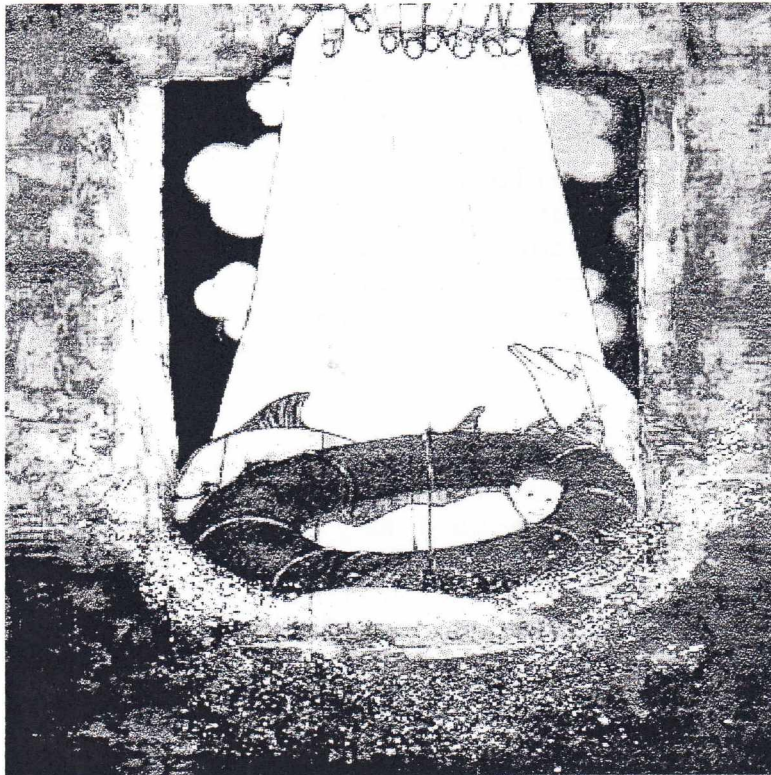


Twygodrasil And Treehouse Gazette #65

Richard Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Drive #302, Alexandria, VA 22306
RichD22426@AOL.COM

July 2000



Elian is guided on shore by Dolphins and God. Last I saw, artist Alexis Blanco was trying to sell this print in living color on the web for \$275 each. Probably these cheap Chinese cartridges and the Staples photocopy machines will do a number on it.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

De Tribus Imposteribus.....	2
Comments on Sfpa #215.....	3
Arthur.....	12
David.....	14
Eve.....	7
Gary B.....	18
Gary R.....	18
George.....	6
Guy.....	10
Irvin.....	12
Janet.....	14
Jeff.....	8,21
Liz.....	8
Mike.....	21
Ned.....	3
One Shot.....	17
Randy.....	14
Richard L.....	4
Sheila.....	4
Steve.....	17
Suzanne.....	17
Tom.....	5
Toni.....	3,19

ILLUSTRATIONS - The first two by Joe Mayhew (5,10). He gave me those at one convention to use as I may. I used some of them. I think it is a fitting tribute that I post them now. I didn't know him that well, but from what I gather the first one in particular is a fitting tribute to the man although they all were tributes. The other illos are by our Randy Cleary(p15,20)-- of course.

DE TRIBUS IMPOSTERIBUS

De Tribus Imposteribus is Latin for The Three Imposters. It was known for many Centuries as The Atheist Book. The book that put fear into the hearts of every lawbiding Christian. So how could I have fulfilled my Toastmasters' requirement for an entertaining speech with one about it? The book never existed.

In the 13th Century Pope Gregory IX got angry at Frederick Barbarosa the Holy Roman Emperor and accused him of writing the book. It supposedly claimed that Moses, Jesus and Mohammed were con men, that Christ was illegitimate and that religion was therefore a fraud. It didn't actually claim they were impostors. However, this did not keep the title from sticking.

The ecclesiastical chroniclers liked Barbarosa; so they accused this heretic of their day or that of having written the book. This started a tradition. Having read these chroniclers, writers of the 16th Century accused this heretic or that of their day. As did writers of the 17th Century. You were nobody unless you were accused of having written *De Tribus Imposteribus*.

In 1662 Jean Chapelain toyed with the idea the famous English physician, Sir Thomas Browne, was the author. For one thing, he was a skeptic. For another thing, he doubted the book existed. What clinched it was Browne was a Protestant.

However, Jean had second thoughts. He later concluded the book had to be the work of an Italian.

Jean Chapelain also claimed that he knew where the book had been printed,

what paper it was printed on, and the type it was printed with. Of course, neither he nor his informant had never actually seen the book.

Sightings of the book were reported. A Geronimo de la Madre -- yep, Geronimo -- swore he saw it in the hands of Petrus Ramus, the famed French educator.

There were rumors Ramus was a tool of the Devil: he was friendly with heretics, he was known for his learning -- and his books contain lots of graphs and flow charts. A sure sign of diabolical intent.

In the 18th Century books claiming to be *De Tribus Imposteribus* appeared. Two different versions at least.

In 1716 a Frenchman known as J.L.R.L. claimed he got a copy of the book from a Captain Trawsendorff, who was transporting it for a nobleman. He had promised not to copy the text. A promise he claimed he kept by translating it directly into French as *Les Trois Imposteurs*.

In actual fact, it paraphrased a slander against the philosopher Spinoza. It was easy to tell: the slander and *Les Trois Imposteurs* were often bound together. After you read one, you could read the other. This did not lower the demand. People could not get enough blasphemy; it was like pornography now.

De Tribus made another appearance, with muddled thinking and in dog Latin. The book claims it is 16th Century but it shows every sign of having been 18th Century.

All these books were printed on cheap paper as befitting their status. Yet they were reprinted on better paper during the 19th Century -- for connoisseurs. The

pornography in the little brown wrapper of the 18th Century had become the collectible of the 19th.

In case you're wondering, I got the above from Don Cameron Allen's *Doubt's Boundless Sea: Skepticism and Faith in the Renaissance* (1964), p225-43 Appendix.

COMMENTS ON MAILING 215

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF

the southerner

☹▼☹ All the good **domain names** have been taken. The American Medical Association got there too late for www.ama.org (<http://www.ama-assn.org>), and the American Dietetic Association got there too late for www.ada.org (<http://www.eatright.org>).

☹▼☹ I wonder if I could afford a **printer** like Steve's? Probably not.

☹▼☹ **Joe McCarthy** seems to do everything but contribute a zine. His latest exploit: ice, cheese and crackers.

☹▼☹ Isn't **Arnie Katz** too busy for SFPA? Well, we'll see.

NED BROOKS

the new port news 191

☹▼☹ ct. Me. I find out now that John Sladek, the British SF writer and skeptic, wrote *Arachne Rising* under the pseudonym Vogh. I don't know whether the book was a spoof. I get the impression he thought the occult crowd would go for it and then he could make them look like fools.

They gave the book good reviews but the Thirteen Sign has never been big. Sladek's problem was a tin ear for myth. He may have read Graves' *The White Goddess*, but he couldn't talk the talk.

☹▼☹ One **Holy Prepuce** given by

Charlemagne might be authentic. But at least two claim to have been.

