




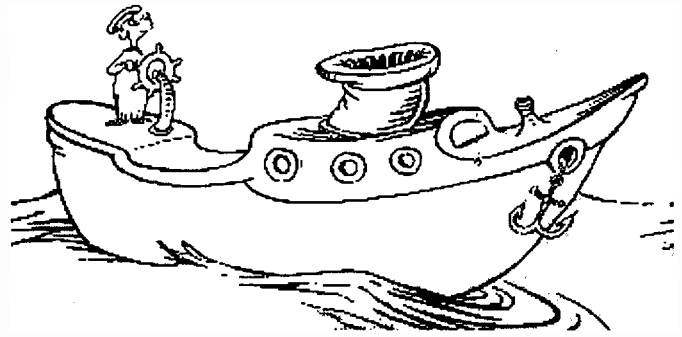
## Sailing The Abnormalcy #29

A mailing for KAPA #97 by Bryan Porter.

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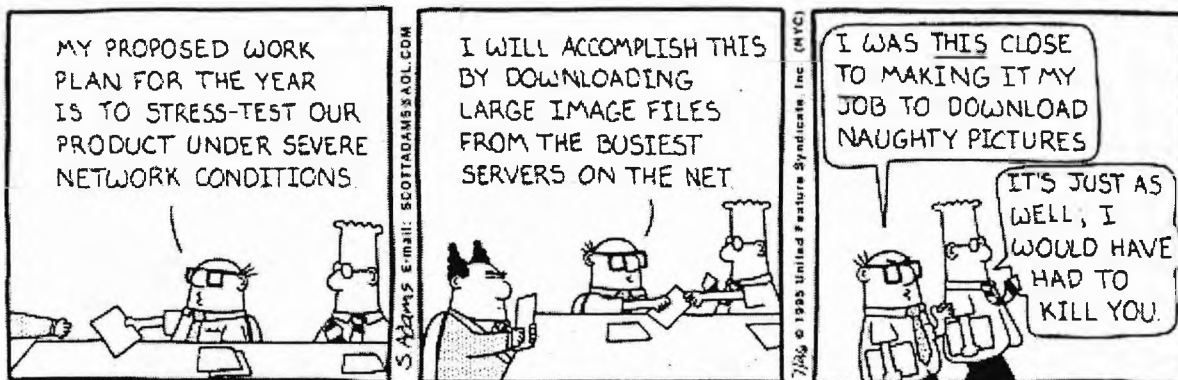


Greetings once again. I'm afraid this one will probably be fairly short. It's Sunday afternoon, this is overdue, I just got home from work and I have a headache.

I really don't like working on Sunday but it's the only day I can go in to the Nashville office and take the network down for maintenance and updates taking a few hours without being strung up and lynched by angry users.

Beth is now officially a full time student. She's been going full time for the past couple of years but she's also been working full time. I guess it would be more accurate to say she is no longer employed. As one who spends a lot of time around her, the reduction in stress is obvious.

Former Kapan News - Rocky has a new job. He's left the State of Tennessee Dept. of Safety and went to work for Intermedia in their cable modem tech support department. He seems to like his new job (and he definitely likes the pay raise). The part that makes me jealous is that all of the tech support employees get cable modem access to the internet and are free to play around between calls. Oh the injustice of it all. It reminds me of one of my all time favorite Dilbert cartoons ...



In other news I've survived yet another reorganization of Pepsi. I have a new boss based out of Orlando who seems to be a pretty decent guy. With the new geographical arrangements, I ended up going down to Tampa for a week to work on Windows NT installations. People were saying things like "Oh, the poor guy. He has to go to Tampa for a week in the middle of winter. We feel so sorry for you." I kept explaining that I never got to see anything outside of my hotel room except for work.  
*sigh*

My most recent attempt at self-improvement is to make a semi-proper attempt at learning to speak, read, and understand Japanese. One of the things I regret is that I never learned the language when I lived there. I learned a little more than just enough to get by ("Hello", "goodbye", "excuse me", "thank you", "where is the bathroom", "where is the nearest train station" and "I don't understand" will get

you through a lot in Japan – or just about any other country for that matter.) but have forgotten all but fragments of that in the ensuing years. I've started by purchasing the first 8 lessons in the Pimsleur tape series. It's not bad so far and it gives me something to do on the 2-3000 miles I rack up driving for work each month. At some point I hope to find the time to take a real class but this will do for now.

