

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #74

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January 2002

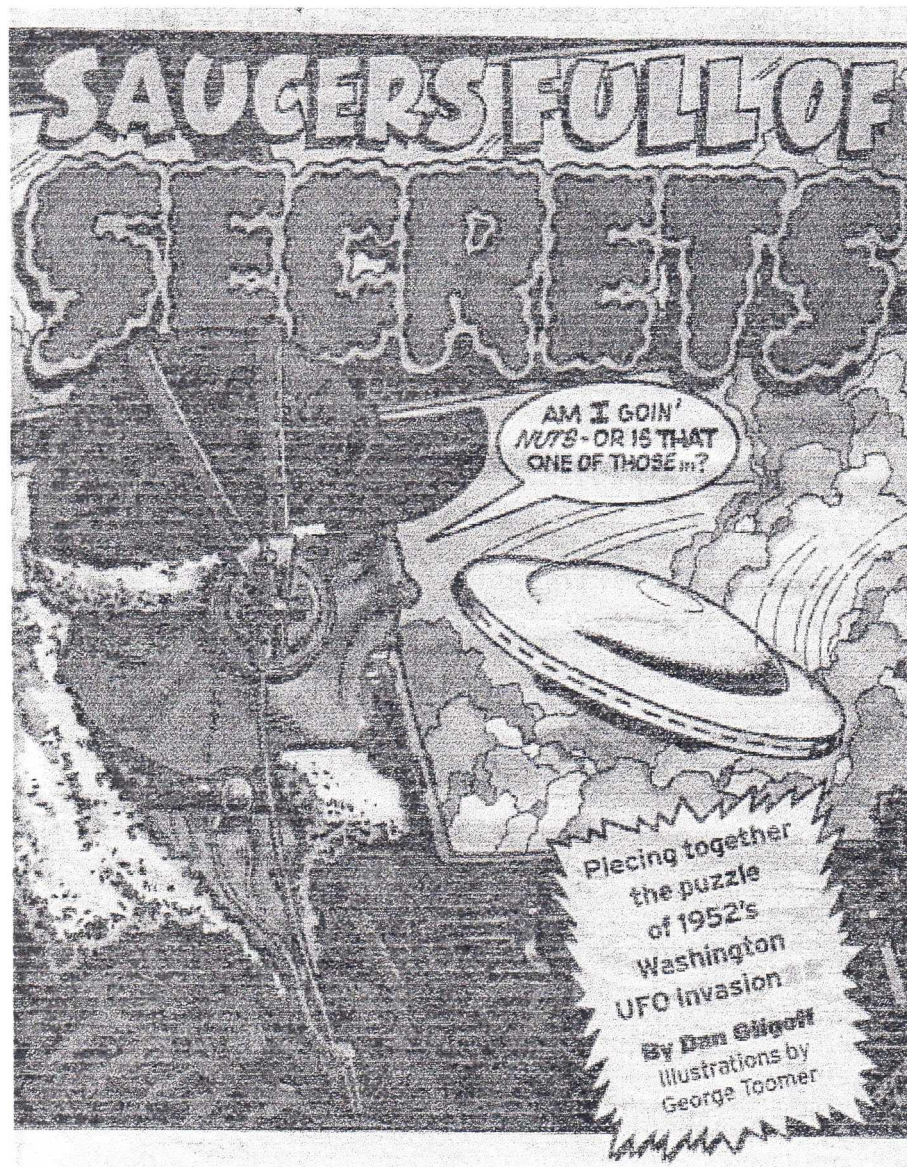


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Illos: Care of the [Washington D.C.] City Paper December 14-20
and George Toomer.

COMMENTS ON SFPA MAILING #224

JEFFREY COPELAND

the southerner

☹▲☹ Your **SFPA website** is sort of a *Southerner* that you can hack into any time. With some of contents of past *Southerners* as well as the present one. Plus lots of booklinks provided by Ned. I can see me using the site when I lose my *Southerner*. Which I am always doing.

☹▲☹ So our dues for Priority Mail are not **First Class**? Are they Priority dues? I am a Priority Member I'll have you know.

☹▲☹ Anthrax stopped the mail here in the D.C. area for a time. It seems all mail somehow or other was routed through the Brentwood post office on Capitol Hill. A friend of mine who lives on Capitol Hill proper didn't get mail for weeks. He was afraid of what would happen when he didn't pay his bills. Fortunately, Brentwood was irradiated before that could happen.

The National Agricultural Library, however, still hasn't received many of its journals. And I have been out of luck trying to borrow some recent issues. Which, all of a sudden, everyone is asking my library for.

☹▲☹ It's, as I figured, <http://www.usps.GOV>. I can see where someone might get into the habit of figuring all **websites** end in COM. But the government's don't. That's why <http://www.whitehouse.com> lands you in a porno site.

ALLIE COPELAND

to george wells from allie copeland

☹▲☹ So the villainess Dawn is going to be on *Buffy* by weaseling her way into a

continuation of her contract. That reminds of a cartoon show of my time, *Rocky and His Friends* (early 1960s), when backstage nuts and bolts played a big part. Rocky the Flying Squirrel was captured by some mesa Indians and they wanted to cook and eat him. He argued that went against the TV network's code of decency. And they argued that it was perfectly in line with the TV network's code of decency. Codes of decency being more important in my time than in this.

☹▲☹ So a bleached blond British male punk rock singer is your idea of a heartthrob. In my time, dyed or **bleached hair** was considered a minus not a plus. Not that people didn't dye their hair. But they tried to hide the fact – sometimes badly. It was a plus if you could claim your orange hair was natural. One teacher in class had this joke:

Question: The definition of a peroxide blond?

Answer: Dyed by her own hand."

☹▲☹ I'm afraid I'm really out of it. **Villains** in black vans with death stars don't make it for me. Mine have to cackle and wear top hats and long mustaches. This shows how old I am. Villains like that were last popular in the 19th Century.

NED BROOKS

new port news 200

☹▲☹ Did *Captain Jinks, Hero* inspire the song or was the book inspired by the song. ("I'm Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines/I feed my horse corn and beans/I live way beyond my means." Or something like that.)

☹▲☹ ct. Me. You all seem to hate

Chandra Levy. You wish to put her in the World Trade Center September 11th.
...Suddenly I see the idea: the 9-1-1 bombings did gobble up her story. Didn't they?

As I said, I would like to find out that she has been in the Florida Keys drinking Mai Tais all along. And may not even have known the September 11th bombings happened. Admittedly, an outcome that is less and less probable with time – unless she succeeded in absconding Condit's payroll for a couple of years.

☛▲☛ I presume too my **mother's washer** won't explode. It's just weasel lawyer talk. It hasn't yet. In fact, I think she's happier with her new washer than the old one. And that's saying something at 83.

☛▲☛ I understand why the alarm company didn't want to work on a **30 year old system**. But, of course, they had a contract with my father to do just that. Maybe if they couldn't fix the old one, they could give him a new one and show they have an ounce of integrity. Hardly lightly. They are looking for big bucks.

☛▲☛ That I got **shingles** and you haven't, I believe, is the luck of the draw. And the DNA.

☛▲☛ In all honesty, I wouldn't have read **Catherine Asaro's** books, having heard they had won all sorts of romance awards. Not my cup of tea. But you knew what you were getting into. They might not be Bodice Rippers; but they would certainly be Space Suit Tearers?

I once read an story from the '30s that was ostensibly science fiction, but looked to have previously been a Western. The Indians were now Martians and the

horses were now spaceships. I think there was a passage there where someone fed his spaceship hay.

☛▲☛ I can believe the **new Netscape** doesn't do as much as the old Netscape. That's been my experience with computers recently – regress. I can't really do as much with the subtables in Access and macros as I did with the Macros in DBASE III Plus. I admit I may have told you altogether too much.

Actually I can believe what you said about the new Netscape because I have used it. And it's terrible. I hear, however, that all the old versions are on the web and ready for download. And there is software that has been created which actually enhances them.

☛▲☛ No, problem with using the stairs with the **"voodoo" card** system. You don't have to use the card to get onto the floor. In fact, you have free right of way with the stairs and the elevators. The problem is once you get to the floor, you have to use the cards to get to where most business is conducted.

☛▲☛ Logically the **Confederate Flag** cannot be divorced from slavery, but it's amazing what the human mind can do. Especially if they consider the South their homeland.

☛▲☛ According to <http://www.CJDfoundation.com>, **Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease** can be contracted in a number of different ways. It can be hereditary; it can be gotten by ingestion, or through transplanted organs, particularly of course brain matter. Furthermore, human growth hormone can transmit it. And so can contaminants as yet unknown.



Surprisingly, the most hyped cause, the jury is still out on, BSE infected cows.

🍷🍷🍷 I think it is 1 in 5,000 whose brains are supposed to be affected by **aspartame**. I don't think others have much of a problem. Otherwise, given how much aspartame I have ingested I should be a gibbering idiot by now. Of course, some in SFPA might claim I am.

🍷🍷🍷 During my Mexican Passover, everyone at the table repeats the service in Hebrew. A language no one there understands. We Jews are not the only ones attracted to the incomprehensible. A friend of mine claims that when the Catholic Mass was in Latin, he thought they had to be saying something really Holy. But now that it is in English, it seems so mundane to him. So maybe those students in religious schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan, who cannot read Arabic, find the **Koran** holier than

even Arabs would.

By the way, I hear those schools where they memorize the Koran are subsidized by the Saudis. Yet are hotbeds of anti-Saudi radicalism.

🍷🍷🍷 About **Tibetan monks** and nonviolence. I once remember reading a book about a trip to Tibet, where the monks punished some people by torture for having dared to enter Tibet.

The isolation of Tibet was far more important to these monks than nonviolence. ...Come to think of it, nonviolence is something much talked of but rarely practiced.

🍷🍷🍷 I think you can do some **Windows programming** using Corel Wordperfect 2000 macros. They work beyond Wordperfect. I accidentally activated one, to my chagrin, when I originally installed Wordperfect.

I guess I could learn to program with them. But I don't have the motivation to be as proficient as you. Or the self-confidence. Or probably the knowledge.

🍷🍷🍷 Maybe that's a myth spread by Microsoft that your software doesn't run as fast when you delete the **Temporary Internet Files**. As I said, I haven't noticed much difference.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Lynch. According to the *People's Almanac* (1975), someone got the template for the '**57 Chevy** and was making them until 1968 when Chevy decided to close the operation down. So your view that the car was ugly was not shared by quite a number of people. In fact, the engineer who stole the template claimed it was the best engineered car ever.

Maybe you're right there's no

underestimating the taste of the American public. Or its sense.

ct. Sheila. According to what I remember of A.E. Waite's *Brothers of the Rosy Cross*, the famous **Comte de Saint-Germain** was a prince of a minor principality. Also, in addition to claiming to be 2,000 years old and a successful alchemist, he conducted diplomacy under the aegis of the French government. To the dismay of real French diplomats.

From my perusal of the web, I have found that we are on the 20th **Baron Dunsany**. So since Edward John Moreton Drax Plunkett, the famous baron, was the 18th the son no longer holds the title..

ct. Don. That's awful: murdering someone because people believed he was an Arab. Even worse when it comes to the **Sikhs**. I hear they are virulently pro-American. I was told that they carry a knife wrapped in their turbans. The original reason was to kill Muslims.

As for the current Afghan War, so many non-Afghans are involved maybe they should call it the Non-Afghan War.

ct. Cleary. What will cause the **Federal government** to fall? My candidate for it is bureaucrats trying not to be bureaucrats. That's not as popular as it was twenty years ago. At least, saying it isn't. But the spirit of the idea is still popular. In the Federal government, people are still trying to be rugged individualists when getting the job done depends on everyone working together.

ct. Janet. Billboards are bad enough but my real ire is reserved for **web banners**, which cover part of the screen. What makes me even madder still is when

they fill the whole screen and make it difficult for you to get out of them. I'm sure the idea is to make me buy their product, but all they have done is succeeded in teeing me off.

Also, links that get made automatically make me mad. I can't go onto the web without activating a few. Sometimes I look down and see five or ten on my desktop. Sometimes they popup suddenly. Sometimes it's difficult to get out of them. Sometimes you have to get out of your browser altogether. The idea is for you to click other links, and finally buy their product. But, again, all they do is leave me thinking they are bottomfeeders.

Less annoying but still annoying is this. Let's face it, it's my sexism showing. I go to websites featuring scantily clad models. And there are always buttons beckoning you to see them in the nude. The full monte. Yes, beckoning, they flash, and expand and contract. Again, the reaction is the opposite. What happens when I see in the nude whoever it is mocked up as the models? I suspect I'll be on a hundred junk mail lists.

ct. Weber. During a storm, if you have a **satellite dish** and have lost transmission, you can always set the channel on a certain station and find out when transmission will resume again. ...Right!!

I don't know whether the satellite people have ever done anything as egregious. But it makes as much sense as the telephone company telling us to go to a certain webpage for further information when telephone service is down. And that, the Verizon has done.

NED BROOKS

it goes on the shelf 23. Oct. 2001

☹️▲☹️ “Naturally copyrighted”? I

don't know what that means. But I know in the States copyright is automatic. You should apply for a copyright in case someone claims they wrote it first, but you don't have to.

☹️▲☹️ My wife Heidi is of German ancestry and used to use the word **Hannes** a lot. It is short for Johannes and can be used to denote an archetypal person. Which, I bet, is why Hannes Bok named himself that.

Boppelhannes is a man who talks too much. I and Heidi were joking around about a king called King Boppelhannes. The name Julia can be used for similar purposes for women: e.g., in the name Boppeljula. As in Queen Boppeljula.

☹️▲☹️ It seems to be well-known enough that *Arachne Rising* was written by the late John Sladek. He wrote two other books of parody occultism. Of course, to some extent, the science in the pop occult can't be parodied; it's that bad. *Arachne Rising*'s science is normal for the pop occult course.

Sladek's problem was that he didn't seem to realize that good pop occultism has to appeal to his audience's sense of myth. Which is why his books weren't bigger sellers.

☹️▲☹️ I hear **Timothy Dexter**, of punctuationless prose fame, drank a lot in his mansion. Which was his undoing. One of his house guests was Molly Pitcher, the woman hero of the Revolution. She was supposed to have drunk even more.

But I doubt she had half of Dexter's complete chutzpah. In one of his books, he claimed he made his money exporting heating pans to the West Indies. And I forgot what inapplicable thing he exported

back to North America.

☹️▲☹️ Which **CD** has 27 grimoires? I may buy it.

☹️▲☹️ A lot of recent **gargoyles** are caricatures of someone, so it seems. The Italian artisans working on the National Cathedral in D.C. did one of lascivious workmen and an indignant dean looking on.

NORM METCALF

tyndallite v3 #98

☹️▲☹️ ct. Me. I wonder if we're not ultimately going to go back to the **analog computer**. Things can only be broken into so many small pieces a la digital computing. Theoretically, an analog would register whatever size needed to be registered. Of course, I don't know how you could make one. And the engineers here may have a field day criticizing me.

☹️▲☹️ Logically, **Cavourite**, the antigravity substance, could not be in the ground in any quantity. Being antigravity it would fly upwards. However, it wouldn't be illogical for it to lay in the ground in very small quantities, held immobile by heavy rock. Also, it wouldn't be illogical for it to gain its antigravity qualities only when mixed, chemically treated or magnetized.

☹️▲☹️ I agree our best knowledge is probably far from **objective reality**. I figure 99% of our beliefs are faith. However, vive the other 1%.

☹️▲☹️ I bet the idea that the **Nautilus** was powered by atomic energy was based on the Disney movie. Which, in turn, got the idea from the Navy's atomic-powered Nautilus.

ct. Ned Brooks. A culture with a cloaking device would be science fiction, I agree. Also, I admit that we can see anything ten feet in size or more from satellites. Interpreting it is a problem. In the Kosovan war we didn't know a certain building was the Chinese embassy and bombed it. In this war, many people have died from "friendly" fire. And, yes, air power won the day, but friendly fire is a fact.

Anyway, nobody has commented on what seems to be the best way a **Lost Race** could survive. By living among larger races and adopting some of their ways. We have Arabs among us and Samoans and Inuit. Why not the ancestors of Ancient Romans who settled in Africa? They could settle here and who would believe them.

ct. Rich Lynch. Run-on sentences, dangling modifiers, nouns and verbs disagreeing, and sentence fragments could be OK. High school **grammar** says you shouldn't. But my college rhetoric course said it's OK to break the rules occasionally.

Of course, you're right that you need antecedents and tense to agree just in order to be understood. At least, their agreement has to be implicit.

ct. Sheila J. Strickland. Sometimes it is annoying when anything can happen in a **fantasy**. But sometimes authors veering to and from the logical can be fun.

I have been reading the old *Li'l Abners* on the web. It's from 1949. Capp wrote endings that at first sight were Deus ex Machina and then all of a sudden it might dawn on you they were perfectly logical.

Whenever *Li'l Abner* was shot in the head, it was always a flesh wound. Makes sense once you realize how stupid he is

supposed to be. In another story, an invisible person goes criminal with impunity in our world. At the height of his success, however, he is suddenly arrested by invisible policemen.

ct. Mike Weber. I have received no comments about my logical – albeit so far un-science based – way to travel **faster than light**. Namely go into alternate space. The space traveler does not really arrive at our Betelgeuse or Andromeda but parallel stars which are a mirror of ours.

A. LANGLEY SEARLES. What honor could the first science fiction **fanzine** have if determining it depends on hairsplitting?

RICH LYNCH

variations on a theme #9

ct. Guy Lillian. Maybe it's **efanzines.com** I'll move to if Mr. Burns will have me. Geocities is going haywire. A lot of sites seem to be losing their links. Fortunately, a change in case seem to have saved mine. In addition, the banners, which have always been there, have become more obnoxious. Anyway they seem more obnoxious.

I was thinking of going to AOL's site. But maybe I'll go to Burns'.

ct. Sheila Strickland. I enjoy really good **opera** and it doesn't matter whether I am distracted. In fact, the idea for me is to let the music and singing and sets take my mind on flights of ecstasy.

On the other hand, understanding the language might interfere with this. The plots of operas are notoriously banal. As are the characters.

ct. Toni Weisskopf. Under the

circumstances, any **President** would be a hero. Whether they were actually doing a good job or not. The idea in such times is to rally 'round the President.

The right wing could never rally around Al Gore, of course, and would be desperate to keep him from being considered a hero. But they would probably be considered the Grinch that stole Xmas. Which is what happened several times during Clinton's administration.

Thus, the Democrats have the right strategy – allow Dubya and Cheney their day in the Sun. They will be more credible if nightfall should come to this Administration.

DAVID SCHLOSSER

peter, pan and merry #40

ct. Me. I don't think I said **vampires** are nondenominational. I think I said vampires are every denomination. But maybe that's what you meant by nondenominational.

So much for the informant of mine who said I had to use cottage cheese to make **macaroni and cheese**. I asked my wife and she said she had never heard of using cottage cheese. However, she added that it might be a good recipe.

I wonder what Ronald Reagan's recipe for macaroni and cheese used? During his Administration, the White House put out a recipe card for macaroni and cheese to show Ron had the common touch.

I am wondering whether the name "Increase," as in Increase Mather, is derived from the name **Joseph**. Which, as we have ascertained, means "Add." And "Increase." I bet the connection was made by the Puritans, who prided themselves on

its learning.

It depends on which **energy crisis** you are talking about. If you are talking about the one that comes when we run out of oil, you're right. Conservation just prolongs the inevitable. If you're talking about an increase in prices long before then, Conservation would eventually do the trick. It would reduce the demand and, supply being equal, the price would go down..

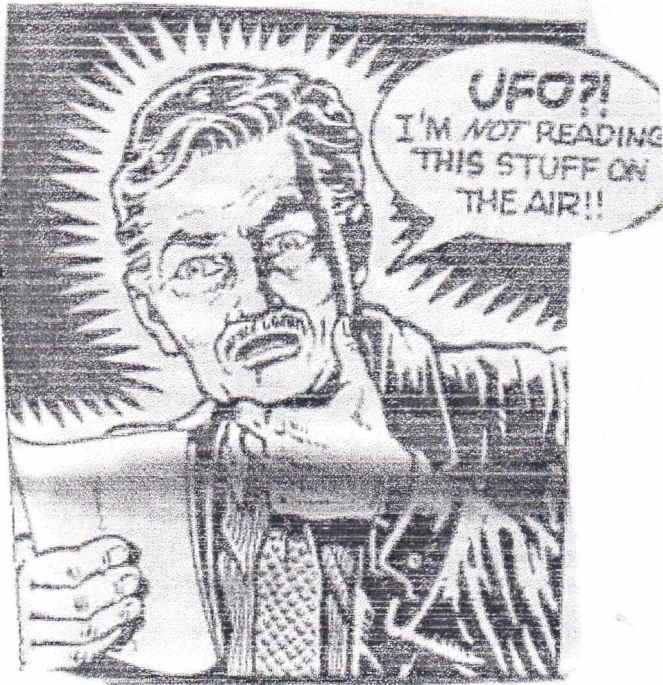
An undersupply of **health-care professionals**? I remember when everyone and his mother was training to be a health-care professionals. I guess there was a period of oversupply. And everyone and his mother decided health wasn't the field to be in. Now, there is a shortage.

What in fact was the **back problem** that caused you so much pain? Did they ever find out.

I bet "**Product Placement**" is the recent term for advertising products by having someone on a TV show use them. Now what was the word or phrase for it during the '50s?

ct. Ned Brooks. The problem with the current **mail system** is that it is neither fish nor fowl. Should it make a profit like Congress thinks? If it sinks or swims depending upon whether it makes a profit, then it's not government's responsibility. It may be more efficient at making money, but the problem is is that its job.

Some will say that both the accountants and letterwriters are better off with privatization. Accountants maybe. It doesn't seem like letters are being delivered faster and I know delivery times have been cut back. That there are fewer mailboxes is



not supposed to be a problem because our postboxes are mailboxes. But I can't get any postman to pick up from mine.

Maybe email will eventually replace regular mail. Which doesn't look as much like it's being government subsidized.

ct. Guy Lillian. The important thing is not how old the **Stars and Bars** is. The important thing is that it means something to people. That is what makes it a symbol.

The same thing is true of the Magen David, the Hexagram. It's only been two hundred years since it's been considered the symbol of Judaism. Before that, the Pentagon might even have been considered a better symbol. But the Magen David is now considered the symbol of Judaism and, for now, it is. And since I have seen it in Synagogues, I have to conclude it is a Holy symbol.

ct. Janice Gelb. **Responsibility**

for a wrong means we did something morally wrong. So for the U.S. to be responsible for 9-1-1, it had to be doing something morally wrong. In fact, considering the punishment, we had to be doing something very morally wrong.

Since I don't believe our Middle Eastern policy is morally wrong. I can't say that. If you are a radical Arab, you might.

In point of fact, however, I have heard that bin Laden didn't OK the bombing because we were morally wrong. But because our actions hadn't inflamed the Arabs enough. He felt we would overreact to them, and that would cause the Arab nations to unite and throw us out of the Middle East. Eventually they would conquer the rest of the world.

Boy, was he surprised.

ct. Gary Robe. Not only do I doubt that Gary should have been writing about **September 11th** rather than his life; I say he probably should not be writing too much about **September 11th**. The most important things in life are probably too important to write about. They are too earthshaking for us to be with them every second of the day. Also, we cannot really express our feelings about them; only a poor approximation.

ct. In my **jury duty**, I missed out on being on any jury. The first time I was called attorneys distrusted me for some reason or other. And were able to get me rejected from every jury where my number came up. The second time I was called in a county with a lot of people in its jury pool. I was just slated to be a juror in one case, and it was settled out of court before the jury could hear the case. Then I had fulfilled my

jury duty.

GUY H. LILLIAN III
spiritus mundi 186

☹▲☹ Your school called the senior prom the **Senior Ball**. Which reminds me of a joke.

Question: Why do policeman have bigger balls than firemen?

Answer: They sell more tickets.

☹▲☹ How can you tell an **anthrax letter** from a regular letter? The sick joke is that you sniff it. Of course, the government's instructions for telling are not that much more sensible. Safer maybe but not that much more sensible.

It was same for its instructions for telling letter bombs from regular letters. Gary Brown had a list in his zine. And noted that two of the warning signs were common in letters. A secretary where I work went farther and claimed that, under those rules, all the letters she handled would be suspicious.

☹▲☹ ct. Me. So you didn't have the time to comment on **my zine** more than a sentence on Chandra Levy. As I used to say when I was four years old: "I am going to rubber band you." I think I meant to say "reprimand." But at four who can tell the difference?

Only later do I see that you commented on my zine in AaaaYiii, but I sort of like my rubber band comment.

☹▲☹ ct. Brooks. Why do people hate the **Hildebrandt brothers'** Tolkien Art? Maybe they're a trifle too cutesy and a trifle

too garish. But the real reason is this: **THEY'RE COMMERCIAL.**

☹▲☹ You don't get the idea about how Conservatives can say **Bill Clinton** messed up, and how we could still have eight years of peace and prosperity. You have to think the way a Conservative would. It is impossible to give Clinton any credit at all – under any circumstances. The elder Bush has to be responsible for the peace and prosperity of the Clinton era. And Clinton has to be responsible for 9-1-1 and the current recession. There is no alternative.

In short, responsibility in politics is whatever Conservatives want it to be. Come to think of it, responsibility in politics is whatever one's party wants it to be. And they never ever blame their party. The difference is that liberals say Lyndon Johnson and Jimmy Carter didn't have anything to do with us.

In short, when it comes to politics, we're not talking rocket science.

I admit there is a logical flaw to the Conservatives' argument here. I guess one could paraphrase an old saying: if they were so much in control, why couldn't they have had better timing? But reasoning is irrelevant when it comes to the merits of various politicians. ...Or statesman as the case may be.

☹▲☹ I don't know whether **Catherine Asaro's** books are bad, or whether they just aren't our genre, Guy.

☹▲☹ I know Rose-Marie wants you to lose weight, but **dieting** isn't for most people. My sister was able to do it through sheer willpower and cussedness. I couldn't. What lost me seventy pounds was diabetes – both its symptoms and its treatment. Of course, I gained back twenty after my

gallbladder operation. And I don't have the determination to knock it off again.

IRV KOCH

offline reader oct-nov 2001

☺▲☺ So how long do you have to go before you can get a Federal **pension** Irv? You must have worked for the Federal government for quite some time. Is it twenty years? I figure that from your needing ten to retire. On the other hand, I know ten is the number you need for Social Security. And Social Security is what I imagine you'll get by working for DeKalb County.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. On the other hand, fewer **deer** seem to have been killed by cars in Alexandria. So while Northern Virginia deer may be hungrier and more desperate, the Alexandria deer, which hale from Huntley Meadows and thereabouts, seem to be smarter.

☺▲☺ I bet you're right that the female **fox spirit** legends in Japan derive from the cries of an actual fox in heat. Which sounds like a woman. That explains the women fox spirits. However, there seem to be male fox spirits as well.

☺▲☺ My father has some early **wordprocessors** from the '70s, which, I bet, he still has his secretaries clicking on. They can write a sentence or two in advance before the text gets printed, but no more. My father was up-to-the-minute until the '70s, but afterwards refused to adopt new ways. Forget about the computer revolution.

I wonder if word processors like that will be worth anything?

☺▲☺ Now that we have overthrown the Taliban, I hear there is a big push to overthrow Saddam in Iraq using tactics

similar to those in Afghanistan. On the other hand, it doesn't look like we're going to go into Sudan this time around. They booted out bin Laden, although al Qaeda is entrenched there. Mysteriously, no one is talking about going into Libya and Syria, states actually associated with terror.

