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## MY WIFE'S RECENT ACTIVITIES

I have noticed I have been remiss in not telling you about my wife. She has become an ostomate activist. I don't know whether she likes the name ostomate but she belongs to the United Ostomy Association (UOA).

The big thing is a transfer of information both formally and informally. Formally with lectures from doctors, nurses, and salesmen for different ostomate products: e.g., pouches, clips, filters. Informally by giving advice that has worked for them personally in getting the right pouch, adjusting the pouch, etc.

Also, pain you are going to be in for after the operation that your doctor may not have warned you sufficiently about. For ostomates there is a lot of pain for a good while. This advice on pain is not considered medical advice, which they shy away from.

Furthermore, if you are a 'visitor' in the hospital, you have to listen to people's depression and problems, and that entails more listening than advice giving.

I have attended a number of meetings. Which the local hospital seems to allow space for. The club is a going enterprise. There are detailed records, a newsletter, vice-presidents galore. After the lecture, they divide into groups: Ostomies, Ileostomies and Urostomies. Heidi tells me those with Urostomies, with their bladders removed, have the worst shmeat. You have to hook yourself up to a special receptacle at night.

Heidi prides herself on the cakes and cookies she bakes for meetings. Which, unfortunately, I can eat very little of. On the other hand, lots I can eat, ostomates can't.

Also, Heidi has been made a visitor

for hospital patients. And she now does something with the club's records. I don't know exactly what. I know she wants me to call my brother the psychiatrist and ask whether he knows any speakers. Psychiatrists get very involved in cancer, whether they want to or not.

All this has its limitations. Recently a friend of ours has had a father who is dying of cancer. It is neck cancer, the worst kind. The friend wants us to talk to him, because he is talking to only her and her mother, and getting more and more depressed.

But Heidi does not know how to deal with a situation as grim as that. Actually dealing with dying is something she has not been trained for. So she went to the other hospital visitors in her club. And apparently no one else has been trained for it either. Or had much experience with it.

Despite how much time they have spent in hospitals, I guess they haven't met that many people dying of colon, rectum, bladder cancer, etc. They are that treatable. All the other visitors could do is caution my wife to do more listening than talking.

## MANBEEF.COM

Recently, I made a sojourn from my library upstairs to the branch I am ostensibly part of. When I got there, the press woman was in hysterics. Not new for her. However, the secretary who is more unflappable was in hysterics too. And the press woman said she received this info from other people who were in hysterics.

They told her about a website called <http://www.manbeef.com>. It claims to sell human meat. She showed it to me on her

browser. I said this had to be put on. But that didn't satisfy the press woman or the secretary, so I went back down to my library.

And I looked up Manbeef myself. It was one of the better websites I have seen; it looked more professional than many corporate websites. Of big corporations too. It had a great feature, where you could point your pointer to a part of a human and it told what you could make out of that part.

On the other hand, there were no addresses, no phone numbers. And it said you had to apply for membership and they had to do a background check on you before they could sell you any human meat, any manbeef. This is to prevent criminals from buying it. ...Right!

A websearch produced another site that claimed to expose it. It was part of the Snopes sites on hoaxes. I told Ned about these sites. And he said the Snopes site didn't show you anything you didn't know already.

Mostly it didn't. I am sure everyone knows that selling human flesh is illegal. No matter how they got the flesh. Even if the Manbeef site, as claimed, got it from already dead, transplant donors.

The Snopes site did, however, have something I wouldn't have known anyway. It claimed that it looked up the domain name, and the name is held by a seventeen year old in North Carolina, even though the corporation was supposed to be headquartered in New York City.

To gild the lily, I did one extra thing: I called the FBI. The only person who could tell me anything was their press woman. She said it was not illegal. To sell human flesh! I asked. No, she replied, to put up the website. There is no proof any cannibalism is actually going on.

All this info seemed to satisfy the press woman for my agency and the secretary.

## COMICS WEBSITES

These are probably old hat to some of you. United Media and King Features have comic strips on the web. And I have been going to the United Media site and reading their version of *Tarzan*. And reprints of *L'il Abner* from 1949.

With *Tarzan*, I'm afraid Gray Morrow pales as an artist beside Burne Hogarth and even Russ Manning, but the stories are the same as I remember from the Sunday comic strips of my childhood. At this moment, *Tarzan* is being attacked by big, hairy, savage 'White Men' in the Zimbabwe. ...Right!

That's the weekday comics. The weekend has him apparently on *Barsoom*, where, I hear, Burroughs put *Tarzan* in several novels. Fighting an evil queen and her palace guard, of course. He has befriended a green being who is a giant and has four arms. Who, unfortunately, mistook a disguised Jane for the evil queen.

Strangely, the weekend *Tarzan* is drawn in a completely different style from the regular, although it is supposed to be by the same artist. The weekend *Tarzan* has less muscle definition, and Jane is more seductive looking than I remembered from portrayals of her.

## COMMENTS ON MAILING #221

**JEFF COPELAND**

**the southerner. april-may 2001**



Maybe I should remember to have myself put on the list for **First Class** mailings and send you \$5. Washington State



may be a little too far to depend on Third Class. It took twelve days to get your mailing the last time. And though this one came toute suite, I probably should play it on the safe side and get First Class.

**NORM METCALF**  
**tyndallite v3, no. 95.**

🍎▲🍎 ct. Me. One of the most notorious examples where the **illo** had nothing to do with the story was in a particular sleazy magazine called *Horror Stories* (1939). A woman's brain is supposed to be burned with a ray, but the artist felt it would be better if the ray was aimed at her breast.

🍎▲🍎 With our belief that **heroes** have to be flawless, could the public cotton up to Eugene Manlove Rhodes' heroes with flaws? I could. I have been reading the Bible, for various reasons, and none of the patriarchs were plaster saints. They all had their problems.

I guess some other people here could cotton up to Rhodes too.

🍎▲🍎 I may very well be quoting Lynn Hickman's and Nan Gerding's Shaver parody. It was something I read in *Mimosa*.

**Shaver** seems to have had a minor renaissance. I saw an article on him and his mysteries, and Ray Palmer, recently. In the *Washington Post*, no less. They of course considered it crazy as all get out, but it was in so they had to report it. And show the appreciation that a connoisseur of schlock would have.

By the way, there is a theory making the rounds right now that it wasn't any sighting of flying saucers that created the flying saucer 'craze,' but the Shaver mysteries. The Titans there who came from

outerspace flew around looking for Earth slaves.

The first article with that theory, I read about fourteen years ago in the *Whole Earth Review* by a John A. Keel, who usually writes for *Fate* magazine. He even claimed that the flying saucers were produced when Shaver's rantings were confused with an article on a flying machine someone in 1927 was experimenting with. It looked like a saucer.

Kenneth Arnold and his 1947 sighting merely activated what was already in the collective psyche.

In addition, I read an article by a Richard Toronto, also of *Fate*, on the web, <http://www.parascope.com/nb/articles/shaverMystery.htm> He claims he got the FBI files on Ray Palmer and Richard Shaver; and found it believed Palmer and Shaver had concocted the flying saucer "hysteria" of 1947.

Furthermore, a friend of mine who read a lot of the *Amazings* of that period agreed.

The case for this is not 100% cogent but I wonder why so many people in the know believe it.

🍎▲🍎 ct. Guy H. Lillian III. What in blue blazes could a science fiction fanzine from 1888 be like? Heroes pursuing villains in submarines and horseless carriages?

🍎▲🍎 ct. Rich Lynch. **Sam Moskowitz** being forgiving? I thought everyone involved in the Futurian lockout of 1938 has had a grudge these past fifty years. I guess Sam could be forgiving to the extent he was willing help Lowndes get a job.

Certainly, there is more to the lockout than meets the eye. I read accounts from both sides about the lockout in *Mimosa*. Everyone spoke a lot about



Witch riding a bewitched goat.

freedom and justice. Specifics seemed to be lacking. I wonder what the truth was that neither side wishes to tell.

🍷▲🍷 ct. David Schlosser. If Robert Wood wrote in 1914 that radioactive exhaust causes people to get ill, **radiation sickness** predates World War II and even the '30s. Even the 1920s illnesses at that plant where radium dials were painted. His novel was even before World War I.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeffrey Copeland. How about Kornbluth's novel with Pohl, their satire on advertising, *Space Merchants* (1952)? I thought that was pretty good. In fact, as good as *Syndic*. Neither was an intellectual powerhouse, but both were fun.

🍷▲🍷 I read a book by Nevil Shute from the '40s that had the same theme as *On*

*the Beach*. Only instead of the world dying, it was one person. I think he had a brain tumor.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Randy B. Cleary. Well, to get the pizzas to the Galactic Council, you would need something beyond mere flying saucers; you would need flying pizzas.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don Markstein. I and my father are much better than any mere **expert**. We know everything. Ask me any question, and I or my father will answer it. Any question at all. Just ask. ...That's something my father knows.