About the **Baigent** book *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, an article in the now defunct *Gnosis* magazine claimed that a Pierre Plantard, right wing esotericist, and his group, the Priory of Sion, planted evidence for the Merovingian Jesus in libraries and archives. They got the idea from Julius Evola, an Italian esotericist, and the 1928 doctoral dissertation of a Walter Johannes Stein.

☹▼☹ No, Prepuces were not kept by the us Jews as far as I can tell. Dead bodies have been impure for us, so forget about **relics**. The Christians didn't get the idea of relics from the Romans either. Who also believed dead bodies were impure.

The Christians apparently got the idea from some Greeks. Who had relics of their heroes in their cities: Orpheus at Smyrna, Tantalus at Argos, Theseus at Orchomenos. One would consider Tantalus an improbable hero but I guess he was one.

☹▼☹ I bet you're right that Lovecraft took his Starry Wisdom Sect from 19th Century talk of **star worship** being the original religion.

☹▼☹ I wrote something here about Smith's **Disumbrationist** art hoax years ago. Maybe I should trot it out again.

☹▼☹ I don't think the *Atlantidan* theory of Atlantis in the Sahara comes from memories of Carthage. This was a purely European theory. Since Plato, Europeans have fathered all their pet theories on Atlantis. For one author, it's at the North Pole; for another it's in the Caucasus, for another it's in Nigeria. Why not turn Plato upside down and have Atlantis rising into the Saharan Desert rather than swallowed up by the Atlantic?

RICHARD LYNCH

this is not a minaczine #99

☹▼☹ FLORIDA. I am not supposed to do what you did. **Drive** for seventeen hours straight. Or for any long period. As a diabetic, I am supposed to stop each hour, get out, and walk around to keep the circulation going.

I don't think my hand goes numb any longer, and I would have to get out for that reason. I don't think my leg hurts me any longer on long drives, either. However, one can never be too careful.

☹▼☹ OBLIGATORY CLASSICAL MUSIC SECTION. I disagree with **Saint-Saëns's** naming his Organ Symphony "Voice of God." It certainly gave me an epiphany but it's too rousing to be religious. At least in a Judeo-Christian religion.

☹▼☹ ct. Jeff Copeland. No, the **NRA** management is not nutso: its members are, though. Somehow guns symbolize their determination to defend their way of life. Which, they feel, is threatened by city slickers. And they're right.

I don't know whether having their rifles ready, or even their six guns, will help. Or not having their guns fingerprinted with bullets.

It reminds me of a tale I heard about the '40s radio show *The Fat Man*. A woman tells the private eye Fat Man, Brad Runyon, that someone is blackmailing her over compromising photographs. So the Fat Man packs his gun.

The woman asks whether there will be violence. And the Fatman says, in cases like this, there usually is.

☹▼☹ ct. Randy Cleary. The **Radical Middle** something to fear? Seymour Lipset claimed that the Nazis were the Radical Middle in Germany, with aspects both of socialism and xenophobia.

Of course, in modern day America being in the Radical Middle probably means being unable to make up your mind about politics at all. Having a hard time even borrowing from the left or the right.

SHEILA STRICKLAND

revenant #1

☹▼☹ BORING

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL. I first became interested in **science fiction** as a very young boy. Here are my memories.

I was more interested in space suits in the early '50s than the more normal cowboy hats and horses. My favorite TV show was *Tom Corbett Space Cadet*.

In the seventh and eighth grade, I read the Tom Swift, Jr. series, and Heinlein juvenile *Space Cadet*. In the eighth grade, I read Ray Bradbury's *Martian Chronicles*. Which was adult science fiction. And made up stories based on it.

Maybe a year later, my father presented me with a whole bunch of science fiction paperbacks that one of his patients gave him. They included Pohl's book *The Case against the Future*. And a Kornbluth book about the U.S. being conquered by Russia, *Not This August* (1955). Which is now all but forgotten.

☹▼☹ THE REAL

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL. My wife Heidi was treated for **cancer** too. I've told other SFPAns in these pages about her plight. Hers was colorectal. And they gave her chemo and radiation at the same time, which made her very tired too. Also, she lost a lot of weight. Too much as far as I'm concerned.

Still, she kept on doing the housework throughout even though she didn't have to. Like you did your job. Also, she never lost her hair.



Something worse happened, though. A colostomy. That, the cancer surgery and radiation left a gaping hole, a lot of pain, and a lot to cope with. Her motivation was shot. She had trouble getting back into email. Where the difficulty of sitting was a problem too.

After six months, the hole persists. But the pain is minor and she has begun emailing to her best friend.

The most important sign of renewed motivation is that she has a cause, colorectal cancer. The fight to warn people of the danger. And help those who have been through the same aggressive treatment as herself.

Like you, I'm a **librarian**. I have the full masters, which for the longest period didn't help me at all. I have now worked as my agency librarian for eighteen years.

I'm sure my library is quite different from yours. You know how Louis XIV said L'état, c'est moi. Well, I say the library, c'est moi. I am known as a solo librarian. I set up the circulation, reference, interlibrary loan and shelf-classification systems. Nobody at my workplace would know. I confess, given the requests I get, I don't do much with cataloging.

I am not completely alone, however. I belong to a solo librarian email list.

AGGICCON. Whenever I travel, I have **checklist** I trot out and modify, depending upon the trip. I am too much a creature of habit. And I would be unhappy if I couldn't have this thing or that that I am used to.

I wish we had a guarantee of **fun** whenever we go on a vacation. But sometimes it rains. Sometimes we meet fuggheaded hotel management or con organization. I sometimes find myself alone at cons, although that doesn't seem as much of a problem for you.

Sometimes we get ill when we're on vacation and have to spend most of it in bed. No fun at all.

Life's crapshoot. When I get depressed about it, I think of all the times at work I have had fun. Even when the work was supposed to be a drudgery. Or I think about taking care of my sick wife. While some find succouring a loved one a burden, it was in its way almost a pleasure.

TOM FELLER

frequent flyer. may 12, 2000

Someone at work noted that the **ILOVEYOU** virus was the only one to fool massive numbers of people. They couldn't resist opening a love letter. I knew some of the people who opened it and they are suffering from extreme cases of self-love.

Such are the people who make up my management.

I confess I was never tested: I was on leave the day the virus attacked.

However, I would be suspicious if I received a love letter. I don't see myself as last of the red hot lovers. Similarly, I would be suspicious if a knock-out suddenly took an interest in me. And starting telling me how handsome I was.

🍷🍷🍷 CYRANO DE BERGERAC. I saw both the play and read it. It's completely sentimental and completely rousing.

You know there was a real **Cyrano de Bergerac**. I have mentioned this before in SFPA but you weren't there. His name wasn't really Cyrano de Bergerac but Savinien de Cyrano. Cyrano de Bergerac was made up to give the impression that he had Gascon noble blood in his veins when he did not. He was Parisien and bourgeois, albeit wealthy bourgeois.

However, I believe, rather than doing it to blow himself up, he did it to uphold the honor of his Gascon regimen. They would not have wanted it to get out that an officer of theirs was not a Gascon noble. On the other hand, they valued Cyrano's swordsmanship.

By the way, he was an early science fiction writer. He wrote a *Comic History of the Sun* and a *Comic History of the Moon*. While there is a great deal of fantasy and whimsy, it was science fiction because he expounded on the principles of natural philosophy of the time. Also, because these novels concern space travel of sorts.

