

AUGUST 1998

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Arlington, VA 22204

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Hurst TX 76954

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Y'ALL WERE HAVING
A CUP OF COFFEE
AT STARBUCKS AND
HER LIPS TURNED BLUE
ON THE FIRST SIP?
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST
HAVE LET HER FINISH
HER COFFEE.

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No binary.

BE AWARE: All Letters of Comment [and e-mail] are considered for publication. Please mark or write DNQ (Do Not Quote) those parts you wish kept private. If you wish your address kept private, please mark it Do Not Print or otherwise indicate it is DNP. As Editor, I do not usually publish all of a letter. Especially long ones



Freedom of the press:

Whoever owns the press owns the freedom.

---Arthur Lane Terego

Freedom of speech:

Everyone can speak; only the wealthy can make themselves heard.

---Arthur Lane



Recant

HIV - AIDS

There is a Special Report on HIV - AIDS (ten articles) in the July, 1998 issue of *Scientific American*.

I bought the issue, read the articles with the help of my 4 1/4" magnifying glass, and concluded that I had been bitten to the bone by that terrible creature Reality.

So I have given up on HIV as a 'passenger' virus uproven to cause AIDS [Peter Duesberg's thesis], and accepted that in fact HIV is a virus which attacks and infests and kills precious immune system cells, that it takes years for the virus to win out over the immune system's defenses and attacks and so weakens and diminishes the immune system to the point that the human body is then prey to all the diseases which lurk within and without the body.

Seems the medicos can't ever drug-kill all the virus in an HIV-infected person and that the virus keeps resisting drugs and disguising itself to keep on doing its thing.

Another problem is that the drug-taking regimen needed to keep the virus in check is so complicated and demanding that relatively few infectees can stick to the endless pill-taking schedules in the face of the many severe illnesses caused by the drugs!

So the ideal answer is thought to be a complicated HIV vaccine which has yet to be perfected.

Add these socio-political elements to the mix:

■ Since the beginning of the AIDS plague, the prime and big majority of victims have become black and latino males and females, with whites a lesser and lesser number and percentage.

■ SubSahara Africa and India and Southeast Asia are the world's gigantic hotspots of HIV infection and transmission and AIDS deaths.

■ It takes \$10,000 - \$12,000 per year to pay for the current drug combo treatments to control an HIV infection in

one person. Only a few countries can afford these costs.

■ Thus almost all HIV-infected people of color will die of AIDS, while almost all HIV-infected white people will live far, far longer.

No wonder so many southern hemisphere people think HIV-AIDS is a white elite's imprecise but effective plot to control world population...and to acquire their natural resources.

2

Letter

Cuyler Brooks

<nedbrooks@sprynet.com>

7-13-1998 'Hi Dick - Wow, #50, a milestone of sorts!'

REG: More like a 'millstone'. But my life is strewn with such mementos. They are my intellectual droppings. Like, I have an IBM every few weeks.

'I agree with you in general about the "kid shooters", but I'm still totally opposed to capital punishment. Nor do I agree with you that 'liberal' (whatever that means) opposition to capital punishment is based on 'money, jobs, and power' - the enormous cost of the prisons would not be significantly affected by killing more convicts unless the Moslem clerics come to power and start executing people for drug and sex offenses. I just don't want to live in a society where the government can slaughter any helpless person, much less a child - governments are quite evil enough without that much power.

'Other causes, in my opinion, for the current spate of school massacres are the pervading atmosphere of terroristic violence (due mostly to the criminal justice industry, as at Waco); and the popularity of ultra-violent films where the action takes place in the 'real world' - that is, the urban environment that most people see every day - rather than in Oz or the Old West or on some distant planet.

REG: But weren't "liberals" in the stone age saying things like, "If only there weren't so much killing of animals, and if only we could avoid all this constant fighting with nearby tribes!"

In recorded history a good war or seige exposed the local population to raw, bloody 'real life' slaughter, maiming, starvation, plagues, etc., all too

horrible to contemplate today (except safely distanced in film and print).

My point is: that's the nature of the beasts we are. Don't blame God or our stars or our "environment"---blame our DN fucking A...which dictates our psych-social environment.

'I agree that God need be neither omnipotent nor omniscient - and even if He is, He may have decided to let the results of free will play themselves out whatever the cost.

REG: If He gave Adam and Eve free will, why did he play games with them in re the Tree of Knowledge? And why punish them for using free will in re that apple? Did He tell them they'd lose immortality if they disobeyed?

'Anyone who thinks they can learn how to get women by reading the works of Aleister Crowley is in for a big letdown... He apparently did not lack for women, but I think it must have been his personal charm rather than any method he could explain in a book. I had a large Crowley collection, sometimes regret having sold it to a witch out west (the Wicked Witch of the West?), especially the little india-paper vellum-bound Collected Works. The wickedness of the witch consisted of complaining that the books were mildewed and that I had shorted her one. I told her that any old book from Tidewater Virginia might seem a little musty to someone in the high western desert.

