

PETER, PAN & MERRY #42

A zine for SFPA # 226

David Schlosser – 2041 “N” St, Eureka CA 95501

707-HID-HALO Schloss17@aol.com

Come and Tarry on SFPA 225

Southerner – Hmm. If it's been Eve's and Gary's zines that have suffered the most delay, maybe it's some sort of revenge by the USPS on Florida for going for Bush?

Ned Brooks – Ct Norm: I just took a look at my copy of **20,000 Leagues**. It does say that the Nautilus is run by electricity and, as it's produced by chemical reactions (from the elements of sea water), that would qualify it as being battery-powered. I would think that that was well beyond any but a very theoretical proposition in Verne's time however. // Ct Dengrove: If I recall correctly, the determinant points for the Fahrenheit scale were weather-related. 0 was set at the coldest that it got where he has doing the measurements and 100 at the hottest. // Ct Lynch: Well, if you want to try to fix the excess CO2 in the atmosphere, one could try seeding the atmosphere with microscopic plants and let them do their thing of converting the stuff to O2 and C.

Ct me: My understanding is that there is (as yet) no effective way to filter or inactivate a prion if it's in the material. / Using animal products in animal feed would make them omnivores, not carnivores. And, as you say, that may not have been such a hot idea but it wasn't something that was known about until fairly recently while the practice had been going on for some little while now. Oh and on the kosher beef question, I did some asking around and there is, apparently, no specific problem with the use of feed containing animal products. Partially that's a pragmatic issue but I guess it can also be based on the fact that use of animal products in feed is really no different than animals accidentally eating bugs, worms, etc that may be attached to the grass, hay, etc. // While I don't think the lake that Lancelot is connected to is specified, one has to be curious if it's the same one as the Lady of the Lake. (Probably not as I would guess that he was more Norman in origin than outright Brit, but who knows.) // It may be a bit of a stretch but in both cases (rape and Sept 11) the track is to blame the victim for being attacked. // I don't think actually declaring war is required for the Geneva Convention. Nothing I've heard or read about the classification of the prisoners has hinged at all on whether we are “officially” at war or not. And I don't see that what our Afghan allies do with their prisoners has any bearing on the question. Overall (and it may be hard to sort them out) I think that members of the Taliban army should be treated as POWs and any non-Afghanis should be treated as “unlawful combatants” (or just criminals). Al-Quedans who are Afghanis would be the hard ones to sort but I'd err on whichever side gets greater protection.

Ct Steve: The problem with absolute rights is that all those rights come with (implied, but not stated) responsibilities and to make them absolute is to deny that other side of the coin. If the Freedoms were absolute, then libel, slander and other defamatory statements would have to be legal. Different rights will conflict with each other, they can't all be absolute. And, of course, all these rights are relative to gov't hinderance, not private ones. // Ct Jeff: As we already have various justice codes in place for both civilian and military courts, I'd agree that any creation of an ad hoc system for a particular group of people would be in violation of the Constitution. // Ct Guy: Well, the LotR movie essentially blends Arwen with Glorfindel. And, while wielding a sword, never actually uses it. In toto, much ado about very little.

Richard Lynch – More than 6 months in Europe since 1980. Boy that will cut down a bit on the donor pool (although if enough “just folk” donated that restriction probably wouldn’t make much of a dent). Gotta figure that’ll eliminate a lot of people in business, gov’t, reporting and sports. Why this change? Mad Cow? I guess I’ll ask the next time I go in to donate (they aren’t Red Cross, but most places tend to follow the same regulations on that). // Ct Ned: As there is currently no test for CJD, the only way to screen it out of the blood supply is via the interview process. As to whether or not it can be passed that way, after the AIDS scare I would guess that blood centers are taking no chances. Until it’s either testable for or proven to not be blood borne they’ll be excusing donors. // Ct Gary R: My problem is that the Bush administration seems to be trying to foist everything off as either an effect of Sept 11 or needed to combat the effects. / And a cynical portion of me wonders, had Clinton been President under the same circumstances, how many people would be bandying about the theory that it was his doing to divert attention from the election controversy? // Ct Gary: Even if D.C. is an “extension” of Baltimore: Oakland & SF; L.A. & Anaheim; Chicago; and New York all have paired teams in different leagues. So I don’t see how that would prevent someone moving a team to D.C. Hell, at one time it was almost required that there be two teams in a market.

