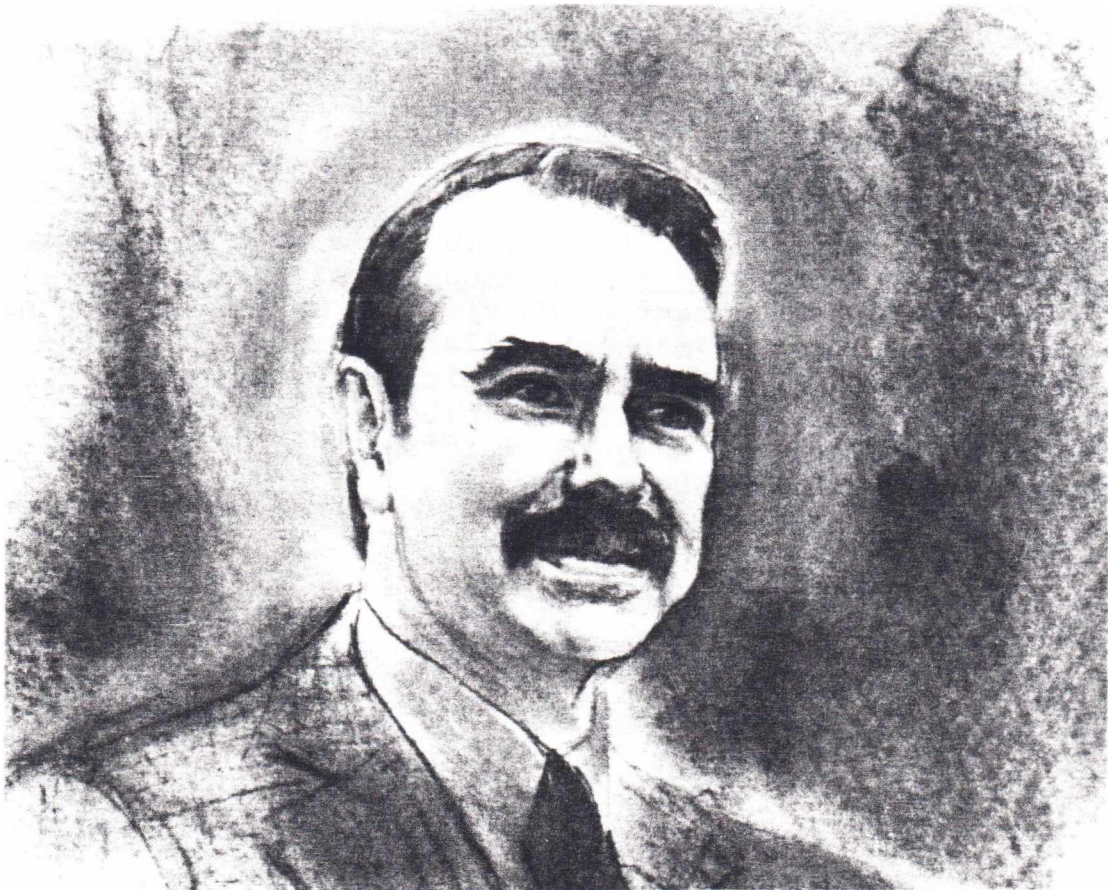


Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #78

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G. Gordon Liddy during his Watergate days.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Comments on SFPA #228.....	3
Arthur.....	18
David.....	14
Eve.....	18
Gary B.....	15
Gary R.....	21
George.....	21
Guy.....	8
Jeff.....	3, 7, 9, 25
Liz.....	24
Mike.....	23
Ned.....	4
Norm.....	6
Randy.....	20
Richard L.....	3, 5
Sheila.....	3, 13
Steve.....	17, 19
Suzanne.....	17
Tom.....	12
Toni.....	7, 24

ILLUSTRATIONS: Of course, from my mother's book My Days in Court: Unique Views of the Famous & Infamous by a Court Artist (1990) by Ida Libby Dengrove & Frank W. Martin. The only reason to have bought the book was my mother's illustrations. Forget the text written, apparently without much editing, by my mother. (Cover) G. Gordon Liddy. (p5) Abby Hoffman. (p10) Ayatollah Khomeini. (p15) Jacqueline Kennedy and daughter Caroline. (p20) Mark David Chapman. (Back) Mick Jagger.

COMMENTS ON SFPA MAILING #229

JEFF COPELAND the southerner

☺▲☺ I wouldn't worry if I had had Arthur Anderson as my auditor. What I would worry about is if I had connived with it to give my finances a clean bill of health – and I was near bankruptcy.

☺▲☺ Trinlay says she has a job now, receptionist and gal Friday.

RICH LYNCH variation on a theme #15

☺▲☺ Music seems to be hereditary. That is why some play well at five. And others of us never learn how to play. I never played any musical instrument. I hardly got above F flat. Or whatever flat chords I was playing. My father is a teensy bit more musical than I am. When, as a kid, we got a piano, he played the "Little Fairy Waltz" by Gobearts a few times, and that was it.

☺▲☺ I wish I had known that D.C. artists were doing variations on the parties' elephant and donkey statues, and placing them all over town. Have any survived the summer? I might take a gander.

☺▲☺ The eleven hour drive to Cincinnati from the D.C. area must have taken a lot out of you. But not as much as travel took out of that fellow who spoke at Deep South Con. He claimed he was supposed to land at Tri-City Airport, Minnesota. And found he had landed at Tri-City Airport, Tennessee. Or something like that.

SHEILA STRICKLAND revenant #13. august 2002.

☺▲☺ I have always backed my computer up. I saved documents from the day to a diskette. And I have had a less frequent, more general backup.

Now I am embarking on a new type of backup. I was told that all you had to do was back up data files, which you should keep in My Documents. And then re-install the software. Of course, you have to know where all your software is to do that. The plan has been going well except I cannot find the my scanner's software to save my life.

☺▲☺ DEEP SOUTH CON. I believe Alien abductions are real. But that is because I believe myths are real. And Alien Abductions is a powerful myth. In invading our privacy, the aliens seem to be something like our neighbors. Of course, alien abductions are not real in the same way as Law of Gravity is, or putting a key in the ignition and driving the car.

☺▲☺ I wuz robbed too. Or was I? I am in Toastmasters and they occasionally hold contests. One is Table Topics. You have to speak on a topic extemporaneously. I always think I should have won. But I know that my unconventional take on things is not going to win. The person who wins has to have more clichés and be more inspirational. Which goes against my grain.

So, from my point of view, I wuz robbed. Of course, had I won, those other people would have thought they wuz robbed.

☺▲☺ ct. Me. Whether you use Babelfish or Google to translate into English, the language translated into is not English. I don't know what language it is. I very often have understood the websites in Spanish better than the 'translated' sites.

And I read no Spanish.

Translation software is like voice recognition software, I hear – not ready for prime time.

♥▲♥ Over the top is probably more to my taste than yours. So I might like the Austin Powers videos. Of course, I have had the videos for how many years and I haven't gotten around to seeing them. You may have seen more of them in the previews than I have altogether.

♥▲♥ ct. Ned Brooks. I agree bin Laden likes to try to hit on meaningful dates – when he can. Whether September 11th means anything in particular to Arab terrorists, I have no idea. There was the Black September Movement among Palestinians. It remembered bloody fighting between Palestinian guerrillas and the Jordanian government. But September 11th per se doesn't seem to have played a role much different from most of the month.

Whether 9-1-1 is based on a date bin Laden remembers, 9-1-1 is a date all of us will remember. It has made al Qaeda's reputation, and its multitudinous failures have been forgotten.

♥▲♥ ct. Janice Gelb. Of course Gays want Captain Kirk to be gay. Everyone wants famous people to be from their group. I hear Poles want Kolbus the Pole to have discovered America. And many Jewish people want Columbus to be Jewish. In addition, many New Englanders want the Norse to have discovered America in New England.

Then there is Jacques Cousteau, who is secretly Jewish. His real name is Jake Cousteauwitz.

♥▲♥ ct. Gary Robe. Yes, you cannot see the stars because of the city lights.

Which is why the stars and sky are not as important to us as they were to people three hundred years ago. Not even astrology has much to do with the sky anymore.

