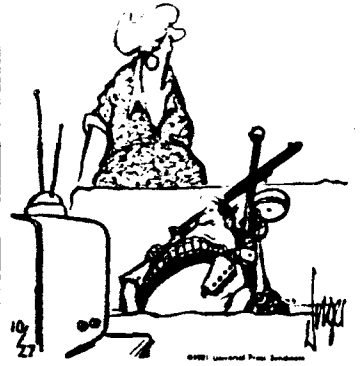
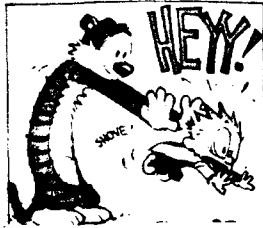


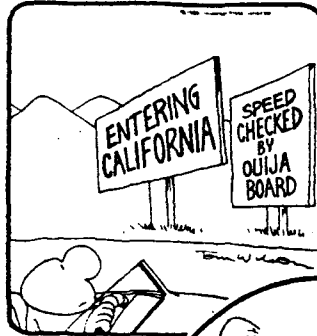
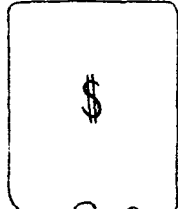
# DAGON

#102 6 January 1982



"They shouldn't be showing girls in bikinis when kids his age are watching!"

**T**HERE are three great experiences in life: New York, Sex, and Paris. Two are dirty, two are dangerous, and two are prohibitively expensive," says Robert Grayson.



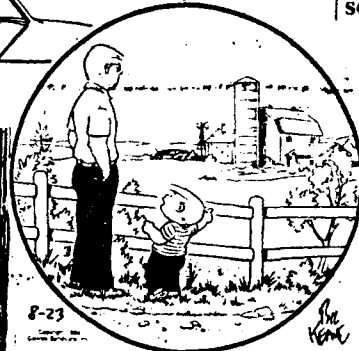
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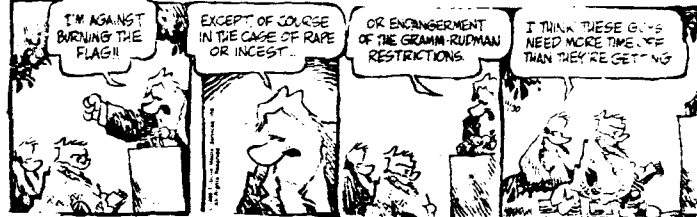
CHINA

SOVIET UNION

UNITED STATES



"Is there a missile in that silo?"



MELVIN-Of course I would never leave you for D. Quayle. Anyway, he doesn't look anything like Robert Redford, especially without Rob's cute little moie. Mel, remember when grandma told me I could do anything if I worked hard? Mel, she's in jail now. I'm so confused. Lets vote together Mel, Robert Redford for President with Jane Fonda as the VP. Now thats the ticket, Mel. Or better, ELVIS for President, Love Nanette

SAVE THE WHALES IN THE SEAS! NATURAL

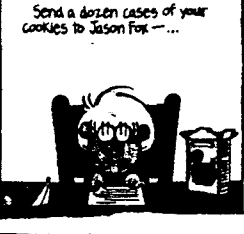
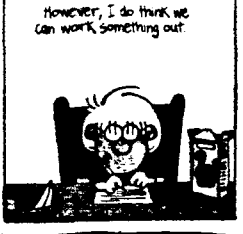
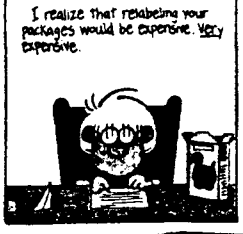
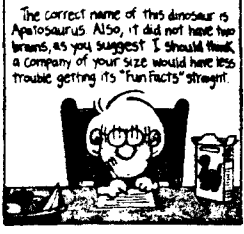
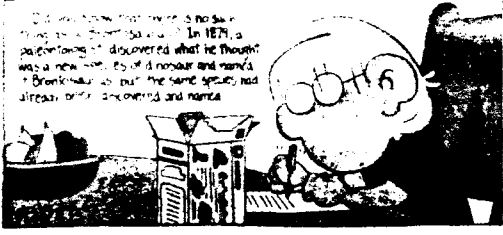
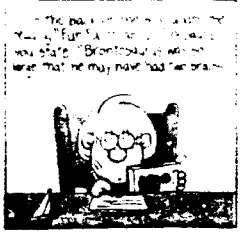


