



# Twygodrasil And Treehouse Gazette #70

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May 2001



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ILLUSTRATIONS: Cover, Tenacity; p7, Do; p14, Ti; p22, No Apologies; p5, Captured by an Alien; Bacover, Irish Gothic. I took out my sick Heaven's Gate pix this time around. The book Captured by Aliens inspired it. I had the subgenius website to thank for two of them. Plus a sick commentary on the Chinese capturing our plane. Sick, sick, sick.

## **MORE BAD LUCK (?)**

I kvetched about my bad luck last time. What happened? Well, I have racked my cellphone up to experience. And am using it for emergencies. And for my one time on travel, Deep South Con. There I figured it had to be less expensive than the hotel phone. Hotels charge an arm and a leg for calling.

About my computer, it still has problems. I should bring it in. It's not stable. It reboots itself a lot. While the screen doesn't hang there as much and I have not had as much experience with the screen freezing when I finally get online, still it is unstable and I should bring it back to the dealer. And have him deal with it.

But I am having too much fun installing software on it that I couldn't on the old computer. I have my CD-writer up. I use CDs like I used to use diskettes. To back up individuals files short term in addition to using them for a full drive backup. I have Omnipage 10. I'm going to have to learn all its features. I am going to put Dragon on it any day now. I have my scanner up and running.

About the problems I had with the bridge holding my teeth together, I have a new bridge in. And a new toothguard. At first, I was wearing it all the time. But the toothguard has changed my bite so I don't seem to be hitting the porcelain on my bridge very much and breaking it like before. I wear the toothguard at night just in case, though. And during exercise. And when stress arises, which it hasn't much

recently. So the bridge and it vulnerable porcelain teeth has faded as a problem.

However, while these problems faded, I got a new pain in the ass, shingles. It erupted. I had a rash and blisters. And things hurt me that hadn't really hurt in a while.

At first, a place on my back just felt out of kilter. I thought I was stiff and needed some exercise. But that eradicated the problem only temporarily. Ultimately, it hurt when I sat. It hurt when I stood. It was old home week between the shingles and arthritis of years past.

For some reason, things never hurt when I exercised. And things always hurt less immediately afterward. I originally explained the pain as an attack of arthritis, and couldn't explain the rash and blisters at all. However, when I went to a doctor, I was in for a shock. She took one look at my rash. And said it was herpes. An embarrassing ailment because of its association. Later I learned a better word for it, shingles. And a better association: it is associated with measles. If you ever had measles, you have a twenty percent chance of getting it.

The doctor prescribed a seven day treatment with Acyclovir, AKA Zovirax. The rash receded, the blisters popped and faded, the pains faded. I could sit and stand without much problem in several days.

My big problem was when I woke up in the morning. I was stiff and things hurt like hell then. Sometimes I would awaken before that stiff and hurty, and there were some problems going back to sleep. Both

sleep and waking problems are fading too now.

And other problems sleeping have replaced them.

## DEEP SOUTH CON

It comes as no news to some of you that I broke down for once and went to Deep South Con. I promised if Ned was the GoH, I would come. And I did.

I went by US Air. Going, the planes were like cattle cars. I made things worse through ignorance. I didn't know enough to put my carry-on bag in the overhead compartment, so I didn't have much leg room either.

Coming back I put it in the compartment up above. And didn't have that problem.

Also, I wasn't in cattle cars. At the Birmingham airport, I complained that I would have to wait a long time for my plane. And the agent rescheduled me for a Pittsburgh connection instead of Charlotte, NC. I found out later that they must have been desperate for passengers to Pittsburgh. There was nobody on the plane.

An additional advantage was I got home four or five hours earlier.

On the ground, there was a lot I didn't know about traveling too. Like the new keys, the cards. I put the card in and I couldn't get into my room. I didn't realize you had to take it out.

I met Ned as I was checking into the Radisson, where the con was being held. I could have sworn he had a beard last time I saw him in 1998. And that's why I didn't recognize him. But he recognized me and

swore he had never worn a beard. Shows how porous my memory is.

However, I am not the only one with a porous memory. A day or two later Ned thought I had said something about Reed's bookstore. And I couldn't have; I had never been in Birmingham. Ned wanted to go there, but found it wasn't open Sunday.

I do have something to say about it now. I saw it on my walk after the convention. People were painting it. I also found it was closed Monday as well as Sunday.

I met Charlotte Proctor. We had a nice talk. Then a little later, she did my Tarot in the con suite. She said I was creative and had strong opinions. Sounds right.

Then one card had a red haired woman. And she wondered who that would be. I said it was my wife. She replied that she must be out of practice. I thought it was a good enough shot myself.

I told her on such matters I was a skeptic and a believer at one in the same time. For once, I resisted trying to explain that. And just said it is a view that confuses everyone. She didn't look like she wanted it explained anyway.

Later she gave me a great t-shirt. It had a drawing by Wade Gilbreth of Walt Willis and Bob Shaw in propeller beanies with the American Gothic background. And is entitled Irish Gothic. This particular one was done for the Jophan Family Reunion for 1993. Others, for other Jophan Family Reunions.

It was only one of the t-shirts I stockpiled for my wife. This one, I don't think Heidi understands and would be reluctant to wear. But I'll certainly wear it. And puzzle them at work.



I am eternally grateful to Charlotte.

How did I deal with all the food? I didn't eat as little as I had planned. Definitely. But I didn't pig out either. I ate at Johnny Rockets twice but I didn't get to taste their double hamburger till the second time. Forget about going out for barbecue. This was a con to get to know SFPAns. And only Mike Weber seemed to be interested in going to Dream Land. And he ate there before I could go with him.

How did I handle Naomi's feast? I took my diabetic's portion, little tastes of everything. I hated to mess up her beautiful works of art, but the spirit did not move me to eat a full piece of each delicacy. Or even a piece of one. She didn't seem to mind. As long as I was enjoying myself with my tastes. Which I was.

I did throw caution to the winds once and bought an ice cream milk shake at Johnny Rockets.

I had a partial justification for doing that. I had drunken Gary's Brazilian drink. No ill effects; I was just pleasantly high. And then I went down to the suite where the Kentucky derby was being celebrated. And was given a Mint Julep. It proved once again that sweet drinks are poison to me. While most of the drink wound up in the sink, the few sips I took made me nauseous and gave me the beginnings of a headache.

So what does this have to do with justifying my milk shake at Johnny Rockets. It settled my stomach. And for some reason settled my head as well. Couldn't a glass of milk have done that? I doubt it. But I probably could have cured it with something less fattening.

In other ways, I was a bad Southern fan. Not only can I not drink, and do I eat in moderation; I also had to get my proper

round of sleep. Around eleven one night, I was joking to Sheila that I was cranky, like a child, and could throw a tantrum any second. That was before I went beddy.

My visit brought home to me what I had a vague premonition of all along. That people do not look like their zines. I think I told a lot of this in our one shot. The only person who has looked like his zine was George. However, as I said in the one shot, he is more coherent in person. At one point, I asked him about it and he admitted that he's tired and has had too much coffee – and in other ways is in 'cosmic' consciousness – when he does his zine.

Gary and Corliss looked younger in person than they do in photos in their zines. Probably the effect of the Tae Kwan-Do.

Others have also found people don't reflect their zines. Everyone agreed that Guy does not look like his zine. His looks and behavior belie the refined literateur of *Spiritus Mundi*. Although, in person, I think he has his own Guy charm.

We finally got a chance to see Mike Weber's stepdaughter Helen. Seventeen, very slender, very charming, and a slight bit mischievous. Articulate, and I bet very intelligent, too.

I listened with interest to Catherine Asaro's talk during the speeches about her novels' covers. Her editors seem to get a wrong cover for every book she writes. They originally pegged her as hard science fiction and put spaceships on her covers. Even as she was winning romance awards. Then they went to the opposite extreme and gave her bodice ripper covers, even for the hardest of her hard science fiction.

I saw one of them in the dealer

room. Yes, it was a genuine bodice ripper cover. In all the ones she showed during her talk, the hero looked like he had his clothes on. In the one I saw, he was stripped to the waist with enormous musculature. The kind women Ooo and Ahhh at. Supposedly that is the signal for hot sex in a hot bed. The only thing sexier would be both male and female disrobed. I bet it was one of those spaceship and more spaceship stories. Technical detail upon technical detail. Boy, were many of her readers disappointed!

At one point, I had a long talk with Ned about the worst SF novels. He had come upon one where all of the English parliament was heading up to the Moon in a train. But for the quick thinking of the engineer.

I told Ned I should look at my own production from twenty or thirty years ago. There is something in some to offend everyone. I had an idea for one about the Mormons sacrificing someone to Kali. Their religion has changed somewhat in the future. In this particular sacrifice, they throw someone down a well and he is supposed to be eaten by the monster. Instead, he is taken to the kingdom of the robots.

They in turn are fighting the evil Titans who live in the asteroid belt. The Titans have set up shop in the most cramped space possible. But through optical illusion, each of their compartments seems as spacious as a palace. And there are vast open spaces in-between.

The novel would of course have to be written in one day and, like a one-shot, not rewritten.

I thought George had a great idea for a bad novel too. In one zine, he created a whole conspiracy theory in which all the

problems of Ned's life were due to alien rabbits living nearby in hutches. At least that's the way I remember it.

Then we could get slash and burn rejection slips from Toni. And we would have it made.

Speaking of novels written in one day, I wonder if the contest is still being held. The winner is published. One of the novels was five hundred pages once. Somebody doubted that someone could write a five hundred page novel in that amount of time. The editor said that the doubter thought that only because he hadn't read it.

I have to end with some of my philosophy. George told me someone had complained that life was rotten and thought by all rights he should kill himself.

I told George, "He needs to delude himself."

So was my Deep South Con like Winston Churchill's pudding? No theme. I wouldn't put it that way. There were a thousand and one themes. I haven't been around fandom enough for my conventions to come into focus yet.

### **CAPTURED BY ALIENS** **by Joel Achenbach**

I read the aforementioned book by Joel, a *Washington Post* reporter. Captured by Aliens does not necessarily mean someone claims to have been physically abducted; it means people's imaginations have been captured by aliens.

Most of the book is about how scientists like the well-known Carl Sagan and the almost completely unknown Henry Harris have been captured by aliens.

A few chapters are about dyed-in-the-wool saucer nuts. This may sound insensitive and, God forbid, we should be insensitive. But what are we to make of people who claim they have been abducted. Who have created complex pantheons of extraterrestrials. Are the reptiloids, the insectoids and the greys devils? Certainly no good can come of them.

This has all the ingredients in it for a bestseller, except for one thing – Mr. Achenbach is a skeptic. People want dollups of pseudoscience nowadays, and Joel is not up to it. Charles Pellegrino was, and his book on excavations on the Island of Thera was a success. Was it Atlantis? Did the volcano's explosion cause Exodus? That book had to be a success. As it is, Joel's book is not even on the *Washington Post's* bestseller list.

In a way, it's too bad. He has a sense of humor, a sense of humility and a sensitivity toward other people's points of view. Even the saucer nuts, he tries to give a fair shake too.

I got involved with him when I heard Joel speak at our local skeptics group. And he happened to mention that extraterrestrials had taken the place of Angels in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. I told him that they had done that by the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. He said he wanted to hear about it and told me how I could contact him.

Flattered, I bought his book, and he autographed it:

"To Richard – Great to meet you – nice to have an acquaintance who knows about the history of these issues"

I have to say he was very nice about it. In my email, I not only told how Alexander Pope, Immanuel Kant and Benjamin Franklin had written about extraterrestrials;

I also told him about my whole theory of how the flying saucer came into being. Starting with how belief in other planets came into being. And ending with the Mu books and Ray Palmer.

Because hope springs eternal in the human nit-nerd, I was trying to entice him into co-authoring a book with me. The easy way to publication. It didn't take. It probably shouldn't have. Still, while he didn't bite, he thanked me and wrote a brief note of appreciation.

Anyway, all is not lost: now I have an outline for a book. And, who knows, I may yet write it.

But, about his book, I read it, of course. It shows the play between faith and science when it comes to extraterrestrials. The Mars meteorite, which was announced several years ago to have had life on it, that apparently took a good shot of faith to believe.

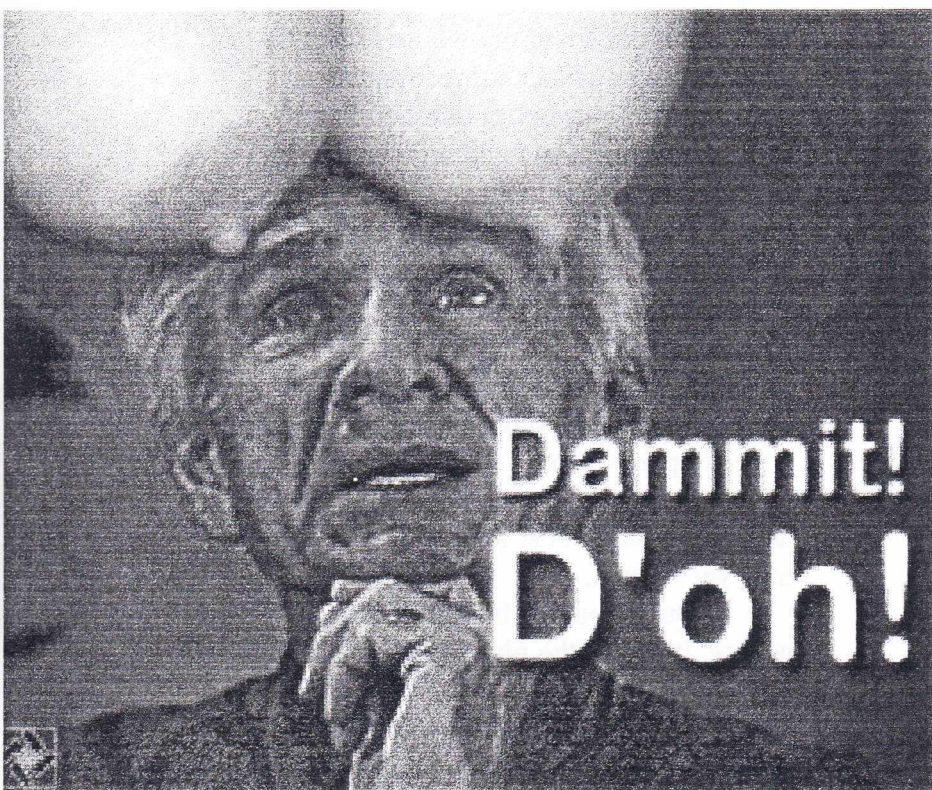
There is something called the Drake Equation. Such and such number of stars exist, and such and such number have a life. Ultimately, the equation says that such and such number would be capable of interstellar travel. But what we actually know is another thing: only the number of stars is known.

There is by the way an answer to the Drake Equation, the Fermi Paradox, of the atomic scientist Enrico Fermi. It says if intelligent life is plentiful, how come no extraterrestrials have reached Earth? .

That's based on equally bad assumptions. Among other things, who knows what extraterrestrials would do? Come to think of it, who knows what humans would do with interstellar or intergalactic capability?

The best evidence is that we are alone. There is no other planet we know of





I have to admit that people generally want to claim their views scientific. Yet things are more complex. Many scientists will admit that what they are doing is an exercise in faith. One honestly admitted that the Drake Equation was a way to organize our ignorance.

The saucerites are not totally without this view either. A California con man spoke of how he was abducted, and how the extraterrestrials wanted him to bring a new, vague New Age philosophy to the world. When Joel interviewed him, however, he was perfectly willing to admit he might have made the whole thing up in his head.

Even with admissions like that, I caught Joel in a misstatement of fact. About Heaven's Gate, the cult whose members committed suicide several years ago. They did not necessarily believe they would be lifted into a flying saucer in the flesh. I read their website, which was saved after the mass suicide; and they admitted the flying saucer might be spiritual. And the comet Hale-Bopp and its companion, the saucer, might be spiritual too.

Now we get to my belief. I have held that faith is a truth just like science. Only quite a different truth, which has to be handled quite differently. Probably already this sounds incoherent.

However, with people less and less unwilling to admit what they are doing isn't science, maybe they might come to understand my position. I have faith that they will.

**COMMENTS ON SFPA MAILING #220**

like the planet Earth. Of course, that is very weak evidence: it is derived from what we know about how life developed on one planet, Earth.

The most sensible position is that we don't know. But that's no fun.

Joel also, as I said, discusses saucer nuts. They use much more faith than the scientists. In fact, their beliefs often have no scientific content to speak of. But they really want to lay some claim to science. Believing out of faith is not enough. Only science, in our era, is true. Which is why this book cannot be a bestseller. Because people want to cover up their faith with science.

For his part, Joel is trying to be an honest and compassionate skeptic. He admits faith on his side, the side of scientists. And he cannot throw stones at the saucer people for wanting faith because he finds their beliefs attractive. And even when he doesn't, he tries to sympathize.



**JEFF COPELAND**  
**the southerner**

☹▲☹ Too bad Sue Phillips can't come on board right now. I remember I liked her. But welcome Trinlay!

☹▲☹ You have to improve your rule number four. Advertising is not a good replacement for Toni's ribaldry.

**NORM METCALF**  
**tyndalite v3, #94, February 2001.**

☹▲☹ ct. Me. So even when Gernsback thought he was getting originals for *Amazing*, he was getting reprints. He just liked old timey science fiction – even though he made up the term science fiction.

I wish my parents had not thrown out the *Forecasts* they got. I think that was the name of the zine Gernsback wrote by himself. Everyone who worked for him in some capacity got a copy. And my father was writing a lot of articles for *Sexology* magazine at the time.

Remembering them from around forty years ago, they were rather heavy on the Wonders of the Future. An antigravity vehicle for taking the family to the Moon. A special operatus in your home for sucking up all the dust. And everyone having what, in effect, were cellphones, although I think the exchanges for these were on satellites circling the Earth.

Hearing about the Wonders of the Future still appeals to me in a world where our theory of history is infinite regress.

☹▲☹ I can imagine that Erle S. Gardner threw all the rules of mystery to the wind in an attempt to publish as many Perry Mason novels as possible in a short time. As Truman Capote said of Jack Kerouac: that's typing not writing. Even though Erle

was doing the dictating and other people were doing the writing.

At least Erle didn't do what Talbot Mundy did. Or was it John Buchan? Change the name of the hero in mid book.

☹▲☹ According to Britannica.com, the first electronic digital computer was not until 1939, and it was not general purpose programmable until 1946. So we didn't have mainframes in the 1930s. I was wondering what could have inspired Schachner's mainframe. Tom Feller claims there were mechanical tabulators using punch cards then.

Sometimes what seem to us farfetched have inspired the science fiction writer. I heard the inspiration for domed underwater cities in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century came from the Victorian hothouses where plants were grown.

On the other hand, there does not seem to have been much inspiration in the '30s or '40s for writers to come up with the personal computer.

☹▲☹ Summary of novels? No summary; just whether Benoit's novel about Atlantis, sort of, imitated two of Haggard's novels. And I didn't say that either Haggard novel was an Atlantis novel. I think you read a bit too much in there.

But you are very right that Haggard's *Yellow God* was not set in Polynesia but West Africa. I am afraid I misread the article on Atlantis in Clute and Nichols' *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (1993). Only by the time I read you, had I found out on the web it is set in West Africa.

☹▲☹ As in all things, the first time radiation sickness was diagnosed depends on your definition. Apparently, by 1400 miners mining rock with uranium knew

something was wrong. Of course, they didn't know their problems stemmed from radiation; they called it "mountain sickness."

However, that damage came from overexposure to X-rays was noted a year after Roentgen discovered them, 1895, by a Dr. Gage. And that is in effect radiation sickness. Also, that you could have problems painting radium on the dials of clocks was known by 1924.

🍷▲🍷 You may be right. Scott gave up on raw meat by the time of his 1911-12 expedition. He may have considered it low class. Who knows? But he certainly used it during the 1902 expedition. I have documentary proof for that.

🍷▲🍷 If I remember my A.E. Van Vogt from my masters thesis in the early '70s, he did change something so he could integrate "Seesaw," "The Weapon Shops," and "The Weapon Shops of Isher." But he did not change much. It would have taken time away from his generation of words.

In general his novels are another example of typing rather than writing. Although his ideas could be exhilarating no matter how mishigas they got.

🍷▲🍷 You and Ned have proven to me my memory is faulty and Mack Reynolds wrote "The Martians and the Coys." Not Fredric Brown. What can I say?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. I remember seeing a NOVA about the Tasaday. They opted for the Tasaday being real. However, they said they were not some super-primitive tribe like the hype said they were. They were natives who had hidden in the jungles in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to escape slavers. And, being an agriculture people, their knowledge of hunting and camping left

something to be desired. Long term primitives develop a much more elaborate hunting technology.