🍷🍷🍷 **BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN**. Be careful what you say about Bruce. He's a native of my area, Central Jersey. And associated with the city of Asbury Park there.

My wife tells me that he courted a

daughter of an acquaintance of hers. And the woman broke up the budding romance on the grounds there was no future in that young man.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Me. Maybe the lost souls in **Blair Witch Project** could have found their way out of the woods by following the river. If it didn't go around in circles too. And if they weren't descending into madness, as, it seemed to me, they were.

🍷🍷🍷 I don't know whether the toner cartridges on my old Okidata lasted a year. But they lasted a long time. And didn't have to be changed every minute. That's why I'm considering buying another cheap **laser printer** even though it would just give me black and white.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Toni Weisskopf. **Heinlein** is shot through with grumblings against democracy. However, usually he only goes so far as to advocate limiting suffrage to the worthy. In *Starship Troopers*, and other places, he plumps for that. Only in *Glory Road* does he go farther and actually advocate monarchy. Or at least a character does.

GEORGE H. WELLS

it may be better to light a single candle...
but how more effective to become a
flaming idiot. #1

🍷🍷🍷 Or a Flaming Carrot.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. Once again I didn't see a film but I will comment on it from hearsay. This time **Gladiator**.

I was told that Marcus Aurelius was historically inauthentic because the movie didn't mention he persecuted the Christians. Of course, all the emperors did until they themselves became Christians. The Christians refused to bow down to the Imperial Cult like most inhabitants of the Empire.

To my mind, it is more inauthentic that a Roman general was made into a gladiator as part of a conspiracy. Wouldn't the emperor rather have killed him? So he wouldn't be alive as a symbol to rally his supporters.

On the other hand, the emperor then was Commodus, who believed he was somehow Hercules and used to enter the gladiator ring himself. So he wasn't all there.

Also, I heard there was something else inauthentic, that the movie had galleys powered by slaves or prisoners. I gather rowers were free men until much later. By the 16th Century. It must have had something to do with how ships were built and operated.

☹▼☹ ct. Janet Larson. I couldn't do justice to the **Keirse** test either so I probably should have left it alone.

☹▼☹ ct. Guy Lillian. **Jackie Chan** and his Western. A lot of arched eyebrows, I hear. ShangHAI NOON. Jackie's name is JON WAN -- or something like that.

☹▼☹ Yes, people are ill disposed toward **Gore**. I bet especially in upstate New York. He's seen as Clinton's toady. And not having the magic of the master.

He is being skewered on the horns of a dilemma. If he doesn't separate himself from Clinton, he is Clinton's toady. If he does, he loses any association with the master's magic. And have to create some magic of his own. A daunting task.

☹▼☹ I seem to remember *What You Can Change and What You Can't* from ten years ago. That told you what you can change. Apparently very little because now he has written **Learned Optimism**. It exhorts us to be optimistic despite that fact.

I bet he's right. Being uncompromisingly realistic is as likely to

lead to depression as cigarette smoking to lung cancer. Not only because there is so little you can change, but because this is the age of ridiculous high expectations.

EVE ACKERMAN

guilty pleasures. may 2000.

☹▼☹ The wise men of old in both East and West claimed that we should not hang on to **loved ones** even. Even their memories. Happiness is a good in its own right apart from people and things.

☹▼☹ About your **Jewish Indian**, I had a friend who was Jewish, Indian and Black. He claimed his grandmother was Jewish. While he looked Black, he certainly had a Jewish view of the world.

☹▼☹ HEART OF GOLD. The Indigo are a matriarchy and the Gulden a patriarchy. I wonder what the conditions are that would make possible a **matriarchy**. Matrilineal society is not necessarily matriarchal. The mother's brother takes care of the family's business.

Would technology? Space travel? Then why are the Gulden a patriarchy?

Whatever the answer, it's not so obvious that it should ruin our appreciation for Sharon Shinn's book, however the facts work out anthropologically.

☹▼☹ CAMPAIGN 2000. I guess it's macho for a **motorcycle** rider to have his brains splattered rather than wear a helmet. And become an organ donor.

☹▼☹ ct. Hughes. You can't explain the virtues of **mimeo** to a teen. You had to have lived it; the virtues are nostalgia. Just like I can't communicate the philosophical concepts I do. You have to be in my mind and few people are there.

Still, I have to keep on trying. And you have to keep on trying to explain the virtues of mimeo and ditto.

LIZ COPELAND

home with the armadillo #41

🍷 I don't have enough of a **Spring allergy** to go to the doctor. Or ask for medicine. But I have enough to get a stuffed nose and maybe a light cough.

🍷 ct. Brooks. I have liked **couscous** since I first had it in France, where it was labeled as Algerian cuisine. My wife cooks up some good meals with it. You're probably right that Ned's was rancid or had a sauce he didn't care for.

🍷 Why does the **PC crowd** worry about the writings of dead White males? They're dead, aren't they? Part of the problem is these dead White males are living inside of them.

🍷 Apparently, the problem with **lice** is not that somehow or other you can bar the slum carriers. Even in the clean suburbs kids have problems with lice. In fact, especially clean suburban kids. Lice are worse if other vermin have been eliminated. They have the full run of the hair.

Kids get them because they come into close contact with one another of their own accord. Lice isn't a problem anymore among American adults because we keep our distance. We have enough living space.

So I bet US service men didn't have problems with lice in POW camps because they lived far enough apart. In the Jewish camps where they lived close enough together, there were lice aplenty and other vermin, I hear.

🍷 My problem with **Susie Bright's** article is it goes against my whole Washington experience. Politics based on ideals is unworkable; to achieve any goals, we have to compromise.

Ms. Bright castigates all sides in Monicagate because they fall short of the ideal. It's like the critic in *Candide* who

says: "The best stomachs reject all food."

We have to eat. In politics, we have to compromise. For instance, NOW was not being hypocritical; it was doing the best it thought it could. It supported Clinton's lukewarm Feminism and forgave his sexcapades because it sees the Republicans as the barbarian hordes ready to institute Purdah. Maybe they aren't but, I bet, this is how NOW sees things.

Even Ms. Bright compromises her ideal of 100% honesty, to keep her place in the catbird seat. The women in Monicagate aren't quite the victims she makes out. Monica has exploited her role for millions. And Hillary, I bet, used her bargaining chips to force Bill to support her in a Senate race.

JEFF COPELAND

cross-train at the office

🍷 Judge Penfield Jackson is a good Reaganite and Conservative; he would otherwise have been favorably disposed to **Microsoft**. But they lied on the stand so much he decided to break them up. It was an embarrassment to his court.

One of the lies that made the news was their demonstration that you couldn't have Windows without the Internet Explorer. One of the litigants noticed that the desktop where the demonstration started out and the one where it ended were different. I don't know whether that was the turning point for the judge; it was certainly the turning point for a lot of people.

🍷 Would the breakup of **Microsoft** be the equivalent of the breakup of the Roman Empire? Were competitors to the Roman Empire lurking in the background, alternate empires, like there are wouldbe competitors with Microsoft, alternate suppliers?

I don't think economic arguments

should enter into this. It should be a legal decision. The question should be: did Microsoft break the law enough to be broken up?

