



Home with the Armadillo #50 is brought to you by Liz Copeland of 3243 165th Ave. SE, Bellevue WA 98008. Phone number is 425-641-0209. Email is received at lizc@nwlinc.com. Started in November 2001, for SFPA 224.

If I were Guy, I'd be doing something spiffy for the 50th issue, but then he'd be sure whether or not it actually was his 50th issue, which I am not. So, nothing special. Just another in an ongoing series of natter with not enough comments zines.

Speaking of which, I'm afraid things are not going to improve zinewise. I made 3 art quilts so far this year, and I have set myself a goal to make another 6-8 pieces by the end of 2003. This means what little hobby time I have for SFPA is going to diminish as I focus more on doing the quilt thing. I have plans to submit to shows, some of which have cash prizes, and see how it goes in getting egoboo from the quilt world. I will attempt to respond to comments from people in the latest mailing but will give up on trying to catch up. Although a few comments have stuck in my mind and I'll put them in as I find them.

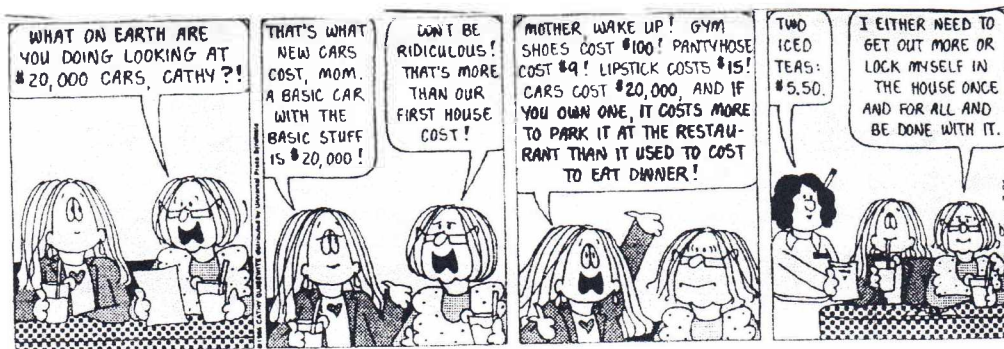
For instance, **Guy** asked me why I read mysteries instead of SF. I didn't answer promptly because I actually had to think about it. I think part of it is that the rest of my life is chaotic rather than routine and I crave the structure and predictability of the mysteries. And part of it is that I spend a lot of creative energy on the quilting, and working with JJ on his dyslexia, so I don't want to read something that will require me to actively work at understanding it. My current re-reading is Bujold's Vorkosigan series which is character based and except for some genetic engineering, doesn't require much science background or any mental stretching to understand an alien culture.

Trinlay asked at one point if I knew of the pagan quilter's email group. I belonged to it for a while, but had to drop because of the volume. They are a very chatty group indeed. I belong to artquilt, quiltdesigners, and a fabric painting group in addition to the group that spun off from artquilt to do the Tarot quilts. This is usually enough to fill my email box with at least 75 messages a day, and when people get going, it can reach 125 with no problem. The pagan quilters almost doubled the volume. That was definitely too much. (Also, I want to mention I really enjoy your zines and hope you will forgive me for not commenting much...)

Back to quilt stuff. My 9-11 quilt that went to Houston is going to be in a book about the entire exhibit that will be published this next year. This was quite a thrill. I haven't gotten my quilt back yet because all 200+ quilts that made it to Houston in time for the show have been shipped to Austin to be photographed for the book. We are supposed to get pre-publication ordering information sometime soon, which means that I'll be giving lots of people on my Xmas list a copy next year. But if you just can't wait, you can see my quilt on the bcover to this zine (or on Jeff's webpage, www.alumni.caltech.edu/~copeland/mommy.html) and a bunch of the other quilts that were in the special exhibit at www.clvquilts.com. I'm not sure how long they'll be there, but as of today, November 28, this is the place to see them. The quilts on this webpage are the ones that were put up for auction. A small digression to fill in background. The Houston International Quilt Festival is an annual major show the first weekend in November.

