

THE WRONG STUFF

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One reason for titling this THE WRONG STUFF is that I don't happen to have any corflu in the house, and no chance of buying any before this must be printed, but I do have plenty of TIPPEX, and indeed, plenty of TIPPEX-substitutes. (Purists may insist pointlessly that there is no substitute for TIPPEX...)

The other reason is that I have just completed reading Tom Wolfe's THE RIGHT STUFF, a harrowing tale of test pilots and astronauts which is actually quite a neat piece of reportage - and informative as well. (Test pilots developed various favourite manoeuvres to try to get out of tough situations, such as the 'plane being pointed in the wrong direction. Joe Walker, one of the pilots of the X-15 had a routine called 'The J.C. manoeuvre'. First, you remove your hands from the controls. And I probably needn't described the later stages...)

Anyway, I realised last night that what I have - my main talent, if you like, is the Wrong Stuff. Torrey Orton, a tallish American whom a few readers of this have met, was around here and he finally came out with an explanation for why he bothers to talk to me. 'I've never met anyone' he said with his mouth who has deliberately made so many decisions against his own interest' Or was it 'to his own disadvantage'? I also have a lousy memory. I suppose it was shortly thereafter that I realised that I did indeed have the Wrong Stuff. This was reinforced this morning when I read of the youngsters in their thirties who are making \$70K a year. All you have to do, I mused to myself, is make the resolution to live off the ~~miseries~~ miseries of others - quite a few ANZAPAs do. But we are getting a little close to the knuckle - let's try some mailing comments.

MICHAEL O'BRIEN: I wish I had had longer to talk to you at "aster MODULE 39 was good stuff; be regular this membership if you can.

MARC ORTLIEB: Omitting 'Elizabeth Downs'. Damien Broderick told us that several newspapers were all set to go with the headline 'AZARIA FOUND IN NUGAN GRAVE'.

Wasn't it a voodoo chicken?

Let me make again, for the last time, the point that everyone who was dropped from ANZAPA during my term was warned of their impending fate. If this is not true, name the person (s) who were not so treated. What you've been complaining about is that some people weren't warned twice. The SAPS constitution is much better than the ANZAPA one precisely because it is much shorter.

IRWIN HIRSH: Happy birthday, old man. Let me encourage you to discover something new about mineos. They're called Sal; I have a mineo.

ERIC LINDSAY (and others): The final decision on the maternity case was 2/5 pay for maternity leave.

GERALD SMITH (and others): Stewart Brand, in COEVOLUTION QUARTERLY, suggested that rape victims, simply report that the rapist exposed himself to them. His argument is that this labels the offender effectively, and reduces hassles. He wasn't too sure how it would work in practice.

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Teachers, you will be pleased to learn, believe that their jobs should be made easier by law reform.

JEAN WEBER: 'I resent the fact that I am expected to dress in an "acceptable" way just so other people won't get the wrong idea.' In a different context, but maybe not so different, me too. In my job I am supposed to be able to talk effectively with senior administrators, teachers, school kids. To do that properly I have to dress to meet their expectations. If I don't, I simply can't get information that can be relied upon. Of course, if everyone was enlightened and wise like me and believed that it is false that 'clothes maketh the man' I could dress as I wish. But they're not.

And if everyone was wise and sensible like you then you could wear comfortable clothing without fearing that people will be misreading sexual signals. But they're not.

I have only restrained sympathy for people who erect worldviews based on 'if only everyone were like me....'

JOSEPH NICHOLAS: I really should be writing you a letter, not frantically scrabbling for a mailing comment. That's the bad side of apas, I suppose. With any luck Malcolm will pull one of his dumb stunts while you are out here and you'll be able to appreciate the genuine qualities of Maggie...

JOYCE SCRIVNER: Well, at least I have written to you. I don't know how to answer your question about who should run for DUFF in the abstract, but I'm willing to point to an example: John Bangsund.

JOHN BANGSUND: I mentioned your name already. Is it true you spent more time typing the cover than the contents?

LEIGH EDMONDS: Not only does the fact that ANZAPA and APPLESAUCE are not too similar make them compliment each other, it makes them complement each other. Quick look back to see if I can get that right without conflu....

MALCOLM EDWARDS: We look forward to your lengthy reports on the cricket scene. I'm quite happy to go on doing duplicating for you, by the way. F'Chrissake get the stuff to me ~~xxx~~ early, though...

JOHN FOYSTER: The more I've thought about registering fanzines the less I like it, under the new rules. I don't have to make a decision immediately, but I suspect I'm going to say 'no'.

~~xxx~~ ELSE

Well, we're going on holiday. Thoughtless though it may appear, I can actually bear to turn my back on Mal of Nareen and escape for a few pleasant moments. (They didn't raise the departure tax.) New Zealand, here we come. And we get to go to their convention, too. I think this will be the first time in my life I will have been to conventions on successive weekends; I'm not sure yet whether this is a good or a bad thing. I shall report, later, in the new, sparse, cheap Foyster apazines of the future....: