

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #74

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From Max Beckmann's Christ with a Woman
Taken in Adultery (1917).

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ILLOS: p6,10,15,20,25. Ads from the Lucky Mojo Curio Co. catalog selling roots, powders, etc. That will make women fall in love with you, make you lucky at the gambling tables, keep the cops away, enable you to control others (essence of Bendover), etc. *The Front Page*. A truly grotesque painting and example of washing your dirty linen in public. The technic is great but the artist, Max Beckmann, has drawn himself as Christ and his wife as the woman taken in adultery. Since he divorced her shortly afterward, I can't exactly say he is Christ.

A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

A friend of mine's mother died, at ninety-two, in her sleep. And my friend wanted me to do a eulogy she had written. It wasn't somber, it had lots of funny anecdotes. She wanted it to be a celebration of her mother. We have been very good friends for over twelve years and I guess she liked my speaking style from Toastmasters; so she chose me to do the eulogy.

I don't have much experience with Catholic Churches. It helped that, being a liberal Catholic, she had the funeral at a Jesuit Church in Georgetown in Washington, DC. Still, I had to watch what people were doing and try to do the same. I was even invited to eat the bread and drink the wine. So I did – in reverse order, I soon found out. Also, I found out that maybe I shouldn't have: the Eucharist is only for believers. But I wasn't going to ruin that moment for my friend.

Telling what I thought could have easily ruined the moment too. Like, despite the best efforts of the undertaker, her mother looked really ornery. Which is how, from what my friend had told me at other times, she was in life. Another thing that could have ruined the moment was mere mention that my friend had inherited and was now wealthy. She could thumb her nose at the turkeys at work.

Everything in Church was done by women, except the role of pastor. I hear a change from past years when you only saw men near the altar. A very heavyset woman did the singing. It was beautiful, very operatic. Also, I noticed a number of the hymns she sang were Protestant. "Amazing Grace." "Simple Gifts," originally a Shaker song. I would have thought Catholic Churches would have differed from

Protestant Churches in their hymns. A few weeks later another Catholic friend at work told me they often don't.

Finally, it came time for the eulogy. The priest, of course, had done everything possible to make it a solemn occasion. He didn't crack a single joke once during his sermon, which featured quotes from the Bible. And reminders of human mortality and explanations of Catholic doctrine.

The eulogy my friend had written could not have been more out of place. Still, I had to give it my all: hand gestures, enthusiasm, everything. When I came to the end, there was silence. I was hoping the priest would make the first move. But there was nothing. I finally told the audience, "And that's the end"; and sat down. Then the priest got up.

After the service, I told my friend's boy friend I was lost in a Catholic Church. And he said, "We Catholics are lost too but we don't mind."

Afterwards, my friend, her boy friend, some friends of hers, some relatives of hers, and I went to a restaurant called Stars and Stripes. My friend's treat. There I heard a lot of complaints against the Arlington (VA) Parish, very nearby. Apparently they are Hell-Fire Catholics. A faction that shouldn't exist but does. After 9-1-1, one of the priests felt he had to warn people that all who died then would have to burn in purgatory before they got into heaven. My friend did not think that was the time or place.

Also, my friend told us about how the Arlington Parish people didn't believe the Jesuits were Catholic. And they were very pointed about the reason – Jesuits think for themselves. No self-respecting Catholic does that. My friend, by the way, prefers to

go to a Jesuit Church for just that reason.

Then I discovered another type of Catholic in my midst, which I knew existed but didn't. Afterwards, my friend told me about her cousin, who was there. She is a Charismatic Catholic. Also known more sarcastically as a Holy Roller Catholic. I knew someone who belonged to a Charismatic Episcopalian Church; well, there are Charismatic Catholics. Why let the Pentecostals have all the fun? My friend warned me that her cousin would try to take you to faith healings if you didn't watch out. Or exorcisms.

Another subject that night was the Knights of Columbus. My friend's boy friend belongs to them. And gave a short description. It sounds very much like the Masons; only the Catholic Church is heavily involved. I think there are four lower Masonic degrees, and the Knights of Columbus have four degrees.

The next day I went to the cemetery with my friend. In the main building, I saw three portraits without labels. One was the Pope so it could get away without a label. I didn't know the Cardinal, but I guess every Catholic in the area would. Who, on the other hand, would know the Bishop unless they lived right in that Parrish? Which my friend didn't. In a slightly different place was a portrait of Elizabeth Seton, who, I believe, is a Saint. And that had a label on it.

Later a priest did the service at the mausoleum. He kept referring to my friend's mother as Agnes when her name was Alice. I presumed it was her Christian name. But it turned out he had confused the two names. I asked my friend and her boy friend why no one had said anything, and they told me they had been intimidated: he was a monsignor.

A less intimidating man, I have yet to meet. In his late seventies, friendly, garrulous, with apparent health problems. He had Parkinson's bad. He told us about a rather unheroic experience he had had in World War II. In addition, we learned that he had lost several relatives over a short time, and he was going to leave soon to go to his brother's funeral. He kept apologizing for rushing through the funeral service. In short, at that moment, probably more to be pitied than intimidated by.

Catholicism certainly is something I'm not used to.

COMMENTS ON SFPA 225

JEFF COPELAND the southerner 225

👉👉👉 In short, I owe, I owe. It's off to work I go. ...Don't I remember when SFPA due were \$5? Probably not.

👉👉👉 In #4, Jehan gained powers through Spoonerizing words, "Heisenty Uncertainberg Principle." Now we know who the head of the Illuminati is, William Archibald Spooner (1844-1930). He is supposed to have died in 1930, but we know he's still around through his magical powers. When he said, "It is kisstomery to cuss the bride," he was girding for world conquest.

👉👉👉 I hope the reason Trinlay dropped out wasn't finances. Better it should be overextending herself.

👉👉👉 The reason for the lackluster bulk this time around is not that everyone is burnt out, but it was Christmas. Participation always decreases around the holidays; SFPAn's are too busy celebrating.

NED BROOKS

the newport news 201

🍷▲🍷 It looks like Blaine's porn was higher class porn. For some reason, there was a lot of that in the '20s and '30s. After the '60s, all porn decided to crawl around in the mud. No more quarto leatherbound editions. No more classical illusions.

🍷▲🍷 I've never heard of someone advocating New Mexico be the Zionist state. I would think Arizona would be better. At least there has been a sizable Jewish settlement there.

The idea that the Jewish state might be in Uganda had its genesis thusly. In 1903, the British government suggested that the world's Jews settle in Uganda. The suggestion was rejected by a Zionist Congress in 1905. If they had accepted, which would probably have been farfetched, I guess the final product would be something like Eretz-Uganda in *Bring on the Jubilee*. Or my erstwhile unpublished novella.

🍷▲🍷 My family's scattered too. When I was kid, there was only an aunt that decided to live in Denver, and rarely visited the family thereafter. Everyone else at least lived in the Middle Atlantic States and was at least a four hour drive away. The farthest from us was the Harrisburg, PA contingent.

Now, the closest relatives of our surviving family live in California. I'm in Virginia. Four hours away but it seems too far for relatives these days. I have a cousin who went to live in Afghanistan for God sakes. Because of the Taliban, she may even be farther away by now, in Turkmenistan.

🍷▲🍷 I'm glad someone other than Jon Benet's parents did the killing. The problem is, at this point, he has gotten away

from the incompetent and publicity seeking Boulder police. And will probably remain scot-free.

🍷▲🍷 Dr. Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736), who created degrees Fahrenheit. According to the BBC Science & Discovery site, for some reason, he wanted to make 0° when salt water freezes. And you have salt and ice. Which agreed with the standard of an Olaus Roemer. Using salt water freezing as the gold standard, Fahrenheit found the freezing point of unsalted water as 30°, later 32°. And the average body temperature as 90°, later of course 98.6°.

🍷▲🍷 You're right. People can shoot off cannons seriously as part of the *1812 Overture*. There are parts that seem almost to call for a cannon. On the other hand, others have done it as a joke. I guess it depends on how loud the cannon is.

🍷▲🍷 I've eaten muesli, at least the American version. And I like it. It's sweet, with an almost trail mix of things. The problem is there are too many carbohydrates in it for a diabetic like me.

