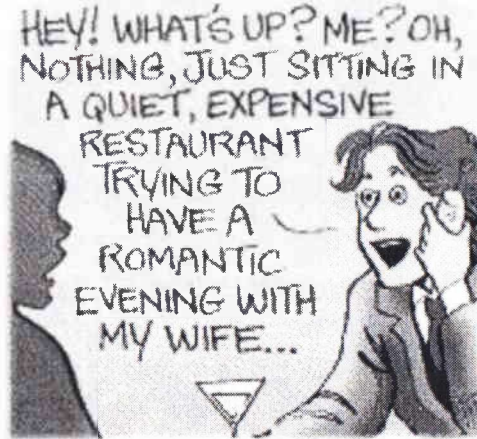
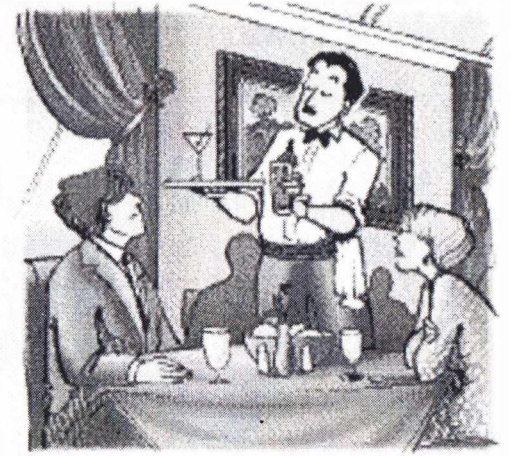
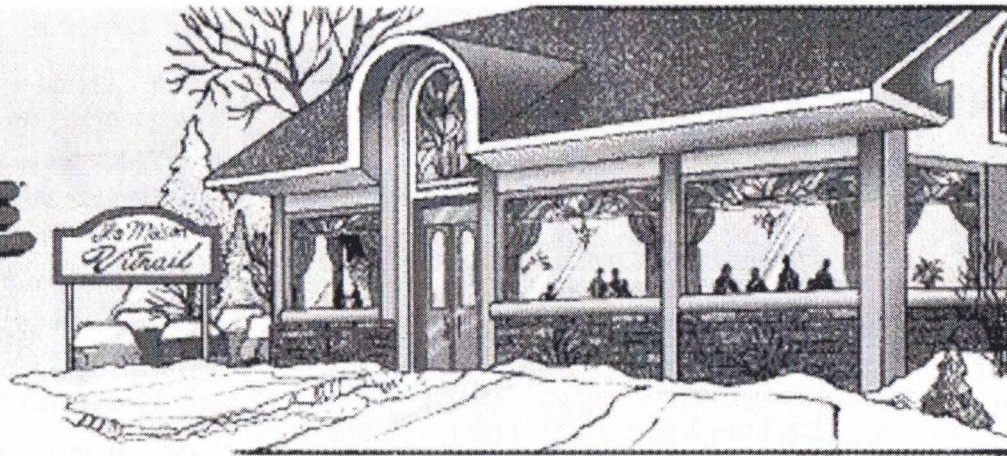


# FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

by Lynn Johnston



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## Table of Contents -- Inside Back Cover

Welcome to

**Phone Etiquette**,

a continuation of MCs begun in

already gone,

intended for the September mailing of the

**SFPA.**

**Phone Etiquette**

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When the authorities warn you of the dangers of having sex, there is an important lesson to be learned: Do not have sex with the authorities.

phone etiquette

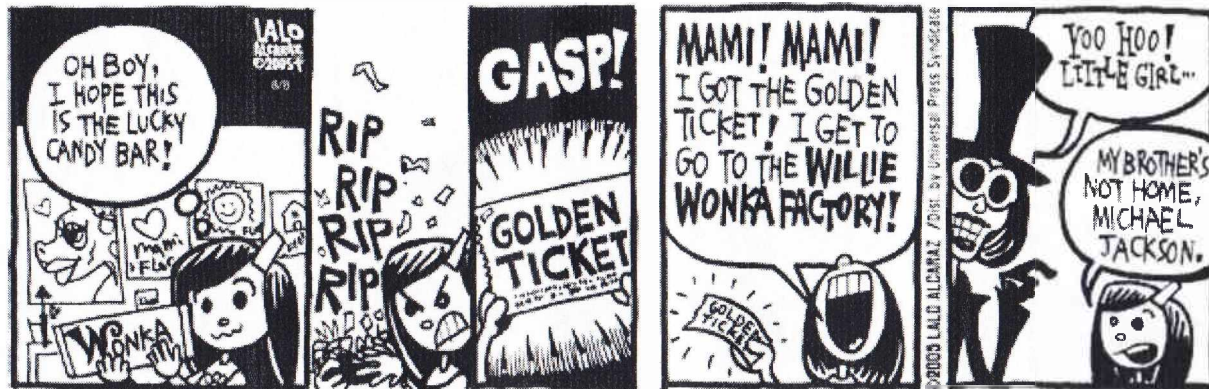
-- Matt Groening

## CONTINUED MCs; SFPA 246

TWYGDASIL & TREE-  
HOUSE GAZETTE 95

R.Dengrove

I'm surprised that Avallone put his real name on a Midwood -- they were about the raunchiest of stroke books of the day. Note that



the price is 40¢, in an era when the average paperback original was still like 25¢ or 30¢.

But, then again, Avallone wrote such crappy stuff in general (and so much of it), i guess he didn't figure he had a good name to protect.

I dunno about the Patent Office having been anti-perpetual-motion throughout its history (i believe there actually are some perpetual-motion patents), but they definitely won't accept

perpetual-motion patent applications these days.

In general, you can patent any device -- it has to be an actual device -- that does not obviously violate the laws of nature (so much for the perpetual-motion boys), which is not simply a modification or direct derivative of an existing device and can be built within the State Of The Art. It doesn't have to actually work, and you don't have to submit or have built one.

An example of this sort of thing -- the original patent on the maser/laser was granted in

1965 to Townes and Schawlow, who actually had the idea second, but got there with a patent application before Gordon Gould, who had been at least partially balked in filing because he was working on military-funded research and the military liaison promptly slapped a

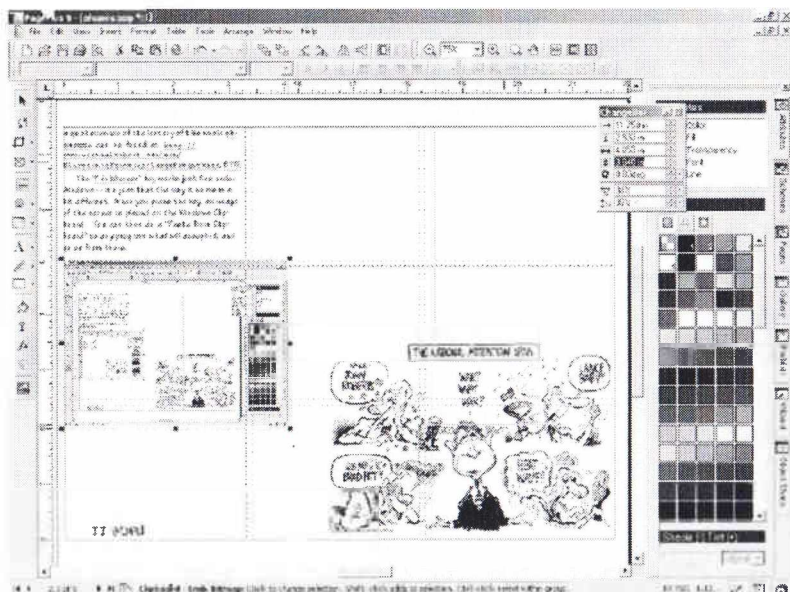
"Classified" on his notebooks. He filed, anyway, but after Townes and Schawlow, who got the patent. And that was the beginning of almost forty years (so far) of legal wrangling. Note that T&S actually built a device and Gould did not -- but he still got a reversal and the T&S patents on several areas of laser tech were invalidated and granted to Gould.

That, of course, wasn't the end of it -- considering that literally billions of dollars were involved, it

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wouldn't have been. (An article giving a quick overview of the history of this whole shemuzzle can be found at <http://www.virtualschool.edu/mon/ElectronicFrontier/LaserPatentWars>, BTW.

"I wonder what the "PrintScreen" key is for nowadays"? It works just fine under Windows -- it's just that the way it works is a bit different. When you press the key, an image of the screen is placed on the Windows Clipboard. You can then do a "Paste from Clipboard" to any pro-



gram that will accept it, and go on from there.

Like so. (Hope i can afford colour ink to print this zine with...) Note that the cursor is not reproduced.

Of course, most good paint/draw programs include a screen-capture utility, PaintShop and the GIMP certainly do. The PSP screencap even lets you decide whether

to show or to omit the cursor.

Hope that's helpful to you.

As to online prices -- generally they're legit, based on the "Bigger Fool" theory of economics. I recently had occasion to look up Country Joe's CD War War War (which is out of print) on Amazon, and found three for sale by Associates, the cheapest of which was used, and was priced at \$84.99.

Talking about Cheney -- i just came across a Jay Leno crack: "There's rumors that Cheney may run for President in 2008. If he wins, he'll be the first President since Roosevelt to serve three terms."

(Remember when we were wondering if Cheney's dodgy heart might make it impossible for him to do two terms as VP?)

