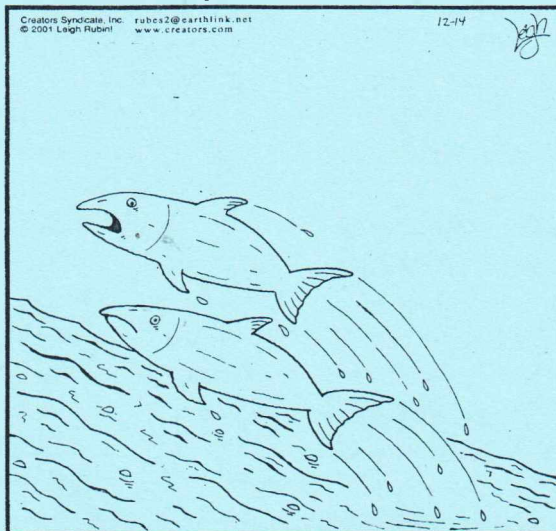


PAN AND M
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RUBES / Leigh Rubin



"My wife would kill me if she ever caught me spawning with anyone else. But since I'm gonna die anyway, it's kind of a 'win-win, lose-lose' situation no matter how you look at it."

PETER, PAN & MERRY #44

A zine for SFPA # 228

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Come and Tarry on SFPA 227

Southerner – RAEBNC,

Norm Metcalf – Ct Jeff: In thinking about *Enterprise*, I’m reminded that TNG was on pretty shaky grounds its first season and that the new show, while not A1 yet, is still ahead of that pace so I expect things will improve as it hits its stride. // Ct Guy: *Forbidden Planet* is a science-fictional movie, but not science fiction? You’re saying that it’s like an SF story, but isn’t because it’s not in written form? I can still only disagree, SF is the message, not the medium. A mystery movie is no less a mystery for not being in written form. // Ct me: I wasn’t saying that batteries were anything but a theoretical proposition in Verne’s time. I was saying that batteries based on sea water – especially producing the sort of power the Nautilus would need – would have been only very theoretical at that time. // Ct Sheila: If you’re defining SF as “a literary means of expressing imaginative ideas”, then you are including all forms of fiction writing in that set and defining SF only by it’s medium of expression rather than it’s ideas. It just doesn’t fly.

Ned Brooks – Ct Guy: The catch with “kiddy porn” is that it doesn’t have to involve “aggravated child abuse” (or any “child abuse”, per se). We have some pictures of my son and two of his friends cavorting naked in the sprinklers from a few years ago. Is that kiddy porn? I suppose it could be argued that any picture that involved specifically posing the child in the nude or in a provocative pose involved abuse but you still have something of a fuzzy line there. // Ct me: “In a battery electrical power is stored by means of a reversible chemical reaction but nothing is consumed...” Not true. Something has to be “consumed” in the release of the stored power otherwise there would be an unlimited supply of power available. The change may only be in the ionic state of the elements involved but that’s still consumption of the reactants. Hydrogen + Oxygen going to water is still a reversible chemical reaction. // There are, of course, plenty of producers of grass-fed beef around, although most don’t produce enough to compete for the burger chain business and tend to go after the higher end market for steaks, burgers, etc. // Used or not, I can only say that some of the old wiring in this house did have cloth insulation.

Richard Dengrove – Ct Ned: It was recently ruled that (given a not guilty plea) only a jury could impose the death penalty, not a judge. But that aside, as there are generally sentencing guidelines for every case I don’t think any judge would have to pass a litmus test of being required to levy the death penalty. The only issue would be if an appellate judge were to consistently overrule death sentences. // My Webster’s New World shows no such old usage of cotton as increase. On the other hand, I did notice that Cotton Mather’s grandfather was named John Cotton. So it looks like he may have been named for his granddad. Even if I still prefer my original idea. // Seeing as most nurses work in places other than MD offices, I don’t see how doctors could be keeping down their salaries. Hospital administrations can do that but doctors don’t have that much involvement there. // There was no question about “to treat or not to treat” with my sciatica attack. It was “to treat or not to move”. Yeah, theoretically I could have left off without the physical therapy and let it heal on its own, but that wasn’t much of an option from where I was trying to stand.