☹▼☹ ct. Me. Thanks for your good wishes for **my wife**. She still is getting better micron by micron. The big hole the operation left is now the size of a quarter. Her back is doing better.

Recently we heard some good news. We thought she would have to undergo another bout of chemotherapy, but it doesn't look like it now. It looks like the end of the road for her treatment.

☹▼☹ Of course, that's where we wanted to put **Heidi's horse** San, in our apartment. He would go well with the drapes.

☹▼☹ I agree. Judges and juries go with their own propensities rather than the convolutions known as the **law code**. For that reason, to win cases a lawyer has to know more about how humans tick than the law. Roy Cohn, I hear, knew very little about the law. And he was very effective. Winning by intimidation being his shtick.

The shtick of Rumpole of the Old Bailey seems to be to get the prosecutor's case laughed out of court. And, failing that, find the guilty person. Rarely does he refer to the law.

And, as you say, there is Johnny Cochran. And with him: "If the glove don't fit."

☹▼☹ Sounds like **JJ's White Werewolves** would be boring if they stayed around their home planet. Everything is ordered and well there. What kind of a plot could you get from that? They have to go to other planets and beat the beings there up. Or prevent other being from being beaten up.

Didn't Raymond Chandler say when the plot lacks any conflict, have three men

bust down the door with guns blazing?

☹▼☹ Come to think of it, **my sister-in-law** is half-Italian, half-Irish. Her father, is of Italian descent and mother Irish. Her sisters are quite attractive. And her blood seems to have added to the beauty of my brother's daughters.

☹▼☹ The advocates of **Diversity** have a One-Size-Fits-All Diversity.

☹▼☹ ct. Guy Lillian. Maybe Einstein did set **Quantum Physics** back by saying "God doesn't play dice with the universe."

And maybe Quantum Physics has become dogma now and is setting back the next great step in physics. Martin Gardner had an interesting article in the *Skeptical Inquirer* recently about the physicist David Bohm (1917-91). Who adopted and adapted Einstein's alternative to Quantum Physics.

The idea is that quanta send signals to one another through 'wormholes,' sort of holes in space and time. These make for wave patterns and the Schrodinger's cat effect. Taking all these wormholes into account, God is not playing dice with the universe.

I have no idea about the virtues of this idea, but it would figure if yesterday's dogma should become tomorrow's dogma.

☹▼☹ Before **Atwater** and his friends do Al Gore dirt, they should be careful they don't make him interesting. Being boring is one of the big objections the public has against Gore.

☹▼☹ Because of Heidi's operation, patting her on the derriere is the last thing I'm going to do for many a Moon. The **Boulder cops** won't get me on harassment soon.

☹▼☹ ct. Janice Gelb. Some of the pluses and minuses of **guns** are unprovable. Some gun advocates have been claiming that you have to count all the times that



wouldbe robbers were warded off by the presence of a gun. I have seen estimates but who could possibly know? And, yes, robbers warded off is an important factor in any gun control debate.

ct. Gary Brown. Krauthammer was arguing that **Eliau's** smiles with his father were rehearsed, but his screams weren't when he was dragged away from Lazaro's little carnival.

I am not certain that Elian wasn't rehearsed. Or at least told to scream when he was led away by the U.S. Marshalls. A friend who saw the TV spectacle tells me Elian wasn't beating on the woman who took him. Which is what a child who is having a tantrum normally does. The woman herself claimed that she was shaking like a leaf, yet Elian was cool as a cucumber.

On the other hand, while the smiles may have been rehearsed, I doubt the

beatific look I detected on Elian's face could have been. I looked at photos of Elian with the Miami relatives and with his father. He has a slightly disturbed look with them, even though I am certain he was given the run of the house and showered with toys.

I bet he takes after his old man. They are birds of a feather. They both look alike. I wonder if they're both not survivors. And tough as nails.

ct. Richard Brandt. About **David Lynch**, in *Dune* rather than *Blue Velvet*. I heard he wanted one of the actors operated on and a hole put in his cheek. He felt it would make a great effect in one particular scene. The actor wisely refused. In short, Lynch is strange!!

GUY H. LILLIAN III

spiritus mundi 177

Good for you. I am proud to have been published in a **Hugo** nominated zine. ...Of course, I had something to do with it. Something. Somewhere.

You really had a **bad time** of it recently. Your accountant died. And how are you going to get your tax return in? Your landlady died. And the 1984 rent may be a thing of the past. Your drug court will not be renewed. And the renewal of your contract is in question. Your grandmother died and now there's a hole in your heart.

We gotta figure out a good amulet for you to counter all this bad luck. How about one with the nude body of a woman. Venus? Maybe Venus' influence is the problem. What do you think? I bet the idea is very attractive to you.

ct. Me. I don't know how much more I could work up the tale of the **Holy Foreskin**. I supposed I could look at

Bentley's sources.

☹▼☹ The Holy Foreskin, I could do. I'm not certain about a review of **OAH SPE**. That would require me to read the whole book. And it doesn't look appetizing. I doubt even De Camp, who gives plot summary, read the book. It's like reading the three volumes of Helena Blavatsky's *Isis Unveiled*.

On the other hand, maybe I could just read the authors who cite it. Who, I bet, haven't read it either. Or I can fake it like I figure they have. ...Naw, not for *Challenger*.

☹▼☹ Actually, I found **Blair Witch** watchable, strangely enough. But I agree with those who, after a while, were rooting not for Healthier but the witch(es).

☹▼☹ I don't see how **Denise Austin** could tax your nerves, Guy -- unless you have been watching her with the sound turned on.

☹▼☹ My wife felt the same way about one of the **Star Wars** you felt about *Children of Dune*. You thought it was an anticlimax Paul Atriedes died by merely being stabbed. And my wife felt Boba Fett, a fierce mercenary, deserved a more heroic fate than being accidentally knocked into a monster's mouth.

☹▼☹ I've read people who thought **Whoopi Goldberg** is White and Jewish. Yes, their tomes should have been in Ripley or the Guinness Book.

☹▼☹ Come to think of it, I remember **President Hamilton**. He came after President Burr, right? ...By the way, do you remember the night Gerald Ford was elected President? That was when the movie *Shampoo* was set, wasn't it?

☹▼☹ ct. TKFOE. We can't afford a **website**? There are free websites. And domain names, what do they cost? I thought

you can get 'em for \$25 for two years. I take it the HTML acrobatics would be free for our little project.

☹▼☹ ct. Brooks. People's attitudes are up-their-you-know-what's when it comes to **Vietnam**. The protestors' attitude was in believing the soldiers were responsible for the war. They were cannon fodder, especially draftees but volunteers too. The WWII vets' attitude has been up-their-you-know-what too. It wasn't the soldiers' fault they lost. The misguided politicians and statesmen were responsible for the war.

No wonder Viet vets were notorious for going nuts when they came home. I would have gone nuts too.

☹▼☹ ct. J Copeland. Did Clinton's **racial dialogue** count as tackling the race problem? Maybe not. Jesse Jackson had been a naysayer. But it certainly seemed he was tackling it after he stated in the most ambiguous way possible that he might contemplate reparations for past racism. A whole chorus of Conservatives ridiculed him. And that convinced Blacks Clinton was onto something.