'Bill Bridget's vegetable-dye printouts [for his zines] are quite spectacular! I have been told that the Epson dot-matrix cartridges can be restored for further use with a squirt of WD-40 (which aids in the redistribution of the unused ink) or re-inked in the cartridge. The top comes off quite easily.'

Letter

Bill Bridget

INTERNET:bbridget@mail.cha.bel-
lsouth.net

'We have a Lexmark attached to this computer. The Canon that I use for printing is in the dining room and is driven by the "busted" computer that was struck by lightning--it doesn't have a modem or soundcard any more. I reloaded the black Lexmark

cartridge with a one ounce bottle of Higgins Black Magic India Ink for about US\$2.00---which certainly beats paying twenty dollars for less than an ounce of the regular Lexmark black ink in one of their cartridges, and it does not appear to have attacked the electronics in the inkjet cartridge yet, so in spite of all alarms by Epsom and the rest of the printer manufacturers about how using other company's inks will cause them to void out the warranty on my \$200 printers. I plan on running the same cartridges to death no matter how many months or years it takes.

'My greatest worry about the e-zines is the accessory kits that allow you to make T-shirts and other durable goods... I do NOT want to walk into a Japanese computer expo and find a bunch of Bill Rotsler T-shirts and ATOM coffee mugs for sale. The Hewlett-Packard webswipe software that comes bundled with their commercial grade printers in Asia was all developed originally in this hemisphere by an outfit called Blue Squirrel. They were originally known for their Clickbook, a shareware utility that would turn any webpage into a sideways-printed booklet, without the staples in the middle of course.'

REG: Me, I'd love to be able to buy a Rotsler mug or t-shirt or two, say from a catalog, offered by a worldcon.

And Gilliland mugs and shirts, too!

Update

Ian Williams Goddard:
<http://Ian.Goddard.net>

FDA DEMANDS DESTRUCTION OF BOOKS ON STEVIA

Stevia is a safe medicinal herb that is both a sweetener and lowers blood sugar (strongly correlated with life extension). Stevioside is the sweetener from Stevia that is up to 200 to 300 times sweeter than sugar and contains no calories! Unlike aspartame it can be used in cooking, remaining stable up to 198 degrees.

Dr. Julian Whitaker said that "Of the two sweeteners (aspartame and Stevia), Stevia wins hands down for safety." The chemist, Dr. Leigh Broadhurst, said unlike saccharine, Stevia does not become bitter.

Much more concentrated than aspartame, [1] Stevia is a potential threat to the market domination of aspartame, which some claim has many negative health effects. [2] If

the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has its way, that may never happen. The FDA been harassing the Texas-based Stevita Co., which imports the sweetener.

On May 19th the FDA increased the pressure by demanding that Stevita Co. destroy all their books on Stevia.

The FDA order states that FDA officials must be on site to "witness the destruction of the cookbooks, literature, and other publications for the purpose of verifying compliance" with the FDA's order to burn all the books.

The following is from:

<http://web2.airmail.net/marystod/fdabook.htm>

FDA ATTEMPTS TO COMPEL DESTRUCTION OF BOOKS

[On Natural Herbal Supplement Stevia]

DALLAS - May 26, 1998 -- In an unprecedented move, US Food and Drug Administration officials threatened legal action against Texas-based Stevita Co., importers of the sweet-tasting herbal dietary supplement, Stevia - for distributing books and literature about their product.

The latest volley in a bitter battle has been fired at Texas-based Stevita Co. by federal Food and Drug Administration officials. The FDA, an agency of the federal government, is responsible for upholding the U.S. Constitution which guarantees freedom of speech and expression. This responsibility was drawn into question on May 19th when FDA Compliance Officer, James R. Lahar faxed a letter to Stevita Co. addressing the destruction of 2,500 books he deemed "offending," at a cost to the company well in excess of \$10,000. The letter further threatens that investigators will conduct a current inventory and "witness the destruction of the cookbooks, literature, and other publications for the purpose of verifying compliance" upon visiting Stevita Co. for a fourth time this year.

One of three books in question is *The Stevia Story -- A tale of incredible sweetness & intrigue*, by Linda Bonvie, Bill Bonvie and Donna Gates with Foreword by James S. Turner, Esq.. Ironically, Chapter Four of the book the FDA wants to destroy is titled: "What's wrong with the FDA?"

An attempt to strongarm critics into silence --- similar to book burnings in Nazi Germany?

Oscar Rodes, President of the Stevita Company said the FDA ordered the action because the books contain general information that in-

clude: history, usages and scientific studies regarding stevia. Currently, Federal law requires stevia herbal products can only be marketed as dietary supplements without any mention of having sweetening power.

###

THE STEVIA STORY—A tale of incredible sweetness & intrigue

By Linda Bonvie, Bill Bonvie and Donna Gates.