Let's see ... movies. We finally rented and watched *Sliding Doors* which others in here have already talked about. It was pretty good and I have to admit that I didn't see that ending coming. *You've Got Mail* was your basic ehiek-fiek romantic comedy with an interesting modern twist but that's about it. The same can be set of *Stepmom* except that it's not that interesting. Probably the best movie I've seen since the last issue is *Elizabeth*. If it's still playing in your area I highly recommend it.

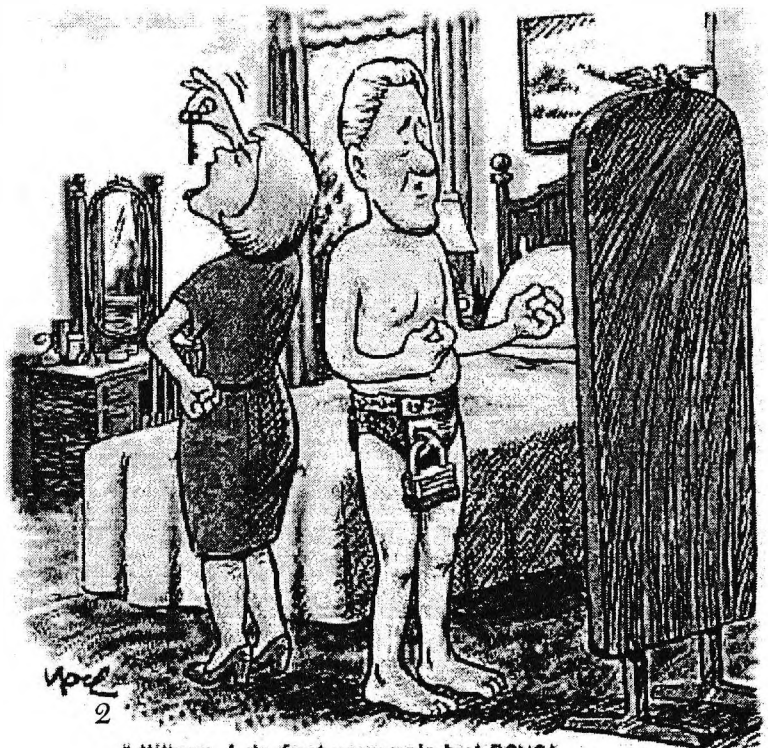
The most interesting book I've read recently is *The Rape of Nanking* by Iris Chang. I'm not going to go in to much detail except to say that I don't recommend reading this book while eating. I, unfortunately, didn't take that into account and happened to reach the pictorial in the center of the book while eating lunch. It's fairly graphic in its descriptions and illustrations of what the Japanese army did when they conquered the Chinese city of Nanking during WWII. I already had a general idea of what happened in that I knew the raw numbers (estimates of 200-300,000 civilians raped and killed in Nanking, approximately 12 million Chinese killed during the entire war) but this book goes into a level of detail that is both fascinating and more than a little disturbing. The individual stories of the foreign nationals who created the Nanking Safety Zone – the residents of whom constituted more than 90% of the survivors in the city when all is said and done – are worth the price of the book alone.

## Mailing Comments

BlueGRAS 40

Guy

Glad to see you came through *Georges* intact. I like the fact that you take care of your neighbor Cindy. I don't even know my neighbors, much less take care of them. ☐ yct Betsy *The Magnificent Seven* vs. Kurosawa's *The Seven Samurai*. I remember reading that Kurosawa saw *The Magnificent Seven* and loved it. He even sent whatisname (the director/producer of MS, whatever he was whose name escapes me) a nice letter along with an engraved plaque and a nice set of Samurai swords as a gift. ☐ Good comments on *The Scandal*. Overall I'm just sick of it and I want it to go away. I'm tired of arguing about it. The thing is, the impeachment is almost irrelevant. If he isn't convicted then we go back to the status quo. If he's convicted and turned out, Al Gore will take office and we go back to the status quo. Either way it doesn't matter. Unfortunately there's this little voice in the back of my mind repeating a quote I can't attribute – "If your own wife can't trust you, how in the hell do you expect me to trust you?" To be honest, the events I find disturbing have been largely forgotten. The whole scandal with the FBI files wherein our



"Hillary, I do feel your pain but DANG!  
This thing really HURTS!"

illustrious el Presidente tried to put together a Nixon-style enemies list/dirty laundry file and the whole China missile technology deal. Those are the events that bother me the most and no I don't believe the explanations from the administration. ☐ I don't see a Best Anime Hugo any time soon. It's too narrow a subculture within fandom. Even so, there are plenty of SF related anime series, some of which are really good. *Bubblegum Crisis* comes to mind but it's a bit too *Terminator*-ish and would be called derivative and Sonoda admits to being heavily influenced by the Terminator movies when he made it. Some of them are pretty awful, too. Besides, some of the best stuff isn't SF at all. I finally have Beth about half hooked on one of my all-time favorite series, *Maison Ikkoku*. It's about a young college student who falls in love with the newly widowed young manager of the boarding house where he lives. Nary a giant robot, space ship, alien menace, psychic power or talking animal in sight. Just 95-odd episodes of good stories.