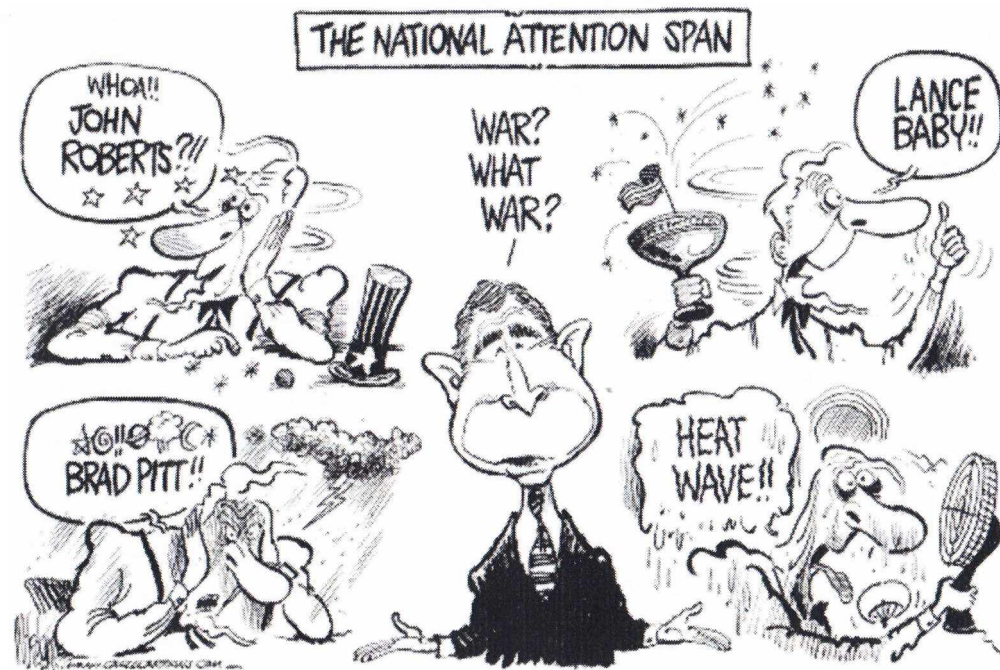
Janis's music is legendary nostalgic for two basic reasons -- she was a hell of a blues singer, and she died young.

Same things

that give Robert Johnson a possibly greater stature than he'd have had if he'd lived to record as many sides as, say, B.B.King.

When i said your family stuff was too involved and painful, i wasn't saying either that it was insignificant from my standpoint, nor that you shouldn't have put it in. Just that, given my own life's on-going sudsiness, i couldn't deal with anyone else's, especially when it looked as if it might be even worse than mine.

Funky, along with 9 Chickweed Lane and Luann, to name just three, is a strip that has moved toward the ecological niche left vacant by the reduction in full-continuity strips. In great measure, they follow in the footsteps of giants like Walt Kelly's Pogo and Doonesbury, in that, while they are still gag-a-day strips in great part, there is a con-







the as-yet-unresolved comic shop obscenity charges and so on. As of today, Wally has stepped on a land mine and is waiting for his Afghan "fixer" to get to a safe distance before stepping off to see if it explodes. (He still sows little gag bits throughout the strip -- including one i'll come to when i get to your remarks about the Flying Tigers).

Windows XP allegedly can run a lot of older software in "compatibility" mode; it is, basically, NT 5, just as 2000 (which i use) is NT 4. If by "AOL 2.0" you mean AOLPress 2.0, it runs Just Fine under 2000, and ought to run under XP. **Jeff** could give us a run-down as to why some software won't run under XP (often, as with 2000, it's because the program uses custom video routines; the original Myst wouldn't run on W95 -- in fact, it would very solidly crash the whole system, as likely as not). The one that truly irritates me is that i couldn't run "Starship Titanic or American McGee's "Alice" on our 2000 machine.

Ah ha. I didn't say that Zits deserved the Reuben more than Luann -- Gary had quoted **Alan Hutchinson**, who was questioning the local paper's choice of comic strips to add. Here's my exact comment:

As to one of **Alan's** questions -- "Why pick up **Luann** when they had **Zits**?" -- possibly because Greg Evans won this year's Reuben for Cartoonist of the Year and the guy who does **Zits** didn't?

Alan's position was, apparently that, with

Zits, they already had a teen-gag strip, and that adding Luann was a work of supererogation, and he wondered why they had done it. My reply, de-snarkified, is that since Evans won the Reuben, and the Zits guy didn't, adding Luann could be seen as adding a touch of class to the paper. (I couldn't imagine that i might have been so totally brain-dead as to advocate Zits for a Reuben over Luann)

Hey -- Luann would be about my favourite strip these days if only because i've noticed that Luann and [i think] ner dad are left-handed... As a member of about the only good-sized minority in America it's still safe to make jokes about, i appreciate all the recognition we can get.

As to the question of how you tell Bush's propaganda from the usual Right Wing media stuff, it's sorta like how do you know when Bush is lying?

Answer: Cheney's lips aren't moving.

The computer is working pretty well -- though we did need to replace the ethernet card the other day to get online -- the Buick is still running, Helen is again pregnant (Steve came home a few months ago before shipping out) and definitely beginning to show, and the Knee is Much Better, though still a little tricky and arthritic and likely to remain so.

Now, if i can just find a job soon, now that i'm back on my feet, all will be well.

No -- in "anitgravity", there would be no propulsive force (aside

tinuity connecting the gags as well.

McEldowney maintained *Chickweed* as primarily gag-a-day with occasional week-long loose continuities (like Juliette's ulcer, the half-empty/half-full arc and so on) for years, but has now switched it to more of a continuity strip with periodic non-continuity gag-a-day bits. (He ran quite tight continuity from November 04 till February of this year as he shifted the entire set-up of the strip.)