B.E.D. Publications Co., Atlanta, GA 30327;
[1-800-4STEVI.A.], 1997, 79 p.,

ISBN: 0-9638458-1-0

[1] https://www.orderprocessing.com/cgi-bin/Web_store/web_store.cgi?page=herbind.htm&cart_id=9410712.11589

[2] Aspartame Consumer Safety Network

<http://web2.airmail.net/marystod/>

Recommended Stevia Web Pages:

<http://www.healthfree.com/herbgarden/stevia.htm>

<http://www.healthfree.com/herbgarden/stevlife.htm>

VISIT IAN WILLIAMS GODDARD —

—> <http://Ian.Goddard.net>

"A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with the idea from the beginning."

-----Max Plank - Nobel physicist

Obituaries

Robert A. W. "Doc" Lowndes

July 16, 1998

To the Friends and relatives of Bob "Doc" Lowndes:

'It is with regrets that I inform you of Bob's death Tues. July 14, 1998. He died of renal cancer in no pain. The hospice volunteers and the staff at the Village House saw to that. I am enclosing his obituary.

'He had so many friends that I do not know. I took names and addresses from correspondence, birthday and Christmas cards. If you know of anyone I may have missed, I would

appreciate you passing the word.

'I hope you will forgive a zeroxed letter, there are so many and I did want to get this out as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ruth C. Lowndes

142 Honeyman Ave

Middleton, RI 02842'

'The Newport (RI) Daily News,
Thursday, July 16, 1998

'Robert A. W. Lowndes

'Newport--Robert A.W. Lowndes, 81, of 70 Harrison Ave., a nationally recognized author of science fiction stories, died Thursday, July 14, 1998, at the Village House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Newport.

'Born in Bridgeport, Conn., on Sept. 4, 1916, he was the son of the late Harry I. and Fannie Stevens Lowndes. He moved to Newport in 1994 from Hoboken, NJ.

'Mr. Lowndes had worked as an editor in New York City for Gernsback Publishing Co., retiring in 1992.

'Mr. Lowndes attended Stamford Community College.

'He was primarily a science fiction writer and editor, and had been the author of five science fiction books. He was fourth on the list of Ten Most Prodigious Science Fiction Magazine Editors and begun as one of the youngest editors of science fiction in 1940 with Columbia Publications.

'He was then an editor for Avalon Books' Science Fiction Line, Sexology and Luz Magazines, and for Gernsback Publications' Radio Electronics Magazines.

'LUNACON and BOSKONE, both science fiction organizations, honored him in 1969 and in 1973, respectively.

'Mr. Lowndes was a member of the Lodge of Masons in New York, the Science Fiction Writers of America, The Baker Street Irregulars, The Scandalous Bohemians of New Jersey and the Praed Street Irregulars. He also acted in local community theaters in Suffren, NY.

'He was an avid reader with a great knowledge of history and a great lover of classical music.

'He leaves a stepson, Peter Rogalin of Glen Rock, NJ; a brother, Harry I. Lowndes Jr. of Kansas City, MO; a sister, Ruth C. Lowndes of Middleton; and four grandchildren.

'A memorial service will be held Sunday, July 19, at 2 pm in St. Paul's

United Methodist Church, 12
Marlborough St.

'Donations may be made to
Visiting Nurse Health Services,
Hospice Program, 1984 East Main
Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871.

'Arrangements are by the
Memorial Funeral Home, 375
Broadway.'

From: BILL BOWERS
xenolith@tritium.net

'This is extraordinarily sad news
for the sf community, and a great loss
to us. Those not familiar with his
history don't know what they've
missed, but I hope they find out: he
was one of the greats.

'Damn.

'I'm not sure who it was, but
someone recently mentioned to me
that, when you see an e-mail subject
header listing only an individual's name
... you know what the message is
going to say.

'I was so hoping that, for once,
this would not be the case.

'I never met Doc Lowndes. Not
physically. But it was my privilege to
know him for twenty-five years.

'I really don't recall the details of
how I "inherited" him from Bergeron,
but from "Outworlds Eight" [June,
1971] through "Outworlds 58"
[9/18/88], it was my privilege (not a
word used lightly in this context) to
publish twenty installments of his
column, "Understandings".

'He humored me, put up with my
delays and detours, was always
supportive -- and was always there
when I came back.

'In the late 80s we started working
on putting the columns together for
eventual booklet/book publication. I
retyped the first four columns on the
Kaypro, and sent them to Doc for
copyediting.

'Then I was Went Away for a
couple of years; phraseology
deliberate.

'When I came back, I received a
letter from Doc, dated July 17, 1992:

"It's good to hear from you, and
especially good to hear that you
believe that you can continue on your
edition of 'Understandings'. I shall
most certainly give you as prompt and
complete cooperation as I'm able. (It
seems strange to me that now in my
old age, where my time is running out,
I don't feel in a hurry about anything --
except answering calls of nature;
whereas, when I was younger, and

had all the time in the world,
theoretically, I was notably impatient.)"