Just as well. **Overthrowing regimes** creates a great splash, and convinces people we are going to eradicate bin Laden and al Qaeda once and for all. That we are going to eliminate terrorism once and for all.

But does it really do this? While Saddam is our continuing *bête noire* and a real SOB, he probably doesn't give international terror much more than moral support. Being a Ba'athist and a modernizer, I don't think he's too comfortable with fundamentalist Moslems.

I have to admit overthrowing the Taliban was on balance a success against al Qaeda. But it could have been better focused. We knew vaguely where bin Laden was before the war. Now we know nothing. Is he in Pakistan? Who knows?

On the other hand, overthrowing regimes poses the danger of alienating Arabs and the Arabs states. Which is playing into al Qaeda's hands. He wants just that. Thus, I am not certain, we can't eliminate bin Laden and al Qaeda with more bang for the buck by more surgically exact operations.

SHEILA STRICKLAND

revenant #9

☺▲☺ Just from who was targeted, I figure who sent the **anthrax mail**. A right winger in this country but pretty far out of the mainstream. And with his own petty beefs. He targeted two powerful Democratic Senators, Tom Daschle, the Majority Leader, and Patrick Leahy, Chairman of the

Judiciary Committee. Also, he targeted TV news anchors who had raised the ire of the right. But why American Media, a tabloid publisher, and the *New York Post*. The *Post*, for the record, is right wing itself.

The lynchpin for my argument that the person is out of the loop is he believes that newscasters and Congressmen open their own letters.

☹️▲☹️ The **Jersey Turnpike** has eateries and gas stations all along the way. It's not only on Canadian highways. I hear some Italian highway restaurants were at one time three and four star.

☹️▲☹️ **Lewiston**, New York may not want tourists, but Spitzbergen has it beat. The island is a colony of Norway's in the far North Atlantic. I got their brochure. There is a centerfold on Arctic garbage. And there is also a section on Grizzly Bears. They could kill you but you're not allowed to shoot them.

Also, it warned tourists not to go off without a guide and, most important of all, not to bother the governor.

☹️▲☹️ ct. Me. My brother, a physician, cured **my father**. I live in the DC area and he lives near my father in New Jersey. At least my father is almost cured. He can go back to driving and is no longer a prisoner in the house, which he was at the height of the disease. From the suggestions during a dermatological consult, my brother, a physician, wrapped the dressing on his leg twice a day. First, putting a steroid on his skin and, second, putting an antibiotic on.

Once he was wrapping my father's leg, and my father looked down at him, and said,

"Now I know why I spent so much money putting you through medical

school."

☹️▲☹️ I'm glad you confirmed my view of *Worldcon*. You meet more people you know at DeepSouthCon.

☹️▲☹️ Actually the **rent-a-car** for the trip to my parents, the Grand Dam, did do well through flash floods. It made it through several. Its problem was seeing through its rear window. I ain't gonna back up in it again; I'll tell you that.

☹️▲☹️ I imagine the interlibrary loan staff at my **public library** loves me in particular. I must be one of their big supporters when it comes to circulation figures.

☹️▲☹️ ct. Guilty Pleasures. If you get increases in funds, **your library** must be doing something right in providing residents with service. I wonder what service in particular creates support for your library.

I just prepare for whatever people will ask me. I am good at interlibrary loans. And regulatory and legal citations. A few interlibrary loans, however, are where I meet my Waterloo, of current journals. They aren't on the shelves of the library I depend on. Another problem is gathering news clipping on particular events. There may be none. The newspapers may not have reported the particular event so important to some high mucky much. But I can't know that.

☹️▲☹️ ct. Tyndalite. What happened in 1761, the date 197 years before 1957? Isn't that when George Washington commissioned the first Anti-Ballistic Missile? It was horse-drawn.

☹️▲☹️ A friend of mine had a theory that Woody Allen first meant the villain in

Curse of the Jade Scorpion to be an oriental. But then he figured he didn't want to go against p.c. In that era, that type of villain would have been an oriental. According to my friend who is an avid pulp reader. Of course, not in our era.

☹️▲☹️ I remember the fifty-three people **Clinton** was supposed to have killed. It was on several different websites. I never saw it in a respectable source. There was never any proof that Clinton had them killed. The websites always insinuated, however, all these deaths of brothers-in-law of people who had something to do with Clinton was too much of a coincidence. And the evil Clinton had to have done it.

I, on the other hand, always suspected the Republican National Committee did it. Or the editorial board of the *Wall Street Journal*. With people associated with Clinton, they had a known motive. At the least.

STEVE HUGHES

comments 13

☹️▲☹️ **NORTHERN LIGHTS.**

According to Ripley's Believe it or Not, an impeccable source, one year the **Northern Lights** went as far south as India.

☹️▲☹️ **WEDDING.** These are great photos. The same with your astronomical photos, even though I realize one came from the web. As for your printer, it's not so bad. Not compared to mine. Mine seems to be colorblind, although I haven't used the photographic cartridge yet.

☹️▲☹️ ct. Me. **Environment** is one subject people can't be objective about. It ain't only asbestos or washing machine warnings. Either you're caught in the myth

or you're making money. However, it's one myth that seems to be tailing off. Several Greens have come out recently against global warming. The evidence, it turns out, was not as compelling it seems.

☹️▲☹️ I will remember to inspect any car before I rent another.

☹️▲☹️ I agree it's a sad day when people become personal about **politics**. Although I have heard that you have to be personal with Hank. He won't find it funny if you aren't.

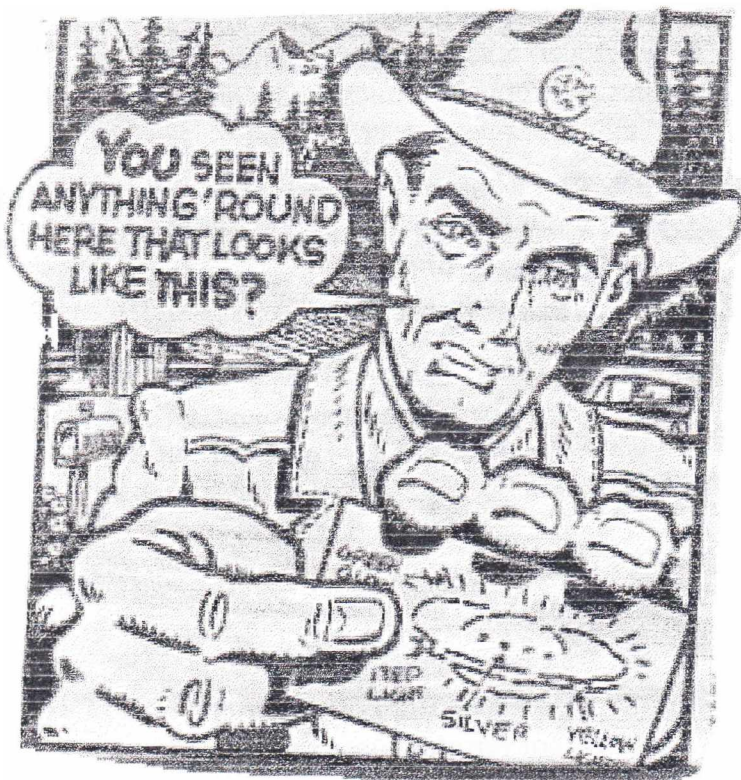
☹️▲☹️ ct. Rich Lynch. My father had an **invention**, which he created with the help of a friend who actually knew engineering. A cradle rocker. The patent also expired before they could make a go of it.

☹️▲☹️ ct. Guy H. Lillian III. What can the **airlines'** security measures after September 11th be called except overkill. And, even with them, people are scared to fly. And there's no reasoning with them.

Once again it's proven that emotions exist; they are not an illusion. In fact, when it comes to people, they are more powerful than the facts.

☹️▲☹️ ct. Janice Gelb. I read an article on **stereotypes** in the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* put out in the '60s. Although the Civil Rights movement was at its height, and stereotyping was considered an anathema by the general run of people, the article said we have to stereotype. It is better, however, if we have more sophisticated stereotypes. We note details that differentiate groups and which make individuals individuals.

Otherwisc, where are we going to place my friend Jerome, whom Guy met



once. He does not consider himself Black but a Cape Verde Islander. Looking at him, he has Portuguese and Arab features as well as Black. He has also Ivy League manners and a middle/upper class upbringing.

Or how about my friend Alicia with her White boy friends and Jewish girl friends. With her witty repertoire of stories about her closeknit Baton Rouge family. How can anyone come up with a funny anecdote everyday?

ct. Janet D. Larson. One more sign that you are crazy, Steve. Normal to slightly **overweight**? Thin is where I would put you. And you looked in the pique of health, although I realize at our age we all have aches and pains.

I, on the other hand, am fat. I am near Obese on the Body Mass Index, although I hope the weight lifting covers it up somewhat.

ct. Jeffrey Copeland. I was going to give a long rebuttal on **Clinton** but I don't think it would change any positions. No way you're going to be convinced that not **EVERYTHING** Bill Clinton did wasn't wrong. Including 'the's and the 'and's. No way Jeff or Guy are going to be convinced he wasn't a good guy.

I will say this. The subject of Bill Clinton seems to be causing you apoplexy. While Jeff appears to like a good fight, I don't think you do. Because of that, in real terms – the terms of who gets hurt – only he can win.

Just remember Bill Clinton is no longer President. And, given time, he will fade away. And he won't stick in your craw so. Or the craw of Conservatives in general. Unless, of course, someone keeps him in the public mind. Which a number of Conservatives seem hellbent on doing.

