

The New Port News
192



Art by Edmund J. Sullivan
for **Legal & other Lyrics** by George Outram (Foulis, Edinburgh 1916)
for

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SFPA 216

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OO - TOEni - Good to see you and weber and the Hughes at the collating. Fancy header Steve did!

Cool - Hughes - Beautiful gilt cover image, never saw anything like it before except on Xmas cards. Some toys become obsolete faster than others - a 1930s Bolsey B2 35mm that I bought in a thrift store years ago still works fine. I'm somewhat doubtful about the Weston light-meter that came with it - the reading seems to vary with how you hold it.

Not Minac - Lynch - I like classical music while I drive, and the world has grown more civilized in that when you run out of the range of one NPR station you may find you have run into the range of another. I can remember when it was impossible to get anything fit to listen to between Norfolk and Atlanta. My favorites are the Lalo *Symphonie Espagnole* and the Orff *Carmina Burana* and Mozart's 40th Symphony. The other night late they played the complete *Karelia* by Sibelius - usually you get only the "incidental music" - and I liked that well enough to send for the CD.

Missed you at DSC! I will be at The Last RiverCon, as far as I know. Aha, maybe I thought the couscous was nasty because it looks like rice and so I expected it to taste like rice - not that I care much for rice in general, though I like Chinese fried rice with Chinese food. I tried squash once and thought it tasted like somethat had been squashed, blech...

Your method for doing an HTML indent is even more cumbersome than what Lindsay sent me: " " produces three small horizontal spaces and of course can be used as many times as needed. I tried it, it produces the indent at the beginning of the first paragraph on the home page. Whether it works as well on all browsers I have no idea.

Revenant - Sheila - Welcome to the apa! My mother's mother was a Strickland, and there was a family legend about a lost fortune in Texas oil - did you ever hear that one?

I know Ruth Berman, but only from Tolkien fandom, didn't know she had done a Trek-zine - I guess we all have our little secrets... She once loaned me her rare John Closson *Frodo Lives* button so I could photograph it to have copies made - I lost mine on the AussieCon I trip.

You gotta spell *fannish* with two n's - "fanish" would mean "pertaining to a fane", which is an archaic word for a banner, a weathercock, or a temple.

Frequent Flyer - Feller - Heard a lot of noise about the LoveBug worm, but never saw it. Someone sent the "kak" worm to a typewriter collector list I'm on, but although I got the e-mail and opened the attachment, a large JPG file, I saw no effect - apparently this one could only strike through Outlook.

My recollection - from long ago, it's been years since I read any Heinlein other than *Green Hills of Earth* - was that the impression of his far-right politics was from **Farnham's Freehold**. I read **Glory Road** only in the F&SF version but wouldn't have attributed any political philosophy

to it as it was obviously an attempt (failed, in my opinion) to write in the sword & sorcery genre so popular at the time.

For a long time I had Netscape 4 set to ask before it accepted a cookie, but that got annoying (some sites would ask every few seconds) and now I have done what some guru suggested - set the "cookie" file to *read-only* and *hidden* using the DOS "attribute" command. Then I set Netscape to allow all cookies. Seems to work fine - they think they are setting cookies, but nothing remains on my hard drive.

Charlotte in 2004 - Irv - Why not... I like the Kitty Hawk mascot! Convenient to the whole east coast at least. Would I go to it myself? I dunno - the older I get the more I would rather stay home.

Flaming Idiot - George - Love the demented title! Hope you got the leaky tire back to Savannah without too much grief. Demand to see the results of the test on the air in that library - they are supposed to use a "sniffer" after asbestos work, it's a little air pump that pulls a sample of a known volume through a filter which is then checked at a lab. The answer comes out in *fibers per cubic centimeter* and there is a federal standard for the maximum allowable.