🍷▲🍷 All my Anti-Virus did for me was stop me from installing applications. Also, it seemed to take up memory and make everything slower. So I uninstalled it and now I'm living dangerously.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Metcalf. I bet Cavour was named after Count Cavour, or Count Camillo Benso di Cavour, (1810-1861). One of the 'liberators' of Italy. Who secured the kingship of Italy for his boss, the king of Sardinia-Piedmont.

As for the anti-gravity device in Well's First Man on the Moon, that was my understanding. At the time, gravity was



believed to be a phenomena closely akin to magnetism. And you could build a protection against it. And have the Moon's gravity pull you to the Moon.

Of course, Norm is right to object if Cavour was supposed to have dung it out of the ground.

ct. Guy. Chall 14. Thanks for your compliment on my *Cyrano Challenger* article. I didn't get many comments on it. I don't know whether that was due to disinterest. Or that readers didn't know what to say.

ct. Lynch. Maybe carbon dioxide from global warming could be stored at the South Pole in enormous kegs of beer. ...Right!!

ct. Hughes. Sanity seems to be coming back. Men these days bring their

toddlers into the locker room at the local swimming pool, both boys and girls. It used to be they would be suspicious of you if you looked at their kids' cute antics. But now it seems a sign of solidarity. You feel the same way about their kids that they do. Now only when there are no kids there, is the locker room a place of suspicion.

ct. Janice. Bestiality spams.

Yes, I have been getting many messages that beckon me to go on the web and join them in a little *Barnyard Fun*. The swine!!

ct. Jeff. The loophole in the Constitution is that foreigners have been granted no rights. The hell with a tribunal! You can jail aliens without a trial. I am sure it's legal. I am also sure it's completely against what America stands for.

I might go for it, however, if we were doing anything with this abrogation of human rights. But it seems all for show. As far as I can tell, most of the foreigners who have been arrested and held without trial were later freed. There was no evidence against them except maybe a passing acquaintance with some terrorist or other. Or maybe just because they were Arab.

Many of those remain in jail or have been given over to the court system only because they had committed some infraction of the immigration laws. Not really enough reason for our abrogation of human rights.

Ironically, there seems to be no interest in actual sources that have led to terrorists and plots. Pursuing them would be nonstarters. A starter would be a source of information that proved the liberals, and their obsession with civil liberties, silly and whining. Or that proved John Wayne at Iwo Jima could handle bin Laden head over heels above any policeman.

What are these sources. Well, for

one, the houses bin Laden abandoned in Kandahar. Afghanis and reporters got to the houses in Kandahar first. And that yielded a treasure trove of intelligence about terrorists all over the world. Singapore, Canada, and the Malaysia have identified terrorists from al Qaeda videos found there. And prevented terrorists acts against Americans.

Another source is the wreckage and bodies of Tora Bora. Which we haven't even started to look through. Fortunately, for the Bushites, no reporters or Afghanis have either.

Another source is information gotten from tailing suspects. It is verboten in the Ashcroft Justice Department to tail suspected terrorists so they can lead you to bigger fish. They have to be picked up. Leaving them at large would make the public feel less secure.

I'm not certain Ashcroft's approach doesn't make the public less secure. And make it more difficult for us to find the big fish than the strictest application of civil liberties by the most liberal court. Senior police officials complained that this was disastrous. Fortunately for Ashcroft, nobody is listening to them.

There was a big deal about the fact that our laws forbid us to look into Zacarias Moussaoui's computer for evidence of terrorism. Apparently when people did, it yielded junk. Lots on crop dusters and the weather. I bet if we had tailed Moussaoui in August, he would have led us to the 9-1-1 conspirators. And we could have prevented the whole catastrophe.

End of screed.

ct. Guy Chall 15. They are reprinting Al Capp from 1949 on the web. And at least the first Shmoo tale has been told. So 1948 would be about right. Al Capp jokingly complains about getting poison pen

letters and being beaten up by young kids, because he killed off the Shmoo. So he promises they will be back.

GUY H. LILLIAN III

rear-ender '01

The year of your marriage and sane job doesn't seem to be such a rear ender. My big event this year – other than my first appearance at DSC – was getting an interlibrary loan from Italy. It's big to me. Of course, whenever I talk about it to other people, they just yawn. And wonder what the big deal was about.

The joke of the '80s, which I overheard on the bus, was that in the Pentagon courtyard there should be a café called Ground Zero Café. The first place an A-bomb would fall. Since 9-1-1, it's no longer funny because the Pentagon has, for other reasons, become Ground Zero.

RICH LYNCH

variation on a theme #10

I can't give blood either.

Because of hepatitis, which I probably never had. They better watch out or everyone in the country will find themselves exempt from giving blood.

"Joy to the World" originally from a Handel tune? I wouldn't doubt it. A lot of pop songs are classical melodies set to un-classical words. The songwriters figure no one will know the difference.

ct. Me. I of course had a different perspective on public transit. My workplace is in Virginia and my home is in Virginia. It still took long enough to get home on 9/11.

☺▲☺ I once did navigate my way to somewhere in Phila by watching the signs. And they were prominent enough at the time. Of course, if they had changed them then, like recently, maybe I might have been permanently lost.

☺▲☺ ct. Norm Metcalf. Hobson's choice. If you have a participant write the history, there are going to be axes to grind. If you have someone disinterested, he may not know what he's talking about. He wasn't there.

☺▲☺ ct. Guy Lillian. The Japanese do a lot of things that are boring. I once saw a Japanese exhibit – at the National Gallery, I believe. It came with a film on the tea ceremony. There a tea ceremony was conducted by one of the renowned experts in it. I think the idea was that the ceremony was supposed to have calming effect on you. It didn't. I was trying too hard not to fall asleep.

☺▲☺ ct. Steve Hughes. Of course, the Democrats are still the Tax and Spend Party. The Repubs' big thing is that they wish to cut taxes. So they are the Un-tax and Spend Party. As for Federal employees decreasing during Clinton's term in office, who knows? We are using contractors now not civil servants. And I don't know whether anyone is counting contractors.

☺▲☺ Bush has certainly been lucky. My belief is that charisma is to a great extent a matter of luck. Some are better able to exploit it than others. Ronald Reagan certainly was. For his results, he should have gone down in infamy among Conservative Republicans rather than be a demigod. For others, charisma is luck alone.

Harry Truman, under other

circumstances, would have been considered that "Little Man," who tried to fit into Roosevelt's shoes. Ike had to wait until he was dead to become charismatic.

On the other still, Jimmy Carter, under other circumstances, might have been considered a charismatic leader. If there hadn't been recession and inflation. Come to think of it, I wouldn't doubt that Richard Nixon would have been considered charismatic under the right circumstances. And, given his personality, he would be the least likely candidate.

Dubya, I have to admit, has the charm to shine in a situation like 9-1-1. As long as he's not asked to speak extemporaneously.

☺▲☺ I think of the Bakshi *Lord of the Rings* as the *Reader's Digest* Condensed Version.

ARTHUR HLAVATY derogatory reference 98

☺▲☺ For a time I was pleasantly surprised by the willingness of the Administration and the American people to refrain from blaming "Arabs" and "Muslims." But I've come to the conclusion there is a lot of hypocrisy in it. People are watching Muslim Arabs for any suspicious conduct right now. It's Arab foreigners who are arrested and held without trial.

And, given Al Quaeda, there are good reasons for doing this. But also there are some not so good reasons.

☺▲☺ Nicholas Baker forgets there are pluses and minuses to every form of preservation. Holding the hard copy on the shelves certainly has a lot of minuses. Especially if it's paper made during the pulp era. That disintegrates like mad. Sometimes

all you need is a touch.

🍷▲🍷 The paranormal as a Trickster archetype. Yes and no. The people who are into paranormal research generally really want to prove paranormal powers exist. Of course, this means they are just waiting to be tricked. Often they trick themselves.

The biggest trick is what they're proving is nothing. The sole objective of paranormal research is to prove there are phenomena with no natural explanation. What can you say when there is no natural explanation? We're ignorant. Not an especially abnormal state for us humans.

This is not to say what they are trying to prove is false or unimportant; just that it can't be proven by science.