'PERHAPS THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOU AND ME TO BE DISCUSSING DISARMAMENT.'

# FLAVITEX SPLITS

## FREE PARKING

There was a bumper sticker on a pickup truck parked overnight. Meaningful Relationship.



## Behavior Of Infants And Apes Is Linked

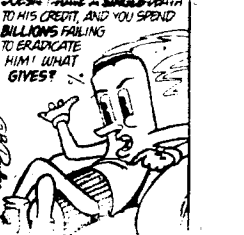
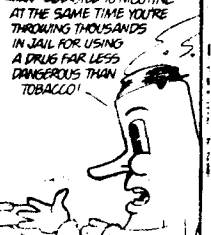
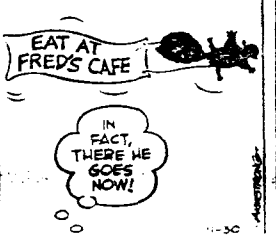


Dear Mr. President:  
So bad about William Lucas. However, if you are still looking for a black to serve as head of the Civil Rights Division — one who contributed greatly to your campaign and has Court experience, I would appreciate being considered. Sincerely, Willie Horton

## It's Lonely Out There For Wesley



Men who were hostile in law school were more likely to die young.



## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

This catch-all issue of DAGON, for which the miscellany is going to be the biggest segment, is intended to be carried to Hexacon for a collation to be held there. More usually, DAGON is published by John Boardman every third Saturday at 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226-5302. It circulates through APA-Q, an amateur press association which is collated at this same address (usually) and frequency. DAGON also goes to people whom I think might be interested in it, or who subscribe at 12 issues for \$10. Back issues of APA-Q and of DAGON are available for postage from the beginning of 1988.

Dates of future Distributions of APA-Q are given to the right. The copy count of APA-Q is 35. If you want to get APA-Q by mail, send me a few dollars and I'll mail you your copy, charging your account for postage and a 25¢ envelope. The current state of postage accounts are given elsewhere in this issue under the heading "The Ministry of Finance".

#310	27 January 1990
#311	17 February 1990
#312	10 March 1990
#313	31 March 1990
#314	21 April 1990
#315	12 May 1990
#316	2 June 1990

\*

Coming up on 1 February 1990 will be the 45th of the quarterly Mailings of APA-Filk, an amateur press association for fans of filksinging. APA-Filk, which was founded by Bob Lipton, sends out a Mailing on the first day of each February, May, August, and November; ask your friendly neighborhood Witch why. The copy count for APA-Filk is 60. Postage accounts are available as for APA-Q, described above.

My own contribution to APA-Filk is ANAKREON, which also goes to everyone who gets DAGON.

\*

In 1967, Ace Books published a ~~this~~ paperback entitled Anarchaos, by "Curt Clark". Despite the fact that Anarchism has always been a popular topic in a-fandom, this 138-page novel drew almost no comment in the fan press. This may have been because "Clark" took a cynical view of this ideology, which is popular among young intellectuals who have little experience of the world, have just escaped from parental or college discipline, and feel that government is the greatest evil of which the human mind is capable. In Anarchaos, a planet exists on which this notion has become a way of life. A callow Earthman, looking for a ~~better~~, finds that it is a hell-hole of lifetime indentures, outright slavery, violence, and casual brutality.