Of course, the Tasaday have, since their discovery, re-integrated with members of their original ethnic group. And have been to some extent playing at being super-primitive.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Rich Lynch. Being lonely and demanding the world revolve around you seems to be faanish disease. Chuck is not the only one. At one DISCLAVE I found myself getting that way. It was the product of loneliness. Because of it, I stopped going to DISCLAVES.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Arthur. So Gold of *Galaxy* was literally into injecting neuroses into *Galaxy*. And writers, like Asimov, purposely made up stories with neuroses to submit to him. I guess you have to know your market. You have to be kinky to submit to Penthouse's *Players*. You have to be a sleaseball to submit to *Vanity Fair*. And you have to have been born in a cabbage patch to submit to *Readers' Digest*.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian III. What is your definition of science fiction, Norm? A movie can't be science fiction because science fiction must be written fiction? I thought it was a genre not a medium.

*Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea* isn't science fiction because there is no extrapolation. Maybe not of scientific principles but certainly of what you can do with current science.

*A Journey to the Center of the Earth* cannot be science fiction because it only concerns geology. You mean geology is not a science?

Herbert G. Wells' *The Invisible Man* is not science fiction because it is bad

science – and not even good horse sense. You mean there can't be bad science fiction? With wrong scientific principles.

On the other hand, Nazism is science fiction. But how can it be if its audience, the German nation, took it for fact. In my book, pseudo-science would be a better appellation.

Actually, I think Marcus Welby is a better example of science fiction. Who could believe at the time a doctor would make housecalls?

Having said all this, I have to admit: what you say is clever and witty. And I'm just being a pill here.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Brown. But Norm, there is one place spy satellites can never search. One place where incredible truth resides. The mind of Edgar Rice Burroughs.

## NED BROOKS

the new port news 196

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I was wrong. I guess you would need airmail if you sent a letter internationally. Lest it be placed on the slow boat to China.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Lynch. Urban Legends are starting to form around Bush Junior. In one, he was supposed to have that: he had strong views, which he disagreed with. A friend of mine swears it is true but I saw no citation. And Slate makes citing Bushisms easy.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy. Wouldn't that there are only 700 and 800 numbers on Paul Street prove that at one time there must have been a 413 Paul Street. And it was taken down a long time ago in favor of a high rise or something.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice. There was a Cecil Adams column in his *Straight Dope* about

people who believe that wearing aluminum foil or some other mental on their head will prevent enemy rays from penetrating it. Apparently, there is a whole website devoted to it by a woman who claims to believe.

Cecil says that a hat of enemy metal would be ineffective anyway. You would have to have a faraday cage, and cover yourself from head to toe in metal. I couldn't argue with the science of it, although I doubt it is very relevant to those who wear aluminum foil hats. To them, the scientists who said that must be in cahoots with the aliens.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don. That's been the recent idea: that being a true believer, and ignoring the facts, is coded in our DNA. I am not certain it isn't, to some extent, a sensible strategy for a world in which we know very little but we have to make decisions anyway. For instance, merely to get up in the morning.

Also, the person who goes to a lot of effort to formulate a cockamamie theory that includes all the facts is not a true, true believer. He is at least willing to bend his or her theory one iota. The true, true believer ignores any facts that don't fit in and never has to change his or her theory an iota.

🍷▲🍷 ct. George. I don't know about tea causing kidney stones. Coffee certainly does cause you to pee. And I shouldn't drink so much because I have problem with it.

Also, it probably is about time for me to try out Detrol.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff. I imagine "aiming" the car rather than "steering" it means that your father thought you didn't watch out enough for pedestrians and cars.

🍷▲🍷 A Blickensderfer typewriter?



Why not?

## RICHARD LYNCH

### variations on a theme #5

🍷▲🍷 Not only did Classical composers write Jazz-like pieces, but Jazz musicians played Classical Jazz-like pieces. I remember in the mid-'60s going into a bar and looking at their juke box. Among all the recent hits was an old hit, a Tommy Dorsey piece, "The Song of India." And when I played it, it did sound very much like Rimsky-Korsakov's "Song of India" with a Jazz beat. What it was doing there ten years after Tommy Dorsey's death, God knows.

As for Shostakovich's Jazz Suites. I heard part of one recently and it didn't sound anything like Jazz even though there must have been Jazz in there.

🍷▲🍷 NATION'S CAPITAL.

Hearing what you had to say about the National Building Museum, I feel sorry I never went in it. I used to go past it all the time on my way to GAO's Technical Library.

🍷▲🍷 The Transition hasn't hit my level either. We have a Secretary Anne Veneman. But no Under Secretary yet. One was nominated, an Eric Bost, who was the head of the Texas DHHS. But the Senators won't be voting on him until May. And he won't move to DC until they approve him.

People presumed that, being a Bush appointee in Texas, he must be rib rocked Conservative. When they heard he was Black, they supposed him a Clarence Thomas type. But apparently, he is technocrat, who follows orders. Also, the Regional people like him. He has a reputation for being a good manager and a fair supervisor. If so, that would be a change

for my agency. We've had so many bad managers and capricious supervisors.

We shall see.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. My wife believes they play *1812 Overture* too much. I've changed my mind since I wrote that comment in #68. Maybe it has more to do with the piece. It's all fireworks like *Bolero*, which, as I said, people believe gets played too much. As for myself, I heard *Bolero* and *1812* recently and I still loved them. So not everyone is of that opinion.

On the other hand, you and I both got burnt out on Rock music because they played it too much. Four pieces repeated three times every hour finally drove us both bonkhous. I guess teenagers have a higher annoyance threshold when it comes to in music.

🍷▲🍷 No, Gary Larson's publisher must have booked him for quite a few signings. Which may have added to his annoyance. I saw him in a relatively mundane bookstore, Dalton's or Walden, signing his books for a line that stretched from the back of the store to the door. In fact, at the time, that Gary did a lot of signings was folklore. There were gags about it.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tom Feller. I have found using the Wordperfect feature for HTML was OK. You can't put it on automatic pilot and expect it will turn out anything decent. You have to watch for glitches and correct for them. Still, it worked for my website.

I hear the same is not true for Word. The problem is that much of their markup language will only work on the Internet Explorer. The hope being that competing browsers will be driven out of business.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy. Maybe North Dakota

won't count for much in an election but Dakotans' vote will count as much as anyone else's. No justification for the Electoral College there.

ct. Gary Brown. I notice the Professor in Shoe has looked very much like Jeff MacNelly did. Whether under MacNelly or now.

ct. Janice Gelb. With the blackouts, Gray Davis and the Democrats are through in California for now. Unless, of course, Dubya tells Californians to drop dead.

I'm sure Toni believes the facts show that the Democrats attempted to manipulate the electoral politics and blatantly disregarded national security. I'm also sure Steve believes Clinton caused a recession and allowed innocents to be slaughtered in Kosovo.

While we believe the Repubs manipulated the electoral process in Florida and Clinton saved the day in Kosovo.

We each are looking at a different set of facts. Where is old fashioned objectivity in this? Politics is too hot button for objectivity. Nobody can be objective about it. I don't think it's a coincidence we all believe what is in our group's self-interest.

ct. Steve Hughes. However, I believe that the years from 1993-2001 were basically in prosperity will make it difficult to blame Clinton for the recession to come. That the NASDAQ went down last year is not going to mean squat.

It's obvious the Republicans are already gearing up to try to blame him; to them, it would be an entirely credible accusation. He is the AntiChrist. I don't think they can convince the general

population, though.

I don't really believe that Clinton went into Kosovo for humanitarian reasons alone. There is a lot of genocide going on in the world; why pick Kosovo. I think it had to do with alliances, keeping them up we've been regarding as in our national interest. Even the Republicans. If we were going to keep new NATO members, we were going to have to prove that we would protect them. And Kosovo was the litmus test.

### GUY H. LILLIAN III spiritus mundi 182

COVER. Is it sylphs from outerspace or the Mardi Gras? Maybe both.

You losing your wallet while buying Rosie an engagement ring reminds me of the time I missed the train. After two years of job hunting, I was in Washington, DC and I heard the magic words, "You're hired." And for a good job at a Federal agency. I was on Cloud Nine the rest of the day – and the evening. Which was the reason I missed the last train to my parents' place in New Jersey.

I took the bus. But the bus line ended in Philadelphia that time of night. Fortunately, I had an uncle nearby who put me up for the night.

All of which did not puncture my euphoria one wit. Like losing your wallet did not puncture your euphoria one wit on the day of your engagement and the Mardi Gras.

ct. Me. With old paperbacks, there is a problem with the cover illos. Did the artists actually read the book? Did they feel they had to? ...Did the editors even?

🍷▲🍷 About injecting yourself, I wouldn't be too afraid of it if it comes to that with you. After a while, it becomes second nature, a piece of cake. The fear subsides. It will never be fun. I keep on reading the instructions lest I miss an important step. Still, it has become second nature.

As for my Type 2 diabetes, nobody ever mentioned injections for it, although I have to prick myself and measure my blood glucose every once in a while.

🍷▲🍷 Come on, Guy. It's your fears running the show. At least this time around. Dubya, even Dubya & Co., are not supermen. No politician actually controls circumstances; at best, they only react to them well.

As for Bushite credibility, people want to believe them during a Conservative period of prosperity. Will they want to believe them during a more liberal period of recession? Usually, incumbents do not have that much credibility then.

Have some confidence. It's Al Gore in 2004. Or at least 2008.

🍷▲🍷 Was the Cardiff Giant, an evolutionary or creationist hoax? A George Hull had it built and buried because he lost an argument with a minister about giants having existed before Noah. Which side he was on, I am not too sure. By logic, one would think he claimed giants existed and the minister didn't. But who knows?

Of course, others claimed it was Phoenician or a great Indian prophet.

Another difference between the Cardiff Giant and the Piltdown Man was that the Cardiff Giant was exposed quickly; the Piltdown Hoax lasted almost forty years. Until a new generation of scientists proved

it was a fake both by new fangled means and old.

🍷▲🍷 Writing the ending of a book before the beginning is good practice. You know what the rest of the book is going to look like. However, it is more fun to find out the ending when the reader does.

🍷▲🍷 I tend to agree with you that L.A. would be a much better place for a lost race. But New York City, with its large geek population, looks like it has a myriad of them already.

🍷▲🍷 **Weekly World News** kept your lady alive? What strange dietary needs she has!

🍷▲🍷 Adolescence might be better if we went through it actually crazy. Then we wouldn't remember it as well as we do. Of course, maybe I did go through it crazy enough; I have forgotten so much of it.