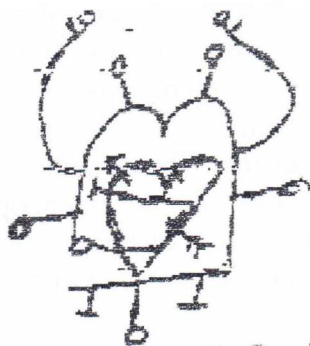
RANDY B. CLEARY

avatar press v2 #18

You showed a **sigil** and this is associated with sigils: the seals of demons. I once did SFPA seals, just like the Medieval grimoire *Offices of the Demons*. Only the demons were different members of SFPA. I gave their names, described them, told what magic they could make. And of course, provided them with a seal.

GUYLILYAN, a great sergeant of hell. He knows much of the law and everything in matters of romance and sentiment. He rules in the south. Guylilyan appears as a youth bearing a lightbulb. Or as an old fart bearing a lightbulb. For him to do your bidding you need to provide him with a can of beer. If you are a

woman, he will grant your wish for nothing.



The Seat of Gulligan

☺▲☺ I was going to say that you should avoid Big Name Fans like the plague if they snub you. But you don't appear to be snubbed by all **Big Name Fans**. Especially if Tom Feller and Toni are big name fans. You're good friends with them. All I can say is avoid those you're not good friends with.

☺▲☺ I have been hearing about the demise of the super humans in tights, yet that is what still sells on the stands. I guess a lot of people would like incredible strength so they could work their will. And lots of luck as well.

Still, that does not mean there haven't been attempts at other **comics** beside super humans in tights. For instance, there have been attempts at realistic comics. One person, I remember, who wrote realistic comics was Harvey Pekar. Is he still around?

Also, there have been attempts at replacing the caped crusaders with funny animals. Among them the Ninja Turtles made the biggest splash. Of course, they are essentially funny animals in tights.

For now, it looks like the '50s are gone forever, when there were romance comics and comedy comics. I remember reading the *I Love Lucy* comic.

☺▲☺ I wouldn't be surprised that the **FOSFAX** folks talked mainly about politics, history and books. Whenever I've read **FOSFAX**, that's what it's about.

☺▲☺ "Bob Eggleton Hugo for Best **Hair**." I remember saying about one boss that when the good lord gave out brains, he opted for hair.

TOM FELLER

frequent flyer. nov. 21, 2001

☺▲☺ I don't remember breaching security for a **plane**. But I did interrupt someone's conversation once. In Britain in 1963, the customs man was sitting, talking to someone. And my plane was about to leave, and I would lose several hundred dollars. So I interrupted him.

He immediately yelled something about the rudeness of Americans. However, when I explained the situation, he was very apologetic.

☺▲☺ I wish DeepSouthCon were now. Then I could really save on my **airfare**. Come to think of it, if I had any sense I would fulfill my ambition of going to Europe again, right now. With all the airlines lowering their rates, I hear the fare to Europe is dead cheap.

☺▲☺ Where I remember Larry Niven using the death penalty to provide **organ transplants** was in the first *Dangerous Visions* (1968). In a story called "Jigsaw Man." The accused was being executed for going through six traffic lights.

☺▲☺ It sounds like in the *Hospitality Technology* article **Trekkie** paraphrenalia was for decoration rather any substance. It may in fact have been a second thought on the part of the author. Who may have wanted to jazz up what he considered a boring article.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. How does one tell the accuracy of **Tarot readings**? Probably by what I call intuitive probabilities. It feels like the reader cannot come upon his reading by chance. Not in a million years. The prediction doesn't actually have to give us direction for our lives. The idea behind much magic nowadays is to prove there is magic and our boring existence is not boring. It doesn't take much to do that.

That is the idea behind astrology too. I hear the astrologers are making a big deal out of a woman who predicted that people should avoid terrorist attacks on September 11th. It doesn't really matter that the heads of the country knew terrorists were about the hit. And what they needed to know was where. That she said something like this means that magic exists and our lives are exciting.

I can't fault anyone for doing or believing this. Who wants a boring existence. Just that it isn't exactly rocket science.

☺▲☺ I haven't changed my mind about the facts of saucer abductions, but I've changed my attitude. The **flying saucer** is a powerful of myth and myth is what we need.

Abductions are a integral part of the myth. And that the government has a saucer is too. It was very big in the '50s when Frank Scully wrote about it in *Behind the Flying Saucers*. That was exposed as the

product of two con artists and the idea of the government having crashed saucers in custody did not arise again until the '70s.

In 1974, a Robert S. Carr, borrowing from Scully, claimed the government had had twelve alien bodies for the past twenty-five years. However, the crashed saucer idea was not popularized again until Leonard H. Stringfield's 1977 book *Situation Red, the UFO Siege*.

I bet Dick Gregory told you about it afterward.

LIZ COPELAND

home with the armadillo #50

☺▲☺ I see there are tricks to **quilt making**; like showing an unfinished quilt, which nonetheless will pass muster in a show. There are tricks to librarianship too. One is listening. Sometimes the patron will tell me the answer to reference questions without realizing it. Then they are amazed and consider me a wizard.

☺▲☺ I was told that **water mattresses** had a lot of air in them these days so that the floors would not buckle under them. Yours don't seem to be part air and don't cause the floor to buckle.

Nevertheless, I'm still old-fashioned – and cheap. I prefer my inner spring. I don't know whether I would want to sleep on a surface that's too soft. I harken back to the '70s when too soft a bed wasn't supposed to be good for your back. But I was never really able to sleep on the surface that was supposed to be really good for it – once you got used to it – namely, the floor.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. We are trying hard to make our world **magical**. In fact, too hard. Just seeing the world as magical is enough. With this, having objects with magical

associations around you, I bet, helps; like your Tarot quilt. With them, you can put magic into the world without being considered a flake.

As for your front cover, I'm afraid I don't have a quilt way of thinking yet. I am too used to the Knight-Waite deck and that looks too abstract. But, of course, you can't and don't want your Tarot quilt to look exactly like the Knight-Ridder deck.

♥▲♥ The **pug** was a mean-tinged joke on the mother-in-law if you ask me. But let's face it, animals are our babies. I remember my wife Heidi's horse used to be her baby. And it was twice as big as she is.

♥▲♥ Well, that's a more liberal explanation of **Kent State**. In all honesty, I am glad I'm not in a cop's shoes, having decide when to fire and when not with a second's lead time. Spur of the moment decisions are always bad. Always unprofessional.

♥▲♥ ct. GHLIII. I see where you got your ideas about Kent State from the **Matt Helm** novel you're reading. Don't I remember Matt Helm movies from the late '60s, early '70s? Didn't Dean Martin play him. If I remember correctly, the movies were long on pretty girls in attractive attire, more professional than skimpy. And short on Helm's ultracompetence.

♥▲♥ ct. Gelb. I've decided to do to Sprint what you did to **Alamo**. And for the same reason, I'm switching to AT&T cellphones because Sprint increased the monthly charge shortly after I joined. In short, I can't trust them like you couldn't trust Alamo.

I'm sure the idea is that this is going to net them more money in the long run; just

as it does in the short run. But not from me it won't. And I can't believe it doesn't create a bad image, which no amount of advertising can erase.

♥▲♥ GRATITUDE. I agree that it is better that happiness depend on counting **our blessings** rather than material objects. The Medieval and Renaissance idea went farther and said that happiness shouldn't depend on worldly things at all. Even if things are miserable: and to them life was arbitrary, capricious and miserable: we should use all our willpower to remain happy. Of course, that's a heavy load to place on an individual.

JEFFREY COPELAND handcuffs and peanut butter

♥▲♥ The **airlines** liked the rule that the cockpit should be open. It cost money to lock it and anyway they were fighting the last set of hijackers, the ones that stopped hijacking twenty years ago. They had plenty of warning that the new menace was the danger to pilots. Pilots have been threatened a number of times recently. But the airlines decided it was cheaper and more re-assuring to stay the course.

On the other hand, if the cockpits had been locked, no way could the 9-1-1 planes have been used for bombs. Forget about all the elaborate new security precautions. Of course, now that passengers know what hijackers are up to, no way can they pull that trick again.




♥▲♥ I'm sure it sounded good to Americans when Ashcroft took away the **civil liberties** of foreigners. And instituted military tribunals. Particularly to the right wing. He is siccing it to foreigners and he is avoiding any international interference with




the U.S. So it seems.




But it is the wrong place and the wrong time for that legal philosophy. As you point out, we can't get al Qaeda members, who, it looks like, had something to do with 9-1-1, extradited from Spain. And the reason is because there are no legal protections for them here.

The fight against al Qaeda has to be international effort. The U.S. can't go it alone. But to go it alone sounds good so Ashcroft is intent on doing just that.




It's the disease of politicians that they are long on appearances and short on actual action. And this Administration has it in spades. Since 9-1-1, it's been long on appearances short on actual action against al Qaeda. Ashcroft in particular has taken that to extremes in his political career. Which is why he couldn't even beat Carnahan's widow in Missouri.




   You mention *It's a Wonderful Life* in your review of *The Family Man*. According to my solo librarian e-list, *It's a Wonderful Life* has been played only once a year recently in most locations. The copyright on the film has long since expired, but someone still owns the music rights. And therefore has the right to determine who shows the film and who doesn't.




   ct. Me. In all honesty, I think **Microsoft** has helped bring on the recession. It's been responsible for the new complicated software and the new complicated computers no one understands. From the evidence, I'm not certain even Microsoft understands them. I have been told that the suggestions on its website don't always work.