#### ARTHUR D. HLAVATY confessions of a consistent liar 74

🍷▲🍷 ct. GHLIII. Who's been deterred by the **Kent State** shooting? That was the only thing on campus that got the radicals out every year, while I was there. No, I think Kent just returned to its natural state after the Kent State shootings, being a party school. The shootings had nothing to do with it.

🍷▲🍷 I heard from **Dick Geis** recently. I had sent him my zine in exchange for his. He told me to stop sending them. He was no longer interested in fanzines. In fact, he had even lost an interest in conspiracy theories because of an event that had occurred in his life.

🍷▲🍷 I don't think **Donovan** would get into trouble right now for his album cover where he is age five and nude. Ten years ago he might have, but not now.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Brown. I kind of hoped the Repubs would try to impeach **Clinton** retroactively. The attempt to impeach him in office was so wildly successful.

the Repubs would try to impeach **Clinton** retroactively. The attempt to impeach him in office was so wildly successful.

☹ ▲ ☹ **Marriage** doesn't seem to have done you any harm?! You mean you don't notice the harness?

**ARTHUR D. HLAVATY**  
**derogatory reference 97**

☹ ▲ ☹ The O.J. Trial could have been a reason to reform the **LAPD**, but the opponents of such reforms were able to paint the verdict as racist.

☹ ▲ ☹ Great **censorship** of the Constitution: sxxxch sPEEch, xxxemble ASsemble, and pexxxion peTITion. But you don't have to have any dirty words at all to censor.

"Little Miss Muffet  
sat on her BLANK  
"BLANKING her BLANK BLANK  
BLANK  
"Along came a BLANK  
"who sat down beside her  
"And BLANKED Little Miss Muffet  
away."

☹ ▲ ☹ About Philip Roth's novel about the stain on **Monica's dress**, I don't believe the dress ever existed. It was just one more tactic Starr had to use to convict that 'archcriminal' Bill Clinton. Tactics honed by prosecutors during the war on drugs.

☹ ▲ ☹ I agree. We see so much advertising because **advertising** works on executives. Who believe that other people believe advertising. Which is why they are so obsessed with their image. I have known some in which the image takes on a ghostly aspect.

Sometimes the advertisers don't know or care who they are reaching. The porno spammers are the worst. They don't seem to care unless they are in danger of prosecution. A friend's email box was beginning to get filled up with porno spam. So she abandoned it for a time. And I was getting five or ten a day until I complained to AOL.

Some Australian porno spammers in fact decided one time to take over the Harvard Business Review website. They figured it was getting a lot of hits. And with the hits, they figured they could go to the pornographers and demand a big fee.

They were arrested real fast. I bet before they could demand any fee at all.

☹ ▲ ☹ I agree. If religion gave no material benefits, it would still be worth it. A decent **spiritual benefit** can be worth a lot. Just like a decent material benefit, it can make you happy. And, in addition, you won't lose it through the vagaries of fortune.

Of course, some indecent spiritual benefits can bring you grief. Just like some indecent material benefits. And you should avoid both.

☹ ▲ ☹ I have a different theory than that the Super Bowl caused the **Dot-Com crash**. I think it was that we weren't getting additional benefits. The new web 'advances' were in the main hype. As have been a lot of the new software features people like Microsoft have pushed.

One wonders if Microsoft has learned the lesson in advertising drawn from its own unFreudian name: i.e., that euphonious phrases aren't everything.

☹ ▲ ☹ Of course, all government benefits are collected **at gunpoint** to be given to someone else. And, of course,



that's the idea behind the welfare state.

It's also the idea behind laissez-faire free enterprise. I could rephrase my explanation so it looks worse for the laws regarding property; but, regardless of how I phrase it, the laws of property are still a matter of force. You have a title to the land, the house, the car, etc. If anyone comes and tries to take it away, the government stops them – at gunpoint. When I have asked libertarians about this, they have denied it. But they have no good reply to something so obvious.

It's all part of my theory that political ideology is created by tunnel vision.

🍷▲🍷 I wouldn't be rejecting a bio of **Allen Drury** too fast. According to Arthur O. Lovejoy in his *Great Chain of Being*, Allen Drury would be a major American author by the fact that he is such a nonentity. Lovejoy's theory is that you can tell an era best by the mediocre works popular then. In that sense, Allen Drury would have been the '50s.

And Stephen King the '90s?  
...Shhhh.

## NED BROOKS

### the new port news 197

🍷▲🍷 **Leland** certainly has a multicultural cover. Of course, with the Black minstrels there, maybe a bit more stereotyped ~~or stereotyped in the wrong way~~ than we would want.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I can't warn you against buying **the computer** I bought. It is a proprietary brand. Sort of a kinardly computer. With all the different brands in it, you kinardly tell what it is.

Actually, the big problem may be

I've been too lazy to bring it back and get it fixed.

I have bought from these people before. And you usually have to bring it in a second time and it runs fine. Better, of course, that they should get it right the first time. But I am cheap so I won't protest the deal too much.

🍷▲🍷 One reason why kids can't write is that the school makes **writing** into a drudgery of strict rules without any discernible purpose. Of course, the rules have a purpose. And once I learned I could use grammar and punctuation to say what I wanted to say, I started writing in coherent sentences.

🍷▲🍷 Isn't the 'rubbish' in the **Cache** supposed to be bits from the web? I thought the idea was that websites with their graphics would be stored there, so that they can be brought up quickly when we wish to go back to that site. They don't have to be downloaded each and every time.

On the other hand, as far as I can tell, the scandisk Filexxx.chk stuff is gibberish. Of course, I'm not a computer expert. Maybe they can make sense out of it.

🍷▲🍷 *Gospel Fictions* sounds like a book by Prometheus. I read one years ago that purported to prove that Jesus never existed. I hate to say it, it was as bad as the Creationist twaddle. He had amazing ways of finding the facts based on the premise there are no facts.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Metcalf. For agricultural science fiction, how about *No Blade of Grass* (1956) by John Christopher, AKA Christopher Samuel Youd? Isn't the whole idea there agriculture? All the grasses on Earth die and so does man's food supply.



🍷▲🍷 I think it's too much to expect in **science fiction** that the science should be impeccable. If it was impeccable, it would be science fact.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy. Speaking of **cops** being killed for useless reasons, something like that happened in D.C. A transit cop was killed because he stopped someone for not paying the fare. The stupid idiot went on the lamb and was apparently caught several days later for some crime elsewhere. I wonder why he didn't advertise?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff. We know **the schools** are run by idiots and worse. You've been to high school; you know. I could tell you about my little brush with sex so-called education, but I bet you have other stories.

The problem is that even when teachers are not idiots, they are always looking over their shoulders and worrying that their administrators are. And they are going to get them if they omit some inanity or another.

🍷▲🍷 ct. One shot. Yeah, **Hank's** the type of person who makes knives and swords, and pens right wing diatribes in APazines.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Trinlay. About **lice**, I remember when people used words like lousy and kids made fun of you by saying you have kooties. Even with the scare, things don't seem quite as bad as they were then. Or at least in the era prior to that, because I didn't see any lice then either.

🍷▲🍷 ct. George. Why would an "**African-ancestry**" **flag** need a consensus on what it looked like? Does anything else have a consensus? Some things are done despite the consensus. It's the consensus

that the kilt was invented by an Englishman. And that baseball *wasn't* invented by Abner Doubleday.

🍷▲🍷 I know **PINE** all too well. It is a DOS based email system. In short, George's library is really behind the times. I remember it as being so complicated I was want to even download my email to my computer. Of course, maybe I was just fearing fear itself, and it was no big deal.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Brown. *If you are down to the **weight coded** in your genes, you might endanger your health pushing it any further.* The problem is what if Gary's genes say that he should be 500 lbs. and he's been showing amazing will power over the years?

#### **RICHARD LYNCH** **variation on a theme #6**

🍷▲🍷 FLORIDA 2001. I heard **Jaguars** are actually pretty bad cars. They look great. But they have endless engine problems. The *Wall Street Journal* several years ago had an article on clubs where people go to complain about their Jaguars – while continuing to buy them.

🍷▲🍷 **CLASSICAL MUSIC**. Yes, **Classical Music** is an individual taste. I happen to like Richard Addinsell's *Warsaw Concerto*, which any self-respecting member of the cogniscenti considers drippy sewage.

🍷▲🍷 I have another use for **CDs** now. I have a rewritable drive and I am using one as a quick backup for my files instead of using diskettes. It has a 511 meg storage vs. 1.4 meg for the diskette. The only problem is that I have to delete the previous day's backup in order to copy today's to them, or the files often won't copy right.

ct. Me. No, no, sorry, I should have explained better. The video card is a Nvidia, not the computer. The computer is a proprietary brand. Why didn't I order a **Dell** or Gateway? I was too cheap. Will I pay more in the longrun. We'll see. I have dealt with these people before. And they have made good in the past.