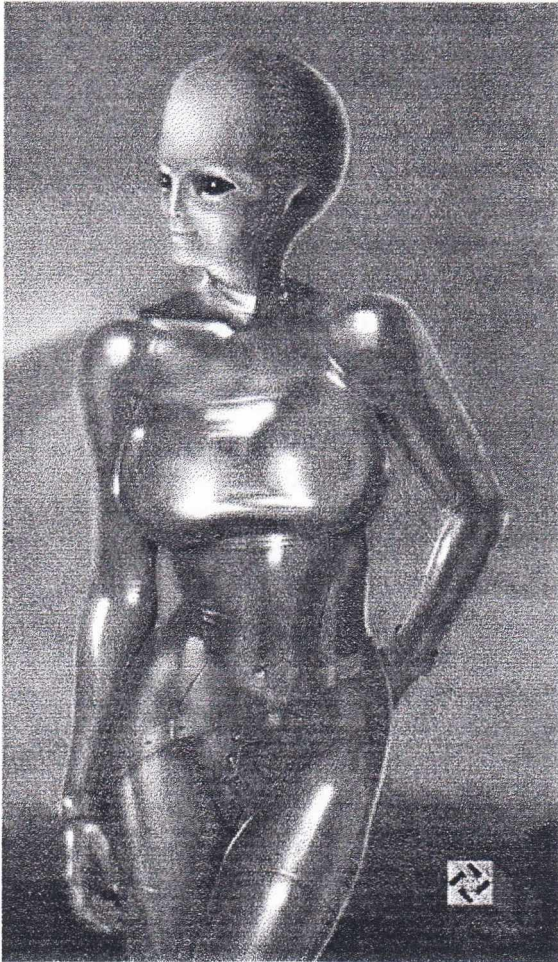
🍷▲🍷 If memory and mood at the time serve me right, I found Mailer's *Of a Fire on the Moon* a boring ego trip. Nothing happened except Norman Mailer. On the other hand, that's what you have to admire about him – hischutzpah.

🍷▲🍷 About Republican hypocrisy, I thought hypocrisy was the basis of politics. You couldn't get anywheres if you had to treat your opponent like you treat yourself.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned. A stapler collection? Why not. A friend of mine was interested in barbed wire. To him, there was a lot of interesting barbed wire out there. However, he found light bulbs more interesting and stuck to them.

There is a method in the madness of both my friend and Ned. To some extent, many people with a collecting mania don't





care what they collect. And the price of collecting the more popular items is high.

And getting higher. My friend regrets now he did not get into barbed wire. Light bulb prices have skyrocketed. He now can add to his collection only by selling off old light bulbs.

I have been into collecting ideas myself, but that has been becoming more and more expensive with the years too.

ct. Gary B. Why is the Congress investigating Clinton's silly pardon? Because it's there. And hope is springing eternal in the human nit-nerd. It doesn't matter that there is not one bit of evidence that the pardon was paid for. That Rich's ex-wife thinks anything but that she is well rid

of the crumb-bum.

It doesn't matter that even if they were able to get Clinton for bribery, it really wouldn't damage his reputation a bit. Clinton's reputation as President was always that he is a rogue. Our rogue, of course, rather than theirs.

The Repubs are intent upon NOT getting it.

ct. Arthur. Whatever the virtues of Jack the Dripper, he didn't have to work hard for them. Or know much art. A friend of my father's at the time dripped paint all over her bathroom. And people believed that she had had it done professionally.

Or then there were the chimpanzees at the time. Their art sold for hundreds of dollars. And, I bet, it could have sold for thousands had it been hyped properly.

ct. Tom. I wouldn't like it one bit if cows kept me in a pen and fed me grain to fatten me up. And then took me to the slaughterhouse. The problem is while we humans have humanitarian instincts, we are also higher on the food chain.

ct. Janice. That's been the problem objecting to the word Jew. People have been objecting to the company it keeps rather than the word itself. It has too often been used in a pejorative sense. The word "Russian" is not insulting, but "Those Russians" as said by a winger would be. Also, we are reacting to the association. "Jew boy" is too often by the people who use it in a pejorative sense. Except maybe for Kinky Friedman and his "Texas Jewboys."

We Jews use the word "Jew" all the time and it has no bad connotation when we use it.

ct. Toni. The Kent State

martyrs, they're on our side; they're freedom fighters. The prominent Repubs who blocked the Florida recount; they're on their side, they're terrorists.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Liz. Sending our copies of *Shadow SFPA* to other waitlisters. It didn't seem a particular fiasco at the time. I sent mine if I remember correctly. Of course, I was out of the loop so I wouldn't have known what problems lurked.

In fact, it is the story of my life, "Out of All Loops."

🍷▲🍷 About *Open Fire*. I was joking around after the last high school massacre. I told a friend that I had a problem and I needed a gun. She said she would have to report me. No pc – fortunately – just teasing.

## IRV KOCH

offline reader v1, #21

🍷▲🍷 In an attempt to confuse us, Cartridges for Less changed their phone number. I think it's 888-423-3900 or 718-435-3679.

🍷▲🍷 I was going to say I was like Kay. I have a lot of things: diabetes, MS, arthritis, dry skin. But most of it doesn't incapacitate me much. While I don't think of myself as a graceful individual, I haven't fallen over stuff much recently, like Kay did. Of course, I don't have inconveniently placed step stools to practice on. Also, my back doesn't go out much. Thank my lucky stars.

Only my flu/gall bladder problem actually succeeded in incapacitating me for any length of time. And since my gall bladder has been out, I haven't had any problems.

But who knows what more age can

throw at us?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. People finding us is not enough. Being registered with the search engines is not enough, having mutual links is not enough, having boffo meta-tags is not enough. My site is registered and has boffo meta-tags. And I think after several years you can find it in one or two of the major search engines. The next step is advertising. But you have to pay a lot in advertising to make your website a popular rendezvous.

Even then, we would not reach half the audience we already reach because of word of mouth. As you pointed out, we have a good reputation with a lot of people. Maybe that will be advertisement enough even for our website.

All this, I realize contradicts what I said in #68.

🍷▲🍷 You seem to agree with me when it comes to government grades.

There seems to have been grade inflation over the years. A friend of mine claimed he entered the government in 1950 as a GS-2. And bought a house soon after. He was making \$2000 a year and could afford a \$10,000 house. Of course, by the time he retired he was a GS-11.

On the other hand, it was the talk of the agency when a fellow went to the Hill as a GS-18, worked for Hubert Humphrey. And came back as a GS-15. We wondered about that because he was one hell of a well-placed person. Of course, his salary was peanuts compared to what he was making from a commodities business sideline. Using government facilities.

About the absurdities of the system. Having one salary fit all for the entire country was one. Which brings to mind a tale. In the late '80s and early '90s the FBI office in New York City could not keep

agents. They kept getting hired away for higher salaries. One stayed and loved his job; Robert Hanssen, the spy they caught recently.

Fortunately for the Federal government, this has since been changed. We have locality pay raises now.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy L. in Challenger. I had something similar happen with my phone. We keep getting phone calls for a Mike Smittle. We have had this phone number for over twenty years and it is only in the last several years we haven't gotten calls for Mike.

🍷▲🍷 ct. David S. Yes, I'm a non-home owner who's been laughing at you — as my rent increases.

🍷▲🍷 You are so right there are different people with different interests. I can't really be interested in stocks and watch them everyday. Most people who come into my library want to read the *Wall Street Journal* for the quotes on their investments. I am the only way who reads it for the humorous stories on the front page.

I'm not alone in my boredom with investments, however. This one economist says he finds watching his stocks and bonds very boring.

He regretted, however, not having invested in the government's Thrift Saving Plan stock fund. He would have a million dollars today, he claimed. So I am thinking of investing in the government's stock fund.

I know, bad timing. But I'm not going to watch it. I will spend \$1,000 a year on it, no matter what the stock prices. Then, hopefully, I will have succeeded on average of buying low and selling high.

Not everyone thinks this wise. Some people have another name for my

investment strategy: "Save your Confederate money, the South will rise again."

🍷▲🍷 ct. Eve A. Or we could take a tip from Eve and invest in pirates. That's whom we've been investing in, and with, to begin with, right?

## **TOM FELLER**

**frequent flyer. March 11, 2001**

🍷▲🍷 Which reminds of my own parents. I intellectually know that they are going to have to die. They're in their eighties. Can they live ten, twenty more years? I hope.

Will I be able to accept it when they die? I don't know. Like you and your grandmother, I'm so used to them being around. But my father's your grandmother's age.

🍷▲🍷 It's good that you were able to break down and have a good cry. We're so taught we have to control our emotions like grief that we feel fools or practice denial. Thirty years ago, a friend of mine told me how much a fool she felt feeling grief for her husband. His death at a young age and the gruesome circumstances surrounding it, notwithstanding.

Grief is there. It's the appropriate moment. Weeping should be allowed. And we should tell off anyone who says nay. My friend felt so much better after she had a good cry.

🍷▲🍷 Same as you. I do a lot of reading when I travel. I bet since you travel a lot, that's why you're so well read.

Right now, I'm on a Fu Manchu novel during trips. It doesn't matter how long it is between trips, since there isn't much of a plot to speak of.



♣▲♣ I'm not certain that an audience in 2001 can't believe Gaylord Ravenau wouldn't be taken back after nineteen years. The events are supposed to take place in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century if I'm not mistaken. Who knows how they behaved, even though some would have us believe they behaved like us.

For the liberated woman of 2001 to do it, that's another thing entirely.

♣▲♣ ct. Me. No, I remember that the *Arsenic and Old Lace* I saw on TV had Boris Karloff in it as, of course, the fellow who looked like Boris Karloff. The same as in the repertory theater.

♣▲♣ I remember temp files (~\*.tmp) had the same problem in Windows 3.1 and 95 if we didn't shut down properly. They could fill up your memory and make it impossible to run your computer. In Windows 98 and Millenium, they are together in the same directory, the Temp directory, if we don't shut down properly. Maybe a bit more of a convenience.

♣▲♣ ct. Steve Hughes. You can be sure that if it was Bush that wanted a recount, George Will would come up with reasons why recounts are always more accurate.

Of course, the Democrats would come up with reasons why they are never accurate.

♣▲♣ BACK. The type of poetry unloved by the Cogniscenti. It's not that it's doggerel. It's that it says something. And I bet it says a lot to you. The Cogniscenti hate poetry that says something. That people can understand. That is why the 18<sup>th</sup> Century is the very nadre of poetry to them. I happen to like 18<sup>th</sup> Century poetry and am totally puzzled by 20<sup>th</sup> Century poetry.

## SHEILA STRICKLAND

### revenant #5

♣▲♣ You're right that the Mardi Gras motto in some towns was "Get drunk and smash windows and loot." In New Orleans, it's "Get drunk and collect beads."

♣▲♣ Sheila, I'll look for you at DeepSouthCon. The only con I plan to go to for long time. The only con I'll have gone to in a long time. No Studs MacKenzie.

♣▲♣ ct. Me. I don't think bagpipes are Jewish tradition. The Jewish musical instrument I most remember is the ram's horn.

