



Confessions of a Consistent Liar 67

The coyote who controls magnetism....

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Ned Brooks ct me: If the guy who cut off his own hand was a religious nut, it was probably the hand he whacked his willie with.

- *Hchkavik* doesn't sound Slovak to me--possibly a Russian name that was transliterated wrong.

ct Harry: The dictator of Nigeria just died. (Of natural causes, alas; he was the kind of leader who executes people for Possession of Ideas with Intent to Distribute.) I'm tempted to write something about him just so I can refer to him as the Head Nigerian in Charge.

ct me: I was not awed by *The Blazing World*. I did think it was of comparable quality to the Imaginary Voyages by Campanella and de Bergerac and that lot that are always cited as Respectable Ancestors.

ct Janice: Stanley Fish, in *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech (and a Good Thing, Too)*, says that First Amendment absolutists privilege speech over action. (For some reason, he says this as if there were something wrong with it.) As one of those, I find political contributions much closer to the latter than the former, so I don't think they should be Constitutionally protected.

Dick Lynch ct me: I was told that *Hlavaty* means either "strong head" or "headstrong."

GHLIII ct me: I'm with Ned on this: Killing innocent people to make a political point outside *or* inside the law is terrorism.

- My guess is that Ulrika won TAFF less from the LASFS vote than from the Internet, particularly rec.arts.sf.fandom. Tom Sadler is far less a member of the TWGM than I am.

- Carl Hiaasen changed his name like Rashaan Salaam? He became a Scandinavian for religious reasons?

ct Brooks: Kill The Fuckers is a British term for negative fanzine reviewing. I don't know if Greg Pickersgill or D. West originated it.

ct Warner: Steroids have been illegal at the Olympics all along, and they test carefully. I thought it was amusing when they had to give that stoned snowboarder back his medal because marijuana isn't a performance-enhancing drug, but they've closed that loophole. The "amateur" rules were instituted so that gentlemen didn't have to compete against sweaty proles who did that sort of thing for a living, and haven't gotten better. I like it when the Americans whip everyone's ass at basketball, though I think it was a bit much to let Olajuwon play for us. I still remember Dave Barry's summary of the first Dream Team: The United States beat the Republic of Ungawa by a score of 823-17. Charles Barkley scored 215 points despite being ejected in the second quarter for arson.

ct Dengrove: By the time you read this, Monica Lewinski will have cut a deal with Starr. She gets off unindicted, but she has to rat Clinton out for oral sex and for lying about it, and she has to let Starr shine her shoes.

ct Gelb: *Idea* is indeed a nifty zine. It's my choice for the Hugo.

ct Copeland: What do you *mean*, no conspiracy could be that spastic and incompetent? Hillary *said* it was Republicans.

Thanks for reminding me of something good to say about Sinatra. He *was* excellent in *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Richard Dengrove ct me: The Church of the SuperGenius worships Wile E. Coyote and denies that its name is any sort of parody of the Church of the SubGenius. But we are a Discordian heresy, and you know how valid Discordian denials are.

- I am amazed at the way both (or all) sides have foamed at the mouth about an apology for slavery as if one would mean something. Meanwhile both sides are saying how wonderful/horrible it is that we never apologized, but Kevin informs me that most of Lincoln's second inaugural speech was an apology for slavery.

- "I welcome the replacement of the Great Books in the high school curriculum with politically correct drivel. Then rebellious adolescents would be turned off to politically correct drivel rather than the Great Books." I like that. I imagine future high school undergrounds passing around DWM writing: "Hey, this is the real shit! It's got mordant irony, incisive characterization, everything."

- As Earl Butz said in one of his rare lucid moments, "The pope no playa the game, he no makea the rules."

me Tom Clancy's bid to take over the Vikings failed (for lack of wealthy

backing) shortly after I sent this in, thus killing the whole bit. That's the trouble with writing about reality.

Don Markstein ct me: Believing that one has finally become cynical enough is a dangerous form of hubris I am often subject to. Thank you for the reminder. The story about Al Nino (actually there were two of them, in different cities) appeared in a nontabloid newspaper with verisimilitudinous details like city of origin and that one of them complained that he didn't even have a tilde in his name or pronounce it that way. So I figure it's not certain, but it's likely.

Janice Gelb ct me: The Caleb Carr books are on my massive To Read list.

- WordPerfect 5.1 goes back to the pre-Preferences era.

ct Jeff: Our printers at work are named Chef and Kenny.