☹▼☹ If future history is like past history, **Monicagate** will not make the history books, except as an example of Republican madness.

☹▼☹ ct. Ackerman. You're right **State mottos** are more to hide a State's character than to reveal it. New York's is "Upward and Onward." "Down and Dirty" would be more appropriate.

☹▼☹ ct. Weisskopf. I suspect the **Gotham cops** panicked when they shot that poor Ethiopian who was struggling to take his ID out. Easy enough. Even I, as peaceable as I am, might carry a gun there. And probably be more likely to panick than those cops. The place gives me the creeps.

IRV KOCH

offline reader. apr-may 2000.

☹▼☹ Early in our time in Washington, Heidi decided to get some **exotic plants**. A lot of them looked vaguely like cacti. Which were great eats for the mites. She was told to spray them with malathion. But she hated its smell so much she preferred to give her plants up.

☹▼☹ **GS-3** having it easy? It depends on the agency and the job. Some GS-3 Federal employees have jobs from hell -- although more and more those are being contracted out. Some GS-15s have the life of Riley. You have heard about those four hour lunches no doubt. I know a GS-14 who may as well have been paid to learn Modern Greek.

☹▼☹ ct. Me. I'm glad you told me about Ebay and **used books**. I didn't put the two together. I have been using Bookfinder.com myself, which is a pretty good. There is also the method of getting books by interlibrary loan from your local library.

☹▼☹ So you were lucky in the **Vietnam War**. You didn't have to fight it.

☹▼☹ You're right that I have very little direct knowledge of the **project** type of jobs. The political campaign job, the building a skyscraper job. And when the project is finished, people are out of a job.

At work we have contractors, however, and their jobs seem ephemeral enough. Once the contract is up, they're often out. I was told being a Minority Owned business gives you a foot up, but they lose their status after a while.

☹▼☹ The **Vanguard Fund** sounds like my kind of investment -- safe. I think I will ask a woman who has invested in it how I can.

To be honest, Irv, Vanguard sounds

like your type of investment too. I was wondering: Irv a day trader -- even a couple of days trader? I guess we can all be sucked in by a bubble. Now that it's burst, you're back to the Irv I knew.

Actually, from my cursory reading of your losses, they don't sound 1929ish. But they were losses, and I guess enough to bring you back to the Irv I know.

☹▼☹ ct. Gary B. My parents were stuck with **New York Bonds** in the 1970s. Those bonds had lost their AAA and my parents had wanted to sell. But the City legally prevented them from doing so. Then they figured out: the City was paying 12% interest tax free and you couldn't get that elsewhere.

☹▼☹ ct. TKFW. You can't get away from the **U.S.** by going to England. It will find you no matter where you turn. As you say, Country Western music and US Civil War. I hear an Anglican minister at one time decided, in mufti, to dress as a cowboy with a six gun.

On the other hand, you can't get away from England in the States. I know a Black woman who just loves her British comedies. And the Teletubbies.

It's a small world.

ARTHUR D. HLAVATY

derogatory reference 95

☹▼☹ Sladek also wrote *Arachne Rising*, which I reviewed not knowing this, and other faux occult works. In addition, he wrote a skeptic book and Gothic romances. One could say that he wrote to make a living but I would like to think he wrote to have fun. Fun unbounded by any particular genre.

☹▼☹ Let me tell you about my **physical problems**. Nothing at the current moment to compare to yours. But one can always complain about one's physical problems.

My current one is rotator cuff. Muscles in the shoulder press against the nerve at particular places. I think. I hope. One reason is I have had that before. Several years ago my hands were numb a good deal of the time. My doctor claimed we diabetics are prone toward rotator cuff.

I wasn't able to cure it until I used heavy enough weights for the exercises recommended by the physical therapist. The three to five pound weights weren't working. My doctor suggested that I should do it with heavier weights. I upped them to fifteen to twenty-five pounds. While there may have been a difference between that shoulder pain and the pain of pulled muscles and chipped bones, I couldn't tell. Except that all the pain AND THE NUMBNESS went away.

Well a couple of months ago, my hands started growing numb if I drove even for half an hour. And, while sleeping, which I have to do on my side, the hand *above* my body started growing numb. Which shouldn't be. So I decided I had to increase the weight again.

Now a portion of my upper back hurts, like my shoulder before. I hope I'm doing the right thing. The numbness I complained of has gone.

🍷🍷🍷 I read an article on **stereotyping** in a social science encyclopedia, the mega one published in the '60s. It claimed that we have to stereotype, as a practical matter. Even Blacks, Hispanics and Gays. In fact, I find I have to form stereotypes about Jewish people and I'm Jewish. And about my wife Heidi. And about next door neighbors in general.

The difference between I, you and a bigot is this. We non-bigots can change our stereotype if new information indicates they are off the wall. Blacks can turn out to be

hard working. Gays, easy to deal with. Cultured individuals, fans of wrestling. My wife can turn out to be tougher than she admits. Tougher than she realizes. Not even cancer can defeat her.

🍷🍷🍷 *"And what is the purpose of being really intelligent if not to have the substance of what you want without mistaking it for the shadow?" - Robert Sheckley.* And have the shadow without mistaking it for the substance.

🍷🍷🍷 It would ruin most **debates** if we had to understand our opponents' meaning. I found that out in a debate on an email list. So did my opponent. We found we were talking about two different things. And had to make up. Both of us felt more than a little depressed.

🍷🍷🍷 Suzette Haden Elgin's **gentle art** books sound like books psychologists and psychiatrists were writing ten to fifteen years ago. I believe as part of Cognitive Therapy.

Not all were as gentle as Suzette, however. One author gave this version of John Wilkes' put down of, I think, the Earl of Salisbury.

EARL: Wilkes, you'll die of the pox or on the gallows.

WILKES: That depends on whether I embrace your mistress or your morals.

🍷🍷🍷 When I met **Eric Raymond** in the '80s, all he could do was talk. When I met Eric at the 1998 Worldcon, what he mostly did was listen. He was the anarchist holding court over the socialists. Periodically, he would remind them he was an anarchist, but essentially he listened quietly to monologues both witty and crackbrained.

JANET D. LARSON

passages #5

☺▼☺ Are you in **denial** about your twins? Or is it you haven't the foggiest notion of how to deal with twins and can only play it by ear once they come out. In a situation like that would planning do any good? It is obvious worrying wouldn't.

☺▼☺ **Mr. Gray's** (Dr. Gray's) article tells parents to raise kids opposite to how I was raised.

Most of it doesn't sound bad. I do disagree with teaching kids it's OK to want more. It's wise you put in parenthesis that you also teach them that they don't always get it. Still, in my experience, wanting more by itself is too often the key to unhappiness rather than unhappiness.

RANDY CLEARY

avatar press

☺▼☺ Good luck with **weight control**. It is supposed to be so easy and it's so difficult. I was being pointed out as the great example for the longest time. I lost seventy pounds. But I've gained back twenty somehow or other. I have told SFPAn about it.

I said if my checkup didn't go OK or my doctor complained, I would go on a diet. Well, I passed my checkup with flying colors and my doctor was not worried very much about my weight.

So while I would still like to lose that weight gain, the motivation is not there.

☺▼☺ The *Decatur Daily* misspelled your name -- Clearly.

