

Confessions of a Consistent Liar 76

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The Southerner I hope Trinlay reconsiders and rejoins us. She's the first interesting new person I've seen in any apa for a while.

Ned Brooks ct Metcalf: I had an indeterminate middle name. I was told that my name was Arthur Daniel Lincoln Hlavaty, and in my teenage years I dropped "Daniel." Then I saw my birth certificate, and learned that I was really Arthur Daniel Hlavaty, and so I switched to that. My college yearbook picture was captioned Arthur L. Hlavaty, and when I ran it in my zine, George Flynn noticed the discrepancy.

ct Guy: The higher-valued space stamps (\$3.20 and \$11.75) are holograms.

Richard Lynch ct Steve: Tax and Spend probably works better than the Republican policy of spending and not taxing. *Le Grand Zombi* of voodoo economics walks again.

GHLIII Good luck in moving to Tennessee, writing more, etc.

ct Norm: Supporting worldcon membership was supposed to be an inexpensive voting membership.

ct Rich D: AA does not tell its members not to join other groups. An individual's sponsor may suggest (sponsors do not give orders) that the individual refrain from something that might be bad for him.

ct Rich L: I'm glad *someone* published "Heinlein Happens." Heinlein opened my mind, but one should not expect Tricksters to be exemplary human beings.

ct Janice: I don't know if anyone butchered my name at the Hugos after my very first nomination, when Terry Carr did so. (He later sent me a gracious note of apology.)

ct Eve: Even Peter Straub saying that fiction writers are all liars and Brian Aldiss indignantly denying it (at an ICFA) did not get me interested in that question. It seems to be purely about what we're going to use the word *liar* for.

Richard Dengrove ct Ned: I don't like the idea of Chandra Levy being in the WTC on 9/11, unless it was Condit there trying to hide her remains. Or better yet, the Republican who framed Condit.

• I think if Catherine Asaro did futuristic bodice rippers, the space suits would have to be dematerialized, rather than torn.

ct Norm: Grammatical rules, like rules covering manners, should not be broken unintentionally.

ct Jeff: I guess part of the government shutdown was Gingrich running desperately to catch up with the troops he was the leader of.

ct Guy: Our Afghanistan adventure was a total success, except of course for what we went in there to do.

David Schlosser ct Steve: I've decided there's one good thing about Zero Tolerance: When Bush's daughters violate some dumbass law, they get in trouble same as some poor black kid.

Irv Koch ct Ned: I don't think Eileen Gunn is any relation to James Gunn. She wrote a delightful short story called "Stable Strategies for Middle Management."

ct Richard D: "There have been no more dear in the neighborhood." Sometimes my spelling checker has a sense of humor too.

Don Markstein I too love the *Boondocks* on what we have to be thankful for. I wish that sort of sense were common, but it obviously isn't.

I didn't know that there were actual brass monkeys whose balls were frozen off. AKICIF.

Janice Gelb I am now presbyopic enough to have bifocals and a set of "reading glasses" that I use at the computer because there's no way I can be comfortable looking at the screen with the bottom half of bifocals.

ct Ned: On a piece-by-piece basis, I find computer spam more tolerable than postal spam, which is more tolerable than phone spam. I can usually recognize computer or postal spam from the outside, so I don't even have to open it. I more and more question the assumption that I owe anything but the most superficial civility to those who vocally invade my home.

ct David: The word *fantasy* has nothing to do with my problem with Potter IV winning the Hugo.

ct Sheila: I thought you couldn't get any lower than rejoicing because Clinton's dog died. Then someone at Free Republic said he hoped Chelsea was next. (As I'm sure that alleged human being would hate to hear, that sort of thinking resembles Eldridge Cleaver's theory that the best sort of property crime to commit against the rich white guys was to rape their wives and daughters.)

Shella Strickland When the nation is under immediate attack and we have no idea how big the danger is, the first duty of the president is to survive. That's one thing I think W got right. (Now what was the other one?)

Gary Brown The cartoon on page 6 is what you'd get if Ann Coulter could draw, he said viciously. No, a civil libertarian will not protect you when there's a plane coming at you. Neither will a doctor, so I guess we don't need them in the aftermath either.

ct Southerner: I guess they decided Priority Mail 2-3 Days sells better than Priority Mail When We Fucking Feel Like It.

Jeff Copeland Congrats on the new job.

I'm not in the geek business, but I first met Richard Stallman over 20 years ago, at one or another East Coast con, and he and I have on occasion spoken about his obsessions.

I find it hard to believe that an MIT computer person could be that much more asocial, single-minded, and difficult to get along with than his peer group that it would change history, but I suppose Richard is more likely to manage it than most.

My guess is that he is a genuine fanatic, rather than one who became one because of social deficiencies. I remember how seriously he took all that stuff when we discussed/debated it. I don't think he was even capable of understanding that people like me would want to use the software to write with, as opposed to the real delight of fiddling with software (not unlike a fanatical gynecologist wondering why anyone would bother to have sex).

There was one time I sympathized with him: *Time* quoted one of his more extreme software manifestos, and in case anyone was still tempted to take him seriously, accompanied it with a photo of him in a folk-dancing costume, clicking his heels in midair. I expect the media to manipulate us a bit more subtly than that.

But I would also admit to thinking that Richard was less unfairly maligned by that picture than most would be: He really is that odd. I hope the medication helps. I sometimes think that My People divide into medicatably weird and nonmedicatably weird.

I've known Eric Raymond for as long as I've known Richard, and I've spent more time with him and like him better. As I've said in zines, Eric strikes me as seeing open source as a tactic, rather than a crusade. Eric is fanatic about guns (he did one of the great Horrible Example responses to 9/11), but not about software.

ct me: No, I do not remember the "Ode to Velveeta." Care to refresh my memory?

Clipping: I had the idea (as I imagine I was supposed to) that the neutron bomb was a "clean" way of killing. Thanks for disabusing me.

TKF Welsskopf My shameful failure to do a zine last time meant that I didn't get to wish you and Hank the best on your upcoming nuptials or mention that I enjoyed meeting him at Worldcon. I now do both.

Excelsior,
Arthur