🍷▲🍷 I'm afraid I was a slow learner. I had dyslexia. Even now reading can be difficult for me. I mirror wrote. My mother claimed that she got me out of it by pulling my hair. The way I remember it, I one day looked at something I had written the wrong way and it looked wrong. So I rewrote it in the other direction, the right way, and it looked right. From that time on, I no longer mirror wrote.

You know, of course, about the organization Mothers Against Dyslexia (DAM)?

🍷▲🍷 No, not the Postmusical era, the Postcomposer era. We still honor music; just not that by current composers.

🍷▲🍷 Maybe it was bad Vonnegut did not get writer's block and stop writing while he was ahead. Maybe it was good that Edward Albee got writers' block and instead decided to adapt other's works into plays.

However, I recently a review of the revival of his play *Tiny Alice*. The reviewer was completely mystified by it. I saw it's

meaning right away. In fact, it seems to be a religious commonplace.

🍷▲🍷 About Asperger's syndrome, more mild than autism, I read a *Time* article recently. And it claimed we're all a little bit crazy. We have some syndrome or other just to a lesser degree. Suspicious rather than paranoid, introverted rather than schizophrenic, moody rather than manic depressive.

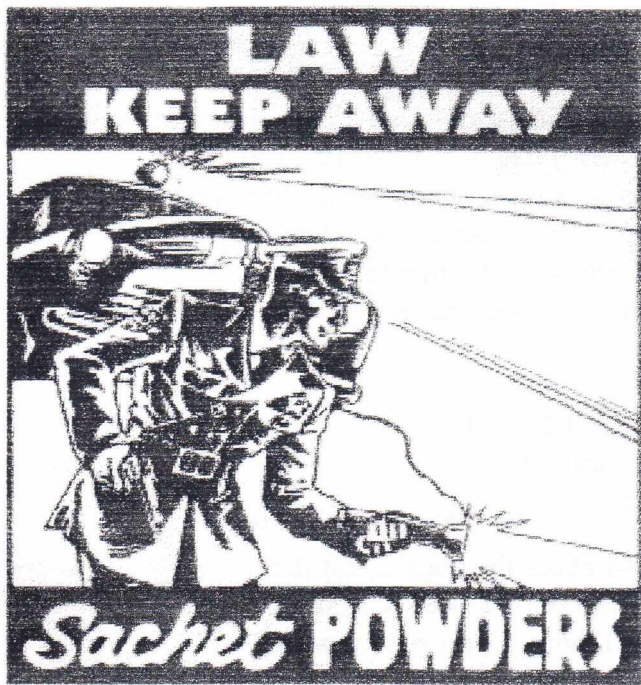
GUY H. LILLIAN III spiritus mundi 187

🍷▲🍷 You don't know what to write about. How about the book about the molester who started after he himself was molested? I thought you were working on that.

🍷▲🍷 Guy, about exercise and diet, we'll never look like Steve Hughes or Arnold Schwarzenegger. Never. We may always be on the fat side and dumpy side. I at least will. I have been looking at my relatives on my mother's side, which I take after. My mothers remembers them as muscular and athletic. I remember them as fat with an extra special large stomachs, like I used to be. I bet I look like them if they had taken up exercise and diet.

I figure our shape isn't the big thing. The big thing is what we do for our health. Regular exercise. Something for the heart and something for the muscles. More veggies and fruits in our meals and fewer sweets and fats.

For now, I have become an exercise addict. I don't feel right without my daily exercise, even though sometimes I have to do without it. The only place where I'm really bad is fat. I probably eat too much meat and butter.



🍷▲🍷 ct. Southerner. So we can vote for *Challenger* as Zine of the Year? Well, I better look like doing so. I just hadn't been thinking of it as a SFPazine. It's a really great zine you got there.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. What brought on my Popeye illo? I was talking to my friend at work, Alicia. I forget a good deal of the conversation, but she told me Shelley Duval had played Olive Oyl in the movie. And that Shelley looked like Olive. I was curious. I had a helluva time finding illos of Shelley as Olive. But I did. And she did look like Olive. Also, I liked the Popeye illos so much I decided to put them in my zine. Just like I liked the illos from the *City Paper's* flying saucer article last ish.

🍷▲🍷 Mr. Lovin, child molester that he was, did what was typical these days.

Suspect the worst perversion of whatever great person he was talking about. It is the bane of our biography. There's no proof that Dodgson ever did less than the decent thing. His desires may have been pedophile but his actions never. And there is certainly no proof he was Jack the Ripper.

🍷▲🍷 Unfortunately, I suspect Jon Benet would not have been strong enough to make her adult killer bleed, unless she could get in a lucky bite or scratch beforehand.

🍷▲🍷 No, I don't think bin Laden miscalculated that we would make total war against him. He was realistic about that. He miscalculated that he could somehow rally all the Arabs and drive us from the Middle East. And then conquer the rest of the world for Allah. There he was indulging in Millenarian fantasies.

🍷▲🍷 World peace was the great soliloquy of the '50s and '60s, so I'm not surprised Lee Marvin ranted about it in the role of an astronaut waiting to be rescued. I guess these days the great soliloquy would have something to do with ecology, feminism or diversity.

By the way, the Desilu Playhouse had a reputation for doing drama that sounded controversial but at base was commonplace. I remember *Mad Magazine* doing a parody of it where male and female civil rights marchers couldn't get their bunks open on the train. That was one of the few times, a caricature of Desi Arnaz claimed, a controversial topic was broached on the show – berth control.

🍷▲🍷 I got a letter from Harry Andruschak recently detailing the horrendous medical procedure he's been through.

♥▲♥ If I'm not mistaken, *Reptilicus* seemed to me a put-on. The monster bird was too ridiculous to be taken seriously. Made from a combo of an erector set and Mr Potatohead kit. The feathers from the local five and dime. Also, the plot was too campy to be taken seriously. Why was the general giving that young man all that power?

Of course, it doesn't reach the level of *The Making of Humanoids*.

♥▲♥ I don't know whether Rex Stout intended Nero Wolfe to be that fat. In one early novel, he had Wolfe say he was 1/7 of a ton. Or 266 lbs. No more than ten pounds more than me in my prime. On the other hand, the stereotype is Nero Wolfe's weight is 500 lbs. if he's an ounce.

♥▲♥ Maybe Hans von Hammer is not a Nazi, but he has to have an image problem. Of course, Gary was able to accept that somehow he wasn't a Nazi and you can, at least for the purposes of the comic.

♥▲♥ Actually, I think the 9-1-1 hijackers gave their own names because they had failed to assimilate the lessons of their terrorist training; namely, to hide your name under all circumstances. Of course, they took their cue from bin Laden. While bin Laden's defenders in the Arab world insist that he can't have been responsible for 9-1-1, in his public pronouncements they broadcast, he all but tells you his men did it.

♥▲♥ I could take a look at lower Manhattan, I could become nauseous and angry; but it still wouldn't be like someone I know personally dying. Don't get me wrong, I take 9-1-1 personally. Just that I can't take it that personally.

♥▲♥ ct. Sheila. Unfortunately for dyed in wool liberals like us, the lesson of 9-1-1 was Conservatism. Bush, as of now, not only has wild popularity; he has coattails. I am not certain the 2002 election won't be a rout for Democrats. It's not the polls. I don't know what you can tell from polls. It's my gut reaction about how people are reacting.

Whether Bush can play the national security card through 2004 is another thing.

♥▲♥ ct. Liz. Not only does the mystery novel bring order out of chaos; it does it through reason. Probably the only place in mass culture where reason is the *sine qua non*.

♥▲♥ ct. Toni. John Ashcroft advocates holding terrorists suspects without trial yet he abhors examining their gun registrations. The explanation is simple: one of the jobs of his war on terrorism is boosting his Conservative image. Having such an image is what got him to high places in Missouri. And he figures it will do the same for the Bush Administration. Apparently, he doesn't wish to acknowledge that because he spent too much attention to boosting his Conservative image in Missouri, his image there ultimately went bust.

♥▲♥ ct. Gary R. I guess with all this display of skeletons, the Mexicans are less afraid of death than we are. Certainly less afraid of dead bodies.