The bacover article is enjoyable despite or because of the wretched puns. `<Fe></Fe>` is definitely something the Internet could use. Is Geoff Hart the person you met who knows me? We've been in e-mail contact for several years, since being on the Copyeditors' mailing list together.

Steve Hughes ct me: Turns out it is possible to run WP 5.1 on machines with Windows 95, but neither the company nor I want to.

- Clinton and sex perjury: If something doesn't matter, then lying about it to busybodies doesn't matter.

ct Richard B: When I hear that someone has hundreds of dollars of traffic tickets, I figure he parked on a policeman.

Richard Brandt ct Jeff: Until they start putting the words "This year's Lois Bujold novel" on the Hugo ballot, there is a difference between voting for works and voting for people.

Robert Lichtman *Trap Door* is great; superlative writing on fan history and related topics. I recommend it to one and all.

Norm Metcalf ct Binker: The Galactic Overlord using Earth as a penal colony. I knew that Elron didn't stop writing bad sf between "The Modern Science of Mental Health" and *Battlefield Earth*, but I was under the impression that he blamed our problems on the difficulties we had being clams three billion years ago.

ct Guy: See ct Robert immediately above. X.J. Kennedy has a brief memoir in the latest *Trap Door*.

Eve Ackerman ct me: I have since heard that Terry McMillan, after making a few millions off *Waiting to Exhale*, went to Jamaica and came back with a boyfriend half her age. She then got another few millions for writing *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, a novel about a successful middle-aged Black woman who found happiness with a Jamaican toy boy. Asked about it, she said, "I don't care what anybody thinks. Men have been getting away with this shit for years." I like Terry McMillan.

mike weber ct me: I have no problem with believing that Mike Tyson was always vicious enough to bite an opponent's ear off in the ring. I just wonder if he was dumb enough to

believe he could get away with it before he took all those blows to the head.

ct Jeff: I thought that in *Bimbos*, McCrumb was nastier than she intended to be because of sloppy prose, and then in *Zombies* she was deliberately vicious because of the reaction to *Bimbos*. (That was when she was advising fans to "lighten up" while describing herself as "science fiction's Salman Rushdie.")

ct Gary B: The Mau Mau were Kenyan, he said pedantically.

Jeff Copeland The Jef Raskin comment about not wanting computers to be like shoes that explode is quite reasonable, but it goes with the whole Macintosh/GUI philosophy, which from my admittedly limited point of view meant turning computers into the kinds of things I was happy someone had invented computers to deal with.

I always used to put things on the top of my desk, and before long, I couldn't find anything there. Then computers came along, promising to order things in reasonable ways--files within files, in a tree structure. Could it get any better than that? YES! The computer would actually do the filing for me. I could find things; I was as happy as Ken Starr in a hogwallow of gossip.

But then computers were improved. You didn't have to use that hard, rigorous, mathlike tree structure. You could put everything on a Desktop. This is progress?

What follows is a letter I actually received, an Executive Summary of DR 89 done automatically by Word 97, and some other writings.

The American Psychotherapy Association

June 12, 1998



Mr. Arthur Hlavaty
206 Valentine St
Yonkers, Ny 10704-1814

Dear Mr. Hlavaty,

As a Counselor you are qualified to apply for membership in The American Psychotherapy Association™ (APA), and possibly for Certified Diplomate Status. As you are aware psychotherapy is very important to society; however, psychotherapists have expressed concern that current professional organizations in the field have lost sight of the value of psychotherapy and are more concerned with social and political agendas. Therefore, I am pleased to announce the birth of a new professional association, The American Psychotherapy Association™, and you are given an opportunity to be in on the ground floor of this association.

The Mission of the American Psychotherapy Association is to promote the interests of psychotherapists and set a professional standard of excellence for psychotherapists. APA recognizes the competence of those psychotherapists who have developed specialized knowledge and are proficient in the performance of the essential duties of psychotherapy.

Professionals performing psychotherapy do not have to be alone. There are thousands of similar individuals like you who can come together for mutual benefit, to advance the profession and, most importantly, to help those individuals in need of your professional advice and counsel.

Certification is a voluntary process by which professionals with a special interest in psychotherapy may receive recognition for demonstrated competency. The Association's purpose is to establish professional standards which enable psychotherapists, third party payers, employers, and the public to recognize qualified professionals in the field. Certification is evidence that standards of knowledge, skill, education, training and experience have been met.

