

Twygdrazil And Treehouse Gazette #72

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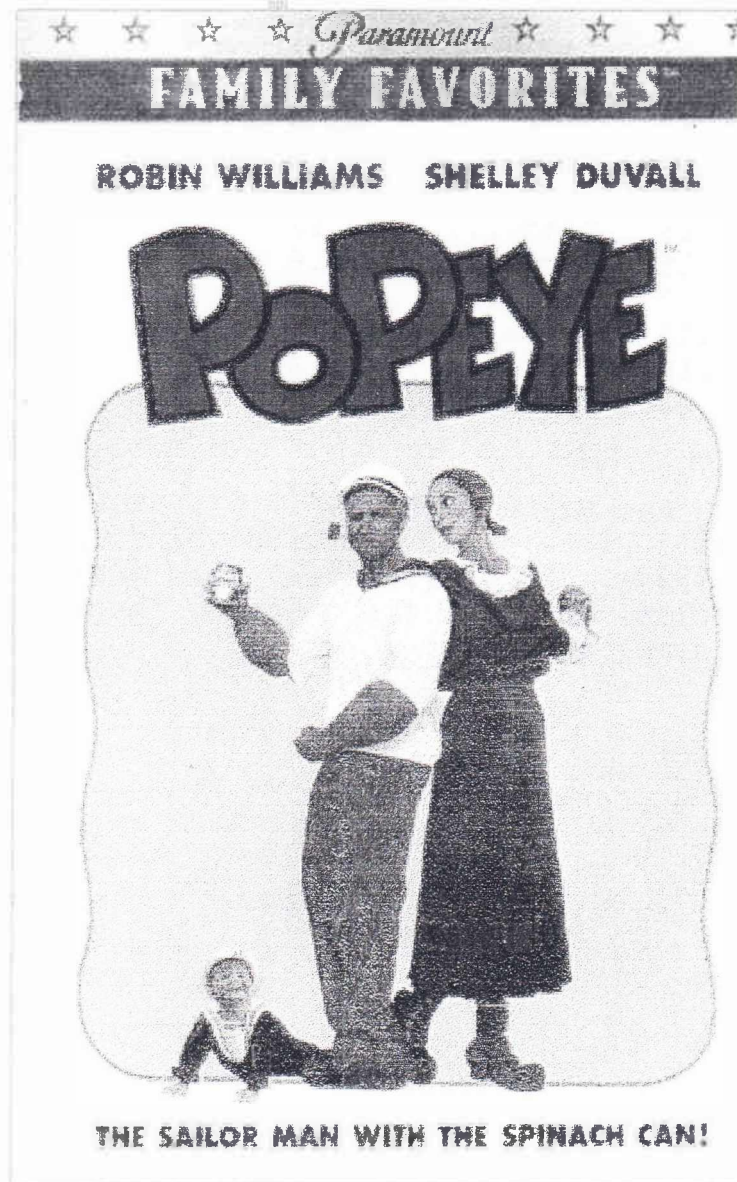


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Illos: Cover, Popeye and Olive Oyl (1980); p7, Shelley Duvall as Olive Oyl; p14, Dirk's Captain and the Kids(1918); p21 Knerr's Katzenjammer Kids (1924); p26, Bill Gates' head exploding. About the Captain and Katzies, yes, for fifty years, these two very similar strips ran simultaneously.

THE 9/11 ATTACK

At work, I learned that a plane had hit the World Trade Center by ten o' clock. Like a lot of you, I thought that first attack was a faulty pilot or navigation system. The second one, I knew like a lot of you, was an attack. The attack on the Pentagon made it bigger than I thought. Rumors of an attack on the State Department made it bigger still.

Also, while at work, I saw on TV the World Trade Center's two towers collapse.

All Federal employees were let out, where I was, by eleven. I heard it was ten in some places. Some have complained but it doesn't matter. Getting home, as you would expect, was a zoo. Roads into D.C. were closed, as were the ones to the Pentagon. As was the subway into D.C and to the Pentagon. The trip home, normally an hour, took me two hours.

One thing that happened on the way home stands out. I spoke to someone at the bus stop. We didn't say much; however, the conversation seemed rational enough. But when he got on the bus, he started yelling out incoherent things like "We should nuke the camel jockeys!!" Then I would speak to him and he was no more incoherent than before. Then he would start yelling again.

By the way, he knew he was very very angry, and making a scene. I suspect he was feeling bad he never joined the military like his father and brothers.

Once home, I was afraid of getting emotionally overloaded and I did not go out of my way to watch the news, getting it mostly through the hourly radio broadcasts. In all honesty, a lot of the supposed news didn't seem like news to me – what I heard of it. Repeats. Lots of repeats. Filler. Lots of filler. Rumors, made, I believe, into fact by

a media burdened to come up with facts. The same thing the media foisted on us during the Gulf War.

A week later things were getting back to normal. I really don't know anyone who was directly affected. I was told that Keyport, Colt's Neck and Matawan in New Jersey, nearby where my parents live, were depopulated by the World Trade Center hits. But I can't name anyone who died from there. There was a *Wall Street Journal* article to the effect that one Catholic church there had lost twenty-six parishioners.

I don't know anyone of the 110 at the Pentagon who died, either. On my morning commute, I and a fellow bus rider were afraid two older women were dead, whom, she said, worked at the Pentagon and whom we were used to seeing. But they came alive. We started seeing them at their bus stops. By the way, it turns out neither has worked at the Pentagon.

The closest I have come to anyone who died was this: being a Toastmaster, I heard two died from the Five Star club, one of the Pentagon's three clubs.

Also, Pat, the Division leader and Area leader for my club, is in the Surgeon-General's office. He has been working sixteen hours a day at the Pentagon. And, of course, has been an inactive Toastmaster for the time being. I spoke with him. He complained about the grind. But said nothing about what conditions were like, except that there was chaos when he got there and things have calmed down.. Maybe he wasn't allowed to.

Another consequence of the Terrorism was a woman at work, Mary, stayed out for a week. Or was it from the Terrorism? Our Team Leader, Chris, told me her problem was editing a very difficult publication. Difficult because the woman

who wrote it is very disorganized, and Mary is very organized and takes this things hard. Chris opined that she needed a rest.

Finally, I know someone who saw the Pentagon burn and had to take an extended absence at his place of work.

But that is the sum of my personal contact with the tragedy.

COMMENTS ON SFPA MAILING #223

JEFF COPELAND

the southerner 223

🍷▲🍷 How well can you calculate when **mail** will arrive? My feeling has been that it gets there when it get there. Only I have to admit it's usually a matter of a few days.

NED BROOKS

the new port news 199

🍷▲🍷 **COVER.** It's Deco although it looks vaguely like Nouveau. But the women's hair and body styles are from the '20s. On the other hand, it's definitely not from our era. It's high class, cultured erotica, which the period seems to have had a lot of. Verlaine, no less. Now we just like to roll in the dirt when it comes to sex.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. You should have given us the **URLs** for the site where Pippi Longstocking is Satan and where Truman Capote and William Requist were lovers. The first seems to be

<http://members.aol.com/rtvdave/pippi.html>

The second seems to be

<http://www.powells.com/features/bibliolatry/10.html>.

They all look like put-ons, by the way.

🍷▲🍷 Come on. When I said, it was illegal to sell human **flesh**, I meant for the purposes of eating. Not that slavery and other good stuff might not be illegal.

🍷▲🍷 I have to bow to you. You're right that some of the fragments gathered into files by **Scandisk** make sense. They are bits and pieces of old files. It's the process that doesn't make much sense.