Now Anarchaos is back. It is the principal item in a new collection, Tomorrow's Crimes (Mysterious Press, New York, 1989), and the author is here revealed to be none other than the well-known mystery writer Donald E. Westlake! His earlier appearance as "Clark" was probably due to a venerable superstition - that if an author makes a name for him- or herself in one field (say, mystery), then anything in another field has to appear under another name so that the readers won't be confused. (This is why Fletcher Pratt's Well of the Unicorn had to appear under the name "George U. Fletcher"; Pratt was already established as a writer of popular history, and the reading public would presumably rebel if he wrote fantasy.)

Nine short stories are also included in this book, including the seriocomic "Nackles" and "The Spy in the Elevator". Those of you who enjoy the comic mystery novels that Westlake has written for many years under his own name will like these also. And those Anarchists who cannot be persuaded by the fact of Beirut may be persuaded by the fiction of Anarchaos. Bad as government can get - and my refusal to participate in this country's elections has been a matter of record for 17 years - the triumph of the empty platitudes mouthed by today's Anarchists (or "Libertarians") would produce a situation infinitely worse.

\*

Many authors have tried to take up the Sherlock Holmes canon from where Arthur Conan Doyle left it when he died in 1930. None have been altogether successful, not even Doyle's own son. But one of the better efforts has been made by L. B. Greenwood, a teacher in British Columbia who has received the Doyle estate's permission for her

efforts. (I doubt that any other authors have done this, and even before Doyle's works went off copyright in 1980 there were Sherlock Holmes games being marketed without the slightest recognition of the estate.)

Greenwood has so far written two: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Raleigh Legacy, and Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Sabina Hall. Both are placed in remote English country houses with forbidding aspects and sinister histories, and both involve Holmes and Watson ferreting out reasons for apparently insoluble murders. In the latter book, Watson's medical expertise plays nearly as large a role in the plot as do Holmes's abilities at detection. It is Watson who finally realizes the importance in the case of dried laminaria seaweed, used for a purpose then illegal and now merely dangerous.

Greenwood captures the atmosphere of the time well, but I would like it just as well if the third book, on which she is now working, takes us away from remote English country houses and into the heart of Victorian London or to the continent instead.

\*

Few people have had the opportunity to start out as a lonely, isolated prophet, dismissed as a crank, and lived to see their dreams achieve not only reality, but also enormous popularity and to re-make the world. This was the fate, however, of Hermann Julius Oberth, who died on 29 December 1989 at the age of 95.

As a young man, Oberth (a Transylvanian German, of a minority whose claims are going to be in the news soon) "submitted a thesis on rocket experiments for his doctorate, which was turned down as too cursory." (New York Daily News, 31 December 1989) About 70 years ago, Oberth was plotting energy-efficient orbits by which humans might fly to other planets. He is recognized by Willy Ley as the founding father of space travel, particularly with with Oberth's 1929 book The Way to Spaceship Travel.

At the time of Oberth's death, active space programs were being pursued by the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Japan, and the European Space Agency. Men had walked on the Moon, and robot craft had surveyed every planet except Pluto. Hermann Oberth's dreams have become the reality of the late 20th century.

\*

It's not as good as Terry Pratchett's "Discworld" series, reviewed in the last DAGON, but John de Chancie has in his "Castle" series an enjoyable trilogy of comic fantasy novels. Published by Ace, they relate the adventures of several people from various planets, dimensions, or whatever, who take the wrong turning in passageways and come out in Castle Perilous, a vast rambling structure apparently compounded from Peake's Gormenghast and the Maze of Avram Davidson's Masters of the Maze.

Castle Perilous (1988)  
Castle for Rent (1989)  
Castle Kidnapped (1989)

Many of the people who find their ways to Castle Perilous are from our time and Earth; for obscure reasons time travel is not involved. But walls are given to opening and closing in unpredictable ways, sometimes involving the guests of the Castle with anthropophagous critters from other dimensions, or providing them with ways into "Aspects" where they can have additional adventures. Within the Castle, magic "works", presumably by channeling of the energies involved in gaps between the "Aspects". (Well, if spacecraft can pick up energy from the gravitational fields of Jupiter or Saturn, a denizen of Castle Perilous can conjure up a sumptuous meal out of nowhere.)

