

From Dave Locke, 6828 Alpine Avenue #4, Silverton, Ohio 45236. Phone 513/984-1447. This is for the 93rd mailing of FLAP and is Diabologic Pub #20.

There are a few non-FLAPPans who receive *Slow Djinn*. Some regularly, and others in batches. Thish [as we say] may travel a bit further and maybe even a bit more quickly, not because it sparkles but because I must apologize to my correspondents for actually being the terrible correspondent that I've always said I was.

Well, okay, I'll explain that. There are periods when I'll get a letter and fire off a response within a day or two. Other times I get less rabid and resemble a more normal correspondent. And then there are periods when the letters will sit in the in-basket for a bit longer than one might expect. Rarely do I let things go for so long that people begin wondering if I died and nobody told them, but I guess that's the kind of delay we're dealing with right now...

So, I apologize to my correspondents [I told you I was a rotten correspondent...], and let you all know that despite being still alive it may yet be a while before I hop back in the saddle again. Hey, that's just the way it goes with me...

The new job goes well. Been watching a lot of movies [recommendations: made-for-HBO's *Generation X*, *Searching For Bobby Fischer*, *Speed*]. Been doing a lot of reading, with two wonderful "finds": James Doolittle [Bear Hug and Stranglehold, recommended to all fans of Robert B. Parker and John D. MacDonald] and Bill's son Christopher Buckley [wonderful mainstream novel *Thank You For Not Smoking*, and great thriller *Wet Work*, both recommended to all fans of Carl Hiaassen]. Gulped down Parker's latest Spenser novel, *Walking Shadow* [thanks, Bill], and was glad to see he's staying in form since his last entry in the series. Read Rick Boyer's latest Doc Adams novel, *Pirate Trade*, and was severely disappointed; not only poor for the series, but poor in general. Enjoyed the latest entry in the Bradshaw series by Stephen Dobyns, which may well be the second best entry in the series. Etc., etc., etc.

But, yes, right now events are going as well as can possibly be expected, all things considered. Or, as Steve McQueen explained in *The Magnificent Seven*, so far so good.

One thing in my defense about the decline in my volume of fanwriting. I've been through this before. I'm doing an awful lot of writing at work, though this time it's E-Mail. The last time this excuse popped up I was working at Bushnell Optical and handling their overseas correspondence and writing their policies and procedures and beating a manual typewriter to death. Now I'm working on a keyboard and shooting E-Mail off to people all over the place. Probably not too much of a stretch to imagine why I come home and want to read or watch tv or fall asleep or wash dishes or do just about anything except powering up a computer and composing on it. Well, that's a great part of the situation I find myself in, and as an excuse I'm sticking with it. Sorry, I won't be budged.

Except, of course, to get on with doing the ...

G. Gary Grady

I think it was the same demon who came around and visited me the day after election day. I didn't believe a word he told me, but then I hadn't had my morning caffeine coffee yet. Thought it was all a continuation of the dream I'd been having. The dream involved a scale whereby one's IQ could be judged by measuring how much they drooled on an hourly basis.

Now, true, the Republicans aren't likely to screw around as much with protecting the public from itself in areas such as tobacco [Republicans don't like to fuck around with Big Business, after all], but self-interest aside I find it extremely difficult to understand why a majority of those pathetic few who voted thought it a Good Idea to have a Republican congress.

In theory, everyone of sound mind should be a Republican. They believe in getting government off the backs of the people, right? In practice, of course, they want to control such things as the inside of a woman's vagina, and where a man's penis can and cannot go, and a survival of the fittest and exploitation of the weakest attitude based on a person's ability to make money and join the club. By all logic, a Republican should be a made person or a wannabe. So what explains all these other people voting Republican? Never mind, I don't want to think about it... [But what's Lynn's excuse...?]

With a bow toward the fact that Cincinnati conventions are not advertised early enough to effectively deal with such matters as people planning vacation time or booking flights at other than the highest rates, I'll continue to attempt Getting The Word Around as soon as I can. If last time it meant the difference between your attending or not attending, which it did, then the effort is worthwhile even if it doesn't work out the next few times. Truly enjoyed your company and would be pleased if such a modest effort was fruitful in allowing it to be enjoyed again. Even if people do insult us by asking if we're brothers.

What the current drama surrounding IQ tests leads me to see is that IQ tests in general are becoming increasingly divorced from reality rather than being a measurement of it. All presumptions are questionable. Measurements have to be based on a framework of values which purport to represent the norm ... but, even so... Are "successful" people smarter than "unsuccessful" people, or do they just have different values? Illiterate people can become millionaires. High IQ people can have more trouble with society than you can shake a snake at. What is being measured? What does the measurement mean when compared with other measurements? Can application of the tool be translated to something of use? Blacks do less well at IQ tests; so, does this have a given meaning? Donald Trump does less well at an IQ test than you and I do; does that have a given meaning? Do the great variety of human life skills get measured to good purpose by an IQ test? Good riff on this subject, Old Shoe.