About Dell, I have heard some complaints about it. For example, from my brother. Of course, I admit Dell may have made good by now, too. Also, Gateway's luster remains. Everyone who has dealt with them swears by them.

ct. Norm Metcalf. Having done **research**, I know that mistakes happen. You think you have corrected everything and embedded in your paper are all sorts of little misstatements of fact. Then you read the next week that the source you based your paper on was all wet.

So I can sympathize with Sam Moskowitz.

ct. Steve Hughes. There is a **drink** stronger than Glogg. You've heard of Old Factory Whistle, haven't you? One shot and you're through for the day.

ct. Janice Gelb. **Bush** remaining in the center, Dick? What channel you been watching? His tax cut, his abortion policy, his foreign policy, his vouchers come from the right wing. And, I hear, he's their man – for now.

It's the moderate Republicans who upset his applecart. Or at least one moderate Republican who has.

ct. Toni Weisskopf. The problem with the **tax revolt** is that it doesn't come with a budget revolt. If the economy tanks again, we will head for Reagan sized

deficits.

## IRV KOCH

offline reader. apr-may 2001

ct. Me. You are so right that **MS** is individual. And it also depends upon the era if you've got it. In years past, doctors wouldn't have even diagnosed me as having MS even though I have had attacks. The attacks were not a month apart. However, recently it was found that it helped if they started therapy early. Which is why I have been prescribed Interferon.

Apparently, Methodists didn't believe in driving on Sunday in the old days. Now it is just a tradition in **Ocean Grove, NJ**. It attracts tourists. And even locals, who just wish to walk around without fear of cars one day a week.

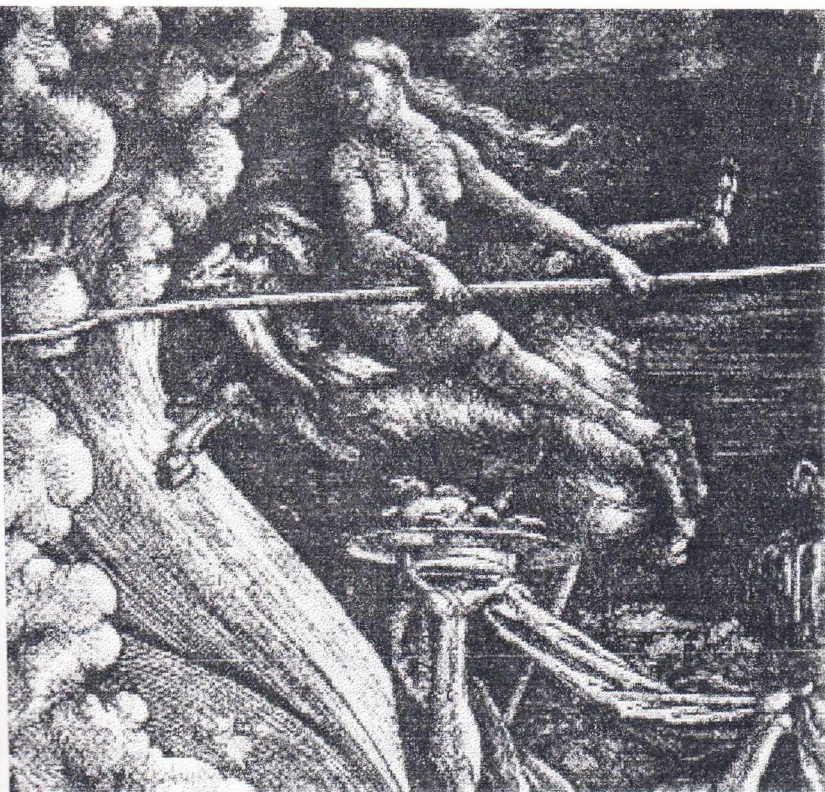
By the way, I can see the Methodists are very interested in camps. I have seen tent towns, if not tent cities, in Ocean Grove in the Summer.

Meisha Merlin is not a **small press** like Rod McKuen does not write poetry. Rod's critics mean bad poetry is not poetry. You mean a small press cannot use decent business practices or succeed.

I guess **Exxon** preserves its tiger because ecology is in. While Mobil eliminated its Pegasus because it saw the Classics as out. One animal, however, I think we do well enough without is the old Tidewater's Flying A.

I don't think **Britney Spears** has the foggiest notion of what semi-conductor physics is. In fact, the last time I saw her perform, she didn't seem to have the foggiest notion of anything. She looked shell shocked and in need of a rest. There is





only so much she can do – or her mother can make her do – before her fashion comes and goes.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy L. Even pros can **panic** if the political climate is right. Look at Waco. Look at Ruby Ridge. It's no wonder what the poorly trained National Guardsmen at Kent State did.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve H. It sounds like you've been doing well on the **stock market** relatively speaking. Only a 25% hit. Some of the dot-coms had a 100%.

🍷▲🍷 ct. David S. At DSC 39, we ate at **Hot & Hot Fish Club**, a fancy restaurant despite the name. I wish I had had an appetite and the cash. The appetizer I ate, with oysters and clams and mussels, was scrumptious.

🍷▲🍷 But could you get back **back**

**wages** if the employer who skipped was bankrupt? Wouldn't the creditors get first pick? Could any lawyer get your wages for you then? It sounds to me like getting blood from a stone. Or at least a carrot.

### LIFE IS A ONESHOT

🍷▲🍷 Steve, I wasn't used to your **laptop** and had a little trouble with it. But my comment turned out OK, except for skipping some words at the end. As is my want.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. The 'French' restaurant with french fries? Was that by any chance **Johnny Rockets**, the retro '50s diner? I ate their numerous times. Once, I know, with you. It wasn't bad, actually. It lured me to break down for once and buy a milk shake. Their bacon cheeseburger was great, but I found out that it had to be eaten in the wrapper.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Suzanne Hughes. I guess you could use **voice recognition** software for the next one shot. But would anything identifiable come out of it? I have been trying Dragon and I am getting an awful lot of gibberish.

Maybe you've purchased decent software and a decent microphone. I know Norm was pushing IBM's, Indelible Blue (?). Unfortunately, it works only on OS2, which I have visions of being schmear to install.

🍷▲🍷 Nice **eating** with you in Hot and Hot. As for Naomi's bounty, it was delicious; but being a diabetic, I had to take the diabetic's portion – a taste of each. Too bad.



🍷▲🍷 GARY TESSER. Gary Tesser's roast of you was hilarious. Unfortunately, you could roast me with the same script. And maybe any SFPAn. For instance, learned Jungle warfare in Helsinki. That is as appropriate – or inappropriate – for me, as the case may be.

GUY H. LILLIAN III  
spiritus mundi 183

🍷▲🍷 Sputnik in 1957 was the big time for me, not Yuri Gagarin's ride, for when we had to catch up with the Russians. Or, as some were want to call them, the Russkis. I remember the impetus slowed when Kennedy became President. The missile gap was part of his ticket to the Presidency.

And you didn't hear anything about the **missile gap** when we put men on the Moon. A project the Russians could not afford. Since the missile gap was no longer an issue, we decided there was no need to put a man on Mars.

I hate to be cynical but that's what Washington does to you.

🍷▲🍷 Does the **death penalty** put the murderer out of commission? Does the death penalty deter? Does it bring closure to the victim's survivors? Is it an unerring process? While I could put up an argument on some, I will defer to the death penalty advocates on all these things.

I object to it solely because I find it repulsive and barbaric. And that's that. Something tightens in my stomach when someone gets executed. Even when it happened to a Fed hater like McVeigh. I can't vouch for anyone else on this, but that's the feeling I have.

🍷▲🍷 Guy, you've lived too long on

1986 rents. Wake up and hear your expense account going bye-bye.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff. I disagree. *Blondie*, *Hagar* and *Beetle Bailey* are OK. Of course, they do not reach the special wisdom of Ernie Bushmiller's *Nancy*.

🍷▲🍷 You say a single 'is' is worth a hundred 'what ifs.' I bet especially if the 'is' is Rosie.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary B. I hear **Jack the Dripper** used to get drunk, call up his mentor, the muralist Thomas Hart Benton, and beg forgiveness for becoming an abstractionist.

🍷▲🍷 DSC 2001. We're spoiled as far as **ballet** goes. We measure everything according to Nureyev and his ilk. Not that you complained, but what the *Fire Maidens* at DSC 39 did was fun. Fortunately, we haven't been spoiled yet by any superstar bagpipers. The Heritage Fife & Drum sounded OK to me.

🍷▲🍷 I know where I was brought up. It is a few blocks from my parents' current house. But I can never go **home** again. The big lot was subdivided and I can't get used to the banner that covers most of the roof.

STEVE HUGHES  
comments 11

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. How long has **Microsoft** promised a new system that fixes everything? Since it introduced Windows? And I have a feeling things are getting less stable not more.

Their fixes haven't helped prevent the slide much. They have I-don't-know fixes for current problems with my system at work, and, according to the computer techs,

none of them work all too well.

☹▲☹ I use **Outlook Express** and AOL. I am accessing the latter through the former. I haven't had much problem with Viruses at home. Not yet.

