

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #81

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The head of Adam Kadmon, the Primordial Man, from whom all the other primordials came from that created the universe.

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THE SECRETS OF THE PSALMS

by Godfrey Selig

I coughed up the money for this book from Cat Yronwode. It apparently is a translation of the *Shimmush Tehillum*, a Jewish compilation of Medieval origin.

What is so special about it? It is actually in line with Medieval Rabbinical rulings. Which, despite the Bible, Ancient tradition and Ancient law, made all magic legal. But only if it were used for good. In fact, Rabbinic belief was that the Psalms, which called to God, could never be used for evil. Nor could the names of God and angels in the book. Neither would respond.

More than the reference to the Responsa, post-Talmudic scriptural commentary, the manual's moral tenor shows the original author was a learned and pious Jew.

At this time, ethics were rare among the practitioners of ritual magic. These rulings were more often practiced in the breach by most Masters of the Name – if they even cared about them. Much Medieval Jewish ritual magic is, as Trachtenberg says, not squeamish. The same with Christian ritual magic.

The manual closest to it I know of is *The Book of Sacred Magic of Abramelin the Mage*. Of course, while Abramelin talks a lot about how pious he is, his magic is less than pious. Also, there are problems with the manual's pedigree. There are no Jewish originals; it is known entirely from Christian sources. Nonetheless, it has been popular since Mathers' late 19th Century translation. And, of course, because it is also considered pious magic. There is even a band called Abramelin.

Going farther than Abramelin, the original author was intent on practicing

Rabbinical rulings, and writing an ethical book. The worst revenge is tit for tat. And that is only mentioned once. Another boon the book gives, which the arbiters of morality might be dubious about, is success in business.

More typically, however, the Psalm magic protects you from evil. From demons. From the dangers of boat travel. From soldiers and tyrants, whom the author's world was apparently filled with. Even when the Psalms help you win lawsuits, it is also to protect you from evil. Your enemy has born false witness against you.

Very often, the Psalms are to keep you from temptation, and encourage you to do good. To reconcile feuds. To cure other people's diseases.

It is true the Catholic Church did not like this magic one bit. And put it on its *Index* of banned books. But it had a completely different view of magic: it believed magic per se called to the Devil. Only the Devil or his demons would respond. The moral tenor of this manual did not matter.

Thus, the aids used to increase the magic's power would not have found favor in the Church's eyes either. This includes for most Psalms a name of God, and sometimes that the Psalms be repeated a specified number of times and at specified hours.

Also, the Church would have disapproved when sometimes the user is advised to say a prayer taken from elsewhere. And when sometimes there is a ritual. For instance, to make peace with your wife, you are instructed to anoint yourself with olive oil.

However, others, outside of higher Catholic circles, hopped at the chance to use such a virtuous book. That the manual was banned by the Church shows that it was used

by Christians. Apparently, it went through several rewritings. The version I read is at least 16th Century. Someone had added mention of Isaac de Luria, a 16th Century Kabbalist.

Of course, the version I read was in English. I have no reason to doubt that it was translated by a Godfrey Selig of London in 1788. That is what the frontispiece says. I suspect he was a Christian convert from Judaism. Certainly he was no great scholar. Sometimes the Names of God are almost unrecognizable. But, for the most part, the translation is adequate.

Cat Yronwode disagrees that that is who translated the work. She believes, on the authority of a scholar, that it was translated by Johannes Gottfried Seelig, a German, Christian mystic who migrated to Pennsylvania in 1694.

The problem is that Seelig, I gather, knew no English. Also, the translator mentions the London magician Dr. Falk, whose fame, I would imagine, was limited to London.

Later still, *The Secrets of the Psalms* was reprinted for poor Blacks. And now Cat Yronwode is selling it to New Agers. Still, despite rewritings and reprintings, the book is the original author, a pious and religious man who wrote a pious and religious book. And that, I bet, has been the reason for its popularity.

THE 6th AND 7th BOOKS OF MOSES: Ancient Secrets for a Better Life

This book survived into the 20th Century for reasons quite different reason than the *Secrets of the Psalms*. *The Secrets* appealed to our decency. The 6th and 7th Books appealed to a mass audience. Just as Old Moore's Almanac with astrology, which

reached dizzying bestseller-dom long after astrology became a laughing stock among the elite.

The 6th and 7th Books is rather an anthology of works that has little to do with the Bible, not really. Most writers say it was compiled in the 18th Century. Since one work alludes to Mesmerism, I suspect it was compiled in the 19th Century.

I bought this from Cat Yronwode's Lucky Mojo Curio Company. That means it was used by Black practitioners of Hoodoo. And survived into the late 20th Century. Now Cat has reprinted it for the fun and amusement of the New Age.

The work has had an even more curious, and appalling, parallel history in Germany, in its German original. Belief in the everpresent danger of witchcraft lasted longer in rural areas. And in rural Germany longer than elsewhere. It was still strong in the 1950s. And survives even now to some extent. The scholars Johann Kruse and a Hans Sebald have claimed that, in fighting witches, the work peasants have used most is the 6th and 7th Books of Moses.

There is nothing in it that directly relates to witches. In the chapter on the spirits of the planets, the magic promises love, treasure, your every desire. And then it does not specify the boons you will get from its magic after that. Par for the ritual magic course. I guess the presumption was you could use that magic for everything.

In other ways, the 6th and 7th Books is par for the ritual magic course. In fact, it is an encyclopedia of ritual magic. I originally thought the book had nothing to do with regular ritual magic. But I found it has incorporated an incredible number of varieties. In this way, it provided one stop shopping for the ignorant peasant.

It starts out giving a table of spirits



Apparition by the secret of the Black Hen, from a grimoire of that name.

of the planets. If the peasant would prefer, the manual also brings in the *schemhameforasch*, the ineffable name. Or names: any one of a number of names of God could be it. In addition, it contains a ritual based on the magic circle of Jewish lore.

Furthermore, if the peasant would prefer, there are inscriptions harkening to the Bible, mostly the Book of Exodus. The Breastplate of Moses, for instance. Moses had a sword and a shield; why not a breastplate? The rest of the inscriptions are less familiar to me: Aaron's Breastplate, Balaam's Sorcery, the Citation of Germuthsai, inscriptions harkening to the Ten Plagues. This accords with tradition even if I have not seen these in a manual before. In one important legend, Moses

created the magical Kabbalah. Which he passed on.

If the peasant would prefer, there is a ritual claimed Ancient and Jewish where the user is instructed to say masses.

If the peasant would prefer, he has his choice of barbarous words. List after list after list of misspelt, mispronounced names of God. Or what were taken to be names of God. Or of angels or demons: "Tuwahel, Donahan, Ruweno, Ymoeloh, Hahowel, Tywael." Some names, the writer got right.

Scholars have usually believed that the writers were just mis-remembering from other works. People wrote more from memory and copied less. Even so fastidious a man as the 16th Century Reginald Scot mis-remembered at times.

But I suspect that some words were made up. It gets obvious. At one point, the authors talk about the Cuthans and Cuthan language. An entire Ancient people out of whole cloth.

Being encyclopedic is only one reason why this manual is popular. The second is because many of the rituals are in accord with the KISS principle: Keep it Simple, Stupid. There are easily written tables of spirits and inscriptions. Also, there are prayers too, which you can say.