If you meet the requirement of 100 or more points based on education, training and experience, you are eligible for immediate Diplomate Certification in Psychotherapy. **There is a brief grandfather period;** if you return the application now and are accepted, you do not have to take the examination. After our brief grandfather period, requirements will be raised every year to achieve certified status. You should apply now for the membership status of Certified Diplomate in Psychotherapy, annual dues are only \$100.00 and a small one-time certification fee.

If you agree that the field of psychotherapy deserves more respect and needs to be treated fairly by managed care and the media and deserves public recognition for the benefits it performs (which are always in private) to help individuals, families and society, I urge you to please put your heart and some of your soul into responding. Thank you for your hard work, individual struggles and dedication to the field of psychotherapy.

Sincerely,

Amanda A. Ohlke
Association Manager

Amanda A. Ohlke, Association Manager, Association Headquarters
1200 19th St., N.W., Ste. 300, Washington, D.C. 20036-2422
Phone 202-828-6055 • Fax 202-223-4579

Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. EST

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY--Arthur D. Hlavaty

Time for another issue. At work I'm still copy-editing banking-law stuff and still dealing with the great leap forward to newer computer technology. I'm also still writing reviews for *The New York Review of Science Fiction*.
<http://ebbs.english.vt.edu/olp/nyrsf/nyrsf.html>

One of the more curious arguments I hear in sf circles is that the people who read "literary" or "difficult" fiction cannot possibly be enjoying it. The literati enjoy wrestling with the printed word just as many people enjoy physical exercise. And successful writers please readers, for different values of "please."

Wouldn't it be great if Viagra turned out to decrease aggression?

ICFA

Bernadette has written several major essays on Straub's work, appearing in *A Dark Night's Dreaming* and the *New York Review of Science Fiction*, among other places. I've enjoyed his work, particularly from *Koko* on, but usually have little more to say about it than "Yeah, wow."

Bernadette offered to do an interview with him and put together two panels of papers on his work. For once Bernadette was not scheduled to appear in the Wednesday session. Tuesday morning, I went to a session entitled "Fantastic Potpourri" (finding titles for groupings of two or three unrelated papers is one of the minor arts of the ICFA). The first was Amanda Cockrell's "When Coyote Leaves the Res: Incarnations of the Trickster from Wile E. to Le Guin." As founder and Pope of the Church of the SuperGenius, which worships Wile E. Coyote as the ideal god for a time when nothing works right, I wouldn't have missed this paper for anything. locating Wile E. in that tradition. The second paper was Donald Morse on Kurt Vonnegut's promised last novel, *Timequake*, which made it sound interesting enough that I decided to give it a try, after skipping Vonnegut's previous two books. Worse yet, he was still good at this despised activity, thinking up clever ideas, interesting characters, and witty phrases.

The latest last one is about average for post-retirement Vonnegut. The second paper session was called "Science-Fictional Singularities." (See note to previous session title.) Andy Duncan, who had an excellent analysis of C.M. Kornbluth's "Gomez" in a recent *New York Review of Science Fiction*, has moved on to Kornbluth's most controversial story, "The Marching Morons." This paper may be the final refutation of the belief that this story represents wish fulfillment on Kornbluth's part. McGuirk mentioned a theory that I've heard before--that Smith was the original of the patient Robert Lindner called "Kirk Allen" in *The Fifty-Minute Hour*. (Does anyone remember where this discussion was published?) Joe Sanders concluded the session with one of his typically thorough and insightful papers, this one on character development in Michael Bishop's *Unicorn Mountain*.

Next morning, the second Straub session, chaired by Bernadette, featured papers on Straub and a response by the author himself. Edwin F. Casebeer delivered the first paper. A quarter of a century ago, Warner Books published a series of brief guides to "Writers for the 70s." Whatever happened to cheap paperbacks and cheap sex? (I am informed that Casebeer is now rewriting and expanding the book; I'm looking forward to the even better version.) The second paper, by Rhonda Lee Brock-Servais, dealt with that puzzling term "Gothic" as it applies to Straub's work, particularly *Julia*, pointing out that the book, rather than following all the traditional Gothic elements, uses the structure of the Gothic to tell a psychological tale.

The luncheon featured a thought-provoking address by Scholar GoH Gary K. Wolfe on looking at the history of fiction categories, particularly sf, as tales

of increasing chaos. Patricia Moir, who wrote a Master's thesis on Straub's work, presented a paper on the invisible world of evil and the repressed in the *Blue Rose* series.

As Straub replied to the papers, we were running so late there were a number of people looking in the door waiting for entry, and the chair of the next session made a throat-cutting gesture (no doubt a subtler literary reference than he realized). The most interesting of the papers, by Oscar de Los Santos, discussed Clarke's latest, *3001: The Final Odyssey*.