☺▼☺ Good luck in helping **your mother** get out of a miserable situation.

☺▼☺ So **fencing** is not like Erol Flynn in the movies. Just like real wrestling is not like the WWF on TV. I think the difference is, in real life fencing, you're involved and

know the nuances. The thrusts and feints have meaning. In the movies and on TV, The audience is uninvolved and knows nothing. It needs swinging from chandeliers to keep its interest perked.

☺▼☺ The **internet** of the future? You don't give the details on the one on *Earthweb*. In mine, it travels through the air waves rather than wires. And we receive it directly: we are the computers somehow or other and the websites are received directly into our brains.

☺▼☺ ct. Me. My wife **Heidi** read your zine and thanks you for your kind words. She also thinks you're very talented.

☺▼☺ My **Y2K** rant, I meant seriously. I take my whimsies and caprices very seriously. Y2K does indeed have magic.

☺▼☺ Good for you, taking advantage of the slump in the **comics** market to enjoy yourself. That's what comics are supposed to be for. Collecting, if it has any place in the scheme of things, is supposed to be a sideline.

☺▼☺ Actually, I remember as a kid people using the term **CE**. Jewish, religious scholars have tended to use it because they don't wish to refer to Jesus Christ. It's not being politically correct for them. Also, some archaeologists have used it to sound more objective. I don't know whether for as long as the Jewish scholars.

☺▼☺ Great **clips**. I'll have to use them in coming Twygs. I suspect my wife will insist.

DAVID SCHLOSSER

peter, pan & merry #29

☺▼☺ ct. Me. How would we know that מלך or מלח, written without vowels, is not referring to Melech the king even when we thought it was referring to **Moloch**? How would the Karaites have known, who gave



the Torah its vowels a thousand years later?

☹▼☹ I agree that **Evolution** can stop change for thousands of years. But that is because any changes die off. Smaller dinosaurs died off as did smarter clams.

In the case of humans, changes aren't dying off. Not even the blind or deaf necessarily die from their handicaps. We are always trying to increase the life span of giants. And to make those without feet mobile and those without hands supple.

I have another point to make. You said that our fashions die off too soon to affect evolution. And I have to agree. But I said 'trends' would power Evolution, which would be the effect of all the fashions taken together. Maybe for millions of years.

☹▼☹ Of course, there is an **ulterior motive** to this. All my life I was been preoccupied with my body: I am too fat, too weak, too too. A fancy underlies this theory. I guess what happens in science. I see the

trend being for the fat and thin and strong to intermarry. So races arise that are fat, thin and strong. Then species.

The fat species looks vaguely like pigs, the thin vaguely like fawns, the strong like gorillas. They have different personalities as well as body types. The thin are solitary creatures, the fat live in highly organized communities and the gorillas are aggressive. They ultimately make off for the stars.

☹▼☹ I didn't copywrite "Creature of the **Black Legume**" Does that means I was in a vegetative state? Or was it a non-vegetative state?

☹▼☹ You're right that **Evolution** does not contradict a universe Designed by some intelligence, i.e., God. But, with its dog-eat-dog, law-of-the-jungle, it does contradict a universe Designed by a good God. A good God which people want to believe in.

The good God my wife needs right now.

☹▼☹ You can't avoid **namecalling** if you are trying to claim you are all good and your opponent is all bad. This is what candidates usually feel impelled to do.

☹▼☹ Thinking about it, I agree. Plot holes are not the big thing, especially in **James Bond** films. It's plot holes that don't feel right. To you, M is supposed to be a grey eminence. He can't go gallivanting around the field gat in hand.

☹▼☹ If your Uncle Louis was like **my grandmother**, he refused to change his name from Jokl to Jordan because he was used to it. Habit is always one of the strongest forces in the world. Usually stronger than change.

☹▼☹ One would think that the Senate would be repealing **treaties** full speed ahead in the Clinton Administration. They hate his guts so and are so suspicious of him. But not

even they actually repeal them. They have mostly been willing to let the President conduct foreign policy while pretending not to.

So I don't suspect it is that great a danger that Congress will repeal the treaties most Presidents negotiate.

☛▼☛ ct. Tom Feller. Presidents have so often chosen a **Vice President** from some other State we think it's in the Constitution. But it isn't. It's like on *Mary Hartman*, *Mary Hartman*, the '70s TV show, when it was going full guns. So many police had gotten vasectomies, one character decided there was a rule that said they had to.

☛▼☛ ct. Jeff Copeland. If those monks looked in the grimoires, the manuals for calling up demons, they would have found more many **names of God** than can be written down. And if they consulted Jewish mystics like Abraham Abulafia, the names of God would be infinite. Almost as many as the number of combinations of the Hebrew alphabet.

☛▼☛ I'm getting old now. I thought you were supposed to tell your kids that when you were young, you obeyed your parents. Of course, my parents are even older. They say it in dead seriousness. When I tell my nieces that, I do it tongue firmly planted in cheek. My sister snickers.

☛▼☛ ct. Janice Gelb. I lived in a neighborhood where there were plenty of **kids** my own age. It didn't prevent me from being lonely. If I didn't have a slough of imaginary friends, I don't know what I would have done.

☛▼☛ You've told me about your place of **work**; now let me tell you about mine. Where I work has degenerated once again into anarchy. Ellen Haas as Under Secretary took my bosses as her toadies, so there was no one at the helm. Now I hear Shirley has

developed the same tendency. Not as bad but bad enough

That prevented my management from being there when my library was moved during the current renovations. I found the normal practice of consulting my management was the deaf consulting the blind. It was between me and Jim Gardella of the Property Branch. He alone was calling the shots.

Maybe for the best. Jim is not my favorite person, but he knew moving. He moved me to the fourteenth floor from the eighth and back to the eighth. And my library is in semi-'one piece.'

I have other reasons to kvetch about my management. My boss Jean, so reasonable about so many things, cannot do paperwork. I'm sure she thinks it is unnecessary because she didn't have to do it in the small advocacy groups she worked for. But not doing paperwork in the Federal government means nothing gets done.

Plus she can't make a decision to hire a News Director. Which means she is the News Director. Which, with babysitting Shirley, means she doesn't have time for anything else.

Actually, Jean is one of the lesser bones I have to pick. Joyce, higher up, is worse. While I realize she is under pressure not to spend any money, she has overdone it. I had a hell of a time trying to get her to renew the newspaper subscriptions. And she would be committing Hari Kari if she didn't. The major newspapers have to be reviewed or her bosses are in for a lot of unpleasant surprises.

I hope Joyce will break down for the Bacon's MediaSource. Lot of people need that. And overall it provides a cost saving.

In short, I am not a happy camper about management. Fortunately, I basically

work independent of everyone: for now I can do what I want to as long as it doesn't cost money.

🍷🍷 Your temple presidency sounds like the presidency of my **Toastmasters** Club. I have been president since last July. My term expires June 30. Fortunately, it hasn't been the time eating experience the temple presidency was for you. My club is lucky enough to have someone who will pick up any and all slack, Jenny. People have complained about her but they won't do the work she does.

She held my hand for the entire year. Perhaps I should have learned more about the nuts and bolts, but I didn't have the motivation. She didn't complain, though. She was thankful to have a warm body in that position.