Luann has quite strong continuity now, but he has so many strings going that he can jump around every week or so and people won't get bored -- he just sent the core cast to the San Diego ComicCon in a two-week sequence, and Luann and her mother are currently in Hawaii on a trip Luann won in a radio contest.

Funky is about the tightest of the three; with quite tight and involved continuities -- the Danny Madison arc i reprinted a while back, Wally's PTD and return to Afghanistan working with an NGO clearing land mines, phone etiquette



from the tendency to fly off at a tangent to the Earth's surface as described by Doc Smith in the first chapter of *Skylark Three*...) Simply blocking gravitational attraction a la Cavorite provides no repulsion. By blocking the repulsion from one side out, the repulsion from the other side that has been canceling it out provides a driving force...

Yah. Right. Coal is ready to take oil's place -- well, sorta. There are still no good coal gasification processes, nor any good vehicle-fuel-from-coal processes that even look likely to come online in the Real World anytime soon.

Besides which, a coal-fired power plant is just about the most dangerous and polluting form of power generation there is; it even puts more radiation into the environment than a nuclear plant.

And that's with anthracite. Bituminous is even worse.

Actually, current auto diesel engines start just about as quickly as gas engines, except in cold weather. It's in cold weather when you need to use the glow plugs to warm the cylinders before starting that the difference is significant.

Actually, an "early *Spirit*" comic wouldn't have been likely to be published in the 60's -- the original newspaper run was 1940 to the early Fifties, there were two 25¢ reprint books published by Harvey in 1966 (each featuring one new or at least redrawn lead story, the origins of the *Spirit* and the Octopus).

There was also the

special story that appeared in the New York Herald-Tribune's Sunday section in 1965. After that, there was a little activity in "underground" comix in the 70's (some covers and about two reprinted stories [Oh, yeah, there was also a reprinted *Spirit* story in one or the other volume of *Steranko's History*.]), until Warren (*Eerie*, *Creepie*, the short-lived and lamented *Blazing Combat* and *Vampirella*) began reprints in a more or less systematic manner... So the only way you would have a *Spirit* comic from the 50s would be, so far as i can figure, one done by IW, a more-or-less pirate operation that got hold of a lot of old plates and published unauthorised reprints of a lot of odds and ends; probably a *Spirit* comic from them might have been assembled from stories that originally ran in *Police*, i think.

I run the MS anti-spyware and let it run automatically every day (as does my AVG free anti-virus), and i run Spybot and Ad-Aware SE periodically. I have read, and my own experience seems to bear out, that any one of the three may sometimes pick up things the other two have missed.

I doubt that Firefox is more vulnerable than IE, if only because the people behind Firefox have an idea what's in their code and how it works, unlike the poor schnooks who have to maintain and upgrade IE.

I once read a story in which there was both sequential and crosstime time travel -- the sequential travelers were unable to make any changes in the past directly, but the

crosstime travelers could change anything in any timeline they visited. I forget if there was a loophole that allowed a sequential traveler to communicate information to a crosstimer; i think that a little handwaving to point out that the crosstimer wasn't "really" part of the sequentialist's "true" timeline, so that communicating information to him wasn't "really" a change might do it.

Might make for some interesting stories exploiting loopholes in the "rules".





Ice does, indeed, have more volume (lower unit density) than water. However, the reason that most of an iceberg is underwater is that a floating object displaces exactly as much weight of water as it weighs itself. ((EUREKA!!)) Take a large tub of water -- ten gallons or so (that's about 85 pounds of water, BTW). with a ten-pound block of ice from a local ice house floating in it.. Most of the block will be under water, but part of the ice will be above water. As the ice melts, if you monitor the water level, you'll see that it doesn't change, as the block melts into exactly as much water as it displaced when it was floating ice.

So, what does this tell us about melting the polar caps? Well, it tells us that, if we melt the North Pole icecap, not much will happen, because Up There the cap is pack ice floating in open water. So, melt the North Pole, and no need to worry about the seas rising and drowning New York or London.

Ah -- but the Greenland icecap, the ice on the Canadian Shield and most particularly of all, the ice on the continent of Antarctica... that's all on dry land. It is *not* floating in the ocean.

And when it melts...

Can i interest you in some prime beachfront property in the Birmingham or Augusta areas?

Call *The Shoes of the Fisherman* "speculative fiction", then.

Australia, sadly, has a fairly bad racial record; the Abos were treated at least as badly as the Ameri-

phone etiquette

can Indian. And they've had some history of religious friction. One of my favourite little-known movies is an Australian "spaghetti western" style film about the thwarting of a fictional but not too far-fetched Irish/Catholic insurgency in the 1870s; and what about Ned Kelly?

As a matter of fact, the IQ tests have been restandardised several times over the years.

The Cross did, indeed, as you say, "follow the Conquistadors", but only because it was safer there; the Pope had already basically asserted total ownership of the New World for the Church and the Catholic states of Spain and Portugal.

