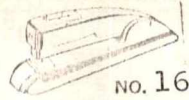


*Swingline*

SEEN ON MORE  
DESKS THAN ANY  
OTHER BRAND



NO. 16

FITS ALL STANDARD MACHINES

SWINGLINE is brought to you once again by Joyce Katz, 59 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, for the 18th mailing of Apa. Well, here it is just before the Worldcon...and true to form, I'm wishing we would be there....but, all things considered (not the least of which are financial matters) it's probably just as well that we'll not be attending. Still..I sure do wish we were going to be seeing you all; I guess that Ross, Chris, Arnie and and I will be the only ones not there, from this area. And Alice from the midwest...and Lane from the south...and Bruce from wherever he is right now. \*sigh\* Well.. next year, for sure...

LESLEIGH I'm glad that you're getting to see something of Wisconsin this summer. Although I've only barely been in the state (only across the corner of it, driving from Chicago to Minneapolis) I've heard it described as a beautiful, pastoral place. -- I'll admit to a certain degree of appreciation for the tourist-trap type place you described; they can be fun if you take them for what they are, and don't expect down-home virtues from them. I guess the only thing I saw in Poplar Bluff, when Arnie and I visited there last year, that I really enjoyed was a tourist type thing, similar to what you described. There was an "Ozark Mountains" museum; mostly it was a big souvenir shop selling "Ozark merchandise" like you're accustomed to seeing on the highways...blankets, reed baskets, corncob pipes, and funky vulgur ceramic figurines of outhouse humor, etc. But there was also a largish potter's shed, where a guy was making pottery and giving a little spiel about how to do it..and I kinda liked that. And the best thing they had was a series of diuramas (sp?) of wild life in natural habitat. I know that most natural history museums have things like that, and probably most of you have seen them so often you're sick of them. But I hadn't..and I got a big kick out of it.

I can't say how sickening I find the entire idea of skinning and dissecting a human. I'm so glad that nothing in my line of work would ever obligate me to even observe, much less participate in, such activity. I think it's really remarkable that you were able to overcome your natural revulsion. (An occasional leaky specimen bottle is as close as I ever come to such Physical Things; even death claims get shuttled from me to someone else without a pause for reading.)

I'm happy that your relationship with your mother is such that you wouldn't be unhappy to have to stay with her. But I think that your folks are a rather unusual pair, and I don't believe that most people have such good relationships with their parents. My mother is, sadly, very neurotic, bordering on psychotic. I love her...but that doesn't mean she's pleasant to be around. It's actually been necessary for me

to live with her twice in my adult life, and it was very unpleasant each time it happened. The first time was after my daughter died, during all the attendant physical disasters. I was unable to care for myself for some months and was in fact almost totally bedfast from October to January. It was during that period that Ray and I stayed with my parents, so that Mother could look after me. She was extremely happy with the arrangement, but the womb-like existence she forced me into was very bad for my attempts to regain mental health. The second time I stayed with her was for a period during Ray's and my separation, shortly before we reconciled; once again she placed me in a child role. My mother has thoroughly demonstrated that she's incapable of dealing with any of her four children on anything like an adult level; as consequence, extended periods in her presence become very painful.

I'm absolutely delighted with what you wrote about Great Questions; I really think it's a marvelous attitude. No doubt, the reason I enjoyed reading it so much was that it so closely parallels some of my own views on the subject of religion. I came to basically the same conclusion a number of years ago. The specific reason was because of all the questions I was asking myself about reincarnation, past lives, etc. I was involved with a group of people who were very anxious about the subject; and, I was doing a lot of Deep Thinking about it. Suddenly it came to me that, as you say, there's no possible way to know for sure...and, further, no real effect that any past life would have on this one anyhow. So might as well ignore the whole question. Since that time I've come to the conclusion that applies to quite a few (if not all) of the Burning Questions that used to bother me so much.