♥▲♥ Fingers crossed that Boo is on the verge of a home which her SSI can afford. The only way the poor can afford the rents these days: and food and clothes: is through chicanery. Something, I'm sure, Boo wouldn't be good at.

NORM METCALF

tyndallite 1/02

ct. Me. Since Burroughs' central underground sun has so many problems, he should have heated his inner earth with a heat pump. You follow me of course, Norm? And since a hollow earth would have trouble with gravitation, maybe a negative time warp holds everything up. You follow me there too?

In short, you're probably right: no hollow Earth. But it is an idea that people have found attractive over the years. Ever since John Cleves Symmes in the early 19th Century. Even when we know it's nonsense, it creeps into action adventure tales. Like Tarzan's. Or Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (1871). Like Atlantis and Lemuria, scientific evidence can never kill it. Only a change in the zeitgeist.

I'm afraid I took Burrough's title literally, *Beyond the Farthest Star*. And thought that the eleven planets with the same orbit were therefore beyond the farthest star.

When I said John Campbell, Jr. didn't understand other cultures, I was merely exchanging whimseys with George.

For me, the line between hi-tech thrillers and SF is very narrow. If the truth be told, non-existent. I think, for you, it's probably wide enough to separate the two.

In *The Flying Inn*, the Turks surreptitiously take over Britain. It reminds of an idea for an SF story/novel I had. An alternate universe where the Arabs remain the dominant force in the world. I seem to remember that they had a device that allowed for telepathy, a sort of telepathy phone. Also, medicine had progressed to the

extent that people were living to 120 years. In addition, they got to America and were dealing with people like Sheik Sitting Bull.

For now, *King, of the Khyber Rifles* seems to have been forgotten even though Afghanistan has taken on some importance in our lives. And there are some vague similarities between the Afghans in the Khinjan caves and the Taliban and Al Quaeda in their caves. Oh well, the novel will return to popularity when Mundy has a revival. Which he has to.

As for the Afghan caves, our Binker, being the spellunker that she is, wanted to warn the U.S. government about them. Knowing what we know now, the U.S. government should have listened. But, at the time, she was one of a thousand voices. Those who wished to attack Iraq were a lot louder. And more worthless.

ct. Ned Brooks' News. If the two thousand year old computer was an analog for calculating latitude, its objective would probably be to figure out where the Sun was in the sky.

ct. Ned Brooks' Shelf. Davidson probably had less problem after a while getting rides from fans. The German cars, including the Volkswagens, have priced themselves out of the U.S. market.

ct. S. Hughes. We've heard a lot about Verne's Nautilus; how about Robert the Conqueror's airplane? Could that fly? I have become convinced that Verne knew his technology but he used some smoke and mirrors in applying it to a fictional world.

ct. Tom Feller. The same seems to be true of Verne's rocket/cannon shell which went to the Moon. It had shock-absorbers, but probably not enough to do the

job. With both that and the above, he is in good company. Greg Benford admits in the current *Challenger* this has been the hard SF tact unto this day. John Varley having used it for a recent novel.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy H. Lillian III. Chall.

Even if Fred Hoyle's science is outdated in *The Black Cloud*, it is still SF. It was at least science then – although highly speculative. That's my take; you may have a different one, Norm.

GARY R. ROBE tennessee trash #45

🍷▲🍷 Boy, do I admire you. I can't plan in advance important things much less pranks.

🍷▲🍷 Unpack your *Crouching Tiger* action figures. And enjoy 'em. Who knows about the vagaries of the collectibles market. A friend sent my wife an article from *The Onion*, how everything these days is collectible. How even extension cords are. How a certain Dutchboy paint in eggshell, made during a particular year, is.

On the other hand, I think it's dubious that the collectibles from a film, even a good one, will retain their price past the film's popularity. The same friend got "Starwars dollies" in the '70s. And decided to save them for 'prosperity.' She sold them at a loss recently.

Of course, when enough people have destroyed their Starwars dollies and they become rare, they will likely be worth something.

On the other hand, you can have fun with the *Crouching Tiger* action figures now. Like I have with my Gorbachev doll. My sister gave it to me and she is angry that I took it out of its box. But it's great. You

press his stomach and he honks. Everyone I show it to laughs heartily.

🍷▲🍷 Banner making software seems to have vanished since the death of the Dot-Matrix printer. I remember banners for every occasion at work. Now you see hardly a banner.

🍷▲🍷 A swim New Years eve: that's a great idea. Except from age and habit, I would prefer to be in bed shortly after twelve. And six hours sleep would hardly be enough for me.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. It's no wonder the split up of Eastman Chemical was stopped. When preparing for it pissed away all the company profits, the stockholders must have been hopping mad.

Reading further, I have to ask why are there so many fuggheads at the top of the heap at Eastman? You have spoken about some other bonehead things they did. Like not keeping drum quantities of solvents.

I have to say, however, that I am impressed that the management was interested in safety. Most managements don't give a fig about that.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Sheila Strickland. My opinion has been the hell with the prisoners. International Law is basically law by courtesy, despite all the war crimes trials we have been hearing about. If we figure out reasons why their troops don't count under the Geneva Convention, others will have the right to figure out why our troops, our diplomats, etc. don't count. So we should have a good reason why we are violating the Geneva Convention.

I know Ashcroft has claimed that he had some important intelligence from interrogating those prisoners. Which is the

only purpose behind not practicing the Geneva Convention. And there was one bit that surfaced several days ago. It's one of those bits where some Saudis and Yemenis are going to commit acts of sabotage in Yemen.

However, we don't know if they're even in Yemen. And we don't know what they are going to do. Typical of the warnings we have been getting. At least they had some faces so the Yemeni police might be able to identify them and the dastardly deed they are planning.

Even this little bit of intelligence, I'm still skeptical of. I gather from reading news stories about what is going on in Guantanamo that the interrogators haven't the foggiest notion of what they're doing. They were asked recently to separate the al Qaeda from the Taliban. They couldn't. They didn't know enough. I thought the reason d'être for having them in Guantanamo was that they were all al Qaeda.

Also, the interrogators admit to not knowing when the prisoners are lying and when they're telling the truth. Only when they're defiant and when they aren't. In short, we don't know enough to do a decent interrogation.

In short, this is to help Bush convince the American people he is doing something. Which he has done – in spades. Also it is to tell his Right Wing supporters that he isn't bowing to no New World Order. No Geneva Convention is going to stop him.

In short, in my book, not good reason enough for violating the Geneva Conventions, even if we're basically being humane.



ct. Jeffrey Copeland. 9-1-1 government has been a lesson in overkill.

Similar hijackings have been avoided by the simple expedient of locking the cockpit. Certainly Mohammed Atta and his gang would not have bothered if they could not have taken over the pilot's cockpit.

Come to think of it, the usefulness of that ploy may have ended after passengers realized using their plane as a bomb was a possibility. That at least is the theory about why the Pittsburgh flight didn't make it to its destination. The passengers fought back against the hijackers.

TOM FELLER **frequent flyer**



Anita had uninsured motorist coverage. I better look into getting that. Lots of people have told me how they were totaled by an uninsured motorist. And how they got bupkis because of it. One woman in the '70s I knew had to work as a housekeeper in her apartment complex because she didn't have a car and couldn't get to work. Because an uninsured motorist had totaled her car.



Automatic Data Processing sounds like it thought it was Microsoft. And could do as it wished. And tough noogies to everyone else. It turned out it couldn't; you could switch to Playmaxx which gave you a better deal. And gave better service.

A lot of small fry seem to be taking their cue from Microsoft these days. That's why computers and software are so much more complicated.

However, there are some good signs. According to Walter Mossberger's column in the *Wall Street Journal*, Apple has gone in the opposite direction and made the newest iMac simple and easy to use. I am not going to buy one myself: my current computer is adequate and I'm too cheap.



But I'm rooting for it.

♣▲♣ George Bekov, unfortunately for himself, didn't realize how the wind had blown. If he had, he would never have said "I blow your brain." I have thought the office asskissers and politicians were complete wastes over the years. But they do have a simple survival skill – having their ear to the ground.

Of course, you have to have clairvoyance too. And know when the wind will change. The FAA would not have allowed all those passengers to get away with murder on board planes beforehand if they had known 9-1-1 was going to happen. The problem, of course, is Who can foretell the future?

