

The New Port News  
202



A BLOOD BROTHERHOOD

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## 202 The New Port News 202

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Art by Dan Beard from **Captain Jinks, Hero**, Funk & Wagnalls 1902

**OO - Jeff** - Got the mailing on February 9. Thanks for the *Bartland's Unfamiliar Quotations* Pt.2 - you did send the first part, though it says "Commonplace Book" on the cover.

**Rear-Ender - Guy** - "Tolkein"? Humph....

**Variations - Lynch** - I wonder how the Red Cross came up with the "more than 6 months in Europe since 1980" rule? Some people probably wouldn't know, or would have to do a lot of checking. They seem to go back and forth on whether they are short of blood. I tried to donate in the late 50s and they didn't want mine then, so I haven't messed with it again.

Today's paper says that a lot of postal workers are claiming that the irradiation machines are making them ill.

I get tired of Xmas music long before the local classical station does. I have started listing to WREK-FM, the Georgia Tech student station - a lot of it is weird, but at least it's different. On Saturday at midnight they have the Church of the Subgenius *Hour of Slack*.

I was misinformed then - Jack Weaver at [fanac.org](http://fanac.org) told me that WS\_FTP was defunct. No matter, CUTE\_FTP seems to be working well.

I forget who told me that Mayhew had had brain surgery - that was the reason I noticed the news item about CJD in patients who had had dura matter from cadavers. That he could have gotten it from a blood transfusion is more worrying - those are a lot more common!

Hard to see how even a frantic guy like Guy could think that a 5-minute presentation "seemed to take hours"! I guess the Seiun Awards started after the last Hugo ceremony I saw.

Unfortunately, whether you know where your wallet is or not, Trent Lott will give some more of your money to the arms barons.

The sequence where Arwen (instead of Glorfindel, as it was in the book) rescues Frodo from the Ringwraiths did look a bit like something from *Xena*!

But in any case the LotR film was too loud, and I missed the music - though of course they might have done the music and bugged it up. But with no possibility of using electric guitars they couldn't have gone too far astray. The best adaptation of a good fantasy to film that I can think of is *The Haunting*.

**Derogatory Reference - Hlavaty** - I doubt it would have been possible to keep all the newspapers that were microfilmed. I have seen old newsprint - it's dark and brittle. But apparently some 19th-century periodicals from before the invention of pulp paper were discarded as well.

You will have to explain more about the *Human Body Parts* and *Astronomical Distances* theories of the original basis of measurements - I am not likely to get overwrought about it, but if you mean the inch and the foot (and the yard and the span), I don't see how there can be much controversy. These terms predate any practical consideration of astronomical distances, and are

rooted in practical daily matters of manufacture and construction.

**Spiritus Mundi** - Guy - You remember 1971 better than I do! I would have to drag out the mailings. Let's see - the NPN in the SFPA 24 is unnumbered, but must be #1 because NPN 2 is in SFPA 25. NPN 201 is in SFPA 225, so apparently there was one mailing without a NPN - yes, SFPA 45, which had no NPN and I only got in by means of the official postmailing that included the first issue of *Bring Back the Sun* that I did with the Hughes and Celko. The other apa I've been in since back then, Slanapa, still has several of the original members.

The danger of aluminum wiring is to the house more than to your PC. You should be using a non-interruptible power supply anyway for that - I was getting a lot of short frequent power failures here and had to get one. Now I have about 10 minutes to shut down if there is a long failure, and can ignore short glitches.

The problem with aluminum house wiring is that it has to be connected to the copper supply cable - or does the aluminum run on out to the transformer on the pole? That would be safer - if it burns up there the house will be in no danger. But at each switch and receptacle in the house, the aluminum has to connect to copper hardware. The problem with these connections between aluminum and copper is that they have to be done with a special technique. Otherwise the connection can corrode so that the resistance rises and the junction gets hot enough to cause a fire. How serious is the hazard? I don't know - your insurance company has the statistics. Keep the smoke detectors up and know where the main breaker is - wiring fires often go out when the power is cut. An extinguisher rated for electrical fires would be a good idea too.

I find it hard to believe that aluminum wiring was ever enough cheaper than copper to justify its use in house wiring, and I have never read a detailed explanation of whose bad idea it was.

See [http://www.leviton.com/institute/newsletters/home\\_electricity\\_2.htm](http://www.leviton.com/institute/newsletters/home_electricity_2.htm) - they say there that the houses built 1965-72 with aluminum wiring are 55 times more likely to have connection overheat problems than houses with conventional wiring, and that you should watch for flickering lights, dead circuits, and switch-plates that are warm to the touch.