No hurry about the Mae Strelkov material, but you shouldn't throw it out. If anyone wants one of her color hecto paintings I have extras here - she told me to give them to anyone who wanted them. Samples can be seen on the website:

<http://www.fortunecity.com/roswell/quatermass/87/mae/>

As movies go *Gladiator* is fairly historical - Marcus Aurelius and Commodus at least bear some resemblance to what we know of those emperors. I was annoyed by the lack of talent of the female lead, and Joaquin Phoenix as Commodus wasn't much better, a walking sneer chewing the scenery for all he was worth. The old character actors Richard Harris as Marcus Aurelius, Oliver Reed as Proximo, and Derek Jacoby as Graccus made it worth watching, and the sets and costumes weren't bad. I heard complaints that the Romans had no stirrups for their horses (I wouldn't have known that), but I don't think they had the English longbow either. Nor did their metallurgy run to mirror-finish swords.

Interesting idea that *reasonable thinking* could lead to depression, but I thought it had been determined that clinical depression was caused by a chemical imbalance. On the other hand it is pretty clear that *unreasonable thinking* leads to crime, violence, road rage, romance, bad music, etc.

Guilty Pleasures - Eve - Good to see you at the con. I think four columns is too many in that font size, there's too much impact on the word spacing.

I would be inclined to ban motorcycles from the highway altogether. I don't know the statistics on the helmet issue - do they really do much good? Sure, your skull may remain unbroken - but they don't protect your neck.

Armadillo - Liz - Good to see you at the con. See above about the *couscous* - one *cous* was too much for me. I don't remember now whether my sister actually made the stuff herself, but if it was rancid surely I wouldn't have been the only one to notice. I agree with you about Da Shrub, too bad the Democrats have nothing better than Gore to put up. I will vote for him, but only as the lesser of two evils - *Cthulhu* ain't running.

Speaking of collectibles, I got spam today directing me to a website selling *Lord of the Rings* action figures - hideous tacky ones of course. I thought the estate had control of that, and better

taste.

To drive away bad music you could always try singing *Green Hills of Earth* to the CocaCola jingle -

We pray for one last landing on
The globe that gave us birth
Let us rest our eyes
On the fleecy skies
And the cool green hills of Earth
It's the real thing
What you wanted to find
When you're reading Heinlein
Sense of wonder....

The failure to ship something bought on eBay is mail fraud I think, the same federal offense whether you bought it over the Net or ordered it from a magazine ad.

Cross-Train at the Office - Jeff - I did that sort of cross-training at the office occasionally, especially the last couple of years before I retired!

I can't get too worried about the proposed breakup of Microsoft - it seems more analogous to the breakup of Ma Bell than to the split in the Roman Empire. But what do I know? You're the guru, you should be able to tell us if there is really anything to worry about!

The speculation about Hillary Clinton causing Giuliani's prostate cancer is interesting, but when I read that the NY police commissioner had the same malady, I decided it must be poetic justice for the anal attack on Abner Louima.

You are not the first fan to collect smart-ass quotes, I have a couple of old ones that were published:

Revelation XXIII *A Portable Compendium of Terrestrial Inspiration*

comp. by John Webster, Milwaukee, n.d., 62pp (and approved by Mat Warkin, Athiest Archbishop of Milwaukee)

The New Necronomicon comp. by Joseph Sarno, Telloyan Press, Chicago 1968, unpaginated but about 25pp.

Was it you told me to make the "cookies" file read-only and hidden? Seems to work fine.

Spiritus Mundi - Guy - Congratulations and all that! I am astounded that you print those monster *Challengers* on self-service copiers - I thought at that level it was as cheap or cheaper to use the big automatic machine. At the Office Depot that Toni uses in Athens we noticed too late that 11x17 was the same cost as 8.5x11 - an odd arrangement. But they still wanted 5¢ a copy - I don't think I ever saw 1¢ a copy. Must have had some old paper to use up before it went bad...

Apparently the way Hughes plans to arrange the SFPA website the only cost will be the one-time domain name registration, but I forget how much that is.

Brokaw's *Greatest Generation* may well be overblown, I never listen to such stuff or in fact have any use at all for the word "generation" in that sense. On the societal level reproduction is *continuous*, not periodic - *generations* exist only within a given family.

I agree with you about the Ackerman collection being covered with dust - I thought he got a lot of visitors, he should just hand each ablebodied tourist one of those "dust magnets" they advertise on TV. On the way out there would be a trash receptacle and a bowl of badges saying "I helped dust the Ackermansion".