Arthur Hlavaty – Keep on hanging in there. Investments and stock markets are based on herd action. Money is invested in sectors, not companies, and thus the boom and bust cycles. Unhappily that weeds out not only the poorly run ones but ones that are just small and thus not able to withstand the vagaries of the tide. // The most fun item in the new stadium naming trend is that one in Texas named after a certain large energy company. / But really, it’s just a continuation of a trend that I’ve seen in golf tournament names. If you pony up the big bucks, you get some advertising out of it. And nowadays it’s damn tough to either a) fund it yourself or b) get public money (sans blackmail) so you go to the deep pockets. I don’t like it, but I do understand it. // You mean Eudora flags words that you can’t say on free TV *in this country*. And I have heard some of those words anyway. // “seminal cultural event” Oh come now. // Is that Bret Maverick or James Rockford that’s sitting on the Supreme Court? Or is there a difference?

Guy Lillian – The concept of you moving out of NOLA is pretty hard to digest. But then, at one time, the concept of my moving out of L.A. would have gotten the same reaction. Times, circumstances, etc do tend to change. A side question is how this expansion of options might affect Cindy. // And keep up the work on that 4th resolution. We need you as a whipping boy here and in LASFAPA for some time to come. (;-) // Ct Ned: When we started redoing the wiring on this house, we discovered, among other thrilling tidbits that some of our wiring had the old cloth insulation on it. I won’t even discuss the actual design of the wiring that we found. // Ct Rich D: I was rereading Fail-Safe a month or so ago (for the first time in a couple of decades or so) and was...surprised...to discover a discussion (during the initial “What is that UFO on the radar?” chapters) that went into the area of “...a runaway pilot wanting to commit hara-kiri on New York...”. // Harry wasn’t asking the powers that be at AA about rejoining LASFAPA but discussed it with his therapist from the pov of whether it would be good for him or not. He did mention, in another context, that AA doesn’t take positions on political issues.

SpiriGuyus - Ct me: Would the objections to Harry Potter's winning a Hugo have applied as well to Trek's situation a number of year's ago? Didn't that qualify as "commercial"? As for Crichton, hasn't some of his stuff been nominated before? Why not write and find out what, if anything Rowling thought of getting a Hugo? Unless she was invited to some British cons, I tend to think that she might not have been aware of the award's existence until she got it, but who knows. // // While a rabbi getting his/her smicha is functionally equivalent to a priest being ordained, it's not exactly the same thing. I'm not quite sure how to clarify it at the moment. Let me think on it. // A "spate of B'nai Mitzvot" isn't too bad. A "spite" of them could be a problem. // I think that economic and legal actions against terrorist cells in other countries should continue. Direct military actions should be a last resort (covert action would be somewhere in between those two end points).

You seem to be saying that, ideally, the American people should have – in some way – rejected Bush as President based on how the end was achieved. As a practical matter, what would you suggest? Barring a coup or secession the only real options would be in the realm of protests and letter writing – which would go on anyway. Seems to me that the best rejection of what occurred would be if the Republican party were repudiated at the polls in the next couple of elections. Anything more dramatic than that would be a repudiation of our system of gov't rather than of the specific election events. / Considering a) the lowish voter turnout we usually get and b) the success (in places) of instituting term limits I wouldn't doubt for a minute that a lot of people don't want to be bothered with the drudgeries of a gov't ruled by law. / And I'll agree that the best way to stand up to the terrorists is to not shed liberties for protection, to not pull into a cocoon of suspicion, to not be cowed into changing to try to suit them. // Ct Sheila: I never realized that Fiddle-Faddle was Canadian. It's been around for ages. // Ct Janice: If you send me \$10,000, I'll explain the Nigerian scam to you. // Ct mike: A comparison of Sherman's march to the sea with the bombing of Hiroshima seems appropriate in that both were end runs around drawn-out, head to head battles that might have stretched their wars out by months. I won't say that makes them good choices, but with neither choice being an attractive one... // Ct Gary B: Well, originally Lex Luthor was a good friend of Superboy's, so this pure evil stuff don't work. Psycho I'll give you since anyone who would turn that completely around because of losing his hair just ain't stable.