   **Mackey's Popular Delusions** may have upheld what I said. If I'm not




mistaken, according to him, the South Sea Bubble of the 18th Century ended with government loans. I'm not as certain about the Mississippi Bubble.

   Come to think of it, maybe we should eye the **Fairness Doctrine** again. Monopoly and Oligopoly in the media seem to making a comeback.

   Was **Gringich** the instigator of the Government Shutdown or the container of it? I heard the House Freshmen were very suspicious of Newt Gringrich; that they suspected he was selling them out to Clinton. They complained that he was allowing himself to be seduced by the Clinton charm.

   ct. Gary Robe. OK, so the **Promise Keepers** are based on hyperbole. Infidelity has not been the sole cause of society's problems. But hyperbole seems to be the basis of most politics. Or is it tunnel vision?

   ct. Janet Larson. I thought the Supreme Court found the **line item** veto unconstitutional.

   ct. Ned Brooks. I thought *The Wind Done Gone* had been taken off the market because they were using the Margaret Mitchell characters without the estate's permission.

This and the above example of *It's a Wonderful Life* seem to prove your point. The new copyright laws are just so some powerful interest can make more money.

Rarely if ever do they benefit the artist. And some companies want it made clear that the artist is entitled to nothing. Any fee is given grudgingly. Even when there is an agreement to pay royalties, I've noticed publishers try to claim that none of



the book was sold. This happens even where the book is a bestseller. It's no wonder companies hate lawyers.

Some companies certainly want that made clear with patents as well. As Richard Lynch said, he got "zippity-doo" for his. As far as his company was concerned, patents are for it alone. While getting a bonus might have motivated its employees to invent more marketable patents, and make it more money, that company had to stand on principle.

Even where a civilian somehow owns a copyright, he often gets no money from it. As my Solo list showed, a poor fellow with a copyright was powerless to enforce his rights. The infringer was able to prolong the suit until the fellow went bankrupt.

ct. Steve Hughes. I've noticed that **leadership** is a lost art. When I first came to the government, there were

attempts by the management – in good part ex-military – to stand by their employees. Forget that. Also forget about keeping your employees informed. Some offices won't even inform employees when the *Administration* finally gets around to appointing a new Administrator.

GUY H. LILLIAN III

aaaayiii

What can I say Guy? I can't *rubberband* you anymore. Shall I *reprimand* you?Naaaahhhhh!!!!

ct. Me. My brother has been the one who has really practiced **individual caring**. Wrapping my father's dressings twice a day. Us other two kids, me and my sister, applauded. Given our mother's problem, we all want my father to survive as long as possible.

I read an article once about the people of **Roswell**. They like the business but are a little dubious about some of the characters Roswell's reputation brings. The author: it was the *Skeptical Inquirer*: intimated the inhabitants were all secretly skeptics. I doubt that. Skeptics are only small minority. But I bet they are dubious about those characters. As I said in the *Twyg* before last, even long time flying saucer believers are dubious.

By the way, the saucer town for Scully in the '50s was Aztec, New Mexico. That's where the alien saucers and the alien bodies were found. It wasn't Roswell till the '70s. They seem to be 375 miles from one another on opposite sides of New Mexico. Roswell in the South and Aztec in the North.

If there had been a naked girl in

that Classics Illustrated picture of aquatic dinosaurs fighting in *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, then it certainly would have been science fiction. Sex, as they say, is a science.

🍷▲🍷 Maybe **Monty Wooley** got an Oscar nomination as the *Man Who Came to Dinner*. But the recent Sheridan Whiteside, Nathan Lane, was much better. That he looked like Alexander Woolcott helped.

🍷▲🍷 Apropos to the woman warrior in the *Lord of the Rings*, I have been reading *Tumbleweeds* on the web, the old comic strip. Which, I'm positive, they're reprinting, although syndicate acts as if the strips were new. Ryan, its cartoonist, liked to turn **stereotypes** upside down too. But he did it for humor. And it's much better than way taken seriously, like maybe in the *Lord of the Rings*.

🍷▲🍷 About **Dan Quayle**. During the last election, my sister said she saw an interview with Dan Quayle. He was still in the running to be President at the time, although he was soon to call it quits. She said he looked statesmanlike. Which shows you proper packaging can make anything attractive.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve. There may be limits to our ability to reproduce **photos** on the web, but web photos are masterpieces in comparison with the web movies. In my ever greater search for sexism, I was trying to see the Victorias Secret fashion show. Which has, somehow or other, shocked America. But my Windows Media Player just showed blurs dancing in front of the screen.

So I tried to download a more recent Media Player twice and the website timed out both times. I guess I will just have to be

satisfied with gazing at the catalogs.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Randy. I have a **Harlan Ellison** story to tell. In the '80s, he wrote about how awful SF fans were in the *Comic Buyers Guide*. His credibility was undermined for me when I found out that one of the tales came from the '50s. He had to reach fairly far into the bottom of the barrel.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Arthur. The Taliban and al Qaeda gave up fairly easily for the reason that **Afghanistan** is not that important to them. Al Qaeda is an international movement. And I think Omar thinks the same thing of the Taliban. Notice late in the regime it was basically supported by foreigners: Arabs mostly, and there was even an American or two. You noticed all the leaders escaped in tact. I bet they are nowhere to be found in Afghanistan.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Mike. Wonder Woman is more interesting than **Supergirl**. Basically Supergirl was created to play second fiddle to Superman and Superboy.

Wonder Woman's job seems to be to save her boy friend. And lots of boys out there apparently yearn to be saved by their girl friend. So Wonder woman could be the prominent character and even have her own comic. That's also why Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, was popular in the '50s.

Other things made Wonder Woman even more interesting. I can see some faux Classical themes in Wonder Woman's origin story. At least that made it interesting to me. Also, I hear in the early days, there was more than a tinge of S&M.

By the way, there was a claim Moulton modeled her after his own wife, who was a very capable woman. Although not someone who would gallivant around

fighting villains. At least not physically.

☛▲☛ Who's **P.T. Olemy**? I take it that he's no relation to the ancient Ptolemy, the astronomer/astrologer.

GARY R. ROBE
tennessee trash #44

☛▲☛ In taking time to work up to a good match, **Nick** is imitating us old timers. When we get up, it takes us time to work up to anything. Of course, I think Nick has different reasons for working up to his thing than we do.

☛▲☛ I remember my Beth-el Synagogue was like a. In fact, not only did people socialize b **Mexican Church** ut a spread was provided so that we could eat. A somewhat monotonous spread, except after Bar Mitzvahs. When the parents provided the spread.

☛▲☛ You forgot your **blood pressure medicines** in Mexico City. I usually take a checklist and check it whenever I travel. Even for layovers. Of course, I can't say the checklist is foolproof. Somehow I miss things even though they are on the list. If I had blood pressure medicines, there is a chance I would forget them.

☛▲☛ **Bin Laden** succeeded. He wanted us to overreact to al Qaeda's terrorist actions. And we did by limiting civil liberties. Among other things. Of course, all this did not mobilize the Arabs to drive us out of the Middle East. Which it was supposed to do according to bin Laden's plan.

☛▲☛ I don't blame you for going in for **Tackwando** so that you will have some exercise. Like you, most people need some

purposeful pursuit to exercise. Ballroom dancing also seems to be a good pursuit. I found that out at a recent Christmas party.

The problem is getting a proper fit between the pursuit and your exercise needs. Also, to avoid hurting yourself, which Taekwando seems to do occasionally. Of course, it's what I do occasionally to myself lifting weights and power walking.

☛▲☛ ct. Me. It may have been the **Devil** bedeviling your travel plans. Or it may have been God testing you a la Job. There's a Christian tradition that says that. A tradition not far different is that God tests you by means of the Devil.

☛▲☛ I bet those UN **simultaneous translators** cheat, like your Anglo Mexican minister, by not translating literally; so they can translate the meaning literally. Of course, mightn't that not be giving you an even better translation?

☛▲☛ Among the parody pictures of **Chandra Levy** in *Twyg*, I liked the bald Chandra as well as the Nancy one.

☛▲☛ ct. Richard Lynch. You may have had seven **patents** from your work, but the \$64,000 question seems to be this: Did you get any bonus for them?

Not that that is why you developed your patents. I bet you did it because you take pride in your work. Just like most people I know who try to do good job. Just like me. Certainly management normally doesn't provide much incentive.

☛▲☛ ct. Janice Gelb. You say **terrorists** are terrorists, as opposed to a freedom fighters, because freedom fighters don't sneak, hide or self-destruct. No, doesn't work. Armies are always trying to catch their enemies by surprise. That you

have snuck up on the enemy is regarded as a compliment. It's the sign of a good general. As for self-destructing being the sign of a terrorist, you're considered a brave soldier if you die for your cause.

Also, in modern war, armies and air forces attack innocent civilians in a big way.

What makes al Qaeda terrorists is that they are the BAD GUYS. And what makes us freedom fighters is that we are the GOOD GUYS. That's the only distinction that makes sense. In bin Laden's case, we would be appalled at the victory of Fundamentalist Islam; so he is a really bad guy.

JANET LARSON

passage #11

☺▲☺ Will **your kids** tower over you?

