

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #97

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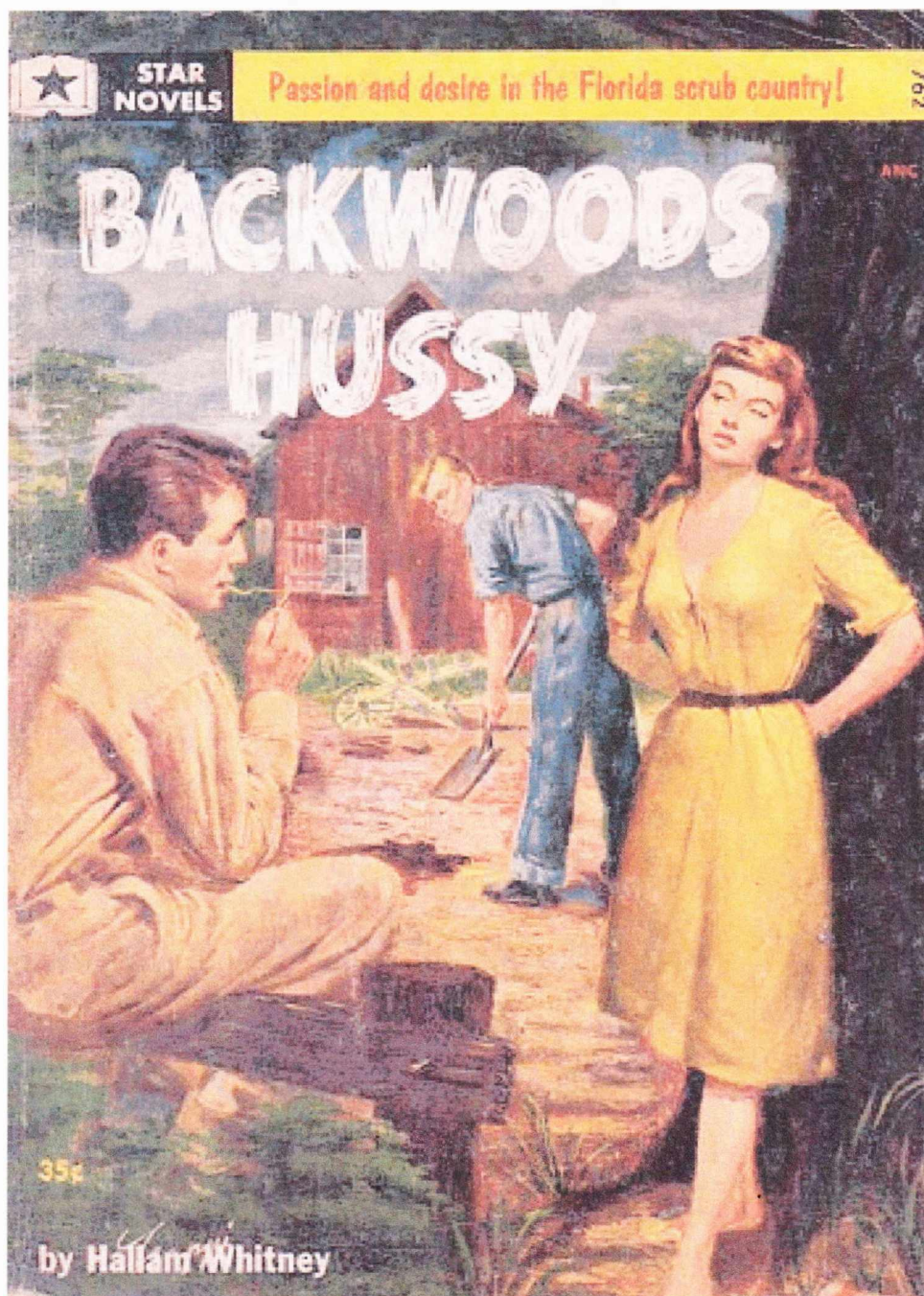


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ILLOS: Illustrations I liked from a book entitled *Achievement in photo-engraving and letter-press printing* (1927). Lots of ads and book illustrations. I have been trying to sell it on Ebay, but no luck so far. The cowboy on the bucking bronco (p6) is by Wallace Smith, an illustrator of the '20s who at least has some fame now. I apologize that I couldn't get the pages straight and I didn't know to shut off the flash. I think these illos are nice anyway.

COMMENTS ON SFPA #247

SHEILA STRICKLAND the southerner

☺▲☺ *Various Business.* You're probably right not to run again. It's too easy to get burnout. How many years was Stven Carlson the OE, and we haven't seen or heard from him since?

☺▲☺ *The Rules of SFPA.* Aren't you a little harsh on Rule 4, kicking him out unless he shapes up? He has been a faithful member. Haven't we had rule 4 since the beginning?

NED BROOKS the new port news 222

☺▲☺ ct. Me. So the Moons of Mars are unstable and should eventually fall into the planet. Of course, that is not what Gustavus Pope said. He said that the remnants of 'Pluto' would be what pushes them into Mars.

I guess I have to remind you, for Pope, Pluto was not a planet beyond Neptune but the one between Mars and Jupiter that was destroyed.

☺▲☺ I seem to remember reading that, from the very beginning of the Patent Office, perpetual motion machines had to give evidence of their workability before they could be patented. Originally they were mechanical devices. Recently, however, inventors have claimed perpetual motion for electrical devices.

I hear perpetual motion is even harder to tell when the claim is electrical as opposed to mechanical. If I remember correctly, ten years ago a Mississippi inventor demonstrated his device to the ignorant, and succeeded in getting Congressional help for his patent.

☺▲☺ Aside from not being practical yet, I bet keeping a head alive has another onus: it is

associated with horror movies. That, I am sure, is what makes it such an embarrassment for any patent official to patent a device that keeps alive a disembodied head.

☺▲☺ It's possible for a good percentage of the scientific community to be crazy on a particular topic. Scientists are just as susceptible to panics, fashion, myths and prejudices as everyone else. That is why they are required to practice the scientific method to prove anything. Even that, I suspect, in some cases, does not protect against particular strong social prejudices.

☺▲☺ Obviously I have to forget about a 3.5 kilowatt generator in my apartment. Too big and too much exhaust. On the other hand, would the kind you hook up to your natural gas lines work? Who has natural gas anymore? Isn't all cooking electric and all heating by heat pump? Which is electric.

☺▲☺ Saying "hoose" for house. Sounds like a Northern Virginia accent. Except I usually transliterate it "haose."

☺▲☺ In the 19th and early 20th Century, New York was supposed to make great ruins someday. Mitchell in his 1889 novel *The Last American* isn't the only one with that idea. H.G. Wells was responsible for saying it. Also, on pulp covers, the statue of liberty was the prime ruin you saw even if it was immersed in water or nearly buried.

☺▲☺ As I said, the important thing in liking Janis Joplin may not be her voice, although, as I remember it, she certainly had soul – White soul. The important thing was the era. She came on the scene in 1969-70, particularly a time of ferment.

☺▲☺ A dot-matrix printing stencils wouldn't work for me. I like to publish nice

crisp color illos, and I gather mimeo wouldn't do that.

🍷▲🍷 That's an explanation that makes sense why global warming will raise the sea level: the ice on land would melt and flow into the sea. Usually, such an assertion is made without an explanation. Since the people listening don't know much about physics and chemistry, it gives the impression the mere melting of ice would raise the sea levels. Nonetheless the assertion is made for our own good.

🍷▲🍷 In reality, we would be doomed if a younger man came at us with a knife. In fantasy, which, in great part, knife fighting is, I would do the same thing as you. Take his knife away and lecture him on being nice to strangers. Also, that he might hurt himself if he kept carrying around knives like that.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tyndallite. Googling, I came across the name Esther Carlson as someone who wrote science fiction. In fact, she must have written a number of short stories for the *Magazine of Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Her time period dovetails with the authoress in the blurb.

This site <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/bibliography/fsfrealname02.htm> says the name was a pseudonym. Her real name was Joanna Collier. Unfortunately, the site is not 100% clear. Then it seems to say that she was born Esther Carlson.