Richard Dengrove – Ct Allie: How can you, a fan of Rocky and Bullwinkle, claim that villains with top hats and long mustaches were last popular in the 19th Century? // Ct Ned: The Saudis are, essentially, paying protection money when they subsidize those schools. Even if they teach (among other things) anti-Saudi stuff, the Saudi's aren't taking major hits. // Ct me: No doubt that Reagan recipe for Mac and Cheese called for the use of American Cheese. // Hadn't thought of that, but I could well see the Puritans translating the name "Joseph" to "Increase". I guess that forces the question of the name "Cotton" Mather. A guess would be if, as Increase's son(?) he get the nickname of "Little" Mather. Since little, in Hebrew comes out as katan. // I think a lot of fields go through shortage-glut cycles. // Exactly. When a field is sparsely filled, there is a push for people to go that way. At some point there may be a surfeit, which makes the field less attractive and thus fewer people go in that direction. In addition, there are other factors – other opportunities, working conditions, if training programs have closed, the problem can get worse. When I decided to go into lab science, there were a fair number of training programs in the state and all of them were full up with applicants. Now there are only about 6 in the state and that can't possibly even keep up with retirements. And it's rather a national situation. Ditto for nurses, radiology personnel, etc. The dot.com bust may have started the pendulum the other way, but it'll take a while yet.

Richard's Twygg – The final diagnosis on my back was some sort of disc problem (apparently just a bit of bulging, not a true herniation) that put pressure on my sciatic nerve. The traction and heat relieved the bulging and thus the pressure and pain. // In the '50s, I think the use of specific brands of products was called the perks of sponsorship. // That a symbol means something is what makes it significant, but a symbol can't really represent a time before it existed. The U. S. flag has no significance for this continent as it was in, say, 1719. So if the Stars & Bars was not in use prior to Lincoln's election, then how can it represent the antebellum south? (Although it can easily represent the South in a non-specific time frame.) / The age of the Magen David isn't relevant since it isn't used as a symbol of a specific time frame, just as a generic symbol representing Judaism. And, while it may get some, talismanic usage, it certainly isn't what I'd call a holy symbol. // Ct Irv: I still have a little, portable, "word processor" that carries a 15 character buffer prior to printing. Useful on trips but not one I use outside of long travels. // Ct Gary: Seems to me that it's the job of a good translator to convey the meaning of the words rather than simply the literal translation, particularly if any sort of idiomatic expression is in use or a word can have subtle shades of meaning. It's one of the reasons our Torah study gp enjoys having several different commentaries to work with.

Gary Robe – Ct me: While I have no problem with Goblet of Fire winning the Hugo (other than it seems to have slowed down Rowling's rate of book production), I think a case can be made that one of the jobs of the administrators is to weed out any non-eligible nominees. At a guess I would say that content was a valid criteria but I don't think I'd want to be the one to try to figure out exactly where that line was. // Ct Guy: Yeah, the Ballantine covers for LotR is very nice. I have a generic dislike of having to replace a book that I've had for years in the aftermath of its being made into a movie. // Intriguing. So far the only negative review I've seen of the film is from a friend of mine who is active in the Mythopoeic Society. Everyone else seems to agree that the pluses solidly outweighed the minuses. // Ct Sheila: I don't see it as a tough call. ASAP the detainees should be a) tried in a criminal court, b) tried in standard military court, c) turned over to appropriate national or international bodies to be tried or d) released. Secret tribunal is not the way to go. That slope is well beyond slippery.

Tom Feller – Good on the airbags that did their jobs. Glad Anita's damage was relatively minor.

Self – Ct Southerner: Well, the temple newsletter was dropped off on schedule but the 95% that went to the main post office for further distribution didn't turn up until about a week after we had remailed everything. So a lot of people got two copies. // Ct Ned re Shingles: On the flip side, I managed to get a second actual case of chicken pox. That's what I get for having had such a mild case as a kid. // I did some further checking and it does appear as if there is no specific rule that would prevent kosher cattle from being fed feed that included animal meal in it.