This magic is accomplished with a minimum of artifacts. In one, I counted just a ram's horn. In another, the novitiate is supposed to wear a wreath of laurel and hold a palm twig in one hand. Both, I guess, obtainable by this manual's country folk users.

To show you how dumbed down this is, at one point, the laurel and palm are part of a Readers' Digest version of the *Greater Key of Solomon*. In the original *Key*, you had to be an artisan in several trades. And had to make everything used for the ritual from

scratch. Here, there is not much of anything.

Then there are the names and seals of demons a la the *Lesser Key of Solomon*. It is short; Reginald Scot and Johannes Wier went into much more detail in denouncing their use.

I have to admit that the saying of masses would require a priest. Willing priests were plentiful enough in the Middle Ages; I doubt that has been so in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

I have another confession to make as well. All this happens in what I regard as the core of the anthology; the part of it actually meant to appeal to the masses, especially country bumpkins. These works maybe make up only a third. They pockmark this anthology, sandwiched in between more learned ones.

Outside the KISS pale, there is a long tome that mixes occultism, Christian mysticism, gnosticism. And mesmerism. I have to admit it is semi-appropriate. Almost all its examples come from the Bible and associated traditions.

Next, there is *Semiphoras and Schemhamporas*, the supposed Sevenfold Name and the well known Ineffable Name. Published by an Andrew Luppius in 1686. Although the term Semiphoras is supposed to be old and Kabbalistic, I have only seen it used here. Even where, as in the Jewish Encyclopedia website, it is spelt it out in Hebrew letters, it is referring to this work.

Nonetheless, it could be considered relatively high ritual magic; as opposed to the rockbottom low we have been examining. Otherwise, this work has a much better idea of languages, traditions and philosophy than its KISS brethren.

What helps is it borrows a lot from Agrippa von Nettesheim's *Three Books of Occult Philosophy* – by a brilliant, if erratic

genius. So illustrious was *Semiphoras and Schemhamporas* it was apparently an inspiration to the school of what were called the Faustian manuals of ritual magic.

Finally, there is the *Secrets of the Psalms* incorporated in its entirety in the 6th and 7th Books. With a much better colophon than the one Cat had had published alone.

What are we to make of these strange bedfellows? These are fully in the tradition of centuries past; often the most disparate works were bound and published together.

On the other hand, two famous, simpler manuals of ritual magic were tacked on to Agrippa von Nettesheim's *Three Books*: the *Fourth Book* and the *Heptameron*. Anyway, the *Fourth Book* is supposedly simpler. And the idea was clearly this: if you couldn't understand Agrippa, you could always understand the attached.

So, in the end, these heavier works may have been part and parcel of a volume made for a more unlettered audience. Just as the rest of the volume has been. Come-ons to the real, low magic core.

COMMENTS ON SFPA #231

JEFF COPELAND

the southerner no. 231



I remember from my childhood.

Space stations, when we finally got them, would be donut shaped. And have a whole army of people manning them. Now we have a space station, the International Space Station: it has few people manning it. And looks like the Wright Brothers' plane. Vaguely.



The most forgettable man. How about *Readers' Digest's* Most Unforgettable

Man I Ever Met? What's his name.

NED BROOKS

new port news 207

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. What was Mick Jagger in court for? The caption reads that it was a case that resulted in the dismissal of his business manager. Who, I imagine, was the one on trial. I wish I could have found the details, but there is no index to my mother's book, and the chapter headings are not particularly helpful.

As for Ayatollah Khomeini, my mother didn't meet him in court. I think she met him in Paris before he became famous. She found his appearance interesting, and sketched him.

During the 1980 hostage crisis, she got the notion that she could have ended the crisis if she could just send the Ayatollah that sketch. Good as it is, I much doubt it.

🍷▲🍷 As I said, the density test was not popular in Ancient times. Weighing was only popular in the 18th Century when the art of assaying first began. If you really think about Archimede's tale, he wasn't trying to test for gold. Just the quantity that the king had given his goldsmith.

🍷▲🍷 I guess you could prove memories had been repressed if a traumatic situation has been recorded, and the person forgot it. Of course, there is a possibility that the person remembered the situation, but didn't wish to talk about it.

Which is what I figure happened when some psychologist asked Native Americans who had been abused, and they claimed to have had no memory of it. This was seen as conclusive evidence for repressed memories. But—

🍷▲🍷 Yes, stable opinions I disagree

with are ossified. Those I agree with show integrity.

🍷▲🍷 I gather the received opinion about antigravity is that you could not insulate against it. That isn't how gravity works. Another problem is that all matter we know of has gravity. It is true anti-matter is anti-gravitational; but if we go near it, we will blow up.

Because of all these problems, it's going to be a while before we have an anti-gravity machine.

🍷▲🍷 About "In Like Flynn," I got my info from the Straight Dope column by Cecil Adams (whose real name I forget). He was the one who claimed it referred to Errol Flynn's sex life. I have forgotten what evidence Adams gave.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Schlosser. I agree that child abuse is mostly not sexual. In fact, I bet rarely sexual. A friend of mine claims that she was nonsexually abused. I am sure she was beaten if her grades went too low. And I am sure her mother skimmed on going to the doctor for her. On the other hand, she and her mother currently seem to be good friends. And her upbringing doesn't seem to have ruined her for life.

Not that I advise that everyone adopt her mother's childrearing technique.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Hlavaty. I agree with you about politics. It is irrelevant to whether we like authors, like Borge. In fact, perhaps we should steer away from judging authors by their politics. It is the worst part of them.

If the truth be known, our politics are probably the worst part of us.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Hlavaty (Lafferty?). So you didn't like the great bands of the '60s: the Beattles, the Stones, the Doors. What kind

of a troglodyte are you?

It's like a Senator said during the 19th Century. He was extolling the virtues of a dime novel called *Onandaga the Savage*. And he said, "Anyone who doesn't like *Onandaga the Savage* hasn't the right to call themselves a human being."

ct. Guy. Ah, the cover where beautiful women are being bronzed. I remember that cover. Also, there was one where they were being frozen in ice in bikinis. Often by Nazis and often with a degenerate hunchback nearby. I think it was *Sir!* magazine that was doing that. Maybe not.

I have to tell you I don't miss that it is no longer socially acceptable to display such kinky "Good Girl" art. It turns my stomach just thinking about those examples.

I think you're right that van Vogt is best to read at twelve. Also, when you are sleepy and your thinking cap is hanging on the bedpost for the night.

ct. Janice. I wouldn't call *The Wind Done Gone* a parody or a satire. From the reviews I have read, a better category would be travesty.

ct. Feller. Yes, there have been Hispanic terrorists in the US. Puerto Rican nationalists once made a big splash. Of course, it was way back when in 1950 they tried to assassinate Harry Truman. And way back in 1954 when they shot up the Congress and wounded five Congressmen. Jimmy Carter pardoned them in 1979.

ct. Copeland. I had all sorts of great notions as a kid. I thought artists conceptions of Moon landings were drawings of real Moon landings. I believed that Santa Claus and Howdy Doody were

real. And I was convinced my father's paperclip tray could hold a skyscraper.

Part of me misses being that naive.

You found General Practitioners in today's world. No wonder you are having trouble getting a good one. These days, people, who want a first line physician, more often see Internists and Family Practitioners, specialists trained to be generalists. At least, that is what my brother and father, the psychiatrists, tell me. And who Kaiser-Permanente sends me to.

BACOVER. Great Lott cartoon.