I have two emails services for personal reasons. And I use each for different purposes. I find Outlook Express doesn't convert or paste files too well. I have decided if I am going to copy files onto email, I should use AOL. On the other hand, if I send regular messages, Express is more convenient.

☹▲☹ Yes indeed, I do have an AGP card. But when I downloaded and installed a new **video driver**, it didn't end the problem. Downloading it may have made the unprompted rebooting at the beginning worse even. Also, I have some problems with the sizes of my fonts I didn't have before.

The only thing that has helped was some adjustments I made through Microsoft's utilities.

☹▲☹ I probably have a comparable number of unmodified **teeth**. I haven't counted them. If your implants didn't work, then I'm glad my dentist hasn't heard of them. Or at least hasn't broached the subject to me.

☹▲☹ Maybe I'll have to ask Suzanne how to deal with my current **Sprint, rip-off** artists. Although finding a half-way honest cell phone service eventually might be my best tactic.

☹▲☹ ct. Norm Metcalf. I think Norm is probably trying to get us to think, in the tradition of **John Campbell, Jr.** It is true I spoke with him and he claims he really believes that movies, the novel *20,000*

*Leagues*, etc. aren't science fiction. But my belief about John Campbell is that he believed everything he said while trying to get us to think.

☹▲☹ ct. Ned Brooks. I had heard **RICO** was modified, and it's not as easy anymore to confiscate property accused of being used for drug deals. And the cops have had to go back to getting their money by fining jaywalkers. At least some of their money.

☹▲☹ ct. Guy H. Lillian III. The reason many **juries** picked never go to trial is that so many cases end in plea bargains. Of course, the fact that there is a jury there, maybe even impaneled, encourages such bargains to be made.

☹▲☹ ct. Tom Feller. The belief that **death** isn't so bad probably made your grandfather's time on Earth easier. And, as far as I can tell, he's right. It's a good idea as long as the person doesn't believe life on Earth is so horrible he has to commit suicide.

☹▲☹ ct. Janice Gelb. You say the **tax system** isn't fair. My experience with government regulations in general is that they have been changed in order to be fair so many times that they are unfair. One fairness cancels out the other and then some. Especially when special interests write the laws.

I bet the IRS Code is the same way.

☹▲☹ ct. Gary Brown. **Lying**, like Clinton and Bush were supposed to have done, is no big deal in Washington. Not as long as their supporters will forgive it or ignore it.

Is some type of lying considered no big deal by others besides those 'damned'

politicians? Shhhh. Al Capp once wrote a tale about the 'Bald Iggle.' When you looked into its eyes, you had to tell the truth. And it made it a menace to Western Civilization as we know it. At one point, the hills were being scoured by groups menaced by the Bald Iggle. Politicians of course. But there were advertisers and chambers of commerce. Lawyers and social critics also got their lumps.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Mike Weber. I hear that's why **Ford** lost to General Motors: it refused to put out a new model each year. Instead it sold an old reliable.

By the way, I hear the Model A put out in the '30s was even a more old reliable than the T. You could fix many things that went wrong with it with a bobby pin. Which, at the time, was ubiquitous.

## TOM FELLER

frequent flyer. may 15, 2001.

🍷▲🍷 I'm afraid when **I die** my next of kin will have to search my apartment for legal documents. Fortunately for them, they will probably be in my files. Unfortunately for them, my files are endless.

🍷▲🍷 Most people seemed to like the **Radisson**, the DSC 39 hotel, and I did too – mostly. But somehow or other, the faucet in the sink in my room seemed to be getting the backup from the toilet. It certainly smelled that way. While the night clerk of course immediately gave me another room, the hotel's stock plummeted in my estimation.

Tom, do you know how such a backup could happen?

🍷▲🍷 When they cancelled the masquerade at **DSC**, that caused me some

confusion. I was trying to find a meeting and the instructions said it was next to the masquerade.

🍷▲🍷 What was your experience with **Themestream**, Tom, except that they never paid you for material? Or is that it?

🍷▲🍷 Mr. Freeman and his castle got off easy when the State dug a highway through his land. I hear in Boston in the '50s the cops would tell people to leave their keys under the doormat and leave. That was the way they practiced the right of **Eminent Domain**.

This policy was doubly wrong. The idea was supposed to be urban renewal, and the community was already thriving.

The guy who headed the shebang deserved a bigger comeuppance, but it was a comeuppance of sort. He tried to use the big money behind him to become governor, but no one would vote for him for dogcatcher.

🍷▲🍷 About the recent **superliminal** experiments, I heard in the *Skeptical Inquirer*, for what it's worth, that it wasn't light going faster so much as the light pulse having a different shape.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I only wish I had thought it was an Anna Kournikova photo and opened the **virus**. I can forgive lust in myself. The problem was it was automatic motion. I found the attachment in a message on my Solo Librarians' list. And automatically opened it. Silly me. ...Very silly me.

🍷▲🍷 I'm wondering what good **anti-virus** software does. No virus I have run into has it been able to stop.

🍷▲🍷 I have to defer to you that *Battlestar Galactica* was a ripoff of *Star*



*Wars*. I never saw it and my ever porous memory could be wrong about what the reviews said it was a ripoff of.

By the way, I hear Disney's *Atlantis* is a ripoff on Ignatius Donnelly's crank classic *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* (1882). I don't know which has less class: *Galactica* or *Atlantis*? I guess *Atlantis*. It ripped off on one of the world's great myths; *Galactica* merely ripped off space opera.

☛▲☛ Did **Aaron Burr** feel no remorse over killing Alexander Hamilton? A cousin of mine would object strenuously. He was a fan of Aaron Burr's. Felt he got a bad press. Of course, that was the fashion at that time, sometime in the '50s. So who knows what he would say now.

**DAVID SCHLOSSER**  
peter, pan & merry #37

☛▲☛ ct. Me. *Fantasy Island* several years ago portraying dark fantasies? The New Age had given way to Goth.

☛▲☛ I got a letter from **Harry Andruschak**. I guess he read my zine. But if memory serves me right, he says he is outside SF fandom for now.

☛▲☛ Wouldn't the **Lembas** have to be related to Judaism through their mothers? And the theory is their migration from Yemen was a male thing.

☛▲☛ I have been told that in practice retelling changes the original telling. Sometimes subtly, sometimes not so subtly. I remember where researchers actually heard Yugoslav storytellers changing their story with each retelling. Whereas if the tradition is on paper, it is more likely to be preserved.

I bet our oral traditions tend to fade that much faster than the traditions of societies that depend on one because we do not depend on it. I was told that the Masons, sometime in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, found they could not depend on **oral transmission** of their rituals. And they have been in print ever since. In fact, you and I can buy them freely if you know the publisher and the title.

☛▲☛ That is the rub. Controlling your **weight** takes diligence. A lot of so-called experts seem to believe that controlling is nothing; it is just the perversity of the fat person that makes them fat.

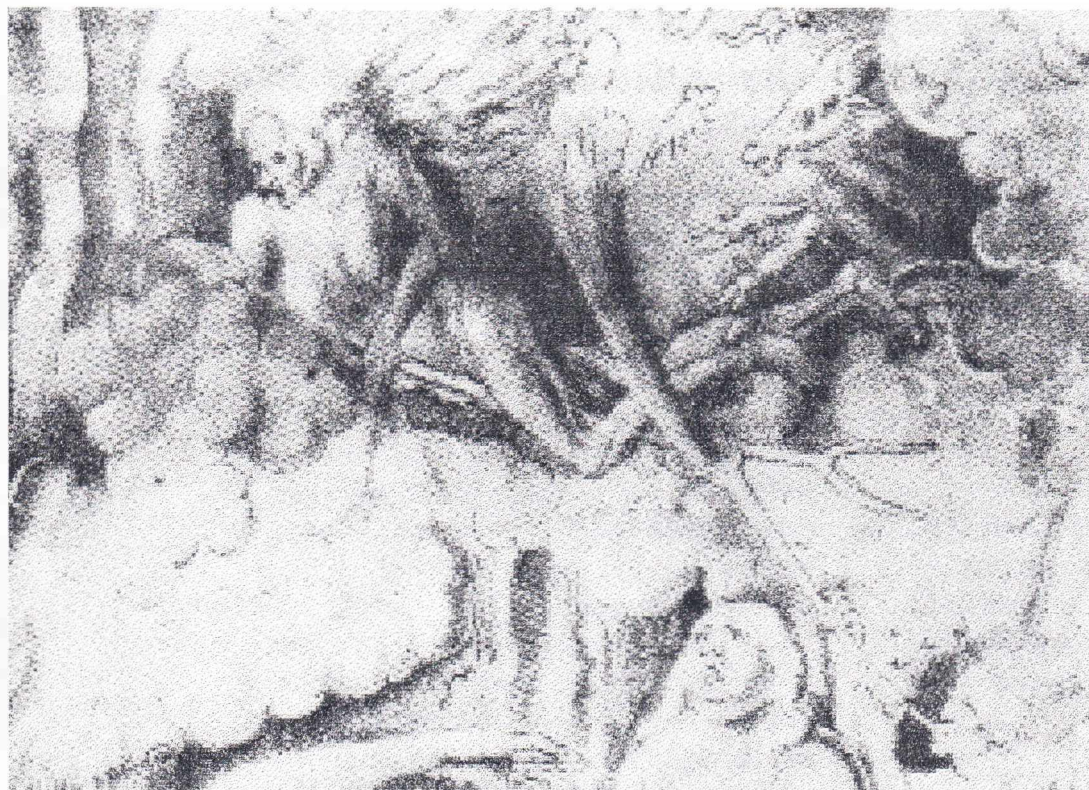
Also, I would like to amend what you said slightly. Having had a weight problem, I would say that controlling your weight takes more than just diligence; it takes lots and lots of diligence.