♥▲♥ ct. Jeff Copeland. You're right that bin Laden regards real people as insignificant beside his great purposes. I have heard that he wants to cause the U.S. to bite back hard, so the Arabs will be galvanized to take over the world from the Infidel. I gather also that there is a great deal of Millenarianism and 'Allah is on our side' in this.

NED BROOKS

the new port news 205. september 2002.

♥▲♥ Bill Mauldin from the back illo doesn't seem especially anti-Vietnam War. Just anti-hypocrisy.

♥▲♥ Well, the Mormon State, Utah, hasn't been a real Mormon State. The Federal government promised to slaughter the Mormons if they didn't end polygamy so they did. In addition, religion isn't as all embracing as it once was in the Western World. You really couldn't have a Mormon state.

♥▲♥ I chose not to install Norton Antivirus when I installed Norton Systemworks. I seem to have gotten something anyway. But it doesn't stop me from installing software. Whenever I try to install it, a dialog box pops up and asks whether I wish to monitor the process. Whether I say Yes or No, it hasn't even slowed the installation. So I can't really complain that much.

♥▲♥ Not only did the alchemists make gold; so did goldsmiths and others. Just not our idea of gold. As I said,



Abbie Hoffman

goldplating was considered gold. Just not the best. Also, weighing it was not used much after Archimedes for determining the best. In fact, if you look at the story, he didn't really use it for that purpose either.

I don't know if the alchemists bit it either. The two tests passed down from the Ancients were rubbing it to see if yellow came off. And burning it to see if the gold changed its shape. My source for this is F. Sherwood Taylor, *The Alchemists* (!949).

ct. Toni. Is Mexican Spanish pretty standard for Spanish language channels? I thought a good percentage of Hispanics in the U.S. were from Puerto Rico and El Salvador. And Georgia being far from the Mexican border, you would expect to see more of the latter.

ct. Schlosser. It's not just the state that is fanatical about child abuse. A lot of people are. The general belief is it causes irreparable damage. And we just went through a period when some rather vociferous people believed everyone had

been abused as children. Those abused repressed the memory. When it came to enacting law and policy, the vociferous people have been the squeaky wheel getting the grease.

ct. Metcalf. I have seen two O. Henry compilations with *Roads of Destiny*. One in a large red book that must date back to the thirties or forties. That's where I read "Roads of Destiny." Another perhaps more recent compilation had a number of smaller volumes, one specifically named *Roads of Destiny*. My local library has it.

ct. Brown. I thought planets of other stars were discovered by the swathe their gravity made in their star's fire. By the swathe, I guess, scientists can determine the planets' distance and size.

ct. George. People may be jealous because you have ~~ossified~~ stable opinions. People are jealous of me because the voices talk to me. And not them.

I got *Pinhead and Foodini* from Movies Unlimited. A show from the late '40s-early '50s. My mother said it was my favorite show. I suspect it was hers. It wasn't bad although it was more than a little ascerbic. The show's writers certainly didn't like the egotistical magician Foodini.

RICH LYNCH

variations on a theme #16. august 2002.

MUSIC. CLASSICAL. etc. I hear Dvořák didn't get paid what he was promised in coming to the U.S. For a time, he didn't get paid at all.

ct. Me. I am still sticking to luck as the reason Dubya might win in 2004. While he may have great PR, whether that

works depends on luck. Just like meat and potatoes decisions depend on luck.

There are things that no amount of PR is going to make good. For instance, no amount of PR can make a recession seem like a boom. People know their employment status and their pay. Clinton with a booing section won under peace and prosperity; the elder Bush with a cheering section and a Great Victory lost due to recession.

Also, no amount of PR is going to make a quagmire look like a victory. Not if American boy after American boy is dying.

Even where there is none of those things happening, propaganda may backfire. I suspect the intense opposition of the Right helped rather than hindered Bill and Hillary from getting elected.

ct. Ned. I guess how much vulcanism contributes to the CO₂ levels depends on the era. I was told, during the dinosaur era, vulcanism made much of the Earth tropical. There were alligators in Greenland. (Of course, Greenland must have had a different location than it does now.)

ct. Gary Brown. If we are willing to allow ads on our site, we can get a website for free. And if we are willing not to have a domain name, we can get the name for free too. As you say, it depends on why we need a website.

ct. Mike Weber. Good for you, it doesn't pay to stint on your eyes. My problem does not seem to be reading computer screens. I can do that well enough without glasses. My problem is things far away like blackboards and road signs. When I got my glasses in college, that was money well worth spending. And even more worth it when I'm driving.

ct. Janice Gelb. *Phantom Menace* bad? I don't know, I identify with Jar Jar.

ct. Guy Lillian. Is the trip to Harry Warner's house open to fans like me? I'm only an hour away.

NORM METCALF

tyndallite v. 3, #103. august 2002.

ct. In *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, isn't there light in Verne's world too? What's the difference between it and those tales you call Hollow Earth?

ct. You win a round: Nemo got sodium and mercury for his ship's batteries from the water. I won't even ask about the practicality of doing that. Anyway, if there is any problem with this, I don't think your fellow SFPAns will miss it.

ct. Van Vogt had trouble writing without Campbell. The product seems on the borders of readability while the Campbell Van Vogt was very readable. The same thing might have happened when Van Vogt combined his stories into novels without Campbell's help.

Anyway, Busby is right. Often rewriting makes a story worse. It depends on whether you are veering toward the sublime or swill.

ct. The problem with sequels is that they have to be either character driven or plot driven. The characters must be compelling. Or the plot must be going toward some grand object and there must be sufficient suspense. Van Vogt being idea driven should never ever have done sequels.

ct. You misunderstand me, Norm. I didn't say that Herbert George Wells'

postulated technology has since been developed. I said Wells' technology sounded plausible at the time. For instance, gravity was thought to be very much like magnetism, and you could insulate against it. And Wells' technology sounded plausible even though, as you point out, Wells' technology was often far from logical.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Arthur D. Hlavaty. Why do Southern Vampires prey only upon the Southern Aristocracy? They have a taste for blue blood.

🍷▲🍷 ct. David Schlosser. So if there are mystery movies and mystery fiction, and they can be two different things. Why can't there be science fiction movies and fiction, and they be two different things?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Mike Weber. So Verne was not 100% scientific either. His shock absorbers on his Moonship/shell would not work and the passengers would end up looking like Flat Stanley.

Oh well, it's fiction, isn't it?

🍷▲🍷 From the example you give, Mercier didn't fabricate Verne. He just didn't understand him. He probably wasn't read up on science or French politics.

JEFF COPELAND

luke skywalker is gay

🍷▲🍷 The article by David Plotz sounds like it is a knowledgeable and perceptive. What makes for fan fiction is that the great TV and movie series have strong characters. And the fans wish to find a place among such characters. That is why they develop characters that are left undeveloped in the series. Of course, it is educated women who write the fan fiction. Women tend to be more affected by

personalities than men.

The account of slash fiction is interesting too. That what are in effect straight women wish to write about Gay men. I wonder if it is the same motive as Mary Renault had for writing about famous Gays in Ancient Greece. Namely, so she could, in her wish dreams, be the lover of one of those famous Gays. In short, the woman fan fiction writers desire in their wish dreams to participate as major characters in the series. Even if they have to play act Gay males to do it.

William Shatner, of course, does not understand this; subtlety passes him by. And he believes he has been accused of being Gay.

One last thing. While the public may associate people interested in TV series as get-a-lives, you have to be educated to want to write. So these fan fiction writers would be educated. On the other hand, if they were more facile with writing, they would depend less on mood. Which is easier to write about than plot and character.

🍷▲🍷 Jar Jar pleasuring Darth Maul? I always pictured him have sex with Luke. But then I'm more pro Jar Jar.

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF REINHARDT

"yngvi is a louse" and other graffitos. #78.

🍷▲🍷 KREEGAH! Maybe machines can't control emotions, but certainly drugs can. To some extent. Of course, the same is true of machines that supplement our mental abilities. They still can do that only to some extent too.

🍷▲🍷 CHARLOTTE PROCTOR. Just like many women love tear jerkers for a good cry; children love horror movies for a good scare. Probably your grandchildren are

too young for *Nightmare on Elm Street*, but *Stuart Little 2* does just fine.