TAFF 2003 BALLOT

You have swindled me again into supporting subsidized fan travel. I can't not vote for Curt Phillips.

RICH LYNCH

variations on a theme #18

SLEIGH BELLS JINGLING.

Fahey's "American Primitive Guitar" sounds like folk music of the early sixties. I bet Fahey played a nonelectric guitar. Only that was considered pure, folk, honest. Virtues much touted then.

But all that was about to end. I remember, in the mid-sixties, Bob Dylan was booed for playing an electric guitar at the New Port Folk Festival. A year later, electric guitars were all around. And the one booper I knew admitted he was wrong.

So, despite reference to Currier & Ives, "Sleigh Ride" was by a modern composer, Leroy Anderson.

ct. Me. My life is different than yours. Than everyone else's probably. I haven't read the local news in some time. And I haven't been to DC for any length of

time in a while, although it used to be my stamping grounds. So I likely wouldn't have known about the donkey and elephant statues.

Now that you've told me where they are, I may get out and see them – if the spirit moves me.

Even if I wasn't intent on doing my thing, I still couldn't take myself too much to task. There was a change in my bus route a year or so ago, and I pointed out to the driver I hadn't heard about it. She said it was in the papers and I should have heard beforehand. Nonetheless, I seem to have been the first to hear about it.

🍷▲🍷 Swathe means that the planet traveling in its orbit changes the star's wobble. To me. Swathe is what the planet makes in the star's corona. Wobble is what the star does. Of course, I don't know what the scientific word would be for what the planet makes. That is just a term from plain English I use.

🍷▲🍷 As I said, one of the engineers in SFPA was not going to miss that extracting mercury and sodium for the Nautilus' batteries might not be practical. The ball is Norm's court now.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian. "Inferior" products get Hugos because something about them hits the audience at that moment. A moment which may last a year or two. Then it is recognized for the swill it is.

On the other hand, what do we make of underground classics, which are 90% swill and 10% genius? And remain underground classics even after a hundred years. Horatio Alger. Ayn Rand.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tom Feller. A lot of people were taking precautions against being hit by the recent D.C. area snipers. I figured my

chances were minuscule and there were a lot more important things to worry about.

I am of course perverse about this. For most people, there is nothing more dangerous than a well publicized threat, even though it kills one person. And nothing so innocuous as an unpublicized threat that kills millions.

For instance, there was a greater chance of being killed by a careless driver than the snipers.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff Copeland. Without examining the evidence in as much detail as you, I concluded that Elizabeth Morgan's accusations against her husband, Eric Foetich, were pure nonsense.

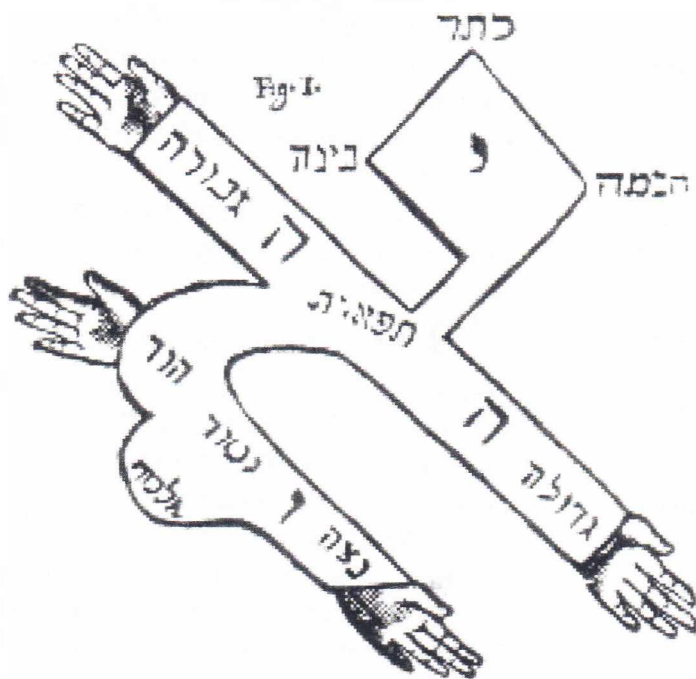
While he could have abused the children, in the heat of a messy divorce, I have noticed a lot of mothers claim the ex had abused their children. And, hostilities being what they often are, it probably takes very little evidence to prove that to themselves.

As for the psychologist, it was popular at the time for psychologists to claim every child had been abused.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. I don't think either you or Steve are right. Businessmen haven't been willing to invest in the current climate no matter what. Of course, higher rates will discourage it more. But there won't be much investing under lower rates either.

There is the supply of credit, the demand for credit, and the climate which determines both. And the climate has not been good. The tendency is wrong to see investment as mechanical, supply and demand; it is psychological.

🍷▲🍷 ct. T.K.F.W. Reinhardt. When it comes to "upper upper" music, I get the impression that the criterion is *the masses*



Cabalistic ideogram of the Hebrew Letter Aleph.
Probably fixed up to make it more powerful.

hate the music. If they do, then it must be great stuff. Even though it be a cacophony or caterwauling. Just as the idea behind other "modern" art is snobbery.

GUY H. LILLIAN III
rear-ender '02 >>>

☿▲☿ Money used to be my problem until my father started giving me some of his as part of a living will. I never asked for it, but, of course, I am grateful for it. My father can be a good guy at times. At other times, a pain-in-the-drain. Like with a lot of parents.

☿▲☿ Both you and Rosie seem to have sacrificed money to lead the lives you

want to lead. You a lawyer in the public interest, she a journalist.

At my agency, there seems to be the other problem. Most employees don't want to work there but get paid well enough. A friend of mine was always telling me he was going to leave, but he would always come back. Of course, part of the problem was that fulfilling jobs were not available on the outside either.

As for myself, I made my job. And continue to make it, no matter what personnel says. I can't complain.

☿▲☿ Bon chance with getting admitted to the Tennessee bar.

GUY H. LILLIAN III
spiritus mundi 193

☿▲☿ I'm so bad with presents that when my wife says she doesn't want any, I don't get her any.

Actually, Heidi has never been angry because of that. She just buys herself a present out of our joint bank account. I guess she is one woman who means it; she doesn't like surprises.

☿▲☿ ct. Me. A number of issues of *Twyg* have the same number. What can I say, I hear pro journals have messed their numbering up too.

☿▲☿ They say a picture is worth a thousand words. My mother's sketches in her book speak volumes. Like the one of Mark David Chapman with bright, zealous, mad, unfocused eyes. Unfortunately, the prose doesn't say all that much.

🍷▲🍷 I gather the movement over repressed memories has lost steam although it hasn't quite died. It still has promoters among psychiatric and psychological professionals. But they are mentioned as having held high positions in professional organizations *in the past*.

Also, at one time, someone was sentenced to life imprisonment based on repressed memories of a murder. Now, some therapists have been successfully sued in court for convincing patients they suffered from repressed memories of abuse. So the belief has lost credibility in the courts too.

🍷▲🍷 Harry Warner, Jr. usually does read *JOMP, JR*. He had problems last time, though, and didn't respond. I hope his hand and typewriter are OK when *JOMP* comes out next.

🍷▲🍷 Hey, SFPA Slash Fiction is a great idea. How about this? We have you in a passionate sex scene with someone who may not be in SFPA but you mention her enough, Michelle Feiffer.