But you have to.

♣▲♣ Having a message sent out one photon at a time might tell when messages are being intercepted. But if, and only if,

there are not too many things that will affect that one photon. Then interference becomes business as usual.

♣▲♣ ct. Me. I have given up my beaker of coffee for a cup because the cafeteria in my building closed, and a cup is more appropriate for the ubiquitous office coffee machines. It was not only that the company that owned the cafeteria went belly up, but the landlords wanted some assurance they would be getting their money. And petitioned the court to evict the company.

♣▲♣ I finally tested how well my files were backed on CDs. I restored five. All looked fine as far as I could tell. Word processing files, they all had the appropriate amount of text. And seemed to say what I had typed.

This is as opposed to files where I used my CD-rewritable like a diskette, dragged the files to it and had them overwrite other files. Occasionally, those files had 0 bytes. Occasionally they were really messed up.

♣▲♣ ct. Janice Gelb. My theory differs from yours. I don't think bin Laden was thinking in terms of loss of life so much as striking at symbols. The Pentagon doesn't have that many people in it. Also, he was interested in what are symbols to him, not symbols to us. America to him is not liberty but capitalism and the military.

For that reason, I believe the hijackers were out to get the CIA headquarters, which, I have been told, is hard to tell from the surrounding buildings; but the passengers in Pennsylvania got them before they could do that. Even before they had to figure out how to do that.

I confess I am the only one with this theory. Most believe it was the White House

that plane was aiming at. But you see why I thought it was the CIA Headquarters.

DAVID SCHLOSSER

peter, pan & merry #41

🍷▲🍷 Maybe getting CJD from eating a corpse would be rare in the U.S. But getting it from a transplant, I hear, might not be. We don't quite know how to deal with prions yet, so I hear.

🍷▲🍷 Oh, I agree: we have some idea of when the mail will arrive but it is a rule of the thumb.

🍷▲🍷 I agree that the retro Hugos are arbitrary and capricious. But I don't think that much more than the Hugos for the year. It's just fun to judge. I admit if the judges were judging baby strollers instead, such quality control would not make it. But judging the Hugos is not a task with such ominous consequences if done wrong.

🍷▲🍷 Sorry, I was thinking about kids that were older than Random. Teenagers don't really like to converse with adults. Random may still be at that age when he talks on and on to them, and adults can't shut him up. Not that they would want to.

🍷▲🍷 Sure, the children of Israel were friends with the Midianites. But with a lot of people, they didn't practice brotherly love. Which, I guess, was my point.

🍷▲🍷 The change in names, I think, was to avoid the antipathy against dealing with Jewish people many Americans had. That's why my Uncle Sam changed the name of my family to Dengrove. I agree Jewish people also tried to 'look more American' to go up in the world. But that was also to avoid the rather mild anti-

Semitism present in the States, where people who looked too 'Jewish' could not get promoted.

🍷▲🍷 I bet 'ski' is slavick for 'son of.' In a lot of places, a name's suffix seems to mean 'son of.' Like Ericsson. Now what does Genderov mean, I wonder?

Regarding my family's original name, I once wrote a novella, which I never finished, about a character who called himself Gendrovus. He latinised his name like people did in the 17th Century. Some of whose traits were carried over to the alternate 20th Century of the story.

Gendrovus was supposed to be modeled on me. But, as in our wishdreams, he was a more competent individual than I am.

🍷▲🍷 I have to agree that Random is a vocation rather than an avocation. He isn't a hobby. Taking care of him is a necessity. And I bet you do it well.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Norm Metcalf. Wouldn't a technothriller be science fiction. I remember when science fiction about the near future was a big thing. Whether it be the atomic war that, fortunately for us, never materialized; or some new blue jet engine. A lot of H.G. Wells' science fiction has to be near future. The only one who is advanced is the lone scientist. Not quite the mad scientist yet.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff Copeland. Ashcroft may wish he could arrest anyone who complains about his policies for aiding and abetting the enemy. Who knows? However, he knows he can't. What he is doing is trying to frame the debate. He is patriotic; they are traitors. And so far he has succeeded in convincing the American people — generally.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don Markstein. There is

another reason why Saudi Arabia is not being bombed: namely, it remains our uneasy ally because of oil and because it remains the enemy of revolution in the Middle East.

On the other hand, Rumsfeld, among others in the Bush Administration, would dearly like to attack Iraq. While I doubt the Baa'thist Saddam even tolerates Muslim fundamentalists in his state, much less supports al Qaeda, he remains an embarrassment to the U.S. To many, we had the Devil in our hands and we let him go free.

☺▲☺ Good for you, you know how to navigate Disneyland. You know to go back into town in order to eat.

There are other tricks to the trade I have heard. A friend of mine said that at *Disneyworld* what she and her son did was go to the rides farthest away first. Then her and her son went on the rides in reverse the usual order. That way she avoided the crowds.

As it was, you got there when there were relatively few people.

☺▲☺ I hope your visit to your ex-girl friend didn't bother Kay. I can't even mention my ex-girl friends around Heidi.

IRV KOCH

offline reader. dec 2001-jan 2002

☺▲☺ I wonder to what extent you can hang on to Kmart securities. It might be worth it if all Kmart needs is better management and less debt to succeed. If this is the end of the line for the Blue Light Special that's another thing entirely.

☺▲☺ You know you can use your computer for faxes if you have to send job applications by fax. I use mine for faxes all

the time. And I and Jeff can use efax to receive faxes by email.

☺▲☺ What you're doing is, as they say, the worst job you'll ever have: looking for a job. Good luck. I would have used employment agencies more if I was looking again. Of course, depending on what occupation you practice, they may not be any better than what you can find on your own. I noticed the ones I had dealings with weren't in any hurry to help someone like me who at the time had no job experience.

☺▲☺ I couldn't do that well on the clerk's tests either. I must have ranked at the bottom of the list on typing. But I aced the professional test they had at the time, the PACE test. You actually got hired off the PACE register too. Managers couldn't avoid it. You can see why the test was done away with almost twenty years ago.

...Good luck with the CDC.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. I haven't seen any more deer, but a fox was very active recently in keeping I and my wife awake.

☺▲☺ You're closer than I to anyone who died on September 11th. I'm a Toastmaster and the Five Star Toastmaster Club was decimated; but I didn't know anyone in it.

☺▲☺ If Meisha Merlin is a big publisher and considered a big one by the big boys, I was wrong. And it is not a small publisher at all but a big publisher.

☺▲☺ ct. Ned B. Maybe it's a rare historical period where there is no war going on. On the other hand, I avoided war in Vietnam. Many people I know avoided it. So war is not human nature. Or what am I and my friends? Chop liver? We're humans,

right?

ct. Norm M. Even if there was no Austronesian blood in North African DNA, the Austronesians still might have been there. Just that whoever they interbred with died out.

I gather that's what happened to the Neanderthals. How else do you explain this. Scientist believe Cro-magnon/Neanderthals hybrids have been found fossilized. But no trace of Neanderthal DNA remains in modern humans.

SHEILA STRICKLAND

revenant #10

I'm going to shock everyone. I tried reading *Lord of the Rings*, and I got bored and stopped after the first book. Of course, given my mindset then, I was bored with a lot of things. Maybe sometime I will give the trilogy another try.

With Richard Reid, you didn't have to look for subtle reasons to be suspicious. It was upfront. He was smelly and dissheveled. His al Qaeda handlers seemed to think he was the perfect agent. That, being a European, he could pass unnoticed. But lots of people noticed him. The airlines. The French. They investigated and let him go. I hear Israel had a sky marshall sit beside him when he flew on El Al.

Then when he started trying to light his shoes that was the last draw.

I wonder if the passengers knew there was something bizarre about Mohammed Atta and his crew. The problem was no one was looking for anything then. But I bet they gave definite signs that they were up to no good.

ct. Me. I think the Scottish Walk

comes first, with its bagpipes and quilts. Then there is the Irish Walk, maybe a day or two later, also with bagpipes and kilts. In addition, I think both are sometime in the Fall. Maybe I'm wrong.