♥▲♥ WESTERCON. I live in northern fastness? Virginia's in the South. It was the capitol of the old Confederacy.

♥▲♥ INTERESTING TIMES. Hank, here is the explanation I have heard for how straight sex in the third world can transmit AIDS. Women in Africa live under less healthy conditions than we, and tend to have sores in their vagina. Which bleed during sex and transmit AIDS to semen. Which, in turn, affect their men. Who, I guess, have sores too. In the U.S., the theory is Gays get AIDS through blood caused by anal sex.

♥▲♥ MAN OF COPPER. A better parody this time, Terry. You had a sufficient number of beat'ems up. Which is to say, most of your parody. Plus you were dead on with the Rube Goldberg aspect of Doc's weapons.

In fact, you inspired me to write a parody of Doc Savage: the Man of Bronze with two Tin Ears.

♥▲♥ ROGER WADDINGTON LETTER. Toni, don't feel bad that you can't read the small print on badges. Or on medical bottles. This is the age of the magnifying glass. Which reminds me: I better go buy one for myself.

♥▲♥ DAVID LOCKE LETTER. David says No to Mr. Gibbs' article on Castro. And you say Yes. Plus you bring in Waco and Ruby Ridge. In short, it's a typical political debate.

♥▲♥ GREG BENFORD LETTER. I remember the pure unadulterated filth in *Annie Had a Baby*. Plus the pure unadulterated filth in that bawdy

kindergarten song:

♪ "O" they don't wear pants on the other side of France.

"But they do wear leaves to protect them from the breeze." ♪

GUY H. LILLIAN III spiritus mundi 191

♥▲♥ COVER. Was the ape/man on your cover brought back from Africa? Or the Lost Continent? Or is he the bearded guy there after he just made a wrong move in his experiments? Paul McCall's illo is pregnant with possibilities.

♥▲♥ About your Hugo ranking, I did better than you in the Toastmaster's Area Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contests. I came in third in both. Of course, there were only three contestants. Also, I was more consistent than you.

♥▲♥ ct. Me. I gather all celebs are paying the price for celebrity. Usually from people who are just boors, not the more forboding type Connie complained of.

♥▲♥ Maybe I will reprint some of my mother's sketches this time around. People have forgotten them, I bet. It's been so many years. I figure no one remembers my old illos anyway. And feel free to recycle them. With good illos, you have to get all the use out of them you can.

♥▲♥ I bet a whole bunch of people are behind the Nigerian Prisoner scams. It worked out so well for someone others decided to jump in.

And the scam apparently does work out; at least the pigeons fork over the money. I hear the Spanish cops arrested a ring recently, mostly of Nigerians, that had

made 20 million dollars bilking people with the scam.

☛▲☛ It can be explained in one word why we are cozying up to Saudi Arabia, where terrorism has its wealthiest supporters. And, instead, we are attacking Iraq, whose support of terrorism is far more borderline. The word is Oil.

☛▲☛ I am not convinced that the Bushites consider the Iraqi invasion botched the first time. I think they see in it electoral gold the second time.

☛▲☛ Where SFPA is psychologically located. New Orleans. Maybe nothing happened there historically as far as SFPA is concerned, but your hearts are all there.

☛▲☛ Speaking of the ignorance of normally intelligent people, a friend of mine married a Chinese woman from Hong Kong. Once one of her relatives visited my friend's DC home from there, and saw pictures of dinosaurs. He wanted to know if there really were dragons. That is how practical his Hong Kong education had been.

☛▲☛ ct. Don. I looked up info on the Sesame Street AIDS character. Fortunately, she is only supposed to run in South Africa. Where there are a lot of AIDS victims. Also, the character is supposed to be cheerful. And her AIDS is supposed to be understood rather than graphic. The reason had to do with common sense: little kids can't understand AIDS anyway.

☛▲☛ ct. Dave. When I visited the MIT Science Fiction Society Library in 1973, their crown and joy was the SF porn *Sin in Space*. But it looked like it came from before the Ted Mark era. And my guide admitted to me that there wasn't really much

sex in it.

Nothing for the Organization for the Rational Guidance of Youth to chew on.

☛▲☛ ct. Gary B. Who has been kicked out for failing minac? Who has been kicked out of here involuntarily in recent years? It doesn't seem it happens much anymore. So I think we can save ourselves a whole bunch of hairsplitting on the rules.

Of course, that may have been your point.

☛▲☛ ct. Gary R. The restaurant we all ate at in Huntsville was no great shakes. But I think this must have made it dreadful for you: the band decided to practice while we were eating.

☛▲☛ SEPTEMBER 11th. Steve Morella's problem with attacking Iraq seems to be a lot of people's. Isn't Saudi Arabia more deserving? I am inclined to that position myself.

I did, however, meet one person who thought we should attack them both. Of course, sometimes he didn't seem to know the difference between Iraq and Saudi Arabia. A difference that brought on the Gulf War. I am especially ashamed because he is a fellow librarian.

JEFFREY COPELAND
osushigumi. 22 sept 2002.

☛▲☛ The spectre of Saddam using germ, chemical and atomic warfare. About gas warfare, he chose not to use it in the Gulf War. And it apparently was not that effective in the war with Iran. He got his butt kicked there. About atomic warfare, even international maniacs have stopped short of that. Apparently both germ and atomic warfare are more for show.

As for germ warfare, that hasn't been



Ayatollah Khomeini

on the blip screen of real threats.

🍷▲🍷 Was it a mistake for Clinton to go ahead and commit 'perjury,' knowing there was a perjury trap set for him? I am not certain that no matter what he said, he would not be accused of perjury. The accusations never had anything to do with the law or truth.

They had more to do with creating a Democratic Watergate. Where, Conservatives believed, the law and truth had also been irrelevant.

On the other hand, I bet Clinton believed that the Republicans were more likely to shoot themselves in the boot with the Monicagate hearings. Which they did.

So maybe Clinton's smartest move was getting accused of perjury.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I am glad the clerks at

the Strand have proven knowledgeable. I have had bad experiences with salespeople who had no idea about what they were selling. I even once got the wrong sized screw at a hardware store. All this has made me skeptical that store clerks know anything.

My wife has become skeptical too. She once decided to be a hockey fan, and had me buy jerseys from the shop at a Chicago stadium when I was on a trip there. Despite my doubts, she was sure the store clerks would be as enthusiastic about hockey as she was – for that second. She was angry when she learned that they knew no more about jerseys than I did.

🍷▲🍷 OK, maybe the Administration are a bunch of hopeless dinks, especially General Franks. I am sure they did not look too hard on the battlefield for evidence about bin Laden and al Qaeda. They are pushing the military solution to terrorism. It doesn't include any scavenger hunts. Torturing confessions but not scavenger hunts.

However, I am giving them the benefit of the doubt. It won't do any good in increasing my credibility. Such views only confuse partisans. But it will make me feel I have been generous.

🍷▲🍷 I remember the James Coburn *Flint* movies from when I was college. I and all my friends pretty well thought the movies were cool. Later in adulthood, a re-run struck me as heavy handed in its coolness as an iron fist. However, there was one neat thing about it that I didn't know at the time. "In with Flint" came from "In with Flynn." And referred to Errol Flynn's sex life.

♥▲♥ I thought aluminum was supposed to protect against flying saucers, not guide them to their docking post. Isn't that why cranks are supposed to wear aluminum foil caps on their head?

♥▲♥ The Constitution specifically names a supreme court, but does not name the current Supreme Court. At least, that is the way I have heard it interpreted.

♥▲♥ I'm sure Mark Verheiden has made Lex a multidimensional character. But Lucas has made Darth one too, especially through Annakin. So Mark may still have borrowed the concept of a sympathetic Lex Luthor from the Star Wars movies.

This is not to say anything bad about Mark. It is just to say there is nothing new under the Sun. Ecclesiastes was right.

♥▲♥ I'll have to remember Kartoo. But there are a bunch of search engines, created solely for advertising purposes I can forget. More all the time.

♥▲♥ The government was depending on lynch mob psychology to convict John Walker Lindh. When it didn't get it, it made a deal.