To wit: Castaneda goes to Mexico as a social scientist, to study the quaint native behaviors. He meets Don Juan and starts to study Don Juan's magick.

In the evening, John Clute and Gary K. Wolfe discussed Thomas M. Disch's forthcoming nonfiction book, *The Dreams Our Stuff Is Made Of*, apparently the latest and greatest chapter in Disch's continuing flow of bile and derision aimed at the field he once belonged to. Saturday Bernadette chaired another panel, this one on Stephen King's *The Shining*. The second paper was a four-part harmony, a multilog by four people comparing and contrasting the book, movie, and miniseries of *The Shining*. I thought the approach worked quite well. One of the writers was absent, so Bernadette read her part, thus having the unusual experience of channeling a living person. One final performance remained: the Guest of Honor Reading on Saturday. The reading was so delightful that we purchased the book, even though it is a hardcover, and we were interested in only the one story. I have now read it.

Yeah, wow.

Read it.

The second Straub session was simultaneous with one on Stephen King and Clive Barker. People

I should mention the pleasure of meeting and talking personally with Peter Straub and his wife, Susan, who works with an admirable project that encourages teenage mothers to read to their children.

Scholar GoH: John Clute. In particular, Bernadette is organizing a session or sessions on [The Body and/in the Fantastic.] Topics could include horror and/of the body; metamorphosis of the body; weight and body image (as in Stephen King's *Thinner*); science fiction and the reconstructed/cyborg body; bodily appetite and monsters or the alien; films of Cronenberg; the fantastic body and gender or transgender; fantastic depictions of the body as commodity; or any topic where the body and fantastic elements intersect. Bernadette Bosky

Yonkers, NY 10704

Published four times (or so) per year. The e-mail version is available on request. Staff: Bernadette Bosky, Kevin J. Maroney, and assorted computers. Any NYU course.

A couple of writers I raved about last time have done other excellent books. Kathleen Ann Goonan's *The Bones of Time* [Tor pb] is that vanishing entity in the sf field, the single-volume novel. *Ciphers: A Post-Shannon Rock & Roll Mystery* [Cambrian/Permeable Press tpb] is a stew of sf, conspiracy, sexdope, information science, deviant politics, and general weirdness in the great tradition of Pynchon and *Illuminatus!* Greg Egan has a new book too. Highly recommended. It also fits with a previous book theme in these pages: ugly covers. Censorship of the printed word is almost dead. You can buy *Naked Lunch*, *The Turner Diaries*, NAMBLA propaganda, etc.

Word 97 has a feature that automatically summarizes a file, This is what I got when I fed it DR 89. Ain't artificial intelligence wonderful?

WILES I

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This is a collection of mailing comments from my Golden
APAZine, *The Wile E. Post*.

My kind of mind-body dualism is the kind that makes it possible to judge people on criteria other than bodily ones. I realize there are other kinds, but to me, being a dualist and hating fat people and women for being fat people and women makes no more sense than saying, "Fuck obscenity."

The Right believes that small secret groups act in concert to achieve their aims. The Left believes that entire classes and races act in concert to achieve their aims. I'm not sure which I find less plausible.

Of course the Solaris 2.5 didn't work on your system. As you can tell from the name, it is a huge alien entity that mere humans can never hope to comprehend. Don't you people know better than to buy your software from Stanislaw Lem?

I just read a biography of David Geffen, the showbiz magnate. For years he said he was bisexual, and people like Michelangelo Signorile demanded that he come out as gay. So he made a public statement beginning, "As a gay man..." and everybody was happy. He still has sex with both men and women.

I've frequently heard "Opinions are like assholes: Everybody's got one," sometimes with an added, "and they stink." I am now convinced that this understates the problem. Opinions are like turds: Any asshole can produce lots of them.

Chris Berman, a sportscaster who does funny versions of athletes' names (e.g., Reginald "Foghorn" Langhorne), referred

to Jets' running back Leon Johnson as Leon's Johnson. I like that trick even better with Bishop Tutu or the posthumously famous novelist John Kennedy Toole.

As one who prefers low-maintenance possessions and body parts, I'm glad I was circumcised.

One of the many things I like about *Permutation City* is that it's a meditation on how much material infrastructure is needed to maintain consciousness/sense of self.