I gather the four hour study hall was not compulsory. It just gave you some time to do your homework so that your time at home was free. Usually, I was told, parents in the '50s didn't like that. They wanted their kids preoccupied with something constructive when they were home. But I guess that particular community liked their kids free after school.

ct. Ned Brooks. I know someone has been going around sending alarmist emails on aspartame. For instance, it causes brain damage. I know a list I receive of school foodservice directors got that email and then some. And I would imagine that there is a campaign elsewhere. However, I was told it was all bunk; and, as far as anyone knows, aspartame is safe.

As long you don't have Phenylketourmia, that is -- which 1 in 5,000 does.

ct. Norm Metcalf. I guess if a flea bites a werewolf and is transformed into a werewolf flea: and it bites you: you're transformed into a mangy dog.Sounds good.

ct. Steve Hughes. Why don't you call the cable company about your fuzzy signal. That's what I, couch potato that I am, do. They get a guy over to fix any reception problem. And, with fuzzy signals, there is a good chance he can fix that.

ct. Liz Copeland. Web generated driver directions are like web generated translations. They can only be

described as nitwit. I got web directions once that would have sent me crashing through a fence near here if I had taken them seriously. Similarly with web translations, I tried reading Google's 'translations' of Spanish websites, and it seemed easier to figure out the meaning from the Spanish.

🍷▲🍷 I agree with you. It was wise of Bush to hide himself immediately after the 9-1-1 attacks. Who knows who the plotters were and what they were plotting to do. They had already done a great deal of damage. I don't know whether his policy was as wise afterward, but it was wise then.

GARY BROWN

oblio no. 138

🍷▲🍷 I hope Butchie gets several years of life with his pancreatic cancer rather than six months.

🍷▲🍷 My lawyer friend Larry tells me that Cheney can get away with not making public his Energy Committee proceedings if it had no paid Federal employees. So he can say that, legally, it is not the same as Clinton's medical insurance committee chaired by Hillary.

🍷▲🍷 Right, "Rock n' Roll will never die!" Just mutate. Of course, a lot of things are dying by mutation: science fiction fandom, for instance. What do we have in common with Trekkies? Maybe we would have more in common, if they got Spock's brain.

🍷▲🍷 DAVE'S FAVES. My wife Heidi says that she has something like the "Under-Ease" Anti-Flatulence Underwear. She is wearing an ostomy pouch. And it has a charcoal filter for when gas happens. She

never stinks. However, the pouch inflates like Dave Barry's underpants do in the photo. Among ostomates, it is termed a Hindenburg. On the other hand, there are ways of letting the air out while keeping the stink in.

I was thinking of getting a pair of those underwear. They're very expensive, but if they solve the problem caused by my irritable bowl....

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Yes, I remember that rumor about the State Department being car bombed on 9-1-1. I wonder how that got started. Also, the governor of Maryland wanted to get into the act. And claimed a number of Maryland monuments were in danger. Which I thought vaguely ridiculous at the time, although some will swear to this day that it was a sensible move.

🍷▲🍷 I agree the thinking is that you have to commit revenge or the other side will think you're weak. And they will attack you again and again. Unfortunately, the other side is thinking the same thing. To avoid being seen as weak can cause endless rounds of recrimination like there are between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

This shows actual empathy is in short demand. I hear many Arabs, but not bin Laden, are wondering why we haven't abandoned Israel. 9-1-1 should have taught us our lesson. Of course, it was the reverse lesson. If we were perceived to abandon Israel, we felt we would be considered weak. So we abandoned Yasser.

🍷▲🍷 I don't know whether we were on target in Afghanistan. Capturing bin Laden and dismantling al Qaeda's international network would be more on target. Al Qaeda abandoned Afghanistan so easily because it was really not that



important to them.

☺▲☺ Good for you, being able to cry. That's a path of relieving tension many of us men lose as we get older. And probably a very good one.

☺▲☺ We have had 89° daytime and 82° nighttime temperatures in DC. Of course, not as many as you do. I don't think we had one last summer. But there have been other summers.

☺▲☺ I don't know why my legs don't cramp anymore. I guess my weightlifting and 40 minute power walks have rolled back the arthritis for now.

☺▲☺ ct. Jeff Copeland. It sounds like you should write your Congressman about your mail problems. The post office is supposedly private enterprise and it's supposedly independent the government. But we know better.

☺▲☺ Probably what you say is the best advice: photocopy magazine and newspaper photos first and then scan. My old scanner software had a feature for newspaper and magazine photos, De-screening. It improved things, but it would probably still be best to photocopy then scan.

☺▲☺ ct. Guy Lillian. Concerning college wear, when I was in college in the early '60s, my mother was trying to convince me that all the 'hep' students wore tie and jacket. A difficult task since I could see otherwise.

But reality has never stopped my parents. Recently I found a logical flaw in what my father was saying. He told me that I wasn't supposed to have noticed that.

JEFF COPELAND

can't believe everything you read on the internet

☺▲☺ We find amusing the joke that Bush didn't pass out from a pretzel but was actually that he was drunk. I don't know whether the SFPA Conservative contingent here would find it amusing. Political humor is specialized. Jules Feiffer was right: we're a nation of trade publications.

☺▲☺ Your priorities are right: a decent job. Which means not one-half in India. Also, one where you do your old thing: typography.

By the way, what's this I heard that Apple beat Microsoft to the punch in basing their operating system on Linux for the new iMac?

☺▲☺ Not knowing the issues, I would say that any feud between Eric Raymond and Richard Stallman would have to be due

to Stallman. Raymond seems to have mellowed a great deal.

By the way, I won't deny I would love it if software was free; but I think as a matter of principle creators should get paid for their trouble. Not that they do under the current system.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. I don't know. I would still say that Linda Tripp got fired. Yes, I am well aware that nearly all of the old appointees get laid off to make way for the new in any administration. But there are some employees who seem to straddle Administrations even though they are appointees. They have some expertise the new Administration will need. Or something like that.

Apparently Linda Tripp was considered one. And that she was let go would in effect mean that she was fired.

☺▲☺ There's no mystery as to why Irv has been completely engrossed in investments. It looked like they were his ticket to self-sufficiency. His jobs have not been as fulfilling as ours. Who knows? If I were in the same situation, I might try to be a high roller too. And that is something that normally would go completely against my grain.

☺▲☺ I could see why Mike McGrady ghosted Linda Lovelace's books. He was convinced porn was where the action is. Of course, his bestseller, *Naked Came the Stranger* was softcore not hardcore. But it seems he saw hardcore as equally lucrative. Or at least our fascination with hardcore.

☺▲☺ ct. Trinlay Khadro. Newton saying that he saw further because he stood on the shoulders of giants. Giants like Galileo and Kepler. Also, giants like Adam, Moses, Hermes Trismegistus, Orpheus and

Pythagoras. He was in the not totally respectable tradition of natural magic, which claimed its foundations in those latter notables. In fact, he believed they were familiar with his theory of gravity. These beliefs were hidden or ignored by Newton's later, more materialistic disciples.

☺▲☺ What inaccuracies did you find in Burke and his *The Day the Universe Changed*?

☺▲☺ ct. Janice Gelb. I guess if you get a receipt for voting, you would at least know who you voted for. Which seems to have been a problem in Florida.

☺▲☺ ct. Toni Weisskopf. If you had gone to the Taj Mahal, you could have swum in its lush waters like Richard Haliburton did. Of course, others have claimed the waters are murky and too shallow to swim in.

☺▲☺ Are you kidding? Toni doesn't believe we should honor any contract made with a union. Or the law should pertain to unions. That actor should get a medal, much less be fined, for violating his contract with Actors' Equity.

STEVE HUGHES

random thoughts

☺▲☺ Truly random thoughts this time. About Enron, I'm glad you used your expertise to tell us things about the situation we might not be aware of.

Your explanation serves to prove my theory. I used to say you re-organize a bunch of idiots, and what do you have? Idiots. The same is true not only of intelligence, but honesty and integrity, and the long view.


The whole system depends ultimately on people being in it for the long

term. At least to some extent. I wonder what sort of owner of stocks is unwilling to wait for investments to come to fruition? Day traders, I can understand. But the mutual funds, the trusts, are they so shortsighted?

Also, the whole system depends ultimately on people being honest and having integrity. To some extent. Here, even the auditors finked out on us. It seems like they not only lacked honesty in this case, but savvy. I realize that Arthur Andersen stood to get consulting fees from Enron. But only if Enron succeeded in staying afloat.