🍷▲🍷 Actually, if memory serves me correct, King Arthur started out a Christian. While he was supposed to have lived in the 6th Century, the first reference to him that, scholars think, is authentic is in Nennius, an 8th Century cleric and antiquarian. His Arthur is very much into his Marian miracles.

Arthur basically remained a Christian

too. It is true a century or two later, there was tale of a King Arthur where he went hunting with the god Bran. However, that tale is the exception.

Now there were a lot of things written in the '20s about a pagan Arthur; and that has convinced a lot of people he was originally a pagan and – who knows? – a god. However, it is difficult to figure out how much of those '20s tomes were fantasy and how much fact.

🍷▲🍷 I guess you could read the Portuguese if you got the State Department cheat sheet and an unabridged Portuguese-English dictionary.

The State Department published a book years ago where it devoted a page or two to each language. It gave the alphabet and the main rules for grammar. A person I know was ordered to use it and a dictionary to translate Turkic. I guess she did all right.

On the other hand, I can't conceive the same technique would have worked with Japanese or Chinese.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guilty Pleasures. Speaking of p.c. for different ethnic groups, I remember when it was only p.c. if you used ten words to describe Native Americans. Completely unwieldy – totally stupid!!

🍷▲🍷 ct. Trivial Pursuits. I once used a software converter feature in Word Perfect to convert one of my Wordperfect files to HTML. All I would have to do is a little editing and it would have looked fine. And I think I would know, or at least could find out, what to edit.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Yngvi. I knew a Japanese woman who was interned as a child in World War II. Apparently, after the Army handled the internment in a completely heavy handed manner, the administration of the camps

passed to civilians.

First, to David Eisenhower, Ike's brother, who was too depressed to take charge. Then the administration devolved to his second in command, who also believed the internment was a mistake. Through most of the war, he administered the camps, and was always trying to find ways to disband them or at least give the inmates passes.

Then, after the war, the Japanese woman told me, this civilian became a member of the Japanese Citizens League, and remained a member in good standing for the rest of his life.

🍷🍷🍷 Not A Lot. Your dial up modem only gets 48 kbps? My cable modem gets a lot more. However, I don't know whether I want to get one of those services, like Verizon's, where you download at ten megs per second and upload at 1.5 megs. It wouldn't be worth it for me.

JEFF COPELAND **the fake yorker**

🍷🍷🍷 *Cover*. Or should it be the New Forker? Naw, that sounds too much like college kid stuff. And college kid stuff from the '60s no less.

🍷🍷🍷 *Mail Comments on SFPA 243*. About burning CDs, I don't think the speed of the computer is a problem these days. Is the speed of the CD still a problem?

🍷🍷🍷 ct. Me. Not even internal tech support at Microsoft is 24 hours. It goes to India after 5 o' clock, and support there is next to useless. I don't know whether that makes me feel better or pine at the state of the country.

🍷🍷🍷 The problem is that, as of the last election, the extremes win, not the means. Bush got his 4 million Evangelicals out. However, the

Dems exploited the reaction to this and matched that with normally nonvoting, i.e., more extreme left, voters. Bush won only because he was able to wrap himself in 9-1-1.

In view of the new politics, I am wondering whether we Dems could have won had we nominated Dean rather than Kerry, and gotten more of our extremes out. I realize the Republicans would have attacked Dean unmercifully. However, in the current polarized era, having the right enemies may be a plus.

It may also be a plus for Hillary.

🍷🍷🍷 In politics, the best view for many people is the most convenient. That Roosevelt made the Great Depression worse is a very convenient view for many Right Wingers. What would be even more convenient is that the Depression didn't start until Roosevelt. However, these right wingers don't have that much chutzpah – yet.

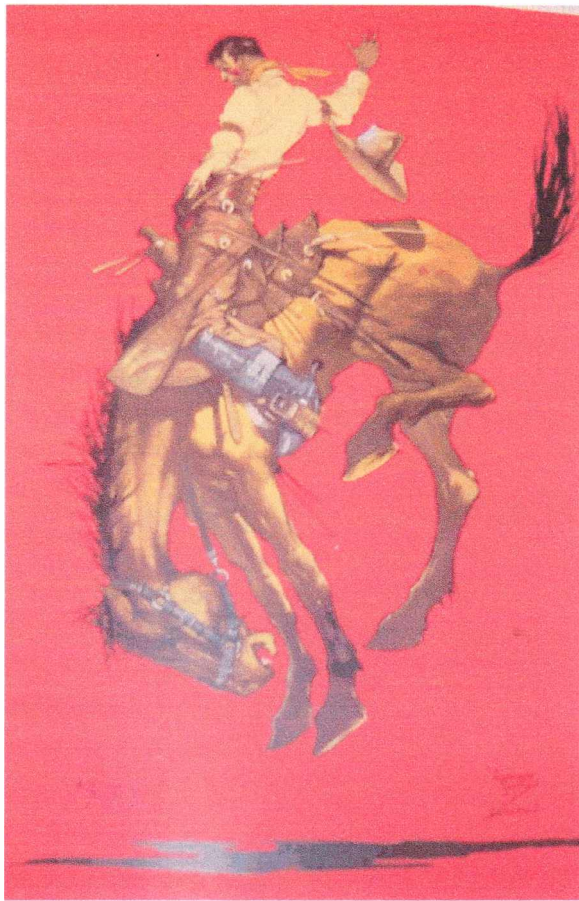
🍷🍷🍷 William Goldman may have hated the '50s outfits for the *Stepford Wives*, but they were perfect for scaring the bejesus out of women. Being in the '50s was what every woman feared at the time.

It wouldn't work now: there's a nostalgia factor.

🍷🍷🍷 About Liz's brush with the Association of Pacific Northwest Quilters. When I was desperate for a job, I couldn't believe what others told me: some things are worse than unemployment.

Having seen how people in other divisions of my agency are treated, I have to agree. I am glad my friend Sheila had the years to retire. Also, I can see where Liz gladly washed her hands of the association.

🍷🍷🍷 Why didn't the Bushies want



post-war planning in Iraq? They had been convinced by Neo-Cons, like Wolfowitz, that the overthrow of Saddam would solve all our problems in the Middle East. Hedging our bets, which post-war planning would be, only showed that the bureaucrats hadn't bought the program.

Also, post-war planning was associated with Bill Clinton, and, in their view, Bill Clinton had done everything wrong.

☺▲☺ Gary came in contact with people who see themselves as the higher crust in Venezuela, if not the upper crust. I imagine that the people in the barrios have a different view. A society like Venezuela's is polarized, and that is how a Chavez can come to power. It is also prelude to tragedy and catastrophe.

☺▲☺ You're right that Pluto is an exception. However, it isn't at a 17° angle relative to the Earth's orbit, but the Earth's ecliptic. The Earth is tilted at a $23\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ angle to the Sun, and what appears to be the Sun's orbit is the ecliptic. The other planets never deviate more than 8° from our ecliptic.

At least this is according to my sources, and my only sources on this are astrological.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zodiac>

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9031918>

☺▲☺ I still think email sent should be taxed. Spam tricks you into thinking it is from a loved one or a firm you are dealing with, and you may end up being taxed on email you really didn't want.

☺▲☺ Actually, I went from having a difficult time understanding Texans to being able to understand all the accents of the country in ten years. Too fast for the accents to have changed. Still, I bet you are right: we are more homogenized now than we were in 1969.

☺▲☺ So you're saying it isn't the puritan tradition that makes New England cons so well run; it is that they have so much practice. Just like the Californians, who are anything but puritan, have had so much practice.

☺▲☺ ct. Tom Feller. On the one hand, Boeing is having its aircraft made in the Orient. On the other, the European Airbus has many of its planes made here.

Also, it is notorious that Japanese cars are made here. I hear many of the Toyota Corollas are made at a plant in California, which also makes the Geo.Sentra's.

Fourteen years ago, a secretary at work, one of the higher class secretaries, told me she had a car made in Japan. How did she know, I asked. She replied that its papers were in Japanese. How do you know, I then asked, the papers don't say that the car was made here? She was stumped.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian. I don't think the presumption of democracy is that half are going to be right more than half the time. I think the presumption is that if government policies are going to be wrong – as they often are – people have a right to a say in them.