Anyway,. I wonder whether kilts and bagpipes are an Irish tradition. Come to think of it, what kind of a Scottish tradition are kilts? They were, I read in two books on Tartans and Clans, invented by an Englishman in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

♣▲♣ ct. The Southerner. Isn't God save the Queen an English patriotic song?

♣▲♣ ct. More Travel Takes. The young like to reject everything the older generation stands for. So you would think they would reject the way fans did things in the past.

However, since we in the '60s rejected the past, they ironically embrace the past more. '50s Rock n'Roll, I hear, is OK. And I keep seeing these kids in retro clothes from the '50s, '60s and '70s. Ultimately, the Classics will be acceptable. And they will be talking about noble Greeks and Romans.

♣▲♣ The hollow book that my parents have says "Palestine" on the spine. I guess that was considered a sufficiently boring topic when it was created in

Victorian times. As to why, I don't know. Religion is supposed to be of great interest to people and Palestine was the cradle of our religions. Better it should read "Lepidoptera." H.L. Mencken said a title sure to keep the idiots away is "Chrestomathy."

## STEVE HUGHES

### comments 10

🍷▲🍷 I thought you were writing a novel and didn't have time for SFPA. You can't keep away.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Southerner #219. I have had some bizarre experience with postal rates. *CNI Nutrition Week*, the publication everyone wants in my agency costs \$20 more if you get it First Class rather than Book Rate. They have a good racket: it takes ten days too long if you get it Book Rate. And this is one publication we need this second. If not the second before.

Unfortunately, for me, the newsletter is always purchased by contracts people who will almost automatically order it Book Rate. Saves money. No skin off their nose. And then later on I have to make out a requisition for First Class.

I am thinking of putting in large letters on the requisition: DEATH PENALTY FOR ORDERING BOOK RATE.

Then there is a matter of the *Congressional Quarterly*. First Class is almost a hundred dollars more. But, otherwise, a private service throws it in front of the building and God knows who will pick it up. Sometimes it's there, sometimes not. Fortunately, for some strange reason, I can order it myself by credit card. And, after that experience, I usually remember First Class.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. We will see whose luck the butterfly ballot was.

🍷▲🍷 About the economy, can any politician control it. Even a Bill Clinton. I think you would say especially a Bill Clinton. Can any politician control it especially since I think we're at the end of an era? High tech is slowly going into high glut. Also, can any politician control energy prices? Can the oil companies? The high prices now are because of the low prices for many years. And the low prices for many years are because of the high prices in '70s and early '80s. The OPEC era.

🍷▲🍷 To make a video on handgliding must be extra tough. You can't get many close ups and see the person while he's doing the gliding. I guess you could fake it like the pros do. But then you'd lose the whole purpose of doing an amateur video. Namely honesty.

🍷▲🍷 Why not sign credit cards? Any reason to defeat a system that makes us look like tacky-tacky. As I said, I can't be bothered with such symbolism.

I have to disagree with you about checks. It's hard as hell to cash a check. That's why I got a credit card. I'm sure someone with larceny in his heart and brains in his head has a bonanza on his hands with stolen checks, but the usual half-hearted and stupid criminals are going to have to go through some hoops.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy H. Lillian III. Marcgate putting the nail in Clinton's political coffin? Isn't that the whole story of both Clinton's Administrations. How many times has the nail been hammered into his coffin, and he returns. You Repubs need a stake or a silver bullet.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Brown. Bad color in an old comics CD. Isn't that the mystique behind old comics: their color is terrible.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. One thing we can agree on: California energy policy has been el stupido. One more example of where the passion of politics blinds people to the simplest realities. Like, you can't get blood from a stone.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Mike Weber. Let Pluto remain a planet, and + and - charges remain + and -. And not the other way around. Science has its traditions. And, boy, do we need traditions these days.

Another tradition is the Newton Apple tree. A tree in England is reputed to be the tree where Newton saw the apple fall. And grafts of it have been cultivated all over the world.

Some have deluded themselves that there is historical proof that this is the real McCoy. Others take it for what it is. In a lonely park in DC, amid the last remnant of the Bureau of Weights and Standards, is a tree. And a plaque on it that says: "Science has its traditions as well as its frontiers."

🍷▲🍷 I agree that this passion for what is natural is more myth than reality myself. Including the atomic power and internal combustion bogeys. But myths are very important and must be sated. We must find some way to feel we are natural rather than alienated from nature.

Does nature worship like Wicca do it? I think for some. I was told Wiccans are inordinately computer programmers and such. They seem to have reconciled themselves to technology.

🍷▲🍷 So how much are the color lasers and which ones should we buy?

You're the expert, Steve.

## DAVID SCHLOSSER peter, pan & merry #36

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Post-World War II is too late for worries about radiation sickness. I remember a film from the '30s where a scientist was dying from it.

🍷▲🍷 So it is the denomination of the victim rather than the vampire that determines how the victim can protect himself. Whether a Cross or Star of David will work. So there is a non-denominational vampire? Doesn't sound right.

🍷▲🍷 The footnote to the provision in Findlaw said what I said. Namely electors cannot vote for a President and Vice President from the same State because its enactors wished to avoid the situation in 1800. Then Thomas Jefferson almost lost out to Aaron Burr for President, even though the delegates wanted Thomas Jefferson for President and Burr for Vice President. However, instituting this particular provision, in my humble opinion, was overkill.

🍷▲🍷 That's what I was told by someone: you need cottage cheese to make macaroni and cheese from scratch. Up till now, I've made it from pre-packaged stuff, so I wouldn't know.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Eve Ackerman. Yoseph is probably as good a Hebrew name as any for Random. I had heard it means both 'add' and 'remove' in Hebrew. Do you think that would have any significance for your son?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Brown. Upgrading being a goal rather than actually improving the product. You bet. The software



publisher gets more money for upgrading whether it be medical records systems or personal computers. One would think they would want to lure customers by improving their product too. But sometimes it cannot be done at the time the publisher figures he needs money. So he is depending upon the public to presume if it is an upgrade, it must be better.



Origin of the Confederate flag?

I did a Google Search. And came up with a number of websites. These seem to have been the best for our purpose, especially the first one.

<http://www.confederateflags.org>

<http://members.aol.com/wlldrebel/original.html>

<http://www.templeofdemocracy.com/2ndnat.htm>

<http://www.csaflags.com/meaning.html>

<http://www.fotw.stm.it/flags/us-csax.html>

That the Stars and Bars was Antebellum, like a lot associated with the old South, fits the myth but not the reality. There was a flag that represented Southern Independence before the Civil War, the Bonnie Blue with a star in the middle. For some reason, Southerners ignored it after they actually seceded.

On the other hand, the Confederate Flag, as we know it, was never a national flag of the Confederacy, but a battle flag. An aide to General Beauregard suggested it. And Beauregard carried it with him to whatever units he was assigned. Some claim that the naval jack is more like the Confederate flag we know, but I think the Beauregard's battle flag is.

Technically the U.S. flag is more the stars and bars than the Confederate flag is.

About the cross lined by stars, it is known as the Southern cross. It would figure. It is called the cross of Saint Andrew as well. About the number of stars, thirteen, there was some wishful thinking that Kentucky and Missouri were part of the Confederacy.

About the blue flag and red background, originally its creator wanted the background blue and the cross red. But he was convinced that was unheraldic. And if there was one thing the gentlemen of the Confederacy wanted, it was to use proper heraldry.

The second and third, national Confederate flags had the Southern Cross and stars. But other things as well. The second had a portion in white for White supremacy, which is why it was known as the Stainless Banner. But some objected it looked more like a table cloth than a flag. And others that it too closely resembled the white flag of surrender.



I had some Papa John's pizza recently. And, even though Pizza Hunt's pizza is greasier, I still like it better. On the other hand, I like Papa John's a helluva lot more than Dominoes.



ct. Ned Brooks. I think: "Drink you not wine or other strong drink less you die" is a perfect quote for Prohibitionists. Do fanatics ever care about context? In the heat of politics, does anyone?



ct. George Wells. At least neither you nor George had to suffer from home invasion. I hear that's exactly what a big name fan had to recently.



ct. Jeff Copeland. Come on, the law against suicide is not to lower the cost of suicide to society. While it may do that, the motive is to keep people from doing a socially disapproved act. Legislators

normally aren't libertarian and utilitarian unless public opinion is goring their horse.

🍷▲🍷 Giving back rubs to any group you belong to will, I bet, increase your popularity. Will you remember us little people when you have scaled the heights?

### JEFFREY COPELAND aristotle meets gernsback

🍷▲🍷 Aren't buildings that are earthquake resistance supposed to move? They have give so they wouldn't topple over first shake.

🍷▲🍷 There must be other ways to parody Movie Spectacles than obvious names: "Bigus Pectoralis," "Titsus Blondus." Or the name of the evil general in *Asterix* "Gluteus Maximus."

You're right characterization is put on with a trowel. But aren't Spectacles still slow moving and boring? Isn't the dialogue still more wooden than cigar store indians? And always emoted in Stentorian tones? Doesn't the hero still have a voice that sounds fresh from the echo chamber, and vaguely reminds one of God? Or Charleton Heston?

On the other hand, Spectacles have changed over the years. From what you report, *Gladiator* had twenty times of gore of the *Ben-Hur*. And only half the schmaltz.

🍷▲🍷 That you get no direction at all from management may be a good sign. Namely, they trust your initiative. I take it that way for myself.

On the other hand, it would show you, like me, are out of the loop.

🍷▲🍷 The problem with the Fairness Doctrine was that it fit the

monopoly/oligopoly era of the '40s and '50s. I'm not so certain it's applicable to our current free wheeling era. Cable TV, the news, the web, talk radio are all competing.

I was at a skeptics' conference a few years ago. There the head skeptic lamented that the Fairness Doctrine was no longer in existence. And a skeptic who had been a member of the FCC begged to differ with him. I can sympathize with the head skeptic after Fox put on a special doubting we ever went to the Moon. But in the end I have to agree Good Riddance.

I think the same is true of the economy. State administration of the economy was necessary then, but maybe not now. Yet may be necessary again in some future era of monopoly/oligopoly.