If I was OE I would bounce anything for illegibility - the difficulty would be with borderline cases of partial legibility.

Your remarks about the Illinois death penalty case flaws being merely procedural is rather disingenuous, since the toads on the Supreme Court have ruled that those are the only flaws that can force a retrial - they say mere innocence of the crime is irrelevant to finality of conviction. The mind boggles.... I see that Scalia, said to be a devout Catholic, has taken on the Church on the question of capital punishment, saying that any Catholic judge who follows the current church opposition to it should resign.

Billboards should be eliminated as a distraction to the driver, if not for aesthetic reasons! The Georgia legislature has been debating whether those fancy ones that can change the image (by rotating motorized columns) should be allowed to change 8 times a minute rather than only 6.

Osama bin Laden may not have had any concern for his own life - at least it was reported that he was already on dialysis. Perhaps he expected to die shortly whatever we did.

My experience has been that the amazon.com discount just about pays the shipping, so that you are no worse off than if you bought the book in a store and paid sales tax - and you had to drive to the store, a big consideration in Atlanta traffic. And many books can be found used on abebooks.com not long after publication.

Randy Cassingham's *This Is True* e-mail newsletter and website have been going after the

"zero tolerance" nitwits - there's a link on my webpage. He has probably archived a good many of the reports of these idiocies.

**Twygdrasil - Dengrove** - Weird illos - is *City Paper* a comic book? Looks like old EC-style art.

Priority Mail is what the USPS calls 1st-class above a certain weight limit - SFPA could not be sent 1st class, it's too heavy.

Apparently a great pile of new URL suffixes are about to appear, I have had spam about it.

My guess is that the 1902 *Captain Jinks* book predates the song, but they may have both have had some earlier source. I haven't read this book - it opens with Jinks as an honorary colonel who has never shot anything but vermin (with "an antique fowling piece"), so I'm not sure how he gets demoted to a Captain in the Horse Marines. Skimming through I see that he seems to become an infantry captain in a parody of the war against Spain - but everything gets renamed. Cuba becomes "Cubapines", West Point becomes East Point - probably other such japes that I don't know enough history of the Spanish-American War of 1898 to recognize.

Aha - the song is much older and has nothing to do with the Spanish-American War. A google search finds a site on the origin of the word *jinx* with this:

*It was a famous vaudeville song, written and sung by William Lingard and first published in 1868. Captain Jinks was an unsuccessful soldier, who was eventually drummed out of the Army. The key verse is this:*

*The first day I went out to drill  
The bugle sound made me quite ill,  
At the Balance step my hat it fell,  
And that wouldn't do for the Army.  
The officers they all did shout,  
They all cried out, they all did shout,  
The officers they all did shout,  
"Oh, that's the curse of the Army".*

*This became all the rage, almost immediately spawning another song by Will Hays about the captain's supposed wife: Mistress Jinks of Madison Square. It grew to be a well-liked square dance tune, and a popular song of soldiers in the American Army in the decades after 1870. In 1901, the young Ethel Barrymore starred at the Garrick Theatre in New York in Clyde Fitch's melodrama of the 1870s which he called Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines; in 1902 Ernest Crosby, a friend of Mark Twain, wrote a satirical anti-imperialist novel about the Spanish-American War with the title Captain Jinks, Hero.*

And in the Crosby novel, Jinks' given name is "Sam" - which is what Crosby would probably have called his friend Sam Clemens. Perhaps they didn't agree about the Spanish-American War!

Yes, if the alarm system contract was still in force, the company should have lived up to it. The wiring may well have been fine, they would just need to change the detectors and the master control unit.

With regard to the Confederate flag flap, I never thought of myself as particularly "Southern" - I was born in Montana after all, and grew up in Chile. And in any case the whole flag worship



thing seems idolatrous to me.

I'm not sure what to believe about *aspartame* - the NutraSweet lobby may be too powerful for proper research to be funded or published.

The violent Tibetan monks in the account on my website are in a monastery in Peking. Their motivation is unclear - mere nastiness and boredom, perhaps.

As to the 1957 Chevy, the alleged beauty of it and the supposed excellence of its engineering are not likely to be much related! I know little about automotive engineering, and never had the experience of owning or even driving one - but to me it was ugly to look at. I would not expect the engineering to be much different from the other GM cars of the period.

The 20th Baron Dunsany may be the writer's grandson - I will have to look on the Net. I wouldn't be surprised to find that Castle Dunsany has a web page as a tourist attraction.

I have read that Wayne Woodard took the name "Hannes Bok" in honor of Johann Sebastian Bach. But I didn't know *Hannes* was used in German to denote an "archtypical person". I didn't know that there was a female name *Jula*.