Next year we have Phil as the president. Phil is a really good guy and a really good Toastmaster -- normally. However, he went through a period when he couldn't be depended upon for anything. I'm crossing my fingers that doesn't happen again.

Next year I'm Vice President for Education. A job, I should get cracking on. Of course, the problem is Am I motivated enough?

ONE-SHOT

three dinguses, two yucky things and a soft shell crab that went squish.

🍷🍷 TONI. I could stay up **all night** swilling beer and playing hearts, but I'm much too old to battle with sword and shield.

🍷🍷 GEORGE. Which one of us was more **squeamish**. I had nightmares over E.C. Comics and you over giant ants and cowboy werewolves. Come to think of it, you were more squeamish. But classier.

🍷🍷 ALLIE. A **6'2" elf**!!! She must have a lot of neuroses.

🍷🍷 IRV KOCH. The Christian Women of **Triumph**, Georgia, reminded me of a *Mad* magazine parody of *True Confessions*. It went something like this.

"Someday I can forget but not now, not when the memory is so clear in my mind. The time WE LIVED IN SHAME. ...Because there's no place I hate more than Shame, Mississippi. With the Moxie bottling plant on one side of town. ..."

🍷🍷 STEVE HUGHES. The one time I tried a **one-shot** I couldn't get into the spirit. I started repeating myself. And I was too embarrassed by the effort afterward. What ate into my confidence even more was around that time Guy, in a one-shot, came up with Barney the Purple Dinosaur as the Anti-Elvis.

🍷🍷 BEAR BEAR. Welcome to **SFPA**. It has never mattered whether SFPAns were animate or not.

STEVE and SUZANNE HUGHES the marsh creek gazette

🍷🍷 STEVE. In short, **hand gliding** isn't for me. I guess I could carry the 75 pound handglider. One of my weight training exercises is with eighty pounds. But, to paraphrase Boris Badenov, I have a heart of pure chicken. And learning to walk right would be another problem. I have two left feet.

🍷🍷 SUZANNE. So, so far, I would be better off with a paper Atlas or an AAA Triptik than a **GPS** guidance system. Automation often isn't ready for prime time yet. As a librarian, I do a lot of reference work. With some things, the web works like a charm. First hit on the search engine. But other things, there's no replacement for

looking the answer up in a book. With the *Federal Registers* from 1977, the web is not going to make it at all.

GARY R. ROBE

tennessee trash #35

☹▼☹ Did the District Manager of that Hampton Inn hear an earful from **Diana**. Or did he hear the word “science fiction convention”?

☹▼☹ More kvetching about my minor problems. You have your sprained wrist; I have something minor. But, like you, I don’t want to risk it either. The problem was there in February. When I did the barbell curl at fifty pounds, my left **wrist hurt** a little. After shoveling hard ice snow, it hurt a lot more.

I decreased the weight to twenty pounds. As of June, I have worked my way back to forty-five pounds. Since there is still a little bit of pain, I’m not so certain I want to go heavier for now. Also, forget about Close Grip like the exercise suggests but doesn’t insist on.

This is in addition to the Rotator Cuff problem I mentioned earlier. Isn’t old age a mess?

☹▼☹ So you cured an Isaac scared by Buffy, Hapkido and Christ’s wounds with a little magic. Holy water from a cruciferous twist tie. Adults are too sophisticated for that to work with them.

Too ‘sophisticated’ for their own good. It would be great if we too could be cured of **fears** by your twist tie ritual.

☹▼☹ ct. Me. **Nicholas Falmel**? Or Flamel? ...Oh well. Anyway, what’s he like in the Harry Potter book? Is his wife there?

☹▼☹ **Hapkido** at least is honest. Too many things are hyped to do far more than they actually do. Hapkido admits that it should be used only with the terminally

stupid criminal -- of which there are many. Or when in complete desperation.

☹▼☹ ct. Janet Larson. That you don’t like making out **reports** doesn’t mean anything. Nobody does. Not even the most anal, it seems, i.e., the Inspector/Authority types.

☹▼☹ ct. Steve Hughes. I think the idea behind **voice recognition** software is you have to teach it. To judge, we have to see how it performs after it has learned something, i.e., been corrected. Immediate voice recognition seems a chimera.

My brother says that he wants to spend \$1,000 for the medical recognition Dragon. The problem is how well it would recognize those words as spoken from his mouth.

GARY F. BROWN

oblio. no. 126

☹▼☹ As usual Great **graphics**. I am going to have to get a printer like you have. ...An Epson, huh? Or is that someone else?

☹▼☹ My intuition is **Elian** knew by the instinct kids have that his Miami relatives are crazy. That his being Christlike on a slide is crazy. That his being a refugee, and asking for refugee status, is crazy. He believed this even though he was living the life of Riley. And he was allowed to be up at 5 AM when the Feds nabbed him.

☹▼☹ I’ve been wrongly accused of crimes several times. However, it was always for minor traffic violations. I remember one from Newark, NJ. for a parking violation. A city which, I normally don’t find myself in -- fortunately.

Of course, the cops in **Texas** are crazy. They probably accuse strangers of committing serious crimes all the time. Given the attitude of juries and legislators, the cops there are free to make asses of

themselves. And worse.

☹▼☹ Harry Lampert's **Flash**, though a pulp, has a classical look. Like Mercury. The classics were bigger then. I remember Wonder Woman having a come in with Mars the God of War. With its helmet with hood ornament.

☹▼☹ ct. Me. **My cover** with the Renaissance pharmacy wouldn't have been half so bad if the photocopy center hadn't done a number on it. The original scan shows the Hebrew words and spa/pharmacy clients loud and clear.

☹▼☹ Cookies and brownies through the mail? Half yecccchhhh. I remember the Moon Pies someone sent one mailing. They rate a full yecccchhhh.

☹▼☹ Like you, I'm **nostalgic** because I see my childhood through a gauze. But I can't get over the suspicion I'm better off right now.

☹▼☹ No, I wasn't denying **Design** so much as David's argument that Design is because it 'could' be. You can prove anything with 'could.' Unfortunately, it's a convincing argument only if you already believe.

Or was that David's argument?

☹▼☹ I have no doubt that a President can follow the rules for a good **economy**. My problem is that the rules change. Leaving presidencies high and dry.

I have lived through times when government spending and the jawboning of industry insured prosperity. The '50s and '60s. And I have lived in the current era when de-regulation and competition insures prosperity. And I have lived in periods, like the '70s, when nothing seemed to work.

I know I am a liberal and should only see the success of the '60s way of doing things. Just as Conservatives should ignore it. But my ideological mode has to contend

with a common sense mode, which remembers prosperity under both.

☹▼☹ Maybe your **left hip** experienced more wear and tear, but illogically injuries and pain don't follow that rule. One body part can be stronger than the other. Also, sometimes an unused body part experiences more injury and pain when it is finally used. One does when it experiences them intermittently.

☹▼☹ So I was right about the other Martians. That they are silly bowling balls, maybe a little above hockey pucks. But I'm not right about **Cosmo** who is wise and knowing.

☹▼☹ ct. Ned Brooks. I wonder whether it would be better if at the end of the day your **doppelganger** who was doing the scutwork in some ghostly or osmotic fashion recombined with you again. So you would have the experience of the house work and zine typing.