I know this angered the father of one of the guards. He had evidence against Lindh under which any respectable lynch mob would have convicted him.

♥▲♥ So much for web mailboxes and calendars being less complicated than an intranet or LAN. But everything is in the direction of greater complexity anyway. Not less.

♥▲♥ Of course, when kids learn to read by osmosis, it is often via their own personal phonics program. They learn on their own to pronounce the words in a book

like they are already speaking.

As for the *Scientific American* article, it could be that there is something to be said for Whole Language. On the other hand, the authors could have decided they didn't want to leave fugheaded Educationists too vulnerable to their Fundamentalist foes. I have observed academia enough to know that political considerations play a big part.

♥▲♥ It isn't a thinking man's position to support Whole Language because the Fundamentalists oppose it. One would think the Educationists would have looked at the merits of the thing. Or lack thereof. But we know better.

My only consolation is that the educational Conservatives are not much better. I remember James Kirkpatrick claiming that kids learned in 1900 from the Hiawatha reader. The first thing you read is Longfellow's poem?! As a six year old?! As a five year old?! Riiiiiggghhhht!!!

Also, I have peered into the *McGuffey's Readers*. The darling of the Fundie schools. Its world is a world that no longer exists. One where the child is supposed to save the mother from a burning building. Also, I bet one where kids were older when they learned to read. The vocabulary struck me as fairly large.

♥▲♥ EDSTROM AND ELLER So why doesn't someone sell decent simple applications? That would put Microsoft out of business. Of course, Microsoft would kill such an enterprise before it could multiply. Plus consumers are used to the few pluses Microsoft Office delivers which cannot be emulated simply.

♥▲♥ ct. Tom Feller. I think that corporations have somehow gotten smaller since 1975 is a illusion. For a time there, we

were more competitive. Telephone service still is. And new corporations took over from the old. But I am not certain the economy is not as concentrated as then. If not, more so.

It is one with the illusion that the internet was inaugurated by unfettered free enterprise. Of necessity, it is a centrally controlled enterprise. And it was purely public until 1989; free enterprise was not allowed on it until then.

♥▲♥ I myself was impressed by Penelope Ann miller as the widow in A&E's *Nero Wolfe* episode "Motherhunt". She did a great job as Lucy Valdon: the pretty, rich, intelligent, talented, spoiled, stubborn, charming heiress. All those traits, good and bad, were one and worked.

♥▲♥ Maybe Annie Winston is gullible. But we don't know how gullible we are until people play tricks on us.

Also, sometimes only intelligent and decent people will fall for certain tricks. A roommate played a trick on me in college. He told me that there was disease going around and to go to the university physician. I did. And afterwards he admitted that that would be the rational response.

♥▲♥ ct. David Schlosser. I can understand why the antidrug people wish to associate their cause with terrorism. So they can motivate people to turn away from drugs. They have added as a reason to help the nation as well.

It is something like one of Gore Vidal's presidential candidates in *The Best Man*. He was able to launch his candidacy by finding links between the Communists and the Mafia. The two boogie men of the '50s.

♥▲♥ ct. Sheila Strickland. How well

does your Tablet PC for word processing work?

♥▲♥ ct. Gary Brown. So did any Israelis die in the World Trade Center blast? Arab netlore was claiming that all the Israelis knew about plot and stayed. Based in turn on the netlore that all the Arabs knew and stayed home.

Of course, both ugly rumors had thousands staying home when the usual representation of ethnic groups is two hundred. Often far fewer. You do, however, say that four Egyptians are dead and missing. They count for Arabs. How many Israelis are?

♥▲♥ ct. Steve Hughes. Isn't there platform software so you can run Windows applications on Linux? I know Apple has it for their operating system.

♥▲♥ To prevent another 9-1-1, the answer seems to be lock the cockpit.

About other possible terrorists acts at airports or on airplanes, no way can we prevent every one. Not as long as airports are international thoroughfares. For that, we have to nip Al Qaeda in the bud. No substitutes.

TOM FELLER

frequent flyer. sept. 18, 2002

♥▲♥ We're at the Ailment of the Month stage in life. Your problem was your eye this month. Mine my teeth. With a little arthritis here and there. And a shooting pain in my hip that disappeared after a few days.

♥▲♥ Self-insurance, I bet, is the way for giant enterprises. EchoStar does it. And so does the Federal government.

But the Federal government doesn't like to talk too much about it. I lost my

Library's budget one year because my subscription service went belly up. And no one told me about the self-insurance until it was too late.

I walked out of a seminar by the Contracts woman because of that. After telling her my mind.

♥▲♥ GABE KAPLAN. Gabe Kaplan could still make a comeback even though his material is thirty years old. Sid Caesar is still considered cool even though his material is fifty years old. In fact, he is best known for his old *Your Show of Shows*, which he sells from his website.

On the other hand, my sister was telling me how London Lee's Bar Mitzvah jokes went over like lead balloons on the college circuit in the '80s. The crowns on his teeth purchased wholesale didn't help.

What is the difference between Sid and London? *Your Show and of Shows* is timeless. Gabe Kaplan's routine may be timeless too, each generation discovering him anew. High school kids always feel like "Sweathogs." The lowest of the low.

♥▲♥ *Signs* has the skeptics up in arms. Crop circles and aliens are to them like a red flag to a bull. God less so; latter day skeptics aren't as fanatically atheist as fifty years ago.

My attitude has been that *Signs* is fiction. In fact, Shyamalan has alighted on a powerful myth, the flying saucer. What more powerful modern myth than that. What better fodder for fiction. And he combined it with God, an even more powerful myth.

However, it sounds as if he was heavyhanded about God. It's definitely true God doesn't always reveal his design; often it has remained a mystery..

♥▲♥ ct. Mike Weber. Bill Maudlin?!

Tch, tch.

♥▲♥ Yes, I agree with Mike Weber about General Sherman. He set a strategic objective and went for it. Of course, that is why he is so hated. If he hadn't been so effective, he wouldn't have been so hated.

Of course, it helped that he burned Atlanta and destroyed roads and monuments right and left.

♥▲♥ ct. Steve Hughes. Bernie Ebbers did not know that \$3.6 billion in operating expenses were being hidden? Or about \$3.3 billion in bad debts and lawsuit losses?

As they say, a billion dollars here and a billion dollars there, and then you get into big money.

SHEILA STRICKLAND revenant #14

♥▲♥ Be careful you don't fall for university blarney. I remember I was supposed to keep up a -B average in grad school. Or out I was supposed to go. But I succeeded in doing that at Northeastern while having my concentration impaired from shock treatments. And my concentration wasn't that good to begin with.

With parking spaces. I remember the designated official at Kent State tried to tell me that I had to park five miles from my classes. And walk. I was applying too late for parking. But someone else in the administration office told me different.

♥▲♥ ct. Toni. Hmmmm. 10th Century chess. ...According to Dick Cavett, the game originated in Persia long before that, and used a Lacrosse stick. He claimed the game has changed somewhat since then.

That, it has.

DAVE SCHLOSSER

peter, pan & merry #45

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Me. That aspartame can cause retardation via phenylketouria is no issue at all. Except for the poor kids who are retarded or killed. Industry can ignore them in its fight to give the impression aspartame is harmless. And environmental extremists ignore those kids because they wish to give you the impression it is poisonous for everyone.

🍷🍷🍷 I think the idea was, at the beginning of the day, to go to the rides farthest from the gate at Disneyland. And avoid the crowds I guess it helps with the first few rides. Of course, you're right that as the day progresses, all the popular rides will be equally crowded.

🍷🍷🍷 I thought the idea behind *Fail Safe* was that there was something beyond the technology of the time: dependable verification of Russian missiles and nuclear disarmament.

🍷🍷🍷 Come on, the Israelis declaring statehood was against the UN resolution. Areas was not the issue. All resolutions called for Arab and Jewish areas. Even the ones sponsored by the Arabs. The issue was under what type of administration or lack thereof. And the Israelis hardly wanted to be part of state with an Arab majority.

But, I have to admit, it hardly mattered that Israelis violated the resolution because it was forgotten shortly after it was enacted.