🍷▲🍷 That you weren't taught sex education is probably why most of the stuff you learned in **school** was pretty much right. A lot of it is pretty cut and dry. History of course is not. And reproductive biology and sex education better not be if the teacher knows what's good for them.

🍷▲🍷 I agree with you that Gary's genetically coded **weight** is probably not 500 lbs. But supposing it's 300.

And, yes, I agree that it depends upon environment too. But who knows what in the environment it depends on? It has eluded our scientists.

Next, I supposed you will say it's will power.

🍷▲🍷 Your guess is as good as mine what purpose people of Baldung's time put the **two pronged** fork to. Of course, one use his witches put them to seems to be to fly.

🍷▲🍷 All I know about **Charles Lutwige Dodgson's** nude, little girl photos is what I remember from my ex-girl friend's explanation and an article, which, I believe, was in the *New Yorker*. On the other hand, your account doesn't really differ that much from mine.

I don't know whether he ever gave an explanation about why he stopped

photographing them. I imagine it was something he would prefer in the Victorian style to be discrete about.

One thing is certain, unlike our current assumptions, the Victorians assumed that little girls were not sex objects. And Dodgson stopped photographing them when there was some suspicion they had become just that.

ct. Metcalf. I remember something from *Bring on the Jubilee*. There was the Jewish state of Eretz-Uganda. The Jewish people of the world had founded that as the promised land, as a number of people in the 19th and early 20th had wanted them to. And the 'Kaffirs,' 'Bantu,' whatever the native peoples were called had been cast aside.

I included Eretz-Uganda in an alternate timeline in a really bad science fiction story of mine.

Speaking of my own bad science fiction, I once wrote a tale where an advanced society disappeared without a trace, *Atlantis*. It was not because of anything about their technology. It was because they went sideways in time along with their continent. And they are now in another timeline.

ct. Sheila. Not only do the Cornish have **kilts**; so do the Irish these days. I have seen them on the Irish Walk in Alexandria. Which follows the Scottish walk. Not bad for the invention of an Englishman.

ct. Guy. How can they tell the DNA on JonBenet Ramsey's body is the murderer's. Couldn't it have been a playmate's? I could see if it were the murderer's blood from a struggle. But would

a struggle between a six year old and an adult yield blood?

ct. Janice. **Chronosynclastic Infundibulum** a disease? I thought it was in Vonnegut's *Sirens of Titan* and it meant "Time Wave Funnel." Probably a better name for it would have been Deus ex Machina.

ct. Weber. In short, you can't even trust Gateway to do the right thing by computers these days. As I have said, I don't think anyone understands the most recent **computers**. The software and computer manufacturers have seen to that.

By the way, my computer seems to be stabilizing on its own. For the most part, it seems to reboot without freezing up or rebooting on its own. For the most part. Of course, I don't know whether I dare change the settings or install fancy new software.

NORM METCALF **tyndallite v3, #97**

ct. Me. I am embarrassed about that supposed **Tarzan/Barzoom** movie. Or am I? Did I say I just remembered rather than cite it as fact? Memory of course being ever porous. Anyway, I thought I remembered Matt's Tarzan site claiming one movie had him on Barzoom. But, on rechecking, I saw it was Pellucidar.

The Tarzan Sunday comic strip certainly had him on Barzoom or some facsimile. There was a green, vaguely insect warrior with four arms, air cars and a bald queen.

It mustn't have gone over too well. The artists changed it to a boring Tarzan adventure with African tribal kids. But that probably didn't go over too well either. So now the Tarzan adventure is with a group

making reality programming where the contestants kill animals. Tarzan doesn't like it one bit. But, to me, it is amusing enough.

🍷▲🍷 You have a strict definition of science fiction. Would you include as science fiction fandom the squishy soft social science fiction of Bellamy's *Looking Backwards*?

🍷▲🍷 From what different parties to the 1938 **Futurian lockout** said in *Mimosa* a few years ago, they haven't forgiven or forgotten. On the other hand, they apparently became friends anyway, despite whatever grudges there were from that incident.

🍷▲🍷 I think the quality of **Kornbluth's and Pohl's** writing depends upon how fast they were writing. Sometimes the pulp world required them to write very fast. Forget about rewrites.

I know Heinlein said not to rewrite unless the editor tells you to. They often had no editor. I hear some of their material went directly from first draft to the printer. At least that is the impression I got from reading Pohl's *The Way the Future Was*.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Irv Koch . As I said, the problem with the **1888 fanzine** which reviewed *Looking Backward* was it was devoted to utopian fiction. Is that science? The problem with the Tasmanian fanzine which discussed H. G. Wells is Was it devoted to Wells, or just discussed him for that issue?

🍷▲🍷 ct. S. Hughes. I'm sure **Campbell** believed Dianetics was the God's honest truth. He sometimes mistook power myths for science. Dianetics was in the Freudian zeitgeist of the time. It may have taken it to an absurd conclusion, but it sailed

along on that myth.

🍷▲🍷 ct. T.K.F. Weisskopf. I don't know if science fiction authors have transcended human interest. The idea is that the **aliens** are human. Sometimes more human than humans.

🍷▲🍷 Some of these things go well in a book, although not a **short story**. Having more than one fantastic postulate at one time would probably go OK in a book, but confuse the reader in a short story. The same is true of having more than one hero. Or heroine.

🍷▲🍷 I re-read **Pohl's** *The Case against Tomorrow*, a collection of short stories from the '50s, about ten years ago. And I remember finding it not a bad effort at all. And that was early Pohl. He wasn't a bad writer then as far as I can see.

As I say, the quality of his writing depended on how fast he wrote.

🍷▲🍷 **Anthony Boucher** certainly loved nuns, private eyes and a werewolves. I remember the mystery in his *Rocket to the Morgue* was solved by a crimesolving nun?

RICH LYNCH

variation on a theme #8

🍷▲🍷 If the **directions** failed me, I would travel in the direction pointed to by the signs. Which, I take it, you did for the Philadelphia Worldcon.

🍷▲🍷 I bet I loved the same Ormandy rendition of *Sheherazade* you did. Mine, I imagine, was closer to the original recording of the piece. I listened to it in the '50s when I was thirteen or fourteen. It was my father's record.

I, for some reason, associated it with



Mordecai Roswald's (?) *Level 7*, which I was reading at the time. It was not a great novel, although it caught the air of the World War II era. It had to do with mankind's death in an atomic war.

I certainly would not have associated it with that piece today. *Eroica* would probably be better theme for a would-be *Level 7* movie. It ends with *Eroica* going on for all eternity even after the last man dies.

🍷▲🍷 I know one person who saw the plane and the **Pentagon** burning, and had to take leave for several days. Leave, I am not certain, he could afford since he is in private

industry and might be working partly on commission.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I have to admit that most of the snobbery against the *Warsaw Concerto*, I experienced in the '70s. It went with the general snobbery against Romantic

music; Baroque was in.

More recently, WGMS' Dennis Owens referred to it as schmaltz. However, he added it was great schmaltz.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian. I don't object to the **Retro Hugo**. As I said, it is subjective, just like the rest of the Hugos. You like that piece from last year or fifty years ago. You don't have to give a reason.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. I don't get as much chance to be invited to **embassy parties**. But I went to one at the Japanese embassy once. As to why they sponsored a party for my Solo Librarians' group, I don't know. Not only that; they provided a buffet of all you-could-eat Sushi. It was delicious.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. I don't argue that there isn't a correlation between the stock market and **economic conditions**. And recession, depression, whatever will often follow it. Just that correlation is not a cause.