Well, my niece Joan is 5'10" and towers over her parents who don't make it much above 5'5". I tower over my parents too. But I don't know whether we did so as kids. I don't remember Joan being particularly tall until adolescence. I myself started out one of the tallest kids in my class, became one of the shortest, and settled down to being middling. But taller than my short parents.

☺▲☺ Harry Potter being a tool of **the Devil**? One more bit of evidence that most people believe the Devil advertises; and if you avoid what appears to be the Devil, you will be on the side of the Angels. Magic is the Devil and therefore even make believe magic will get you into Hell. Also, Halloween is pagan because some people dress up like witches or the Devil.

A number of people who claim that are trying to deny that the Devil is the great Deceiver. And he roams the world in Christian form as well as many others. And

quotes scripture. Then their own dealings with him won't look as palatable. It's one with the idea that if they have proclaimed their faith in Christ, it doesn't matter how much they sin.

☺▲☺ My wife Heidi had a bout with **depression** while she was being treated for colorectal cancer. She started talking of suicide. Also, she got offended at the least little joke if it had even the slightest association with cancer or her condition. None of the anti-depressants we tried worked. But she got over her depression when she got her sense of humor back. And she could joke about her cancer, her operation, her chemotherapy, etc.

☺▲☺ **Post Partum Depression**

correlating with mothers of young children, and directly proportional to the number of children at home. This once more proves the old adage: insanity is hereditary – you get it from your kids.

Of course, you have to love 'em. And you can't blame them when they're real young.

GARY BROWN

oblio no. 137

☺▲☺ **BAD NEWS CONTINUES.** I

agree there was no use in bringing up the subject of **Butchie** having a good chance of dying. Isn't hope an illusion anyway? Don't we all die in the end? And don't objects we hope for have a tendency to die, leave or break? Of course, it's a fact we need some measure of hope to survive, and want some over and above that. That's no illusion.

And ignoring hopelessness is as good a way as any to keep hope in our lives.

☺▲☺ **OUR ARMY AT WAR.** Was it

the initial **bombing** that destroyed the Taliban? In fact, after a while, weren't we bombing nothing? And wasn't it only when we finally got around to coordinating our bombing with the Northern Alliance ground that we succeeded in overthrowing the Taliban?

☺▲☺ IS THE ELECTION OVER YET? I'm not certain, in the *Post recounting*, the principles weren't trying to be good citizens by saying Bush won. And not create a Constitutional crisis. It makes me wonder after I heard Gore won six out of seven of the recount possibilities outside the legal challenges.

Maybe I'm wrong.

☺▲☺ **Superman** a Jesus figure? That sounds pretty pretentious. However, there is obviously the influence of pop Nietzscheanism. The word superman, I bet, comes from Nietzsche. I know a pop version was widespread earlier in the Century. Of course, while Superman is beyond evil, he is certainly not beyond good, like the Nietzschean Übermensch.

Also, there is certainly an idea that seems to come originally from the 18th Century that some beings from outerspace are superior to us. Superman is. So is Brainiac and Doomsday. Of course, the superiority isn't always in virtue.

I disagree that the name Kal-el means anything in Hebrew. I don't believe it's Hal-el. But, I bet, Siegel and Schuster came up with the name from the potpourri of their Jewish upbringing.

I agree also that Superman is a wishdream of many kids. And it's good to see – contrary to the popular idea our subconscious is degenerate – that one of kids' big wishdreams is to right the world's wrongs.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. I did this zine before 9-1-1, when **Chandra Levy** was still in the news. It's no wonder you don't see much of it anymore in the media? It was a non-news news story to begin with.

☺▲☺ **My dad** was in worse health than yours for a time. But my brother seems to have gotten him mostly out of it.

☺▲☺ What I like about you Gary is that you are so unpretentious. It doesn't phase you that the color orange and gorillas were what the management thought sold your beloved **DC comics**

☺▲☺ I tried hot **Krispy Kremes**, as Randy suggested; and they weren't bad. Cold Dunkin Donuts has them hands down.

☺▲☺ In short, **Turok** inhabits a world like Conan Doyle's *Lost World*. However, I take it there were fewer caricatures there and less racism.

☺▲☺ ct. Guy Lillian. I didn't think *Mad Magazine* could parody *Weekly World News*. It's already to some extent a parody. But they did. They had this story: "Eight Year Old Gives Birth to Fourteen Year Old." With some supposedly authoritative source, saying that

"Kids do the craziest things these days."

☺▲☺ **Bush** did the most to gain popularity with rousing speeches telling what we were going to do to bin Laden. And how we had to be brave, bold and sacrifice. People ate it up. Of course, winning a victory in Afghanistan helped.

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF
"yngvi is a louse" and other graffitos. #74

☹️▲☹️ KREEGAH! Half of us seem to be overreacting to the post 9-1-1 world. Like airport security holding you forever. Now I hear they are going to be checking your shoes because a Mr. Reid tried to blow up his, and his plane with it.

The other half is underreacting. That 'goober,' who ran past security to get to his plane. Myself, I have to admit, to a lesser extent. I was ridiculing the anthrax overkill in my agency to my branch chief, but she was not amused. And she suggested I get rubber gloves and mask for opening mail. Which I agreed to – at the time.

☹️▲☹️ CHARLOTTE PROCTOR. No, Stephen King had a point. We never know whether the **supernatural** is real or a misunderstanding. Whether in a kid or an adult. We can make all sorts of scientific tests and believe we have proven all sorts of things, and still doubt plagues us.

Actually, I believe the supernatural is real. We have to just eschew all our scientific and hard headed thinking, and see the world in a supernatural way. Given how brainwashed we are, this is difficult. But if we can succeed, worth it. We will have succeeded in bringing magic into our mundane world.

Hopefully, we can succeed in doing this while keeping the horror in the supernatural at bay. Of course, demons plague us no matter what.

☹️▲☹️ I have heard **hypnosis**, like was done to Kevin Spacey in that movie, is considered play acting by many conventional psychologists. Of course, when we play act, all sorts of changes happen that could turn our lives upside down. We have to take our silliness very seriously.

☹️▲☹️ ARAFAT. It's pretty stupid if

Arafat's news organ praised the very people who undermining his embryonic Palestinian State. Spoiling all he is trying to do.

MIKE WEBER

mysterious destinations

☹️▲☹️ Who knows, **Helen** may yet be considered a hero to the troops in ROTC. I knew a fellow who went to West Point for a time. And he claims the men's heroes were the Century Men, who, for infractions, had had to march around an area for over a hundred hours. Another set of heroes were men, who, despite the grueling West Point regimen, somehow remained fat.

☹️▲☹️ AMAZON REVIEWS I had an **alternate timeline** in which Germany wins both World Wars. But it's not as bad as it sounds. The Kaiser's regime falls during the '30s to be replaced by a Social Democratic regime. And, under the Social Democrats, Germany wins World War II against a fascist France and Italy. As for the Nazis and Hitler, the Social Democrats defeated them when they rose to power during the '30s. The Nazis were defending the Kaiser who was very unpopular at the time, and they faded away after that.

Also, Turkey circles the Black sea. And the Jewish State is Eretz-Uganda as in *Bring on the Jubilee*.

☹️▲☹️ IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE. I agree that if the **bastards** control our life, we're done for. Even if they control it to the extent of making us less democratic, less free. Even to the extent that fear and dread of them permeates our lives.

I don't think that's happening quite yet. I don't like Ashcroft's measures. And I think airline security and mail security have gone way beyond what actually protects us.

On the other hand, we didn't go it alone in Afghanistan. A plus. And we have freed most people arrested under those draconian laws. So I've been told.

☹️▲☹️ ct. Me. To be a **Sabra**, like my friend's Israeli relatives suggested, my sister would have to be born again in several ways.

☹️▲☹️ Sure, SF as science extrapolated into **alternate timelines** would be *A Transatlantic Tunnel, Hurrah!* One novel where the science was very very different was John Brunner's *Times without Number* (1962), where the Spanish Armada conquers England and there is time travel technology in our time.

Of course, the science could be that that era isn't as developed as ours is scientifically. Like Keith Roberts *Pavane*, where the Spanish Armada conquers England and the Church allows people to get the benefits of technology only very slowly.

As far as I'm concerned, the science in Science Fiction could be in the idea that there are alternate worlds. Just the Spanish Armada conquering England would be science fiction.

☹️▲☹️ I would imagine it would have been easy to get a photo of the young Tibetan Lama. That might not prove that **Haliburton** spoonfed him. Of course, a friend of mine says it doesn't matter. That Haliburton wrote an entertaining book. For me, it does matter: it's part of his charm. And his book's entertainment value.

☹️▲☹️ I had plenty of trouble with scanners in **Windows 98**. I finally broke down and bought a new one with a USB, and it's working fine.

☹️▲☹️ ct. GHLIII. I tend to agree with you that probably less people were killed because of **Sherman's** bloody and ruthless measures. The blowing up of the bridges, the laying waste of large areas, the hardship from foraging troops all probably meant fewer deaths in the long run.

But it's a choice that makes me queasy.

☹️▲☹️ ct. R.B. Cleary. It's no wonder people bought **Crindleman's** Coffee. Americans are always rooting for the underdog. And between it and Salada Tea in that commercial, it was the underdog.