There's a week of Market, which is the trade show part of things, where shop owners come to see all the new products, patterns and fabrics. And then there's the Festival, which is open to the public. Attendance usually runs close to 50,000. (that makes it what, the equivalent of 6 Worldcons?) There are multiple exhibits at the Festival, and the exhibits director, who is a member of my quiltart mailing list, put together the 9-11 special exhibit at the very last minute. She announced it in the last few days of September, and the deadline for the quilts to arrive there was October 24th. As part of the whole Festival, they did a silent auction of any of the 9-11 quilts that the maker wanted to donate with the proceeds going to the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund. I believe they sold 70 quilts and raised over \$25,000. My quilt wasn't actually completely finished when I had to send it off for the deadline so I didn't put it up for auction. I'm hoping to donate it to some archive in NY, or perhaps later put it up for sale and donate the proceeds. That's assuming I can bear to part with it at all. I'm glad I did this quilt but I hope to never again have such a cause for making one.

(And for anyone who's curious how I could send off an unfinished quilt and not have anyone notice, I did fusible appliqué and didn't finish stitching all the edges down. Since some people don't stitch down all their edges, they would have called it finished. I do stitch down the edges, so I called it unfinished. It would take several months, if not years, for the unstitched pieces to start to come off of the quilt surface, which is why sending it to one exhibit isn't a problem. You now know much more about sneaky quilter tricks than you will probably ever need to know.)



My other big project lately was buying a car. The expedition to Saturn to get a car for Allie by trading in Jeff's car had the side effect of exposing me to the Coupe with the sunroof. I had been hesitating about the convertible idea anyway, what with all the rainy weather here so I took the opportunity to test drive the Coupe. They had this lovely silver one with leather interior sitting inside next to the desk of the guy we were talking to so I looked at it for a while, mentally compared the sticker price to the Toyota and Mustang cars I had been looking at, and asked to take one for a drive. It was nice. Especially since we drove one with the souped up stereo system. The salesman was so great – he ran out to his car to get me a CD to play while driving so I could see what it sounded like. So we ended up getting my car ordered at the same time we got an automatic transmission car for Allie & Jeff to

share. My car actually came in on Sept. 13th, which is probably why I forgot to mention it last time. We ended up doing the whole thing for \$5K less than we had originally budgeted for my new car to begin with so everyone was happy. I think Jeff would be happier if his knees were cooperating in his attempts to bicycle to work, but that's not really part of the car flipping action.



We've actually had 2 other interesting things in our lives lately. One is a houseguest, Hal O'Brien, visiting from California. He's actually up here job hunting so he's been an on and off guest for a few weeks now. He and his wife, Ulrika, have wanted to move up here for quite some time and between his getting downsized and the tech market collapsing in Orange County, this looked like a good time to try. We've all had very little adjusting to do, which is the good thing about having a true guest room. Jeff and I enjoy talking with him and JJ loves having another adult around to show off his art so, except for the job search taking longer than expected, I think we're all having a pleasant time.

Except for one thing. The waterbed sprung a leak. Of course, it waited until after 9 pm to do so because the waterbed store with the rental pump closes at nine. Hal and Jeff siphoned the bed down to a level that stopped the leaking by using the hose and I slept on the couch and Jeff got JJ's upper bunk. We went out the next day and bought a new bed, to be delivered by Dec. 15, and rented the pump to empty the old mattress. This time, we got smart. We bought one of the mattresses with tubes in it. We bought one for Allie several years ago and now JJ sleeps on it. Ten years and we've never had a single problem with that mattress. Our mattresses, the big bag full of water and fiber type, have never lasted more than four years. I want less hassle without giving up my comfortable waterbed. In the meantime, Jeff and I are sleeping on an air mattress that is outgassing vinyl fumes enough that I keep Jeff awake with the funny noises I make from all the mucus filling up my sinuses. So, I've shifted my sleep cycle so that I sleep from 4 am until noon. This means Jeff gets a good night's sleep but my daytime schedule is all out of whack. Maybe by the end of the year I'll be able to sleep all night thru again. What a wonderful concept, a full night's sleep during the nighttime.