As far as I know my mimeos still work - all I need is to arrange a space to set them up. The yard-high metal shelving units I had them on in Virginia got used elsewhere, and when I went to

get some WalMart bookcases to switch in, they were out of that size. They say they will have them later, I should be able to mimeo by the end of the year.

Trivial Pursuits - *Janice* - Well, I didn't know one of the *South Park* movies was nominated for an Oscar until you told me - I pay even less attention to those than I do to Hugos. The whole idea that one artistical artifact is certifiably "better" than all others of that genre - as if we were weighing gold nuggets - seems as asinine to me as trying to decide whether a fish is better than a bicycle.

You mean *www.imdb.com* will do Boolean searches? I didn't know that! I was just over at my mother's house waiting for my sister and her ex-husband to come back from Joe's graduation but gave up about 11 after watching Vincent Price in that idiotic classic *The Tingler*.

A yellow sticker with the new address on returned mail means the forwarding order has expired, and usually says just that. I never saw *change request retired* and can't imagine what it means. You could ask at the USPS website.

Offline Reader - *Irv* - I would rather have the ivy than the ants... I've wiped out two fire-ant hills this year, one of them two feet long - I'm told it would be worse except they are also suffering from the drought.

Just from hearing my sister talk about it, I don't understand your complaint about not getting "leave" from the temporary Census job - how would "leave" be figured on a job where you set your own hours?

Missed you at the collating party, not that there was any more space in Toni's office where the collator is!

I am a little doubtful about the recommendation to "play dead" if threatened by a bear - most people could not do it, and in any case what difference would your acting ability mean to a hungry bear? I suppose in the case of a well-fed bear who just thought its young or territory were under attack it might work, but bears are omnivorous and might sample you just out of curiosity.

Derogatory Reference - *Hlavaty* - Glad to hear the broken arm is healing properly. I have never broken a bone, but lost much of the use of my right arm a few years ago for obscure reasons. It's ok now after an operation, but I have noted similar symptoms in my left arm.

I never thought of "Mongoloid" for those with Downs Syndrome as racist because when I first heard it the famous Mongols were history and it certainly didn't seem to be aimed at anyone who thought of themselves as "Mongolian" - that is a place, not a race. The explanation that victims of Downs Syndrome (before the genetic cause was discovered) look vaguely oriental around the eyes seemed reasonable to me. I saw no implication that Mongols or Mongolians were stupid.

I too was more or less an adult when I found fandom, about 23. I've never been able to decide whether this was just as well!

Twygdrasil - *Dengrove* - Good to hear from you on the Net. Nice cover illo. Apollonius of Tyana was one of those figures that I first encountered in some fantasy story and only learned later was historical.

Interesting commentary on Parmenides and Plato - reminds me of the Julian Jaynes book with its idea that early civilized man had a different sort of consciousness from ours in that he saw all subconscious ideas or dreams as being in the voice of a god.

The fan Cathy Doyle, who put on the Ditto where I was GoH, lived in Newport News, but the con itself was held in Virginia Beach. I didn't know you had tried to attend - you could

certainly have seen my books, I had no structural problems that would have banned fans over 200 lbs - Bud Webster was there several times, and the Ozannes once brought another Aussie who was a Large Person. Ken Ozanne himself may have been about 200 lbs. I had no "weak" floors - the old part of the house had 2x6 sub-flooring, and the 2-story addition was built specifically to take the load of 55-gal drums (for solar heat), which would weigh over 400 lbs each if filled with water.

My recollection is that the lore of the witch-hunt era included the factoid that each witch had been marked by Satan and that this mark felt no pain and would not bleed - thus the value of a *false bodkin* (with a spring-loaded blade that could locked in the extended position with a hidden catch) in proving that someone was a witch. But don't ask me for any references, it was something I read long ago! Oddly enough, Net searches with *google.com* and *northernlight.com* yield nothing.

I don't know that I ever said that the original Waco massacre was a conspiracy - if there was a conspiracy it was the usual internal one to try to paper over a blunder.

