

GARY FARBER'S CAKEWALK

Warning: May Contain Nuts

My Dinner With Roland

Well, not exactly. But upon hearing on Saturday afternoon that Roland Castle was indeed staying around the "ROC of AGEs" con, I went looking for him to see what results an attempt to sit down and explore our mutual points of view would have.

I found him in the huckster room, and after a short delay, he, I, and his companion sat down in the lobby bar for a two hour and twenty minute conversation: around 4 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. I haven't written this up yet, but I thought I'd give you a teaser. :-) I hope to do this tomorrow and give a bit of a

separate report of the con as well, which, after a slow start, I ended up having a good time at – but more on that later.

The conversation was essentially cordial. That is, Roland said many of the same old things which I could take offense at, but I'm generally a pretty easy-going fellow, and I chose to ignore the various "passhole," etc., type references. I certainly felt no sense of physical threat whatever, and had no worries in that regard. By the end of the conversation, I did, however, feel like the computers in the Original Star Trek faced with James Kirk asking "Who shaved the Spanish Barber?" My mind reeled and smoked as I attempted to make sense of it all.

"Norman, coordinate. . . ."

Talking with Roland Castle about the Collusion, the Kronies, and the Psheep is better than the best acid. Trust me.

I didn't tape the conversation, and will only be able to report my subjective sense of the highlights. Roland will have a different view, as I am as sure of anything I am sure of on Earth that he feels that he triumphantly proved all of his points about the Collusion against him.

Just exactly as he did on a.f.c. already.

Same stuff with a few other bits and pieces. So more will follow on this, and then I'll probably drop the subject; I think the climax has been

reached, and there will be little more to say: Roland will indeed likely never change his way of looking at the world, and I and those others who have more in common with my sense of how we use words in the English language will never be able to successfully communicate with him.

Unless he gets better.

Based on conversations at "ROC of AGES", however, with many of Roland's staff, I am entirely reassured: all those I spoke to are quite emphatic that he is a nutbar. They just remember him before he became ill with his paranoid delusions, and hope that he will recover someday.

I can understand that, and recognizing

now that about the only people in even Roland's corner of the universe who may seriously believe him may be "Catwoman" and an occasional other nitwit or innocent, I am no longer concerned that Roland Castle may be seen by anyone significant as a spokesperson for fandom, or a respectable authority figure. On the contrary: the merciful thing to do is join with those who hope that Roland gets better: his situation is, more than anything else, sad.

Government 101

The House of Representatives is presently fixed at 435 members. Districts are redrawn every ten years according to the Census, in theory; in practice, we then have law suits in some states that will last for years.

Each state controls its own redistricting, within federal law, and there are many individual variations as to how this is done: by commission, by the state legislature, or what. But the House is supposed to be proportional to population. Together, the House and Senate make up the Congress.

Next week on Schoolhouse Rock: How a Bill becomes Law. ;-)

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The Lost Fanzines of Gary Farber

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All contents

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