

Confessions of a Consistent Liar 79

Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers, NY 10704-1814, 914-965-4861 hlavaty@panix.com

Sheila Strickland ct me: The baseball cards I like are the ones from my collecting days: early '50s.

TKFW Reinhardt ct Jeff: I'm really in favor of Baen making its work available by download without trying to squeeze out every penny of sales the way the big companies do. As neofan Janis Ian says, "Attacking your own customers because they want to learn more about your products is a bizarre business strategy, one the music industry cannot afford to continue."

ct me: I assumed Hank wouldn't be offended by my bestial references to him, as we both have canine totems. At least when we met, we didn't celebrate the occasion by peeing on the same tree.

Ned Braaks ct me: I believe a lot of Joan Aiken's works are short children's books.

Richard Dengrave ct me: *American Psycho* is funny on purpose at least once: Bateman makes breather calls to young, privileged women, but instead of threatening rape or assault, he says things like, "I create hostile takeovers. I extort greenmail." One victim replies, "Daddy, is that you?"

GHLIII ct me: The moose symbolizes Minnesota.

Bernadette is doing well. She is teaching nonfiction writing at the Gotham Writers' Workshop and tutoring preteens and teenagers. She is

looking forward to reading your Charles Williams article.

Mimeo is supposed to be warm & fuzzy, rather than itchy. You and I didn't get the imprint early enough.

Lafferty, like Gene Wolfe, was a reactionary Catholic. Sometimes it shows in his stories. I am attempting to reach the wisdom of Dwight Macdonald, who, after a career of mixing litcrit with radical political writing, in his later years was informed that Borges was a right-winger and replied, "Who gives a fuck? He's a genius."

ct Janice: I believe that the Universal Postal Union now allows undenominated stamps for international mail. The US once issued an "E for Earth" globe stamp that couldn't be sent to other countries.

ct Gary B: On the same principle Dwight Macdonald used, I think a guy who hits as well as Barry Bonds should not have to make nice to the sportswriters. Speaking of baseball, the fans, in their finite wisdom, just voted Pete Rose passing Ty Cobb for most hits one of the Top 10 Baseball Moments of All Time. The only good thing about that is that it was yet another humiliation for Bud Selig, who showed his usual level of intelligence by telling the teams not to announce manager hirings during the World Series, and believing that would keep them out of the news.

Jeff Capeland *Blinded by the Right* has great dish, if nothing else (and the nasty stuff is probably all true). I

hadn't known that Jonah Goldberg is really a son of a bitch.

ct Richard D: I think I learned reading by osmosis.

ct Guy: I have heard that after the DC cops announced that they had found Chandra Levy's remains and taken them away, someone found a shinbone nearby.

I programmed in assembly language back when FORTRAN was a Wondrous New Thing. I was in the Columbia Science Honors Program (which later produced Gregory Chaitin and Richard Stallman, among others) in 1958. Chaitin, in fact, was in the class in 1962, when I returned as a volunteer lab assistant. He was nerdy even for a 60s high school computer class, and a question there about predicting how long it would take a program to finish led to his famous work on provability.

ct me: By now my reaction to strippers is a blasé lack of curiosity.

ct David: I like Arianna Huffington's "I helped blow up a Bali nightclub...by driving my SUV to work every day."

ct Gary R: One of my favorite bloggers, Christine Quiñones, described a particularly horrendous bit of Bushery and added, "I'm starting to wonder if Venezuela has a Law of Return."

ct Steve: Malcolm Gladwell is awesome. Anyone who thinks he flatters business should read his article on Enron, which concludes, "It never occurred to them that, if everyone had to think outside the box, maybe it was the box that needed fixing."

Dan Markstein ct me: I try not to say, "I don't believe X" when I mean "I believe not-X," which is why I phrased it as I did.

Gary Brown ct Richard D: I hope the 106-pound mark is Lost, rather than Remaining.

Janice Gelb *sympathy* on Neil's death.

ct Jeffrey: I like "Bow-Wow, Said the Dog" and hope it's a first chapter.

ct Eve: The Emma Lathen books are wonderful. "Mr. Thatcher, we're going to have to let you go. You're a wonderful vice president, but every time we assign you to a client, someone gets killed."

Eve Ackerman ct Dengrove: I love "Hasn't George Lucas ever been on a date?"

TKFW Reinhardt ct me: I hope Tor bought *Paradox*; I recommended it to them. If not, I recommend it to you.

mike weber ct G. Brown: There's a famous baseball card of Billy Ripken that originally appeared with the words FUCK FACE clearly visible on the end of his bat. It was immediately withdrawn and replaced, and the original is a collector's item. There was a cruel jest that this was the first time Billy Ripken's bat was worth anything.

The title and people's names are done in Monterey Popsicle, a PD font downloaded from Nick's Fants. (www.nicksfants.com)