🍷🍷🍷 No reason at all why a Jewish family should not have a Turkic name, I agree. There have been plenty of Sephardic Jews. The mystery is how my family came by ours. And how it got Russified.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. TKF Weisskopf. I once gave the advice to a young man the best fields to get into would be nuclear engineering and making videophones. I did it from a contrarian impulse.

Definitely my prediction hasn't come true – yet. And I gave it long enough ago so the young man would have been in deep do do if he had taken it. Which, I doubt he did. Everyone else thought I was nuts.

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Steve Hughes and Richard Lynch. Not only was the Iron Age man killed, but by a fellow called Smith. An unwarranted assumption? The idea behind talking about prehistory is to make unwarranted assumptions. Come to think of it, it is the idea behind speculating about all history outside the written records and archaeological digs.

Also, the idea behind the BSE tests is based on unwarranted assumptions. But for authorities to look competent rather than intellectually deep. They want to give the impression they are doing something – even if it is just chasing their tails.

🍷🍷🍷 No, no, a number of tactics of modern war, like strategic bombing in World War II, target civilians. And with a number of other tactics, like tactical bombing, it really doesn't matter whether it was intentional; lots of civilians die.

Also, we have supported guerrillas who killed civilians: the Kosovans. the anti-Sandinistas. the Afghani war against the Russians. Of course, their acts was never publicized. Otherwise, we have not placed too high a priority on avoiding civilian deaths. In Vietnam, our military did not distinguish between civilians and combatants. It is difficult to do in a guerrilla war, anyway.



Jacqueline Kennedy and daughter Caroline

No, the difference between Terrorists and Freedom Fighters is Terrorists are their side. And Freedom Fighters, our side. It is nonsense that this means there is no difference, by the way. Makes all the difference in the world. Our side has the right ideology and is on the side of the angels. Theirs, on the side of the Devil.

ct. Steve Hughes. What, pray tell, is the similarity between *Forbidden Planet* and *The Tempest*? It seems as great as that between "Moses" and "Middlebury." Which only share an "m."

APAC = NC³ How much do your massages cost?

About claiming to be a "Best Kept Secret. There is store here that calls itself Best Kept Secrets. The psychology used is the same as the psychology behind buying stock. You should buy when stocks are low; i.e., when no one is buying them. And sell them when they are high; i.e., when everyone is buying them. However, when everyone is buying them, they tell you the

price is low. And when everyone is selling them, they tell you the price is high. And most investors believe them.

Similarly, "Best Kept Secrets" is telling you no one buys there. And they want you to believe them.

A colleague of mine told me that, in the '80s, timeshare people would kidnap your kids while they spent hours giving you their hard sell. It is possible the hard sell may not be as big now as it was then. Still, I bet you lucked out in finding timeshare salesmen who gave you that soft a sell.

GARY BROWN

oblio no. 142. aug-sep 2002

HOUSE HUNTING. Buying a house now? I was told that while the interest rates have gone through the bottom, the price has gone through the top. When all is said and done, there are no bargains yet. However, Charles Kindleberger, an economist of some fame, speculated that the housing market can't keep going up and up and up. And there is going to be a crash. And that will be the time to buy. So I have heard.

Of course, when the crash comes, everyone will tell you that it is not the time to buy a house. The price will be lower in a few years.

PAPPY'S REVENGE. It is obvious to think of the Iraqi War Drums being daddy's revenge. But the way I have heard it, the real hawks have been Cheney and Rumsfeld. And the idea seems to be that the Gulf War was so popular, a replay will be even more popular. While I don't buy that, I believe they believe it. It is polithinking typical of this Administration.

🍷▲🍷 SAN DIEGO 2002. I heard a different story in *Completely Mad*. The name Alfred E. Neuman was based on the orchestra conductor's, Alfred Newman. Whom I remember. One of the *Mad* artists was apparently friends with him. And the book showed a very early cartoon of Alfred E. Neuman looking like an older Jewish man.

The face that has become his namesake, on the other hand, was one that had been used many times before. In one cartoon early in the last Century, the face was selling peanuts and popcorn on a railroad train. The Republicans had the face and "What me worry?" in a Presidential campaign cartoon in the '30s or '40s. Which, Jewish people complained, looked like a Jewish imbecile.

Mad could point to quite a number of precedents when a woman tried to sue *Mad* because her husband supposedly held the copyright to Alfred's face. And those precedents are why *Mad* won.

Anyway that's what I remember.

Of course, while this story differs from Feldman's, does it actually contradict it? It isn't clear.

🍷▲🍷 You had the time of a lifetime in San Diego: *Mad*, Ray Bradbury, Mat Groening, Little Lulu. Unfortunately, it is hard to convert your obvious enthusiasm into comment hooks. How does one convert an emotion into words? The Bible doesn't really. It can make metaphors, but they are only groping, shadows compared to what was going on in the prophet's mind.

🍷▲🍷 The Little Lulu tale was no intellectual heavyweight. Ego on the line, the war between the sexes. Especially the war as it was when we were kids.

However, maybe it is an evergreen theme. Several TV shows recently have concerned the war between the sexes. And the egos involved. But I don't know how successful those shows have been.

As for the art, that in and of itself is nostalgic, bringing back many fond memories.

🍷▲🍷 LAS VEGAS 2002. Making money in Las Vegas and coming home. Maybe some people have. I think it is a more a lie to show they have the Right Stuff. As for the slot machines, they have earned their name as one-armed bandits.

But, I guess, the game is fixed so that you win something occasionally.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Why do people remember George Wells? He is unique, affable, and a great trivia expert.

🍷▲🍷 I am glad the issues with your parents have faded with the years. Are mine as strong as they were when I was a teenager? I'm not certain they aren't. Not as long as my father periodically bursts out in a stream of criticism.. If it wasn't for these periods, the issues would have faded.

I better not continue this topic; a torrent of invective might result.

🍷▲🍷 I'm sure the idea behind the cancer drugs is that they exact a terrible toll. But not as terrible as cancer, which, if it progresses too far, is a death warrant.

🍷▲🍷 It is apparent we knew some of the terrorists were in the United States, and they were up to no good. But the FBI and INS did not heed the CIA.

The tendency seems to be to let George Bush off the hook for this. And to blame the people down below. I can do more than speculate that if Bill Clinton had been

President, he would be the one blamed. I read an article recently where he was in fact blamed for the bureaucrat disconnects of 9-1-1.

I am not certain it bodes well for Bush that no one is blaming him. The idea in PR is to have no one say anything bad about your man. But if he isn't responsible for what goes wrong, can he really accept the credit for what goes right? ...Only if nothing goes terribly wrong.

☺▲☺ Was I stoned during the '60s? Of course. However, I don't know whether that was the reason I had Bob Dylan say "Has to get stoned" rather than "Must get stoned."

☺▲☺ ct. Jeff Copeland. I recently got my will done. And have a 'no heroic measures' codicil, i.e., a Living Will.

☺▲☺ So it was drinking that made Al Capp so acerbic near the end.

Of course, he always was ascerbic. That was what made his comic strip so great. It helped him see faults that he could make into satire. And flaws he could make into caricatures.

Sometimes timeless faults and flaws. I have told you I am reading Li'l Abner from 1950 on the web. Capp had a sequence recently where Li'l Abner comes face to face with a woman groomed to be the President's wife in 1956. She had to be above reproach so she had never been kissed. Shades of the Clinton Administration? Of Gary Hart?

☺▲☺ Also this acerbic attitude helped Capp come up with great names for his characters. Recently the strip had a wouldbe President – Elderberry Egnog. But Capp had someone with a better name than that earlier on, the flabbiest prize fighter on record, Noel McNoodnick. Looking at

myself, I sometimes fear my body resembles Noel McNoodnick's.

☺▲☺ ct. Janice Gelb. You're right.

People are working too hard finding fault with the new Star Wars. The acting and dialogue are appropriate for its comic book ambience. Which made the characters, backgrounds and themes better than you expected them to be.

The problem these days may be the reputation of Stars Wars has ballooned to gigantic proportions over the years. And many people expect a lot of it now. When the idea was you weren't supposed to expect much.