Twygrove - Why would having Magen Davids decorating synagogues make them close to being a holy symbol? It can be a symbol of the religion without being holy. // My reasoning is that, being of Norman origin, Lancelot du Lac would be from France/Gaul and not Britain. Thus his lake would not be the same as the one related to the Lady of the Lake and Arthur. // I don't see how Congress could eliminate the Supreme Court as the Judicial Branch is specifically enumerated in the Constitution. Congress could initiate an amendment to that effect but I wouldn't bet on it's chances. // Yes and no. A reading 100x higher would be "definitive" for hepatitis but the damage has to start at some point so even a relatively slight elevation in your liver enzymes could be the first symptom of hepatitis, thus making your blood unsafe. Only further testing would prove or disprove this and the cost would start getting prohibitive. // Those SF flans were arrested and taken into custody. // Ct Gary B: I have a recollection of that MAD parody of The Alamo. I think the kicker was getting everyone who put out 5 hour movies. // Ct Janet: The Oslo accords gave the Palestinians a large chunk of autonomy. Any recent loss of that autonomy has been in response to a rather large wave of attacks on civilians within Israel. / I think it's less the terrorist attacks than are "making" Israeli policy than it is the support and encouragement of the various organizations in PA territory (Hamas, etc). I think if were clear that a given person really had acted alone and was condemned by the PA, Hamas, etc then the reaction of Israel to it would be different.

Richard Lynch - I may have missed it but I don't think you said why that might be your last postcard diary. // Ct me: I wasn't being screamingly serious in suggesting seeding the atmosphere with microscopic plants. // That might make for a interesting collection - how many places have you given blood in.

Janice Gelb - I can think of at least one reason for the belief that kids were toxic: Aren't all industrial level fuel sources (or their by-products) toxic? (Reference coal, gas and nuclear power) How to explain that without monkey-wrenching the movie is another matter. // Ct Guy: "Evidently in court, she was found to be under heavy GUY..." Absolutely no need for me to comment on that. // Ct me: I suppose there are a few other stadiums out there that have (or have the potential to have) problems with their corporate names or major advertisers. // Got to remember that the 2005 Worldcon will (presuming) be August 4-8. Time to start saving \$\$\$. As for the "conflict" you could probably count on the fingers of one hand the number of fen who would even be aware of the conflict, let alone affected by it. // Ct Sheila: I'm hoping the rumors about the Scouring of the Shire are wrong. I suppose it's not truly required but it shows such a growth in the hobbits that losing it would be a shame.

Guy Lillian - Congrats to Rosie on her successful job hunt. Is Thibodeaux in the same direction that you commute or do you have to go separately? // So, which of the possible "obvious nicknames" of the paper is she sure about? // Ct Richard D: Yeah, now that you mention it there was a fair amount of soft (and often frivolous) porn around in the late '60s and '70s. The Ted Mark books, the Coffee, Tea or Me set, some scifi one's were all on the general reading shelves. // I agree that there's nothing in the Constitution and Bill of Rights that limits those rights to American citizens. In fact, the limiting of rights in those ways diminishes the value of the lofty goals they represent. // Ct me: Heartworm is pretty easy to test for so I don't see why they didn't just do so and rule in (or out) certain treatment options. (Treating for heartworm is tricky and not highly successful.)

Guy Monday - The problem with not accepting W's presidency based on how result was achieved is that it begs the question at this point of just what to do. He's not impeachable for it and there's no other method for redress. I certainly think the Court's decision was wrong and that the disputed ballots should have been recounted as per Florida law but that, in itself, doesn't delegitimize the result as it may have stayed the same. But the point comes back to what should the people do about it? It was a bad start and he "capitalized" on a disaster to invoke bad policies and that's something we can do something about this Fall and in 2004. // I had intended to spare you the examples of the punoff, but since you insist:

Category: Household appliances

I bought this container to open in case I ran out of ideas this evening – a Can O'Punner.
My friend Richard Bloom was running for office and we put up signs – Elect-Ric Bloom

Category: U.S. Presidents (just a few of them)

I have a bouncer friend. There's this woman who'd come to the bar and get drunk so he'd have to
Cart-er out of there.