Mailing Comments on 223

New Port News 199/Ned Brooks

You mention that there are armadillos moving north into Georgia. Did the newspaper article talking about it say why the armadillos are doing this? It couldn't be the fire ants, they've been around for years now...

I bet it is that crepe myrtle next to the house providing a route for the squirrels onto your roof. Gosh, another pruning chore to add to your list.

Variations on a Theme #8/Rich Lynch

Too bad about Orycon. But, it now looks like DSC might be a possibility for us. If I can get the family get-together date and place nailed down, that is.

A Page for SFPA/weber

When I was living in New Orleans, my cats would catch cockroaches, bite them lightly to break their wings, and take them into the bathroom and play with them until they died. Unfortunately, they didn't take them away, so I would come into the bathroom to find several dead cockroaches in the tub... A wonderful way to start the morning, I'm sure. I doubt you could call it bathtub soccer because New Orleans cockroaches are in no way spherical, but they certainly had the same idea as your kitten.

Spiritus Mundi 185/GHLIII

In your comment to the Westercon oneshot, you ask if you can count on a Copeland contingent at the Huntsville DSC. We're working on it. I need to send email to Jeff's sister and see if we can get a firm commitment on the date for the family gathering being the end of June and the locale being NY rather than London. I'm thinking of visiting my brother and his family (whom we haven't seen in almost 10 years) and going to Washington DC somewhere in there. But it would all start with the DSC, even tho we would have to take the kids out of school 3 days before it ends. JJ is the perfect age to really love visiting Huntsville. Anyway, we're working on it.

Yea, I guess I garbled that Matt Helm bit because everyone seems puzzled by it. It's important to understand that Matt Helm is an assassin (this is my secret trashy reading, so don't give me grief, okay?) and he's critiquing a student shooting that takes place in Oklahoma but obviously refers to Kent State. He's not on anyone's side; he's on the side of competence. The cops should either not have shot, or should have deliberately chosen to shoot and hit a target for each shot. Randomly

shooting and hitting people who weren't even the crowd that was allegedly threatening them is just plain incompetent and offends him.



Speaking of police shootings, you say *"When they massacre an innocent man who's just trying to show them his wallet, and ride a wave of public race fear to vindication, that's another story."* I'm curious, are you referring to the shooting here in Bellevue? Because, if so, I didn't see any wave of public race fear, and I strongly disagree with the finding the investigation brought in. I think the Bellevue Police Dept. disagrees too because they're doing another internal investigation which may well end up with the officer being removed from the force. But then I don't watch TV news and am getting my info from 2 local papers.

I don't think we'll be attending Con Jose. Worldcons are so big and we tend to prefer relaxacons nowadays.

Yea, I'm glad we went to Alaska too. Although the state is one huge tourist trap, the day cruises were worth it. I think it's more a place to go for people who like fishing and kayaking, like our friends Robin & Lisa. If I'd known what we know now, I would have gotten us to Seward much earlier and we would have done the helicopter flight over the icepack on the Kenai Peninsula. That would have been spectacular.

It's interesting that you chose Guernica for your cover. The artquilt list had a discussion about whether any of the quilts done so quickly for the Houston show could be good art. Guernica was put forward as a counter example to those who claimed good art took time and distance from an event such as 9-11. Picasso did it in less than a month, I believe. Also, I share your fears about this administration using this opportunity to push an agenda that should be discussed and opposed. I hope we're both worrying for nothing.