People are not necessarily static either. People can become more and less honest and show more and less integrity. As you say, the people at Enron fell down the slippery slope that a little dishonesty here and a little dishonesty there doesn't matter. And finally found themselves practicing wholesale dishonesty. If they had an ounce of integrity and honesty before, they may not have had it near the end.

The same is true of government that's true of a business like Enron. Reform has to put people with a sufficient amount of honesty, integrity and understanding in charge, or it won't amount to a hill of beans.


 The outside investors who lost money on Enron probably should have done this and should have done that, but I sympathize with them. Not that they necessarily should get their money back, but I sympathize. I know the attraction of investing in something that can't lose, that can only win. Which, I fully admit, is always an illusion. But it seems so real while you have dollar signs in your eyes.

Another reason I sympathize is those who lost money were to some extent deceived by people who should have known better: brokers, auditors, the corporation

itself. The top Enron execs, as you say, could be looking forward to terms at a secured institution at government expense. And if not, de-regulation is going to get a big black eye.

 Why are the Democrats investigating Enron? Maximum humiliation for the Bush Administration. That seems to be the job of politicians. Watching C-Span once, I noticed that humiliating the opposition took a sizable part of each Party's day.


Also, if there's some wrongdoing by the Bush Administration, the Dems hope to smoke it out. I am not certain how much wrongdoing ever actually gets smoked out in Congressional hearings, but they can hope.

 That Enron did not get what they wanted generally does not mean they did not exert undue influence. Not with all the countervailing forces in Washington.

If someone bribes someone, does the prosecution have to prove that briber generally got what they wanted? No, all they have to prove is one favor. I'm not saying that Enron bribed anyone; just that generally getting what you want is not the criteria for undue influence.

It's an example of normal political nonsense to use generally getting as the criterion. I bet to hide the fact that a lot of businesses are exerting a lot of influence on the Bush Administration.

Not that the Bush Administration is the only one. Vested interests always have and always will exert undue influence in Washington. But no politician wants that to get out.

 A good summary of the benefits of and problems with Executive Privilege. And there are always benefits and problems.

Even in a situation where Protected Witnesses are killing others, there may be an advantage to keeping them as Protected Witnesses. Sometimes you need a lesser devil to testify against a greater devil. Which the American public might not be able to understand.

On the other hand still, we have to make sure it is the lesser devil testifying against the greater devil. It's not the other way around.

GEORGE H. WELLS the werewolf is napping #1

☹▲☹ George, why do we care what criticism people make over the internet? Half the world hates the other half. Half the world is laughing at the other half (not the exact same half). ...Of course we do get depressed when the target is us.

☹▲☹ The cure for your sleep apnea is of course dieting and losing weight. That is the cure for everything. I hear if your mail doesn't come on time, you lose weight and it starts coming on time.

Anyway, good luck on finding some other cure. I hope that sleep clinic takes you. How bad does your sleep apnea have to be to get in?

☹▲☹ ct. Me. Or you could go to the website of one of the sons of Napster, download your favorite groups, and burn some CDs with your favorite hit groups. Then sell them and give the proceeds to the groups so that they could continue to make great music. CDs like *Ian and the Zodiac's* favorite hits. Maybe if you start a weird enough label, you'll sell a million of them. Then Ian will be bigger than Elvis.

☹▲☹ Actually, I think the emails were in too much order. Some of them didn't

look as if people were drinking coffee, staying up at night and having sleep apnea. Which is the charm of your zine.

☹▲☹ The two Listservs shut down and their archives were deleted? Sounds like your typical Listserv. Probably your friend was trying to say something with a point, and that was considered flaming. ... Like bummer, man!!

Or the Listers were diabetics, and she was a science fiction *flan*, like you and Gary.

☹▲☹ You doubt my taste for liking your werewolf picture! Remember in this Postmodern world bad taste is good taste.

☹▲☹ Penny Frierson may have been upper middle class almost all of her life but she changed to White non-trash when she was reading the *Beans of Egypt, Maine*.

(I agree that I am being pretty unfair, especially since I never read the book.)

☹▲☹ So Dean Koontz's books now go way beyond cannons spewing forth corrosive froth. They now spew forth Moleson's Beer. ...Is that what you're saying?

☹▲☹ It's good for the world that Hearst finished Marion Davies' house first before he went there with her. And it was built like a brick Denny's. It would not have done to have the affair between William Randolph Hearst and Marion Davies being painted in pre-Raphaelite style in "Love on the Construction Site."

☹▲☹ I don't know what Pellucid means but I had a Mr. Peluso tutor me in seventh grade.

☹▲☹ Ace Ventura complains about there being no pay toilets in Opar. I don't

think that's a sign of civilization. I agree with Mel Brooks. To have civilization you have to have wax paper.

🍷▲🍷 So what you're saying is that we need Sir Dennis Nayland-Smith or Don Winslow to fight bin Laden. And what we get is John Ashcroft.

Now some might say if I don't like it, I should go to my local hippy. Right now, that doesn't look like such a bad idea.

...Sorry, politics. Still, whoever fights bin Laden should be wearing tights.

🍷▲🍷 I saw the World Trade Center in the the early '70s on one of my trips to New York. I was told there was a great restaurant up at the top that I couldn't afford. So I promptly forgot about it. The WTC seems more real to me now than it did during all those years.

🍷▲🍷 How did I become a librarian? Well, I went to library school because I heard that librarianship was a lucrative field. When I got out, I found that was true only for six months.

I was unemployed for two years and then I was hired as a Food Program Specialist at the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture. No, I didn't run a restaurant; I was an ordinary bureaucrat. That job title was just to keep us in the Food and Nutrition Service.

In 1981, Ronald Reagan became President and every agency was getting rid of their libraries. Libraries were no use. The last thing Federal employees needed was information.

Every agency was getting rid of their libraries, that is, but ours. We decided to start one and save money. And I was the only one with a library school education. So here I am. I've been the librarian and library

at the Food and Nutrition Service for nearly twenty years.

🍷▲🍷 What did the cops in Boston accuse me of? Not having a dirty enough mind. They had to attribute an affair to me when I didn't even know the woman.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don Markstein: Yes, when the Islamic Fundamentalists take over they will ban Carl Barks. They will see Donald Duck as a graven image we worship. ...Isn't there a passage in the Koran about ducks in sailor suits?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Allie Copeland. What did you think of the episode of Buffy where someone stole her brain? Actually, I don't watch Buffy, or much TV at all; but it sounds like an episode that might have happened.

🍷▲🍷 Of course, 9-1-1 terrorists are stupid. I hear one made a Tons of Fun movie.

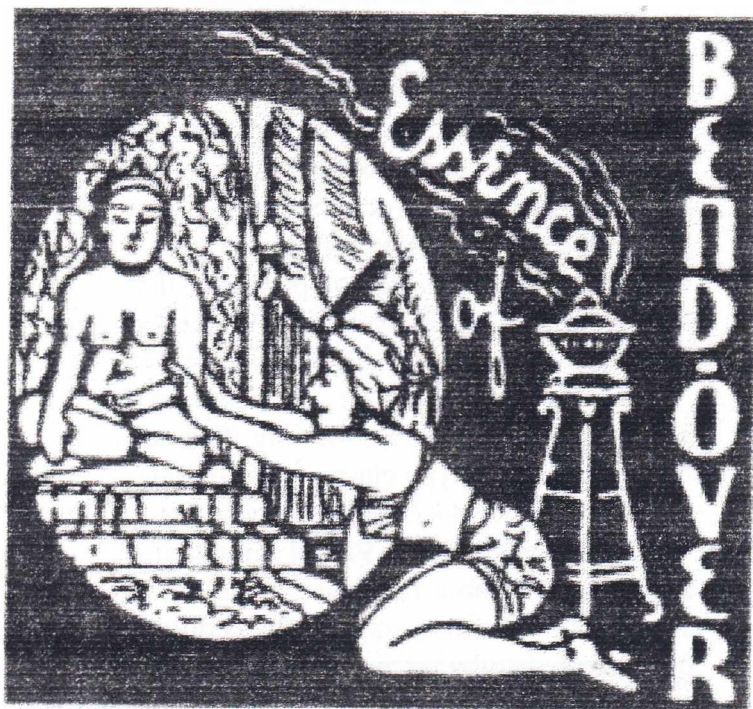
🍷▲🍷 Of course, Burroughs' head was hollow. And that caused all sorts of problems. Dinosaurs kept coming out of his nose. And he kept being burnt by the inner sun. And his brain didn't have enough mass to exert any type of gravitational field.