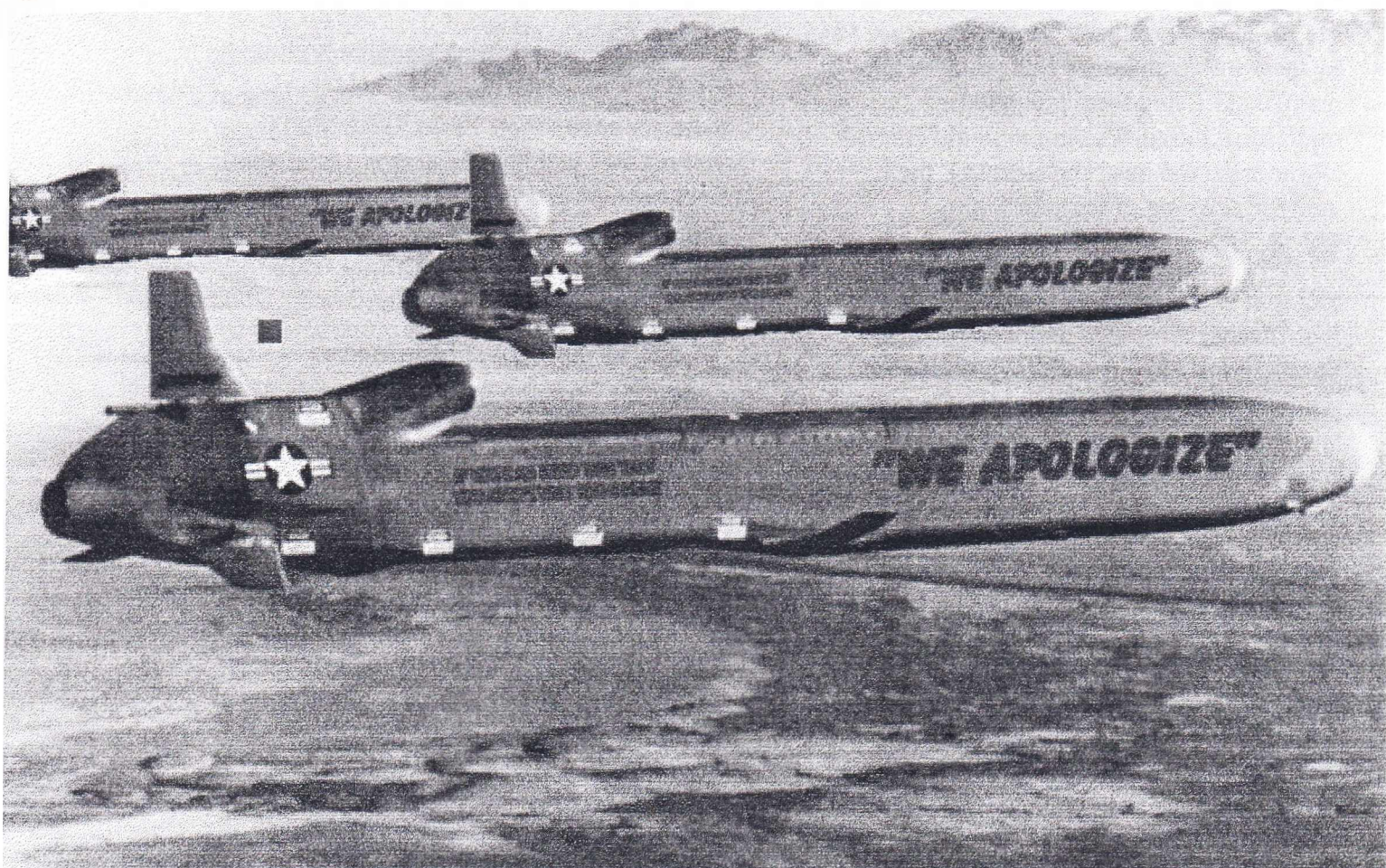
🍷▲🍷 Reagan's historical reputation as a President will only be known several decades from now. I know the committee that approves new stamps won't issue them for anything less than fifty years old.

However, the campaign to apostasize Reagan is going full speed ahead. National Airport is already called the Reagan National Airport. And Representative Barr wants the subway there stop to change its name from Airport to Reagan. And that isn't the end of honours his followers are bestowing on him.

I wonder whether all this renaming will last longer than Cape Kennedy?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian. The Republicans owe inexperienced lawmakers for the 1995 government shutdown. All political pros knew it would end in disaster, but they were advocates of a new politics. I had a political pro in my office, a Murray Rapp, say exactly that. That it was something that could easily backfire. Which it did.





The fine print says, "If you can see this sign, you are flying too close."

Of course, the position of Conservatives is that it would have gone great if Clinton hadn't lied. And, instead, done what he was supposed to do: Yell uncle.

🍏▲🍏 I have to agree with you that Kornbluth's *Syndic* was basically libertarian: that government that governs least governs best. There was something else about it, irony. If memory serves me right, there was a big scare in America at the time over the power of the mob and the Mafia. Senator Kefauver was getting a lot of publicity over his hearings. The nickname "Greasy Thumb" Gusik was a household word.

It is obvious Kornbluth decided that he would make the mob and Mafia the heroes, and the American military, the heroes of the era, the villains.

🍏▲🍏 There is a sound argument why we should be trading with China or Cuba or the Sudan or Burundi or Serbia or Iraq despite human rights violations. We cannot change them, especially not by not trading with them.

But while sound, this argument is not a good one. No politician can make it. Especially not when the public wants to get those bastards.



see personal computers predicted in the '50s by the way. Each house was going to have a mainframe. They were going to be miniaturized that far. And it would control all the heat, the dust, the cleaning, the lights, and the cooking of the year 2000.

🍷▲🍷 That Rosy Donovan's late husband was a 'reporter' for the *Weekly World News* reminded me of something. Back around 1980, I knew someone who wrote for the *National Enquirer*. Strangely enough, a scholarly looking gentleman. He complained that the editors translated his articles into grunts.

### **VANNEVAR BUSH** **as we may think**

🍷▲🍷 Since our crystal balls are all cloudy, I think we have to give Vannevar some slack. He is upfront that he is presuming the technology of his time would remain the same even though he knew damn well it wouldn't.

Also, we have to give him slack because some things did come to pass. And have been passed by. The punch card had its era twenty years afterward. And then that era passed.

It is pretty curious, however, the technology in his essay that most resembles the computer, the memex, gets its images from microfilm.

### **TRINLAY KHADRO** **planet of the apas**

🍷▲🍷 There's a secret with this APA. Some people comment on less than the complete APA. And that's how they stay in it and live their lives. Some just comment to friends or on comments about themselves.

🍷▲🍷 I don't think doughnuts could be made to symbolize the South. Not as long as there are Moon Pies. I told SFPA but I haven't told you. I came across a chef about a year ago on TV who did gourmet Moon Pies. This was made of only the best chocolate and sold for \$30 a shot. Talk about oxymorons.

🍷▲🍷 Actually, I had flu like symptoms from the Interferon Beta 1a only once. The first time I injected it for my multiple sclerosis. I got chills, which a lot of people get. But Ibuprofen controlled it and I haven't had any symptoms since.

Before you take it, you get warned that there may be flu like symptoms. The chills couldn't have been from my appendix. That was taken out in my childhood. And if it was from undetected minor infections, they have long since disappeared.

🍷▲🍷 Does Dubya have the brain power needed to run the country. Probably not. But his Presidency is a collective leadership. And the people who voted for him knew it. That's why he made such a big deal of Cheney being appointed Vice President. And that's why he has appointed a cabinet, by Republican lights, of notables.

I remember a joke: "Bush is a heartbeat away from the Presidency."

🍷▲🍷 I have to agree with you that there is magic in heart felt prayer. And magick depending on how exotic the prayer is.

Of course there is also magic and magick in doing other things that go to the core of our soul. That was the way you got a vision of a God or Goddess according to the late ancient Greek philosophers. By revelation the God or Goddess told you what

substances to use, what statues or statuettes to make, how to fumigate it.

🍷▲🍷 Yes, people wonder that such a world as fandom exists. Of course, my wife inhabits the world of the model horse showers. And that's even more arcane and has even stranger customs. More people doubt it exists.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Oblio. I hear Tibet is becoming mostly Chinese. Care of the efforts of the Chinese government. The Dalai Lama will yet preside over a type of fandom and his kingdom will yet become a real Hidden Kingdom.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Spiritus Mundi. Is it iconoclasts who smash statues even though that is their reputation? Or is it fanatics like Taliban? Or the profoundly egotistical like various monarchs, who destroyed kudos to their predecessors? Those who are actually irreverent rarely actually destroy things.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Peter Pan & Merry. One good thing about corporate naming of stadiums. It takes some of the onus off taxpayers for paying for the stadiums. I certainly wouldn't want to pay for some of those turkeys.

🍷▲🍷 *If yer gonna claim the moral high land, then you just gotta hold yourself to a MUCH higher standard than y' hold anyone else. That's no fun.*

Anyway, aren't there people for whom we are morally superior. There are some pretty sorry sleases out there. And can't we claim the moral high ground over them? Donald Trump, for instance.

**TRINLAY KHADRO**  
dewachen. Beltaine 2001.

🍷▲🍷 Your photos may not be ready for *Popular Photography* but they look fine to me. I can make out what they are and then some. And that seems to be the objective.

🍷▲🍷 THE NAGA. The motto of the story seems to be that Strange things happen in this world. Especially with the nagas. I guess that is an acceptable Buddhist motto. The idea could be that we can't depend on the world; it's an illusion. But you know your Buddhism a lot better than I do.

🍷▲🍷 P.K. HARVEY. I guess it's a good joke that this person and that person is a Living Buddha. Isn't the Living Buddha in everything?

🍷▲🍷 Finding a place that's a good jumping off point between the material world and the spiritual. Lumbini seems as good as any. It has a connotation with Buddha and Buddhism. It is quiet and tranquil. There is nothing to see there.

It certainly is a better jumping off point than pop science. Which, with its Shrouds of Turin and Intelligent Designs, is very popular. Anything spiritual the science of the scientists has been denuded. What has survived is doubt. While you can prove anything with pop science, you can never get away from doubting it. The opposite of religious faith. Also, at all times, you're directed at material things and away from the heavens.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Cuyler Brooks. Ned's point is well taken. Translation for the time being has to be done by a human. On the other hand, he says "Put a" is mildly rude. Doesn't that mean whore?

☹▲☹ ct. Lucien. A lot of people have trouble with magic, occult magic. But the term magick has an even worse connotation. It is associated with Aleister Crowley. And difficult to extricate, even though Aleister's followers have been more misguided and foolish than anything. Even though Aleister was more of a put-on than the most evil man in the world, as he billed himself.

**GARY R. ROBE**  
**tennessee trash #40**

☹▲☹ Do you have a checklist you use for Concave? I must have asked that before but I forgot the answer.

☹▲☹ And you seem to learn from experience. Especially peoples' likes and dislikes. Some people require a ring of quiet. Others a party. Some chocolate, others a joke.

☹▲☹ Of course, like Mice and Men, conventions can oft' go astray. Like giving Janice chocolate but not Mark. I know Toastmaster meetings do when I am Toastmaster of the Day. Of course, less would if I used a checklist. I wouldn't forget the General Evaluator's duties. And have to pray that the General Evaluator knew them. And keep any number of fingers crossed.