'The letter goes on to discuss an
installment of "Understandings" --
from his description of epic length --
recounting his tour in the CCC, from
1934 into 1939 -- that he was working
on.

'I never saw that installment, and
in mid '93 I again absented myself
from active fandom. When I resumed
publishing a little over a year ago, the
first mailings to Doc bounced.

'Eventually, through his sister, I
found out that, due to diabetes, he had
essentially lost his sight, and had been
resident in a series of nursing homes.
However, through her, he said he'd
love to receive what I was publishing --
and he did, even though I never
heard anything directly. [I'd offered to
provide large-print printouts,
but that was never responded to.]

'I didn't really expect to hear
anything back, again, but -- until this
posting, there was always hope.
The death, last year, of SaM, Rotsler,
and others, was shock enough.

'One way or the other, I am going
to publish that volume of
"Understandings".

'It will contain the twenty
installments I ran, plus one additional --
relevant -- article, which we had
received permission to incorporate.

'I'm going to list the twenty
installments -- just to give you an idea
of the "range" of Doc's interests.

"Understandings"

By Robert A. W. Lowndes [he always
insisted on the space between the
middle initials]

- 1 [a review of "The Universe
Makers", by Wollheim]
- 2 [...on Ellison; ...on Blish]
- 3 [...on "2001"]
- 4 [...on four-letter words]
- 5 [...Ezra Pound]
- 6 [...a review of "Heat"]
- 7 [...on "Weird Tales"]
- 8 [...on "weird stories"]
- 9 [...on "interpretation"]
- 10 [...on censorship]
- 11 [...the "October game"]
- 12 [...on early fanzines]
- 13 [...answers]
- 14 The Differences that Knowing
Him Made; A Sprawling,
Subjective Reminiscence of
James Blish
- 15 The Health-Knowledge Years
- 16 [..."the Gernsback era"]
- 17 Hugo Gernsback's Science
Fiction League
- 18 Once More Into the Breach?

19 The Science Fiction League
Tests

20 Feedback: Who Needs It?
"Who needs it? I do; and I think
that everyone else who writes
for publication needs it, whether
the writer is paid or is writing for
love as with those of us who
contribute to 'Outworlds' and
other fan publications, in or out
of the fantasy-sf field."

'I'm ever so sorry that I couldn't
have given you more feedback, Doc.
When you were here to appreciate it.'

Philip Corso

'A posting on sci.skeptic passed
along the news that, after his second
heart attack in a month, [Philip Corso]
the author of *The Day After Roswell*
has died at the age of 83.'

From Joseph T. Major
<jtmajor@iglou.com>

Update

TWA Flight 800

7-21-98

'WASHINGTON (AP) -- Claims
by a retired Navy pilot that two
missiles destroyed TWA Flight 800
were disputed immediately by federal
investigators.

"We remain unaware of any new
evidence that would cause us to re-
open our criminal investigation," said
FBI spokesman Joseph Valiquette.

'William Donaldson, joined at a
news conference Monday by former
TWA pilots and three eyewitnesses to
the July 1996 crash, did not say who
he believes fired the missiles, which
he claimed exploded just off the left
wing of the Boeing 747 jet.

'One, he said, was launched from
a boat just off the coast of Long Island,
N.Y., the other from a second vessel
farther south.

'The plane exploded as it flew
from New York to Paris, killing all 230
aboard.

'Donaldson said the FBI and the
National Transportation Safety Board,
pressured by unidentified, high-rank-
ing U.S. officials, have steered the
public toward a theory that the plane's
center fuel tank exploded.

"Politicians are interfering at the
top. People that should be bubbling
the answers from the bottom are si-
lenced," Donaldson said at the con-
clusion of a nearly four-hour briefing

arranged by Reed Irvine and his conservative group, Accuracy in Media.

The NTSB has not determined the cause of the crash, but it has ruled out a missile strike or a bomb on board. Investigators believe an electrical spark may have ignited the fuel tank.

"Commander Donaldson was wrong when he postulated that Jet-A fuel could not explode. It did. He is wrong today," said Peter Goelz, the board's managing director.

Retired TWA Capt. Howard Mann, a military accident investigator, and retired TWA Capt. Albert Mundo, who served as flight engineer on the next-to-last flight of the Boeing 747, also spoke at the news conference.

REG: It's worth noting that to this date the FBI and the NTSB have refused to allow the media, independant investigators---anybody!---to see the wings and engines of Flight TWA 800.

Reportedly an early TV news reporting of the recovery operation by the Navy divers showed one of the engines from the left wing to be heavily damaged. Of course that footage (and the engine) have never been seen again.

Letter

Dave Szurek

311 North Broadway, Apt. B3
Aberdeen, WA 98520-3906

7-20-98 [Re: TGL #47] 'It is important to distinguish between conspiracy and cover-up, but I feel it is also important to distinguish between one conspiracy and another, to realize that some theories are probably true, that some are probably false and that some contain a germ of truth but are bullshit when all is said and done. There are sheep who believe ALL conspiracy theory and sheep who think ALL conspiracy theory is rubbish---and both, if you ask me, are fools.'