I can imagine uses for heating pans or bed warmers in the West Indies. In New England they were used to warm beds - live coals were put in a shallow lidded metal dish on a long handle and passed between the sheets of the bed. You wouldn't want your sheets scorched or covered with soot, so these were fairly substantial tools. Perhaps in the West Indies they removed the lid and used them to stir the big cannibal pots....

I did not make a note of the source of the CD with 27 grimoires - you can probably find it with google. But would you want all those demons in your PC?

I disliked the Hildebrandt art from the start - not only is it garish, it's wooden. I am not artistical enough to say why, but to me their work looks like drawings of statues rather than drawings of people.

I love that about the seal of the demon *Guylylan* !

"Who's P. T. Olemy?" - you just haven't been paying attention! How could you forget the famous author of the immortal line "Keep your hands off my clones, you slut!" in his novel **The Clones**?

**Tyndallite - Metcalf** - I would have to start **The Ball and the Cross** from the beginning - I read some of it in a public library in Auckland NZ in 1975! Most books with God and the Devil as characters fall into the fantasy category.

I don't recall if the Avram Davidson book mentioned that he would not ride in German cars. Most Volkswagens you might ride in in the US today were built in the US - but of course it was a symbolic gesture anyway. The Gestefax I just disassembled (because it weighed 82 lbs and I couldn't budge it otherwise - it was too far gone in rust to ever go again) turned out to have been made in Western Germany and was full of German electronics, including five transformers marked "Hell".

I have the Don Grant **King - Of the Khyber Rifles** (1978), but it doesn't look like facsimile from 1916 to me. For one thing the text and the new introduction seem to have the same typesetting. And it looks quite modern - the 1916 appearance was a magazine serial, probably multi-column. The Coll artwork may well be facsimile from the magazine.

**Tennessee Trash - Robe** - Nice color photos! I go in thrift stores here but never looked at the canister sets. What a nutty idea!

Never occurred to me to look for methanol at Home Depot! There's one just up the road,

but in general, what I want, they ain't got. They don't even have a tap & die set. Maybe I will try their website. But I have never gotten the formula I heard of for making ditto juice out of methanol and ethylene glycol, and the formula you published calls for ethanol and exotic compounds I never heard of.

It occurs to me that the Dremel motor must be universal-wound and the speed could be varied with my old Variac. There is a variable-speed model on the market, but I don't know that my level of use would justify the expense.

Tolkien was a very good primitive artist. I like Tim Kirk's LotR art, and Alan Lee wasn't bad. I have a few others framed - Judy Rieniets' picture of the fall of Theoden, Stephen Hickman's of a Black Rider in the Shire, a British artist named Cauty who did a sort of composite. But no Hildebrandts!

**Frequent Flyer - Feller** - I heard the radio mumbling about LEDs, but missed that they can now emit a single photon. There is an old SF story where this is the basis some sort of device that may wreck the space-time continuum - the single photon is aimed at the two slots of the classical wave/particle experiment, and since it can't divide, something weird happens. Sheckley? Harness? Someone like that.

**Peter Pan & Merry - Schlosser** - The USPS lost your entire newsletter mailing? Did they refund the postage?

There could hardly have been a Confederate flag much before the Civil War! I am sorry to see tax money wasted on such useless panoply.

There is apparently statistical data on CJD in people whose brain surgery required dura matter from a cadaver. And a lawsuit, of course.... The news item was very brief, but it does say that there were 114 such cases documented; and that Great Britain banned the practice 12 years ago.

I don't see any great problem with using some common sense on the weapons policy in a school. There are really only two essential questions: Does this device look enough like a weapon to be a credible threat? Assuming malice and intent, is this device more useful as a weapon than a common pencil? That would pretty much eliminate the asinine excitement over charm-bracelet pistols, Tweety-Bird keychains, and 2nd-graders pointing french-fries at each other and saying "bang bang".

Come to think of it, *Young Frankenstein* may be the best adaptation ever of a science-fiction novel. Or the funniest anyway!

**Offline - Koch** - I got a nice 1983 Smith-Corona electric portable the other day, seems to work fine except the "k" sticks. Probably a little oil would take care of that.

I was in Auckland in 1975 on the way to the first Australian worldcon - the group flight was on Air New Zealand and so had a layover in Auckland. We saw Maori dancing and sheep sheering, and I went to a movie - *Rollerball*, I think.

It's not the actual brain from a cadaver that is used in brain surgery (except in *Frankenstein* movies), but the dura matter, the lining between the skull and the brain, which apparently does not have to match as to genetics or blood type. But apparently I was misinformed that Mayhew had ever had any such operation.