And, of course, the Castle is under siege. Its lord, with the aid of the books' protagonists, is continually faced with defending Castle Perilous against assaults from people and things that are not people to take over this complex structure - or maybe one of the Aspects on which it abuts. By the second book we find that these rivalries involve members of Lord Incarnadine's family, and it becomes obvious that Phil Farmer's World of Tiers and Roger Zelazny's Amber series have been an influence on De Chancie. But at least in Castle Perilous we can be sure that anybody who is killed will stay dead, an aggravation I have frequently had with Amber. To match Amber's rivals in the Courts of Chaos, Castle Perilous must deal with the Hosts of

Hell. And, just as other places are feeble imitations of Amber, we learn towards the end of the third book that Castle Perilous has somehow "created" the worlds which abut on it, including ours.

De Chancie gets a lot of mileage out of culture shock, particularly when people from other "Aspects" of Castle Perilous get to our Earth. This is particularly true for Snowy, a huge, immensely strong, white-haired monster from a world covered with ice and snow, who can apparently digest both carbohydrates and hydrocarbons. Disguised as merely an unusually large and strong Earthman, he gets taken on as a Mafia enforcer before the collapse of his disguise precipitates several crises at once.

De Chancie has not thoroughly thought out the laws of the magic in these books, but there'll still be a lot of fun. However, cover artist Jim Gurney should take a look (through a ~~lens~~ at an ant) to see how a six-legged critter actually moves. The gait of the one on the cover of Castle Kidnapped leaves something to be desired.

\*

Now that Manuel Antonio Noriega is in the control of the U. S. government, the totally illegal and unjustifiable U. S. invasion of Panama is probably going to be presented to us as a success. The legalities are identical to those in an earlier invasion of Panama City - by the pirate Henry Morgan in 1670. Morgan was also able to overcome all local resistance, and like Bush he got what he was after - in Morgan's case, every thing of value that was not nailed down.

Once President Butch has stopped crowing with glee at having re-established, in his own eyes, his sense of his masculinity, the fact will remain that piracy is piracy, and that pirates are regarded in international law as hostis humani generis - an enemy of the human race. As such, they can be captured and killed on the high seas by anyone who can seize them.

President Butch's objections to Noriega are a little hard to understand. If he had any objections about the way Noriega runs a country, he should have expressed them to him in 1976, when Butch was head of the CIA, and Noriega was on his payroll at \$100,000 a year. The sort of government Butch wants to establish in Panama can be understood from a remark he made in 1981 to President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines: "We love your adherence to democratic principles and to the democratic process." This clearly means that Butch wants to put a Marcos-type in charge in Panama, and this time one that, unlike Noriega, when bought will stay bought. The new government of the man it is tempting to call "President Nguyendara" contains many of Noriega's veteran thugs. Endara, who is President of Panama only because President Butch says he is, was sworn into office on a U. S. military base, and surrounded with U. S. troops as far as the eye could see. If Butch gets away with this, he can find a pliant Cuban in Miami, fly him to the U. S. base at Guantanamo Bay, similarly swear him in as "President of Cuba", and then graciously heed this man's plea for U. S. troops to help rid the country of the "rebel" Castro.

The readiness of Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Butch to run one- or two-week wars is going to blow up in Butch's face soon. Eventually he will try this on a country that is capable of mounting a serious resistance, and of sending its troops back into the hills or swamps if the U. S. drives them out of the cities. This may yet happen in Panama, since Butch shows no readiness to withdraw a meaningful number of the troops with which he invaded Panama. Some campesino out in the boondocks may take up the struggle that Noriega was unwilling to lead.