Kate and i just read/reread four of my brother's books (collaborations with John Ringo) on the computer -- one won't be out till November, and it was just more convenient to reread the other three in the series on the computer than to go find the dead tree editions.

That said, i do prefer dead trees.

Generally, if a bank is trying to grab a joint account after the death of the primary account holders, it doesn't even take the threat of a law-



suit -- just a threat to report them to the Comptroller of the Currency and/or the agency in your state that regulates banks, will usually do it.

"...[A] conflict between having a beautiful web page and getting it up..."?

If you're that tired after building a beautiful web page, try Viagra.

Until 1991, the official history said that the Flying Tigers were volunteer/mercenary American pilots, operating as an independent unit, flying scrounged equipment to help the Chinese against the Japanese.

In '91, it was officially revealed that they were, in fact, a "black" operation by the US, which was not officially in the war at that time. All of the pilots were, in fact, members of the Army, Navy or Marines. There were, in fact, originally supposed to have been four units, including a bomber wing, but they were unable to get the other three in before the balloon went up.

(A lot of Americans did enter the war as private citizens by joining the Royal Navy, RAF or CAF before the US was officially in the war; they could have possibly lost their citizenship, but there was a special Act of Congress which prevented that and allowed them to transfer to equivalent US forces after Pearl Harbor.)

Terry Lee (of Milton Caniff's *Terry and the Pirates*), who had originally been a young orphan who roamed around Asia with soldier-of-fortune Pat Ryan, joined a fictionalised unit Very Much Like the Tigers, became

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a pilot and embarked on an Air Force career.

Remember, a while back, when i was talking about comics, i said i'd have a further comment about Funky when i got to the Flying Tigers? Can you read the owner's name on the flight jacket in this Funky strip from 5 July?

You say, in your comment to **Hank**: "The Crusaders were fairly clear about wanting to get the Holy Land back for Christianity."

The Holy Land that had never really been Christianity's in the first place.

## BE AFRAID. BE VERY AFRAID. ANTI-PORN CRUSADER HIRED BY FCC

from IMDB.com/9 August 05

**P**enny Nance, who describes herself as a religious conservative and has been a vocal oppo-  
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nent of racy images on television, has been hired by the Federal Communications Commission as a part-time adviser to its Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, Mediaweek reported Monday.

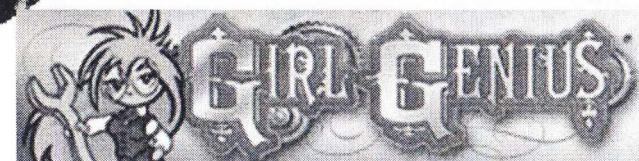
Last January, in a letter to President Bush, Nance complained of a "huge indecency problem" on basic cable and said that networks should restore the 8:00 p.m. family hour.

In an Op-Ed piece published in the Washington Times three years ago, Nance wrote, "Sexual themes and even soft-core pornography are rampant on shows such as CBS' Survivor and MTV's Real World." She also stated: "There are plenty of cases where television content violates the FCC's standards, there have been countless cases over the past decade or more. But the FCC hasn't acted on a single complaint." Her comments were made before the to-do over the Janet Jackson Super Bowl incident.

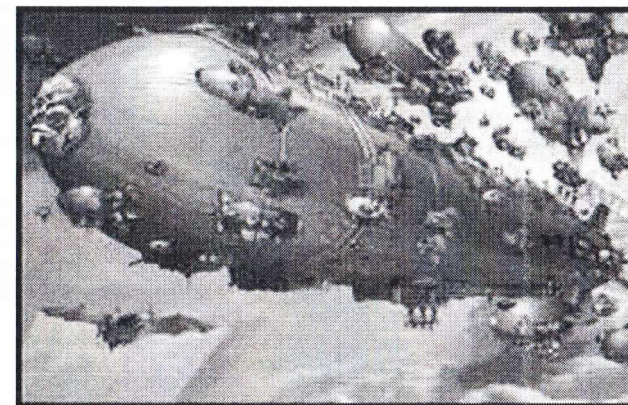
## JUST IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T YET DIS- COVERED THIS

**F**or the benefit of any who haven't yet discovered Phil Foglio's steampunk comic, *Girl Genius*, Foglio has gone on-line with it. (Though there are dead tree collected versions of all previous issues either available or due out soon.)

He posts a new page every Monday, Wednesday and Friday -- well, two new



pages, actually, because he's posting the original thirteen issues under the heading "Girl Genius 101", and continuing with what would have been issues 14 and further under the heading





"Girl Genius Advanced Class".

In a year sometime around the beginning of the Twentieth Century, everything is Different.

This is a world dominated, sometimes terrorised, and always in awe of a handful of mad geniuses, those who have the "spark", and are themselves known as "sparks"

The Heterodyne Boys, Bill, Barry and Bob, were three sparks who had wonderful adventures and also fought for the rights of the



Common Man. The Heterodyne Boys disappeared about twenty years ago, and now most of Western Europe is ruled by Baron Klaus von Wulfenbach, a powerful -- and monomaniacal, if not exactly evil -- spark. America is known and has been visited (there is apparently a small amount of trade) but is regarded as an Exotic Place.