Janice Gelb – I'm of sort of the same mind you are about the Israeli retaliations. On the one hand you can't let the bombings go unanswered, on the other hand you don't want to overreact. It's a fine line to have to draw. But some people's efforts to make the two things equivalent because both cause civilian casualties, well, that's beyond the pale. // While it not broken, my left little toe tends to get uncomfortable inside about half my shoes now. It's clearly an aftereffect of that sciatica issue and I suspect I'll have to concede the point and replace the shoes that are affected.

Gelb Pursuits – Ct Ned: I have to wonder if they are thinking about confiscating pens and pencils on airlines. They're probably at least as dangerous as nail files. // Ct me: Funny, the complaints that I had heard did involve the fact that the Harry Potter book was fantasy and not SF. I guess that pretty much nails it down. If both are eligible and being "a children's book" is irrelevant then there's no issue. // I don't have the dates for the Glasgow bid in front of me, but in '05 Tisha B'Av is on August 14th. Surely they aren't having the con **that** early, are they? (Even if they were, I agree that it would, as a practical matter, affect nearly no one. // Kay got through her latest jury duty with even less pain than I did as she didn't have to sit through a case. Of course I do get a longer grace period until the next time I can get called. // Ct Sheila: On day 2 of LotR, I went and caught an early matinee and had no trouble at all with finding a seat. There is some advantage to working evenings.

Sheila Strickland – Ct Norm: My best guess is that the flea is not a vector or a host for the lycanthropy infection. It isn't the transfer of blood that passes the condition but simply the being bitten, so the flea wouldn't pick anything up while living on the werewolf. And there you have it. // Ct me: That wormhole between here and Washington is called Oregon.

Gary Brown – At this point, my dad really only goes out of the house if someone is driving him somewhere, but that doesn't stop him from going places when the opportunity arises. Still it is easier on him when people come to visit rather than going out – if only because he can then excuse himself when he gets tired rather than fussing while waiting for his ride to be ready to go. // I think the main issue re Enron and it's 401(k) was that it was so heavily invested in their own stock (which, of course, helps the stock price look good). Even I know you don't invest all your money in just one stock. And to be your own company's.... ((And that's not the same as getting stock options.)) That should have set off alarm bells with someone. // So was the woman in the post office saying that there was no guarantee on how long it would take to Express Mail a package to Washington? If "it'll take a long time no matter what you pay", that's the implication.

Ct me: Glad I could do my part it make you feel better about your postal woes. // Yeah, I guess when one of your "counter-observers" screws up while watching the other guy's spy planes you have to make a fuss so you can pass the blame and save face. / It's not really the getting caught in this case since the flights weren't exactly secret. The other interesting question is whether gathering in "lose" electronic emissions is any more spying than sorting through a trashcan is. It's clearly intelligence gathering, but it may not quite fit into the term "spying". // Ct Janice re the "danger" from a Snoopy key chain: Maybe schools should suspend all students who come to school with a sharpened pencil?

Steve Hughes – If my memory is correct, Enron set up its 401(k) so that the money was invested in its own stock. So the employees would have had no choice but to invest that way if they were using it. If that's the case it's a whole different situation than if investing in Enron stock was a single option among many. / And I don't think the money has to be "at risk" to qualify since one of the options we have with our plan is, basically, a money market.

Jeff Copeland – Congrats and a “Cool!” on getting a job-shift into an area you want to work in. // Re “Legend of the Rangers” and G’Kar: “Kiss, kiss!” // Ct Janice: I’m a bit leery of that reworked equation for C to F. For example, 37 C should be about 98.6 F but with her version ($F=2C + 30$), body temperature comes out at to 104 F. It may be only 5 degrees, but tell someone with a bit of fever that it’s about the same thing.

Liz Copeland – Ct Guy: Kay and I agreed that the expansion of Arwen’s role (and the removal of Glorfindel) worked pretty well even if we did have specific issues on exactly what was done. // Ct me: I still can’t see cottage cheese as a sub in mac and cheese. After all, the main point of the cheese is for the flavoring and cottage cheese doesn’t (to me) do a thing that way. Now, I could see it as part of some sort of pasta salad, but that’s a whole different thing. // As Janice pointed out, both F and SF works are specifically eligible for the Hugos so the questions is moot. // I guess that a miniature Torah scroll would be a bit closer to being “a holy symbol” than is the Magen David. I’m not sure just what I would define as a Jewish “holy symbol”. // While not my normal mode of doing breakfast, I see nothing strange about what my folks do in that realm.