Death penalty or no death penalty. I'll readily admit that my mind isn't set in concrete about this one. I recognize the problems in having a death penalty. Someone is sure to suffer. The main problem, though, is in finding that gray dividing line between black and white and then moving the line over about half a mile. Manson, shoot the sonuvabitch. No question. No doubt. There are a lot of Mansons out there wasting our time and trying our pa-

tience. How do we implement a practice to be rid of such people without, by committee, inventing a three-humped camel which requires that we kill everyone or kill no one? Isn't that really the issue? In your mind, if you were King, wouldn't you draw a line between life and death and make it as liberal as you could without getting silly ["Charlie? Well, he might have gotten a raw deal..."]?

Reagan. "He ... directed his comments not toward the USSR but toward the world community". Aha, well, there's the rub. There's the dividing line between our opinions. I say that, in this world of mass communication, remarks given by the President at a fund-raiser or a university graduation or at a Shriners' convention or at any media-covered event whatsoever, are remarks directed to everyone affected. How can the President not "direct his comments ... toward the world community" and be presumed innocent when saying the USSR is an "evil empire" because he wasn't directly addressing the USSR? You don't think that's contrary to standards of diplomacy.

Sticking tight to this subject, let's say I'm talking to you at the next Cincinnati convention and I tell you to your face that I think you're a real fuckwad. Would the impact be less if, instead, I waited until you and I and Lynn were eating lunch and then, while you were chewing your burger, I said to Lynn: "You know, that Grady fellow is a real fuckwad"? Is my point on this becoming any clearer to you? Fuckwad.

Dean A. Grennell

Mnemonics never worked for me, which I considered a shame. I could memorize something, or I could memorize the mnemonic, but never would the latter lead me to the former ["What does cocaine do to the eyes?" "Washington D.C.!"] thus making me look like a total idiot which of course is the worst kind.

Roy Tackett

The Internet Top 100 Skiffy List is the worst such list I've yet encountered. Too much fantasy on it, for one thing. Too many current novels which haven't passed any test of time beyond the latest best-selling lists. Too many classics ignored. Clarke is on there for Rama, but not Childhood's End? Heinlein's Moon is #1? Etc., etc.

Yes, I know I owe you and Buck a letter. I owe all my correspondents a letter.

David & Marcia Hulan

Enjoyed the trip report. Started reading it when it came in for FLAP, and finished reading it when it came in the Apanage mailing...

Michael J. Shoemaker

Fascinating to read of your Sabbatical travels and I look forward to the next installment.

Like you I go to the theater when there's a movie which seems to require the big screen. Otherwise I watch movies on cable or rental tapes (mostly the former these days), and am well enough satisfied with them on a 25" screen [we wanted a 27", but the measurements wouldn't allow it to fit in our hutch...].

I agree with you that many things pose an "enormous methodological problem" for science and that this is a poor excuse for abandoning inquiry. All the more reason to try harder.

Well, I'm no expert, but as I understand it: Internet is the worldwide network that commercial services plug into. The government/military here started it as a decentralized widespread communication system that could be used in case of nuclear attack. Then the universities moved in. Then big business. Then the commercial services so us little people could come in and cause trouble. Guess I should actually get around to reading that *Internet For Dummies* book that I bought.

Marty Helgesen

The deadline for FLAP is the 5th of even-numbered months, regardless of what day of the week that falls on. Actually, it's at 11:59:59 pm that evening. If you look up and it's the 6th, you've missed it. Then we go into production, beginning with the 00. If a zine comes in after the 00 but before the stapling, it gets included. Otherwise, it doesn't, because it's not legal to use Special 4th Class Book Rate for loose enclosures unless they too meet the postal requirements. Then, we get the mailing out on or before the 10th [at least, so far...].

Jean Weber

"I was awakened at 6:50 this morning by a break-in next door. Fortunately this was followed by the installation of two skylights, so I did not feel compelled to phone the police." Don't think I've ever heard of a contractor beginning work that early... Probably what happened is that they had actually been contracted to install the skylights the previous week.

Suzi Steff

Well, sounds like a bunch of good news this time. Always a nice change of pace, right?

Got a lot of chuckles out of the Pentium humor.

Roger Sims

At the time I wrote what you're commenting on, Bill Cavin was very close to moving Midwestcon so he could accommodate another group who wanted to use that weekend for their con. So don't tell me the timing is inviolate. Maybe it has been, but it isn't now, or at least it isn't if Bill doesn't think it is.

Can't let this go uncorrected. I never planned to attend Ditto. I planned to attend ConClave. I canceled out when the person who asked me to attend had to cancel out, because ConClave isn't the type of con that I would have any particular interest in, not because there wouldn't be anyone else there I might enjoy talking with [though, as it turned out, most of those canceled out and did so for the same reason I did].

I read Norton in the fifties and early sixties, but no further. I enjoyed her well enough, but gave her up when I found too many authors whose work I enjoyed a lot more.

Other Fred Brown mysteries that I've been particularly impressed by are *The Lenient Beast* and *Knock Three-One-Two*.

Eric Lindsay

Maybe FTL is fantasy. Maybe not. The theorists still like playing with the notion of wormholes in space and the potentials for time travel, but I look upon their writings with great suspicion. I'd sooner assume a mild potential for FTL than for time travel, myself. Though, frankly, I'd find time travel more fun to play with...