### Vanish With the Rose 57 Nicki

I do appreciate my boss and he knows it. Unfortunately he's not my boss anymore. He's still with the company for the moment but that may not last. ☐ Unfortunately J.J Johnson's death predates my time in Fandom. I've talked with people who knew him and he sounds like a really nice guy. From what I understand he was killed by a woman trying to support her drug habit. ☐ Vester is doing okay for now. The most obvious manifestation of his FIV is a recurring skin condition but he still seems to be enjoying life. ☐ The first couple of episodes of Buffy that I watched didn't seem to focus around "sophistication" so much as teenage angst and whining. It's gotten better, though, and I'm still watching. ☐ yct me Right Wing Conspiracies. "*What about the millionaire who sent out writers to drum up stories about Clinton and directed what he found to the far right for follow up?*" I would change "writers to drum up stories" to "private investigators to dig up dirt" but whatever. I guess that would make Larry Flynt the head of the "Far Left" conspiracy, eh? A fine upstanding example of a Democrat he is, too. As for the leaks, there have been "untraced" leaks attributed to both the Starr office and the White House all throughout this mess. Each side "anonymously" leaks whatever info it feels helps their case regardless of the rules. As for Foster, as you say even Starr doesn't dispute the suicide ruling. Only the real conspiracy whackos believe it was murder. The main thing that makes me doubt any conspiracy is this: both sides are so full of headline mongering, backstabbing opportunistic weasels they couldn't conspire to put on a Sunday barbecue without word leaking to the press.

### Sailing The Abnormalcy #28 Me

My comment to Naomi about hwy 840 "You've got to feel for the guy who built the castle in Triune." I've since found out that he was notified about the fact that one of the several proposed routes for 840 was going to run near his home several years before any construction began. In spite of that, he never attended any of the planning meetings where he could have objected. So I retract my statement – I don't feel sorry for him anymore.

### Notes From the Club Car 50 Pat

Great account of your zoo trip. ☐ yct Betsy about SUVs – I have a theory about the popularity of SUV type vehicles. The mini-van has become the standard suburban family vehicle and has become something of a "wimp suburbanite" symbol. The SUV gives you the same amount of cargo & people carrying capacity while allowing the retention "masculinity." It's a truck,, but it's a minivan. ☐ If you feel the need to see *South Park*, you can rent the first dozen or so episodes at any decent sized video rental store. Some of it's funny and other parts are just tasteless – sort of like me. ☐ My workload has slacked off a little now. I'm finding time to go back and catch up on a lot of the little things that I had to let slide over the course of the past year. ☐ What, you don't normally carry your high school yearbooks with you on trips? Yes, I knew Steve would be at A-Kon. There are other anime

conventions that I could go to that he attends, but I had decided on that one anyway. I plan to go again this year but I'm waffling between it and OtaKon, another anime con up in the Washington DC area. ☐ Vester is doing better since last issue. The only noticeable problem he has is a skin condition that comes and goes which we suspect may be an extreme case of feline acne. ☐ I don't know much about the guy who erected the statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest. He caused a local stir for several reasons, the first being that he arranged to "borrow" some prison labor to clear the land for the project and the majority of the prisoners happened to be black. That was settled and that sort of thing won't happen again. Other people object to its visibility from I-65 but after all the yelling was over the final word was "It's private property, get over it." It is a pretty awful looking excuse of sculpture. I think it looks like both Forrest and the horse have been goosed.

Transitional Nattering 1 Naomi


You're trying to understand our tax code? "Ack!" is right. Good luck.

Kentucky Nuggets 52 Jodie

Bwah-ha-ha! I love the article by Chris. I can see myself asking that sort of question as a kid. I heard he was on *All Things Considered* recently but I missed it.

End of Mailing Comments

Well, this is going to be late. I started this last Sunday and I'm finishing it off on the following Sunday (January 24 - sorry Pat). In the last week downtown Clarksville has been flattened by Tornadoes. Another tornado ripped a wall off of the Pepsi warehouse in Columbia, TN. Fortunately it was the wall furthest away from the room where the file server resides and it never blinked. Luck and a good battery backup UPS were with me. Take care until next issue and I hope to see many of you at ConCave.



*Honey please,  
just calm down.  
Let me explain....*