Eve Ackerman – Great message of Raphi’s machine. // The Washington monument may be pretty damn phallic, but anyone who has a penis shaped like that has some problems. // Funny, I never really thought of USY as a good place for picking up chicks. Of course being painfully shy didn’t help much. // ct mike: As things stand I don’t think I’ll be encouraging Random to donate blood. Last year he went and fainted in the ER while I was in for my sciatica (Smells? My getting a shot? Who knows?) and the other day, while attending a medical/safety fair at the High School he lost it while at the booth from the coroner’s office. (It may have been the drug paraphernalia or the progressive shots of the arrested addict.) When his teacher called to tell us, the moment she said where he was I knew what had happened. Just reinforces that I was right when I made him stay in the waiting room the one time he came with me when I was donating blood.

Randy Cleary – Ct me: I know fen who used to comment on their attire, or lack thereof, while they were doing their zines. Why not when reading? // I’m not sorry about the stolen pool. We just had a “market evaluation” of the house done to get the PMI removed from our mortgage and (surprise!) were told that, up here, removing a pool actually adds to the property value. He figured there would be not problem with removing the PMI as our home is worth, roughly, 50% more than we bought it for.

George Wells – Ct Dengrove: “Pellucid” means clear or transparent but does derive from a word for “light”. // “Science Fiction Flans”. Sounds like you must have been at custard’s last stand.

APAC = NC² (Natter x Comments)

Let’s see, what’s been going on. I guess we’ll start with a different topic – the pooch. Now, being 13, he’s been having issues with his back hips for a bit but nothing massive. Stiff in cold weather, not as confident getting up on the hardwood floors, that sort of thing. Well, in late January we woke up one morning to find him in real difficulty. Barely able to walk, not wanting to go out for a stroll, lack of appetite, lack of much interest in anything and not barking (or making any sort of noise). It took a day before we called the vet and another 3 before we could get an appointment (I called on a Friday). Our opinion was that he’d had some sort of TIA (ie a small stroke) because nothing else should have had that dramatic effect.

Well, per our vet “That isn’t *recognized* in veterinary medicine...although that doesn’t mean it can’t happen.” In an unusual move, I agreed to let him do some lab work ((normally I wouldn’t, but with something clearly going on...)) – and all of that came back healthy as a horse. Physical exam showed about what we already knew about his interest level, balance, etc. (I should back up here and say that, by Monday, he was actually showing signs of improvement but over the weekend I had been really, really worried about him.)

Over the next few days he started showing real improvement – wanting to go for his regular walks again, generally moving better, eating more and making sounds. By a week later he was barking again and now (about a month afterwards) he’s essentially back to normal. Maybe even a bit better since even his hips seem to have improved and he’s up for some playing the back yard again. It’s great to see him back in good spirits. So, Kay and I still think that the problem was some sort of stroke but all we can do is hope it doesn’t happen again. We’ve had him for 13 years now and I’d like him to beat the marks set by my other dogs (15 years).

Random, as I mentioned, had been losing interest in his judo and we were trying to figure out what to do (stop, change dojos, what). Kay had been annoyed when Random brought home the message that he was going to have to quit the 3:30 class because of his age. (That was geared for a younger crowd.) (That was a good one for us because, with Kay working full time the arrangements for that class was workable but to get him to the 5:30 class would have involved a school-day care-judo parlay with no downtime for him and not time for a decent bite to eat and thus leave him cranky, tired, hungry, etc.) Well a) he hadn’t been told he HAD to leave the earlier class, just that he should be in the later one and b) with Kay’s schedule trimming back a bit it became possible to get him to the 5:30 class after he’d been home for a couple hours or so. And, that seems to have jumpstarted his enthusiasm. The 3:30 class was just too easy for him and was mostly stuff he knew well and partners not as good as him. The later class has kids his age and older, with belts equal or above his, so he gets much more challenged – as well as more one-on-one with the teachers in the last ½ hour (a lot of the kids are only there for an hour instead of an hour and a half). I’m glad that’s working and we’re able to accommodate it.