I had forgotten about Heinlein's dragons - what did they spew if it wasn't fire? I'm certainly not going to reread **Glory Road** to find out... That would be the advantage of a hypertext, you could just search on "dragon" and get the data without rereading such rubbish.

As you say, for the invisible man to see, either the lenses and retinas of his eyes would have to be visible (and we might not notice them), or there would have to be an unimaginably complex mechanism for the light used up in seeing to be re-emitted in the right directions. Or he might see only in infrared and ultraviolet wavelengths - we would not notice if his eyes or indeed his entire body interrupted only those parts of the electromagnetic spectrum, at least not without special instruments.

You actually learned in highschool that people could crossbreed with sheep?! Did they show any examples?

Quite right, the award scene in *The Wizard of Oz* with the Wizard passing out TQM goodies (after it has already become evident that he is not really a wizard at all) is satire. But in the original book it was done as straight Victorian moralism.

I have no confidence that Al Gore would make a "great" president, but I doubt he would do as much harm as Da Shrub.

I have read that *odd's bodkin* was a euphemized blasphemous oath, originally *God's bodkin*, perhaps chosen for the internal thyme rather than any real notion that God has a bodkin.

I think I would find it a relief to be without electricity for a while, as long as it was the part of the year that needs neither the heat nor the a/c - I could catch up on my reading, using either natural light or a battery lantern.

My father occasionally nagged me about getting a haircut, but it meant little to me - I had no strong feeling about the length of my hair one way or the other, though I always found the actual haircut process annoying.

Flatbed scanners are better because they will scan anything that will lay flat! I scanned the bottom of my old Toshiba laptop the other day, as required to participate in some class-action suit.

You could always put your father's *Franklin Gazette* collection on eBay with a \$5000 minimum and see if anyone bids!

Policemen often dress as criminals - the four cops who slaughtered Amidou Diallo were specifically assigned to dress so as to be unnoticed in the worst neighborhoods.

The story about Elian being protected by dolphins (something for which there is at least a

good bit of anecdotal data) seems more likely to me than the one about Castro consulting a *santero*, highly unlikely for an educated Marxist!

Avatar - Randy - Reminds me of when I was a kid and we had seen a *Three Musketeers* or some such movie, and got some sticks and leapt about yelling *anga! anga!* - not even knowing that the actors were saying *en garde*. Or maybe the actors had just been instructed to yell *anga....*

Nice art!

Peter Pan & Merry - Schlosser - Toni's dog Maggie loves to lick - she was even licking my pants-leg, which I thought odd. Even a dog couldn't get that much out of a cotton/polyester blend.

I think the main advantage of carpets is the sound-deadening, which means little to me as I live alone. Certainly they provide some insulation, but that means little on a floor over a basement, though it might be important on a slab.

There was some preliminary research reported this week that Viagra might inhibit macular degeneration, a significant cause of blindness - that should give the puritans a nice out!

I had no idea there were any marble caves. Sounds dangerous, you could slip on an aggie and bust your ass....

The Yucky Thing - divers hands - I was spared from the DSC oneshot by being in the Hearts Tournament the whole time. Great photos!

Marsh Creek - Hughes - In Virginia I used to hear of people hangliding off the dunes along the Virginia Beach shore. Sounds like fun!

The Sphere - Don - Well, *Cartoonopedia*[™] is more accurately descriptive of your effort than *Encyberpedia*, which might refer to any sort of electronic database. What if you could show you used it before he trademarked it?

You are probably right about lifespan - for now. Once they get to fooling around with the human genome, who knows. Too many of my friends have died in the last few years, that's for sure - Mae Strelkov, Ray Zorn, Avram Davidson, Bill Danner, Dave Hall. All of old age except Dave, who had a heart attack.

Tennessee Trash - Robe - Good to see you at the con. I don't think I ever saw Corlis except at a distance! You are right that the tables in the consuite were a good idea. If I had known there were spiders and scorpions in the rooms I might not have slept so well, but I didn't see any wild-life in my room.

Nick must be a pretty advanced reader if he can enjoy **Lizard Music**, which is classified as "young adult". The 1976 Dodd Mead edition has Pinkwater's own art, somewhat more stylized than most of his drawings.