Of course, maybe the idea is that he remain separate from you, and you don't have to feel those pains in the coccyx.

☹▼☹ ct. Norm Metcalf. I have another place a **Lost Race** could hide, in the polyglot that is our civilization. I wonder how many arcane American Indian identities have survived intermarriage.

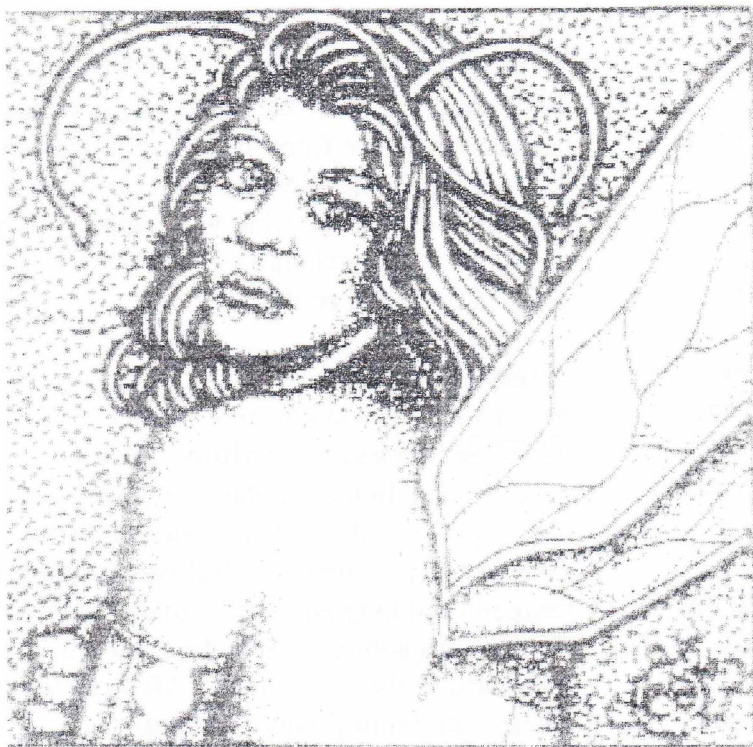
And are there even more exotic ethnic consciousnesses that are surviving right now because their owners practice the American way to outsiders? Or the British way? Hindu way? Chinese way?

I wonder if there is anyone with Martian blood doing that?

☹▼☹ ct. Janice Gelb. What happened to your girl friend **Shelley**? Did I miss something? ...Or shouldn't I ask?

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF

'yngvi is a louse' and other graffitos



☹▼☹ KREEGAH. No it's not just a small minority that wants unregulated **guns**. And, Horrible Hank to the contrary, not just the awful Federal government that wants to ban guns. There are millions of fanatics on both sides.

☹▼☹ Oooo, that hurts. A **cartoon** of an Antebellum Janet Reno bringing a boy back to his mother in slavery. To me, it's obvious Elian would be a 'Hero of the Revolution' when he returned. Still, the cartoon hurts. The symbols take on a logic of their own.

Which reminds me of a war between bumperstickers going on in Northern Virginia. Conservative Christians have bumperstickers vaguely of a fish. Which represents Jesus. Some Evolutionist wags had a cartoon response to it. A fish with feet -- Evolution. Of course, the fish has a meaning totally different from its original one.

I saw a bumpersticker recently from a Creationist. She had the fish with its feet up in the air. And it said: "Fish don't have feet and Darwin is dead."

Oooo, it hurts. Like the other bumperstickers, makes no sense in the real world. But it hurts nonetheless.

☹▼☹ THE WOLF GIGGLES. It sounds like the Black people in the car were drunk. And had not the slightest intention of robbing **Horrible Hank**. But any chance to justify his gat in a storm.

☹▼☹ Well, I'm glad **Horrible Hank** finds something good to say about Bill Clinton.

☹▼☹ ct. Me. Of course, we should be advertising for new

SFPAns, even though your presence is a powerful advertisement in itself. All I wanted to show is the sad condition APA fandom is in.

In fact, I feel so strongly we should advertise that if someone doesn't start a SFPA website soon, I have half a mind to. I will create it on Geocities. And it will be completely embarrassing for all concerned. First, I'll put a picture of myself fat in a loin cloth riding an elephant.

So you guys better hurry up.

☹▼☹ Does the law of **unintended consequences** work for all acts of social change? You bet. Sometimes it's something no one could foresee.

But very often it's something anyone with any brains could foresee. On hot button issues, common sense is often in short supply. For instance, the Party in Power always overdoes its centerpiece policies and causes a backlash.

I know of several examples

personally. My agency's Reagan appointees decided at the beginning that there were only bennies from putting down Federal employees, no drawbacks. That was until we unionized. And while we as Federal employees can't strike, there are legal weapons our union can use. And which management would much prefer we didn't.

On the other hand, the sexual harassment thing was overdone too. I was once accused of looking. Not gawking, not leering. Looking. You can see why, after having become a cesspool where vendettas could be fought, this scorched earth campaign died.

👉👉👉 ct. Gary Brown. Do I object to the way **Scaife** has used his billions SIMPLY because I disagree with his views? Of course. Simply? To me, disagreeing is the whole shebang.

👉👉👉 ct. Steve Hughes. Aha, you have been talking in **code** all these years. And I have been the odd man out. I thought you were talking politics when you were actually passing gossip. Like when you said "as Second Amendment rights have eroded (and they have eroded, been picked away for decades)."

What you were actually saying was something about Horrible Hank and a drink during a party in Atlanta a year ago. All the other SFPAn's know the code, but I've left out of. I've got your number.

👉👉👉 ct. Richard Lynch. Tell the **Gilbreaths** that they don't have to read the entire zine. They can just read and comment on other SFPAn's comments about them. Some have gotten away with it over the years. Or they can just comment on their friends' zines. Which, I guess, would leave me out. But some have gotten away with that too.

If they did either, SFPA would be

snap.

👉👉👉 WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Israel should scuttle the **Peace negotiations** because of fallout from the Lebanon pullout or violence on the West Bank? They are but peanuts compared to what will happen when the Arabs and Israel sign a final Peace Accord. For good or ill.

MIKE WEBER

mikey doesn't work here anymore

👉👉👉 **Seaman** have always been a people apart. In the old days, they were set apart by superstition. And swearing. In the 19th Century, Gilbert and Sullivan intimated seamen used language worse than "damn."

This shows what a closeknit world the world of the seaman was. All these were things you did in private. Apparently, seaman didn't know how to behave in public -- the non-closeknit world.

I am not certain the seaman's world won't be even more closeknit in the future not less. If they are going to have mixed sex ships, there may be no reason to go on land. The brotherhood of seamen may become a brother- and sisterhood.

👉👉👉 The way you describe the **Census**, it sounds like it is operated in much the way some private businesses are. Like Victoria's Secret when my wife worked for it. Always making unrealistic demands, going in for purge trials. I wonder if the Census has been contracted out this time around?

👉👉👉 Mike, you need another **car** even though you can't afford it. Something I have a lot of experience with with my old Volvo.

JEFF COPELAND

a modest (constitutional) proposal

👉👉👉 I will **vote for it**, although I'm not certain your amendment will prevent the OE from being sued for copyright infringement.