🍷▲🍷 Come on, Guy, I was not saying anything different from you. As I said, SFPA's heart is in New Orleans. I was just practicing hyperbole for a contrast. Saying that SFPA's history is not in New Orleans while saying it's heart is in New Orleans.

We know its heart is in New Orleans.

🍷▲🍷 The power to deliver atomic weapons is the rub. Saddam definitely does not have it vis-a-vis the U.S., or we wouldn't even talk of invasion. As I said, any atomic bomb that Saddam has, like gas and germ warfare, is basically for prestige.

Come to think of it, even if Saddam could deliver his atomic bomb, he likely wouldn't. He may be a mad dictator, but he

hasn't been crazy.

On the other hand, we may be ignoring what will be Saddam's most potent weapon, guerrilla warfare. Both the U.S. and Russia have been laid low by it. Us in Southwest Asia and Southern Africa. Russia in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Nicaragua.

I know the experts have said you can't fight a guerrilla war across the desert. However, they are less sure about the cities. And then there is the fertile area around the Tigris and Euphrates. Which Iraq is known for, which the experts have been ignoring and which seems very much like Vietnam.

I realize that, for a guerrilla war, you need massive popular support, and Saddam is not a popular person in his own country. However, Americans seem even less popular in the Arab world in general and in Iraq in particular. Saddam may yet be like that vile dictator Joe Stalin, and rally his people.

The Bushies believe this war will be a cakewalk. I bet they laugh at, as they encourage, talk of germ warfare and gas warfare. But they seem to have given this real risk short shrift.

🍷▲🍷 So a psychic reads Lex Luthor's future and has a 100% hit. They always do in fiction. Meanwhile an astrology magazine could only find one astrologer who had even said September 2001 would be an unlucky time for the U.S. On the other hand, there are plenty of predictions like this one: Elizabeth Taylor will discover the cure for cancer.

Of course, predictions like the last are entertaining.

🍷▲🍷 I don't know whether Sherman's destruction was wanton. I heard the idea was to divide the South in half, so the North could pick both off more easily. And to do that, you had to cut a swathe of destruction

through it so it would be harder to transport supplies. He certainly did cut a swathe of destruction.

🍷▲🍷 I could have doctors keep me alive right now if I chose to. My Living Will would not prevent that. The problem is what if you didn't know what was happening? What if you were for all intents and purposes brain dead.

Possibilities that are all too great. The lawyer who advised me was in his seventies. And very close to the situation he was talking about.

🍷▲🍷 Thanks for the compliment on my Whitewater remark. I doubt Toni feels the same way.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Brooks. Octopoid alien men killing or having sex with their mate, in James' Tiptree's *Brightness Falls from the Air*. That sounds like the real behavior of praying mantises, except that with praying mantises it is the female who kills or eats its mate.

🍷▲🍷 I think Dr. Strangelove was modeled after Herman Kahn, who worked for the Rand Corporation. According to this one academic whose work was on the web, Dr. Strangelove, in the script, was supposed to work for the Bland Corporation. Kahn is a nearly forgotten character from the early '60s, who talked a lot about megadeaths..

🍷▲🍷 ct. Brown. Best of luck in both you and Rosie getting jobs in Tennessee. Our more prominent BNFs need a decent income to do their faanish thing.

🍷▲🍷 Wasn't what Jughead wore a paper cutout of a crown? I knew children sometimes wore that in the '40s and '50s if they wanted to look cool. I guess teenagers did too.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice. I became disillusioned with Al Gore. I think he let people's opinions affect him too much. That was why he appeared so wooden at times. That was why he bowed to the news commentators and polls, and treated Bush with kid gloves during the debates. That was why he ceased wearing a beard. The *Washington Post* laughed at him for doing so.

The only time he didn't bow to media pressure was when the newspapers were watching his D.C. campaign headquarters like a hawk for even a hint of embarrassment. So Gore moved the headquarters to Memphis. The *Washington Post* was infuriated, but Al stood firm.

If there is one thing any President needs, it is a hide like a rhinoceros and the independence of a desert island. And Al fell short.

🍷▲🍷 Good for Trinlay. Getting published more and more in fandom. Paying gigs would be better but at least she gets some egoboo this way.

DAVID SCHLOSSER

peter, pan & merry #47

🍷▲🍷 Sex between Luke and Jar Jar pedophilia? Is Luke that young? ...Come to think of it, he hasn't been born yet, has he?

🍷▲🍷 I guess no one has ever associated drugs with gang violence and organized crime in ads because they figure their middle class audience aren't bothered by any of those things. But they are bothered by terrorism.

🍷▲🍷 I thought the accusation that 4,000 Israelis stayed home from the World Trade Center 9-1-1 was based on an email

that 4,000 Arabs stayed home. Everyone pooed that email in the U.S. so it disappeared. But someone changed the Arabs to Jews, and the Arab world ate it up.

🍷▲🍷 Of course, aspartame should be legal and in foods. Of course, foods should be labeled as such. But the argument some are making is that there is no evidence it is dangerous to anyone. That's nonsense too.

🍷▲🍷 A friend of mine found the UN resolution that created the partition between Israel and Palestine (General Assembly Resolution #181). It allowed for more autonomy for both than I thought. The authors wanted a firewall between the Jews and Arabs to avoid ethnic conflict. Such, of course, was not to be.

I originally thought the US and Britain wanted the Jews and Arabs to be in differences province of the same state. This misconception came from following the minutes of the UN without actually reading the resolution. What the U.S. and Britain wanted was not provinces; it looked more like a confederation.

So I wonder what Yugoslavia was talking about when it proposed a federation between the Israel and Palestine. By the way, the Soviet Union was supposed to have proposed two independent states. A proposal which, I presume, is self-explanatory; but, given the above, who knows.

🍷▲🍷 I admit there are more analogies between *The Tempest* and *Forbidden Planet* than between Moses and Middlebury. But I seem to remember even greater differences.

🍷▲🍷 I find nothing wrong that the Prophets of the Bible had flaws. In fact, I find it very right that they had human frailties and failures. It gives me ammo against one of the most annoying modern

tendencies. These days, it seems if you find a flaw in someone, you feel you can dismiss them and all their works.

People have found flaws in Jimmy Carter and dismissed him. And Mother Teresa and dismissed her. And I read someone who was attempting to do it with Robert Bloch. In fact, if the truth be known, many biographies these days are written to find the fatal flaw in someone and dismiss them.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. Tax industries that use illegal immigrants to offset the public services they use. The problem is that industries powerful enough to use illegal immigrants are powerful enough to avoid taxation.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian III. There is a difference between the way North Korea has kept its pledges and the way Iraq has. It seems as if Iraq has kept them much better. Of course, we have been more serious about forcing it to.

🍷▲🍷 "Terrorists" have strategic aims, but— I have come to the conclusion that the problem is not believing that the strategic aims justify the means. It's that, with fanatics like bin Laden, the strategic aims have an emotional but very little practical relationship to the means.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don Markstein. That's a great idea. Laws should have honest preambles: "An Act to Persecute Probably Innocent Folk so We Can Look Good." Or how about "An Act to Funnel a Little Money to my Friends"?

In fact, I think there should be a law requiring it: "An Act to Make Us All Look like Fools."

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. About that

person who complained that Senator Feinstein was not voting her constituents' views. I am not certain he did not understand most of the concept of representation: a representative is accountable to their constituents.

However, there was a part of the concept he was ignoring: representatives are also accountable to their conscience and common sense.