Steam-powered robots ("clanks") are common, as are "constructs" (frankenstein-like artificial people), and the Baron's armies are

phone etiquette

made up primarily of jager-

monsters (pretty much what you'd expect something named that to be if you're familiar with Foglio's sometimes twisted sense of humour).

In the middle of this, Agatha Clay is a student at Transylvania Polygnostic University, working as a lab assistant to help pay her way. While not at all stupid, Agatha is a little unfocused and just a bit clumsy, earning her the contempt of some of her supervisors.

On her way to school one day, two out of work soldiers steal the locket that her Uncle Barry gave her years ago...

And that's when things start getting weird.. Check it out at:

<http://www.girlgeniusonline.com>  
A couple of other on-line comics i've discovered recently:

El Goonish Shive is an oddball strip much influenced by manga and anime, with characters who are mutated squirrels, hedgehogs, bats and guinea pigs (developed as super soldiers), plus various gender-confused teenagers;

a lot of the storylines involve characters switching gender, sometimes inadvertently -- in fact, two of the characters, Elliot and Ellen are essentially the same person, Ellen having been created as a result of an interaction between science and magic. A thoroughly enjoyable and silly romp. As with most webcomics, the entire run is available, and you can start at the beginning.

(<http://www.egscomics.com>)

Another which i have only just discovered and have so far read only the first year or so of is Dominic Deegan, Oracle for Hire. This one involves the title character, early on cursed so that every time he tries to smoke his pipe a large fish falls on his head (his talking cat approves heartily of this), a pretty lady who unfortunately has tusks, her nasty and evil mother, various knights, and two thieves who don't seem to Get It that attempting to steal from a man who can see the future is a tad futile

(<http://www.dominic-deegan.com>)





## I LOVE TO READ ONLINE NEWS

**A**n article on Yahoo from the AP yesterday (8/9/05) reported a case in Tennessee in which the wife of a man looking at like 80 years worth of consecutive sentences drove up and opened fire on the officers escorting him as he was being transferred from one jail to another.

She killed one officer, and was apparently wounded herself, but as of today, they haven't been found.

Anyway, the Yahoo article finished with this sentence. This is the entire last paragraph of the article, exactly as it appeared:

Authorities were trying to determine if an accomplice was involved, Sheriff David Haggard.

## MCs CONTINUED, Pt. 2

### THE NEW FORGER

J. Copeland

**O**h, i have been craving that book ever since i saw an ad in an issue of The Magazine. Of course, i also have a severe craving for DC's

page VIII

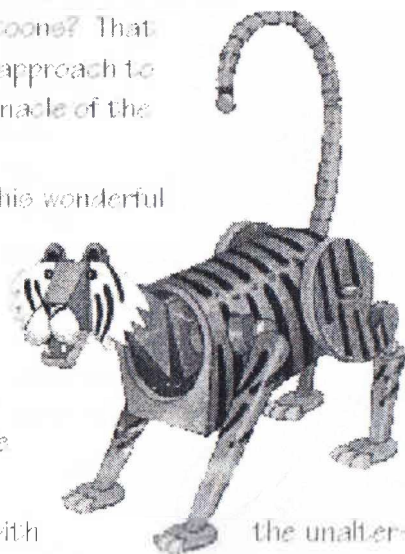
Spirit reprint series, for the complete Prisoner and Avengers and Muppet Show (Season One released yesterday) DVDs...

Quite likely the older cartoons are just as well scanned as the later ones, but the originals are in worse shape, i'd guess.

Now, if i've gotten what you're saying right, you have written software that goes through the Adobe files on the CDs, sucks out the cartoons and captions, recombines them, and creates a new and more versatile index of the cartoons? That would be a near approach to the absolute pinnacle of the epitome of nift.

What does this wonderful software run under, and can i get a copy? (Is that what's in that massive zine earlier in the mailing?

"One is left with the unalterable impression that the Bush administration's goal is to encourage, not prevent, the use of nuclear weapons." Scenario: Morning of October 22nd, 2008 -- India and Pakistan start tossing nukes at each other. Iran threatens to get involved, because an Islamic country is under attack. Israel announces -- not threatens -- that if Iran even looks as if it's going to get involved in the nuclear exchange, Teh-



ran and several other cities will be radioactive glass. North Korea looks as if it'll get involved because tossing nukes around looks like fun, and its premier is a coocoo bird.

Evening, October 22, 2008, national teevee hookup: "It is with reluctance but also with determination to see the job through that I am hereby announcing that, in light of the current world crisis, it will be necessary to postpone next month's elections, declare martial law, and suspend habeas corpus..."

Not that anything like that could really happen.

Advice -- while a good orthopaedic surgeon is, indeed, a good person to find, a good anaesthetist who won't let you come just close enough to full consciousness to realise you can't breathe normally, but not that the tube down your throat that's blocking your breathing is ventilating you is even better to find.

I'm assuming that you didn't mean to sound as if the Road to Perdition graphic novel is derived from the film; that being said, i have to agree with you about it.