☹▲☹ What more could fans want beside a banquet table and a used bookstore? Well, a music store would be good for the filkers. And a dance floor for the Regency dancers.

☹▲☹ I was wondering why Horse Cave would welcome Concavers with open arms. Even the mayor showed up. Was it that you Southern fans have a better reputation? I think it's more like Horse Cave

is an unconventional small Southern town. With a theater no less. And a used books store. They imagined you would fit right in.

☹▲☹ I love seeing that hoaxes are alive and well in fandom. The Xerpts bid. We can add that to Guy's Wigwam Village. Now we need some hoax zines. Good ones not the lame ones, which the last ones were.

☹▲☹ If the Promise Keepers said that the infidelity of men was a big social problem, they could count on my support. But that civilization is falling because of it? Civilization still seems there. No barbarians are at the gate yet. Also, religion should have nothing to do with the divorced? Divorcees are beyond the pale?

There seems something all or nothing about the Promise Keeper beliefs.

☹▲☹ Congrats on being only four steps away from a Black Belt in Taekwando. You did it in a way unorthodox elsewhere. Instead of passing your boards, you broke them.

**STEVE HUGHES**

**steve vs. the printer: a meta one shot.**

☹▲☹ I can't say I've overly happy with my Canon BJC 4400 myself. I bought mine not knowing the details. And you bought yours not knowing the details. With me, there was a lot about inkjets in general I didn't know. For instance, that I would have to change the cartridge at least once every zine. If I had known, I would have gotten another laserjet.

With you you didn't know the details of 11'X17' paper printing in the 5100. Namely it's pretty lame. I wouldn't fault you for smashing it against the wall.



## EVE ACKERMAN

### gulty pleasures 18

🍷▲🍷 Cabell's tale of Andrew Jackson and the St. Johns River sounds very much like Cabell's faux Medieval tales. He uses the same irony when he tells of the effort to rid the country of the Vikings. Who, apparently, were very popular. And he uses it with Jurgen's underhandedness.

By the way, the St. Johns', according to one theory that historians shake their heads over, is where Saint Brendan landed on the North American continent in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century. After battling walruses and sharks and such.

🍷▲🍷 I heard of a hoax from the '50s when newspapers were hungry for information on local football teams. This one fellow called in the news and scores of the Flying Figments of Plainfield Teachers College. A team he made up – as the name suggests. One player, a Chinese student, ate rice during half time. Another player was known as "Boardinghouse" for his reach.

Of course, your Chicago stars are fully fictional.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Lynch. When I write romances, I think I'll go under the pseudonym Cigar Cigaret. A terrible name. But appropriate: believe me, my romances would be terrible.

🍷▲🍷 Tell us more about SF romances. I know about Silver Metal Lover, but that is the limit of my knowledge. And the beginning of my ignorance.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Schlosser. I was really chintzy with my wife Heidi. I gave her turquoise jewelry for our engagement that really didn't cost much at all. But she agreed to it. We would then have more money to

set up a household. I hope she doesn't regret not having a ritzy ring too much.

My brother, on the other hand, gave his wife-to-be a \$1,500 ring for their PRE-engagement. And the profligacy never ended.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Brown. I hate to say it "Americanism vs. Communism" sounds like a course schools might have had to teach in any number of States during the '50s. Maybe not mandated by the State. Maybe taught subconsciously. But that was the gist of the world view we received.

## GEORGE WELLS

### only an idiot would have waited

🍷▲🍷 I was going to say that who politicians tax depends on who their voters are. But, you rotten rat fink, you beat me to it.

Also, I wouldn't talk about Guy's Coke and Hanks' Pepsi in the same breath as the Bush tax cut. The Coke and Pepsi aren't part of the income tax; they're part of the gas tax.

🍷▲🍷 Tarzan and his cheese tasting brother Cheetos. Isn't he that moth eaten, inner city cheetah in the advertisements? I know his name is supposed to be Chester Cheetah, but I like the name Cheetos a lot better. However, I admit he doesn't look Mexican. More New York. Maybe he's a Joisey Cityite.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. Again, you rotten rat fink, you beat me to the punch. This time to all the un-p.c. things you could put on a new Confederate flag. Pickup trucks, a tire swing, a marijuana joint, a bottle of Yoo-Hoo.

♡▲♡ ct. Karen S. Kling. There is an advantage to *The One Minute Manager* over other self-help books on my library's self-help shelf. You can at least finish the *One Minute Manager* Who can get through *Juran on Practice*? It looks like it has 1,500 pages. It's the type of book you as a businessman have on your bookcase to impress other businessmen.

♡▲♡ Is it a violation of copyright if you reprint old '50s fanzines for your fanzine. Of course. And they are entitled to all the profits you make from that venture.

♡▲♡ It's probably better when you review fanzines to write for yourself. Then your audience will always be satisfied.

♡▲♡ You love Dawn on *Buffy* as the daughter you never had. All pretty, very young women are the daughters I never had. Which interferes with my girl watching immensely.

♡▲♡ *The dream who was everything to everybody because he was nothing to himself.* A great line. Anyway, anybody who believes they are perfect are kidding themselves. Anyone who claims to be perfect is kidding me. Which, I think, is a worse offense.

**RANDY CLEARY**  
avatar press. March 29, 2001.

♡▲♡ Randy, it doesn't matter if you're fat head as long as you're not a fat heard.

♡▲♡ I have to agree with your friends. From what I know about you, you're a good guy.

♡▲♡ BABYLON 5. In short, with the technomages of *Babylon 5*, we're Heinlein's primitive. Heinlein said any technology more advanced than ours is magic. And the technomages seem to be exploiting that effect to the hilt.

Does anyone remember this cheap thriller from out of my ever porous memory? Bela Lugosi is a man a 1,000 years in advance of his time who kills people with TV technology.

♡▲♡ LEFT BEHIND. A reviewer explained the Left Behind books as '60s SF combined with '50s morality. Now, it's in a movie. I saw *The Omega Code*, and that expended with character too. I figured all Caspar Van Dien needed to do was sweat and he had it made.

What's happening here? I thought the idea behind was religion was to be more spiritual not less. But *The Omega Code* appealed to thrills and chills. And pseudoscience. To what seem to me the most seductive impulses of the World. Just like *Left Behind* apparently does.

However, I have to admit that, in *Omega*, Michael York played an incredible Anti-Christ. Suave, evil.

♡▲♡ MARDI GRAS. You should have watched out for those Hurricanes. The con at this one restaurant is to have you drink a Hurricane. And then you are so drunk you will pay \$5.00 for the glass.

Of course, hurricanes are not as bad as the drink Old Factory Whistle. One shot and you're through for the day.

♡▲♡ So the snore strip works. I'll have to remember if I ever start snoring like I did when I was 50 lbs. fatter.

♣▲♣ ct. Me. Why not count clothes made out of tencel as paper? No reason – unless you're like me and have an animus against the idea of paper dresses, and love the idea that paper dresses failed.

♣▲♣ I'm not certain C.E. is anything new. I know I heard it used during the '50s, in my Jewish Sunday school. For reasons that are apparent. Also, I saw it used by a historian. The politically correct might be using it now, but it has a history older than they. I don't know when it started, though.

♣▲♣ About Visual Basic and Visual .Net. I was able to speed my work in Access. Two combo boxes and a subtable have sufficed. As a librarian, I used the subtable to look up whom I'm going to rout journals to. And the combo boxes to insert the journal title and the routee.

I also found out what I was doing wrong with the macros. I didn't need to know any complicated Visual Basic. I just needed to start my macro over again from scratch. I found out something else too. While making a macro for each publication might speed my work even more, I am too lazy to go through that mess.

♣▲♣ ct. Variations on a Theme. It does matter whether the Dems are in or the Reps? Billions get transferred to different things. You know, a billion dollars here and a billion dollars there, and suddenly you're into big money.

However, what the consequences of all this spending is, who knows? There is nothing more unpredictable than politics. Especially since people don't want their minds confused with facts. Typically, the Republicans set the stage for the Democrats and the Democrats set the stage for the Republicans.

Is politics completely unimportant. Not by a long shot. Just that it is not science but art. And you are as an artist know how important is. In the scheme of things, we are all political connoisseurs. Some favor Dem art, some Rep? Others Libertarian art, the Greenback art or the Social Creditor art?

♣▲♣ ct. Trivial Pursuits. I don't know. I found the Gore statement on the internet that created this ruckus vague. Which is typical of politicians. A sound bite from which you can't tell exactly what he did. Of course, sometimes the real situation is so complex that a vague sound bite is the best you can do.

In point of fact, Gore apparently played a large role in authorizing the public to use the internet in 1989. Newt Gringrich supposedly admitted to it. Before that, it could only be used by universities and the military.

## **LIZ COPELAND**

### **home with the armadillo #46**

♣▲♣ Maybe you need to go to Cat Yronwode's website and order some of his hoodoo stuff. A few candles. A mojo bag or three. Some good prayers. An asafetida bag And raise the SFPA curse. Then you could talk about your job or the weather with impunity.

## **ARTHUR D. HLAVATY**

### **confessions of a consistent liar 73**

♣▲♣ ct. Ned Brooks. The list of contradictory proverbs from the 2d *People's Almanac* is all over the web. I found that about by doing a Google search on it.

1. Look before you leap.

He who hesitates is lost..





Someone commented that being captured by this alien is like a man lusting after a lobster.

4. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today

Don't cross that bridge until you come to it.

6. Haste makes waste  
Time waits for no man.

8. A word to the wise is sufficient  
Talk is cheap

12. Hitch your wagon to a star  
Don't bite off more than you can chew.

There are fifteen pairs of contradictory proverbs on the list.

ct. Randy Cleary. After the son forgives the father in the song "A Boy

Named Sue," he swears that he will name his son anything but Sue.

I agree with you that I would prefer that people read the *Preppy Cat Diet Book* than not read at all. Anyway, if they don't, we can't laugh at them.

Was Giuliani's policy of enforcing minor laws just a temporary gain? Some criminals are stupid enough to leave a whole trail of minor laws broken between major violations.

Let's just say we'd be more comfortable in a more laidback environment. More crime or no.

Why was the person who writes law in your company a Special Narcotics Prosecutor? She put away co-workers. You better warn any known druggies there about her.

## JANET LARSON

### passage #9

Great color, great kids. And although you've been through a lot, you still look great.

COPING. You mean there are support groups for mothers with twins. I guess they have to have them. There seem to be support groups for everything these days. My wife belongs to one support group for her ostomy, United Ostomates of America, and one of cancer survivors, the Semi-Colons.