☛▲☛ Come on, Dave, you still have a choice even if the choice is between one good and another. Ipso facto, you would still have **free will**. Those shades of areas in between good and bad are not irrelevant.

☛▲☛ I didn't think people would get back their investment from a **timeshare**, but they are proving more functional than I thought they would be. And less costly since you can get people to rent your timeshares for the Summer. Or trade.

☛▲☛ If the Hornblower films are successful, maybe the **historical genre** is making a comeback. I hope it is.

☛▲☛ Yes, it comes with the territory that **Administrations** will get blamed for depression and recession. Of course, they always try to switch the blame to someone else. Rarely successfully.



I have been told a pagan said he would convert to Judaism if Hillel stood on one leg and summarized the Jewish law. So he did that and said, "Do not unto others as you would have others do not unto you."

ct. Jeff Copeland. I wonder whether any Republicans were forced out of office by California's **term limits**, even though they, and their constituents, were

ct. Rich Lynch. I guess the Center for Disease Control is a Federal version of State and local **health departments** because it gives a birdseye view of the health of the country. To help the State and local departments figure out what diseases may be going in and out of their domains.

ct. Guy Lillian. The **Torah** does have much about caring for other people. In fact, it does say 'Love your neighbor as yourself' at one point. At least the King James Bible quotes it, Leviticus, Chapter 19 Verse 18 . However, you are only supposed to love fellow Jews that way.

Some later Jewish teachers, like Hillel, were very close to Christ's view and widened this view, to some extent, to all of humanity. In fact, I know someone who believes Christ was a rabbi of the Hillel school.

dying to have them run again? I think the whole idea was originally to get rid of Democrats. I'm not exactly certain the Republicans and Conservatives, who were thinking in those terms, foresaw the day when that would happen to them.

A little short sighted, if you ask me. But politicians are not known for taking the long view.

ct. Not only do I say it wouldn't be prudent to have an affair with a **teenager** whose curves resemble Lara Croft's; I also say I probably couldn't relate to her enough.

ct. Janet Larson. I thought that the **tax burden** had increased was a figment of the right wing's imagination. But I divided the Tax Receipts by the Gross Domestic Product in the *Statistical Abstract of the U.S. 2000*. And it has.

A big reason is that we have been



running deficits. And haven't been paying for the full price of the Federal government. If the taxpayers had been footing the full bill, the tax burden would have reached its height sometime in the early 1980s. Of course, now we have a surplus, and that means the tax burden is so much greater.

Still, I have to give the Conservatives their due.

☹▲☹ ct. Toni Weisskopf.. You seem to admit it is an argument for **guns** that their presence deters crime. On the other hand, how much crime would be deterred in that 'utopia' where guns are banned?

On the other hand still, is such a utopia possible? Would there be any fewer guns if guns were banned? Especially with the attitude many people have toward guns.

☹▲☹ Like with your son Random that one time, I was always being rejected for **blood donation** by the Red Cross because of anemia. Anemia that apparently didn't exist. The aides were doing the test wrong.

☹▲☹ It's kind of ironic about **Olga**, who didn't want the grandkids to know she was Jewish, that you donated money to a Jewish organization in her name. It would seem to make more sense to donate money to a secular humanist organization in her name -- whatever that organization would be.

Of course, I sort of see where your head is at .

**SHEILA STRICKLAND**  
**revenant #6**

☹▲☹ Could you contact **Creative Writer's** tech support to answer questions about the program? Or how about your own library's tech support?

I always scream tech support if the slightest thing happens to my computer. Maybe I do it too fast. Maybe I should sometimes wait for things to fix themselves.

☹▲☹ You say you have trouble sleeping in strange **beds**. I have trouble sleeping in the bed I should be most familiar with: the bed I had as a teenager in my parents' house. Of course, that life may in fact be like a foreign country right now. Especially at age fifty-six.

☹▲☹ You had **white beans** and rice. I was at a party attended by people from the area skeptics organization. The people who hosted it served red beans and rice with sausage. When someone asked about it, they said that they had met in Louisiana and they often cooked Cajun foods in memory of that.

I don't know how authentic it was. It was spicy hot, but not so spicy hot a damn Yankee like me couldn't eat it .

☹▲☹ About the **one-shot** at DSC 39. You said *I was one of the early typers, so I haven't seen any of the rest of it; and can't swear as to my coherence*. Remember this. You are not supposed to see any of the other one-shots. And you are not supposed to be coherent at all. As I was typing mine, I was warned not to look back or I would be turned into a pillar of salt.

Periodically this creates strokes of genius. Several years ago the big joke was that the purple dinosaur Barney was the anti-Christ. During a one-shot, someone came up with the idea that he was the anti-Elvis.

☹▲☹ I tend to agree with you. At **Worldcons**, we wouldn't have met half as many people that we know. I met several with tables at the 1998 one in Baltimore. And then I didn't meet another for six hours.



Meeting people I knew looked like searching for a needle in a haystack. Maybe worse. At least a needle would stick out.

And I met them after six hours only because someone with a table had invited me to a party.

🍎▲🍎 You're satisfied with your, albeit not-top-of-the-line **computer**, and you intend to keep it. That's common sense. Good for you. That it's bad for Microsoft means it's doubly good for you.

🍎▲🍎 I decided that you are right about **cell phones**. They are useful in emergencies: if your car breaks down or you need tech support: but not for everyday conversations. Which a lot of motormouths use them for.

🍎▲🍎 ct. New Port News. The proper way to ride a broomstick is with the bristles in front? The early illustrations of **witches** had them flying on goats. Then in the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century, Molitor showed them flying on long two-pronged, wooden forks.

Grillot de Givry in his *Witchcraft, Magic & Alchemy* claims illustrations then showed them flying on broomsticks with the bristles, like you say, pointing in front. I cannot see that in any of the illustrations he gives. In one where he claims it, the bristles are clearly in back.

In any event, by the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, they were mainly pointing in back. The higher ranking witches, however, continued to fly on goats.

This comment, of course, inspired the illustration in this *Twyg*.

🍎▲🍎 ct. Offline Reader. I'm utterly useless in **stock talk**. I am trying to put my investments as much as possible on automatic pilot.

🍎▲🍎 ct. Aristotle Meets Gernsback.

Looking back, I have to hand it to my **high school** in a way. In the April Fools edition of my high school paper during my senior year, the editors and writers ran riot. They certainly were insinuating various things. And sometimes they didn't even bother to insinuate. What do they say about talking dirty and influencing people?

The parents were up in arms. The Legion of Decency. The writers and editors of course were given a good tongue lashing to. But, thinking it over, they couldn't have done it unless the school winked an eye.

Thus, I suspect not only the students but the Administration itself had bucked high school's insanities.

🍎▲🍎 ct. Trivial Pursuits. You don't want to be strung along on **Kage Baker's** novels. Not like I was strung along in the Philip José Farmer's Riverworld Series. Of course, when I read the ending, I figured it was not worth it. Farmer should have kept on stringing me along.

🍎▲🍎 Does your library system dismantle compilations of **classics** and ultimately weed them? My library seems to be doing that with the classics in the *Harvard Classics* and the *Synopticon*. Which, I feel, should be available as complete sets in every library system, no matter whether they are used or not. Some books are that way.

🍎▲🍎 ct. Passages. You say you have heard people spout old nonsense, and claim it is **common sense**. Which goes to show that there is no substitute for common sense. No system, no ideology, no philosophy. Not even stuff that claims to be common sense is a substitute.

🍷▲🍷 For my APA, I always mail two weeks ahead of time and keep five **inkjet cartridges**. With my printer, you really need that many. Of course, I don't always plan ahead like this in other aspects of my life.

**GARY R. ROBE**  
**tennessee trash #41**

🍷▲🍷 What a difference some practice makes and some exercise. Just as who would have thought a lifelong couch potato like you could become a **Taekwando** master; who would have thought that a couch potato like I was five years ago could press 66 lbs. today. Far short of Charles Atlas, but who would have thought?

🍷▲🍷 But at our **respective ages** we should be careful of biting off more than we can chew. Good for you that you knew the 26 year old was more than you at 43 could chew. Of course, you might have been wiser to avoid that match.