🍷▲🍷 People have always believed that this minority or that is unassimilatable. My Russian Jewish ancestors were considered unassimilatable by many. However, we assimilated. Maybe the more recent immigrants will surprise us.

In fact, I would take odds on it. The head of my agency is a Hispanic who uses radio announcer perfect English.

This recent example has stood out in my mind even more. I saw a dark skinned kid decked out in the latest fashions listening to music on an Ipod and grooving to it. He wore a t-shirt that said: "Saudi USA."

🍷▲🍷 About torture being useful, I have heard this several times. If you had bin Laden and you knew his men were going commit another 9-1-1, you mean you wouldn't torture him?

There are additional assumptions here. For instance, you have to know another 9-1-1 will take place but you don't know where. Also, you have to know bin Laden isn't lying to you. Otherwise, all our torture would be in vain.

If the torturers meet all these criteria, I will say fine: go and torture bin Laden.

However, the idea behind torture is not

to use it in these circumstances that come once in a blue moon. The idea is that we can use it on any poor shlep who gets caught in our net, no matter how little the evidence against them.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Toni Reinhardt. In 17th

Century America, they had kids grinding the wheat with mortar and pestle for hours to make bread. Why not have them mass scan family photos in the 21st Century?

NORM METCALF

tyndallite v2 #121

september 2005

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Ray Palmer, in addition to being into wacko science, was also a loyal friend. He had a tendency to publish friends whom he perceived to be loyal too. During the Shaver controversy, it meant that you didn't trash him too much over his advocacy of Shaver's views. He apparently remained a loyal friend to Shaver for several decades, and Shaver must have been very strange.

🍷▲🍷 My sister had a come-in with Hollywood. She developed a reality show and it was put on and prospered, but she didn't make a cent from it and didn't get any recognition. She pointed that out to the producer. He said he didn't remember whether she had developed it or not.

In short, the moguls of Hollywood are trash. It's no wonder they make so much trashy science fiction.

🍷▲🍷 Zorro hit a vein others have mined; namely, the weakling who is secretly a hero. Like the Scarlet Pimpernel. Like Superman. Like us in our fantasies.

🍷▲🍷 ct. The New Port News. Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormons, plagiarized left and right. Also, he borrowed

when it wasn't quite plagiarism. I hear later in his career he had some Jewish believers helping him to adapt the Kabbalah to Mormonism.

☺▲☺ ct. Nice Distinctions. A lot of my parents' generation, like S.A. Lombino, changed their names to avoid prejudice. My father's family, for instance. They changed their name from Genderovski to Dengrove.

Of course, John Campbell, Jr., wanted to change people's names for them. He had a Scottish name for Heinlein, and I gather he wanted Asimov to don one too.

☺▲☺ Peter, Pan & Merry. In *Starship Troopers*, Heinlein did not get his reputation for militarism only because he believed in the draft. For one thing, the other means of becoming a citizen were not prominent. In addition, Heinlein glorified iron discipline. Finally, there is the mission his troopers are on, a particularly imperialistic one, attacking neutrals.

☺▲☺ ct. Frequent Flyer. Denouncing those whom you plagiarize goes back into the far past. The Ancient Greeks were rife with it. Ctesias attacked Herodotus for his lies and then proceeded to transfer very Herodotean wonders from Africa to India.

☺▲☺ ct. Mike Weber. There is a lot of difference between Nergal and Nitocris. Nergal is an Ancient Mesopotamian god of the underworld. By contrast, Nitocris is a queen of the 6th Dynasty in Egypt who committed suicide after taking vengeance against the people who killed her brother.

Thus, Mike seems to have gotten the title for Tennessee Williams' first story really wrong. Of course, the Ancients are really far from our lives, and these are rather obscure Ancients to begin with.

GUY LILLIAN
spiritus mundi 209

☺▲☺ I was trying to contact my friend Jerry. He worked for the mayor's office, but at first I couldn't even call the mayor's office. Now his office doesn't answer.

☺▲☺ You did the right thing for Floyd. There is an alternative, however. I remember a cartoon where a lawyer told his client that he was pleading stupidity. Well, Floyd certainly was stupid, having a day of DUI and screwdrivers with Marcus. The problem is pleading stupidity would not work. Stupidity is what very often is illegal.

☺▲☺ I used to be able to go up to Boston and talk to friends, like you did Nawlins. Unfortunately, I have lost contact with many of my old friends or they no longer live in Boston. Maybe sometime I will go again for the sights.

☺▲☺ *Mailing Caustics 246.* ct. Me. Porn is in the eye of the beholder. And to appreciate it, you have to check your intelligence outside the door.

☺▲☺ If the flying saucer phenomena is seen as cultural, immediately most people would agree with it. The idea gives most people a great feeling, that we are not alone, and that they periodically come to visit.

☺▲☺ Actually, I found the scene where the newly masked Darth Vader says NOOOO convincing. There is a name for being passionately for both sides, cognitive dissonance.

☺▲☺ There is one new 'planet,' for now, called Gabrielle; and another, for now, called Sedna. I think the one you're thinking of is Gabrielle.

☺▲☺ George Griffith was an early science fiction writer, who was more popular

than H.G. Wells although he was not a great writer by any stretch.

I know of two novels he wrote. First, *Honeymoon in Space* (1901), about an Earl who goes on a tour of the planets with his American wife in an antigravity device. Second, I know of his 1890s novel, *Angel of the Revolution*. Before the Wright Brothers, he had aerial battles between the Tsar and revolutionaries. Of course, the aircraft in the illustrations look totally unairworthy.

☺▲☺ I am more pessimistic than you. As long as there is basically peace and relative prosperity, I suspect that demographics play a greater role in politics than whether the party in power is competent or not. It is a truism that people would prefer to be misruled by own than ruled well by someone else.

Hispanics and young people will play a larger factor in the destiny of the country than the Iraqi War and the Katrina disaster.

☺▲☺ Maybe New Orleans can be re-created somewhere near Kalamazoo, Michigan.

☺▲☺ ct. The Southerner #246. I thought the ones who enjoyed the worst feud in SFPA history were Don Markstein and Rick Norwood, not you and Don.

☺▲☺ ct. Peter, Pan & Merry #62. Getting "Tough on Crime" helping the poor? No, being Tough on Crime is only for the Middle Class. And it only accomplishes a Right Wing agenda. It is perilous to take these buzzwords at face value; they are a code.

☺▲☺ ct. New Forger. Maybe the Smithsonian Museums are being starved, but I was to the Natural History Museum recently and it looked great. Of course, it had more facilities for making money: more cafeterias, a whole floor of gift shops, and an Imax Theater.

☺▲☺ No Brennans!! Damn! I was hoping

to get Bananas Foster there someday. However, one never knows. New Orleans may be back in operation faster than we think.

☺▲☺ Why the Hungarian Revolutionaries were freedom fighters and John Walker Lindh wasn't? It's simple: we were on their side.

☺▲☺ ct. Oblivion 59. Reading passages from John Roberts' opinions, I got the feeling he is somewhat of a wise guy. However, he seems to have mellowed with the years and he may make a better chief justice that we could expect from this Administration.

Miers, the same. She at least was not a fire breather. Her tendency seemed to be to be politic. Maybe too politic because her nomination was shot down by Conservatives.

Now I keep hearing Alito is not so bad; just more firebreathing sounding.

I suspect the Senate Democrats won the confrontation over the filibuster, and Bush doesn't wish to rile them. Some said the Republicans had won, but the proof is in the pudding.

☺▲☺ *Katrina's End*. Too bad about Boo. As the judge said, she was "a good friend, a good neighbor, and a good citizen." A fitting person for you to practice your altruistic impulses on. I hope there is a Heaven.

RICH LYNCH

variations on a theme #45

☺▲☺ Ah, Fučík's "Entrance of the Gladiators." Each meeting in Toastmasters, we have Table Topics. You are supposed to speak extemporaneously on a topic the Tables Topics Master picks. Of course, as Table Topics Master, I often ask questions

no one can answer. It fulfills a function beyond sadism, however: it tests members' skill in improvising.

One question I ask is: "Have you heard Fučík's 'Entrance of the Gladiators'?" At the end, when I tell my fellow Toastmasters the answers, I hum the tune. My fellow members are always surprised that it's the music they normally find in circuses.

