
OFFLINE READER

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MUMBLE MUMBLE

Too make a long story short, just before the market crashed, after the terrorist plane crashes, I noted too many price increases on things like meals. It began to look as if I would never, in the 10 years left to age 65 for sure, be able to make up for "effective inflation" via my investing activities. After the crash, and my having to sell a key block of stock to prevent a margin call, and other implications of having stuff on margin, there was no doubt left. The recovery I'd made since this January, for having enough income in the near and medium term, to avoid a "real job," was pretty much smashed, too. The current plan is to look for a job in Nov. and probably go full time as an IRS clerk by January. It gets worse, but there's no point in talking about it. This will be a string saver. Most likely I'll exhaust my dues, here, and then drop.

FOR SFPA 223 -- MC's on 222

Norm M. in TYNDALLITE V3N96: I did an internet search on Austronesians and mainly came up with stuff on language and, to a lesser extent, gene studies. OTOH, I'm not interested enough to go hunt the book you cited. Almost, but not quite. <G> Being married to the local librarian, I could probably get them to hunt the book down for inter-library loan, or, if it's in print, get SF&M Books to order it -- someday when Mark Stevens got around to it. (He'll special order out-of-field for regular customers, but it takes forever and you've got to personally look on a certain shelf every few weeks to see if it's come in.) I think there's something that needs a lot more consideration to these people, but I'm not sure what. For sure, the population of the world, and how it got that way, is a LOT more complicated than anyone ever dreamed.

Ned B. in NEWS 198: On the typewriter key -- I'll probably get back on that project in late Oct. I've got a lot of cleanup on the SECFI (South East Convention Fandom, Inc.) project to do. Should be done by then, or at least enough to go up to Lilburn, etc. And have a window before full time job blues close in. Meanwhile my father-in-law seems to be happy using an ancient typewriter with one key cap missing.

I still think that enough web search and/or announcement in e-groups would find a museum for you to leave your typewriter collection to. I wouldn't bother GA Tech, though. There's got to be some tourist attraction somewhere that could use them. You'd be surprised what kind of private museums are out there.

Re fans dying too young. RATS and <expletive deleted> ... and a moment of silence. I just got word of MFIII's demise due to cancer. I hope Penny can deal with what printed material he left.

Richard D. in GAZETTE 71: Actually, re Meisha Merlin, I mean that, besides the difference between "independent press" and "small press," which is a difference in attitude more than business practices, that Baker & Taylor, the number two national wholesaler, has moved them into the same category as outfits like Random House (or very close) due to the volume of business they're generating. It's at least made some quantum jumps compared to any other independent publisher of sf&f, and unlike still others in similar fields (Mystery Fiction, WriteWayPress, etc.), is still headed upwards.

On bankruptcies and back wages -- and legally going after the owner(s) personal funds even if it was a corporation: As I understand the law, from seeing actual cases but not being a lawyer, yes, the employees owed back wages CAN do it. They're ahead of every possible creditor except taxes, and, IIRC, even the tax authorities can't go after personnel money of a corporation. There are lawyers who specialize in going after deadbeat owners of "small" businesses who pull this sort of thing.

Thus if/when Bethlehem Steel Corp is sold for scrap, not just files bankruptcy (yeah ... that' the "small case" from previous years' disaster), all employees will be paid back wages, if there are any. It's rare that a big company dies without enough assets to do that. A

small company, OTOH, yes, the owners can be gone after and it happens. Once upon a time, long long ago, there was an outfit called Blue K or similar that competed with Krystal Burgers in Knoxville. It died leaving many dozens of unpaid employees. Most, being -- shall we say -- in no better circumstances than the average burger flipper -- never even thought they'd ever get their money and couldn't be found when the lawyers/sharks got blood out of the relevant turnips/stockholders. Some had sense enough, and did. The other case in which I personally knew victims was a Stanley Steemer franchise in NoVA. The S.O. of one victim, a friend of mine (Susan Brooks, if you ever run into her since she's local to you), IIRC, had her then guy go to a lawyer. In due course the lawyer extracted the back pay, or a good chunk of it -- PLUS his own fees -- from some Doctor in Ohio, who owned the dead company. In a third case, my memory is more fuzzy on, the owners managed to "hide" or otherwise render untouchable, all their money. The victims got a few cents on the dollar and the lawyers got their expenses paid.

Similar cases exist for people having money coming to them from dead companies via lawsuit for ill doing. For instance, an employment agency commits fraud to get people looking for jobs (yeah, been there, been done by that) to give them money. Or a mutual fund does something illegal and owes the former shareholders, after it's died. The owners/officers first owe back wages, then taxes, then -- and this gets more dicey -- people who're owed money due to lawsuit, and THEN other creditors. In that last case, and similar, I've gotten itty bitty checks, many many years after having sold out of a company that later died, went bankrupt but not dead, etc. Several times. Might even get a few bucks on Beth Steel after it's "reorganized."

Rich L in THEME 7: Joe Mayhew, whom you mentioned being retired at circa age 50, went out on Medical Retirement. His heart or a related problem, IIRC. He had very low expenses, I'd suspect, as he'd gotten whatever apartment he'd had, ages ago, and, as far as I know, had nothing to support except his hobbies. Likely he had indeed saved up some, over the years.

On some states already awarding electoral votes by district, I wish this were publicized a lot.

On alternatives to the Electoral System, or at least distribution of the popular vote TO electoral vote, there IS an alternative to what could be described as the "normal parliamentary system." (I am against, btw, those who think we should go to that on general principles.) The Knesset (Israeli) system. Each party gets a percentage of the electoral college, nationwide, based on it's percentage of the popular vote. Or do it state by state. It would help third parties SOMEwhat. If done state by state, I could go for it.

Trinlay K. in DEWACHEN #? Daughter? KT? And you didn't tell us before. We must have regular reports <G>.

On Buddhists and jihads, I wouldn't expect any. Maybe financial sanctions. What WAS the non-doormat response?

Steve H. in COMMENTS 12: It wasn't net worth or even income that finally crushed me. It was inability to grow BOTH, in 10 or even 20 years, with reasonable safety. In short, I should have waited 2.5 years before I went "out" and had more to start with. The stuff I do that's risky tends to NOT reward well enough. <sigh>

On war with China to defend Taiwan, the war games that have been run seem to have us trying to hit the enemy coast. We would be better off staying on the Taiwan side and concentrating on blasting anything that came at Taiwan.

TKFW in LOUSE! 72: Have you read Fred Willard's second book, PRINCESS NAUGHTY AND THE VODOO CADILAC? He was one of the "characters" who came in the SF&M Book Shop, Ltd., for years and years, talking about his book in progress. And then it actually sold. In his case, this was very pleasing to me. If you didn't meet him, I can probably find him up for you. He is, or was, also in Sisters In Crime, here -- you might like that also as you're not THAT far from Atlanta and people come from that far.

On landscaping, I just "inherited" what was here and try to keep it alive. I'm not a gardener and didn't want to me.

On the RAH stuff, I've not yet sent it back and also have my own copy of recent issues. Phone? (vs. email) As soon as you read this.

Gary B. in Oblio 135: When did San Diego Comix Con change its name to "International Comic Convention?" Or am I confusing cons? I guess it is the "Worldcon" of Comix Cons? Yes, no, maybe?