🍷▲🍷 APAC - NC². My home state of New Jersey is also associated with beaches. That is how the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival portrayed New Jersey. Also, it was associated with shoes. Which I don't think California is.

🍷▲🍷 Internal logic of a Bond film spoiled because the omnipresent Bond did not catch on that his gun had no bullets? I think that the internal logic of a Bond film depends on what the plot calls for. If it calls for Bond to see a speck on a cloud, he does it. If it calls for him to ignore that his gun has no bullets or his pants are down, he does that too.

🍷▲🍷 If the film of *Two Towers* changed the book for neat effects and flashbacks, it did better than many films. In many films, changes to the book are made Just Cause.

SHEILA STRICKLAND

revenant #16

🍷▲🍷 GRAD SCHOOL

ADVENTURES. I wonder if somewhere in every bureaucracy is a bureau of unreasonableness, which specializes in unreasonable rules. And rulings. Like averaging a twenty year old F into your grade point.

I had similar problems when I went

to grad school. I was told I couldn't have my car on campus. I had to park five miles away from classes and walk. That was because I applied for a parking permit too late. Someone else told me to ignore this rule, and that was the end of that.

🍷▲🍷 LORD OF THE RINGS. In short, *Lord of the Rings* is definitely a work which should be altered as little as possible. People are too loyal to the original. The first movie followed the original and prospered. The second movie, *Two Towers*, did not and there are many grumbings.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. As well as wondering about the differences, I had a problem with some of the similarities between *The Tempest* and *Forbidden Planet*. One of the similarities was a common plot device during the '50s. It was typical of the fifties that the hero falls in love with the scientist's daughter. Robert Silverberg said that he once wrote formula fiction where the girl comes to the hero to save her father the scientist.

🍷▲🍷 No, my mother worked in New York City and its environs most of her time as courtroom sketch artist. Apparently some of the Watergate trials took place there. It is true her station may have sent her to Washington, DC occasionally. And I know they sent her to Guyana for the Jonestown trials.

🍷▲🍷 ct. New Port News. In reducing your risk of dying, watch out that life doesn't cease being worth living. Of course, you realize this. Since you're reluctant to give up cheese, you have a not-worth-living point.

My point is giving up 2% milk for skim. Skim tastes like chalk to me.

Another not-worth-living point of



Cabalistic Seal of Agrippa von Nettesheim

mine is starving myself like my father wants me to, and losing thirty pounds. He always tells me I'll be sorry. And the weight charts back him up. According to them, I am obese.

I guess I could make a case that I still need not starve. My doctors don't seem worried. I guess I am in pretty good condition for a man in his later fifties. But I know that would cut no mustard with my father, who believes my doctors are basically quacks.

Anyway, the bottomline is no way am I going to starve. As I said, life wouldn't be worth living. And I would be very sorry if I followed that regimen.

Working under your mayor sounds like working under Ronald Reagan in Washington. His men decided that there would be no snow days. If we wanted to stay home, we could take leave.

Finally, the cities in the area leaned on the Republicans. It made those snow covered and icy highways dangerous that so many Federal employees were going to work on them.

On the other hand, there was positively no benefit from that policy. The rest of the country never heard of it. Anyway, at the time, it could not have believed an Administration wasn't coddling burr'crats, no matter its 'get tough' bonafides.

ct. Ascending/Descending.

Like the axes you mention, I hear fighter planes lasted forever on replacement parts. The B-52s were kept in the air from 1955 until the '80s on replacement parts and upgrades. And, for all I know, many still are.

With computers, it seems to be harder to do that. There is profit in a disposable society and a proprietary computer. Also, no computer made can adapt itself to all the changes in computers in the past decade.

In the early '80s, I was reading hype for this one computer that said, with replacement parts, Obsolescence was Obsolete. But we got rid of all those computers in a short time.

ct. Under the Knife. A

colostomy is bad too. I hope I was a help to my wife Heidi when she was in the hospital and home. Your sister was probably more help when you were sick. Anyway, my wife wanted to do some cooking and cleaning as soon as possible just to sate her ego and forget her pain.

PERMANENT HUMAN

VALUES. I think I heard somewhere where Joseph Campbell was actually sympathetic to the Nazis. And was pretty anti-Semitic.

So it was no skin off his nose to advocate 'objectivity' toward Nazism.

Of course, no skin off many of our noses to advocate 'objectivity' toward Saddam. On the other hand, Campbell is right in his basic idea that the permanent things are shared by all of us. We tend to forget them and follow will o' the wisps; but they're there.

GUY H. LILLIAN III thirty

There but for fortune go I. So far my accidents have been love taps. It is true for the past two years, I have rented cars, decided not to pay the insurance, and had an accident. But they were love taps, which amounted to scratching the bumper.

Several years ago I was backing out, didn't see; and I collided. While I made a mess out of the woman's door, mea culpa, my bumper was only scratched.

This year I was going to my cousin Diane's house in the Philadelphia area and was rear ended by a kid. He didn't have a registration for the car, he didn't have a driver's license. On the other hand, he only scratched my bumper.

A third accident was in my regular Toyota Corolla. I once again backed out and hit someone, in the parking lot of Wal-Mart. That time not only did I only have scratches on my bumpers, but they were faint. The same with the Black woman I hit. She admitted it was hard to see them. While she put in for them anyway, I bet finding out she had to pay a deductible was a moment of truth.

I realize these love taps just remain luck. I could easily have wound up in the emergency room like you. I am taking some precautions. I am parking front forward, and looking behind me more. Also, praying to

God more.

TOM FELLER frequent flyer

Good for you, Anita is going to be pulling in a little extra money in a part time State job.

I got, I believe, second prize for a story in the N3F contest one year. I wasn't so successful the second year. Or no one responded in any case. But my short story days are over. I have been into nonfiction for I-don't-know-how-long.

You do generally what I usually do at office parties: as a diabetic, eat only modest portions of the forbidden foods. This elicits both kudos and hostility. Hostility from people who believe they shouldn't be eating what they are eating.

So your family has been in the community many years, and the community has remained sufficiently like it was, so that your parents can tell what it looked like years ago. I doubt my father's community in Jersey City, NJ or my mother's in Philadelphia has a resemblance even that close.

What's the world coming to?

The Bob Crane movie sounds like it was sleaze. Man videos his one night stands and is killed by an associate for some vile act.

I admit the movie was apparently well done sleaze. But that is a bad sign not a good one: sleaze used to be beyond the pale rather than an art form.

Solaris is bad because it disappointed fans' expectations. As an art film, it might not be so bad. Everything is expectations. Normally we throw rotten food

away, but then there is pheasant under glass.

☛▲☛ THE ELGIN MARBLES. I

don't blame the British museum for not wishing to loan them to Greece. Greece wants to keep them permanently and has announced its intentions a number of times in the past hundred years.

Of course, it does have a good claim to them, despite whoever gave or sold them to Lord Elgin.

☛▲☛ In short, an independent Switzerland and Sweden were Nazi policy. Not any firepower on the part of the Swiss or the Swedes. And the Swiss and Swedes knew it. Their independence did not do anything to stop the Nazis – except for overweening pride it helped give them. Which cameth before the fall.

STEVE and SUZANNE HUGHES weirdstuff 2

☛▲☛ NEW PAPER AND INKS.

Interesting about inks and paper. I am not surprised the first Epson printer you bought was a dot matrix yet it cost \$700. I bought a Laserprinter in 1993 for \$600. And laserprinters had just gone down in price.