I wonder what Celko would think of the notion that he couldn't be "true Southern" because of his Czech ancestry.... Probably wouldn't care, I don't know that he ever thought of himself as "true Southern" - whatever that may be. The "Czech ancestry" may be as nebulous a notion, what

with hundreds of years of refugees crisscrossing Europe.

I have no idea whether Eileen Gunn is related to SF writer James E. Gunn. It isn't an uncommon surname. Probably not - Reginald notes that he had only two sons. Though of course she could have married one of them.

**The Sphere - Don** - I agree with you about *Boondocks* - considered radical enough here to be exiled from the comics page along with *Doonesbury*.

In the partially comic-strip magazine *El Peneca* that I saw in Chile in the late 1940s there was a jungle-goddess strip called *Durga Rani, Reina de la Jungla*. I no longer remember whether she had any super powers. The name "Durga Rani" is Hindu, or pseudo-Hindu, so I suppose it must have been an Indian jungle. The only other strips I remember from that magazine are one with some kids who had a vehicle that was variously a car, plane, boat, submarine, very skiffy; and another about a medieval Teutonic princess - her name has faded from my memory, but I have a vague notion that I have seen it on an old popular novel. Perhaps she was historical. We didn't bring back any copies of *El Peneca*, but a Chilean fan sent me one a few years ago - I'll run across it again one of these days.

I have seen a number of cartoons where a guy has a steering wheel around his neck - always as the result of an automobile accident. I rather doubt anyone ever survived an accident where that happened!

The tale of the brass monkey sounds a bit fishy to me. The coefficient of thermal expansion of brass is about twice that of iron (depending on the type of brass and the type of iron) - about  $0.00002/^{\circ}\text{C}$  as compared to  $0.00001/^{\circ}\text{C}$  for iron. If we take  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $=90^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) as a radical but remotely possible temperature drop, and the monkey as a yard across, then the brass would contract 0.36 inches while the iron (collectively across four cannonballs) would only contract 0.18 inches. The difference then would be  $0.36-0.18=0.18$  inches - about three times the thickness of a quarter. I bet those cannonballs got loose a lot more often from the pitching and rolling of a rough sea than from such a radical temperature drop.

**Trivial Pursuits - Janice** - Hey, you got to watch out for those terrorist attack chairs! Hope you aren't still limping.

The only thing that really bothers me is junk phone calls. The junk mail and spam are minor nuisances that I would rather put up with than risk having something important or amusing blocked. I had a Nigerian Scam Spam today from someone named *Bimbo*!

Any pen or pencil would make a better weapon than the tiny blunt-edged file on pocket fingernail clippers - it's barely possible to grasp the thing for the intended purpose, much less as a weapon.

If a terrorist is to be defined as someone targeting civilians, you would have to include most of the world's governments!

**Revenant - Sheila** - You probably know better than I do how much influence the big money has on research and publication of anything that would the Bottom Line. Last I heard, NutraSweet was a \$3 Billion/year enterprise. I haven't looked lately at the website that claims that aspartame causes abnormalities in the brain - I wouldn't understand the technical details anyway. Everything is good for you now it seems - chocolate, booze, magnets, electronic muscle stimulators.... I keep expecting them to rediscover the health benefits of tobacco!

"Brooks Books" may well have gone out of business, many have. I got over to George Hoak's shop in Stone Mountain the other day - he's been there 25 years, and the place seems fuller



every time I visit. The ceiling must be at least 12 feet up, and the books go all the way up, besides being stacked on the floor in front of the overflowing shelves.

You may be onto something with the werewolf flea - perhaps the spread of window screens and insecticides has reduced the frequency of werewolves. I've never seen one myself, that I know of.

My old LotR costume included a sword - I doubt I would have been allowed in the theater with that!

**Just a Page** - *weber* - I just got a DVD player. The "region" crap bugs me, but it seems that's only half the problem. Most of the stuff from outside Region 1 that I would want to see would be British. I got a Region 0 DVD from there, but I still can't watch it - the player is happy with it, but the TV is not as the screen formats don't match so it rolls like an old TV with the vertical sync out. Maybe you can explain this stuff to us.

And then there's the aggravation with the aggravating AT&T Broadband - they have moved the Sci-Fi Channel from 60 to 157 and neither of the TVs at my mother's house will go that high. Is this just a plot to make everyone buy a new TV or is there a technical fix?

**Oblio** - *Brown* - The amazing thing about Dave Barry's gift ideas is that they are all real.

I have been doing UPS by logging onto their website and printing out the computer-code label and then dropping the box off at any of several nearby places.