I believe that the only way anyone perceives anything is by constructing internal models, and then we use these to build bigger, more complex models, so there is no "real world" we can perceive directly to compare with our models. As Karl Popper says, we construct models, and they are falsified by experience, so we construct better models, but we never have unconstructed "truth." And since knowledge is constructed, one of the ways is "socially," which is to say politically, by which side is stronger, louder, richer, better armed, or more numerous. But the more of the constructing we can do by the scientific method of observing and understanding, rather than these political methods, the better I like it.

The question of whether self-repairing computer programs have rights will be settled the first time someone who conspicuously fails to recognize such rights suddenly loses all his property and is charged with capital crimes in a dozen different jurisdictions.

Hell's Angels

A California motorcycle gang that gained additional notoriety in the 1960's, first for a confrontation with peace marchers in Berkeley, and later for its part in the violence at the Altamont rock concert.

Origins and History. The Hell's Angels motorcycle club was started in San Bernardino, California in 1947 by a biker named Otto Friedli, to encourage biker solidarity after a brawl in the town of Hollister, California, in which almost a hundred cyclists were jailed. Many of the original members were Air Force veterans, and they took the name "Hell's Angels" from the Howard Hughes movie about military flyers. When respectable motorcycle clubs said that ninety-nine percent of motorcycle riders are good citizens, the Hell's Angels proudly called themselves "One Percenters." Several chapters of the club were organized in the 1950's, and after founder Friedli was imprisoned in 1958, new president Ralph "Sonny" Barger took over and eventually brought the club to national prominence.

The 1954 movie *The Wild One*, starring the young Marlon Brando as a misunderstood cyclist, improved the image of bikers in general and the Hell's Angels in particular. It also may have been responsible for the most prevalent factual error in reporting the Angels, the belief that they, like the bikers in the movie, wore leather jackets. In fact, the club disdained leather because of its protective aspects, and forbade the wearing of leather, just as it did not allow its members to wear helmets while riding until state laws required it. Club members instead wore "colors": a sleeveless denim jacket bearing the group's death's-head symbol.

The club had a strong macho code, demanding shows of respect, if not submission, from all they met, and going to the aid of any fellow Angel in a fight, regardless of who started it. The public image of the organization tended to be polarized, with some seeing them as underappreciated individualists, while others viewed them as thugs, beating and raping wherever they went. Both pictures were exaggerated, but the latter seems to have been closer to the truth.

Activities: The Hell's Angels came to national prominence in 1965, when members of the Oakland chapter battled with demonstrators protesting the Vietnam war. The club loudly proclaimed its patriotism and indeed offered to go over to Vietnam and help in the military effort.

Counterculture leaders like Ken Kesey (himself a motorcyclist) and Allen Ginsberg eventually persuaded the club to agree not to interfere with further peace demonstrations. This led to a rapprochement and some social contact between the bikers and the counterculture.

The Angels were, in fact, a drug-using counterculture, but they used amphetamines and barbiturates, often mixed with alcohol, rather than the marijuana and psychedelics the hippies favored. Unlike the hippies, the club was also seriously racist and sexist; African Americans were never permitted to join, and women in their presence were safe from harassment and even assault only if they were clearly identified as the property of another member.

Impact. The mid-60's contacts between the Hell's Angels and the counterculture led some hippie leaders to believe that the Hell's Angels, as drug-using fellow rebels, could be allies in the war against straight society. This required a certain amount of denial of important aspects of the Hell's Angel culture.

On December 6, 1969 the Rolling Stones gave a free concert at the Altamont Speedway. Preparations for the concert were hasty and ill-organized, and because of the romanticized image many hippies had of the Hell's Angels, they were hired to provide security. This was a mistake. The concert turned out to be a singularly bloody affair, including one death, and the bikers were generally considered to be responsible for most of the violence.

Subsequent Events. In the 1970's the Hell's Angels were widely believed to have gone into the wholesale manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine and other drugs. Many were convicted of drug trafficking charges.

Additional Information. In 1967, two years after the events he described, Hunter S. Thompson published *Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs*. Despite some exaggerations, the book offers a thorough first-person account. *Freewheelin' Frank* (1968), written by Hell's Angel Frank Reynolds with the aid of beat poet Michael McClure, offers a somewhat defensive look at the club from the inside. *Hell's Angels: Three Can Keep a Secret if Two Are Dead*, by Yves Lavigne (1987), is a sensationalistic treatment of the group, emphasizing drug-dealing activities in recent years.

--Arthur D. Hlavaty

See also Altamont Music Festival (1969), Counterculture, Drug Culture in the Sixties

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