☛▲☛ TOYS IN THE HOUSE. And out of the house. Toys are supposed to be for kids, but we all have our toys. You can just afford more and bigger ones, like the trampoline tower, remote control cars, the monorail village.

I just learned Free Cell from my wife and it has become an obsession. A favorite toy? You bet. Of course, adult seeming things can be toys. Computers and software. I seem to have downloaded MyMorph just for the hell of it. It translates text into PDF well enough but you can't insert illos.

☛▲☛ The weather in Elijay sounds vaguely what it is here, snow. Just that we are better prepared for it. There are enough people living here so that it pays to snowplow everything.

I was about to write the main highways have been open within hours of a snowstorm and the sideroads by the end of the day. And, in every snow this year, they had been when I wrote the first draft of this *Twyg*. But by the time I came to rewrite it, the blizzard of 2003 had come. And it took several days to dig out.

GARY BROWN oblio. december 2002-January 2003.

☛▲☛ I love your Florida travel covers with the lovely cheesecake and the luscious scenery and attire.

☛▲☛ For some reason, I haven't been sick enough to be in bed since I had my gallbladder operation in 1999. I don't know why. Flu shots were never this effective in preventing flu – if it was flu I had before.

☛▲☛ I hate to say it. I think this is a popular enough war among the people the Bushites are trying to curry favor with. We Liberals are somewhat isolated.

Of course, I am even more isolated than that. I don't know whether oil will be the reason for the war. That is what is believed universally. But, historically, the oil cartels have wished to keep Iraq out of the world market. Which, I hear, they were doing with the status quo.

As I have said, I think the reason for the war is this: the Anti-Saddam cause worked so well in 1991 the Bushites want a replay.

On the other hand, I agree 100% with your specifics about bin Laden. Apparently

he is in the no man's land at the Pakistani border. And no attempt has been made to move against him even though there is even chance knocking him out would dismantle al Qaeda as well.

♥▲♥ I remember *The Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. An adult Justice League. The idea was how a league of superhumans would change the world. Maybe a darker view of humans than is my taste, but it was adult, no question about that.

I gather the idea behind *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* is if characters out of Victorian novels of daring-do really existed, how that would have changed the world. Characters like Mycroft Holmes. And Captain Nemo, whom, I gather, is an anti-British Indian.

♥▲♥ ct. Me. Thanks. Unfortunately my mother's book was in print only a short time. Publishing industry politics as far as I can see; I was told it was selling well enough in D.C.

♥▲♥ Only \$280,000 for a home in Palm Beach County. A friend of mine recently paid \$420,000 for a townhouse in Virginia. And, even with that, she got shoddy construction.

♥▲♥ I am not certain the two explanations for the origin of Alfred E. Neumann are contradictory. Rather Feldman found different events more important than the account in the book about *Mad Magazine*.

♥▲♥ I was going to say that it is no wonder Little Lulu had a female viewpoint. It was created by a woman, Marge Henderson Buell. Of course, it was also written by two males, John Stanley for Dell

(1945-61). And a Randy Henderson wrote a not very successful comic strip.

♥▲♥ Gambling is certainly fun. And, since your Los Vegas friends kept you busy talking about football, fun that wasn't that expensive.

♥▲♥ If I remember correctly, Al Capp remained clever. A friend of mine who is Liberal still waxes nostalgic over Joanie Phoanie. And SWINE, Students Wildly Indignant about Nearly Everything. At Boarkley.

♥▲♥ ct. JCopeland. I would just take Mike's CD and put it in your CD slot. No problem with opening his files; they're in PDF. Which web browsers routinely open these days.

♥▲♥ ct. Janice Gelb. I guess the Democrats could have done this or done that. But I figure that people's politics were event powered in the 2002 elections. In the wake of 9-1-1, people became more Conservative. And Republican.

Of course, this Conservatism wasn't that powerful a force; it had a Recession to contend with. The Republicans gained only a few seats in the House and Senate.

Maybe if the Democrats had laid greater emphasis on the recession, like you suggest, that might have helped. Maybe if they made a greater effort to bring out their supporters that might have helped too.

But, on balance, it has been a Republican time.

♥▲♥ ct. Don Markstein. Newspapermen middle-of-the-road. That would be sufficient for the Wingers to shout Liberal controlled media.

♥▲♥ ct. Janet Larson. I know of no

great court settlements that have depleted the malpractice insurers coffers. In fact, State after State is opting for tort reform. I presume what happened was the malpractice insurers lost a lot of money when the stock and bond markets took a dive. And they are trying to recoup.

Fortunately for them, it has been a Conservative era and they have been able to blame the earthshattering increases in premiums on shyster lawyers.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. Bush's economic plan? The war of course. The market may be taking a dive because of talk of war. But war will push the economic indicators upwards.

The only problem might be if greater forces are pushing the economy downward.

EVE ACKERMAN guilty pleasures 27

🍷▲🍷 Ralphie sleeping all day and up all night. Sounds like me as a young man.

🍷▲🍷 PESHAWAR LANCERS. "I don't know, I've never Kippled." That joke apparently was on one of the more popular post cards in Britain according to the Guinness Book.

🍷▲🍷 The Russians survive through a cult of cannibalism in S.M. Sterling's alternate history. Isn't that what we have believed all along?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Copeland, J. The quote I still like best is: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside a dog, it's hard to read." From Groucho Marx. As to why it is my favorite, I don't know.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Hughes, S. You're right that you have to devote full time to writing any

book. My passions are divided so I probably wouldn't get any book done even after I have retired.

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF REINHARDT "yngvi is a late louse" and other graffitos. #81

🍷▲🍷 Why is it comments that send my blood boiling are better comment hooks than comments that are pleasant?

🍷▲🍷 PATRICK GIBBS. Since we are Christian, democratic and peaceable, we should conduct a Christian/democratic jihad against Fundamentalist Islam. And the first person we should attack is Saddam Hussein, a notably secular ruler. Makes sense. It's no wonder Pat says that we should not think about the government's policy too much.

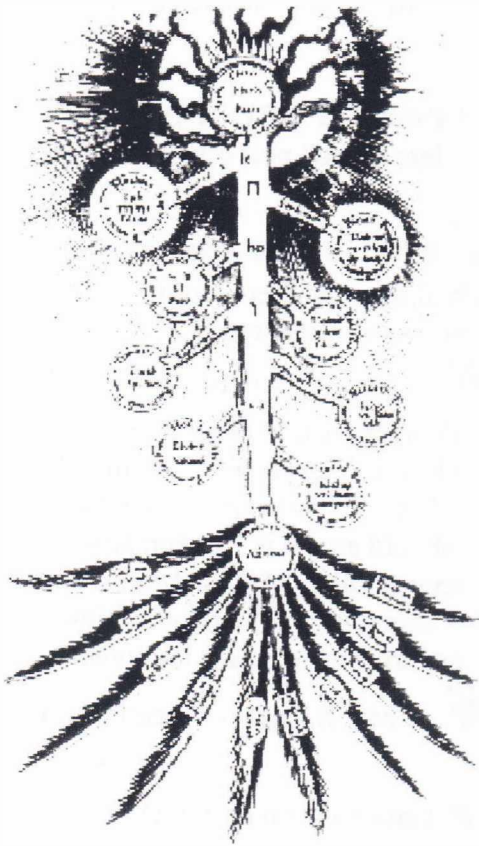
🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. It was nice meeting you too at DSC.