FINDING. My mother seems to have gotten a lot of attention from her family even though she and my aunt were identical twins. Both my aunt and my mother were artists and considered one of

the hopes for the family. Also, my mother had a heart problem and received extra attention because of that. Yet they look so much alike, at one time, I, my mother's son, found it hard to distinguish them.

There doesn't seem to have been a problem with my mother and aunt developing individual personalities either. They seem to have had to have hides of rhinoceroses to make it through the art world and their own bickering. Bickering is something you wouldn't expect. In fact, during most of their lives they were closer than peas in pod. However, they grew to hate each other late in life. It was a sad situation. My aunt was pathologically jealous of my mother.

If there was any problem, both were too egotistical.

ct. Me. I hate to say it. I got the story about Atlanta schools banning recess from you.

Maybe someday people will make priorities and at least more kids will come to school with manners, hygiene, discipline, and the rudiments. It's, I think, a matter of hearts and minds rather than enacting a law or budgeting for a program. Laws get ignored easy enough. Programs become sinkholes – as you've been complaining.

I disagree with your husband. I find the swelling very attractive since it's how you have kids. And having kids is beautiful.

I know it's medically un-pc to say this; according to the weights charts, we should all be stick thin. But isn't twins and weight loss too much of a burden to put on yourself? Especially since it's only a matter of twelve pounds.

ct. Jeffrey Copeland. I have the opposite problem with the name Dengrove. People can't believe it is spelt the way it sounds. And that leads to problems. I have often been referred to as "DengrAve."

ct. Toni Weisskopf. We seem to be seeing a separate group of facts when it comes to the Florida Presidential vote. You see if people couldn't figure out how to vote right, their vote doesn't deserve to be counted. I on the other hand see that the vote reflect the voter's intent is the law. Ever since they abolished literacy tests.

You see the *Miami Herald* recount where Bush won. I see the recount done by the *Palm Beach Post*, *Washington Post* and *USA Today*, where Gore won.

Actually, I don't blame us for seeing two separate sets of facts. As I have said, politics is too important to people to be left up to the facts.

## MIKE WEBER me and my monkey

I one time did a parody of a con report, which succeeded in saying nothing interesting about the con. You just had a parade of people whom I had a good time with: Genghis Khan, Louis XIV, Torquemada – people like that.

CHANGER OF WORLDS. One would think "Villain" and "Bad Guy" would be synonymous. But I can see where you can see things more effectively by giving each subtly different meanings. Like "Jewish fellow" and "Jew", "Ethics" and "Morals," "Stupid" and "Dumb." "Cook" and "Chef" already have different connotations. Even "Black" and "Black," and "White" and "White."

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. As I said, giving myself shots has become a piece of cake. Particularly since I don't have to give them everyday, but just every week. And they are shots in the muscles not the veins.

I would still be wary of giving myself shots in the veins, although, who knows, I might learn someday. And then it might be a piece of cake too.

🍷▲🍷 I got the impression from reading Campbell's letters that he did want to get people to think. But he felt if they learned to think, they would think like he did. He didn't realize how bounded some of his Conservative views were. Of course, who realizes such things?

🍷▲🍷 I guess the alternative to writing the end first in a mystery novel is to populate the book with a large numbers of suspects with motives and opportunities, and then decide which one dunit. But part of the charm of a mystery novel is you can't guess whodunit. And, with the latter technique, it sounds like you can. Just that others could equally have dunit.

By the way, how did the Futurians apply that technique to SF?

🍷▲🍷 If school boards were only idiots, we would live in a better world.

🍷▲🍷 I wonder if someday we can have "Books in Minutes" in our own home. And anything we download off the web, we could get bound. You're probably right. For now, we'll have to depend on Barnes & Noble or Border's. Or somebody with some bucks.

🍷▲🍷 And ultimately the municipal squadron of anti-conflagrationists with the

red garters found the first joke, which was about them, uplifting.

🍷▲🍷 Would even the increased mass near the speed of light be perceptible to a traveler? Hey, even if you reached the speed of light and life slowed to a halt, would we perceive it?

🍷▲🍷 I'm sure you're right that a highly authoritative source listed, as traditional, songs written by known and famous songwriters. I have told how many times about the Mencken bathtub hoax. That Millard Fillmore was the first President to have a bathtub in the White House, and other things. And I have told how many times how you can still find Mencken's 'facts' in reference books. And how librarians look at you as crazy if you doubt them.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff Copeland. Lots have back problems without their height shooting up. We have a whole nation of backs that give way. Fortunately for me, my back problems are usually upper back. Which isn't quite as debilitating as lower back.

🍷▲🍷 I feel sorry for Tempest. But most of us have been made fun of at one time or another. Half the world is making fun of the other half – especially in adolescence. And most of us don't commit suicide.

**GARY BROWN**  
oblio no. 133

🍷▲🍷 Wouldn't it have taken more than slightly high blood pressure to have kept you out of the army?

Of course, what can I say. I came to the physical with a note from my father the psychiatrist saying I would not make a good



soldier. And that got me out. The Draft didn't want students in Boston at that particular time; it suspected we were all troublemakers.

☛▲☛ I hadn't heard about the *Palm Beach Post* - *Washington Post* - *USA Today* recount. I guess, for once, the mass media decided to be good citizens and not cause a Constitutional upheaval. More likely, the news staffs' arms were twisted by their Republican owners. What's strange is I didn't even read it in the *Washington Post*, which I get daily and which is Democrat.

☛▲☛ PLAGUE OF JEWELS. The comic book tale with Gary Brown as one of the villains is great baloney. I thought it had to be inspired by Indiana Jones, but I see it pre-dated it by a decade. Maybe even, it inspired Indiana Jones.

Of course, the ghoulish queen is very much like the all powerful immortal women of *L'Atlantide*, *She* and *The Yellow God*, which I have been talking about.

I wonder if the authors could have taken a stab at making her so beautiful her beauty kills rather than making her so ugly it kills. Maybe not.

☛▲☛ ct. Me. Blaming Clinton for stock market woes is probably going to be a nonstarter. He's too much the President associated with prosperity. And a stock market downturn still didn't affect most of the population directly, even in 2000.

Ronald Reagan could not even blame Jimmy Carter in the latter days of the 1981-82 recession. The blameworthiness, even of the presidency most associated with stagflation, did not last more than one year. If there hadn't been an upturn, Reagan probably wouldn't have been re-elected.

☛▲☛ I just remembered my experience getting furniture delivered. It has been a cause for coccyx soreness. I remember back in the '70s Sears and Roebuck would never deliver the furniture at the time promised - the first time. Never. You had to call them up. And then they would deliver at the time promised the next time. I guess they hoped you would forget and they could pocket your payment.

Hope springs eternal.

Then I had a problem with a furniture company in Texas, as the man in my office with the credit card. Everyone in my office wanted the chairs it made. But there was a problem with them reaching the mailroom. Often I had to call the company several times. And when the furniture did arrive, it was often broken. The last batch the mailroom people fixed; and I hated to do it, and discourage such initiative, but I had to confiscate them.

By the way, the head of the mailroom told me that furniture is notorious.

☛▲☛ The Southwest to retire to: New Mexico, Texas; not California. Forget about beachfront property I can't afford, or electricity that's nonexistent. Of course, I don't have the friends in Texas I once did, so who knows where I'll retire.

☛▲☛ I guess a manual will keep Cub Scouts entertained for an hour if it contains more than three things.

☛▲☛ ct. Guy Lillian. Jeff may be the OE closest to the Arctic Circle. But if I were OE, I would be the OE closest to Ground Zero. Especially since the Pentagon is not in DC proper but nearby in Virginia.

There was a joke in the early '80s that there should be a café in the courtyard

of the Pentagon, called the Ground Zero café.

ct. Janice Gelb. Long before *Roger Rabbit*, didn't Gene Kelly dance with a cartoon mouse? I think it was sometime in the '50s.

ct. Liz Copeland. You don't broil during the summer?! That's a lot of nonsense and you know it. I hear at that time of year you turn into Gary Thermador?

ct. Jeff Copeland. During the election, some pundits said Gore should have had Clinton do more campaigning. Others said he should disassociate himself with Clinton completely. As far as I can tell, there was no way Clinton could give Gore any of his popularity. Clinton, unfortunately for the Democrats, was one of a kind. So I don't think we need look that way as a reason why Gore didn't quite make it.

Anyway, as far as I'm concerned, Gore did a good job. It was a Republican year, as I said.

About Krispy Kreme, my agency has a newsletter that tells of doings in itself, including the regional offices. It's called the *Friday letter*. Recently, the Mountain Plains office in Denver decided that this story was important enough to report in the Friday Letter: Krispy Kreme had come to Denver. And it showed a big photo of some Mountain Plains employees with a big box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Someone who edited in unconscious mode OK'd it for publication, but my friend Alicia had it scotched.

**T.K.F. WEISSKOPF**

**"yngvi is a louse" and other graffitos. #70**

KREEGAH! I have read several books by Jacques Barzun. The one I liked best was his one on the Romantic movement in art. He used it to typify the Age of Reason before it, and Modernism afterward. All of a sudden I saw the forest from the trees. I am eternally grateful to him for that.

However, a book he did on science, I didn't like quite as much. I didn't completely understand it, and I don't think he did.

Of course, are we actually at decadence now? An attitude of decadence may show we have several centuries to go. I'm not certain that a civilization actually in decline has decadent attitudes.

Toni, do what you can do best? If you can motivate people to give you great articles, do it?

CHARLOTTE'S WEB. About Anne McCaffrey's *Year of the Lucy*. Not even the '50s were the '50s. My mother got her man and settled down to be a housewife. But she was an artist too. And had a whole career as a sideline. She was very active woman.

Of course, she became more liberated in the '70s. Then she worked as a courtroom sketch artist for John Chancellor's news. Since it took fourteen hours out of her day, you could say she was following two careers to make up for any lost time.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE. Maybe the Constitution as a whole provides for the proper separation of powers and the rights of minorities. But all the Electoral College does is allow for the election of Presidents with legitimacy problems. It's broke and it needs fixing. ...Not that it will be fixed.



ct. Randy Cleary. I remember Shel Silverstein as a cartoonist for *Playboy* in the '50s and '60s. For all I know, perhaps he still is. This was long before "Boy Named Sue" and the children's books. By the way, while they were of *Playboy*'s usual erotic nature, those cartoons picked up on people very well.



ct. Richard Lynch. You quote Richard: *Beyond where ocean meets sky*. Sounds like what a friend of mine used to say: "Better times are coming, LOOK BEYOND THE HORIZON."

Or what someone said during the Vietnam War: "The light at the end of the tunnel." Some wag added that it was another train.





From a t-shirt Charlotte gave me. Walt Willis and Bob Shaw done up in a faanish American Gothic by Wade Gilbreth – Irish Gothic