REG: Also, we must realize that cover-ups are usually themselves conspiracies to hide criminal conspiracies or to hide embarrassing & stupid mistakes (which often have killed people).

Let's stipulate that there always is the usual spectrum of reaction & belief to any "Conspiracy" or "Cover-up".

What pisses me most is the reaction, "I don't know much about this

(and I'm too lazy to go into it deeper), but MY opinion is..."

And I'm aware that getting all the facts available is virtually impossible for 99.9% of the people, and that I am always in a state of opinion flux---always in a limbo of never-enough-info.

'Your suggestion of two-tier citizenship sounds pretty much like what we already have, aside from the "voting rights" issue. Whether or not you were trying for laughs I'm not sure, but no, I can't go along with you on this if you're serious.'

REG: I was 90% serious, but will grant the predicted American slave class the right to vote [with the understanding that their choices and opinions will be so manipulated and narrow that it won't make a bit of difference---as now?].

'Is there any reason why my address was unprinted unlike that of your other letterhacks?'

REG: Yes. The reason was my neglect and fallibility. And the other loccers are not hacks---simply gluttons for punishment.

Letter

Robert Kennedy

1779 Ciprian Av., Camarillo CA 93010-2451

7-18-98 'Thank you for #50. In a previous letter it was mentioned that I had called the producers of *WACO: The Rules of Engagement* as a result of reading your comments. Subsequently, the video tape was found and highly recommended. Also, I had a review of the video in *FOSFAX #189*. Your review, as should be expected, is much better.

'The video running time was cut from the movie theater original. Footage of the heat-protection-suit-wearing FBI agent may have been in the original which I haven't seen. The video tape can still be obtained for a flat \$25.00 by calling 1-800-771-2147, Ext. 19.

'I would like to recommend two Y2K books which will also be commented on to some other fanzines. The first is nonfiction. The second is worst case scenario fiction.

'TIME BOMB 2000 What the Year 2000 Computer Crisis Means to You!' By Edward Yourdon and Jennif-

er Yourdon (Prentice Hall PTR, 1998, 416 p., \$17.95, ISBN: 0-13-095284-2.)

Y2K: IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE

By Jason Kelly (Jason Kelly Press, 1998, 375 pp., \$17.95, ISBN: 0-9664387-0-1) To order: Amazon.com or Toll Free 1-877-Y2K-BOOK.'



Letter

Alexis A. Gilliland

4030 8th Street South, Arlington, VA 22204

7-16-98 'Thank you for TGL #50, which has your excellent review of the video, *WACO--The Rules of Engagement*. The following is excerpted from my letter to *Fosfax #175*, dated March 22, 1995, and reflects my take on why Waco happened in the first place.

'Talking about l'Affaire Waco, Chares Lipsig theorizes that Clinton might well have authorized the initial raid for the usual evil and paranoid reasons. Well, no. Never mind their motives. The incoming administration hadn't had the time for such plotting. Newly innaugurated, Bill Clinton was far, far too busy to be thinking about the Branch Davidians until he suddenly needed to do some serious damage control. Given that Janet Reno---Clinton's third choice---was nominated for Attorney General on February 11, while the initial BATF attack was on February 28, the Waco standoff was on her plate by the time she was confirmed. Thus, there was no AG in place for Clinton to plot with, nor any Democratic staffers, only Republican incumbents, whom he would have every reason not to trust.

'Any plotting was likely done on a lower level and for some sleazier purpose than demonstrating the awesome power of the US Government to a bunch of gun-nuts. My own belief is that Steve Higgins, then head of BATF, was the deus ex machina of the Waco fiasco. Higgins

was in serious trouble, having been on "60 Minutes" for the second time just before the election, in connection with nonfeasance, his continued failure to act on some real serious sexual harassment charges filed by female BATF agents. He badly needed something to make him and his agency look good so he wouldn't lose his job. Probably the Branch Davidians had been targetted before the election, just in case, and no, I don't think Bush was consulted, either. Clinton's win just made Higgins's need to act more urgent.

"Once the wheels had been set in motion, Higgins appears to have rejected the suggestion that Koresh be arrested outside the compound because he was looking to the favorable publicity from the shootout as his salvation. The BATF agent in charge was under pressure to produce, and on the morning of the 28th, he ordered the attack to proceed, even after his inside man reported that Koresh had been tipped off and the advantage of surprise had been lost. Men (and in the event, children) were going to die so that Higgins could keep his job, but the BATF couldn't wait any longer or the FBI might take the play away from them. This is serious venality and incompetence, yes, and the good old boys lost their gamble; Reno, accepting responsibility for the disaster, eventually accepted Higgins's resignation as well."