At 56, I am always discovering that I better retreat. I have retreated from running. My problems with my legs may not have been related to it, but I had been warned sufficiently that running wasn't a good idea with my arthritis. And there are weights I should realize, even if I don't, I shouldn't be lifting. Not in my current condition. Not at 56 years. When my body hurts that's a sign.

🍷▲🍷 You forgot your camera. I did something worse. I remember I forgot my toothguard once at my parents' place and went without it for a month. Not a good idea given my bite. I need to put it on every night.

Since then I've taken to using a **checklist** each time I travel. It takes 45 minutes to inventory everything, but it's

worth it to know I haven't forgotten something. Of course, stuff periodically skips through my inventory.

🍷▲🍷 Using a see-through blouse and black lace bra to get her way in business, like **Aurora** does, I bet works better in Latin America than the States. They pride themselves on being great lovers.

Plus most women can't pull it off. You not only have to be physically attractive but have a commanding presence. And be able to weave it into the idea of sexy.

One thing I wonder. Did Aurora turn off the sexiness spigot when she found out you couldn't get her what she wanted?

🍷▲🍷 I was feeling no pain with your **caipirihna**. The cachasa in it is firewater? Funny, I had a far worse reaction to the mint julep they served during the Kentucky derby. Sipping didn't help. Not sipping much of it didn't help either. Too bad but the mint julep ended up down the drain. Whereas I still savor your caipirihna.

🍷▲🍷 I don't think **Dune** translates well to the screen, myself. It is too fantastic, too experimental, too free wheeling. In a way, I like the David Lynch version better because, with massive cutting, at least we didn't know what was going on.

I know they tried to tone down the fantasy and free wheeling nature of the book in the miniseries. But I'm not certain that didn't take something away while not adding much.

On the other hand, why am I complaining? I was engrossed enough to watch it hour after hour. As opposed to Heidi, who thought it was stupid.

🍷▲🍷 **Buffy** can come back even if she remains dead as a doornail in the last episode. As a prequel or a flashback. And,

who knows, maybe that's how we'll all survive.

ct. Me. It was great to see you too, and **Corlis** and Nick and Isaac. Both you and Corlis look a lot younger than I pictured you. As for the organized part not getting in the way of socializing, it didn't for me. I only attended two events: the awards and the bids for the next DSC. Unless, of course, the Rubble was a separate event. I forget.

I may be wrong, but I don't think the problem is the motherboard. My **computer's** problem is when I turn it on. It's just fine after it's been running for some time. It seems to crash less than my computer at work then. I gather all the rebooting early on, as Steve suggests, has to do with the video card.

The best way for a person to appear **invisible** is to cloud men's minds like Lamont Cranston used to. It's not a matter of it being scientifically possible or impossible. It's that the mind is scientifically terra incognita. It might be possible; we don't know.

Recently, I was going to go to a skeptics **cookout**. But it was raining like cats and dogs. So I called up and the sponsor said that he was going to have it anyway, just inside. Which he did. And it worked out. I had a pleasant enough time.

It might not work out, though, for cub scouts. The idea behind them is that they are in the great out-of-doors. And especially, it seems, your cubs.

ct. Richard Lynch. That people advocate the **environment** and vote with their carburetors. It is an attitude no fanatic can understand. The Sierra Club was

advocating an actual decrease in our standard of living in a documentary I saw once. That certainly wouldn't play in Peoria.

On the other hand, it more than plays with them. I guess the whole idea behind ideology is politics not taking into account politics.

ct. Dave Schlosser. Your son is unhappy that he has a Biblical name and not a **nickname**. The old Hebrew names are nicknames apparently. Abram means great chief. Abraham means father of the people. Adam means dust. Joseph means holding by the foot. Isaac means laughter.

By the way, what do you think of Isaac's handpicked nickname, Izzy?

## JEFF COPELAND you've got mars

About Alice in Wonderland, I guess all you guys have heard of **Lewis Carroll's**, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson's, nude photos of young girls. Of course, done with chaperones. And society at that time considered it not perverted but cute and quaint. This is what I remember about it. He apparently had the decency to stop this hobby when he realized he was doing this for more than cuteness and quaintness.

Of course, if he had been even more decent, he should have destroyed the photos during life. He did have the decency to put that in his will, but the executors didn't do it. So we got the goods on him.

About **Spy Kids**, at DSC 39, George was entertaining kids by calling them spy kids. And they ate it up. I certainly would have at that age. You wanted excitement in your fantasies, although I am not sure in your life. Did we know the difference? I did, but fantasy was so much





better. Especially for a fat and clumsy kid with a heavy duty inferiority complex.

🍏▲🍏 ct.

Me. We are having our **health problems**, but

they seem to have stabilized by now. My wife has adjusted to her ostomy, and I've adjusted to giving myself shots. And the bridge is in and my bite changed.

Anyway health problems seem to be the story of getting old. Do-gooders deny that, but believing it is an additional way to adjust to life.

🍏▲🍏

Why couldn't Clinton have chosen **Sam Nunn** as Secretary of Defense?. Would Sam have agreed? He despised Bill Clinton. He thought he should have become President. That he chose not to run in 1992 was irrelevant. Because Sam was jealous of Clinton, he tried to undermine him in all sorts of ways. Like on Gays in the military. Ultimately, Sam found he was undermining himself.

🍏▲🍏

It's true some **negotiating positions** are far more for public consumption than they are to get anything done. But other negotiating positions are to get something done. You take a position far out in left field – or in right – with the hopes that you will ultimately be able to negotiate a deal that gets you exactly what your constituents want. Or – and I have seen this in Washington – what you believe is right.

You start with vouchers and hope you end with charter schools. You start with abortion as murder and hope you end up

with it being a lesser crime. You start with socialized medicine and end up with increased health benefits for the poor. You start with no tax cut for the rich, and hope you end with some benefits for the middle class.

🍏▲🍏

Why did **Jesse Helms** include a slightly off color joke about Greenbay, Wisconsin in the *Congressional Record*? It was part of a packet of materials criticizing the way government training funds were spent. I don't think he or his aides necessarily read what they were including. On the other hand, they were very embarrassed afterward.

🍏▲🍏

I have said what I think will put **the economy** in the tank. Your thing, energy prices for one. Plus that the hi tech era is reaching surplus, like I think autos and electrical goods did during the Great Depression. Which caused the Great Depression.

This process need not be straightline. Maybe Greenspan's rate cuts might stem the tide – for a time.

🍏▲🍏

As I have said, I think **Gore** didn't do that badly. It was a Republican year. Not like 1994, but we still remain in a Republican era. The Congress by a teetering little remains Republican. And still Gore got a majority; not the right majority but a majority.

Also, I doubt Clinton campaigning for him more would have done that much good. It was obvious that people were not willing to transfer Clinton prosperity to Gore. Clinton seems to have been one of a kind. Of course, by the same token, it is going to be hard to pin a recession on Gore in 2004.

I agree that Gore started out wooden.

He was trying to be the grey eminence against Bradley. And probably actually being his cautious self. Also, I agree that he got spooked by the Republican criticisms, in pulling his punches in the last two debates.

But overall, I think Gore did well.

🍷▲🍷 I haven't been able to find out too much about **Linda Tripp** since she got fired. She is suing, I know, to get her job back. Also, that the Defense Department leaked her application to be head of the Marshall Center in Germany.

Someone claimed out that she was fired because, despite her reputation as an angel of the Right and an avatar of the truth, she was a nonpartisan gossip. She was responsible for tales of the Elder Bush having a mistress. Bush Junior was probably thanking her for that.

🍷▲🍷 *Abscess makes the fart go "Honda."* Or is it **absinthe** making the heart grow fonder?

🍷▲🍷 Good for you, planning for your **teenagers** to fly the coop so they wouldn't be so rebellious. Of course, it takes two to tango in this case. You have to have halfway reasonable teenagers.

🍷▲🍷 Well, my memory was wrong about **Boba Fett** then. Who was Hans negotiating with in the first film, and then eluded?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Irv Koch. I'm afraid I can't get as interested in **investments** as you and Irv are. My only hope is the Getty effect. You know what happened in the Getty family. John Paul was resting his hopes on one son. The other one didn't care about finances and had delusions of being a composer of music. Well, John Paul drove the son whom he was resting his hopes on to

suicide, and the composer inherited everything.

Which he promptly sold. It was at the height of the oil boom, 1982, and he made a pretty penny. Which he devoted in good part to his museum. I imagine the buyers did not do as well. The price of oil fell shortly thereafter.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Randy Cleary. Randy worries too much about **psychologists** probing his mind. Given how trendy and full of hype so many are, particularly the corporate trainer kind, they won't find out anything about his mind at all. You point that out with the Keirsey stuff.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Robe. Eliminating all this game theory, in short what you're saying is that counting the **ballots** has to be a bipartisan process. Otherwise those counting will fix the election. No hi tech method can stop them.

I'll buy that.

