are fewer dubious cases.)

I hate picking on typos, but I can't resist "Our wounds begin to heel." If one must have wounds, they should at least be obedient ones.

In the mid-60s, I gave thought to writing up the adventures of a character named Zimmerman Thomas.

There should be a charitable agency that provides computers and software to those who want, but cannot afford, them. (I would cheerfully contribute.) There is a lot of obsolete, but quite good, stuff.

I am glad that Catherine McKinnon is not treated as representative of Lesbians. I wish more people would be able to do this even if she were a Lesbian.

I grow more and more annoyed at "Hillary henpecks Bill" jokes from those who liked the [Nancy] Reagan administration. At least Hillary's ideas are her own, and not her astrologer's.

I have not trusted George Gilder since his early books about how men are all naturally savage and warlike, so women have to civilize them, but not take any of that nasty old male power. So even when he's saying good things about computers, I wonder what's up the great Gilder's sleeve. (Sorry.)