It's cold. I better out my long Johns-on.

My friend Howard needed a loan. So I-sent-Howard some money.

It's True, man.

The fabric store has a big selection. Aisles of silk, Rows of felt...

After winning the lottery all sorts of relatives started bugging me. I couldn't make M'kin-leave me
alone.

My dad was going to split the property up but we told him, "You can't Cleave land like that."

Satisfied? There's more where those came from. // Ct Gary: Ned's IGOTS is written entirely by him, no matter whether intended for SFPA or not. Challenger is not entirely yours as the articles are by various people. As such there is a difference in how the pages should be counted. As for the egoboo poll, I view that as an entirely different question than that of page count eligibility. // Ct Janice: I'd like to know where "in scripture" heaven is limited to 144,000 souls. For one thing there's no mention of heaven in the Torah or Tanakh so any reference would have to come from Christian texts (which would, of course, shoot down your argument that Jesus had lifted that limitation). // Ct mike: Re Sherman's march. Even if the gamble (shorter war, less overall pain) didn't work, you can't judge it based on the hindsight of what happened but only on the information that they had to work with then. // Ct Jeff: As you did with Bridget, the OE can act on content *after the fact*. But to censor zines ahead of time is impractical at the very least.

Self – Natter updates. Dog: Not arthritis as that med wasn't doing much, must weak back legs. The daily insulin isn't quite as good as the twice daily, but is certainly easier on being given. So far he seems happy enough. Kay's brother: She and her sister went down just after Memorial Day and got some of the stuff dealt with or started on. The met some of Jim's friends and sorted through his stuff, much of which has come to us for use or disposal (not that there was a whole lot)...including a nice massage table that I've been using recently and a box of books. Further stuff will have to wait for regular natter.

Irv Koch – Nice to see that Myriad is still a going concern.

Gary Brown – Condolences on your cousin's passing. // Getting old's a bitch. Although a few years older than your dad, mine has been going through lowered mobility for the last few years too. Overall however he can still get around OK, lend a hand around the house and is as mentally sharp as ever. // Amazingly I agree on the Spiderman movie. As the only "expert" in the family, I got to praise it's truth to the characters to Kay and Random. And yeah, if I had to pick a "thing I didn't like" it would have been the Goblin's mask. Still, that's a pretty minor complain IMO. // Ct me: Given that Florida mail is being given "special treatment" by the USPS, I guess we can just be glad that you aren't OE at this time. // I think the question that will never be determined (or at least not admitted to) was whether the spy plane had crossed into Chinese air space. That the Chinese pilot had hot-dogged it too much seems a given no matter where our plane was. // "...I wonder if they know who THEIR spies are, much less those of our enemies." That could also be the same people. // Ct Sheila: Why would promoting the next two LotR movies be a hard proposition? The first did well and thus there's a built-in audience for the rest of the series.

Steve Hughes – Ct me: Well, risk from your fund manager playing games with your allotment strikes me as "cheating" in saying that retirement funds in a Money Market are "at risk". A fund with a guaranteed fixed return (albeit usually low) seems as non-risky as you can get with your money – whether in a retirement fund or not. // He may tire of ju-jitsu at some point (although he does have a contractual, 1-year commitment to three hours per week at this time) and options for dealing with that will be what they will be – time off, changing disciplines, adult classes, have to see when it happens. // Ct Jeff: I bet all the methods you could come up with for taking over an airplane involved somehow getting into the cockpit, right? Block that option and I can't see any way to do it.

