



A BLOOD BROTHERHOOD

"A BIG COMPANY TO GRAB EVERYTHING . . . THE 'BENEVOLENT ASSIMILATION COMPANY, LIMITED'"

209 The New Port News 209

Ned Brooks, 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn GA 30047-4720

770-982-5062 or nedbrooks@sprynet.com

<http://home.sprynet.com/~nedbrooks/home.htm>

Art by Dan Beard from **Captain Jinks, Hero** by Ernest Crosby
(Funk & Wagnalls, New York 1902)

OO - Jeff - Got the mailing on April 7 - bit late for the paragraph in *Miscellaneous Business* about a February 10 TAFF deadline. I hear Randy Byers just left for the U.K. as the TAFF winner.

Columbia Is Lost - Brown - And two months later we still haven't heard if anyone knows what happened, even after they recovered the "black box". But the technical details may never be confirmed - the plain fact is that space travel is dangerous. Two disasters in 113 launches may well represent the best that can be done without a radical change in technology.

Tyndallite - Metcalf - The letter from Harry Warner must be one of the last, though I probably have a LoC on *It Goes On The Shelf* 24 about the same date. His argument against computers (by which he actually seems to mean the Net rather than a standalone PC) would apply equally well to the pulp magazines!

It would seem that all the coal that might have been in a volcanic crater would already have burned. However, if I remember the process right, *coke* is made by heating coal in the absence of oxygen, so perhaps Captain Nemo could have mined coke in a volcanic crater!

It's been a long time since I read Verne's description of *cavourite*. Was it supposed to be an element? The name would fall in the convention for naming a mineral. I wasn't aware that it did repel anything - I thought it just blocked the effect of gravity. This would certainly make it *appear* to repel anything above it. As to how it could persist in nature given that property, I imagine it would be something like U-235, which has barely noticeable properties until you purify it and get a few pounds all in the same place.

If it were possible to know that a particular Hun was an ancestor of Hitler, would you be morally justified in killing him before he mated? Not in my opinion.

Variations - Lynch - But did Trinlay drop out because of some incompatibility with the apa? I got the impression that it was for personal reasons that had nothing to do with us. You are right that SFPA needs young blood.

I thought I remembered reading that the mail was being sanitized a few places with an electron beam. The heating that damages the paper would be a side effect. What happens to other things that might be in the envelope, such as a Polaroid snapshot or a credit card?

Last Minute - Hughes - Hope you had a nice time in New Zealand. You should have stopped by Lower Hutt to see Tom Cockcroft - it would have made his day, and his collection should be worth seeing.

I did my taxes as usual with TurboTax, which is not too bad though it wouldn't let me file electronically for some obscure reason.

Gremlin - Brown - Nice zine on something I know very little about! I keep getting e-mail from people who want me to supply them with a machine to do mimeo - I point out that while there are lots of machines around, there is no longer a reliable source of stencils and ink. I sent a tube of Gestetner ink and some electrostencils to a lady in Vancouver who wanted to try out a stencil-burner she had found, a Gestetner Model 1100.

Twygdrasil - Dengrove - Fascinating account of "Psalm magic"! I wonder if John Ashcroft has a copy - he's said to anoint himself with oil! I have a copy of *Abramelin*, but I had never heard of this one.

Did the Ayatollah Khomeini know your mother was sketching him? I thought the strict Islamics took seriously the prohibition against the making of "graven images".

I don't doubt there have been repressed memories - the problem was with trying to uncover them. In the first place, they may be better forgotten, and in the second place the therapists were creating by suggestion distressing memories of things that had not happened. I know that parts of my memory are missing because I have no recollection of things that I wrote about at the time - but they were not "repressed" in the sense that it would distress me to remember them. At least from what I wrote at the time, nothing at all distressing occurred.

I never cared for most 60s rock, but I did not cast aspersions on the humanity of those who liked it.... I am a little doubtful about anyone who doesn't like *Carmina Burana* or Mozart's 40th Symphony!

Dubya's logic seems to have been something on the line of "Saddam's weapons of mass destruction are *so* evil and dangerous that we have to invade Iraq and see if we can get him to use them" - so far (as of mid-April), zilch.

Has the question of whether all FreeCell games are winnable been resolved? There used to be a website about it, but I haven't looked lately. Dale Speirs played several thousand and decided it was always winnable, just on that basis. I am past 3300 (a little over 10%) and haven't found one yet that I didn't beat eventually. I play it while waiting for the slow modem.