Instead, I argue that the high tech boom, on which prosperity was based, has gone sour. And that is going to take the rest of the economy with it.

GUY H. LILLIAN III spiritus mundi 185

🍷▲🍷 If you read what **Osama bin Laden** said in his first interview, he has a method. It is to make us overreact. Optimistically so the Arabs and other Muslims will flock to his side, and there will be a military Jihad against the West. More realistically so that he will attract more followers among the disaffected. This is a strategy that has worked for extremists of all sorts in Israel.

There is a madness to his method. His strategy is a no-brainer of hate. All you

have to do bomb or shoot that which is hateful to you, and it will attract followers.

But with this method and madness, I think he has bit off more than he can chew by destroying the World Trade Center and damaging the Pentagon. He has made an enemy with the will and power to do a lot of damage to him and his friends. And with the diplomacy not to alienate the entire Arab world.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. The **cover illo** is Randy's. I have no possession of it in any way, shape or form. In fact, I didn't even know if I did right by copying it. I just figured Randy is a good guy and would have no objections.

🍷▲🍷 My wife **Heidi** did not have to deal with that terminally ill person. Who, unfortunately, died. His daughter who was working with Heidi on it suddenly ended all communication. Later she said she felt she had to spend 24 hours a day with her father.

However, Heidi has helped plenty of people go through the ostomy operation, which is a dilly, and cope afterwards. You are in a condition of pain for some time afterward. Where to get painkillers is important. How you can sit in the least uncomfortable way is important. Later on, it is important to find the best pouch for yourself.

🍷▲🍷 **Manbeef.com**'s newsletter *To Serve Man*? Sounds right. But maybe this would be better: *To Serve Up Man*?

🍷▲🍷 In short, **Kent State** deterred no one. Of course, the psychology is that if you threaten your enemy, he will be cowed. Sometimes it works – when your enemy is only a half-believer. It is much harder when he is a complete believer.

🍷▲🍷 In **Jules Verne's** time, a cannon was the way to get to the Moon. But, in our time, rockets have been the way to get to the Moon. It has followed a cycle. As the military has used cannons more and sometimes rockets more, so have writers of speculative fiction.

With the web and radio and TV, maybe the best way to get to the Moon these days would be a space machine, sort of like a time machine. That would, after a fashion, transmit us to the Moon.

🍷▲🍷 ct. OE. First Class and Media rate SFPD **dues**. Sounds good to me.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Dave. Hey, if a hubcap were something our faith rested on, it would kill any **vampires** attacking us. But it isn't. What we have faith in, not some nut, being the important thing here. ...I'm glad you named the film this time around where the hubcap was sacred, *Vamps*.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve. I'm sure the events of September 11th will have an adverse affect on **the economy**. Everything does these days. At other times, everything will have a good effect on the economy.

🍷▲🍷 I'm not usually into Picasso's style but it was perfect for portraying **Guernica**. More so than a realistic rendition would be. You could feel the pain and destruction.

DAVID SCHLOSSER
peter, pan & merry #39

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. **Kids** always find talking to grandma or grandpa or Uncle Richard an unpleasant task. Even if they like them. They just don't have much to say to somebody in that age group. They don't

really want to be caught dead having anything to say to anyone in that age group.

☺▲☺ A friend of mine who was a Congressional aide believes the Democrats have a shot at **Jesse Helms' seat** if the nominee is Erskine B. Bowles, who was Clinton's Chief of Staff. Which it probably will be. I think, as of now, he has the edge on Lauch Faircloth in the polls.

☺▲☺ ct. Norm Metcalf. Ah, **science fiction** is "things which can't happen, but may yet." I remember a movie which started out explaining about the Mercury manned satellite. Then went on to talk about a probe to the Moon. And then about an unmanned satellite we had launched.

Finally, an ominous voice said, "This has not happened yet, but it may happen in the future." Then emblazoned on the screen was

THE PLANET OF THE PREHISTORIC WOMEN

Starring a scantily clad Mamie Van Doren.

At least, as I remember it.

☺▲☺ If what you say is true, I was wrong about **Fantasy Island**. The New Age didn't 'quite' give way to Goth there.

☺▲☺ I didn't realize **Alcoholics Anonymous** kept such tight reins on its members. What would it matter whether Harry rejoins LASFAPA? It's not a con where Harry might be drinking.

When I was in twelve step group for fat people, they didn't care about anything. Of course, they were a New Age joke riding on the tails of the real AA.

☺▲☺ You're right that the original **Lembas** could have taken their wives with

them from Yemen, or had their native wives converted. But they didn't.

☺▲☺ Not only do **storytellers** change oral traditions to improve the dramatic effect; they also forget or confuse the original story.

☺▲☺ Doing only **good** like 'just eating pasta.'? Or is evil more like just pasta? I know good these days has a rap for being just pasta, but I'm wondering if evil isn't like it more so.

☺▲☺ Again, loving your neighbor could have included **Israeli kinsmen** by Lot, Ishmael and Esau. But I gather it didn't. I get the feeling there was little love lost between the Israelites and them. Why else have Esau marry nameless Canaanite women and Lot create his nation by incest? And Jeroboam of Samaria set up golden calves.

☺▲☺ I have forgotten where I got the tale of **Hillel** standing on one foot saying, "Do not unto others..." Of course, it does sound like a folk variation on the real story.

☺▲☺ I know a lot of people who tried to run away from their **Jewish origins** in the '50s and '60s. It was mostly trying to run away from anti-Semitism as far as I can tell. Even the mild variety in the States.

☺▲☺ I don't doubt all **surnames** have meanings. But ours often have lost their meaning. Even to people from the old country. My grandmother did not know what the name Genderovski originally meant, which Dengrove is an anagram of, .

☺▲☺ Well, by popular demand, what I remembered was wrong. It was Greedo who bargained with Hans Solo in the first

Star Wars, not Boba Fett. And he got killed. Which I forgot about, but remember now.

In short, my memory is ever porous.

🍷▲🍷 You're right it's *Five Million Years to Earth* (1968). Which is what it was known as in the US. However, its original name in Britain was *Quatermass and the Pit* (1967). It was also known as *The Mind Benders*.

🍷▲🍷 In short, you agree with me.

That the traveler at the **speed of light** would not perceive any difference.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. Your **chart** with LASFAPAn affairs of the heart comes mostly first hand? What kind of a chart is that? It's more fun when it comes fifth hand. It's more fun still if the people the rumors are about don't exist.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. It's an old saw that **our side** does not break some rule that their side does. The hell with killing peaceful protestors. During World War II, we bombed innocent civilians. That was the idea behind strategic bombing.

Of course, the allies remain my side, nonetheless, and the Nazis remain their side. And I'm glad that they were defeated.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Toni Weisskopf. Not only did Ben Nighthorse Campbell change from **Democrat to Republican** during his term in the Senate, so did

Richard Shelby also in the Senate.

And

Nathan Deal,

Billy Tauzin,

Jimmy Hayes,

Mike Parker, and

Greg Laughlin in the House.

Campbell and Parker did it within days after the 1994 election.

However, I bet Toni has a explanation about why they are practicing the height of morality whereas Jeffords is practicing the depths.

🍷▲🍷 What happened was more of the budget was paid in taxes and less via the deficit. So the **tax rate** was higher. And on that basis, Conservatives can squawk about it. Of course, they presume that the deficit is somehow not a tax. But of course it is. Someone pays for it.