'So there is act one. The problem with having a bunch of commandos on the scene is that they tend to come up with commando solutions, which is what they are trained for. You note with shock and horror that after they screwed up big time they destroyed the evidence. Knowing what they had done, the happy warriors of BATF and FBI thus avoided any legal consequences, but two years later there was a major consequence in Oklahoma City, as Tim McVeigh blew up the Murtaugh Building. Did the bombing touch the commandos? Yes. Janet Reno has reduced the overall strength of SWAT teams under her authority by 80 percent. Consider her handling of the Freemen in Justus County, Montana.'

REG: Your reconstruction of presumed motives is altogether accurate; it has the characteristic stink of governmental moral and ethical depravity which near absolute power provides to small, fearful, stupid minds.

Update

Harold Robbins, who died last October, I learn from a *National Enquirer* clipping sent by ace informant Seattle Slew, was unable to write:

'Several strokes which Robbins suffered in the 1980's took his talent from him. It left him with an inability to understand or use words. A bad fall confined him to a wheelchair.

'He lived out his days with his sixth wife, Jann, his one-time assistant, by his side.'

So who wrote at least the last novel (1998) published under his name? Was it something from his trunk? Was it ghost-written from a partial? From an idea? Was it written by his wife?

I'm curious.

Letter

ROBERT COULSON

2677 W 500 N, Hartford City, IN 47348-9575

7-15-98 'Agreed fully on "The Kid Shooters". I do worry about one thing; there seems to be a lot more of them than there used to be. I wonder if this is due to (a) increased population (meaning not just more of everything but also a higher frustration index, especially in cities), (b) more intensive coverage of this sort of crime, (c) less respect for law among the adult population, or (d) something else altogether.'

REG: I suspect a cyclic socio-economic factor: boom times for generations have created a too permissive, too casual morality which boils down to "Easy Money, Easy Morals." And we are now in the transition to "Hard Money, Hard Morals."

'Right now it doesn't look like you'll live to see the mass unemployment and starvation [of the next Depression], but if you do, you're in a good place to observe it. (I mean a city, not Portland specifically.) Out hyar on the farm, weuns will be growin' food, killin' deer and rabbits, and shooting any damnfool city slicker that shows up. Though it might happen that we'd intercede with our neighbors for a fan.....or it might not.'

REG: Martial Law will rule in the cities, enforced by hundreds of new police and the national guard. Out in the sticks, however, armed gangs of looters (most from small towns!) will

roam from farm to farm, overwhelming families, raping daughters...killing old fans...

Lots of luck, Buck.

Letter

Joseph T. Major

1409 Christy Av., Louisville, KY 40204-2040

7-15-98 **'The Nature of the Beast: "The Kid Shooters" in TGL #50:** In one of the first *ANALOGs* I read, back in the late sixties, there was a story ... about a planet that had been turned over to some social scientists to be assimilated by good progressive means. For example, the justice system was run by a psychologist who believed that criminals committed crimes as a solution to their feelings of being ignored. Therefore when a criminal was caught, the local newspaper ran an article on him, featuring his life and hard times.

'As a result, there were competitions by murderers for the highest number of kills.

'In the "real" world (whatever that is), real killers have in fact done that sort of thing. When John Wayne Gacy was told that Henry Lee Lucas had passed his score of kills, Gacy offered to guide police to a few more bodies. But Lucas's score had been --- shall we say --- inflated? As when he confessed to the 900+ deaths at Jonestown --- *Yeah, it was about a day's drive south of Brownsville.*

'Anyhow, why shouldn't this be popular among kids, too? Ignored, asocial kids realize they can get national attention, fame, and attraction. But do spree killers have all that great a social standing in prison?'

'The Nature of the Beast: "Run for Your Lives" in TGL #50: I had a big problem with the mortgage company when I bought my house. I was making a 50% down payment, and they had trouble (they said) finding a mortgagor that would handle such a small amount. Worse yet, I paid that mortgage off within the year. I do not run credit card balances. Banks must hate me.'

REG: All lenders hate you and your ilk! The very idea---cheating lenders of their rightful exorbitant profits! Get lost!



Books Received

Some reviewed, others listed and described...and sometimes unfairly dealt with

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS

By James Patterson

Little Brown & Co, 1998, \$25.432 p., Hardcover "what if" suspense novel, ISBN: 0-316-69322-4.

Basic, gut-level suspense storytelling with 126 short chapters, no literary pretensions.

The "what if" involves our present world and a little girl (alien, mutation?) in trouble, who has wings and can fly. There are sympathetic, competent characters...

The dj painting on this advance copy shows a large old rural mansion at night with lights in several close-grouped windows. Hinting or indicating a gothic romance element?

This is scheduled for November publication.

THE RUNELORDS

By David Farland

Tor Books, 1998, \$24.95, 448 p., Hardcover medieval fantasy novel, ISBN: 0-312-86653-4.

A novel of magic and blood in a 'high fantasy' novel, in which the young prince in an medieval time fights evil and saves the world.

Inventive, skilled writing. Excellent artwork and detailed maps.