And if Panama lies down and plays dead, Colombia could be another story. Already the U. S. is undertaking a naval and air blockade of that country. And the U. S. has joined Iran as being the only countries that assert the right to go into any country in the world and arrest anybody they want to. In this business, of course, Butch is a piker. He only offered \$1,000,000 for Noriega, a sum which, for all I know, is now being paid to the Pope. But Khomeini offered over \$5,000,000 for Rushdie.

My own attitude on this insane business is unequivocal. Every time a Panamanian sent a bullet into the body of one of the invaders of his country, my heart leaped within me for joy.

(continued on p. 8)

## GETTING CAUGHT UP

APA-Qover #308 (Malay): If you have more satire about yuppies, get it in fast. One of these days the New York Stock Exchange will sell 900,000,000 shares for a drop of 1,000 points, and yuppies will vanish into the same limbo as flappers, jitter-buggers, the Silent Generation, beatniks, and mods.

Quant Suff! #177 (Malay): There are book collections of Zippy the Pinhead in the local comic art shops. But in comic art apparently anything can go to book length. There are even collections of Herman!

If, in that analogy interpretation of The Wizard of Oz, the Wizard is William Jennings Bryan, then who is the Cowardly Lion? Granted, Bryan does make sense as the Wizard. Still, he was in favor of the eight-hour day when that was a man sight more radical than evolution.

Whenever the stock market slumps badly, some people up at the top of the economic food chain get the idea that an influx of money into the market will prop up prices and restore "normalcy". So a pool is arranged, from either private (1907) or public (1987) sources. The money is used to buy stocks at prices that convince everyone the market won't crash catastrophically.

But, while that worked in 1907 and 1987, it did not work in 1929. I have just finished reading a very interesting book that makes this point, Tom Shachtman's The Day America Crashed (Putnam's, 1979). Shachtman goes through Thursday 24 October 1929 almost hour by hour, following the lives of prominent and obscure people who were affected by the great crash of that date, the even greater crash of the following Tuesday, and the depression that followed. It is Shachtman's claim that the loosening of credit as the day went on merely made it possible for even more money to be lost. This, like the recovery from the 1987 slump, was made possible by an infusion of money from the Federal Reserve.

How to...in 18 Easy Lessons (DeL Grande): We had been wondering how you'd managed during the quake.

From World War I onward, military conscription has been carried on with the aid of census returns. You can take it for granted that anything you tell to one branch of the government is told to all of them.

Fred Phillips already knows that I think the SMIOC\* is a crock. It will go into legend along with those rings of wicked old women who prick pretty girls with poison pins in ladies' washrooms and ship them off to be white slaves in South America.

Perception of color is one of those complicated subjects that lies on the intersection of physics, physiology, and psychology, and would take someone conversant in all three fields to study. Perdita and I draw the distinction between "green" and "blue" at decidedly different frequencies. A language as close to English as Old Norse used the same word, blaa, for both "blue" and "black". In the sagas, the sky is blaa, ravens are blaa, and Africa is called Blaaland.

Thanks for the continuing reports on the suit against Private Eye. There are people in England who would rather kill this magazine than reconquer the Empire.

So your pet creationist at work said: "If the universe happened 'by accident', then why are all the planets round?" Point out Isaiah 40:22, which asserts that the Earth is not a sphere, but a circle. (The Hebrew word hug, meaning a flat, round disk, is used. If Isaiah had meant "sphere" he would have used the word kedur.)

The dinosaur commonly known as Brontosaurus, was later found to have been described previously as Apatosaurus. By an iron-bound rule of taxonomy, the earlier name is considered valid. This is why those two large carnivorous dinosaurs in the American Museum of Natural History, labeled "Gorgosaurus", should really be "Albertosaurus". "Brontosaurus" is now used as an unofficial common term for Apatosaurus, Cetiosaurus, Camarasaurus, and other dinosaurs of that general shape.