They were very loud and vociferous that it was a tax at one time. In fact, worse than a tax. But now they're very quiet. Of course, liberals defended deficits at one time as being owed to ourselves. But now they're an anathema, if not a tax.

🍷▲🍷 Hmmm, an alternate history buff – in the nude. I once wrote about an alternate history where, in the equivalent of 1900, everyone goes around in the nude.

🍷▲🍷 My only memory of **tie-dyes** is from the early '70s. They had just come to the Boston area and I had fun getting my tie-dye shirt. Then recently I heard tie-dyes had returned to the D.C. area, but I haven't investigated.

They have remained in New England all this time. The South seems to identify with the '50s, and New England the '60s.

🍷▲🍷 At least you can take a **vacation** from Random; send him off to camp. I can't take any vacation from my hobbies. They're always calling. Of course, I don't really want to take any vacation from them.

SHEILA STRICKLAND revenant #8

🍷▲🍷 What are your chances of being hijacked by bin Laden-**terrorists**, one in a

million, one in two million? Probably even they are exaggerations. You have a greater mathematical probability of killing yourself getting out of bed.

The problem is not the mathematical probability but the intuitive probability. The World Trade Center and Pentagon suicide crashes were so vivid and take up so much space in the media and people's minds that they seem like they happen every other flight.

ct. Me. Whenever I have **computer trouble**, first, I try to figure it out myself. Then I go to technical support. Then I read the manual. In short, I take the way of laziness and gaming.

With the macro problem with Access, playing around failed me. Then technical support failed me. Macros were beyond it. I finally got the solution by reading the Help Menu, playing around and borrowing from the ideas of technical support people. In other words, by doing all three things.

First I found I didn't need macros for the most part. Access allows for subtables. These enable me to type a few letters and often a person's name or a publication's title appears. For when they didn't appear, I finally figured out Access macros. I type a control-Q or a Control-B and a name or title appears.

ct. Ned. If **Catherine Asaro's** science fiction seems too much like a romance, we now know why she won so many romance awards.

I agree with you that the difference between science and **magic** isn't rules. In SF and fantasy, magic often has its own rules and science often has none. No, in SF and fantasy, science is associated with

things scientific: rocketships, machines, gene manipulation, spacesuits, ray guns. On the other hand, magic is associated with things magical: sorcerers, knights, kings, damsels, fairies, gods, etc.

ct. Trivial Pursuits. That's as exact as I was taught in grade school for converting Fahrenheit to **Centigrade**: Temperature x 18/10 + 32. Does anyone have a method more exact?

Your short short zine wasn't so bad. There were lots of **comment hooks**. Because of size limitations in my zine, I could only take a few of them.

ARTHUR D. HLAVATY confessions of a consistent liar 75

ct. Ned. You have not been cleanshaven since 1964. And I had a **mustache** at some time in youth. Which I was very attached to. In fact, my nickname was Stash. And the marijuana revolution, where a stash had to do with marijuana, encouraged the name. That was considered a great double-entendre.

I think I shaved it off by 1970; I forgot why. Still, there are people in the world who know me as Stash.

ct. GHLIII. I don't know how far **John Brunner** was ahead of the curve if I remember right. Mainframes were talking to each other by 1975. The internet was up and running by then. And people were starting to get personal computers in their homes. Of course, I doubt they did much communicating with the personal computers of the time. Still, it was a near reality.

ct. Janice Gelb. Not only is the National Airport now the **Reagan National Airport**, but there was a fight over the name

of the subway stop. Again this is subject to my ever porous memory. The Conservatives in Congress wanted to have it named Reagan National subway stop. The liberals in D.C. and the Northern Virginia governments didn't want to. So the Republican Congress threatened to cut off some funding.

I think it ended in compromise. They named it Reagan National station in one listing and not in another.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steven Hughes. When I was in France in 1963, I was told that German TV had no **commercials** until prime time. Then they had only commercials. Apparently people did watch the commercials so it might not be a system as disadvantageous to ad men as you would suppose.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Liz Copeland. I don't think we should worry about stigmatizing **adolescents** by having a track system for education. Adolescents get stigmatized no matter what you do. All of adolescence is a lesson in stigmatization. If adolescents aren't stigmatized, they will go out and stigmatize themselves.

STEVE HUGHES random thoughts

🍷▲🍷 About the 9/11 Attack, I had an air of unreality and a cushioned impact without leaving this country. For the most part without even leaving my home.

🍷▲🍷 Steve, when I saw you in Birmingham, you looked in the peak of health. So I tend to doubt your zines that portray a tired old man. And your current zine fails to give much evidence of a tired old man. Under present circumstances, I could see how a person in his twenties

wouldn't have the **energy** to write at length about his experiences. Not after a rush move and nearly being stuck in some foreign country.

Of course, this must not be how things seem.

🍷▲🍷 You now know that you should have finished your **new house** in Elijay before putting the Atlanta one on the market. That 60 to 90 days leeway was a lot of boozwash.

We should always remember to do things ahead of time. I finally figured out that when I travel locally, I should give myself fifteen minutes leeway. Of course, doing things ahead of time is easier said than done.

TOM FELLER (recorder) the shot heard round the worldcon

🍷▲🍷 EVE ACKERMAN. Your alternate name is Darlene Marshall, your pseudonym in *Pirates' Pride*. And mine used to be Ivan M. Stache after the mustache I used to have. The M. stands for Musse. I called myself that when friends were calling me Stash. Of course, I spelt my pseudonym closer to mustache than they did.

🍷▲🍷 JOE HALDEMAN. You don't use **Windows!!** How do you expect to be a big name writer?

🍷▲🍷 SHEILA STRICKLAND. That you have to trudge a mile to get anywhere in **Worldcon** is the case against it. I recently went to the website of a cartoon I remember from my childhood, *The Little King* by Soglow.

<http://www.retroactive.com/images/apr98/soglow/lk1933.jpg>

It was basically pantomime cartoon, done with minimal dialogue.

The Little King wakes up in the morning, gets out of bed. Goes down one big hall, goes down another. And another. Finally comes to the moat and lifts down the drawbridge. And what is this all to do? Pick up the bottle of milk left by the milkman.

TOM FELLER

jewel ogle hester 1915-2001

☺▲☺ **Jewel** was on her family's farm. My grandmother went back farther. I wasn't there, but my brother told me near the end of her ninety-five years she was a little girl in Russia. Which would have been the 1870s or 1880s. And this was in the late '60s early '70s.

But things went better than for my Aunt Cele, who was getting Alzheimers and trying to hide it. It was painful to talk to her.

☺▲☺ You were stuck near Baton Rouge when the **9/11 Attack** happened. Which was bad enough. Someone I know of was stuck in Jamaica. Somehow or other, she was back within a week. To everyone's relief.

Fortunately for me, I was at work at the time. And wasn't going near an airplane. Car traffic was bad enough in the DC area. Whole highways were closed.

☺▲☺ **Panther Girl of the Kongo** at Libertycon sounds kitsch enough. By Republic Pictures, which, I hear, actors called Repulsive Pictures.

For some reason, it reminded me of a serial I vaguely remember from my childhood. Clyde Beatty, the famed animal

tamer of the time, was the hero. I don't know whether the real one or an actor portraying him.

People are traveling in a zeppelin. A storm occurs. Lightening sunders the zeppelin. One half returns to the States. Another crash lands on the Lost Continent. I seem to remember dinosaurs there. Or some other prehistoric creatures?

☺▲☺ So you're another **diabetic** coffee taker. I have been drinking more coffee to make up for breakfasts that didn't have as many carbos and so did not give me my morning kick. I was told it is bad for me, but I don't care. Maybe it's not my one vice, but it's one I wish to keep.