Peter, Pan & Merry #39/Schlosser

"Not to be picky but I think that, after you got home from visiting Jeff's folks, you went to Westercon, not DSC. (Even if there were a lot of SFPAnS there.)" Thank you for giving me the perfect excuse. It's Janice and Toni's fault that I typed DSC instead of Westercon, of course.

"If you like slugs, we could always export you some of our Upstate California Banana Slugs." I never said I liked slugs, that's Allie, but I prefer them to fire ants or flying cockroaches. And if you ship any of those Banana Slugs up here, we'll send you some of the pale green ones that live on Jeff's cousin's farm.

We caught Harry Potter the Sunday of the weekend it opened. I was very surprised by the age range of the audience, especially the rowdy early 20's group in our theatre. We enjoyed it tremendously and JJ has added lots of Harry Potter stuff to his Xmas wish list. Did Random enjoy it?

Confessions of a Consistent Liar 75/Hlavaty

"I wish the schools could figure out a way to do ability grouping without stigmatizing." I'd be happy to settle for all school districts educating the kids that are in them to a reasonable level. But then, after almost 12 years of fighting with school districts, I'm about ready to give up on public schools. We seem to be in a good one finally, but we've had to deal with 4 districts in 3 states, and this is the first good one. The really horrible part is that no one in the current school systems is happy.

Trivial Pursuits #97/Gelb

I'm with you on the computer directions stuff. We'll just stick to maps and let them all call us old fashioned.

David Schlosser and I have decided it was all the SFPAnS at the con that confused me so much I thought I was at DSC instead of Westercon. You believe that, right?

I wouldn't have been so annoyed about Alamo not telling me all the fees except for the fact that I specifically asked when I made a special call to ask about a luggage rack. If asking if that's the total price, including all fees and taxes isn't good enough, then I don't want to do business with them.

"I admire you all greatly for taking a vacation with so many people to take care of and track and with so few hitches. You should be proud of yourself!" I, in my capacity as the Copeland family tour director, thank you. There were times when I was planning the whole thing that I thought working at a travel company would be a snap after this.

Yngvi is a Louse/Weisskopf

I really like Hank's piece this time. I have never been very fond of yipping Chihuahuas and the picture is just great.

Speaking of pictures, here's one that made me think of you. Done by a Washington state high school student.



I also have the song "The Homecoming Queen's Got a Gun" running through my head when I look at it, but then we all know I'm have a twisted sense of humor.

I would love to have a full year calendar in JJ's school instead of me homeschooling him during the summer to keep his regression of reading skills to a minimum but it's just not going to happen anytime soon. I'd love to see all schools switch to a full year but the teachers and the administrators like having the summer off.



Words Fail Me #53/J. Copeland

I don't think the high Asian population in the school district here in Bellevue is the cause of the enrichment programs being so supported, but I'm sure it doesn't hurt. I think it probably goes back several decades when the economy basically depended on Boeing for anything other than agriculture. Engineers want their kids to be educated and they paid more in taxes. Washington is a bipolar state in that way; we have all this high tech concentrated in the Seattle area, and the rest of the state is farming, fishing or logging. And it hasn't been that way that long so there are still adjustments being made.

Okay, since Sean won't be shocked by a question about tongue studs and oral sex, I'll ask him the next time I see him. Which might be the Miller's party, come to think of it. That should be interesting.

"... So net, we got two cars and saved five grand over just the Toyota. Of course, I'm not driving the damned minivan..." You mean you're now driving the damned minivan. Freudian typo, anyone?

Tennessee Trash #43/Robe

I like your opening paragraphs about words failing and wanting to buy an adjective. Very expressive.

If you are planning to do long car trips again anytime, may I suggest having car boxes of toys that will amuse for a longer period of time. JJ takes his Game Boy now, but before that we had 2 boxes full of stuff that they only got to play with on car trips. Those little viewers that you put in a disc with lots of little pictures were a big hit. JJ always liked drawing things; Allie read books in the car. We also did books on tape very successfully. Our car trip days are over, I think, but the boxes helped make the trips tolerable and keep the kids from driving us crazy.