Jeff Copeland – What a waste of a vacation. Hopefully your mom's ribs are now decently healed up. // It'd been a while since I read Sum of All Fears, but my biggest problem with the story was that I had to try and reconcile a roughly Red October-aged Jack Ryan with a plot for much later in his life. Overall though I don't think they did that much damage to the plot. // Ct Aruthr: "seminal cultural event" "a vas deferens" My, aren't we getting a little testes about this? // Ct me: I just don't know that it'd be possible (or at least reasonably feasible) to design a building – particularly a skyscraper – that could withstand every possible disaster scenario. It sounds almost like trying to idiot-proof every product on the market. // Pardon, but there are no new kibbutzim on the West Bank. Settlements/communities, yes. Kibbutzim, no. // Everyone's point where "plop" turns into boredom is different. Not to mention what is included in "plop" vs what is an activity. The main thing is the availability of that non-plop time. // I was being slightly tongue in cheek about renewing 24 for a second season. After all, the title 48 Hours is already in use. // Ct Janice: BCS = Bowl Championship Series. And, as it's not done as a series anyway the names is even an oxymoron.

T.K.F.W. Reinhardt – I find zero viable analogy in Pat Gibbs comparison of the Elian Gonzalez case the his hypothetical returning of a Jewish child at the demand of the Nazi government.

APAC = NC² (Natter x Comments)

We got a call (well, several) back in May – about a week after we heard the news about Bruce. Seems that Kay's brother Jim was killed in a one-vehicle accident at the Bay Bridge. She's spent the several days on the phone a lot with her sister (who came out to help with "stuff"), and the police, coroner, cremation facility and CHP trying to get all the ducks in a proper row before she and her sister went down there after Memorial Day.

As usual, you find out more about people afterwards. In the midst of this, we got a call from a friend of Jim's who saw the notice in the paper and had been given contact information as a just-in-case. Among the things Kay found out from this friend (and others, at the wake): Jim, who lived across from a local park, tended to find and collect lost items (plastic toys, balls, gloves, etc). He was a regular at the local pub but never stayed particularly late or drank much. Once while smoking with his friend Dave had, what appears to have been, an epileptic seizure of some sort. That recently, he'd had some episodes of losing vision in his right eye and of lack of strength in his right hand. (That made us think may have had a stroke while driving which would explain the accident.)

In any case, while that week was difficult in some ways, it was provided some bonding for Kay and Irene – who, per Kay, spent more time together than at any time since Irene left for college. It also had its lighter moment or two – like discovering that Jim had a massage table in his apartment (he'd bought it "for" a friend so he could get massages). And, of course, we owe a debt of gratitude to Philip and Elizabeth for being willing to put up with two guests on such short notice. And, over Father's Day weekend, Kay will be flying back to Michigan for a family memorial service and, probably, have some sort of short service of her own here as well.

One thing we didn't do was cancel our previous plans for the holiday and simply included Irene in our Memorial Day BBQ and party. It went very well, with several full families attending. The only real down part was that, after some croquet, the kids decided that whacking the balls and mallets was just too much fun and we ended up having to order replacements for 2 balls and 4 mallet-heads that were just plain mutilated. Last time for that.

Other than that, life goes on. Random will be graduating 5th grade this month and moving on to Middle School in the Fall. More on that when it happens. Massages come and go but I seem to slowly be building a few regular clients. Regular work is nothing to write home about. Our new staffers are working out well – including one who's avocation is as a musician and has just self-issued his first CD – a paean to the high gas prices in Eureka. (As at least one song has been on NPR's Car Talk, some of you may even have heard it.) This has allowed some interesting schedule mutations to come into being – I get one Friday off each fortnight, the other Friday is a midmorning shift, and my weekends are now day shifts. That latter is a problem from some aspects of how it affects my usual plans, but it's great from a lot of other aspects.

It's also the season for the house to develop chicken pox as I scrape and sand off any flaking paint and feather in the bare spots with primer/sealer prior to redoing the paint. Still, at least I can do this in bits and pieces without the place looking like too frightful a mess.

Oh, we have all now seen both SpiderMan and Attack of the Clones. The former (as with X-Men) is a wonderful adaptation of the origin and invokes Spidey's archetypal enemy (the Green Goblin). The mood, characters and plot are really good and it's just a really fun and good movie. SWII is a solid installment in the series with reasonable action while moving the character development and overall story arc along nicely. If it doesn't hold up as well as Empire Strikes Back, it's because we know where he has to get to by the end of the next film. Both will be worthy contenders next year.

What wonders did June bring to us?