☺▲☺ HOUSE OF MYSTERY. I remember *House of Mystery*. I didn't like it. It's lack of logic stuck out even for a ten year old. Of course, lack of logic never affected me much with superhero action stories. So who knows? Maybe the *House of Mystery* didn't have enough action and wish dreams in it to compensate.

STEVE and SUZANNE HUGHES travelers tales

☺▲☺ With the glossy paper, don't think I can make notes: I suspect my pen will slide right off. Of course, that means for once I won't scandalize much of SFPA by writing on a zine.

Also, I have to add that your zine's glossy paper makes for incredible graphics.

☺▲☺ SEE AMERICA FIRST.

Standardization is still easier for big corporations rather than diversifying. And they have the muscle to charge lower prices than mom and pop. So, of course, America is standardizing. Our only hope is that diversifying gets as cheap as standardizing. And every MacDonalds will look as

different as night and day. Or as the Alhambra and Blenheim.

♥▲♥ CHARLESTON. About Charleston. I hear upper middle class New Yorkers for the longest time spoke in an accent that was half Boston half Charleston. They didn't have an accent of their own.

♥▲♥ ON THE ROAD AGAIN.

Flying saucer houses. How do they protect against hurricane? Of course, even if they don't, at least they represent a popular myth. They may be worth their keep that way.

♥▲♥ NEW ORLEANS. Should we do anything hung over, Steve? A swamp cruise may not be a good idea then, but could you even appreciate the Louvre with a headache and nausea?

♥▲♥ GAINING WEIGHT. You mean there is a food too sweet for kids, maple cheesecake? ...At least for those kids there is.

ARTHUR D. HLAVATY confessions of a consistent liar 78

♥▲♥ ct. TKFW. Dancing while drunk. You know how you can tell you're too high? You go to flick something off your shoulder and find it's the floor.

♥▲♥ ct. Jeff Copeland. I think "-ski" is used for a number of purposes in names. A major reason is the name is from a family with aristocratic pretensions.

As to where it is used, I know it is used a lot in Russia, but a Russian I know considers it Polish.

♥▲♥ ct. Janice Gelb. You say *Men in Black II*'s problem was having too much of the same. My problem was it was so confused at times you couldn't really tell

when it was different.

♥▲♥ ct. Eve Ackerman. Bread and wine as an elephant. The idea behind religion is faith. Probably a better idea than proving it scientifically. Especially since so few people have the foggiest notion about what science is.

EVE ACKERMAN guilty pleasures 25

♥▲♥ Official people are always trying to fix the problem of the second. Raphi leaves his key in the room and is locked out. So the big authority tells him to bring his key to the shower. Where he is likely to forget it. ...Good thinking.

♥▲♥ Determinism vs. Free Will. We have been conditioned to think they are polar opposites. But Sartre in *Being and Nothingness* made a case for them being different takes on the same thing. He showed the fact that we have to decide, the very basis of free will, means our behavior is being caused.

♥▲♥ Janice's t-shirt about success. I saw a great t-shirt recently: "You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me." ...Maybe a little over the top but I liked it so much I used it here.

♥▲♥ What's it with Australia that makes fans go wild? Do they yearn to see Koalas or shrimp on the barbie? Or that awful salty spread Vegemite? What is it?

♥▲♥ THE NIGHT WE MET. The book concerns loving the wrong person; in this case, a gay loving a mafia don's son. Loving the wrong person is very true to life. Very very true to life. For many of us, the only way to happiness is to love the one

we're with as inappropriate they may be.

♥▲♥ A World War I place and one with ancient magic over the border. Sounds like our psyches.

♥▲♥ Someone claimed Annakin's and Amidala's dialogue in the *Clones* is so bad you wonder if George Lucas ever dated. I agree the love scenes are pretty execrable. And would be even if Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen could act their way out of paper bag.

At least, they were not spouting hilarious dialogue, like in some films. Like John Wayne's *The Conqueror* (1956) or Cecil B. DeMille's *Northwest Mounted Police* (1940). The dialogue in *Clones* was just dull.

♥▲♥ ct. Copeland J. Only in my fifties, have I started being interested in wills, mine and my father's. I imagine your kids will be interested by their thirties. I am a late bloomer.

♥▲♥ AFTER MAILING

COMMENTS. Maybe I jumped the gun about agents. They are actually reading your work if not willing to buy your prose like hot cakes. I am just remembering my sister's experience. Namely she had an impossible time getting an agent. And then an impossible time getting published. In fact, she never did.

About outlining, you are so right. The moment new info comes in – even if it is from your imagination – the story has to be changed. And the same with its real outline.

STEVE HUGHES

comments 16

♥▲♥ NEW PRINTER. I don't know

whether *Traveler's Tales* was also printed on your new Epson 2200. It was printed on glossy paper. I was looking for a new printer myself. And it seemed that printers either did well with glossy paper or did well on plain paper, but not both. Since I am cheap, I went with one that did well on plain paper, the HP 990 Cse.

♥▲♥ ct. Me. Since you agree what the Enron executives did was unethical and greedy, I am not making a big deal that you believe their actions legal. While, in all honesty, I disagree, I'm perfectly willing to leave legality up to the courts.

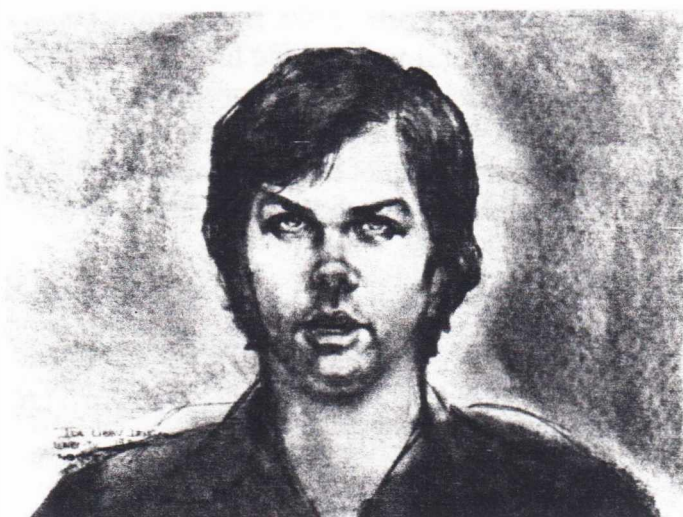
♥▲♥ I probably should be backing up my program and data files on CD-Rs. I'm sure you're right that it's a more dependable technology. The problem is that it is so convenient using the CD-RWs, which you can write over. And if I use the backup program, rather than dragging the files, writing over doesn't seem to corrupt the files as much.

Also, as I was taught years back, I keep a second less up-to-date CD-RW backup. Which makes the process more dependable.

♥▲♥ It seems to be fairly well established that, in a few people (1 in 5,000) with a hereditary disease, aspartame causes mental retardation and death. The disease is called phenylketourmia. You don't hear about it because there is no controversy.

However, there is a warning about it on many labels, I believe. The one on my yogurt just says there is PHENYLALAMINE in big letters. Which, I guess, should be a signal to someone with the disease.

♥▲♥ ct. Sheila Strickland. My experience with floppies is that you have no



Mark David Chapman

problem copying over files. What happens is the entire floppy goes bad. And you have to throw it out. Then I recopy the same files on another floppy. Or at least I try to.

ct. Jeffrey Copeland. Nearly every American is against a national ID, but, as you say, we already have one. Or should I say a number of national identity cards. And it isn't only a matter of security. It is more, for most people, a matter of convenience. How else are you going to identify yourself if you don't have a driver's license? More and more it's how are you going to buy things without a credit card?

We still pretend to be out on the frontier but we are as tamed and regimented as you can get.

ct. George H. Wells. Some Victorians always used to say that their Norman ancestry was very well known. Of course, I have the feeling mine is too. It is a matter of probabilities. So many people are related to Normans, though of Russian

Jewish ancestry, one of my ancestors had to be a Norman too.

ct. David Schlosser. I can understand how a hijacker could take the passengers hostage. But he couldn't very well get the pilot to run into the WTO, which would kill everyone, unless he had access to the cockpit already.

ct. Janet Larson. With enthusiasms, Steve, you got to jump in. I take it, you are considering writing a novel. Write. Let the chips fall. Look at all the lousy novels that have gotten published. ...