John Guidry sent me the latest five news items on the Norwood murder case. There seems little doubt that the two men arrested are guilty (though perhaps not to exactly the same degree) of both the murder and the bank robbery. They are now arguing about whether to seek the death penalty, and whether to have a change of venue because of publicity, and the case seems likely to drag on for a long time.

There is an enormous website run by a German in Canada that probably has both the words and the music (as a MIDI file) to *Green Grow the Rushes*.

The map book you remember must be J. B. Post's *An Atlas of Fantasy* - it is not rare, you will find a lot of them at used.addall.com. There is a revised edition.

Peter Pan & Merry - Schlosser - I think in general "repressed memory" refers to something so awful that you don't want to remember it - this of course is un-Darwinian, as you are more likely to be able to avoid things you remember as unpleasant.

I had not heard about the arrests for "glass pipes" - Ashcroft apparently sees himself as the Grand Inquisitor!

Frequent Flyer - Feller - Good luck with the new house! Of all the music you mention, the only one I always enjoy hearing is Grieg's *Peer Gynt*.

Spiritus Mundi - Guy - Gah, you look awful! Tell us all about Down Under. I hope the hypnosis works.

The case of the undercover cop who killed the kid in Buckhead drags on with little progress - ever so often there's a blurblet in the paper. Reminds me of the Jon-Benet Ramsey thing, except that there is no doubt about who dunnit.

I rather doubt any SFPazine has been composed as far south as Melbourne, but just to be safe you could go to Hobart Tasmania. I don't know any fans there now - Keith Curtis was said to be there, but the zine I sent him bounced.

Joe has his own apartment now - still in the same zipcode. He seems to have lost interest in fandom.

We were supposed to see *The Two Towers* when my niece came down from Massachusetts, but she hasn't yet and it's no longer showing here. I will get the DVD.

LeGuin's **The Telling** is excellent SF once you get past the dismal first 30 pages - I guess LeGuin is too famous to get edited. I would have thrown the first 30 pages in the trash and let the story start when Sutti gets on the riverboat.

The first fan club I was in, the Fellowship of the Purple Tongue, had a flag, but there weren't enough of us for a marching band.

Yeah, we'll miss Harry Warner. I accumulated e-mails about his demise and sent the file to Langley Searles, who is only marginally online. If this apazine runs short I may put bits of them here.

The Sphere - Don - I think Boy George Dubya is "under control" - of the right-wing imperialist junta.

Spam does seem to have increased, but it is nowhere near half of the hundred or so e-mails I get every day. A lot of the Nigerian scam (now seeming to come from many other parts of the Dark Continent - has anyone ever gotten any useful or enlightening e-mail out of Africa?), the weight-loss, the penis-enlargement, the breast-enlargement, the as-seen-on-TV gadgets, and of course the anti-spam softwares.

I always thought that it was called *duct* tape because at one time it was used on the joints in air-conditioning ducts. I have a lot of that in my basement, but the joints are sealed with a metallic tape, not duct tape. The stuff does leave a nasty gooey residue.

Harry Warner - Lynch - Nice tribute. I met James Avery once, he showed me his Fictioneers edition of **The Black Flame**. His son was co-editor on my first genzine - and then vanished, never to be seen in fandom again. Years later he dropped by and gave me an account of his adventures as a reporter. But I never had any talent for getting contributions to a genzine, and settled for doing it all myself, except for the artwork.

Oblio - Brown - The "Amber Alert" legislation looks like another layer of expensive bureaucracy to me. What's worse, it has become a showboat carrying subversives with these two irrelevant amendments:

- The rave provision would make building owners liable for their tenants' and customers' activities. For example, even if they instituted excellent security precautions, restaurant, bar, nightclub, dance and music venue owners could all be fined hundreds of thousands of dollars and forced into bankruptcy if a customer sneaked in drugs. No matter how much security is put in place, they could be held responsible for the actions of just one customer.

- The federal sentencing provision would require the Justice Department to report to Congress every time federal judges use their discretion to impose a lower sentence than recommended under federal sentencing guidelines. This would intimidate judges and prevent them from using their judgement when handing down sentences.

The cartoon cover I borrowed from the old Australia newspaper no doubt reminds you of the Harold Lloyd silent film comedy where he continually pretends to almost fall off a skyscraper.

I have watched some of *SpongeBob SquarePants*, but it didn't do much for me. I prefer *Courage the Cowardly Dog*.

Revenant - Sheila - Yeah, *Schrödinger's Zine* would be a good title - especially if your name was Schrödinger and you had access to umlauts. But you would have to be careful not to send it to anyone with a cat.