There was a "Mortimer Mouse" in the Disney comic books of the 1930s. He was a

\* - "Sinister Monolithic International Communistic Conspiracy", of course. An updated version of Sinister Catholic, Jewish, Masonic, or Satanist Conspiracies.

tall, debonair, and crooked rival for Minnie's affections.

I can think of a lot of things to call Dan Quayle, but "coward" isn't one of them. A reluctance to get involved in the hamburger machine of Vietnam was not "cowardice", but simply a realistic assessment of the world as it then existed.

I had been wondering how the Commodore Amiga was doing. It doesn't seem to be talked about as much among computer enthusiasts as are the Mac and the IBM PC and its clones. But Commodore was always strong on graphics in its various computers.

In addition to the "Sons" (and Daughters?) "of Neptune", there used to be an "Order of the Golden Dragon", with comparable ceremonies, for those who cross the International Date Line. Does it still exist?

Mars is, on the average, 1.52 times as far from the Sun as the Earth is. I'm surprised that Dan Quayle even admits the Earth is moving. His pet Fuzzymentalist preacher, Rev. Col. Robert Thieme, has certainly told him about Psalm 104:5. Incidentally, did you know what Dan Quayle's first act as President will be? He will give a full, free, and absolute pardon to Lt. Col. South.

"Not invading Panama was the smart thing to do." I agreed with you then. I still do.

And who gets to decide "whatever poses a threat to the government and its ideals"? Apparently the U. S. armed forces do, since they get away with the Kent State massacre and will apparently get away with the one in Panama as well.

Yes, "hard liquor didn't disappear when alcohol...was re-legalized." But wood alcohol and bathtub gin did. These, not hard liquor, are the equivalent of crack.

I have heard that story about the cow that fell into the San Andreas Fault, and wonder whether such a thing was possible. Or maybe this was a relation of Mrs. O'Leary's famous Chicago cow.

NEVER Bluff a Librarian #65 (Burwasser): Several military campaigns, including campaigns of conquest, have been won "by accident". Very often a skirmish between two small outposts escalates without anyone really intending it, in what military historians call a "meeting engagement". Gettysburg was the best-known example in American history. It began as "the boys out there are reporting some resistance; better send a few more out there to help them", and ended as one of the Fifteen Decisive Battles. I am certain that the Wehrmacht did not expect such an easy victory over France as they obtained; France had been for centuries "the Mars of Europe", as can be shown by observing that the military vocabulary of almost every European language is at least half French.

It is my understanding that a dynasty from nomad country sometimes took over China because some bright statesman in the capital figured he could assure the success of his faction by calling in some barbarians to do his fighting for him. Then, of course, guess who would up in possession of the throne after the blood had dried. Thus began the Jou, Lyao, Jin, and Ching Dynasties.

Your comments on the final collapse of the FBI's "Library Awareness Program" is very interesting, and goes to confirm my own impression of it.

"No competent spy steals documents, but always copies and re-files them." There can be problems with that approach, too; for details see the account of the "Milan Stefanovich" espionage case which appears in Lavender Cassels' The Archduke and the Assassin (Stein & Day, 1985). Practically nothing else in this book is new to me, and the best account of the 1914 tyrannicide is still Vladimir Dedijer's The Road to Sarajevo. But "Stefanovich", allegedly an official in a Serbian terrorist organization, was providing the Austrian Legation in Belgrad with alleged minutes of its meetings. Based on this information, an Austrian academician named Friedjung wrote in 1909 an article accusing the Serbs of setting up a plot against the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Fifty-two Serbs and Hrvats, Austro-Hungarian subjects, sued Friedjung for libel. "Stefanovich" proved not to exist, the documents proved to be forgeries, and the real culprit was what would now be called a "disinformation" ring in the Austrian Legation in Belgrad. Friedjung

This is  
O At  
P Great  
E Intervals  
R This  
A Appears  
T To  
I Inflamm  
O Optic  
N Nerves

# 1585

settled out of court. Before the whole case blew up in their faces, the Austrian government tried to excuse the deficiencies in the "Stefanovich" documents by claiming that they were copies, that "Stefanovich" had to leave the originals in place.