...You know this is advice I should take.

ct. Gary R. Robe. I do weightlifting rather than martial arts. While I seem to have fewer accidents than you and Gary, I have them. I did one time strain my lower back lifting weights in just the wrong way. And it took 800 mg Motrin and muscle relaxants, and a couple of weeks, before I was back to normal. In the meantime sitting up and getting out of bed was pretty painful.

RANDY B. CLEARY

avatar press. v2. no 23. sept. 26th 2002

EXCUSES, EXCUSES. Maybe your work on the Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin is more important than mailing comments. On the other hand, I don't know what the SFPA rules people have in store for you.

LESS OF A MAN. I am afraid I gave up years ago on diets to lose weight. Instead, I have various ailments I use to gain and lose weight. Diabetes one time, a gallbladder operation the next.

♥▲♥ TWICE BYTE-EN. Randy, you can't get away with using Windows 95. The Microsoft police will get you. I am cutting it as is with Windows 98 SE.

♥▲♥ IT CANNOT ALWAYS. You are an affable enough dude. I bet you would do well as a married man. And while you would have to give up some of your freedom, life always goes better with a helpmate. Who does the things you don't want to do. Trust me.

♥▲♥ ANDRE NORTON VISIT. I remember the MIT Science Fiction Society in the early '70s hated Andre Norton. Although their library stocked her, so go figure.

GEORGE WELLS zine on the way?

♥▲♥ Good luck in recovering from your sciatica. Backs are a ...pain in the back.

I wonder if we could have a monster movie about a pain in the back. I guess America gets attacked by mobile backbones; something like the old Vincent Price movie, *The Tingler*. And these mobile backbones, I guess, would give people pains in the back. In this movie, would it be luscious women who are screaming? Or old codgers like us?

JANET LARSON passages #15

♥▲♥ Hey, what a neat wedding? Mingling some of the most important traditions : Jewish, Christian and Druid. I wonder what will happen when we finally settle on a tradition or group of traditions to emulate. And we will get our art, our metaphors and our philosophy from it or them. Like people did from the Classics

from the Roman Empire to the early 20th Century?

♥▲♥ It's neat that you reprint an email from a Gay person on your wedding. They are best at mingling traditions.

♥▲♥ You probably won't be able to ride like some of the little girls because horses are not your life. They can't be. You wouldn't want them to be.

As for riding hurting when we were younger, I remember differently. It took some time until it didn't hurt afterwards.

♥▲♥ ct. Jeffrey Copeland. Jimmy Neutron is now. I, for some reason, remember an obscure program called Johnny Jupiter. That version played in 1954. An inventor, a Mr. Duckweather, invents a radio that communicates with the Jovian Johnny Jupiter. And Johnny sends Reject the Robot down to help Duckweather. Apparently, in the process, Rejet gets into trouble a lot.

It was a great show for a kid of nine.

♥▲♥ ct. Guy H. Lillian III. Having seen you in the wedding pictures, you don't look in the least overweight. But I think overweight in women is measured by their insecurities.

Recently a woman I work with was wistful that she wasn't twelve pounds thinner. Since she looks a thin high school student, I hated to think.

GARY R. ROBE tennessee trash #49

♥▲♥ All I can say is too bad for Rick Norwood. I remember when he was in SFPA and I basically liked the fellow as irascible and misanthropic as he might be.

Also, fingers crossed that Corlis is hired full time in the spring.

♡▲♡ WHERE ARE WE HEADED.,

You seem to agree that we should invade Iraq but distrust Bush. I disagree that we should invade Iraq.

What the Administration is doing is comparing Saddam to a decent regime. And he loses: he is an SOB with weapons of mass destruction. But I am not certain that is the proper comparison. I think we should compare him to other rulers in the Middle East.

If you do that, he doesn't look as bad. OK, Saddam breaks international law, uses gas warfare, seeks atomic weapons, and is a totalitarian ruler. Is Iran better? Is Syria, Libya? How better even is Egypt? And, under the table, is Saudi Arab?

Is terror legal under international law? If not, it has been broken left and right in the Middle East. Is the Middle East someplace where human rights are respected? Even by rebels? About weapons of mass destructions, I hear the Iranians are trying to get atomic weapons. We castigated the Russians recently for helping them.

On the other hand, there is something that can be said for Saddam. He is a secular ruler: apparently Christian churches operate openly inside Iraq. However, unlike others, he does not require U.S. support. Would it not be better to find some way to use this since our enemy in the Middle East is fundamentalist Islam? Saddam, all things being equal, would be a bulwark against Iran. He may be right now.

♡▲♡ I am disagreeing with you again. I hope I am not being too disagreeable. I am not certain my position is THAT different from yours.

I know that the Bush Administration has been beating the drums for war. But I think beating the drums, and getting that

Congressional Resolution, has been Bush's October surprise.

I know we have been assured that invading Iraq is a snap. However, you have to read the fine print. Which says we need bases in bordering lands to make it snap. Which we do not have or lack the permission to use for that purpose. And which, even with our usual bribery and threats, will take several years to get.

I suspect we will invade Iraq eventually. We will have to get the public relations bonanza Rumsfeld and Cheney think is to be had. But we are not going to invade soon.

♡▲♡ Thank you for informing us about gas and germ warfare. It seems that they are of limited utility in war. I can understand why Saddam has gotten his butt kicked even when he used gas.

♡▲♡ ct. Me. Concrete is interesting stuff. Not only at Wigwam Village does it protect people against noise. A friend of mine told me he lived in a concrete apartment house. And was never bothered no matter how loud the stereos were.

♡▲♡ ct. Rich Lynch. I heard that Pushkin is the earliest person documented to have claimed Saleri plotted Mozart's death. And it is just conjecture that others closer to Mozart made that claim. As far as anyone has known, Saleri and Mozart were friends. That Mozart's wife believed Saleri plotted against Mozart. I was told, was conjecture.

Also, I heard that Mozart died during an epidemic. Of what I can't remember.

♡▲♡ ct. Don Markstein. What makes Patrick Gibbs so objectionable? I know he is very conservative, but I have known a number of very conservative people who were very decent in person.

ct. Irv Koch. You don't trust the Administration; I don't trust someone else to invest my money. I am not convinced they will make me any more money than I can by haphazardly investing as I have.

ct. Janice Gelb. Two young men of equal talent, training and upbringing taking opposite paths. It certainly has been done before, like you say. For instance, Hogarth's series of paintings in the 18th Century, *Industry and Idleness*. Where the Idle Apprentice ends up being hanged while the Industrious Apprentice ends up being Lord Mayor.

Of course, some themes are evergreens and you can use them as many times as you want. With the two young men, the Star Wars series seems to be proving that.

MIKE WEBER a ticklish situation indeed

ct. D. Schlosser. You have to remember the child porn campaign was initiated by fanatics. They believe all children have been abused and all parents should be in jail. Since putting all parents in jail would be impossible to enact, they have to be satisfied with eliminating child porn root, branch and twig.

ct. T. Feller. I don't remember that scene with Dean Martin and his son. But the only scene I remember from the Matt Helm movies, with the gigantic spider, is enough to push it beyond the bounds of realism. And, the mere presence of Dean Martin as the action hero would make it a parody. Which the era was known for.

About Dean Martin, someone may argue he acquitted himself well in some serious films. But I have to point out Not as

an action hero.

ct. J. Copeland. You have to compare the microfilm to the original. Especially if the original right now is just little pieces of pulp paper.

All sorts of tactics during World War II were to sap the morale of the population. Of course, they often had the opposite effect.

In fact, Hitler seems to have used them to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory on the Russian front. While the Germans may have been within throwing distance of conquering Russia before, afterward the Russians took a third of Germany.

I gather that the Germans sent Russian prisoners of war to deathcamps meant that Russians always fought to the last man.

One great idea was to leave caches of booze along the way to make the Russians drunk and less able to fight. Hitler had never heard that, during the Civil War, alcohol was also known as "bottled courage."

And then there was the order never to surrender an inch of land lest Germans look weak. Which actually made them weak. It meant German troops got surrounded and picked off.

ct. D. Markstein. Good idea. I might try to arrange a link between my web bibliographies and Amazon. Do they pay you anything if someone uses your link?