I wonder how the inane Patriot Act defines a "librarian" or a "book store" - I live in a my own library and sell the occasional tome over the Net, am I subject to these tyrannical rules?

Trivial Pursuits - Janice - I think the anti-French thing is always lurking just below the surface, so that it doesn't take much to bring it out. Else why the French particularly, when the rest of Europe is also against Dubya's War?

California is apparently more cyberized with respect to mortgage affairs than Georgia - after waiting three months, I had to drive halfway across the megapolis only to find that the lawyer had moved and hadn't told me - his office was just an empty room. Fortunately there was a paper taped to the door giving the new address, not more than a mile away on the same hideous LA-style commercial rat-run.

The LibertyCon/DSC motel is not in any city at all, it's at an I-75 exit on the Georgia/Tennessee line - I looked it up. The mailing address would apparently be East Ridge TN, a southern suburb of Chattanooga. But they seem to be very successful - I have had notices that the main motel is booked solid and they are directing people to overflow motels at the same exit.

Hard to believe there were *no* Asians in the US Civil War - it's like saying there were *no* blacks in Concepcion Chile in the 40s. There was one - he ran a fancy candy store on the central plaza.

Then and Now - weber - I am not a structural engineer, but I have never heard of an aircraft fuselage failing because of a bullet hole. I am familiar with the Prince Rupert drop phenomena, though I have never actually seen one - the drop shatters when the tail is broken because of the brittleness of the material and the high surface tension. Something similar occurs with tempered glass - at the windtunnel we had a yard-wide, 2-inch-thick pressure window turn to rubble overnight with no load on it. The people who sat in front of it to run the tunnel with a 4 psi pressure load pushing it towards them found this a little disconcerting. 4 psi doesn't sound like much, but the total load on that window was well over a ton. For safety reasons this window is double - there's a space and then another 2 inches of glass.

George P. Burdell graduated from Georgia Tech just a year after my father. I think I have gotten the name confused before.

Looking forward to the tape - perhaps I will get it in time to serve as distraction during the

mailing of *It Goes On The Shelf* 25.

I think most of Joan Aiken's books can be enjoyed by adults as well - one of the best books I've read lately is her collection **The Faithless Lollybird** (Doubleday 1978), an ex-lib copy found at the Last Chance Thrift Store.

Avatar - *Cleary* - What in the world would you do with 120 knives? All different I suppose. Easier to store than my 200 typewriters, I suppose! You are probably no likelier to stab 120 people than I am to write 200 novels....

Tennessee Trash - *Robe* - My guess is the war will last long enough for Boy George Dubya to use it to get himself re-elected.

I am no geologist, so I wouldn't know what the soap-like substance in an African volcano is - probably a mud from some mineral that occurs in slippery platelets. But why is the temperature low? The altitude? A glacier?

Yes, when we were in Chile it seemed that the radio announcers spoke very fast, but at least they were speaking Castellano, the supposedly Castilian Spanish of Chile. I have watched Mexican TV here and it's much worse.

Guy threatens to produce a SFPazine from Down Under, way south of any place in the US. I published a zine there in 1975 - it was typed onto stencil on the train between Sydney and Melbourne, and run off in Melbourne on a portable Roneo loaned me by the AussieCon chairman, Bill Wright - I bought goldenrod mimeo paper in a shop under the con hotel.

Your church can only have grape juice because of modern technology - in Palestine at the time of Christ, any fruit juice not consumed immediately would begin to ferment, as they had neither pasteurization nor refrigeration. I am not at all clear on whether what the common people drank as "wine" was anything like the strained and filtered 12% alcohol product we call wine. A reference book I have says that wine and beer making was a great popular sport in Biblical times and that anything that would ferment was fair game.

Hello Kitty - *Copeland* - You really think the invasion of Iraq was a the "right thing"? In my opinion even if it appears to be successful - it was wrong. Many bank robbers have been successful, in that they got away with the loot. The Klan was successful for years at suppressing the blacks.

Sushi-gummi is it. I had sushi once, and that was once too many. I'm not much of a candy eater either - chocolate occasionally.

The self-closing doors at the wind-tunnels where I worked were not well maintained - some were very old and parts no longer available, and others had new cheap closer mechanisms that were crap - they would have done better to figure out how to repair the old brass ones. But modern interior hollow-core doors don't slam well anyway - they are too light compared to the air resistance. I did put a spring hinge closer on the door at the bottom of the basement steps, cheap enough and works pretty well.