Well, the highlight was at the end when we took a long weekend and traveled down to the Bay Area to spend some time at the Oakland estate of Elizabeth Jenkins and Phillip Saunders. The drive down was actually quite lovely – if a bit warmer than any of us is really used to any more. (Not to say that I couldn't very easily get used to it.) For a change, Kay drove the first part of the trip and took us along the 30+ mile Avenue of the Giants prior to rejoining the freeway. I was a bit puzzled at first as, when we changed roads, Kay said she wanted to show Random "Hobbiton" – which is in Phillipsville and the full length of the Avenue away. But she actually just wanted an "excuse" to drive the route. For those of you who haven't been in the area, Avenue of the Giants is a) the old highway to Eureka and b) a route that runs closely through numerous redwood groves. Well maintained, not screamingly slow to drive and rather prettier even than the freeway through the hills and forests. As per usual we stopped for our picnic lunch and leg stretch at the park in Willits before pushing on with an easy and routine drive the rest of the way.

That evening, at Random's request and with Philips consent we got involved in a game of Solarquest (call it interplanetary monopoly) which we conceded to the kid at about 11pm. It's quite clear to me that – despite his protests – he really likes long and complex games and I rather wish we were still in L.A. where he could learn the joys of the games weekend (if they're still being held).

Saturday morning was mostly quite as we prepared for our separate journeys – Kay & Elizabeth to the Legion of Honor museum (of art) and the guys to the Coliseum for a rousing gladiatorial contest between the Bay Area Behemoths – the Giants and the A's. Our trip there was rather interesting as a) the BART train was rather more crowded than usual ((the line goes right across the street from the stadium)), b) we were herded over the walkway from the BART to the stadium and then c) had to go all the way from behind right-center to behind home plate to reach the Will Call window and then back to dead right field to get to our seats. Good exercise that.

Our seats were top level in straight-away right and, amid keeping Random from reinitiating his sunburn, we were able to see a really good game (except that the Giants won). There was a homer hit just below us and the first Oakland reliever was a true submariner (good too) which Phillip and I found fascinating (as well as having to explain it to a person or two). The trip home was even more fun as we had to travel with the herd (a real one this time) back across to the BART station. I was impressed by the presence of police to control the crowd and keep the actual train platforms from getting too crowded. And we were even able to get up and take the first appropriate train after our arrival.

Dinner that night was specially prepared by Madame Elizabeth in honor of the young sir's imminent birthday (July 1 he turned 11). Leg of lamb, au gratin potatoes, sautéed pea pods & onions and chocolate cake. Truly a meal fit for a prince. Almost better than that, for him, I think, was getting to play a game of Iron Dragon ((Empire Builder in a fantasy world for you games buffs)). By a total fluke, Phillip was wiped out in the first 15 minutes and Random and I played part of the night and returned in the early morning to finish. He did really well and may have won if he didn't have a tendency to working too far ahead of the current situation. Having found the company's address (web and otherwise) I think an order is going to get itself placed in the near future.

Later that morning it was off to The Lighthouse for a spot of brunch while overlooking the marina. Really a quite superior experience food, atmosphere and staff wise. Even worth the semi-excessive price (I shouldn't complain it wasn't that much per person) (we were treating as a thank you). The afternoon (after dropping Elizabeth off at work) was spent at the Exploratorium in SF where we could all wander and play with the science gadgets at will.

Coming back – in order to avoid having to push through the Gay Pride Parade to reach the freeway – we killed a second bird with that stone by crossing the Golden Gate Bridge and – again – taking the Richmond Bridge across the Bay and back to Oakland via the near-great circle route. The rest of the evening was mostly relaxing time and doing a bit of repacking. That packing included getting the last of Kay's brother's stuff into the car to come back with us (or boxed up to ship to her sister). So that part's done but there're still a few things she has to clear up (primarily regarding his bank account and the impounded property on the truck)

Monday, with our hosts having early work days, we hit the road at a reasonable hour and made marvelous time northward in the gorgeous, sunny weather. The traditional stop at Trader Joe's in Santa Rosa afforded us a lovely selection of prepared lunches to choose from as well as some just plain fun in walking through the store. Next stop, Real Goods in Hopland for another 45 minutes or so of interior window shopping prior to eating our picnic at the tables they provide (not to mention the shade and generally great atmosphere). No surprises the rest of the way. A quick gas stop and another rest stop for some drinks before the final push home.