Sorry about your run-in with the purse-snatchers. Local ones are said to dump everything except cash; cards are too hard to use and too easy to trace the use of.

DAGON #401 (me): During the mad, mad faanish holiday season I learned that a sixth Terry Pratchett "Discworld" novel is in the works: The Wyrd Sisters. To judge from its name, it may return us to Eskarina Smith, the Discworld's first female wizard, and her mentor, old Granny Weatherwax. I'd like to see a run-in between Granny and Rincewind.

Blancmange #228 (Blackman): You're right; in the middle 1960s, Fanoclasts met at Ted White's, and FIS-TFA at Mike McInerney's and Rich Brown's, on alternate Friday nights. APA-F was collated at both meetings, thus was a weekly.

"Bat Mitzvah, or Who Audits the Auditors?" (Blackman): Yes, the Borscht Belt will survive into the Space Age. It could probably survive the end of the world.

#### THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

As of 3 January 1990, the following people have the following positive balances in their APA-Q postage accounts:

Lee Burwasser	\$17.93	Daniel B. Holzman	\$4.45	Lana Raymond*#	\$3.67
Tom & Barbara Byro	\$4.45	Robert B. Lipton*#	\$5.47	Robert Sacks	\$8.55
Philip M. Cohen	\$11.38	John Malay#	\$21.03	Frank Schildiner	\$5.40
Don Del Grande	\$24.20	Jeff Poretsky*	\$18.20	Jane T. Sibley*	\$1.83
Robert Hauser	\$15.88	Alan Rachlin	\$3.85	Gary Tesser	\$3.25

\* - APA-Filk also on this account; see p. 3.

# - By 1st-class mail even if over 4 ounces.

Your balance including costs of this Distribution is: \_\_\_\_\_

Accounts which fall into arrears will be suspended. Presently suspended accounts are:

Robert J. Baker	-\$1.10	John Desmond	-39¢	Barbara Koksai	-20¢
Vinnie Bartilucci	-76¢	Liz Ensley	-37¢	Richard McCluney	-5¢
Andre Bridget	-72¢	Harold Feld	-19¢	Ted Pauls	-39¢
Shelby Bush	-\$5.98	John Hartzell	-79¢	Joyce Scrivner	-75¢
John Colton	-88¢	Mark Keller	-86¢	Peter G. Trei	-73¢

#### THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 5)

\*

Anent Question 6, in the questionnaire on p. 9, there has already been a legal case based on astrology. Some years ago, in a midwestern state, a farmer was called away on an emergency, and made an arrangement with a neighbor to look after his livestock. During his absence his neighbor dehorned a calf unskillfully, and the animal bled to death. Upon returning, the calf's owner sued him for dehorning the calf when the Moon was in Taurus. "Everybody knew" that you shouldn't dehorn calves when the Moon is in Taurus. The calf's owner was very surprised to learn that the court took no cognizance of this piece of folk wisdom..

\*

In a letter, Don Del Grande explains the term "double glazing", about which I claimed ignorance. He claimed that as a physicist I should have known what it means. "Could it, perhaps, have something to do with the fact that it's virtually non-existent in this country, and even when people get the general idea, they apply a temporary solution called 'storm windows'?" It is, in short, what we have in our house, except that I never heard it called that. A few years ago we had added to our usual

(continued on p. 10)



## SOME SHORT QUESTIONS ABOUT ASTROLOGY

(This quiz is reprinted from the October 1989 issue of Grain of Salt, newsletter of the Delaware Valley Skeptics, Apt. 36-D, 1420 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. That issue was sent through APA-Q Distribution #307 on 25 November 1989, but it is reprinted here for the sizable number of DAGON readers who are not members of APA-Q.)