☹️▲☹️ ct. N. Brooks. **Distillation** was first practiced by the alchemists from at least several centuries A.D. Monks used it in the Middle Ages to distill hard liquor, which they considered an elixir of the life. Not as powerful as the fabled elixir but powerful. And distilling it was considered part of alchemy. The monks apparently didn't have much experience with violent drunkenness.

Hard liquor was first distilled in the early 16th Century. And during that Century distillation was put to all sorts of practical and fun purposes. Including torturing cats. For a time it was a fad of sorts.

☹️▲☹️ Same here. I don't feel much after some **traumatic** experience until later. I didn't have rage about bin Laden for a day or so. I know what I'm like, and I knew a volcano was about to erupt; so I avoided TV that day.

GARY BROWN
all things must pass

☹️▲☹️ It could be that **George Harrison** was not the "Quiet Beatle," but the least publicity seeking among them.

EVE ACKERMAN

guilty pleasures 21

☺▲☺ What makes everything different after 9-1-1 is that we are looking at the same things through different eyes. So we can't help but see them differently.

☺▲☺ What makes it good to go to an Ivy League school is that you're very employable. Some **Harvard** grad student friends of mine were getting jobs in sociology. Unheard of at Northeastern.

Of course, I bet the same is true for Yale. And to a lesser extent for Brandeis.

☺▲☺ An example of a writer "stealing" from life. Lois McMaster Bujold told how she wrote the first chapter to one of her Vorkosigan novels. A person shot with a certain ray became helpless. She said she was nursing a baby at the time. And she merely transferred her ways of caring for the baby to the heroine space captain in saving her helpless shipmate.

☺▲☺ How about the title *Pirate's Value*? You know the Oscar Wilde quote: "a cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

I can see why you wouldn't want to jump at that title. ...*Pirate's Treasure* wouldn't be too bad, though.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. With the **Israeli cousins** of my friend, there was an old world charm; it was not an oxymoron. And wisdom (although I don't know how much wisdom was in their politics). They had some great perceptions from their scientific researches in psychology. Plus they had some from that rather unscientific experiment, life. I have always believed that scientific method needs horse sense and, in them, you have it.

☺▲☺ ct. Larson. I have **MS** too. But so far its ravages have been minor rather than major. If they do become major: and I have trouble balancing myself and suffer great weakness: that's going to be the time to stop my weightlifting and walking.

SFPA

egboo poll & ballot results 2001

☺▲☺ Certainly the results do not boost **my ego**. But, of course, our egos should not depend on what other people think of us but on our honest appraisal of the situation. Notice I use the word **SHOULD**.

By the way, congratulations Jeff, Guy, Liz and the two Garys.

JEFFREY COPELAND

bartland's unfamiliar quotations. pt 2.

☺▲☺ The problem with **good** and evil is that we have to feel them or it's unlikely we're going to act on them. We have to be enraptured by good and disgusted by evil. And if you don't feel them, you're in trouble. Double trouble if you're enraptured by evil and disgusted by good.

☺▲☺ A childbirth in a **movie** reminds of this one post-World War II movie where the public was shocked to see a childbirth scene. Which the makers had copped from an educational film.

Can anyone remember that film for me?

☺▲☺ In all honesty, I think the mentality engendered by **Watergate** helped bring the celebrity journalist and the demotion of serious reporting. Journalism learned all the wrong lessons from it.

In fact, in many journalists' eyes, Monicagate was the equivalent of

Watergate.

🍷▲🍷 So all **intelligent beings** in the universe are brothers under the skin. Step up and shake the claws of this insectoid.

🍷▲🍷 Douglas Coupland was singing the praises of the **new economy**. Info at our fingertips meant we would no longer make the same old mistakes. Also, the state would wither away in a sort of reverse Marxist development. Doug didn't count on bad judgment.

🍷▲🍷 For obvious reasons, we have to have modicum of literacy to have democracy. But **education** doesn't mean that we won't be irrational. In fact, it may mean we can justify our irrationality that much better.

🍷▲🍷 I think Arthur Clarke got the idea that the only good **President** would be forced into the office kicking and screaming from H.L. Mencken. Who thought that legislators should be chosen like jurors. And that the only good legislators would be forced into office kicking and screaming.

THE END

The Gore Nightmare

Share, for a fleeting moment, Al Gore's daily dream: that what counted in Florida a year ago was the intent, rather than the actual practice, of voters. And today he's the one running the White House.

The truth is that in the aftermath of Sept. 11 we're probably better off, in the short term, with George W. Bush. But not for the reasons usually cited.

The Bush foreign-policy team gets exceptionally high marks. But a Gore foreign-policy team—Dick Holbrooke at

But the real reason a President Gore would have more difficulty, under identical circumstances, is that the political right wouldn't have given him the leeway and support that President Bush has received.

In the same situation, the vocal right in Congress would have blamed Sept. 11 on the "weakness" of the Clinton-Gore policies. Jesse Helms would be ranting about the crippling of the CIA that began with Jimmy Carter and accelerated under Bill Clinton. (Somehow the Ronald Reagan, Bill Casey and George H.W. Bush years don't count.) The critics would go on to assert that capitulating to the Chinese with a semi-apology when they downed a U.S. plane only encouraged Osama bin Laden.

If President Gore had waited almost four weeks to militarily respond—as President Bush prudently did—does anyone doubt the congressional mullahs would have embellished the "weakness" charge with protests about the pitiful state of the American military? (Remarkable, isn't it, how quickly this administration turned a decaying mess into a lean, mean fighting machine—just like the Kennedy administration 40 years ago when it rapidly closed the missile gap.)

Recent history provides a guide to the response of the congressional right once a conflict starts. In 1999, House Republicans refused to support the Clinton/NATO bombing campaign in Kosovo *after* it was launched. The GOP House and Senate whips, Tom DeLay and Don Nickles, both suggested the atrocities in Kosovo were more the fault of Mr. Clinton than war criminal Slobodan Milosevic. A few months earlier, when the U.S. bombed Saddam Hussein, Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott said it was done to deflect from President Clinton's impeachment problems—presumably with the complicity of

Defense Secretary Bill Cohen and Gen. Hugh Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

On homeland security there has been some criticism of President Bush, but it has been relatively mild. But suppose it had been Democrat Seth Waxman as attorney general and Robert Mueller as the new Gore-appointed FBI director when the same hijackers did exactly what they did.

Nawaq Alhazmi and Khalid Almihdhar, who drove the plane into the Pentagon, were on the CIA's "watch list" of potential terrorists; Almihdhar, the government knew, met with the al Qaeda in Kuala Lumpur nearly two years earlier. Yet this information wasn't shared and both men came into and traveled freely around the U.S. In August, the Justice Department turned down a request to search the computer of a Minnesota man—who sought to learn to fly a plane without takeoffs or landings, and who was labeled a terrorist by French intelligence. He now is suspected of being an accomplice.

Perhaps all this is unavoidable in an open society. But envision the harangues from Orrin Hatch about the administration's ACLU mindset that gave the terrorists free rein.

Top House GOP sleuth Dan Burton, no doubt, would have found some Arab contribution to the Gore-Lieberman campaign and launched a new round of headline-grabbing witch hunts. When that fizzled—all Burton investigations do—he would have turned to a government that, eight weeks after anthrax attack, still

couldn't tell us whether the culprit was foreign or domestic.

The full-moon crowd would have gone into conspiracy hysterics if these anthrax-laden letters had been sent to Dick Arme and a handful of radio talk show hosts.

Then there would have been the economic stimulus package. In addition to extended unemployment benefits, temporary tax cuts, New York City rebuilding aid and bailouts for the insurance industry, the Gore White House might have overreached for items like more highway security (building roads), or have placated labor allies by proposing collective bargaining rights for all public safety workers.

The DeLay-Arme criticism would have been vicious. Yet the Bush White House, under the guise of economic stimulus, is trying to pay off all of the campaign contributors and K Street lobbyists who didn't get a piece of the earlier tax cut, a move that is far more injurious and costly.

There would have been constructive critics in the Republican ranks. Dick Lugar, Chuck Hagel and John McCain would have been every bit as honest in any critique of Democratic war plans as they are today. Lawmakers like Fred Thompson would have avoided cheap-shot hearings and House Speaker Dennis Hastert would have sought the same bipartisan support that Democrats Dick Gephardt and Tom Daschle are offering today.

There is a need for legitimate argument and disagreement over economic policy and the criminal-justice approach, and certainly over sending young American men and women into harm's way. Such a debate will escalate in the coming weeks and months, just as it did during previous conflicts.

But if Al Gore had been president, the narrow right would have turned that desirable debate into a vindictive, petty one.

Politics & People

By Albert R. Hunt



State, Sam Nunn at Defense, Leon Fuerth as national security adviser and George Mitchell as a roving trouble-shooter—would be equal in experience, expertise and resolve. They also would be bolder.

Today's basic policy formulation—state-building, a strong reliance on the United Nations, and multilateralism—all were articulated during the 2000 campaign by the Democratic candidate. "Bush has bought into the Clinton/Gore policy," notes Democratic Rep. Barney Frank.

A Gore economic team—Larry Summers, former Fannie Mae CEO Jim Johnson and Wall Street whiz Steven Rattner—would be vastly superior to Mr. Bush's team, as would their policies. Certainly, a Gore administration would have pushed a more coherent and comprehensive homeland security initiative.

A President Gore would micromanage the terrorist crisis but would be more knowledgeable. The imponderable would be whether Mr. Gore, in a time of crisis, would be inspiring and constructively challenging, or unctuous and pedantic.



Al Gore