Work is about the same for me. But there are signs of hope. While our temporary night person has left, we have a new hire who will be starting mid-March and will take over that shift (in the meanwhile, our lead tech has volunteered to take nights until Rizal is trained in ((he is just finishing up a contract job at King Faisal Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)). Also, with the staffing as it stands, it looks like I’ll be able to have an earlier shift on most Fridays which will let me get home for dinner and allow me to attend (or lead) services when I wish.

I’m hoping (and my boss knows this) that, when/if we hire another evening person (and the position is officially available now) I can get back to working just 9 days per pay period instead of 10 and have alternate Fridays off again.

Part of the reason I really want that is to ease my free time crunch. I’m getting more massage business (albeit mostly seated, in-office stuff via the hospital) and would like to both have a bit more non-work time and more options on when I can schedule the massages. As things stand – and some of these arrangements are just being started or discussed – I have two 2-hour jobs scheduled on alternate Mondays, a 2 or 3 hour job on every Thursday (two different ones on alternating weeks), a once-a-month one on a Wednesday morning and the possibility of adding yet another once-a-month (or more?) job. Plus I’ve got a few people calling about full massages – one is getting on a monthly schedule and the other, we’ll see. In any case this is moving into the range of significant amounts of income – to the extent where I can probably stop taking an “allowance” out of my regular pay check. Just have to remember to adjust my withholding. That extra \$ is getting my tax returns pretty tight to the line.

Another happy note. In my 5th go-around in the Humboldt County Pun-Off I finally achieved what I felt I should have done a couple years ago – victory. This year was a bit different since we were rather short on contestants (I think that was due to a) being very late letting people know about it and b) holding it almost a month later than usual – on a holiday weekend. Both the results of a change in staffing and new people taking charge with no transitional time) and they did some last minute tweaking to stretch the event out (odd since one of the big things in the last couple of years was to speed things up).

So this year the first round was double, rather than single, elimination (ie you had to miss two turns in a given pun category) as there was a “losers bracket” with all the first round losers getting a 2nd chance and only one finally dropping out. Other than having a tough time with the first category (household appliances) while getting in the groove, it went real well for me and when they announced the category for the final round I think I broke into a wide smile because it was a topic I’d suggested a couple years ago and had suspected might be up since it was President’s Day weekend --- U.S. Presidents. (And if you don’t think that’s a rich source, I can make a pun out of every one that I can think of – 33 (not counting the duplicate names)) So now I have to go back one more time.

Even with the lowered # of contestants, this was the most fun for us in 2-3 years. It was a throwback to not having the hyper-competitive types that argue calls about “Not a Pun” or incite the audience to “overrule” the judges. We did miss some of our regulars – one was out sick and one or two had plans for the holiday – but we’ll forgive them and let them back next year.

One late note on something that I didn’t realize about the PunOff until I got a Thank You note for participating. And this is something that not everyone will recognize, but it turns out that I won the 17th (sort of) annual event, held on Feb. 17th. So, for those ex-LASFAPAns among you, was I destined to win this time or what?

In the “This worries me” Dept was a letter to the local paper arguing against one of the school bond issues on the ballot. A major part was that “The sample ballot doesn’t say what the interest rate, life of the bond or total cost will be so what are they hiding?” and it was all I could do to not scream out loud about people not reading the voter information guide that comes in the mail a week or so before the ballots. I hope everyone voted.

In the “Gee I didn’t realize that my toes tasted of vanilla” Dept, I find myself on the verge of offering to co-chair the religious school committee just as I’m stepping down from the Board. In fact, I spent a moderate amount of time at the last meeting munching on my shoe leather while taking on one or another little job. Some people never learn, do they?

It looks like, after skipping a year, that my cousins will be successful in pulling off a gathering this year. One of my cousins set up a listserv to facilitate coordinating things and it appears that there is the start of a groundswell of support for meeting in L.A. at Thanksgiving. Not only does this fit wonderfully with our plans, but it means we may be able to add my parents and one of my aunt/uncle combos into the gathering. This could get real cool – as long as I don’t let it overwhelm the other things we want to do while down there.