Of course, I would have to peek in each month and see that Amazon was still selling that book.

The whole idea behind the strip *Li'l Abner* was vituperation. So it is difficult to tell from the strip when Capp became as vituperative toward real people. Which Gary

Brown claims he heard.

About his conservatism, I suspect he became more conservative as he got older. I can't prove it. It happened within a few years. I remember in 1960 a liberal ad using his cartooning skills. By 1966, I gather, he was bashing liberals as well as the SDS.

Of course, 1960-66 was a time of great change so he still might have remained the same. And the world changed. But I still opt for the notion that he got more conservative got older.

🍷▲🍷 ELECTRON BAND. Isn't there the Desk Drawer Effect in reviewing literature? You only see the positive results in the published studies. And the negative results are never published. This parody article being an example of negative results.

LIZ COPELAND

home with the armadillo #55

🍷▲🍷 Is this a reason to choose the University of Victoria? Bunnies on campus. Is this a reason to de-select Simon Fraser University? Concrete buildings. What can I say? I chose worse for where I planned to go to school. At one point, I applied to the University of Kansas and the University of Nebraska. Why? Because they were in the center of the nation.

🍷▲🍷 Who knows why another family decided to leave when you swam in the motel pool. Your weight? Allie's ear piercings? A dislike of other people in general? Who can guess human nature.

And can you really tell if you got nasty looks in Vancouver? Facial expressions are another enigma.

In short, ignore other people unless they come out and tell you their grievance. And you might want to ignore them even

then.

🍷▲🍷 You can't use the word quilt anymore?! It's associated with grandmas?! That reminds me of some nonsense among the librarians. The Special Libraries Association has hired a branding company to come up with a better name for their outfit beside Special Libraries. On the grounds nobody knows what a special librarian means: namely, a librarian who specializes in a particular field.

Would we be treated any better by our bosses if we had a whoop-de-doo name? I doubt it. They would say we are librarians; and no matter what we called ourselves, we would still be pretty low down on the totem pole. Would the public treat us with any more respect? I doubt it.

I confess placing all this stress on names goes against my grain. I prefer to garner a reputation through service. I let others be good at the public relations game. Of course, it looks to my unschooled mind less like good public relations and more like silliness?

🍷▲🍷 Romance novels about vampires by Tanya Huff? I guess a vampire novel could be a romance. Sort of. On the other hand, the talking cat in *Summon the Keeper* by Tanya Huff need not be too cutesy. Esther Friesner in several of her novels had talking animals who weren't too cutesy. In some instances, not cute at all.

TKF. WEISSKOPF

"yngvi' is a louse" and other graffitos #79.

🍷▲🍷 KREEGAH! I had thought someone said Yngvi was the Norse goddess of lice. Which would make it appropriate to say "Yngvi is a louse!" But I was wrong.

My search of my Britannica CD on "Freyr" yielded this:



"Also spelled Frey, also
"called *Yngvi*, in Norse mythology,
"the ruler of peace and fertility, rain,
"and sunshine and the son of the sea
"god Njörd. Although originally one
"of the Vanir tribe, he was included
"with the Aesir. Gerd, daughter of
"the giant Gymir, was his wife.
"Worshipped especially in Sweden, he
"was also well-known in Norway
"and Iceland. His sister and female
"counterpart, Freyja, was goddess of
"love, fertility, battle, and death. The
"boar was sacred to both. Freyr and
"Freyja figure in many lays and
"stories of medieval Iceland."



Both Yngvi and Yngve, which is very close to it, are common Scandinavian names. So the prisoner in de Camp's tale could very well have been swearing at a man called Yngvi.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB.



Speaking of past recipes, you don't have to go far to get to the objectionable. I have the school lunch quantity recipe book from 1946. A lot of the recipes call for fat. Just fat. It didn't matter where you got it. Then there is the liver sandwich.



On the other hand, if you go way back in the past, you get to a recipe that will even make you cringe far more than O'Brian's early 19th Century specials. Live mice which gambol about the table, and you dip them in honey. And—

  I could have seen *Shipping News* on the flight to DSC. It looked interesting but I wanted to read. Having seen your review, I wished I had chosen to get a headset.

  ct. Tom Feller. Fall asleep in an MRI? For me, it was like being in a tomb. No happy dreams. One thing you had in your favor, though, were headphones. So you didn't hear the machine noises.



  ct. Guy Lillian III. There is a difference between Bush's selling stock and Clinton's Whitewater scheme. Clinton's Whitewater scheme never happened.

  ct. David Schlosser. I agree locking the cockpit door wouldn't stop terrorists if they use stealth or extortion. But arming pilots wouldn't either. As I said above, there is no such thing as 100% protection. We can, however, protect against a replay of 9-1-1 and other incidents if we lock the door to the pilot's cabin.

  In short, the analogy is pretty farfetched between Elian's situation and a Jewish boy extradited to the Nazis. The Jewish boy goes to certain death while Elian only has a greater chance of being arrested when he reaches adulthood – if Communist Cuba survives Castro.

Of course, you can always do as I do, and cry "Hyperbole!!" ...I thought of that when I was literally being eaten by mosquitos.

JEFFREY COPELAND **oxbridge dictionary of misplaced quotes.** **pt. 4**

  That is the problem. It is impossible to look into a man's soul. Someone like Robert Lee Yates Jr. could be, for all the world, a good father; and yet be a serial killer.

A Trajano Boccalini in the early 17th Century wrote a satire in which wise men were trying to reform the world. And one

reform was to create windows into people's hearts. But it was decided it would undermine authority. People would see the flaws those in authority have.

Also, it was argued that people know anyway what is in other people's hearts. Which they obviously don't, but have to claim they do.

♥▲♥ I agree with Thomas Wolfe we should use all of our talents. But we don't have to use them to become famous. In this, I disagree with my father, who has so craved I become famous.

♥▲♥ I disagree with Lord Kelvin that we can only know what we measure. That is only one type of knowing. And we can create the better mousetrap with it. Another type of knowing is in our heart. And that motivates us to create the better mousetrap.

♥▲♥ It is apparent Heinlein was wrong. We may not live to see vacations in space. I suspect we are going to have to wait for a time when the state is in better repute. And we are more willing to spend the money on the infrastructure needed for space travel.

It may be in a thousand years or two thousand years. However, I suspect the time will come about century from now. ...For what it is worth, an intuition on my part.

♥▲♥ No, Alan Haemer is wrong. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a drawing of that saying would be too wordy. The saying has only nine words right now.

♥▲♥ No, Victor Nell is wrong. The message of hope we are given in the media is not false. It is true: we want hope.

♥▲♥ Arthur Clark is wrong that astrology, UFOs, reincarnation, ESP, spoonbending and creationism are "mind-

rotting" rubbish. They are misapplied as science. They have other purposes. They sing to the modern soul.

♥▲♥ According to Arthur Lovejoy, Carl Sagan was wrong. The writer Claudius Ptolemy in Roman times believed as much as any modern thinker that the Earth was a lonely speck in a vast universe. It is just that his universe was better organized than the one where stars are Suns with their own planets.

Ironically, the position of the Church was that God cared more for man because he was sinful and living on a speck. As compared to the rest of the universe that was peopled by angels.

♥▲♥ Again I comment because I disagree. I'm being very disagreeable today. It is not our freedom that bin Laden is attacking, although that would be eliminated in his utopia. If you look at what he attacked on 9-1-1, it is international capitalism in the World Trade Center and the American military in the Pentagon.

If you look at what he is attacking in the Middle and Far East, it is American and European tourism, American diplomats and the American military.

The idea that he has targeted what we hold dear is once again thinking in our terms. Not his. And as long as we think in our terms, we can't catch him and we can't beat him.

♥▲♥ Blaise Pascal was right in his own time: men never do evil so completely and cheerfully except out of religious conviction. However, in the 20th Century, millions have died because of theories boosted as science – Marxism and Naziism.

Of course, they were in fact religions as much as the Protestants and Catholics of

the 17th Century. And Fundamentalist Islam
of the late 20th Century.

THE END



Mick Jagger