🍷▲🍷 Gays trying to get AIDS? Sounds more like they believe they can somehow beat the rap.

🍷▲🍷 Education from what I gather was erratic in the 19th Century. You are right that some 19th Century people were well educated. Others had to sign their names with an X. I know in *Huckleberry Finn* Huck's father didn't want him to go to school. I hear that, in rural areas, kids were out of school during the growing season so it took them longer to get educated.

🍷▲🍷 At least we agree on something: killing civilians in war. It can't be avoided these days.

🍷▲🍷 ct. All the Quotes. Hitler wasn't Christian? Thought he considered himself a Christian. Just not one of those turn-the-other-cheek Christians.



Robert Fludd's Inverted Tree of Life

🍷▲🍷 GENERAL COMMENTS BY HANK/TONI. So what you're saying is that if Bush had allowed the votes to be counted, he would have won, and any doubts about his legitimacy could be laid to rest. Which is why he was right in not doing it.

🍷▲🍷 It gets to be a fine point whether something is corruption or a legitimate takings. Gifts to friends are OK, gifts from strangers are not. Campaign contributions and favors are OK, bribes are not.

🍷▲🍷 As long as there is no statute of limitations on accusations here, what about the Grant Administration, the Harding Administration and the Nixon

Administration? I guess when you are in the middle of political rhetoric, you don't introduce any facts that might interfere with your hypothesis.

I'll have to do that more in my political rhetoric.

🍷▲🍷 Why are we allowing a flood of illegal immigrants across our borders? They work for cheap. The Republican Party is the party of the wealthy, a number of whom are making money hand over fist from illegal immigrants. On the other hand, it is the party of those who dislike both legal and illegal immigration. Fortunately for the Party, for now, nothing has to give.

🍷▲🍷 TONI'S SOLUTIONS. The last batch of tax cuts worked so well, of course, we have to enact more.

GARY ROBE

tennessee trash #51

🍷▲🍷 With all this cold, we need good news anywhere we can get it. Even if the Southern pine beetles have eaten nearly all the pine trees in your area, that they are being freezed out counts as good news.

🍷▲🍷 Being Jewish, my family is a little ambiguous about giving and receiving Xmas presents. Money is big among us.

There is another approach. For the past several years, my sister, Lois, has given me gag gifts. Somewhere I have the "extraterrestrial fetus" in a jar. This year she gave me a watch with a caricature of H. Ross Perot on it. My problem is that my sister and wife, Heidi, do not get along; and I am reluctant to wear the watch in my wife's presence.

🍷▲🍷 We have had the same weather as you have, cold and snowy. The Bushite

Federal government is very reluctant to call a snow day, but I have the annual and I am taking it.

🍷▲🍷 You have another prospective on *Two Towers*. You didn't mind the changes, and found many of them for the better. You liked that Faromir was made more human and less of a saint. You think the re-plotting more clearly delineated the story. And, because of this, you felt *Two Towers* was a great film.

But, for this type of film, the director should know he would catch hell for any changes he made. And he didn't seem to.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Yeah, you are ambivalent about the war in Iraq. It requires reconciling many terrible and terrifying pros and cons. I did my reconciliation. I hate the idea of a war. I get angry just thinking about it.

So I hope your Taekwando instructor comes out of it quickly with not a hair harmed and ready to teach Taekwando again.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. So a bullet shot in an airplane could be a problem. Not from explosive decompression, a la *Goldfinger*, but for the turbulence on the skin. I wonder what Toni or Hank will say about that.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy H. Lillian III. I hope the cops actually got the killers of Rick Norwood's son. I hope the true culprits are not going around free.

🍷▲🍷 If Lucas did that, it was mistake. Waiting for technology for special effects rather than running the second trilogy shortly after the first.

I disagree with you that *The Clones* was soulless. As far as I can see, the second trilogy has been very much like the first. But

the mystique of the Star Wars series depends on it being novel: something heavier with comic book expectations. Rather than what it is becoming with all the hype: something lighter with masterpiece pretensions.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Sheila Strickland. About porno websites, I once did a search for the phrase "Green Grow the Rushes" and happened on a porno website.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tom Feller. I don't worry about my waistline. The important thing is my health. I guess it's a sign of growing older.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. I think we should have a SFPA theme song. And I make the motion that we model it after this song. In a New York accent, no less.

Rising up from the sidewalk,
Going to the sky
Stands our old alma mater,
John C. Schultzenhammer high.
Hale to thee, John C. Schultzenhammer high
school,
With your banner so true.
Would we lay our lives down for you, we
would kiss a sow.

Doesn't that warm your cockles?

On the other hand, I haven't figured out the SFPA flag yet. But how about this for the SFPA mascot – Fifi?

JEFFREY COPELAND

i send them up

🍷▲🍷 You were in Washington, DC and you didn't contact me! Of course, you may not have wanted to. Or you may not have realized how close I am. A short bus and subway ride away. The fact that we in Virginia have a different area code doesn't

help. But that connotes a different State, not being far away.

🍷▲🍷 About you considering yourself authorized personnel. Early on in my career, someone invaded one of the Federal buildings, held a woman hostage and then decided to kill himself. Immediately, security was strengthened in all the Federal buildings. You needed an identification.

Tourists trying to enter without showing identification claimed, as taxpayers, they owned the buildings and it was their right. Of course, the purpose of these measures was to protect them.

I don't know whether I could say the same thing for the measures at the White House. There is a legit reason. If I am not mistaken, there have been some people with guns and other weapons trying to gain access to the White House. But there is an illegit reason for the measures as well: the White House never liked the protestors camped out there.

🍷▲🍷 We just had an example of the Administration lying as I am writing this. A recording of Bin Laden was being played in the Arab world, and he called on Iraqis to oppose a U.S. invasion. Colin Powell proclaimed that as proof Saddam was in cahoots with him. It came out later bin Laden called for Saddam's overthrow too.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Bush's religious proclamations faith or trying to please his right wing? Hey, the whole idea behind this Administration is to please their right wing. There need be no faith behind any religious proclamation.

🍷▲🍷 You better believe Bush is on board for the attack on Iraq. Just that he hasn't been on board as much as Rumsfeld has. When asked his opinion of what to do

about 9-1-1, the first thing Rumsfeld said was "When are we going to attack Iraq?"

Apparently Rice decided for Bush, that attacking Afghanistan would seem more a propos.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian. About Ashcroft and civil liberties, the Right Wing accused Bill Clinton of several things: plotting to suspend civil liberties, starting a war to distract people from domestic woes, and getting us into a recession. Since then, Bush has done all those things. He is the Real Evil Bill Clinton.

The only thing he hasn't done is be man enough to have an affair in the Oval Office.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tom Feller. Microsoft and Oracle aren't the only ones to have large operations in India. My sister had trouble with AOL so she called Technical Assistance. And was transferred to an office in India. Which hadn't the foggiest notion of what it was doing.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. We got the SQL Worm too. It put our internet and web server out of action for a couple of days. However, I am glad to see we are not any less efficient than Microsoft. We also had the patches in July and failed to install them until the worm hit.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Arthur Hlavaty. According to my web researches, Arthur is wrong if he means -ski never refers to "son of." He is right if he means -ski refers to other things as well. For example, sometimes it refers to someone's occupation not their name. Like Son of a Butcher or Son of a Baker. I think Kowalski refers to an occupation.