🍷▲🍷 What Douglas Adams is saying is we will never run out of **questions**. I agree. The more questions we answer the more there are to ask. If science keeps progressing at the same rate for 10,000 years – a dubious proposition – we will have a million times more questions than now. Even if we have immortality and travel to other galaxies.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Robe. You're right that the big book chains were hostile to special orders in the good old days. But there were smaller chains in the DC area that thrived on them. You had to of course pay for shipping handling. Which you have to do with Amazon. Unlike Amazon, however, you had to enter the store at some point in the process. I remember this because that's how

I ordered **books** for my agency.

☛▲☛ There was a *Wall Street Journal* article recently about a website that is flourishing. One that gets you '**consultants.**' Of course, here are the consultants they get you: most of their business seems to be from psychic and sex hotlines. Which they deny, but it's obvious that's where it comes from.

☛▲☛ BACOVER. With Total Industry Domination, wouldn't Microsoft be honest and say **Windows/TID** is to make money for Microsoft and you can't do anything about it? Also, nothing on your computer will work unless you log in to Microsoft Network – for big bucks?

#### JEFF COPELAND

##### commonplace book. part one.

☛▲☛ About **Penelope Ashe**, whom you quote from *Naked Came the Stranger*, Ashe was just a pseudonym for a number of Newsday reporters who followed an outline for bestselling softcore porn. And created a bestseller. One of them, Mike McGrady, wrote a book about it, *Stranger than Naked* (1970).

☛▲☛ About your E.B. White quote on **democracy**, I don't think the idea behind democracy is more than half the people are right more than half the time. I think the idea is that more than half the people have the right to be wrong.

☛▲☛ About the word "**colophon**," my ancient *American College Dictionary* says that it comes from a Greek word that is very much like 'colophon,' meaning finishing touch. Not 'coloon' or 'koloos' like the PostScript™ Language Manual has it.

☛▲☛ About the E.B. White quote on

hope, hope is not only the only thing left to us in a bad times. **Hope** is the only thing left to us in good times as well. Of course, it's easier to sustain in good times.

☛▲☛ About the Tom Hanks quote, many of us do have a single thing that is truly guiding us each moment, which isn't **patriotism**. The problem is that God is a private guide that we don't wish to make public. Obnoxious missionaries have given public display of God a bad name.

☛▲☛ About the P.J. O'Rourke quote on **Western civilization**. It is meant to be hot button, I'm sure. The p.c. can't stand the defense of Western civilization over more worthy cultures.

But let's face it, they are in the tradition of Western civilization. The ideas of multiculturalism and noble savages are part of our Western heritage. While these two ideas may have gone to the Third World and come back to haunt us, they are still part of our Western heritage.

☛▲☛ About the Fred Hoyle quote on **God's plan** for the universe, I have a comment. The doctrine of Intelligent Design, that God created the universe out of nothing, and that's that, does not tell us anything about the Design at all. Evolution does, survival of the fittest.

☛▲☛ About Richard Feynman's quote on the beauties of **science**. He laments that poets cannot find the Big Bang beautiful, or Jupiter as a planet. It is the nature of the beast. Since it's pure fact, it never will excite poets. Only by rare coincidence do pure facts excite most nonscientists.

We have to tweak the facts for them to do so. During the Middle Ages poets found natural philosophy beautiful because



their natural philosophy was not all fact. Maybe we will have to invent a parallel, less factual, natural philosophy, like that.

🍷▲🍷 About Warren Cromartie's quote on the Japanese and their commitment to **duty** rather than happiness. Often a commitment to duty will make you happy. You forget your pain. On other hand, when you seek happiness, often it brings home all too well that you are in pain.

🍷▲🍷 *Outside of a **dog**, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.* – Groucho Marx. I've seen this in other people's collections of quotes. It is funny, I have to admit.

## GARY BROWN

oblio no. 134

🍷▲🍷 I remember all too well a long bus ride, the longest of my life. Where I had a **toothache** like yours. I don't know whether I could have stood a night. Didn't the sleeping pills make you feel extra draggy the next day without helping you sleep?

I think I also had swelling, like you did. I know I have had it at other times. Which brings back an ambivalent nostalgia. I remember seeing in my parent's books 19<sup>th</sup> Century pictures of kids having toothaches. There a kid would have swollen cheeks and a bandanna wrapped around them. And the tooth throbbing.

🍷▲🍷 So **Ryan** doesn't know what he wants to do for the next several years so he is going to Manatee Community College. Don't most kids do nothing when they are say they don't know what to do?

He sounds like a good kid.

🍷▲🍷 I met a **Heywood Jablome** once. I told him No. Where are those

reporters' heads at? Reading the name can fool people; speaking it, there shouldn't be chance.

About hoaxes in journalism, historically, there have been a lot. A Curtis MacDougall wrote a book called *Hoaxes* that gave many from the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and before. Like the Winsted liar, L.T. Stone, who wrote about an apple tree from which apples already baked hung. Then there was King Tut's golden typewriter. And a story published April 1<sup>st</sup> about a Brazilian millionaire coming to town, Lirpa Loof.

🍷▲🍷 I think people are taking **Johnny Hart** too seriously. He looks like he is having fun with his Evangelical faith. Even the joke about ACLU looks like he is having fun. It's not the proper venue to say a school kid is really going to get into trouble for praying.

Again, my only objection to Hart is most of his 'religious' cartoons, unlike this particular example, are puzzling.

🍷▲🍷 Was the **evidence** stuff that would acquit Timothy McVeigh? Or junk? If it is measured in tons like it was, it is likely junk. I know when lawyers order up a ton of documents, it is more to win by intimidation than anything.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I agree that there is no **computer** with too much power, space and neat things – if it works.

🍷▲🍷 How many temporary bridges did that poor fellow have while he waited two months to get the permanent? Could he get temporaries? On the other hand, his teeth would move to bad positions if he couldn't.

I hope he wasn't like me and his bite destroyed a temporary every three days. A

bite that seems to have been 'adjusted.'

🍷▲🍷 I'm sure **Bill Clinton** will run for the Senate. And he'll have Republican help, like Hillary, so he'll be a shoe in.

🍷▲🍷 You're right that many of the hippies looked vaguely like **cowboys**. Cowboys had the connotation of free spirits.

But it was then that the genre became a shadow of its former self. I think the problem was that the Western, as opposed to the cowboy, is very important when the country is into its heritage, like it was during the '50s. And has problems, like now, when the country isn't.

Cop shows are big during times when crime is a problem. And science fiction is big when we are optimistic and pessimistic. Specifically, dystopian SF for when we are pessimistic.

🍷▲🍷 The **Afro** may be making a comeback, but won't people, both White and Black, still look with askance at a bunch of White boys, like your son's, using the name?

🍷▲🍷 I don't think we'll screw up our past if we travel through time. I think we can only go into an **alternate past**. Otherwise things happen that don't make sense.

🍷▲🍷 The **Gulf Stream** is a great invention. You in Wellington, Florida are cooler in the Summer than I am in D.C. ...I hate you.

🍷▲🍷 So what would be a better symbol of **Southern heritage** than the Stars and Bars? Which apparently are not stars and bars.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Norm Metcalf. I just thought

up a great idea for a **Lost Race**. A race of '50s admen in the jungles of Djibouti. Which, I gather, is a desert and has no jungles.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Rich Lynch. I know **Louis Armstrong's** autobiography was recently issued, or possibly reissued. Apparently he was an intelligent individual who was very much into laxatives.

🍷▲🍷 Of course, the **net hackers**, who reject what the media tell them, will believe any old rumor on the web. The idea behind rejecting the media is that they believe what they damn well please. And anyone who can come up with something pleasing, they believe.

A friend of mine was telling me that some believe that the government actually did the Oklahoma bombing and pinned it on Timothy McVeigh. And McVeigh was going to tell us the truth before he was executed. ... Like Vince Foster was going to blow the top off the Clinton Administration.

Of course, this is not a new phenomena. Before the Cold War, many believed in the Communist-Nazi conspiracy, the Maoist-Midwestern conspiracy, the Jesuit-Masonic conspiracy.

🍷▲🍷 BACOVER. I only know **Walt Kelly** from Pogo so I am glad to see there were other venues for his talent. Of course, I can see similarities in style between this fairy tale comic and the Pogo strip. At least I think I can.

**GEORGE H. WELLS**  
the zine with no title

🍷▲🍷 This zine is a disappointment. It's too coherent. Even your layout, with its email format, looks more coherent.



Witches kissing the Devil's Ass.

☛▲☛ No, I agree some of my **best friends** are \_\_\_\_\_. The only problem occurs when you have to wind them up.

☛▲☛ I remember **Jessica**. Among other things, I had a bacon cheeseburger (I think?) at Johnny Rockets with you, Jill, Penny Frierson and her. A really cute kid. I bet she did keep Uncle George awake at the movies. And if she's heard of Pel Torro, she's on her way to a faanish career.

☛▲☛ *The Phantom*, the ghost who walks. *The Wanton*, the wet dream who walks?