☺▲☺ About that Philadelphia restaurant that looked like a **mob hangout**. In my misspent youth in Boston, I once went out with a rather pretty girl who insisted we go to this one restaurant because the mafia went there. I didn't believe it but I went there anyway. It wasn't a bad place.

However, I wonder if that's the way the restaurant advertised: **THE MAFIA GOES HERE AND YOU MIGHT BE GUNNED DOWN.**

☺▲☺ When I was a kid, my mother's twin, my Aunt Freda, lived in Camden, New Jersey. Apparently a hop, skip and a jump from **Philadelphia**. I remember often going to Independence Hall. But I only remember the Liberty Bell, and the fake old newspapers they sold. Recreations, which, from what you say, are typical of their fare.

Also, I remember the Franklin Institute with a room full of curios. Mostly travel stuff if I remember correctly: a train, a plane, a jeep. Or stuff you got when you got to your destination. Whether it be Africa, Asia or America.



A little political incorrectness in Rudolph Dirks' Captain and the kids.

Another place I remember from these sojourns was the Philadelphia Public Library. We kids were left off there. Why, I don't know. The place was large enough for us to run amuck and get into trouble. And for me, pedant that I was, to look up a few books.

I have a final memory from the Philadelphia of my childhood: a sign with a finger that pointed at your car whichever direction it was coming from. And up above the sign said: "WHERE WILL YOU SPEND YOUR ETERNITY?"

🍷🍷🍷 How reliable is your CD writing? I keep having to insure that the files copy properly on mine.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Me. *1812 Overture*. Another piece people love to hate. Especially the cognoscenti. I hear, as a joke, people have set off real cannons during the finale.

🍷🍷🍷 I wouldn't have given my credit card info to **Manbeef.com**. And its form asked only for basic information like your name and address. Which, I'm sure, went down a black hole. The site was for put-on

not profit. As I said, I was told a teenage kid in North Carolina owned the site.

🍷🍷🍷 For my money, Ford's **Model A**, if not the Model T, would be the better car. I hear for the most part it could be fixed with a bobby pin. But I guess people responded more to the razzamatazz of General Motors than the simple pleasure of being able to fix your own car.

Of course, I was told the Model A had problems climbing hills. So that might be another reason not to get it. It was like the car H.H. Munro I remember calling "The Pride of Sisyphus."

🍷🍷🍷 It would have stopped all the **viruses** that have plagued my agency if their server had stopped all the attachments ending in "exe" and "vbs." Like yours does. I know the extensions are supposed to be hidden in viruses. But none were that I experienced.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. I have had more problems with Sprint's cell phone service than you have had with **Verizon's**. They seem to have added twelve more dollars to my bill than I had expected. And I am not a happy camper. I will try AT&T the next time. And see if they are more honest. Maybe ultimately I will try Verizon.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Randy Cleary. **Use or lose** seems to have been a good policy for the Federal government as far as us employees are concerned. Our bosses have to give us vacation time. And some bosses hate to do that. On the other hand, you don't

accumulate thousands of hours of leave, like some older employees once did. And be able to retire with a substantial payment for them or two years early.

IRV KOCH

offline reader. aug-sep. 2001.

☺▲☺ You'll be a man of leisure yet, Irv. This era is, I guess, an opportunity for **buying low** right now so you can sell high later on – if your investments don't go bankrupt.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. **Meisha Merlin**, which is properly run does not have the connotation of a small press outfit. I.E., badly run. But it does have the literal meaning of being small press. I.E., it's small.

☺▲☺ I found an incredible number of Peter Bellwood's *Man's Conquest of the Pacific* (1978, 1979) on Bookfinder.com. The prices go all the way from \$8 to \$50.

☺▲☺ If employees get their wages first when a business goes **bankrupt**, then at least there is some justice in the world. Unless the thieving employer can somehow hide his assets.

☺▲☺ With a websearch, I did indeed find two **typewriter museums** in the flesh, although I don't know whether Ned would want to contribute his typewriters to either. A John Pace O'Shea has one in Malta. And a Peter Mitterhofer has one in Meraner Land in South Tyrol. Apparently a German speaking part of Italy.

☺▲☺ A **Buddhist jihad**? This is how that works. You lie down and let the feeling pass.

GEORGE WELLS

werewolf with fleas #. sept. 2001.

☺▲☺ What can I say, George, you outdid yourself this time. There was utterly no coherence to **your zine**. I couldn't even play off it. It was brilliant. As to the subject matter, the 9/11 Attack is too important to be taken 100% seriously. When people take anything 100% seriously, that is a sure sign they are going to do something foolish..

With the need to fight 100% seriousness in mind, here are some examples of your brilliance.

"They took a vote of the American passengers who voted to beat the crap out of the hijackers."

"He [bin Laden] and his entourage...headed on foot toward the tv station, got lost and have been adopted and eaten by the obscure Heckarwee tribe of the Afghan tundra."

I thought the tundra ate them but that's another thing entirely.

"Now try sucking air out of a soft one [vacuum], a handheld, a refrigerator, and a toaster. The toaster really burns your lips"

"Madame Curie knew her work had made her ill, alright? And I myself often get sick of thinking about it. Madame, get your chicken picking hands OFF the Americium (you tramp)."

"Will film critics wake up some morning twenty years hence and cry, 'Eureka! The ending of *The Attack*

of the Crab Monsters was brilliant!”

Then there is your picture of a werewolf. I may opt for a limited print or exclusive etching. The stick figures are great.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I have a comment about your **pink-eyed** monster here and I don’t know why. How about a female version of the green-eyed monster. Or would her eyes be in taffeta?

🍷▲🍷 I forget why I didn’t go with you, Jessica and **Penny** to see *The Mummy Returns*.

I made another faux pas that evening. I fear I was politically incorrect with Penny. Penny was reading Carolyn Chute’s *The Beans of Egypt, Maine*. And I commented that that was about White trash in Maine. Penny is right that that is insulting to those people of Egypt, Maine. But I’m not certain that’s not what the book was about. Anyway, so much for putting my foot in my mouth then. – And more now.

🍷▲🍷 **LOVE IN THE RUIN?** That’s right. It wouldn’t make it to have it *Love in the Construction Site*.

🍷▲🍷 Was Pellucidar all that dark? It had a light I gather and prehistoric animals. I hear Burroughs wrote another book about a solar system beyond the farthest star, where you could have **interplanetary travel** by airplane.

Which reminded me of my *World Book Encyclopedia* from the ‘50s, when I was a kid. It told how long it would take an airplane of the time to get to various planets. For instance, it would take two million years to get to Mars. You have to periodically stop and wind up the rubber band.

As I said, my memory is ever porous.

🍷▲🍷 Yes, that was **John Campbell, Jr.’s** problem. He didn’t really understand there were other cultures than his, even in petri dishes. Particularly in petri dishes. If you listen closely enough to them, you can hear the classical music.

🍷▲🍷 Wasn’t **Millard Fillmore** called a Know-Nothing because he never went to school? Not even the school of hard knocks?

🍷▲🍷 You can recycle **endings**. For example, the ending of *Tobacco Road*. The butler did it.

🍷▲🍷 If **critics** praised *Reptilicus*, *Plan Nine* and *The Chinese Connection*, it might be an improvement.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. No, **fans** have to be dysfunctional. That’s their shtick.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Toni Weisskopf. The one *Nero Wolf* I saw sounded like the original plot. With Montenegrin nobility and Balkan intrigue. And it had great characters. Wolf and Archie were, but I liked best the apoplectic inspector with his cigar. I remember his type how often from ‘30s movies?