☺▲☺ Wasn't Phineas T. Barnum dead by the time that Fučík wrote "Entrance of the Gladiators" in 1904? Didn't his circus, by that time, belong to the Ringling Brothers?

☺▲☺ *Interaction.* Nicki's panel "Revisiting Favorite Childhood TV as Adults" reminded me of a purchase I made recently. I think I have three episodes of *The Rogues*, starring David Niven, Gig Young, Charles Boyer, Robert Coote, etc. They play con artists with hearts of gold. An admittedly improbable combination, but I have loved it.

It is true the videocassettes are in terrible shape. I can't complain, though: the dealer was up front. I suspect someone filmed them from the TV screen. Plenty of flickering. Still, the old adventures are there and I found I was able to watch them.

Now I have to make time to see them.

Another series I wanted was *Colonel Humphrey Flack*. Apparently, it is still in the CBS library and no one has tried to make VCRs or DVDs of that. The dealer suggested I get a contact at CBS.

Couldn't hurt to try.

☺▲☺ *Katrina.* The Republicans felt guilty about having voted the money to spend for Katrina's evacuees. The more Conservative of them wanted to cut Food Stamps, Medicaid and Farm Subsidies. However, the idea apparently didn't fly. So far they have retreated on Food Stamps and Farm Subsidies. Farm Subsidies have long been a non-starter anyway when it

comes to budget cutting.

☺▲☺ *Mailing Comments - SFPA 246.* ct. Me. You're right about the Equatorial Bulge. I had things reversed. I should have said that the Equatorial Radius is 3,963 miles and the Polar Radius is 3,950 miles.

☺▲☺ The idea behind flying in and renting a car is not to save money but to avoid being exhausted. Of course, if Nicki doesn't like air travel, that changes the picture.

☺▲☺ ct. Guy Lillian. H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* is out of date. It's greatness is shown by the fact that it made itself out of date.

Before it, Men from Mars were supposed to be Human, like us. We were supposed to be the height of rationality. Wells designed creatures that were much more rational than we, and completely unhuman. Afterward, Men from Mars, or other planet, could take any shape in the writer's imagination.

☺▲☺ ct. Jeff Copeland. Also, I gather there is some controversy over what the effects of Global Warming will be. Some parts of the globe may even grow colder, I hear.

☺▲☺ ct. Toni and Hank Reinhardt. In other words, Kerry refused to release his military records because there was nothing in them. And the Righties would accuse him even more of hiding something.

☺▲☺ The plot of "Lost" makes me recall a movie with Clyde Beatty entitled "The Lost Jungle" (1934). There the survivors of an airship accident are stranded on a lost continent. However, it sounds like there is less flamdoodle in "Lost" and more magical realism. I seem to remember giant

gorillas and dinosaurs in "The Lost Jungle."

DAVID SCHLOSSER

peter, pan & merry #63

ct. Me. I guess Governor Arnold is not as popular since people have learned that he's a Republican.

When we talk about Conservatives or conservatives, we are talking about conservatives now. They not only may be quite different down the road; you can be sure they will be since things have been changing so fast. In a way, you can be sure that there will come a time when it will be hard to elect a conservative of that time. Of course, at other times, the same will be true of liberals of that time.

Maybe a perceived lack of oil is a better pretext than others the Bushies have been using to legalize drilling in the Arctic. On the other hand, the oil companies could not have raised prices like they did if the demand did not outstrip the supply.

I gather the IQ was in fact constructed as a bell curve for its convenience in a test. It is not some natural phenomenon by itself.

Childhood obesity was constructed as a bell curve as well. Overweight was the highest 15% of the kids 1976-80. Obesity was the highest 5%. No particular health reason for it. However, since the powers-that-be want to tout an obesity epidemic, the bell curve has gone by the boards.

However, while Kennedy's *While England Slept* is not statistical, it gives a good case that the Munich agreement was just to buy time for the Allies.

Why would Medieval Times be part of Disney? Disney does a lot of re-enactments.

The big thing for Iraq is not in becoming a democracy but in being able to survive without us.

It is a hunch and not a matter of evidence that I believe most Jews between the 16th and 19th Centuries believed in Reincarnation, AKA Gilgul Neshamoth. I don't think any author comes out and says that.

A number of authors have written articles on it, however. For instance, there is an article in the Jewish Encyclopedia on the web under "Transmigration of Souls." For another instance, Gershom Scholem has an article on "Gilgul" in his book *Kabbalah* (1978).

Also, a popular Jewish concept depends on the Transmigration of Souls. Apparently, the idea behind the Dybbuk (sometimes called Gilgul) is that the soul of an evil man takes control of the body of a weak man. The reverse can happen as well and the soul of a good man can combine with another good man to form an even better soul.

ct. Ned Brooks. Does the Old Testament have historical inaccuracies, scientific fallacies, and statements and rules I disagree with? It is supposed to be religion, and not science or history as we know it; so we shouldn't be surprised if it contravenes both.

Also, it certainly has rules I disagree with. I am not into religion with muscles like much of the Old Testament. In disagreeing with it, I am in good company too. Others have disagreed. That is why the New Testament and the Talmud were created.

ct. Norm Metcalf. I didn't mean that the "I, Robot" the movie was based on the 1939 "I, Robot" story that wasn't by



Asimov but by Eando Binder. The movie was obviously based on Asimov's 1950 anthology *I, Robot*. However, there is a connection: the title was taken from the story to name Asimov's book. And, from there, the movie.

ct. Guy Lillian III. The difference between murder and legitimate killing is that legitimate killing is done in what we regard as a good cause. Killing bin Laden is a good cause; killing your uncle for the inheritance is not.

This is not the only moral judgment. Motive is important in how we handle crime. The crime is that much worse if people perceive that a killing was done only in the interest of the person doing the killing. An inheritance, for instance. In fact, our attitude goes beyond that: motive is considered powerful evidence for murder in the first place.

ct. Janice Gelb. About those awful spam that hawk treatments to make your penis

longer. I decided to hawk an unspecific treatment at one time that would make your penis grow to four foot long and maybe 50 lbs. I doubt it would be too useful for sex, but you could use it as a tripod.

As mock advertising, I said women would throw themselves at you and men would be jealous. Some wag said that whales, donkeys and shetland ponies would be jealous.

ct. Reinhardtts. The conclusion of the Special Counsel was that the confrontation was the Branch Davidians' fault. That's not going to cut any mustard with Hank although the Special Counsel, John Danforth, has good Republican credentials. In fact, I doubt that Hank would accept those findings even if Danforth had fire-breathing conservative credentials.

DAVID SCHLOSSER

cal edonia, and his dog, scot

You have better neighbors than mine. The most I can expect from them is that they will take my newspapers while I am gone. Of course, living in an apartment, I have less to protect.

\$7 for lunch on a plane to Europe! I will have to remember that. When I have flown in-country, lunch has been free. It hasn't been a great lunch, but it's been for free.

I was going to say that your TV interviews at cons have not aired because you aren't freaky enough. However, Corlis isn't freaky at all. Maybe it's the luck of the draw whether interviews air.

Gary Brown has lost his title before: when Ruth Judkowitz was sending zines from Guam. Anyway, I don't think he will be too sad to lose the particular title of

Southernmost SFPAn. It doesn't bother me that I never had the title of Northernmost SFPAn; or that Jeff, in Seattle, probably has me beat right now.

☺▲☺ You don't seem to be eating very much at Scottish restaurants. In fact, in Scotland, you seem to be eating more Indian, Greek, Italian and McDonalds' food. I count one, maybe two Scottish restaurants in addition to having oat cakes at a bed and breakfast. (What are mince and tatties?)

Come to think of it, do they have that many Scottish restaurants in Scotland? I gather they only think Scottish food is a cuisine in Olde Towne, Alexandria, Virginia. At Scotland Yard there, you can get venison and shephard's pie.

☺▲☺ *Just the Tip.* Usually, unlike that place in Edinburgh, they don't have washers or dryers in the suites I rent in U.S. hotels. Usually, the hotel has one washer and one dryer for everyone. In all honesty, even that sounds more convenient than that place in Edinburgh with the combination washer/dryers. They sound like a pain in the wazoo.