Well, Katie Holmes won't be back in the next Batman film so whether or not she acts is irrelevant.

The mob boss's speech about how nobody really cares is both well-delivered and all too true, even in the Real World.

About following Miller in design: in The Dark Knight, Miller gives us a page broken down into something like

phone etiquette



24 small square frames, and the breaking and falling of the pearl necklace and the cycle of the .45 for a single shot each take like four or five panels, each intercut with other details. Early in his career, when he was on *Daredevil*, i saw a lot of the same sort of mastery of time and space that Will Eisner brought to the medium, and that one page is a masterwork. The scene in the film, as i recall, mirrored that page to some extent.

A simply wonderful series of romantic fantasy -- or possibly fantastic romances -- is Maryjanice Davidson's "Undead" series -- *Undead and Unwed*, *Undead and Unemployed* and *Undead and Underappreciated*.

Betsy -- never "Elizabeth", because her surname is "Taylor" -- is run down by an SUV in Minneapolis and dies.

Except that three days later, she wakes up in her coffin, wearing a dreadful pink suit and her hated step-mother's Pic'n'Pay knockoff shoes. (I won't say that Betsy has a shoe fetish, 'cos there doesn't seem to be anything particularly sexual about it, but if she were the dictator of a Third World island nation, she'd have had even more shoes than the real one did... and higher quality, too.)

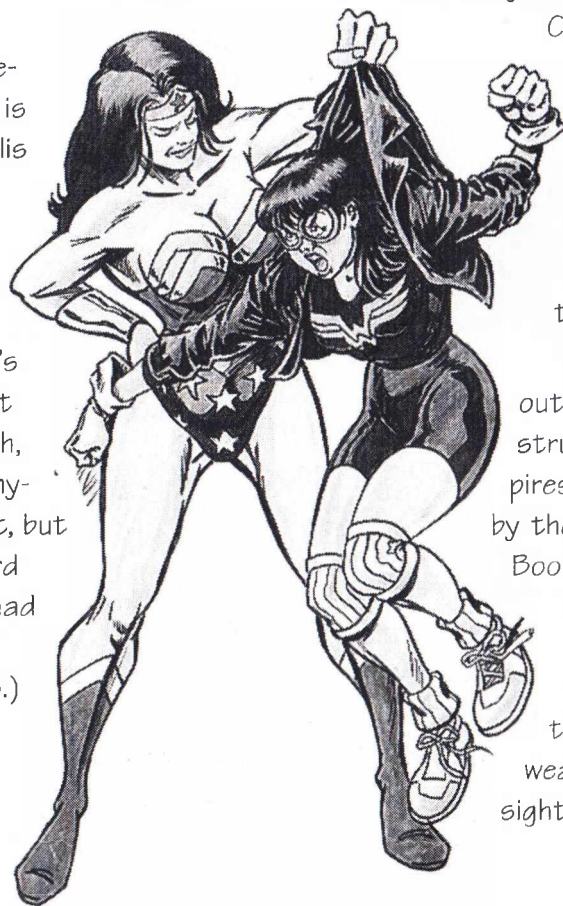
She realises that she's sup-

phone etiquette

posed to be dead (her skull being crushed is the last thing she remembers hearing), and heads off into the night to rectify the irregularity in the system.

However, after an hour or so on the bottom of the river (The stories are set in Minneapolis) and a few other sure-fire ways to get properly dead fail to kill her -- or even hurt much -- and a few other Odd Things happen -- she realises that she is undead; in fact, she is a vampire.

Except that it wasn't a vampire that killed her. And that she turns out to be immune to many of the things that vampires are vulnerable to -- holy water makes her sneeze.



Crosses are irrelevant to her. She can speak the Holy Names, something not only impossible for other vampires, but actually painful to them simply to hear.

And then she finds out that there are power struggles among the vampires... that she is foretold by the vampires' ancient Book of the Dead... that she is destined to be the Queen of the Vampires... And that this incredibly sexy and wealthy guy she hates on sight is destined to be her

consort.

Betsy works hard at appearing to be a total airhead -- and, as a six-foot blonde ex-model, she has all the moves. She is also a compulsive smartmouth. If a six-foot ex-model had Eve Arden's persona and no brakes, as it were, you'd approach Betsy.

In the course of the three books, Betsy tangles with the *soi-disant* King of the Vampires, runs her step-mother's jewelry through a blender set on puree, has a run-in with amateur vampire hunters, sets up housekeeping in a huge mansion (paid for by her best friend, a young black woman who may have more money than Bill Gates) along with several wacko people who have watched way too many episodes of *Buffy* and plan for Betsy to be their Leader in the fight against the Bad Vampires, has Incredible Hot Monkey Sex with the guy she can't stand (wow, what a surprise), encounters a ghost, gets staked, meets the daughter of the Devil (and has coffee with the Devil herself) and generally careers around from one scrape to the next.

It's the kind of farce that -- if done well, and these are -- and, if you like that sort of thing, can be absolutely hilarious.

I like that sort of thing.