A CONTAGIOUS EVIL - The Mind of a Serial Killer

By Larry Townsend

L.T. Publications PO Box 302, Beverly Hills, CA 90213, 1998, \$12.95 + \$3. p&h. Trade paperback, 246 p., ISBN: 1-881684-14-8.

The interview interaction between a journalist and a notorious serial killer, contains many disturbing, detailed sado-maso and homoerotic mixtures that will force you think about hidden aspects of the nature of man, and which might---to your horror---give you a hard-on.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE Reflections from the World of Anne Rice

By Jana Marcus

Thunder's Mouth Press, 632 Broadway, Seventh Fl., New York, NY 10012, \$19.95, 1997, 140 p., Large-size Trade Paperback, ISBN: 1-56025-147-6.

It is a revelation of the obsessive fandom centered on Anne Rice and her characters, her values, and her vision as told by dozens of the most obsessed and dedicated of those fans.

Jana Marcus, a professional photographer, accompanies almost every fan's short Rice-related autobio writings with a full page photo of that

fan.

There is a long section of full-color photos of the costumed 1995 Memnoch Ball and of the 1996 Annual Gathering of the Coven.

There is a listing of all of Rice's writings, an address for The Anne Rice Vampire Lestat Fan Club in New Orleans, and a listing of the most rewarding internet web sites.

This is in many ways a psychologically revealing book.

MOCKINGBRD

By Sean Stewart

Ace Books, \$21.95, 1988, 278 p., Hardcover novel, ISBN: 0-441-00547-0.

'When Toni Beauchamp's mother died, she and her sister Candy thought it meant a new beginning, a life free of magic. But Elena Beauchamp had one last gift for her daughter---a sip from the Mockingbird Cordial. And the moment Toni held the drink to her lips, her life would never be the same.'

Told first-person by Toni, written in a charming, simple, yet emotional and honest style. Girls and women will adore this novel.

ISAAC ASIMOV'S DETECTIVES

Edited By Gardner Dozois and Sheila Williams

Ace Books, \$5.99, 1998, 243 p., Mass market paperback, ISBN: 0-441-00545-4.

From *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, stories from Greg Egan, Lisa Goldstein, Isaac Asimov, John Varley, Kate Wilhelm, and Nancy Kress.

STEELHEART

By William C. Dietz

Ace Books, \$5.99, 1998, 324 p., Mass market paperback, ISBN: 0-441-00542-X.

'His name is Harley Doon. He is an android. He didn't set out to save the world. But now he may have to...

'On a planet called Zuul, in the year 2170, a battle is about to be fought. A battle against an alien race who hold all technology to be the ultimate evil. Human, alien, and android alike struggle against them. But to win, they must unite. And to unite, they need a leader...'

Good action-adventure style and technique with woven-in background and detail.

BUT---I was taught by Edmund Hamilton in the *Captain Future* series back in 19and40, that an andoid is an artificial flesh-and-bone humanoid. Vat-grown, if you will. An android is **not** a human-form robot full of micro-machines and power packs (usually with a computer brain, but sometimes with a human brain---the ultimate

cyborg) This distinction has been blurred and shaded and ignored in latter generations of writers by Hollywood sloppiness and by ignorance of our grand old conceptual history, and by laziness, I suppose. I end with a great big *GRUMP!*

PROMISED LAND

By Connie Willis and Cynthia Felice

Ace Books, \$6.50, 1998, 362 p., Mass market paperback, ISBN: 0-441-0054308.

'It has been fifteen years since Delanna Milleflores set foot on Keramos. Now her mother has died, and she has returned only to settle and sell her estate. But Keramos has some surprising laws. To sell her farm, Delanna must first live on it for one year. And along with the land comes one Tarleton Tanner, heir to the adjoining farm. A man who, at the moment of her mother's death, became Delanna's husband...'

Seems to be a gothic romance translated into sf. Hey, whatever sells...

THE DOOR THROUGH WASHINGTON SQUARE

By Elaine Bergstrom

Ace Books, \$6.99, 1998, 360 p., Mass market paperback, ISBN: 0-441-00544-6.

'As a child, Dierdre MacCallum remembered her great-grandmother Bridget's house in New York's Washington Square as a magical place---

'But when Dietdre is summoned to the matriarch's side to settle her affairs, she senses something strange about the house, a feeling triggered by an old set of French doors in the sunroom. She pulls back their heavy curtains, opens them to sunlight...

'And finds a doorway to the past--seventy-two years ago. There Dierdre will meet Grandmum as a young woman. She will find love with young Noah, a man destined to die before she was born. And she will find great danger as she uncovers Bridget's darkest secret---her involvement with the infamously sinister Aleister Crowley, whose dabblings in the powers of darkness promise destruction for the MacCallum clan. Now Dierdre must find a way to set things right, and rescue not only her family, but her one true love...'

Well-written, detailed, relationship oriented---woman centered fantasy.

There's a life-lesson in these Ace books: beware settling the affairs of old female relatives!