☛▲☛

GOOD PALINDROME

Yes, Mary Ramsey.

BAD PALINDROME

Yes, Britney Spears.

☛▲☛ Hmm, we originally came from **Mars**? Great idea. Wasn't there a British SF movie something like that in the '60s?

Certainly the Empire State Building is from Mars. I figured it out during the Von Daniken fad. The building is pointing up, which enables it to serve as a beacon for flying saucers. But this is the *pièce de resistance*. In the sixth floor men's room is some graffiti that says,

"Jeez, this place must've been built by Martians."

Oh, by the way, the Rothschilds are on Mars. You haven't heard about them recently, have you?

☛▲☛ You exercise too and have an exercise bike? Have you also sold out, George? Will there be no **couch potatoes** left?

☛▲☛ Whitaker at the **Earth's Core**? How about Fred at the Earth's Core? Come to think of it, we have to have an appropriate romantic sounding name for the Earth's Core? How about Gimbels?

MIKE WEBER

new tools, old me

☛▲☛ JOEY RAMONE. About the



words to **Joey Ramone's** song, "a surfboard in New York." I guess that's how you get passed Central Park.

🍷▲🍷 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.

Of course, who knows, I might be able to adapt to everyday shots and shots in the veins. And then they 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 about their views: be they liberal, conservative, etc.?

🍷▲🍷 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?

🍷▲🍷 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.

🍷▲🍷 An unsigned credit card not valid? I should have said unsigned **credit slip**. Which a lot of people are saying is valid. I would still sign mine, though. Why create problems for myself?

🍷▲🍷 There was a **Russo-Turkish** war going on in the Balkans in 1877. I wonder if Percy French was being completely up-to-the-minute rather than composing a song about the Crimean War twenty years before.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned. Heavy people needing **wheelchairs** and canes to get by at my age. That's the important reason I took up weightlifting. I periodically have delusions that I will one day look like Arnold, but I lie down and they pass.

🍷▲🍷 Helen found a **scorpion** in her bedroom. I have had bats in my apartment. And crickets. However, I will see how many get in since I had the screen door changed

and the side is no longer warped so that bats and crickets can get through.

Recently the biggest livestock I have had to contend with are milipedes in the bathtub.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. Maybe kids might only read **Harry Potter** or **Goosebumps**, but at least they are reading something.

I had more cultural interests. I remember reading *A Child's History of the World*. In fact, I remember reading it three times. The book seemed to talk to me. However, I didn't read much else from the third to the eighth grade. So I was in the same boat as kids who only read Harry Potter.

About this childhood favorite, I have forgotten who wrote it. My guess is it was the book written by V.M. Hillyer, revised by Edward G. Huey and first published in 1947.

🍷▲🍷 ct. R. Cleary. But what if the boy named **Sue** became effeminate? People normally say that is the more probable outcome of being brought up like a girl.

🍷▲🍷 **PRESIDENCY OF DUNCES.**

**Bush** has to watch out that he and his cohorts don't take the presidency over a policy cliffs. I have seen that happen so many times.

The idea in the first Reagan Administration was not telling Federal employees when you were making a decision. Someone in our agency decided that you shouldn't after the decision either. So no decisions weren't implemented for the longest time. Of course, our Under Secretary during the Clinton Administration was a one woman cliff until she was asked to resign.

The problem with this advice is that everyone tells you to jump over the cliff. The Bushites believed that there were only bennies from going far right. Were they mistaken!

🍷▲🍷 A Nazi hero wrestling with his conscience, the fighter pilot **Hans von Hammer**. I'll have to say DC is showing a lot of guts. I hear that was Werner Heisenberg's trouble: while he hated the Nazis, he had to work for the Fatherland. I wonder if his ambivalence is part of the reason why he never was able to come up with the atomic bomb. Of course, it's likely the main reason was that, as a theoretical physicist, he distained the applied aspects of getting a bomb, which Enrico Fermi was gung ho about .

**RANDY B. CLEARY**  
**avatar press #15**

🍷▲🍷 Same here. At 56, I am always amazed I can have a **crush**. I have had them several times in the past ten years. That the woman doesn't requite doesn't bother me anymore. I am not a kid of twenty. In fact, I never believe the woman will requite. And was amazed when one would even talk to me.

Anyway I have a woman to share my life with, my wife Heidi. It's not like my younger days when I was alone.

🍷▲🍷 Ah, **your mother's** coming. It's no wonder you bought three bedrooms. I bet she will enjoy escaping from your nephew.

🍷▲🍷 **AGI AND SLATEYE**. I think I will pass on a **trip** like that.

🍷▲🍷 **CLOUD & MOUNTAIN**. Does this say something about **passionate love**? It clouds our minds – even when the lover is a

cloud.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. *Bytes & bites*. A great summary of my complaints last time.

☺▲☺ ct. Spiritus Mundi. *Read the F\*\*\*ing Manual*. I used to all the time but now I rarely do. I read just enough of the cell phone manual to get by. Plus I was working with the spreadsheet software, Quattro Pro, yesterday. And it wasn't anything like Excel, which I am used to. But I was trying to force it to be.

Forget that. After an hour, I searched through the help menu and succeeded in finding how to do what I was doing. It was real simple, just not like Excel.

☺▲☺ *Republicans believe government is a necessary evil while Democrats believe government is an indispensable good*. Anyway the Republicans believe that with government for poor people. One more bit of evidence that politics is usually tunnel vision.

## LIZ COPELAND

### home with the armadillo #47

☺▲☺ This is a gyp. You don't have comments on **my zine**. Of course, you don't have any comments on anyone's.

☺▲☺ Good luck on getting your **Tarot quilt** done in time for the group deadline.

☺▲☺ CHINA BAYLES. People always want to find their **center**. Is there any center? Or is our current confused and unhappy stage it? And if we want to be happy, do we have to find another center? Or do we have to throw excess baggage overboard, which from our viewpoint right now seem full of necessities?

There is one last alternative. Maybe we get to our center by chanting "Harvey Krishman" until we turn into human pudding?

☺▲☺ MEN OF HONOR. You don't care for **William Shatner's** acting. Wasn't the reason the cow in *Liberty Meadows* is mad because he had seen William Shatner overact too much?

☺▲☺ Did the Clinton folk trash the White House? Were the Clintons the most egregious White House couple in making off with a boatload of gifts? Clinton and his Administration are hot button words. People will believe what they wish to believe about them.

And the Bush White House gets much desired bennies from the Republican Right if it claims the White House was trashed. But I doubt they want the issue to blossom into headlines, which might crowd Bush off the front page.

☺▲☺ My wife tells me a tale about a pug. A woman she knew was being pestered by her mother-in-law to have a child. And to give up her dog grooming business. Neither of which did she want. So she took one of the pugs she was grooming, a cute dog, dressed it as a baby. And had a photo taken of it and sent to her mother-in-law.

Cruel? Yes. And typical of her.

## T.K.F. WEISSKOPF

### 'yngvi is a louse' and other graffitos

☺▲☺ DSC 39. About Sharon Green, a guest author at DSC 39. At one of the parties, she told me that men never worry about whether their hips are too fat. Afterwards, I had a brainstorm. Go up to her and ask whether my hips are too fat. But she was always talking to someone so I never



got to do that.

🍷▲🍷 How Haggis is hunted. How grits are picked. I remember reading about a BBC April Fools' joke, the spaghetti tree. To boot, that spaghetti comes from trees in Italy. And they had 'actual' pictures of spaghetti trees.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff Copeland. I agree that the Guinea Pig joke was funny. I have added it to my entourage of politically incorrect jokes. There is one about a Japanese miner. One about Puerto Rican pronunciation. And a whole slew of Richard Gere jokes – that are more than politically incorrect.

🍷▲🍷 I thought we Ashkenazi Jews are supposed to be Mediterranean even though we have been in more northerly climes for over a thousand years. And even though we haven't been totally untainted with the blood of those northerly countries. We Ashkenazi Jews get a lot of Mediterranean hereditary diseases, I hear.

🍷▲🍷 I agree with you on politics for once. It is a compromise, the art of the possible. You are a libertarian. Since economic issues are more important to you than social issues, you go Republican. Other libertarians, more interested in social issues, go Democrat.

I am an old time liberal. This belief must be incomprehensible to you, but purist old time liberals consider Clinton too Conservative. The same with Gore. They seek out a Great White Kennedy: Bradley, Dukakis, etc.

Unlike them, I know we are not going to have an oldtime liberal elected anytime soon. So I say this. Bring on Clinton. Bring on Gore. If need be, a blue dog or two wouldn't look bad.

🍷▲🍷 I agree with you. North Korea is an SOB regime. Lots of SOB's in the two Koreas, I hear, but the North takes the cake.

However, I disagree that if police power keeps increasing as it has been, we will start looking like North Korea. For one thing, things never go on as they have been. People always assume they will. In Washington, politicians – both right and left – are always talking about 'momentum.' But what momentum usually does is take them over a cliff.

**THE END**