Sure it would be nice if Iraq were a democracy - it would be nice if I could pull gold coins out of my ass too, and about as likely. Have you noticed that there is no Islamic democracy, and never has been? I think the reasons for this are historical - the Islamic culture has had neither a Reformation nor an Enlightenment.

How could anyone but James Joyce himself tell whether a proof of **Finnegans Wake** was "correct"?

Insert Dignified Title - George - Why - have you ever had a dignified title? The first title of yours I remember is *Sick Elephant*! Not that I have any great use for dignification....

Sorry to hear about your cat. Everyone seems to have a pet but me - I suppose I could claim the turtles that I have pictures of in my yard, but I haven't seen them lately. A Box Turtle lives a long time though and there's not much around here that would bother one, so they are probably still there somewhere.

I don't know why you think women don't wear propellor beanies. The one I have was made by Cindy Heap and I seem to remember seeing her wearing one. It's true that only boys seem to wear them in cartoons.

If I were a therapist I would recommend that patients watch *Courage the Cowardly Dog*, *South Park*, *Candy*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Black Cat* until they felt better.

I haven't checked for *Queen Kong* lately either. I scanned one of the poems from the book for a bad poetry fan on one of the Net lists. I bet the poetry isn't in the movie at all, I think it was put in the book as padding when someone told them that a pb had to be a certain thickness so there would be room on the spine for the title.

The DSC motel is apparently over-booked as of early April. I had a vague notion of going, but it faded away in the light of reality.

I will have to look King Clave up on the Net, maybe I can hear a sample of his efforts. I like some Spanish singing - I have tapes of old Chilean records of *Penjamo* (a sort of Mexican analog of *Big Rock Candy Mountain*) and *Roque y Luterio*, a tragic tale of a lady with one too many boyfriends.

If the CATscan found nothing wrong with your brain they probably need to get it recalibrated.... Have you ever heard the intro to the Church of the SubGenius radio show *The Hour of Slack*? "Do people think you're strange? Do you? If so, you may be on the right track!"

Did you bang your head? I had a sore spot on the part of the head between the eyebrow and the ear for several weeks - but I knew why. I had laid a Vice-Grip on a shelf level with that part of my head and it sprang open as they will do, and flew off the shelf and whanged me in the head. And I had spots all over my left forearm, from hacking the holly bushes away from the back of the house. Fortunately I am not allergic to holly and there was no infection and the spots have pretty much faded now.

You needn't tell Guy I said so, but I don't think he ever looked as good as Lon Chaney Jr. Hard to say about Lon Chaney - I don't remember what he actually looked like, and most of us look better than most of his 1000 faces!

Armadillo - Liz - Good luck with the surgery! The pollens hit a record high here, but I wasn't much bothered - apparently it's mostly pine pollen and I'm not sensitive to that. The azaleas and dogwood are in bloom, whoopy-do. I do not weed, except that I did pull some onion-like things out of the juniper ground cover across the front of the house. Other than that I just mow over it, or, in the case of the giant dog fennel, let it grow. Life is too short.

Yngvi - Toni - That cover looks like Cthulhu after too much to drink at a Christmas party! I had not heard of "the right to be published", though these days in the US anyway "freedom of speech" is almost the same thing, what with a copy shop on every other corner. I never thought there was any right to be published in hardcover and overpriced at Barnes & Noble!

I don't know that the Liberals have any corner on stupid *ad hominem* attacks - it was the wingers who ranted about how "ugly" Chelsea Clinton was, when there was no possible excuse

for attacking her at all.

Sounds like Hank will make a good Muslim! He will have to choose whether to be Sunni or Shiite. I am not really clear on whether he has to grow a beard.

I can believe that since you are across the county line from Athens you would have a problem with pizza delivery and the fire department - but you are on a main highway. Why wouldn't you get mail delivery? Or is it just that they will only deliver to a box on the highway? The box would probably get run down ever so often. In Virginia I had a box on the porch, here it's at the curb. But on a dead-end street with little traffic.

When I took a course in Probability & Statistics I was told that the rule of thumb was that the number of samples needed for meaningful statistics was 30. So 113 Shuttle launches is well into the range where statistical analysis is appropriate, as long as the samples are sufficiently close to identical, and independent.

So are the mines we have scattered over the Earth (but only where the lesser races have to walk and farm) Weapons of Mass Destruction? I would guess they have killed and maimed more innocent people than all of the chemical and biological and nuclear weapons put together. That they go off only one at a time is of little comfort to the victims.