But if all the old Birmingham fans are out of the 2001 DSC planning - who suggested to Rebecca Brayman that I be Fan GoH? Hard to imagine where she would have heard of me in media fandom. Maybe it's all George Wells' fault....

Your printer problem may not be with Adobe Acrobat but somewhere in your printer driver. I use Netscape 4 with Windows95 and have the free Reader (3.01) and a plain HP LaserJet 6L printer, and when I printed a 68-page PDF file sent as an e-mail attachment the only problem I had was a fatal error from the first page, which was a color illo. As soon as I told it to start

printing with page 2 it was happy, and zipped right through it. Hard to imagine the newer Acrobat would be worse at a simple task.

Oblio - Brown - The INS was never obligated to let the Miami relatives have Elian and they never had legal custody - to let the child be cared for by family might have seemed a good idea, but for them to refuse to give him up was a betrayal of the agreement. I don't even know that it was a good idea in the first place - it seems unlikely that he had ever seen any of them before and would probably have been just as happy in any foster home where they spoke his language.

I hope they don't send the bounty hunters after you - a guy was just killed here by an over-zealous bounty hunter from South Carolina. Apparently they had the right guy, but he was unarmed and killed shot to death trying to flee. Under the new laws the bounty hunter is in jail awaiting trial for murder - but that would be little consolation to his victim, whether he had the right middle initial or not.

You think the headline about Cardinal O'Connor delivering "hominy" was an real mistake or someone's idea of a joke? I don't know offhand if they have hominy in Indiana.

It is apparently becoming fairly common to use one or two old typewriters to enhance the decor of a home or office. I would certainly rather look at a typewriter than most modern art!

It seems to be OfficeMax and Kinko's that hassle people about whether they have the right to copy art - Office Depot seems to be indifferent. I haven't tried at Staples. But I never had anyone question me about what I copied on the self-service machines or even the automatic machine - it's the color copier they run for you that they seem to get antsy about.

The Purple Mouth Press books have been on *amazon.com* since last year sometime.

Yngvi - Toni - Well, Joe graduated and got back to Decatur and got his copy of the Son of Beach Con oneshot. His father was down from Gloucester MA for the event in a 1982 Olds he says he bought for \$1 - no a/c and the heater won't turn off, but it apparently runs ok. A headlight died and we spent two hours getting it out, the screws were rusted solid and had to be drilled out. If you send him a copy of this *Yngvi* with his cover it should go to Decatur, not to Rabun Gap!

You are as responsible for Joe being a fan as I am, I never encouraged him except in a passive way, I have no talent for it. I wasn't a fan at his age, and it was a different world then anyway. So if he turns out to be a trufan I'll take the credit and if he turns out to be a fugghead we'll blame it on you....

I enjoyed Charlotte's column, but it is really a truism to say that a David Lynch movie "is a departure for him" - has he ever made two of the same sort of movie? Again we see the error I noted last time - at least I'm fairly sure that both of the thespian *Cusack's* (Joan and John) spell it that way. Actually I see that there are five actors named Cusack in the 1997 *Golden Retriever*, and no *Cusak*.

Good letter from Harry Warner. Some versions of the Robin Hood legend have him of noble birth and cheated out of his inheritance, but I think this is relatively modern. The oldest account I have however - an 1829 rebound printing of a manuscript (M.S. FF.5. 48. Asservato Apud Bibl:uviv:cant.) so old and decrepit that it is barely in English at all - does have him expert in the use of the sword, a weapon that at that time was illegal for anyone but a nobleman to carry:

Vp then rose this prowde schereff
And zade towarde hem zare
Many was the moder son

To the kyzk with hym can fare.

In at the durre thei throlly thrust
With staves ful goe ilkone
Alas alas seid Robyn hode
Now mysse I litull John.

But Robyn toke out a two hond sworde
That hangit down be his kne
Ther is the schereff and his men stode thyckust
Thidurward wold he.

Thryes thorow at ten he ran
Then for sothe as I yow say
And woundyt many a moder sone
And xii he slew that day.

Hys sworde vpon the schireff hed
Sertanly be brake in to
The smyth that the made seid Robyn
I pray to God wyrke hym woo.