ANONYMOUS

6-30-98 'In the paper here, there was a story about some people who are buying and distributing - mostly in "Third World countries" - a kind of sterilization pill which, when put into the uterus, results in scarring of the fallopian tubes, and hence sterilization/infertility. Costing only about \$2 - which could be the total amount or for each of two required doses, the article isn't real clear on that - it is pretty popular in high-population/high-poverty areas. It seems that the drug is actually provided FREE to those who want it in order to avoid producing more children - and hence even more poverty as well - so the actual cost is only of interest to those who are making it available for free.

The main people behind it have what I think of as an agreeable concern for future overpopulation, especially in those areas that are already in trouble, AND threatening to cause problems for us as well. ("They breed like rabbits, and flood over our poorly-guarded borders," that kind of thing.)

The article doesn't say much about it, most likely because they haven't gotten much publicity yet, but I expect that the people behind this project will - if only because of THIS story I found - get a lot of unwelcome attention from the "they have the RIGHT to breed like rabbits and bury us! In fact it's our duty to HELP them breed like rabbits and bury us!" liberal crowd. And from the much larger crowds who those people are able to make feel guilty and sympathetic. (Ever noticed how "sympathetic" includes "pathetic?"')

REG: You do come up with provocative items. This feeds into the age-old supposed elitist conspiracy to wipe out the (blacks, yellow hordes, third-world billions, and the indigenous poor) seething, unwanted-by-the-elite masses. I would expect some 'minority spokesman' to make the media with a cry of "plot to wipe out the poor _____s" by way of these scarring pills.

But of course the rich actually need the underfoot billions to consume the goods produced by the rich-owned factories and presses and vid-production corporations. There seems no problem in creating envy and want in the masses. [The only problem being finding ways to provide the poor hordes enough money (or credit) to buy the

Good Life goods.]

The people who really resent and fear the lower class mass hordes are the middle class mini-hordes who have to pay the taxes to support and educate these ignorant, crude and rude billions, and who have to live next to them as well!

Class war is the eternal war.

6-27-98 'Heard yesterday on radio that congress has passed a law --- under the cover of "medicare reform," it seems --- that sets up a mandatory National Identification Card system. It appears to start with assigning new, unique identification numbers to all Medicare patients AND service providers (from the sound of it, each "service group" would have a code, as well as ALL individuals --- doctors, etc --- whether they actually see any Medicare patients or not!) but from what has been dug out of the assorted laws involved (if you had a proper computer going, you could take a look yourself) this is just Phase 1, and the target in the law is to have EVERYONE so "tagged" since eventually --- the storey would go --- we are ALL at least POTENTIALLY eligible for Medicare.

'Also, the FBI has "announced" that with the start of phase 3 (I think it is, maybe it's phase 2) of the Brady Bill beginning November 30, they will start collecting purchase information on all firearm transactions, AND a fee (\$13-16, as I heard it) for "processing" and so forth. BOTH of these activities are expressly PROHIBITED, by BOTH the Brady Law itself, AND the earlier Vollmer (sp?) act. Yet it appears that they will simply do it anyway. At least, until people start yelling loud enough about it. Hopefully new-NRA-president Charlton Heston will be among the first.

'Guess I need to make sure I've got all the guns I ever want to have, before November 30.'

REG: Yeah, I saw the news story in the paper that soon all shotgun and rifle sales will be kept on file along with the previously kept records on all handgun sales. Probably some gunshop owners or their association will file a lawsuit.

The new ID system (for our benefit!) will also breed conspiracy talk: the universal Medicare-Medicaid numbers (forced by the Y2K Problem as it is realized by the govt. that the old Medicare-Medicaid programs will implode on or before 1-1-2000?) will be used to further lock us into the dreaded

control system of the New World Order! Dare I suggest---in this mode---that the U.N. will be involved in coordinating the merger of all national health systems in some future decade? (For our benefit, of course!)

And, further, that in the farther future "citizens" will be provided a mandatory universal work permit chip [govt. encrypted] embedded in the forehead for scanning-downloading-uploading which will contain all relevant work-training-health-personal history-psych formations needed by employers...and that the "citizen" will be "offered" [required to accept] work anywhere in the world the mega-corporations need him/her. This is the notorious 666 Plan drawn up by the Rockefeller Future Group in 1968.

There is more to this 666 Plan I could mention, especially having to do with the Benevolent Triage Option, but let me save that for next issue.

Letter

Jerry Pournelle

7-5-98 'I don't often have much to contribute, but I do thank you for the Geis letter, which is usually far more interesting than the twaddle SFWA seems to be concerned with.

'A country that would permit the Waco disaster and then not even reprimand any official involved is a country far gone toward Caesarism.

'Not much we can do, I fear.'

REG: I fear you're correct; history runs in cycles and waves, and the best one can do is recognize the current position in the cycle within the wave within the master cycle and act accordingly...a supremely intelligent rational behavior, but likely, if known, to earn one the name 'traitor' or 'coward' from the shallow, emotionally ruled 'Now People'.