I wonder how far they will go with the irradiation of the mail - I read this week that a lot of employees say these machines are making them ill.

Yeah, the shoe-bomber looked goofy - but not Middle Eastern. I knew someone once who looked very much like that, but I don't think I knew him well enough to know if he was a goofy as he looked. He doesn't look dangerous to me, which just goes to show! I read yesterday that they had determined that there was 26 ounces of explosive in his sneakers, and they have made several test duplicates and detonated them to see what would happen.

**Can't Believe Everything** - *Copeland* - If the new "axis" is "evil" because they are working on nuclear weapons, what does that make us?

Did I send you the extra copy of *Revelation XXIII*? I guess not - there are still two of them there. I will put it in with this NPN.

Speaking of Trinlay Khadro's nonac, all I have seen lately was one post on one of the SF Net lists where she was offering some posters for sale.

The last time I looked, several copies of the little Lewis Carroll photo book were still offered on abebooks. Of course these may be entrapment offers - you order one and they arrest you! I have never seen any analysis that found anything improper in the *Alice* books however - though in 1966 a doctor named Abraham Ettleson published a decoding of **Through the Looking Glass** as Jewish theology.

**Armadillo** - *Liz* - I have seen the name Laurell K. Hamilton, but have never tried one of her books - are they anything like Tanith Lee's?

As I mention above, it should be possible to run a universal-wound motor like the Dremel's on variable voltage to get variable speed. I just discovered that for some reason the first IBM electric typewriter, the Electromatic, which has a speed control, also has a rectifier so that the motor is running on DC.

It's been so warm here that I've had ladybugs this week, including two in the house. Not as



annoying at the damn gnats!

**Guilty Pleasures - Eve** - Coked-up rhinos might climb stairs - but probably not very far before the stairs collapsed. As to the death penalty, I doubt there ever has been or ever will be a judicial system capable of applying it fairly.

I use a **Webster's Collegiate** from the 60s a lot too, and sent one to a friend in England who often asks me about US word usage.

**The Werewolf is Napping - George W** - I had no idea Verheiden was involved with *Smallville*. I've seen the listing but never watched it.

I guess at our age some floating memory confusion is to be expected - and consider the alternative (not to reach this age).... I just lost my first first cousin - I think there were fourteen of us (if I haven't forgotten any), all on my father's side of the family. My mother's one brother had no children. I was 64 on February 8th, and two days later Kern Brooke died of viral pneumonia. He was about your size, and must have been about 60 - looked like an oversize Walter Slezak. Odd that he should be the first to go - his mother is past 90, and he neither smoked nor drank.

Judging from your dizzying description, I'm glad I haven't tried to follow the Buffy saga!

My late half-Basque, half-German uncle (by marriage) was given to shouting *Ay mi mango, quien lo estaria chupando?*. I can't remember if I ever told him about *las gallinas de Corinto*, he would have appreciated that.

I was in Auckland NZ in 1975 as part of the group flight to AussieCon I, and took a walk and wandered into the public library. After I got home I ordered a copy of **The Ball and the Cross** that I had started reading there - and there it is on the shelf, glaring at me accusingly....

You are right that there must be quite a lot of people with mixed Confederate and African ancestry - this was the source of the old Southern expression about "a n\*\*\*\*r in the woodpile". Thousands of African-Americans males were lynched for supposedly raping a white woman - but I would guess if a genetic analysis of the mitochondrial DNA were done, we would find that most of the people with Confederate and African ancestry were the result of female slaves raped by their white masters.

Brad Dourif must have been hard up for cash to get involved in a *Ponderosa* prequel.... I look forward to seeing him as Grima Wormtongue in the upcoming LotR movies.

**Yngvi - Toni** - I guess you are busy! Look out for that old woodpile, that's the sort of place the Black Widow and Brown Recluse spiders like to hang out.

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Very slow here.... I finished sorting and indexing my fanzine accumulation - except for the apazines. Those are sorted but not indexed. I added the old TQM rant to the website, and I've started annotating the typewriter inventory.

I also determined - after putting Geri Sullivan to the trouble of sending me some electrostencils - that the Gestefax 451, made for Gestetner in Western Germany, had long since cut its last stencil. The traverse mechanism was rusted beyond repair. The thing contained 11 vacuum tubes and 5 transformers and weighed 82 lbs. I salvaged the tubes and scanner head and disassembled it so that I could get the pieces in the trash. The main structural casting was over a half inch thick - they don't make them like that anymore!





CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

"WHAT BUSINESS HAVE THESE PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT EQUAL RIGHTS?"