☺▲☺ *Ruden, Cruden.* On the other hand, I had a bed and breakfast arrangement like that in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. A cold breakfast laid out, and you had to wait while the chef/owner customized a hot one for you. I loved it. Too bad I have gotten so picky about where I sleep.

☺▲☺ I notice something interesting. Not only do there seem to be a lot of ruins in that part of Scotland, but they all seem to come from Bonny Prince Charlie's rebellion. ... Or have some been newly minted for the tourists?

☺▲☺ *Blue Skyes.* It seems like your trip was illness time. Random came down with something, then Kay. Fortunately, you avoided it. Vacations are a time for illness. Your

defenses are down; you don't have to be at work. However, it is annoying when illness happens when you're traveling.

☺▲☺ A Serpentarium with only foreign snakes; there are no native snakes in that part of Scotland? You mean to say that people somehow made money there on the snake trade?

LIZ COPELAND

home with the armadillo #68

☺▲☺ I remember arrangements where people worked on computers without bending their knees. Virtually lying down. A friend of mine had his computer on a table and sat himself in an easy chair. Also, if you do not have either, I bet there are special chairs and special desks. Of course, if your bum knee doesn't last long, they wouldn't be worth it.

☺▲☺ *Friday.* I can see why conservatives and business men are horrified at the idea of making facilities wheel chair friendly: they have been doing the opposite for years. They are not the kind to be taken out of their way either; they would much prefer for you to be taken out of your way.

☺▲☺ *Sun.* We knew within a year that the 1970 Moon Landing was it. And we realized too slowly because we should have known immediately. It was obvious Nixon wasn't going to spend a cent for space exploration if he could avoid it.

☺▲☺ I seem to remember Fifi at DeepSouthCon as a cow with a poodle cut. At NASFIC, however, she seems to be a regular poodle.

☺▲☺ Good luck with your leg.

JEFFREY COPELAND

a black & white world on color film

🍷▲🍷 I bet it was great to be with old friends at NASFIC. However, I could have used a scorecard to tell one old friend from the other. Maybe it's just me.

🍷▲🍷 *Other Quick Takes.* We didn't become a space-faring race until Sputnik? I thought we became a space-faring race when a WAC Corporal rocket boosted by a V-2 made it to a height of 234 miles in February 1949.

🍷▲🍷 The Bushies' problem was treating emergencies as politics and bureaucracy as usual.

For one thing, there was no one to tell them not to. I gather the experts had left in droves. I am sure the hack managers said good riddance. A lot of managers would like to believe that no task needs special knowledge; it's a delusion that won't go away. In fact, a nonexpert may even be better than the experts.

Even after having been politically crucified, I bet many still believe that they knew what was best and the public have just been spoil sports.

There were other practices, I bet, that did not bode too well for FEMA. I can just see some political hack there believing that, in an emergency, the budget remains the top priority and people have to be made to fill out a passel of forms to get theirs. Also, the forms have to be approved up the line.

Even in non-emergency situations there are problems with such a policy; it is clearly absurd when people are drowning and they need food, clothes and shelter.

Of course, political hacks being what they are, they would still be practicing partisan politics. Republican Mississippi, they would have no trouble signing for. However, I would imagine none wanted to sign for Democratic New Orleans or Louisiana with its Democratic governor.

Also, they might have wanted to save face by pretending there wasn't problem. By turning back Wal-Mart and the Germans, who wanted to help, because that might give the impression that there was a problem.

All these practices may be good – albeit sleazy – politics in normal situations; but they would have to fail when the whole world knew about New Orleans.

🍷▲🍷 *Mailing Comments on SFPA 244.* ct. Me. Pendelton's Universal Repulsion couldn't possibly be what happens when Barney Frank and Bob Dornan end up on the same committee together. Dornan's out.

🍷▲🍷 I doubt it was Sir Thomas More I consulted on cicadas. He never came within a thousand miles of Michigan while Prof. Thomas Moore apparently lives there.

🍷▲🍷 So Windows Vista will “hasta la vista” in both business and home.

🍷▲🍷 You're right: the Bushies see investment accounts as the first step toward the destruction of Social Security. They figure everyone will become so rich on them they won't need the evil Federal government to tell them what to do. In short, the Bushy strategy is as realistic here as it was in Iraq.

🍷▲🍷 I have to take back what I said. I asked Sheila again, and she said she isn't living better than pre-retirement because of her Thrift Savings Plan investments. She is living better because she inherited some money. Also, what you say is true. Investment is no place for an amateur. There are plenty of ‘investments’ that exist solely to take their money.

🍷▲🍷 Even if programs requiring administrative privileges don't work well with Service Pack 2, aren't networks the essence of Windows? From Windows 3.1 to

Windows XP, Windows has screamed network at you. They really want you to be in a network and password protected.

Since I have enough complications in my life, I quickly did away with the features that forced me and my wife to be a network. I never bothered with password protection and I did away with the separate venues. Ever since we both used exactly the same files.

I agree making my computer into a network would improve my security and privacy, but, as I said, I have enough complications in my life.

🍷🔺🍷 Lou Costello's last words were "That was the best ice-cream soda I ever tasted." I guess we're supposed to say that that served him right for being fat and eating fattening foods. My reaction was that that wasn't a bad way to go.

🍷🔺🍷 Where we have a broad agreement who is getting the raw end of the stick and who deserves to be unleashed, freedom and justice can't be beat. Where a George Bush feels that he is getting the raw end and deserves to be unleashed, that another thing entirely.

There is another question here: are freedom and justice civilization? Unfortunately, lots of civilizations have known neither justice nor freedom.

🍷🔺🍷 Jeb Bush run for President? He has to first get over the scandal in Florida over privatization. He paid a lot to a private company to set up a computer system to handle the Florida government's personnel work, and got very little. Nonetheless, he was still going full speed ahead with privatization.

🍷🔺🍷 ct. Mike Weber. About the Microsoft War on Linux, since ended, someone said that Bill Gates was trying to clip the Penguin's wings.

Now the war is against other products. I

remember a Microsoft representative badmouthing Firefox to me. However, he shouldn't have done so by ignoring my experience. It didn't help his cause that the Firefox browser was working at the time and Internet Explorer was not.

🍷🔺🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. This is about Star Wars if not Dave Barry. I had the idea that since life is absurd, the great principle that keeps the universe is the Farce.

🍷🔺🍷 ct. Guy Lillian. Can we attribute heart felt beliefs to either Roberts or Gonzalez? They were just trying to make hay in Conservative administrations.

Of course, do we want such people on the Supreme Court bench? Do conservatives really want such people on the Supreme Court bench?

🍷🔺🍷 The James Bond movies are comic books transformed into parodies. The novels, if I remember correctly, had a comic book air about them. The heroes too heroic, particularly James Bond; the villains too evil. The women too sexy.

🍷🔺🍷 I like the idea of an announcer digitalizing his voice after he lost it. Of course, radio station managements would much prefer that there be no announcers, so they wouldn't have to shell out big bucks. It would only be the five songs of the day, each in sequence. In fact, some stations are like that.

The only problem is no one else likes it that a station has no announcers, certainly not the public and not the advertisers. I know one Country Western station took the bull by the horns, and tried to convince people that they actually preferred things that way. It used to advertise that it gave you more music and less bull. I doubt it convinced anyone.

☹▲☹ This has been a Christian nation all along. That is why it has been secular. ...Huh!... It was one of the tenets of radical Protestantism in the 17th and 18th Centuries that the State had no business interfering in people's inner beliefs.

In fact, one person claimed that a church was no holier than a muckrake.

☹▲☹ ct. Gary Brown. With so many people talking into cell phones, it is very easy to talk to yourself these days if you're of a mind. You just talk into your cell phone when it is turned off. No one will know the difference.

This may be more useful than it seems. I know I talk to myself on occasion. And a lot of people have admitted to me that they talk to themselves. Let's be honest: when you talk to yourself, it's good company.

MIKE WEBER gone

☹▲☹ *How to Install Windows XP. The driver will anally rape your mother while pouring sugar down your gas tank.* Windows XP makes exactly the same threats to me since I have disabled the Messenger. As far as Microsoft is concerned, I haven't gotten my share of desktop spam.