🍷▲🍷 **As I've been telling you for years, George, you need to get a computer with 100 gigs of memory in it and 128K RAM and 2500 mhz. So you can type with fonts like this one.**

MIKE WEBER

just a page for sfpa in case

🍷▲🍷 I have to admit that you have



guts. I was going to be foolish enough to ask you how you can make a DVD region free and break the copy protection. Then I thought that's telling someone to ask for trouble. But you did tell us, didn't you?

If I watched more movies, region free DVD would be just the thing. If I hadn't spent the last ten years outside the media. ...Come to think of it, I'm going to put this away just in case I ever get back in the media and want DVD.

☹▲☹ FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE. I don't remember that cartoon in a daily newspaper. But I wouldn't expect it to be in our daily newspaper. *The Post* is not as liberated as it thinks it is. Maybe fortunately. ...Rubbing honey on your backside for a honeymoon? Tch. tch.

☹▲☹ Well, too much profanity can get annoying. People try too hard to prove that they are liberated and wind up proving

they are sleazeballs. Of course, that Amazon reviewer who abhors that novel's profanity sounds like he spent the last ten years under a rock.

LIZ COPELAND

home with the armadillo #51

☹▲☹ My fingers are crossed that your quilt makes it to Barcelona.

☹▲☹ Too bad, no DeepSouthCon this year. When I don't go, that'll be the year you go. Of course, I should talk. If I want to see you, I can always go West.

☹▲☹ ct. Lillian. The

<http://www.imdb.com> is the specialized search engine I use most often. For most things Google works just fine. A close second is

<http://www.bookfinder.com>. It's great for used books but I often can't get it on the Internet Explorer. I have to go to AOL, which uses Netscape.

☹▲☹ Don't think of it as growing older; rather think of it as growing crankier. It's not that we are infirm; it's that we are unhappy time has passed.

☹▲☹ ct. Schlosser. The Black woman who suggested using cottage cheese in macaroni and cheese didn't look like a health nut. She looked like she liked her food. But looks can be deceiving.

RANDY B. CLEARY

avatar. jan 31, 2002.

☹▲☹ Everybody, except me, finds some mailing where they are pressed for time. It helps that I do mine as soon as I get it. It also helps not much has been

happening in my life.

🍷▲🍷 In your GA-Filk logo, it looks like the fish with the feet of Evolution has turned into a turtle.

🍷▲🍷 Thanks for your compliments..

🍷▲🍷 I would imagine Gary Condit is already looking for an intern who will get him into even more trouble than Chandra did. So he can freeze up in front of TV like he did before. That kind never learns.

🍷▲🍷 If you want a propeller beanie to see whether it attracts cute girls, go to Interstellar Propeller's website <http://www.propellerheadhats.com/>. If the site doesn't work, you can at least get their phone number there. By the way, one of the hats has a pig flying.

🍷▲🍷 *Shrek* had a Lancelot Parking lot, which was reference to the parking lots at Disney World? They should be more respectful of people like me who go nowhere and do nothing.

🍷▲🍷 Taxing corporations makes them tax collection agencies? What's withholding? Come to think of it, aren't we all tax collecting agencies in a way? Aren't we all to some extent on the dole?

EVE ACKERMAN guilty pleasures 22

🍷▲🍷 The main qualification for the Gainesville city commission, for that woman, was a vagina. Which reminds me of a joke that I have updated from many moons ago.

QUESTION: What has eighteen legs and two vaginas?

ANSWER: The Supreme Court.

🍷▲🍷 That agent rejected *Pirate's Song* because Father Xmas was an anachronism? Sounds like he was looking for reasons to reject. Not uncommon.

But he has a small point. People understand historical stereotypes better than they do factual scholarly history. We know historical characters by the historical persona they are known for. No matter how accurate or inaccurate historically. This one writing instructor type claimed that if you are going to introduce Eleanor Roosevelt, Genghis Khan or Henry VIII, it is by their stereotypes. Eleanor Roosevelt could not be a ruthless politician, Genghis Khan couldn't be a namby pamby no matter what the historical evidence says.

🍷▲🍷 Do you have to pay to play these days? Publishing has gotten corrupt as of late, I hear. I hear you have a much better chance of your science fiction being published if you spend several thousand dollars and attend this one writing workshop.

Another example is supposedly there are reader services where you pay to have your manuscript read. And some do get published that way. Supposedly legitimately. That used to be scam, but now scam reflects business.

A third example is I hear a lot of publishers have given up on editing. As long as they have a name author they don't care what goes into his book. How is that pay to play? Authors have to pay free lance editors and proofreaders so they won't be embarrassed.

🍷▲🍷 A BEAUTIFUL MIND. I probably told this story before, but I bet no

one has remembered it. A psychologist my father the psychiatrist has liked, a Milton Erickson, treated a delusion per the suggestion of your psychologist acquaintance. A woman claimed tiny nude men were flying about her head. So he told her each time she was about to meet someone to place them in envelopes. It worked.

🍷🍷🍷 Whether publication on demand works for you depends on the book you're writing. Obviously it doesn't work for you if books published that way cost \$14 and average romances retail for \$6. I am writing the type of book right now that might be appropriate. It's a nonfiction, a history. \$14 seems to be competitive for them.

The main problem would be Who would read it if I got it published. I doubt there would be any publicity. Of course, the same could be said for any method of publication. Of any publisher.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Copeland, J. I suspect current ideas about justice for Arab visitors and terrorists are one enormous abuse. Of course, the intention is not to persecute Arabs; the intention is probably to make the public feel secure. With the added incentive for politicians that such measures are wildly popular. The only problem is justice enters into the equation only by accident.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Weber. I use a Webster's Collegiate Dictionary a lot myself. And mine is over 40 years old too; pages are starting to come out. But it's still useful.

Of course, my big reference tool right now is the Google search. I hope Google can resist the temptation to direct all searches to their advertisers.

JANET D. LARSON

passages #12

🍷🍷🍷 Money seems the big objective to the lawsuit against you if the baby is healthy. Is the law firm that took the case by any chance Dewey, Cheatum and Howe?

As for being stressed out, who isn't by a lawsuit? No matter which side you're on. Actually there must be a number who don't mind at all. But you have to wonder about them.

🍷🍷🍷 Maybe *Disorder in the Court* took the exchanges from real court cases. Let me be skeptical. They sound like a number of lists that have been making the rounds since time immemorial.

One list claims to quote the real letters of welfare recipients. There are a whole slew of organizations it has been attributed to. Last I saw the New Hampshire Department of Welfare. But the list dates to World War I.

1. I cannot get sick pay. I have six children, can you tell me why it is?

4. I am glad to say that my husband, who was reported missing, is now deceased.

8. Unless I can get my husband's money soon I shall be forced to lead an immortal life.

Another list claims to quote from social service workers. It is from the '20s.

The woman was troubled with obsessed ears.

The applicant is a typical real American and is the father of eight children.

The mother is very intellectual,
speaks three languages and has even
written a poem nobody will buy.

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF

yngvi is a wimp



One out of two experiments that
work ain't bad. And sometimes if they work
for a time, it ain't bad either. The dinosaurs
survived 120 million years and some
scientists deem them a success.



I hear sometimes you're lucky if
a contractor comes to your home at all.
That's what people have been telling me
here. While there were lucrative contracts
building office buildings in the D.C. area,
you couldn't get anyone to work on your
home. Now things aren't quite so bad.



I guess Cynthia Heimel finds
fulfillment by describing her life in full
detail. That is not something I would revel
in. I like some privacy. I'm glad her joie de
vivre has been able to hold your interest.

Of course, I suspect someone that
self-centered would get bitter after a while,
like she seems to. The world has a tendency
to prove that it doesn't orbit around any
particular individual.

THE END