Oblio 136/Brown

Yes, the little photos really make difference for one-shots. I used to just skip them over, but now with the faces to go along with them, I read them. I don't think the content has gotten any better, but the photos give a context for all the mindless blather and make the zine more interesting. But I don't think groovy is one of the retro slang terms being revived...

Guilty Pleasures 20/Ackerman

Very neat that you took Raphi to the blood bank on 9-11. I really liked what you said to him about remembering this later. I have to call and see if my form of hepatitis is okay now so I can donate. After Xmas, I promise.

Frequent Flyer/Feller

My condolences on the loss of your mother-in-law. I hope Anita is doing okay.

*"Anita and I liked **Cats and Dogs**, too. With our cat, we can easily imagine them as evil."* We've always had somewhat doglike cats so the cats' being evil was the hardest part for me to believe in the movie. Our cats not only don't snub people, they solicit attention from visitors.



Werewolves with Fleas/Wells

So, if you don't like the pregnant one on Angel, you must have been very happy when she staked herself. That was a really gutsy move. I was expecting her to ask Angel to do it, but no, she just grabbed that piece of wood and did it herself. Amazing. But now I want to know what that vampire hunter they brought back from the dead is going to do. We shall see, maybe even sometime soon.

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #71 & #72/Dengrove

I'm not sure how #71 got in this stack of zines, but it's here and I've marked it up so you get the comments, you lucky fellow, you.

The Tarot quilt project deadlines keep slipping. I think we're getting close to actually sending the quilts on tour next spring, but if the group doesn't get its act together, I'm going to submit the quilts to other shows all on my own. My quilts are done and ready, I am pleased to say.

I like your story about the pug being dressed up as a baby. Allie liked it too. She's going to do the same thing if I ever nag her about grandkids, not that that's likely.

I explained about the Kent State comment to Guy earlier in this zine. I think they shouldn't have fired at all, but if they did fire, they shouldn't have hit people far away.

Avatar Press 17/Cleary

I hope you saw my comment to Toni about your Chihuahua drawing. I liked it. Also, if I wanted to use one of your clip art pieces as a basis for a quilt, is that okay? I think I'd probably end up doing a derivative work, but I really like the orca in space one. I promise to give you credit, and if you like, do a copy of your piece on the back of my quilt. (I can print on fabric using my computer printer so I would scan in your illo, maybe enlarge it a little bit, add some text about you, and then sew it onto the back.)

James has slowed down on his painting now that he has art class once a day at school. He's also taking applied technology this year, which is a combination of wood shop, metalworking and some other stuff all done in one huge workroom. I may try and use a picture of his latest piece (aluminum cast), which he says is an alien puzzle before you start working it. I can't wait until he gets into drawing and then I can maybe get some illos from him.

So that's it for the comments. I have a real treat in the way of a newspaper clipping. Just in case anyone didn't see it, Boulder had a fuss about public art being displayed in the library. For old times' sake, here it is.

Man steals phallic art exhibit

'Hanging 'Em Out to Dry'
meant to raise awareness
of domestic violence

By Jennifer Hamilton
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — A man stole an art display he considered anti-male and pornographic from a public library and left an American flag in its place.

Robert Rowan, 49, said Monday he stole the display that featured 21 brightly colored penises hanging from a clothesline after hearing a report that the library rejected a request by Sen. Ben Nighthorse-Campbell, R-Colo., to remove the display and replace it with a flag.

"We've got guys overseas right now fighting for our freedom and these women are bashing our men," Rowan said. "The whole display is a male-bashing deal."

"There's an uproar in my heart. This just doesn't belong here. I have never pulled off a crime before in my entire life and I have a lot of pride for what I did."

Library officials did not return a telephone message seeking comment Monday about the display, which was part of an exhibit recognizing domestic violence awareness month.

