

Confessions of a Consistent Liar 77

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Ned Brooks ct me: All I know about the measurement theories is what I remember Michael Flynn and Donald Kingsbury saying at the panel. I believe Kingsbury has more about the astronomical approach in his latest novel, *Psychohistorical Crisis*.

ct Metcalf: My mother refused to buy a German car—or a Ford because of old Henry's bigotry.

ct Janice: I've been thinking about the ideal customer for Net spam: gullible enough to fall for the Nigerian thing, and a she-male who wants both breast enhancement and Viagra.

Richard Dengrove ct me: One interesting thing about George Hansen's trickster book is the way he shows that the defenders of Materialistic Reason are just as much tricksters as the forces of Psychic Weirdness.

Richard Lynch ct me: My complaint about the Novel Hugo does not include the word *fantasy*. The winner was a chunk of mass-market Product. The particular flavor is less important.

Don Marksstein Congratulations on your third of a century.

ct Ned: I like your Carbonist theory, at least esthetically.

GHI.MI Congratulations on your Hugo nomination, in a category that, unlike Fan Writer, hasn't gone down the toilet (likewise to Richard). The novel category also seems to be limited to worthy contenders.

ct Tom: Yeah, the duller team won the Super Bowl.

ct me: Seventh graders would mostly not appreciate a stripper. I don't know where the line should be drawn: obviously after puberty, but I don't know how far.

- I should have made clear that I can make Eudora stop warning me about possible Bad Words at any time. I keep it turned on for the amusement. The latest putative offense I received was a post from a scholarly list, on 19th-century fantasy art, entitled "Fairies."

- As I say, I really try not to blame the slow kids for my having been trapped in a class with them. Everybody's human; nobody's Prey or Fair Game; but I have my loyalties, or as Louise Beal said, "Love your neighbor as yourself, but choose your neighborhood."

- My guess is that Harlan Ellison said, "The gargoyles have taken over the cathedral," and it was not original with him.

Gary Brown I remember those 1952 Bowman baseball cards, although the 1951 set is the one that most sticks in my mind. My mother didn't throw mine away (there are advantages to being a second-generation pack rat), and I sold some when money was tight a while back, and may do so again, but I got a book with pictures of all of them.

ct me: The Afghan invasion was a complete success (except of course for what we went in there for), so I assume we'll have more of them. They're probably saving up a particularly good one for October 2004.

Janice Gelb Cover: the wings would fall off, and the halo would keep hitting him on the head.

I imagine there is now money to be made from those who have "learned" that all dot-coms are crap, but unfortunately I don't know how to do it.

ct me: Like your ex-husband, I never learned good study habits until it was too late.

• I enjoyed the SI Barkley story.

ct Guy: Love the Ian McKellan quote.

ct Gary R: The pen may not be mightier than the sword, but it's easier to carry onto a plane.

Great cartoons as always, and I am the envy of rasff, getting to see the Seder Plate at readable size.

Randy Cleary Great wedding photos. Hmm, Beauty marrying the chrome-domed Beast: Why do I have this feeling of déjà vu?

Jeff Copeland I thoroughly enjoyed *Breaking Windows*, as well as a review of it in *The Washington Post*, which discussed the book's view of A Certain Company trying to hold back Internet progress until it can be sure that every machine uses its OS, and paired it with a review of a book about how well computers grew in the 50s and 60s when the nasty old government was running things.

Don't you realize that when David Brock admits that he lied, it means we can never ever trust him again, but when David Horowitz admits that he lied, it means that he saw the light?

ct Richard D: I must look up "The Universal Library." It sounds a lot like Borges's "Library of Babel."

ct me: "Oceanic" was where Greg Egan really began preaching the True Knowledge, as his fellow devout materialist Ken MacLeod calls it.

• Ted Chiang is another writer who everyone agrees has written two great stories, but there is much argument as to which they are. My choices are "72 Letters" and "The Story of Your Life." (I had lunch with him at the latest ICFA; nice fellow.) "Hell Is the Absence of God" strikes me as an unedifying tale of how the Lord could be a real shit if He put His mind to it.

ct Janice: I don't recall the Effinger story about time travelers at the Crucifixion, but there's a similar bit in Robert Silverberg's *Up the Line*.

ct Randy: Verdana may be as good as sans serif gets.

ct Ned: My current approach to phone spam is to make sure I've got the name of the product, then say, "Well, we were thinking of getting a blablabla, but since we never buy from companies that make unsolicited phone calls, we'll be sure not to buy yours. Please inform your employers." That's as nasty as I know how to be without picking on the poor minimum-wage no-benefits bastard actually making the call.

ct David: Or as Bill Hicks said, "Would Jackie have wanted you to wear little rifle pendants?"

ct Guy: I'd say the Seiuns were at most the third worst thing at the Hugos, after the First Fandom stuff (it is not a service to someone in that condition to let him appear before a large audience) and the movie clips.

ct Steve: Violence should never be the first resort. As the Teachings of Don Vito tell us, always try to reason with them first.

ct Liz: Courageous is fairly good at killing smaller creatures that blunder into her territory, but has never quite mastered eating them.

Excursion, Arthur