RANDY B. CLEARY
avatar press. september 27, 2001.

🍷▲🍷 I was wondering when the narrator talked about a boyfriend. But I see **Leana Grice** was narrating this part of your zine, not you. Actually, she was pretty good. She knew what was interesting during Dragon*Con and told it. As opposed to some people who have to tell you everything.

🍷▲🍷 Why do **Convention artists**

make jewelry with pentagrams and yin/yang symbols? To give their items magical power. But they are too vaguely magical to be very powerful. We need a meaningful system of magic. During the Renaissance, even metaphors had power. Painting had power too. That's why we can't appreciate either Renaissance metaphors or paintings. And that's why our poetry is so puzzling. We have no real system of magic yet.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. The **shingles**, while it was not pleasant for a few weeks, is just a few blemishes under my chest right now.

🍷▲🍷 I'm glad I had interesting **typos**. They're great comment hooks.

Unfortunately, some are too polite to comment on them. However, you are person of obvious good manners who will. Maybe you know more about manners than they do.

Maybe the problem is that they wear aluminum or some other *mental* on their head. Maybe they're *stuck* to light bulbs. They are *fat* *heards*.

🍷▲🍷 I disagree with your **era**, Before Usage of the Common Era, BUCE.

You had After Literary Introduction of Common Era, ALICE. You should have Before Regular Usage of the Common Era, BRUCE.

🍷▲🍷 The **politicians** hold no strange attraction. They are able to combine all of a vast group's peevs and prejudices into one big bundle and present them to that group. It's a wonder that people don't go head over heels following the Democrats or Republicans.

🍷▲🍷 Sales **taxes**, lotteries, usage fees, and bake sales fund the government without income tax. How about the Value Added Tax or VAT? It's a sales tax at every

stage an item is sold: factory, wholesale, retail, etc. That yields enough revenue to fund a lot of European countries and people don't feel it much. Of course, the government is getting their money. And lots of it. And things seem more expensive than they should be.

🍷▲🍷 That **Foster** was going to "blow the top off the Clinton Administration," I don't believe, was original to me. I think right wingers used that a lot at one time. But come to think of it, it is a good double entendre.

🍷▲🍷 You got the meaning.

Republicans believe government is only evil for poor people. And, yes, it's a gross generalization. But of such things is the politics of America: Democrat, Republican and nonpartisan: based.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tyndallite v3 #96. **Lost civilizations** could be under the sea or invisible. But I know they are deep in our imagination. Where they exist. And no one can deny they exist.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Revenant #7. I don't know where your problem with **women** is Randy. When I was at DeepSouthCon, they seemed to like you well enough. The strong silent type. Julie Wall seemed to. I can only attribute your loneliness to one of the fixes we get ourselves in in life.

🍷▲🍷 ct. The Notorious Jumping Zine. Does the Office of **Homeland Security** send chills up my spine? No. As a Fed, I've seen too many names in government belie their function. For instance, I remember the Paperwork Reduction Act, which increased our paperwork threefold.

On the other hand, the new anti-terrorist legislation does send chills up my

spine.

RANDY B. CLEARY

clear clip-art collection ii

☺▲☺ Neat. A **medusa mask**. Or is that just a medusa with the mask? ... The fellow with antlers, is he a Wiccan god. While you're a Christian, is there a part of you that's Wiccan, Randy? ...I've seen that knight with the lightning from his eyes. Why does he need armor if he has that for protection. That's churlish of me. The armor meets the only criteria an artist needs – it looks good.

JANET LARSON

passage #10

☺▲☺ It must have been great to live like nobility on **Anguilla**. Must have cost a lot too. Or does someone in Kyle's family have money? ...None of my business.

☺▲☺ The **9/11 Attack** didn't change my priorities. But then most of the times I have changed, it has crept up on me and I didn't notice.

☺▲☺ In Virginia, there doesn't seem to be any **speed limit**. At least not on the highways. At least not for respectable looking White men. Also, as you say, more and more people are running red lights. So the Autobahn can't hold much terror for us anymore.

☺▲☺ I wonder why so few Germans are **fat**. German students I have known have told me the state runs free gyms where they can go and exercise. I wonder if that has something to do with it. On the other hand, the deli meats, cheese and muesli don't sound that great for their diets.

Climate may have something to do

with it too. I hear White people get heavier as the climate gets colder. And I hear there are not the temperature extremes in Europe there are in America.

I tend to discount will power because so few people have much of it. I certainly don't.

GARY R. ROBE

tennessee trash #43

☺▲☺ I agree. The **9/11 Attack** Monstrous? Yes. Unthinkable? To us, yes. Very human? Unfortunately yes. It is amazing what humans will justify in order to fight an enemy. Bombing innocent civilians? That is the least of it and the most of it.

What are we going to do to exact revenge and protect ourselves? Things that are unthinkable? ... Probably. But I will probably approve of them.

☺▲☺ **Hartsfield Airport** in Atlanta may have been almost empty. But National Airport, until recently, was actually closed. It was too close to Washington not to practice the highest security measures. And I take it, it had only instituted the lowest security measures.

I saw it from the Metro subway/elevated train during that time. It was a ghost town. I could see no car in the lot and no people in the airport.

☺▲☺ Was the Pennsylvania flight headed toward the **White House**? That's the folklore. Did the passages rise up against the hijackers and crash the plane? That's folklore too.

But more probable. Al Qaeda seems not at all interested in our symbols for our nation. Which, I'm sure, they regard as irrelevant. The World Trade Center is, for

them, the symbol of American. Because it is the center for capitalism, and hated materialism. Also, the Pentagon is because it is the center of the hated American military. I'm sure it is the hated military and capitalism that symbolize our nation for them. Not the Statue of Liberty or the White House or the Capitol.

I think it is more probable they were aiming at the CIA headquarters in Langley, not the White House, even though the headquarters doesn't look much different from other buildings in the area. I know Al Qaeda had a standing plot to destroy it.

Other of their symbols: our embassies, our battleships, our jumbo jets. Local symbols of America, which, I am sure, loom larger to them than to us. Traditionally embassies are considered nests of spies. Battleships obviously symbols of the military. I'm not sure about jumbo jets, though.

🍷🍷🍷 I had a lot of problem in the East with **blinding rain** when I went to see my parents in August. Both going to my parents' house and coming back. Come to think of it, August was a big time for blinding rains both for me in the East and you when you went the West.

🍷🍷🍷 I did get my parents a letter and autographed picture from President Bush on their **fiftieth anniversary** in 1991. Which they loved. They always love the praise of people higher up. My wife's parents didn't care as much for the letter and autographed picture from President Clinton. They are rock hard Conservatives.

I think the letter on the Eightieth birthday and the Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary are permanent fixtures at the White House, no matter what Administration is in power.

I have to admit that I and my sister were slouches at my parents' fiftieth anniversary, unlike you. My brother wanted to spend ten thousand dollars on a party. Which, I felt, I could ill afford. My sister felt the same way.

And she told my father. Who didn't want a party. He figured, since my brother was so in hock to him, he himself would ultimately be paying for it. And he nixed the idea in no uncertain terms. Ultimately, he himself paid for a smaller celebration. Which is to some extent embarrassing for us kids.

But my father insisted.

Anyway, we're not the party givers or organizers you are.

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF

'yngvi is a louse' and other graffitos #73

🍷🍷🍷 KREEGAH. People didn't believe the **9/11 Attack** could happen precisely because it has been the stuff of fiction. Of a Clancy or others.