☹▲☹ ct. *Buck Roger in the 21st Century.* Ronald Reagan ended the Cold War. Roosevelt was responsible for the Depression. Oil interests made Bush invade Iraq. Causes in politics differ greatly from causes in science. The evidence for causes in politics is whether they are convenient.

☹▲☹ *Famous People used to Spread Computer Virus.* I hit an Anna Kournikova virus. Immediately, all my headquarters and the regions were infected. I still feel bad that I didn't realize it was Anna Kournikova. It was on an email from my listserv and I did it automatically. If I had hit it for Anna, at least it

would have shown some passion.

☹▲☹ *After They Pee in It.* An X-Men sex siren mutant who seduces her opponents rather than battles them. Isn't that against the genre? Can't you only battle evil supervillains? It's not a Make Love genre.

Similarly, my idea for the pleasure gun would never find its way into superhero comics. You shoot someone and you give them so much pleasure, by Pavlov's conditioning, they come over to your side.

☹▲☹ *Prairie Home Companion.* I love it. I listen to it on the radio during my trips to and from New Jersey. Unlike you, I even like the opera singers. However, I don't think I would spend any money to watch it in an amphitheatre. I don't like it that much.

☹▲☹ *Could We Please Get Our Stories Straight.* I don't think the Bushies are inconsistent when they say that we invaded Iraq to fight al Qaeda, and that Britain had not been a target because it was helping us. No, theirs is a very consistent fantasy. Not only is nothing they do wrong; nothing they do has any bad consequences.

☹▲☹ ct. Oblio. Cartoon physics isn't only found in cartoons. Tarzan of the Apes did some things beyond normal, and even abnormal, human capability. According to Cecil Adams' column, for what it is worth, Burroughs had him swinging from branches in the original books like tree apes.

That seemed unrealistic for the movies, so they had him swinging from thick vines. The problem is that a vine you can swing from apparently doesn't exist. The one vine thick enough, the liana, is not stable on top. In short, the movie Tarzan is cartoonish too.

☹▲☹ ct. Yngvj is a Louse. I was wondering this: since the deeds of different

religions and their beliefs don't match, does that mean beliefs are worthless? It depends on what is going on inside of believers' heads. Maybe the beliefs of their religions give them some benefit there.



Let's face it: Kerry and every other recipient got Purple Hearts and Silver Stars lite. The military had a hard time finding heroes during the Vietnam War.



About funny songs written recently, how about "Cows with Guns"? I have really liked that one even if I haven't laughed hysterically at it.

<http://www.cowswithguns.com>



Maybe scientists should look to Universal Repulsion for the key to gravity. They should examine the vacuum of space and maybe that is where the graviton lies – in one of the many particles that make up that vacuum. ...Or would you have to call it the repulsiton since it repels?

GARY BROWN

oblio no. 100 august-September 2005



I hear doctors don't like to prescribe painkillers to people in intense pain lest they be arrested for trafficking in controlled substances. One more strike against the drug laws.



GROWING OLDER. I definitely feel older. My body is starting to run down. However, age happens. Better I should take that attitude than be like Canute, and command the waves to roll back. Or take my wife's grandmother's advice: "Never get old." Of course, her subtext was that the alternative is worse.



I agree that some relationships just don't work out. However, if both sides work on having a relationship, it will work out. Under such circumstances, even polar opposites can

stay together.

It helps if people don't judge a relationship by the ideal. No, it isn't dysfunctional if you are unhappy; it is only dysfunctional if you are better off outside the relationship.



Actually, I think Lucas' religion in the last Star Wars was not futuristic at all. It was the age old idea that desires make us unhappy and we should minimize them. That idea runs through Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism.

I have to admit that differs from the religion in the original Star Wars. There it was New Age fuzziness. Of course, that may be old too. That mind is over matter and our impulses are the highest good go back quite a ways.



If Earthlings thought extraterrestrials were Demons, would they try to convert them? One of the age old Christian beliefs is that the Devil can never be saved. I imagine that would be true of his Demons too. Thus, if Earthlings felt extraterrestrials could be saved, they wouldn't be Demons; they would be Heathens.



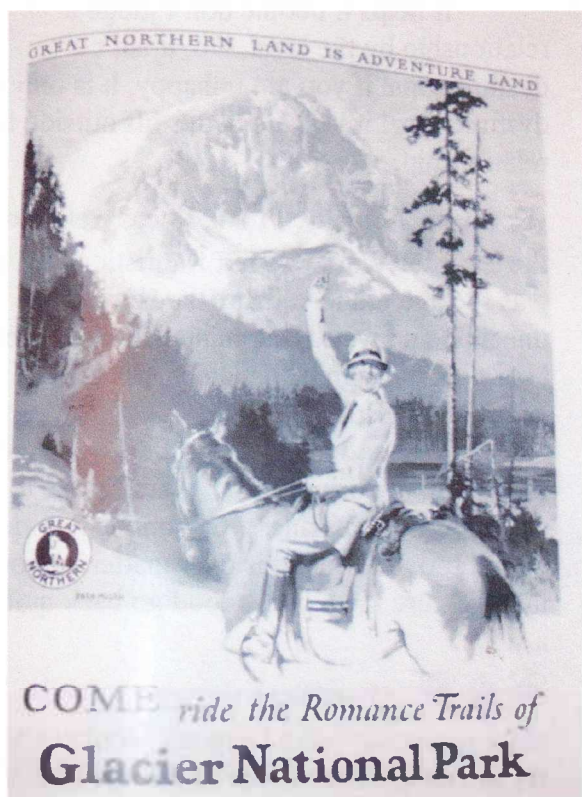
I'm afraid I've been obvious in trying to work out my problems in SFPA. It probably would have been better if I had been more subtle. But I'm afraid subtlety is not I.



Bill and Hillary have always worked together. I would imagine, however, a Hillary presidency would fit her personality better. It would be more liberal and do-gooder. Also, it would be better organized up at the top.



I imagine when you put coal in your gas tank, it won't be a lump. It will, as they say, be gasified. Of course, the gas



prices will have to stay high enough for Kodak Chemical or others to get the infrastructure up for gasifying coal. Otherwise, you will only have a lump to put in your gas tank.

🍷🍷🍷 I think the material Edgar Rice Burroughs was writing was old school, not his style of writing. There is certainly enough action to keep our attention and comparatively few expository lumps to take it away.

What is old school are sort of humans on Mars, jungle men who swing through the trees like apes, underground worlds, ray guns. They are all Victorian.

On the other, that makes this material seem more futuristic than modern science fiction. Their age means they are ideas about the future we are familiar with.

🍷🍷🍷 That's another alternative: you slept on your shoulder wrong. It may have been arthritis, but then I had arthritis at ten. Either

that or I was sleeping on body parts wrong.

🍷🍷🍷 There seems to be a human law of inertia as well as laws from physics. Our accumulation of material things tend to degenerate into disorganization. Only a few people seem strong enough to resist.

On the other hand, I find I feel better once I reorganize everything again. I am doing that with my library. The big man ordered that I clear my library table area of its boxes, piles of journals, etc. I decided to do the same with my files. I am calmer and seem to be getting more things.

🍷🍷🍷 A lot of Republicans don't like the idea of the party being enslaved to the Religious Right, but for now they can't do much about it. Bush didn't lose last time because he was able to mobilize the Christian right, and now he's beholden to them.

You can see that in the Miers nomination. He couldn't get away with nominating her. It had to be a firebreathing Conservative judge, like Alito. At least he had to be a judge who seems firebreathing.

🍷🍷🍷 I didn't mean that the kings of Mars or their queens of Venus or Jupiter were necessarily bad guys or gals. Since everything was more personal, they could be more virtuous than earthly rulers.

Just that the social system was Medieval or Oriental, i.e., chaotic. Fate was always raising both good and bad men up and casting them down in an arbitrary fashion. In short, perfect for an action novel.

🍷🍷🍷 I'm sure you're right about Will Rogers being more a matter of commentary and less a matter of one-liners. You know that his statue stands in the Capitol building. Inscribed on it is that he wanted his statue there to keep an eye on Congress?