And things at home were wonderfully fine. We'd had some trouble arranging for critter care since our regular kennel wouldn't take Corky now that he needs shots (about ½ of the ones in the area have that policy). I'd found and reserved him a space at a kennel about 15 miles away when I had the *Eureka* moment of realization that there was, indeed, one more person I could ask to housesit – and she was available. And it worked out so well that both she and we are willing for her to housesit for a longer vacation in August. Good housesitters are hard to come by as they usually end up moving out of the area or getting married or some such after graduating HSU. At least for now things look OK

Working backwards in the month, Father's Day was a minimal event (although Random and I did go to the local semi-pro game) as Kay was back in Michigan for her brother's memorial. Oddly enough it got me to thinking that that whole family has only been together three times since I've been around – her mom's memorial (Memorial Day weekend in 1991), a Father's Day reunionish thing in 1999 and this. Somehow the interconnectedness in time and/or theme of these gatherings struck me as intriguing.

In a general overview of other things. Regular work is fine. Kay's job is OK (she'll be working a few more hours for a bit as someone has left). Kay's effort at starting a home-based business looks to be another wash out, although this one has all the earmarks of being a bath as well. Let's just leave it at that. Random's out of school and looking forward to his birthday party this coming weekend (July 8th) and camp next month. Massage is holding it's own with some small indication maybe another small quantum improvement coming along.

The computer monitor is crapping out but replacing that is just going to have to wait on clearing out the backlog of extra expenses from recent days (cremation costs, airfare, computer, medicine for dog, etc). It's been uncommonly costly for the last month or so.

The first week of July was interesting. Let's start with noticing a twinge in my hips after the drive back from the Bay. An effort to get a chiropractor app't for that week ran into a fully booked day followed by a long weekend. So it was stretches and hot pads to keep things from getting out of control. During that same time I had 5 straight days of morning shifts (6 am). I like the shift but it takes a little time to adjust one's schedule and by the end of the stretch I was feeling pretty tired. The week ended with Random's birthday party – at the pool and the class room of the health club. While not all the invitees turned up, those that did had a great time and Random got lots of good stuff (several sets of Pokemon cards, a new Zoid to put together, a science kit volcano and the next 3 books of the You Want to be a Wizard series).

That evening we had a surprise visit. Barbara Coole (a dance caller and clothing maker from Santa Rosa) stopped by with a request for crash space on her trip up to country fair up in Eugene, Oregon. As our last three passes through her neck of the woods had her not being home, it was as a pleasant event to have a little time to chat that evening before she left the next day. (She's so into Geocaching as was weaving that into the trip up.)

Close to the time she was leaving on Monday, I headed out for my first round of golf in over a week (day shifts will do that). Teeing off on the 6th hole, my hip went "Yipe!" and I went home. Actually I stopped at the chiropractor's office but 'twasn't open) to heat and relax my back... prior to heading off to do my biweekly set of seated massages at two hospital location.

Tuesday morning I got up, started to get ready for the day and my hip really went "YIPE" – enough to cause a shock reaction (ie clammy, sweaty, "I may pass out") and send me working my way back to bed. With another episode of each of those events, we opted for a visit to the Urgent Care Center and some new meds. It took a bit of work on my part to get my up from the couch to my feet, out to the car but it was done. The wait was minimal, I got an additional pain shot plus some anti-inflammatory meds (maybe something like those would work in Kashmir and the Middle East?). Now I wait and see how this responds to the chiropractic treatment I had lined up for tomorrow. For the record, this is not the sciatica attack I had last year. The pain is all in and around the left pelvic/sacral area and not affecting my leg (thus my ability to actually move about), it gives the signs of "just" being a moderately severe form of my usual lower back problem. It better be that Kay has threatened me with severe consequences if it screws up our vacation next month as it did our planned Westercon visit last year.

This also is by way of explanation if I can't spend as much time as I'd need at the computer to do my zine.