

# Scrapbook 6

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is a selection of mailing comments and such by Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701, 919-NUTS' LAB. This is W.A.S.T.E. Paper #728.

PREVIEWS AND PREMISES (Bantam pb) is Alvin Toffler's latest Complete Explanation of Everything. It's probably 90% bullshit, but if we could figure out what the other 10% was, we'd have something.

Cricket is obviously for people who would enjoy baseball if they could stand the madcap pace.

I am curious (yellow and other colors) about Atari's answer to the Macintosh (with which one can merely be curious in different black-and-white patterns).

The main argument against saying that Reagan is senile is that I know of no evidence that he ever was any smarter than he is now.

"Has anyone here played Laurie Anderson's 'Example #22' backwards?" Would it be possible to tell that one had done so?

"But we have the uncanny ability to need to use the toilet at the same time." Shouldn't that be "bicanny"?

I've occasionally had that "too-high" reaction to hemp, when I've eaten too much of it. (It's hard to take in that kind of excess via the lungs.) The technical term is "toxic psychosis." (Though in some cases, I think I would be flattering myself to call it that, and it was at best toxic neurosis.)

Why would I want to give off no body language whatsoever? My first thought was that I object to having my body signals read on the grounds that it's a kind of espionage--taking information from me without my knowledge and consent. That doesn't work, though, because people are always picking up information from others that is not consciously and deliberately given, by logical inference, among other ways. I also suspect that to some extent one cannot help picking up body signals, unconsciously if not consciously. One thing that bothers me about "body language" is that it is often overinterpreted. The crudest example is the power play in which one person announces that the other is "saying" unacceptable things via body language. This, like the charge of "giving off bad vibes," is irrefutable.

I am becoming convinced that the term "body language" is a misnomer because it suggests the

existence of a grammar and syntax, that there are "sentences" in body language which can be translated (with some degree of approximation) into verbal language. I prefer the more modest model that NLP appears to use, that there are merely body signals. These have some generality, but also represent the cultural background and individual history of the person giving the signals, and a given signal may represent several different feelings (e.g., one is wary of the company or the temperature of the room is too low). The best one can hope to do is to say that one particular body signal seems to be usually used by an individual in connection with a specific sort of verbal communications, and if this signal then appears with a notably different sort of verbal communication, that combination is an interesting and noteworthy incongruity.

"fwa" stands for "fannish warriors association." Membership gives one the right to get into fights over TAFF and such.

[Insult adapted from James Simon Kunen] Heinelein is ten years ahead of his time; unfortunately, his time is 1925 or so, when Cabell and Mencken were fairly avant-garde.

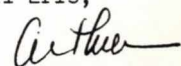
I believe DUFF will profit from the current fan-fund brouhaha, at least until the unlikely eventuality that some influential Aussie fan leads a crusade to withhold funds unless one of the few Americans he finds tolerable wins.

Whether it is crazy or merely courageous to befriend people in gay bars depends on how chicken-shit the person who's making the judgment is. I think it's crazy.

When someone says she feels uncomfortable about public nooky and has a right not to have it inflicted on her, she is being perfectly reasonable. When someone says that public nooky is EVIL because it menaces "the romantic mystery of sex," I have an urge to send 7 people and a dog over to fuck in her living room.

I agree that it's nasty and dumb to tell people when they feel bad that they should feel bad about feeling bad because people who are good enough to feel good don't feel bad. (Repeat after me: Huh?)

Hail Eris,



THE DAMNED THING

is written by Arthur D. Hlavaty,  
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W.A.S.T.E. Paper #722.

One of Bernadette's students, writing on the "damned thing" passage in Illuminatus!, suggested that while using a single classification to describe a person told us about only 1% of the story, perhaps many different classifications of the same person would provide a fuller picture. I suggested that that was OK, but a Discordian would want over 100 such classifications, some contradictory. Bernadette did a list of hers. Here is a list of mine, somewhat based on hers:

1. human being
2. writer
3. philosopher
4. Doctor of Divinity (purchased)
5. Discordian pope
6. critic
7. Caucasian mongrel
8. Jew (ethnic)
9. Slav/Hungarian
10. Jew (religious/heretic)
11. Christian (heretic)
12. Gnostic (heretic)
13. Hindu (heretic)
14. Secular humanist (heretic)
15. Lazy person
16. prisoner of habit
17. self-metaprogrammer
18. sexually liberated
19. pledged spouse
20. sf fan (sercon)
21. Hugo nominee
22. too weird to be wimpy
23. Coyote
24. underachiever
25. 50s/60s rock fan
26. accumulator of things
27. Putridian
28. mystic
29. possible psychic
30. unbeliever in psychic phenomena
31. friend
32. ally
33. supporter
34. foe
35. foole
36. enlightened
37. endarkened
38. property owner/heir
39. heterosexual
40. latent homosexual
41. slob
42. sometimes well-dressed
43. nerd
44. Child
45. Adult
46. Parent
47. Id
48. Ego
49. Superego
50. collective unconscious
51. stubborn rigid part
52. creative resourceful part
53. gossip
54. Libra
55. disbeliever in astrology
56. voyeur
57. idealist
58. skeptic
59. cynic
60. self-centered
61. uncentered
62. forgetful
63. I forget the next one
64. elitist
65. technophile
66. computer owner
67. neep-neep
68. cat owner
69. lover
70. exerciser
71. VISTA veteran
72. AB, Swarthmore
73. MA, NYU (failed)
74. ACLU member
75. libertarian
76. liberal
77. childfree
78. dogfree (so far)
79. sf reader
80. mystery reader
81. porn reader/viewer
82. nonfiction reader
83. stamp collector
84. non/anticompetitive
85. NLP student/client
86. acid user
87. grass user
88. nitrous user
89. caffeine user
90. rational
91. emotional
92. sloppy
93. anal-retentive
94. self-appointed psychologist
95. selfish (more so than greedy)
96. smartass
97. pontificator
98. born in NY
99. live in North Carolina
100. pure spirit
101. corporeal being
102. intellectual
103. student of Kabala & Tarot
104. short (5'8")
105. weak-willed
106. immovable when not wishy-washy
107. Aquarian conspirator/networker
108. mental neophile
109. bodily neophobe
110. relative relativist
111. prochoice
112. carnivore
113. milk drinker
114. eater of Chinese food
115. former eater of Italian food
116. asthmatic
117. impatient
118. mild depressive
119. somewhat paranoid, but not ~~enough for my enemies to put me away~~ paranoid schizophrenic
120. seeker
121. Homo faustianus
122. avoider of the mundane
123. filler-out of questionnaires

Hail Eric,  
Arthur