🍷🍷🍷 Apparently the banks don't have a

legal leg to stand on when they prevent heirs from getting a deceased person's estate. Why else would a letter from a lawyer be sufficient to gain access? Time and time again a letter from a lawyer does the trick. Sometimes only a phone call from a lawyer.

☺▲☺ Gary, there is no need to defend yourself in the least for confusing *Fail-Safe* with *Dr. Strangelove*. All our memories seem to be wrong more often than they are right. It is certainly true of me. The moment I read or see anything, it starts to distort. Maybe that process is what keeps us sane.

☺▲☺ Did I say there wasn't any Right-Wing paranoia, or that there wasn't any Right-Wing propaganda on Fox? Wash my mouth out with soap and water if I did that. I just said that I saw Fox News, and for long portions of time there was inanity posing as news.

☺▲☺ Mexicans siesta-ing all the time? As I said, Mexican-Americans are ambiguous about such things. I remember a cartoon from the *Hispanic Link Newsletter*. A motel uses as its logo a Mexican siesta-ing next to a cactus. However, Chicanos protest and the Mexican is gone. The cactus feels lonely.

☺▲☺ About bin Laden's whereabouts, we have blown it badly. We have tended not to hire any spies who know Arab culture and language well, i.e., Arabs. Since 9-1-1, it is even worse. We are clueless as to what is happening in Arab lands. It is no wonder bin Laden can elude us.

☺▲☺ ct. Tyndallite. Passing our fanzines down to the younger generation is normally, a vain hope. Still, strange things do happen. My brother's first daughter Pam is a great fan of my *Journal of Mind Pollution* and *JOMP, JR.*; and I can't figure why. I even gave her a full run and she still said she enjoyed them. ...Search me.

☺▲☺ ct. The Sphere. Bush can't nominate that advocate of torture, Alberto Gonzalez, to the Supreme Court because Right-Wingers find him too liberal.

☺▲☺ I remember reading the word Google is a take-off on the word Googol, meaning 100^{100} , not Barney Google, who has long been forgotten by most people. In short, the idea is you get a lot from Google.

☺▲☺ ct. Mountains are Pretty. I'm probably the one person in a thousand for whom TiVo would not be useful. I rarely watch TV. While I probably have greater tolerance for the boob tube than many people, there are other things I would prefer to do, like write zines, letters, etc.

RANDY B. CLEARY

avatar press v2, no. 40, September 29th,

2005

☺▲☺ *Work*. Fortunately for me, I have not been asked to pick up someone else's function in many a moon. As a librarian, I am on the borders of management's sight and the borders of management's mind.

☺▲☺ A *Wall Street Journal* article called it anemia when companies fire so many people that they really cannot sustain their businesses. That happened in a big way in the early '90s. Now it seems to be happening in your workplace. Good luck. I hope your interesting times pass.

☺▲☺ *Libertycon*. Mistaking a Tom Kidd cover for a Charles Keegan cover. Fake it, Gary, fake it. You know the joke about the vaudevillians. A ship they were traveling on went down.

MANNY: Jake, I can't swim!!

JAKE: Fake it, Manny, fake it!

🍷🍷🍷 *40 Year Virgin*. Since it is raunchy, I take it it's not like any of the Doris Day films of the '50s. She was a virgin in each one. Oscar Levant once said that he knew Doris Day before she became a virgin.

🍷🍷🍷 Ah, a Space Rabbit. It is the first creature of genus *lepus* in space. I have seen a book entitled *Space Dog*. A pre-teen was a big fan of it. He liked books about dogs and books about space travel. He must have been in Seventh Heaven.

Also, there was Space Bagel. Actually, I never saw any book, show, etc. called Space Bagel. However, my father thought there should be. He liked the idea of us Jewish people in space.

🍷🍷🍷 A sexy, revealing Playboy-type bunny signifying Constellation? It may not be too far from the original spirit of things. In centuries past, people took the signs of the stars and planets more to heart than we do. They felt the idea of a conjunction between Mars and Venus was hilarious. Between the archetypal soldier and the archetypal sex goddess. Even more hilarious was the conjunction between Venus and Saturn. An old man and a young woman.

GARY R. ROBE tennessee trash #67

🍷🍷🍷 *Thursday, July 28th*. When I was in London in '63, I did something similar to what you were doing. I explored the famous names of London. Unfortunately, I hadn't researched the tourist sites so I didn't know there was not much behind some of the famous names. For example, at Charring Cross when I took the subway there.

🍷🍷🍷 *Saturday, July 30th*. What's the Smithsonian's best stuff depends on your viewpoint. I bet the Smithsonian believes their

dinosaur collection, on your right coming in to the Natural History Museum, and their African safari collection, on your left, is their best stuff.

Certainly, like you, my taste is not theirs. It's probably not yours either. I was to the Natural History Museum recently and found out one of my favorite exhibits was completely out of the way. You had to go downstairs and then on an elevator up, and then you could see the obscene lamp tray. The one where they say the satyrs and pan are practicing Dionysian rites. You bet they are.

Another favorite exhibit, a body that had turned to soap, I found was no longer on exhibit. I guess it's now in the Smithsonian's attic.

🍷🍷🍷 *Monday, August 1st*. I see more aspects of the trip were unenjoyable than you remembered in the beginning. It wasn't only the plane that took its time landing. For instance, there was the subway that stopped and you had to wait hot and airless for an hour. Then there was the strike of the bus drivers that left you stranded for an hour.

Of course, this is to the good not the bad. It shows your indomitable optimistic attitude, Gary. That is why you have adventures and we do not.

🍷🍷🍷 *Wednesday, August 3*. The Loo of the Year Award. That is typical British humor. What would make a loo so good it got an award? Of course, the same thing could be asked about car dealers and real estate agents.

🍷🍷🍷 You took a picture with a camera of the TV screen when the news report on Interthingy came on the air. You know in the early days of TV that would have been called a Kinescope Recording, or Kinescope for short. That was all they had for recording

then, a movie camera taking a picture of the TV screen. Those kinescope recordings were pretty bad too, I hear.

🍷▲🍷 *And then To Mexico...* A video conference would be better than that audio conference. Being there would be even better. You would get to shmooze with people.

However, when you have to network with people from around the world, being there is out of the question. In that case, a video conference might be best.

🍷▲🍷 *Outside Con.* I'm afraid I'm too much of a chicken for the Outside Con. When DeepSouthCon is outside next year, I think I'll book a room in the hotel rather than rough it in a cabin. If I had surveyed the place beforehand, I might have tried the cabin. However, I am coming sight unseen. Sight unseen, I am a chicken.

Nonetheless, I have to hand it to you. Not only did you attend outdoors; you skipped the cabin even and attended with a tent.

🍷▲🍷 *You Just Can't Reason.* From SFPA, we knew New Orleans had an underbelly that was rotten. We didn't realize that its overbelly was rotten too. When push came to shove, the big wigs didn't come through.

Of course, it is possible to criticize Nolans too much. The paper reported that half the cops abandoned the city during the flood. Then someone in my group noticed something interesting: half the cops stayed in that impossible situation.

🍷▲🍷 Clinton struck home in all the things Bush is striking out in. The Republicans must have hated it when he and his FEMA got kudos for their responsiveness. Also, when he won Haiti without a shot and won Kosovo completely from the air.

This didn't mean that Republicans were not trying to make these successes into failures.

I remember there was an attempt to portray the Haitian action as one of America's biggest defeats. Since Haiti surrendered without a shot, I don't think it ever worked.

That is not to say conservative Republicans were trying to say black was white. For them, it probably was a great defeat since they were siding with the junta.

🍷▲🍷 I think the idea is to rebuild New Orleans as a yuppified, upscale, White city. The problem is that upscale yuppies require an underclass. Also, if they don't improve the levees and ecology, those upscale yuppies will find themselves underwater too.