For now I am weppynlesse seid Robyn
Alasse agayn my wyll
But if I may fle these traytors fro
I wot thei wil me kyll.

There are some 88 of these quatrains given, and the story begins with our hero going into "Notyngnam Town" to go to church. So Robin was openly armed with a large sword, oddly described both as "two-handed" and "hanging by the knee" - I thought the two-handed swords were so long they had to be carried slung on the back, but I am no expert in the matter.

Speaking of houses, there is a 3-bedroom in this subdivision that has been on the market some time at \$130k. I suspect one of the bedrooms is in the basement, but it is on top of the ridge so the basement should be dry. I have asked for details and to see it - my brother is looking for something.

You and the other SFPAns better turn up at the Birmingham DSC after talking me into this Fan GoH thing!

Plonk is onomatopoeic, the sound of something being hit by the missile from a *plonker* - those toy guns that shot wooden or plastic sticks tipped with a rubber suction cup. Apparently fans slightly more technological than Walt Willis and his *ghoodminton* fought pitched battles with these things in the '50s.

I suppose it's a matter of which acts of Clinton you consider criminal - if you mean acts of governmental policy like Waco or Kosovo or campaign fund scandals or toadying to the arms manufacturers, he hardly seems more criminal than any president since Jimmy Carter. If you mean his amatory exploits (whether or not they really reach the level of being a sexual predator), I would not worry about such things in deciding whether a man was a great writer or a great

artist - is it any use to worry about them in a president?

Murray Leinster's *A Logic Named Joe* predicts the Internet very closely, but I'm not sure when it is set and I am too lazy to ferret out the anthology it's in.

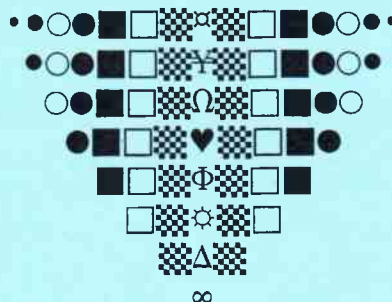
I have no confidence that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon will solve the problem of the conflict between the Arabs and the Jews - but it was still the right thing to do. There is never any guarantee that doing the right thing will produce instant gratification, but bombing civilian populations was wrong, however you look at it.

I have no idea whether conditions in Cuba are as described by Valladares in his *Wall Street Journal* article - but horror stories of homosexual rape are hardly germane to a comparison between their society and ours, as such atrocities are not unknown in our own overcrowded and ill-run prisons. The obvious solution to the Cuban problem is to drop the embargo - if "constructive engagement" is supposed to work with China, how much more likely it would work with Cuba! Or are the wingers really afraid that in open commerce with Cuba we would all become Commies instead of them rapidly swerving towards a more humane and democratic society? No - they just don't want to lose the political football.

Mikey - weber - Cute cover! If you are writing for *amazon.com* to convince us we have to have a book or CD, those aren't reviews but blurbs. Not that I have any illusions about the impartiality of most reviewers, but still.... I do not read reviews to be convinced but to get some idea of what the thing is about - usually I do not read them at all on *amazon.com* because when I log on there I already know what I want.

I have a couple of the Ransome "Swallows and Amazons" books but couldn't get into them. Had not heard of **We Did Not Mean to Go to Sea** though.

Modest Proposal - Jeff - Somehow I had imagined this had something to do with the proposed SFPA website, but now I see it is a proposed change in the SFPA constitution to protect the OE from lawsuits based on copyright infringement (and I suppose other possible issues, like libel). It had never occurred to me that such lawsuits were much more likely than being divebombed by a flying pig, but what do I know.... In the past however the OE has acted to exclude material - the proposed Section 6 would seem to make this improper, in that the OE is to act only as a distributor, not an editor. Thus, for example, if I had been elected OE on the platform of throwing out illegible zines (a real problem at the time), under this proposed change the OE would not be allowed to do that. To take another example - would the OE even be allowed to expel a member for failure to meet minac? It is always possible to get six pages by making the font and line-spacing large enough - would expelling a member for submitting only six *words* on six pages every other mailing creep over the line from "distributing" to "editing"?



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