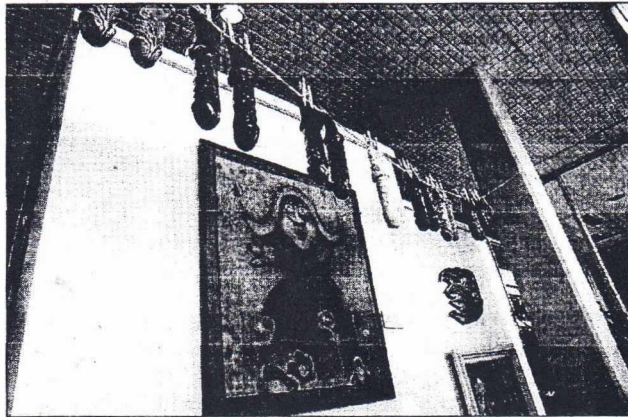
Campbell also did not return a message seeking comment.

Representatives of the Boulder County Safehouse, a battered women's shelter that sponsored the exhibit, said it will remain on display without the stolen artwork until Nov. 26.

Police plan to consult with the artist before deciding whether to file charges against Rowan, who gave the stolen artwork to officers on Sunday.

In a statement, artist Susanne Walker said she wants to talk with Rowan before she decides whether to press charges. Rowan said he will not speak with her.

"It makes a joke of the pain and



Associated Press

A controversial piece of art featuring ceramic penises hangs in a corner of the Canyon Gallery of the Public Library in Boulder, Colo. The artwork, entitled 'Hanging 'Em Out to Dry,' was stolen by a man who says the display is pornographic.

suffering involved in this exhibit," Walker said in a written statement.

"If you want to attack me or my artwork, then confront me with discussion — that is the purpose of this type of art."

Even before Rowan's actions, the exhibit was debated in the liberal university town in the foothills 32 miles northwest of Denver.

"Some felt this was really pushing the envelope, but there is also a big concern about censorship, so the piece was allowed to go up," police spokeswoman Jennifer Bray said.

Library officials also were criticized when officials declined to hang a 10-by-15-foot American flag in the lobby, saying it was too big. A smaller flag was displayed instead.

Barry Sallow of the American Civil



Robert Rowan

ON THE NET

Boulder Public Library:

www.boulder.lib.co.us

American Civil Liberties Union:

www.aclu.org

Liberties Union of Boulder County said the theft violated the artist's free speech as well as the public's right to view her expressions.

"Since when are human body parts obscene? Are arms and legs obscene?" he asked. "It certainly has redeeming social value and that's the standard."

Rowan, a subcontractor, said he supports the shelter's work, but should have been more sensitive to families and children who could see the display.

"Everybody's afraid of taking away the freedom of speech, but there's two sides of the coin when it comes to pornography," Rowan said. "Rape is horrific, but so is exposing children to pornography."

Gratitude should be grounded in everyday gifts, expert says



JERRY LARGE
Seattle Times
staff columnist

It's Thanksgiving Day and you are giving thanks. Maybe you're thankful that you still have a job, if you still have one. Or you're thankful that you weren't killed by a terrorist, or that you don't live in Afghanistan.

But none of this makes you feel good, not for long anyway. If you're thankful, shouldn't you have a big smile on your face? Most years you'd be thankful that you have a new car, or a nice house, but that doesn't really last either. It doesn't stop you from worrying about what you don't have, or that mutual fund that slipped another couple of notches.

What makes gratitude useful is to transform it from a once-a-year ritual to a daily habit, and to change what it is that you are thankful for to

things that make your life feel more meaningful.

This year, I thought it was especially important to think about how we do thankfulness, so I called Bob Emmons, a psychology professor at the University of California, Davis, who has been studying gratitude for the past three years.

"It's hard to talk about gratitude without sounding like you are being overly sentimental or sermonizing," he said. Gratitude is not like optimism. It's not about ignoring the bad stuff, and it's not about forcing people to be grateful because they ought to be.