🍷🍷🍷 CHARLOTTE'S WEB. I and my wife are childless. However, I have a **niece** I am looking after, even if she is a teenager and we can't talk to one another now. She has dyslexia, and I had it; only hers is worse. Also, she has an interest in computers, like me.

My sister, also childless, has an interest in a niece who was an ugly duckling like her. And it has carried over even though the girl has become a swan. With a vaguely model figure and very conventional, responsible behavior vs. my sister's gawkiness and unconventional lifestyle.

🍷🍷🍷 I am sure that **Near Death** Experiences, like those in *Connie Willis' Passage*, are real. Even if they are inside of

us, they are real. Just that we may have to treat them differently from the 'real' world of the senses.

🍷▲🍷 RANDY CLEARY'S HUGO AWARD REPORT. **Randy's** more talented than we thought. In addition to his fan art, he is good at putting captions on cartoons.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy H. Lillian III. I don't think there is any logical problem with the idea of an **anti-missile missile**. I just think that it is throwing good money over bad at the present time.

It would be far worse than any of Proxmire's Golden Fleece Awards. They usually targeted penny-ante studies with strange names and shoestring funding.

Also, I'm not certain what the anti-missile tests proved. They were openly rigged so the anti-missile would knock out the missile. And, while they succeeded twice, they failed twice.

A soldier who was in the Middle East then told that not even the Patriot missile worked in shooting down Scuds during the Gulf War. Which was hushed by the press.

MIKE WEBER

another rude supergirl cartoon

🍷▲🍷 It would be strange if **John Campbell, Jr.** had a No Aliens rule. He is famous for his alien story "Who Goes There" (1938). There he was empathic with the alien even if he wasn't sympathetic to it.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. No, the Sunday **Tarzan** I read, and the weekday Tarzan, are both new. But I found out from another reading of the strip's history that they're by different artists. Grey Morrow does it during the weekdays. Eric Battle draws it Sundays and

Alex Simmons writes it.

🍷▲🍷 I thought it was under anarchism – or at any rate, some forms of anarchism – where you're supposed to stop people from taking your stuff at gunpoint. Under **libertarianism**, that's one of the few legitimate functions of government.

🍷▲🍷 I'm sure that some see a big difference between the ride you get out of a **Jaguar**, or other English sports car, and out of my Toyota Corolla. The difference would be lost on me. And I would just as soon not pay a princely sums for a car. And then princely sums to service it.

However, I agree that there shouldn't be any law against paying more for a car to service it even though you have really shelled out to buy the thing.

Except for one law, that is – the law of common sense.

🍷▲🍷 My agency is paying a lot for its Norton Anti-Virus and I can't think of any **virus** it has ever caught. They all seem too new. On the other hand, I did notice that if they stopped all *.vbs files from being downloaded, and glanced at them, that would stop almost all of the viruses we get.

🍷▲🍷 In short, the **Futurian** Method of writing is a formula to write pulp fiction. Which was often a formula anyway. If I remember correctly, Lester Dent's formula for Doc Savage novels was beat'em up, beat'em up again, and beat 'em up once more, ad infinitum.

🍷▲🍷 *No, the whole point about the increased mass and time dilation is that they are relative to other **observers** in the system. To your point of view, you remain normal and everyone else undergoes time changes. I thought that was what I said.*



A little political incorrectness in Harold Knerr's Katzenjammer Kids.

let the plebeians get too rich.

ct. Nbrooks. My scanner was working just fine until I brought in my computer to have it boot correctly. Not only did they not fix the problem with booting, but they made my scanner unusable. They claimed to have fixed the scanner the next time, but it didn't actually work.

Needless to say, I'm not going to those crumbums again.

But they did give me some good advice. Get a newer scanner. This old software is a problem under Windows 98. And no one

knows how to fix the scanner or the software anymore.

I guess I could get the scanner back by reinstalling Windows 98. It worked originally. But it probably is wiser to buy a more up-to-date one.

THE 9/11 ATTACK. Not only did Al Qaeda keep its ops black until they actually went down. The plan may not have been decided on until late. Apparently, the previous year, the plan was not to hijack the airplanes, but to acquire crop dusters and fill them with gas. And hit the World Trade Center, etc. with them.

Crop dusters was what one of their ops was interested in then.

LIZ COPELAND

shocked and sleepless with the armadillo #49

Von Hammer not a Nazi? That distinction is too subtle for any wouldbe censor. They are not subtle at all. Von Hammer may not be a believer in Nazi ideology or a member of the Nazi Party. In fact, his conscience may have pricked. But, to a censor, that he was a member of Luftwaffe alone would make him a Nazi.

ct. Norm Metcalf. Of course, Norm claims that Verne was mistranslated and that makes his Nautilus so much faultier than it is.

ct. GHLLI. If you're right, I wonder why the Post Office would decide no one could make a windfall off their stamp mistakes. They haven't forbade it in the past. It just seems mean. I know the Post Office is supposedly independent, but I wonder if it's part of Bush policy. You can't

🍷▲🍷 9/11 ATTACK. It seems like you were taking the 9/11 Attack too personally. As I said, that you might die from an al Qaeda hijacking is a matter of intuitive probabilities rather than mathematical probabilities.

In other words, we always think something will happen to us if the media plays it up too much. A friend of mine has joked that she has seen so many pictures of bin Laden she is beginning to see him in the local Wal-Mart.

And, of course, anthrax has been played up so much everyone has anthrax and everyone is going to die from it. Although at this point, only three have died and ten have symptoms. It doesn't mean things are great for those poor buggers, but it is a flea compared to the hype.

🍷▲🍷 ct. J. Copeland. Recreational shopping for **men**? I've done it. But not for clothes – for computers. I used to look at computer after computer when I went to a computer store. And I used to keep a collection of computer catalogs on hand. So I could let my tongue drop and my eyes pop out whenever I wanted.

But, no longer, the computer revolution has soured for me. And it seems to have soured for everyone else. At least the hype about computers has.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gelb. Like JJ, you and Jeff **read** Harry Potter to each other, my father used to read books to me and my brother when we were very young. He was heavy on the Victoriana. I remember the Bobbsey twins, *Christmas Carol*, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*.

I think the idea was to teach us kids to read. I don't know whether it did that. I didn't read that much until sometime in high

school. My brother, on the other hand, read Dickens' *Christmas Carol* relatively soon after.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Hughes. You complain that the Republican and Democratic clubs at your high school were just interested in winning elections. And not at all interested in **issues** or policy.

I'm even more cynical than you. Isn't the idea behind most issue and policy talk that they will get your side elected?

🍷▲🍷 SYLVIA. I think that's the name of the cartoon. Where she is hearing that exercise is more important than **weight** when it comes to your health. You wouldn't hear that from any of the anti-fat contingent, which rules the nutrition publications.

In past times, they were able to rig studies by counting the deaths in all age groups as the same number, even though deaths in your twenties are 1% and in your sixties 20%.

Recently, however, they have found that only counting people who have NEVER smoked does the same thing. If you had one puff, forget it. The conclusions would be completely different.

GARY BROWN

oblio no. 136

🍷▲🍷 Our **bombing** of Afghanistan is revenge for them having bombed us. I hate to say it but it's true. We're only human. I'm sure the bombing of Afghanistan is for that reason. It's tit for tat. It has made the Taliban and bin Laden scatter so they will be harder to get. And has made it more difficult to get Pushtus to join our side.