1. Which of the following were the most important factors in shaping your personality?
  - A. The people and social institutions you grew up with.
  - B. Whether your family was rich or poor, black or white, liberal or conservative, Catholic, protestant, Jewish, or Muslim.
  - C. Whether you were a loved or a rejected child.
  - D. Whether the society you were born into was free or repressive.
  - E. Whether your moon was ascending in Scorpio.
  
2. Homework question: Which had the greatest gravitational effect on you when you were born? (HINT: Newton's laws of gravity can be used, and gravity decreases rapidly over distance.)
  - A. The planet Mars.
  - B. The physician delivering you.
  - C. A jet plane flying over Paris, France.
  - D. The building next door.
  
3. If two astrologers provide two very different horoscopes for the same person, this can be explained by:
  - A. The personality differences between the astrologers.
  - B. Errors in their respective calculations.
  - C. They used different methods of astrology.
  - D. Astrology is not an exact science, but an 'art', and had many subjective meanings.
  - E. Astrology does not work.
  
4. What are the chances that every person on Earth sharing the same sign of the Zodiac are having the same kind of day? (HINT: This would be 1/12 of the world's population, or about 416 million people.)
  
5. Why does astrology use your birthdate, when your chromosomes and genetic structure are established soon after conception?
  
6. If a physician induces labor in a pregnant woman, and thus causes the child to be born with an unfavorable astrological configuration, can he then be sued for malpractice if the child has a lot of bad luck?
  
7. Since Pluto was discovered in 1930, are all astrological charts drawn before 1930 wrong? Are charts which don't include Pluto wrong? What happens if we discover a new planet?
  
8. Is an astrology chart that includes the M31 galaxy and recently discovered moons of Saturn a better chart than one that doesn't?
  
9. Let's assume that there was no basis to astrology, regardless of how many people believe in it. If an astrologer charges you a lot of money for astrological advice, then, do you really want to pay for it?
  
10. How do you think astrologers answer these questions?

## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 8)

windows a set of outer windows. Depending on the weather, the outer window can be slid up and a screen slid down. They have been very useful in reducing our heating costs, particularly since we switched over from oil to gas at about the same time. "The theory of 'double window panes'" is known to me, though it is not "universally taught in physics courses."

\*

Del Grande, who has a lot of material about the World Cup in this APA-Q Distribution, also reports that the TNT cable network claims to have exclusive English-language TV rights in America. Most of Brooklyn and Queens don't have cable, but "one month before the World Cup starts, something that is probably considered more important also begins on TNT - the NBA Playoffs. When enough people realize this, TNT will spread like wildfire."

I beg leave to doubt this. All kinds of popular and remunerative events are on cable, yet we remain without it. The Marxist belief that every matter is settled by determining to whom it is personally profitable does not explain all events. It is fashionable to say that the causes of war are economic, or that dictatorships are installed in nations by financial interests that want to establish a stable government that will ensure their profits. Yet these things have a way of getting out of hand. The industrialists of Germany who bankrolled Hitler soon realized what a bad bargain they had made, and their complete powerlessness to do anything about it. Anti-Communist hysteria in the U. S. over the past four decades owes at least as much to a pathological fear of sinister international conspiracies as it does to the desire of capitalists to get rich building weapons, or to open up Communist countries for their own investments. The sort of people who talk about keeping the "Cold War" going in the face of perestroika want neither an oligarchy nor a democracy here, but what might be called a manicocracy.

Just because cable will make somebody a lot of money doesn't mean that we'll get it here; squabbles among political and business leaders are quite capable of keeping it from arriving. I fully expect to watch this year's World Cup on the Spanish-language channel, 41.

\*

And so I come down to nearly the time to leave for HexaCon, with still a lot of things on which I want to comment, including an amusing comic art commentary on ancient Greek philosophy which Ira Donewitz got for me, and the latest Omaha. All this will have to wait for the next issue, on the 27th.

DAGON #402

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