Sometimes and originally it has referred to a noble title. Of course it means "of" there; like in England, people say the

“Earl of Sussex.” Or the Germans say “von.” Sometimes people have added “-ski” to their names to sound noble, even though they had no claim to any title.

Of course, the -ski in my original name does not refer to anything. And I think that is true of a number of other people who changed their names to fit in. When it is used in purely Russian names, I wonder. Apparently, in Russia, “-ski” is considered Polish.

One web scrawler claimed Tchaikovsky has some meaning in Russian, but he has the same -ovsky as my family’s previous name. Which, the Library of Congress librarian/translator claimed, was fake.

NORM METCALF **tyndallite v3, # 105**

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Oh yes, alien *duct* tape for alien *abductions* is advertised on Fox TV and can be obtained in any Fox Market.

🍷▲🍷 You’re right. Verne’s *Journey to the Center of the Earth* isn’t technically a hollow Earth story. However, there certainly is a lot of space in Verne’s center of the Earth, isn’t there? And light?

🍷▲🍷 I know the astronomer William H. Pickering claimed that the Moon was inhabited by Moon men, who, like in Wells, lived near vents. And Pickering had a lot of influence on the popular view of the planets and the Moon although astronomers pulled out their hair at each of his pronouncements.

By echoing his view, H.G. Wells only wrote what was popularly believed. Also, I know Wells was convinced by Percival Lowell that the canals were a reality. And the intelligent race that built them still inhabited Mars. A view that

engendered a lot of controversy among astronomers at the time.

🍷▲🍷 So you admit there are science fiction MOVIES.

🍷▲🍷 I bet it was Kornbluth’s and Grossman’s *Sin in Space* that was introduced to me as SF porn at the MIT Science Fiction Library. Of course, those kids must have been hard up for SF porn. Pornography without sex?

Now, *Deep Thrust*, a product of the seventies, which the Library also stocked, was porn. It was a graphic novel so you could see.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. David M.

Parry’s *The Scarlet Empire* is not socialist twaddle; it’s anti-socialist twaddle.

🍷▲🍷 A lot of people are out of their depths when they are writing about undersea empires. Also, about Atlantis. I hear Marion Zimmer Bradley wrote a series of Atlantis novels. And Taylor Caldwell wrote one. They were turkeys.

I too wrote a tale about an undersea civilization. The less said about it the better.

🍷▲🍷 ct. David Schlosser. I remember reading a 1930 science fiction tale about a computer controlling everything world wide by 1945. Obviously there had to be a network. Of course, it was one computer, one enormous mainframe, and not many little computers, like the internet.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janet Larson. The libertarianism in *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* turned me off at the time. I was a dyed in wool Liberal. But, I guess, the rebelliousness turned other young people on. When the novel was published, it was a time of great rebellion. It was the time when the

hippies burst on the scene. Rebellion, especially against the government, was the agenda of the day.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Randy B. Cleary. *The Ghost Goes West* (1935) starring Robert Donat. While the movie came out in 1935, I bet you saw it in the '40s. In it, the millionaire's daughter is aware of the ghost. She likes him and, without telling her father, convinces him to buy the castle.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary B. Robe. The idea that animals will evolve to the intelligence of man comes from Charles Bonnet (1720-93). While man, of course, will evolve to the stars. I gather the idea goes back in a different form to the Neo-Platonist Plotinus. He believed there was a tendency to develop toward the ultimate good.

A lot of science fiction writers have picked up that idea. Not only Chandler and Simak; van Vogt did.

RANDY B. CLEARY

avatar press v2 #25

🍷▲🍷 You and Julie conjoined twins? I can't see it myself, but I think you like one another.

🍷▲🍷 RANDY RANTS. Not being tasked may be a sign of nothing. I didn't receive any assignments in my group for quite a number of months once. Then I checked and nobody else in my group had assignments. Next I found out the person acting for the boss decided to do all the work himself. And was driving himself nuts.

🍷▲🍷 EVENT REPORTS. Had to shanghai Greg Benford and Naomi Fisher to get into a private party. How can that be? Both you and Julie are Big Name Fans.

🍷▲🍷 No, my friend had the pictures of dinosaurs he was showing to his Chinese relatives. ...Come to think of it, I have 3-D pictures of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. They came with my el cheapo stereopticon, which I bought so I could view Steve's 3-D Charlottesville picture.

🍷▲🍷 You seem to be doing OK with women, and in the marriage way. They like you as a person. I guess no one whom you would actually marry has come along.

🍷▲🍷 The only reason G. Gordon Liddy did not become head of Iraq was that he didn't have the chance. And Saddam did. It's no wonder they look alike.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. I thought it would take several years to get Turkey on board so they could have the two front attack required by military doctrine. But it seems they were able to work fast. I wonder how much they bribed the Turks?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. Sun announces Layoffs before they happen. Intergraph never announces layoffs. A friend of mine who worked at AT&T tells me that immediately after they announce you're laid off, security escorts you out. They're afraid you might try to sabotage things.

🍷▲🍷 Randy, you're absolutely right that you don't need the most up-to-date computer; just one that meets your needs. The big companies used to be working to increase those needs. Now, they are working hard to make it difficult to meet those needs unless you buy an up-to-date computer.

ARTHUR D. HLAVATY

hundred

🍷▲🍷 95% Gay? How does that work.

You only get pleasure from touching? You are Gay every blue moon? You only have sex with hermaphrodites who are 95% female? THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW. ...Maybe not.

♣▲♣ Man is the missing link between the apes and other beings. I hope the next stage isn't Down.

♣▲♣ Arthur, people like us who think for ourselves are never lovable. The only people who are lovable are those without a thought in their heads. Or who know how to repeat the proper clichés, shibboleths, fallacies and urban legends. And thus only simulate thought.

♣▲♣ Arthur, not only can you not separate Body and Mind, but Mind does not exist. It is a figment of your Imagination.

♣▲♣ I am similarly afraid of failing more than losing. In fact, more afraid than you are. You seem to have accomplished more.

♣▲♣ I never had a childhood enthusiasm for maps. But I seem to have had one as an adult. I loved the book of fantasy maps I got years ago. Unfortunately, where I put it, I don't know. It had maps of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Mars and of the Road to Matrimony. I was agag when a fellow librarian was scared by it.

I also like old maps. The ones with cockatoos in the unexplored Southern portion of the world. ...

Come to think of it, I remember as a kid loving the maps in *Gulliver's Travels*, where Swift's fantasy lands were superimposed over the uncomplete longitudes and latitudes. So maybe I had a latent enthusiasm for maps then.

♣▲♣ *I think common and uncommon sense should be rewarded the way common and uncommon things usually are.*

Unfortunately, a lot of uncommon things are killed for daring to be different.

THE END

אדם וחוה

עץ הדעת

אדם וחוה

עץ החיים

[illegible]

the first time in the history of the world that a man has been able to see the world as it is, and not as he imagines it to be. The first time in the history of the world that a man has been able to see the world as it is, and not as he imagines it to be. The first time in the history of the world that a man has been able to see the world as it is, and not as he imagines it to be.

University of New South Wales, Kensington, New South Wales, Australia

POPULAR MEDICINE ADAPTED TO PROMOTE THE MOTHER AND CHILD ABSENCE ATTACK BY INFANT DURING CHILD ENRAGED—*From N.Y. J. Med. Sci.*, 1901.