On the other hand, revenge has some virtues. It makes us feel better. It has a bad rap only because when we do it, it's

somehow not revenge. Of course, it is.

What I only say is that we should watch what we're doing. Bin Laden's idea is that we will overreact so much it will alienate the Arabs. Who will join their camp. Then our revenge would be one that backfired.

☹▲☹ I didn't have a cry over the 9/11 **Attack**. I was angry. It took me a while to get angry, but I had enough anger when I did.

☹▲☹ The **terrorists** don't seem to have taken their terrorist training to heart. Most seem to have boarded the plane under their own names. While one may have assumed the name of a Saudi big wig's son, most gave their actual names. And that's how we found out who they were.

☹▲☹ I wouldn't have invested in **Microsoft** after seeing its 1978 group portrait. Their hair was too long. ...Which shows have far I've gone in the opposite direction.

☹▲☹ ct. Me. People usually forget when their **politician** changes his position if they themselves have changed their position. The opposition will try to make it a campaign issue. But I haven't seen where it's actually worked.

☹▲☹ My oldest **niece** doesn't know what she wants. Not even her major. She is taking psychology. Several years ago she wanted to get into alternate medicine, but that passed. Academia being trendy, I'm sure she would have no trouble finding courses or faculty.

The second oldest knows a little better about her major at least. But she changed her major too. She had wanted to be an artist like my mother, but I think

psychology is her major now.

What can I say? I really didn't make up my mind what I wanted to do until I was twenty-seven. Namely, be a librarian. And I only actually got to do it by accident.

☹▲☹ Reporters, or anyone, can be fooled even when you've been to the wise ass school of **hard knocks**; just like you can be fooled if you're naive. It just takes a different con. The hard knocks people cannot disbelieve someone has been in bed with someone. And so will believe it everytime.

I remember the cops in Boston accused me of sleeping with a number of women, whom I didn't know.

Another example is the Starr Report, which had to be in great part fiction. People's memories aren't that good and people aren't that consistent. But those from hard knocks especially want to believe that Bill Clinton performed sexual acrobatics in the study of the Oval Office. For them, the cigar story is gospel.

☹▲☹ **Johnny Hart** may be a true born again; but when he inserts religion into his strip, it's for laughs. I might laugh if I could understand what he was getting at.

☹▲☹ I found a neat **Walt Kelly** website, Bud Plant's

(<http://www.bpib.com/kelly.htm>).

According to it, he developed Pogo and Albert in Dell's animal comics in 1941. But he didn't develop Churchy, at least, until he worked for the *New York Star*, which only lasted from 1948 to 1949.

☹▲☹ **DC** is humid too, although probably not like south Florida.

☹▲☹ ct. Dave Schlosser. You get **cramps** when you drive too long. One hand

or the other numbs if I drive longer than a half an hour. But I found out when I drove to my parents' place, a six hour drive in the driving rain, that it didn't get worse. I bet it's residue from the multiple sclerosis.

My legs used to cramp up a lot, like yours did; but not for now.

ct. Janice Gelb. Don't feel too badly about fearing your sons will be drafted. We all have a myriad of **motivations** within us: some good, some bad, some foul. It's what dominates and what we act on that counts. I convinced of that.

And don't worry. This isn't the type of war that will need a draft. It's the quality of the army not the quantity of the army that counts in the Third World conflagrations we fight these days.

It's a sign you are secure in your craft that you can take **advice**. Of course, listening to people and taking advice is an even larger part of my library craft. I can often find the answer to reference questions by listening to my client. Sometimes he tells me the answer without knowing he has. When I give it back to him, he takes me for a magician.

JEFF COPELAND

words fails me

ct. Janice Gelb. It used to be when the apartment complex sprayed for **cockroaches** we had to take from the cabinets all our food and dishes. A major project. Recently when the apartment complex has treated the place for cockroaches, we haven't had to do much at all. Just leave the closets and cabinets open. Apparently, the recent treatment, whatever it is, is not as deadly to human beings as the

old spray.

JAMES FALLOWS. He's right that the **press** use scandals when actual news – wars, plague, tornados, health care reform – doesn't grab you. When was the last time you heard the name Gary Condit? For me, it was after 9/11, but a story in the back sections of the *Washington Post*.

ct. Guy Lillian. No, we should be willing to compromise with **Dubya**, usurper or not. Look at how successful the campaign of noncompromise with Clinton was.

On the other hand, I'm not certain the Democrats aren't in a better to position to get Dubya later because they are holding their tongues now. They certainly will be more credible with the public later than Clinton's critics were. Who complained everything he did was wrong.

ct. Sheila Strickland. The smiling paperclip is even more ubiquitous in **Windows 2000**. Also, while Windows 2000 may be more stable, it's more complicated than Windows 98. Which in turn was more complicated than its predecessors. So fewer people know how to make it run smoothly. Or is it, right now, that nobody does?

CLOSING THOUGHTS.

Eliminate **terrorism**? Change the social system of the Arab countries? Better you should flap your arms and fly.

We might be able to eliminate al Qaeda. Of course, the moves Ashcroft has made since 9/11 make that harder. Rounding up all known members and fellow travelers of al Qaeda.

I realize that the idea here is to make the people feel safer. Less bomb throwers out there. But it makes it more difficult to

get to the bottom of al Qaeda. To the root and branch. And root them out. At least, that was the belief of the people actually doing the investigating. But Ashcroft countermanded them.

🍷▲🍷 **Security** has become absurd in my area. The mailroom was closed one day because they were checking for anthrax. Why would anyone send anthrax to my agency?

Also, on September 11th some highways were closed in this area without warning or instruction, causing major traffic jams. Furthermore, National Airport was closed for about a month. That and other of the precautions were driving away the tourists.

My friend Alicia's perverse sense of humor, however, is definitely in touch with this zeitgeist. She says she is going to report a Pakistani couple to the police. Their crime: walking in her neighborhood at all times of the day and night. Five'll get you ten, she's pulling my leg..

She also advocates killing the women and the children first in Afghanistan. Even the fiercest advocate of socking it to the Middle East takes umbrage at that .

🍷▲🍷 If America was ruled by a Christian theocracy, would **al Qaeda** be happy? You bet! But for a perverse reason. It would be easier to fight. As things are, the supporters of the Taliban and al Qaeda, aren't credible when they raise the spectre of Christian Crusaders ready to destroy Islam.

EVE ACKERMAN
guilty pleasures 20

🍷▲🍷 **PHILADELPHIA STORY.** It seems to be fashionable to make the logo

prominent on **con badges**, and your name microscopic. We had that problem at DeepSouthCon.

🍷▲🍷 Yeah, you have to have the *Weekly World News* in the con suite. How are we going to keep up with saucers otherwise?

🍷▲🍷 **I PURPOSELY DID NOT.** We had a lot of TVs in my agency. I remember seeing the **plane hitting** in one room, and the twin towers falling in another. The communications staff has a number. They of course are involved with news and watching Congress, and all that good stuff. The conference rooms have them so that we can be instructed, or the sylvan words of the Secretary can be broadcast.

🍷▲🍷 It's good Toni helped you out with an **agent**. My experience is that it's impossible to get an agent. And, at many publishers, impossible to get published without one. In short, much of publishing is a closed shop. They miss tons of swill with that policy, but they miss the next Tom Clancy as well.

🍷▲🍷 Your son has a one hour **study hall**. I remember back in the '50s one high school near mine in New Jersey had a four hour study hall. And kids were known to do all of their homework there. One did that and nonetheless made it into Princeton. And I doubt he had connections.

THE END