What he means by gratitude is "experiencing life as full of gifts." Experiencing life with a sense of

PLEASE SEE **Large** ON F 2

LARGE

CONTINUED FROM F 1

wonder as we do when we are children.

This sounds mushy, but Emmons is a scientist. He grounds his opinions in research.

Studies show being grateful for material things gives you a very temporary high. Being grateful for negatives — I didn't get Anthrax — also has a limited effect. That, he said, is more relief than gratitude.

What transforms life is to be

aware every day of the things people do for you, and the things that go your way. He said our sense of entitlement can make it hard to sustain a sense of gratitude, but it is possible to change that outlook.

Emmons has groups of people keep journals, writing down daily what they have to be grateful for. Other groups keep journals, but aren't asked to write down what they are grateful for.

After a few weeks, the grateful people feel better about life and about themselves, while the other

people's journals have more negative stuff — so much so that researchers came to call people in that part of the study the whining-and-complaining group.

Over time, being grateful improves relationships and can improve physical and mental health. The grateful people in the studies "have fewer physical health complaints. They get better sleep and wake more refreshed," he said. "I've heard people say that this has brought them a new lease on their life."

"Focusing on the gifts one has

been given is an antidote to envy, resentment, regret and other negative states that undermine long-term happiness . . . (Gratitude can) counter the prevailing cynicism and emptiness of much of contemporary culture. And in the context of prosperity, by maintaining a grateful focus, a person may avoid disillusionment and addiction to consumerism as a way of life."

People who think they alone are responsible for their success — or at the other extreme, people who credit luck alone — miss c.t.

The person who recognizes the contributions of other people, and lets them know it, benefits in better relationships and an improved sense of self-worth.

It feels good to be on the receiving end of thanks, he said, but the person giving the thanks gets something, too. You feel loved, cared for and important when you recognize the things other people have been willing to do for you.

So what's Emmons thankful for today?

"I'm grateful for just about everything. I'm grateful that I live in a safe little town like Davis. I'm thankful for my family and thankful to have the job I have."

He has a new book out, "Words of Gratitude," which is published by the Templeton Foundation Press. I'm sure he'd be grateful if you'd buy it.

Jerry Large can be reached at 206-464-3346 or jlarge@seattletimes.com. More columns at www.seattletimes.com/columnists.

Here's a comic that ran September 24. This is part of why I don't like B.C. I understand that comics are done weeks in advance, but Doonesbury yanked a comic following 9-11 because it made fun of Bush and he thought that would be inappropriate even though his strip is political commentary. According to the editors of The Seattle Times, Hart's syndicate didn't pull this one even though editors called them about it in advance. And afterward, it took lots of calls and email from lots of people before they said maybe it had been an oops. But, it got yanked from the webpage immediately. Frankly, at this point, I think Hart is a self-centered insensitive old fart.

B.C.



To end on a happier note, I actually have a non-mystery book to review. I'm not sure it's really science fiction, maybe more in the fantasy realm, but it's by a science fiction writer. **The Curse of Chalion** by Lois McMaster Bujold is a very good book. In fact, reading it delayed my finishing my sfpa zine by a couple of days. I particularly like the way she wove all the theological things into the everyday fabric of the lives of the people. The characters are solid and interesting, the setting is somewhat vague but the everyday life details are vivid, and the plot is interesting. I am going to recommend this book to my friend Elizabeth Jenkins because I think she will find it interesting for the different take on gods, heaven, and human life. I also recommend it to any sfpan who likes Bujold or sometimes enjoys a good feudal era based story.

The front cover is The Magician quilt I did for the Tarot Art Project. And the back cover is my 9-11 quilt, Where's My Mommy? , which I mentioned earlier in my natter. I'm still not sure if the webpage does a better job of showing the details or not.

And that's a wrap. See you in 2 months and hope you have happy holidays.