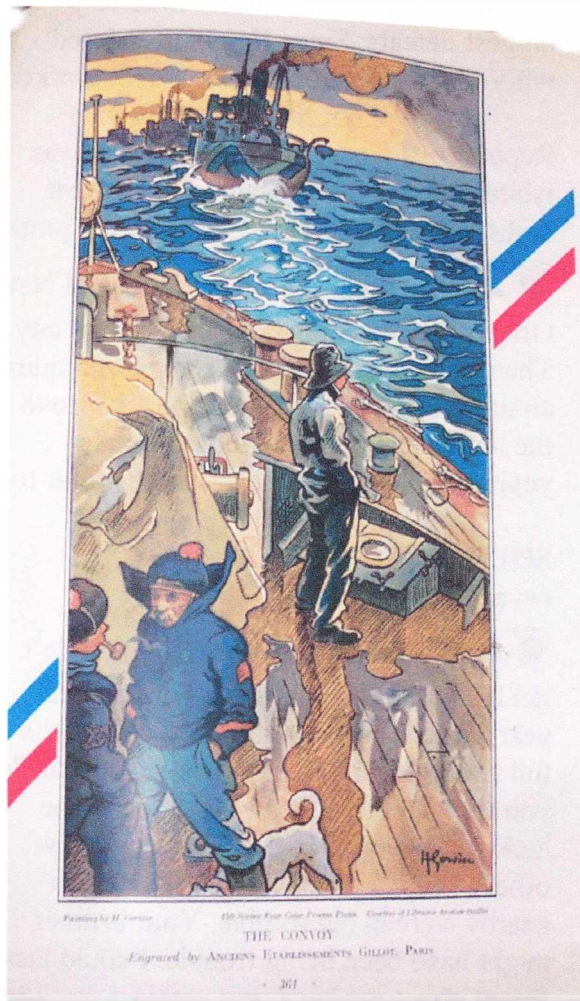
SHEILA STRICKLAND **revenant #33**

🍷▲🍷 *Katrina.* Physically, you didn't get hit worse than I did in a hurricane last year. I think my power was off almost the full twenty-four hours. However, spiritually, you took a bad hit. You were one of the lucky ones but, as in the song, you knew others weren't. People in New Orleans nearby were in big trouble. Your brother might have been in big trouble. I could just forget about my hurricane within a day after it happened.

🍷▲🍷 *August Interlude.* They had a slightly different take on *Much Ado about Nothing* when it played in D.C. Your *Much Ado* was set in the 1920s or 1930s elite. Ours advertised itself as love and loss among GIs during World War II in England. Our advertisement went so far as to have a swing band playing.

🍷▲🍷 Too bad you might drop out of grad school. Could grad school and an MLS help you anyway; you are currently working as a librarian, aren't you?

🍷▲🍷 *Goodbye Marathon.* Recently, I



look like I am finishing the projects I have started. I have been traveling to Jersey to help auction my mother's antiques and that auction has come to fruition. Also, I am supposed to give a speech to a skeptics group. While I haven't given the speech yet, I am still hard at work working on it.

However, I am butting out of one project, to line a conference room with the photos of all my government agency's past administrators. One of the principles is right. I have no authority or standing whatsoever, and, without authority or standing, I can do nothing more.

In short, the projects I have started, I can continue on with only because they are bite

sized. When I take on more than I can chew, forget it. Of course, what projects we have to take on is often a matter of fate and luck.

☛▲☛ *Charlie and the Chocolate*

Factory. If Willy Wonka is supposed to be a dandy, it would be great for him to be an Edwardian dandy. The Edwardian dandy is the archetypal one. Edward VII, who was supposed to be a nonentity, seems to have created his own age.

T.K.F. WEISSKOPF

yngvi is a filthy pro louse

☛▲☛ *Cover.* Ah, a propeller beanie. I hope to someday come out with an article on the propeller beanie. It would center on three teenagers. One thought the propeller beanie up as a symbol for his science fiction club in Michigan. Then the other two kids decided all three should wear it to Torcon I (1948). Only one did. Then others took it over.

☛▲☛ *Kreegah!* I'm glad to hear Linda Krawecka and JoAnn Montalbano are okay. I like them both. JoAnn in particular, do I like because she treated me well when she was OE.

☛▲☛ Has any science fiction ever predicted the future? The original Tom Swift came closest. The 120 mile an hour train is a reality.

☛▲☛ People in the military often sing the praises of bending the rules while keeping the system in tact. It says something about life in the military.

That was the idea behind Herman Wouk's novel *Caine Mutiny*, an idea which got changed for the movie. An ex-military man, who was proctor of my college dorm, in effect praised bending the rules. As far as he was concerned, the worst crime was getting caught. Now an instructor of

midshipman tells you that in connection with *Starman Jones*.

Of course, you're right that Starman Jones is about ethical choices.

🍷▲🍷 *Reviewing the Supreme Court.* For once, I basically agree with Pat Gibbs. Generally, the courts should not take it upon themselves to make the laws. However, I doubt they could keep to principle like he wants them to. I think they should defer a great deal to legislatures – as unenlightened as the legislatures often are.

🍷▲🍷 *Comments to Offend Just about Everyone.* Alpha Males are natural? Then people are more natural at some times than at other times. Also, during the Dark Ages we were more natural and right now we are less natural. Finally, I hear some societies are more natural and less natural still.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Schlosser. Well, Hank, sometimes you admit that theology doesn't mean much when it comes to religious wars and peace, and sometimes you proclaim it means everything. Which is it? I of course opt for it doesn't mean anything.

🍷▲🍷 *Why I Thoroughly (sic) Dislike George Bush!!* I don't think there's been a tax cut during the Bush II Administration. A deficit is a tax. It may be a tax which keeps on taking, but it's a tax. What the banks loan to the government, they can't loan out to private enterprise to invest. At any rate, nor over the long hall.

Thus, there is tax cut only when there is a spending cut. You admit that spending hasn't been cut at all under Bush. If anything, he has increased it. Therefore, there has been no tax cut.

🍷▲🍷 Jules Pfeiffer once said that the political press is a trade press. The conservative media just reports facts to support its position,

and the liberal media just reports facts to support its position.

What you say here confirms this. Your conservative media reported facts that contradict my liberal media. Yours reported that the levees weren't reinforced sufficiently because the Sierra Club sued. My media reported Congress refused to appropriate enough money to reinforce the levees sufficiently.

In your media, Mayor Ray Nagin and Governor Kathleen Blanco were responsible for not receiving aid fast enough because they didn't ask for it fast enough. In my media, Michael Brown, head of FEMA, was taken to task before Congress for not getting aid to Louisiana fast enough, and had to resign because of it.

Then there is the matter of the LeMonde editor. According to my media, he was sued for his statement under France's collective libel laws. He claimed that he was only referring to the Jews in Israel as arrogant, and only to their treatment of the Palestinians. The context partially confirmed that, and the judge ended up awarding the groups suing him one Euro.

Of course, we don't need a conservative or liberal press to pick and choose and our facts for us. You do that with Bill Clinton when you say he was a disbarred lawyer who pled nolo contendere to perjury. On the other hand, I do it when I say Bill Clinton was two-term President during whom there was peace and prosperity. Which remained the case even though the economy slowed near the end of his Administration.

ONE-SHOT the adventures of bruce beefcake at cascadiacon

🍷▲🍷 James fighting a dragon. I was

wondering where St. George is when we need him and here he is. Now, if James can just avoid Star Wars' bars with seven foot tall aliens and lizard pigs, he'll be alright.

🍷▲🍷 Allie in the magical world of Condom. Good way to insure Ruth and Kyla will not beget any children out of the proceedings. (For me too, every pun intended.)

🍷▲🍷 Ray Patrick considers the con the height of depravity. No, SFPA is even more depraved. The problem is that it is not as risqué when you are swinging from chandeliers on paper.

🍷▲🍷 At least, Kyla didn't have to kiss the cabin boy horizontally. You miss a lot when you try to do that.

🍷▲🍷 I don't know who is having experiences with fortune cookies dating back to Atlantis and Lemuria. However, I myself have discovered a continent that existed 50 million years ago and was entirely populated by cows. You may have heard of it, the Continent of Moo.

🍷▲🍷 Is the sparkly dress really there? You have to remember that there is no mind; it's a figment of your imagination.

🍷▲🍷 Ah, Naomi's Grace is very precocious if she knows not to waste chocolate ice cream on her dress.

🍷▲🍷 To Chris Ballowe's comment, the fellow on the headphones not only had a music problem if he inscribed on the sticker what wasn't your name; he had a reality problem. I wonder what he was smoking. Do his cigarettes taste funny?