You might hunt up *Undead and Unwed* to see what you think.

(Davidson has also written one book set in an alternate universe where Alaska is independent, a wealthy king-

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dom with a rather cheerfully middle class King with a Family From Hell who needs to find a bride for his son and heir. Also a hoot.)

Speaking of backups and the Windows registry, i encountered this online today:

## PLUG-IN CARD PROMISES SYSTEM RESTORE

Bryan Betts, Techworld.com Tue Aug 9, 7:00 PM ET

A new plug-in card for PCs is designed to provide near-instant recovery from any software crash, according to its developer.

Called RecoverPC, the 32-bit PCI device tracks all changes made to the PC's system partition and can roll the PC back to its original stable configuration, even if those changes prevent it from booting into Windows, according to Involution Technology.

The device hooks into the host PC's boot sequence at the BIOS level, much as a graphics card ties itself into a system's power-on self test (POST) checks, said Steve Aspris, executive director for RecoverPC's U.K. distributor Halcyonics. It extends the BIOS to add system restore options.

### SECURITY OPTIONS

"Most technical support issues are software-based--it's not hard to pull the rug from under Windows and even make it completely unbootable," Aspris said. "RecoverPC reduces the resolution time for software problems to zero." He added that it can remove unstable device drivers and faulty bug-fixes, for example, as well as replacing lost registry settings or corrupted files.

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The \$177 card also provides support departments with the capability to completely lock down a PC's operating system and application set-up, as it can be set to automatically recover at every boot, restoring the PC each time to a predefined and saved configuration.

More at Techworld.com.

Yah, apparently they've straightened out the music licensing on *President's Analyst*. I just wish someone had done the same before the DVD release of Hal-icki's *The Junkman*; at least some of the music in that film is fairly essential to the plot, and they put it out on DVD with sort of generic "atmospheric" music.

Damn. And i thought *The Lone Gunmen* was even less plausible than *X-Files*.

And, just yesterday, we got this:

## CONGRESSMAN SAYS DEFENSE INTEL MONI- TORED 9/11 HIJACK- ERS IN U.S. A YEAR BEFORE THE ATTACKS

By KIMBERLY HEFLING Associated Press  
Writer

The Sept. 11 commission will investigate a claim that U.S. defense intelligence officials identified ringleader Mohammed Atta and three other hijackers as a likely part of an al-Qaida cell more than a year before the hijackings but didn't forward the information to law en-

forcement.

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa. and vice chairman of the House Armed Services and Homeland Security committees, said Tuesday the men were identified in 1999 by a classified military intelligence unit known as "Able Danger." If true, that's an earlier link to al-Qaida than any previously dis-



phone etiquette



closed intelligence about Atta.

Sept. 11 commission co-chairman Lee Hamilton said Tuesday that Weldon's information, which the congressman said came from multiple intelligence sources, warrants a review. He said he hoped the panel could issue a statement on its findings by the end of the week.

<more at <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory?id=1024005&CMP=OTC-RSSFeeds0312>>

As to *Memento* being based on a PKD story -- definitely not; accto IMDB, it is based on a story by the director's cousin. Oddly enough, the film is still credited as an original screenplay, because the story was published after the film was amde.

the IMDB listing of all films acknowledged to be based on PKD material is as follows:

- # Next (2006) (pre-production) (short story: The Golden Man)
- # A Scanner Darkly (2006) (post-production) (novel)
- # Paycheck (2003) (short story)
- # Minority Report (2002) (short story)
- # Impostor (2002) (story Impostor)
- # "Total Recall 2070" (1999) TV Series (short story We Can Remember It For You Wholesale) ... aka Total Recall: The Series (USA)
- # Total Recall 2070 (1999) (TV) (short story) (as Phillip K. Dick)
- ... aka Total Recall 2070: Machine Dreams (USA: video title)
- # Blade Runner (1997) (VG) (novel Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?)
- # *Screamers* (1995) (short story Second Variety)

phone etiquette

... aka *Screamers* - *L'armée souterraine* (Canada: French title)

# *Drug-Taking and the Arts* (1994) (novel A Scanner Darkly)

# *Confessions d'un Barjo* (1992) (novel)

... aka Barjo (Canada: English title)

... aka *Confessions of a Crap Artist*

# *Total Recall* (1990) (short story We Can Remember It For You Wholesale) (inspiration) (as Phillip K. Dick)

# *Blade Runner* (1982) (novel Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?)

# "Out of This World" (1962) TV Series (short story Impostor)

If i remember correctly, "Second Variety", the basis for the film *Screamers*, is the story that i immediately thought of the first time i saw *The Terminator*.

Janice says that a Rapture Index of 144 is one point below the point at which it all starts. You checked it, and it was in the 150s. Since the Shrub is still here, that must be an error.

(I just went and found the Rapture Index -- there's a line i've seen a number of times in 87th Precinct books: "More of 'em outside than in." My fervent acceptance of that idea has just been reaffirmed.)

As to PowerPoint -- i think it was *The Onion* that ran a PowerPoint Suicide note...

## GUILTY PLEASURES 39

E.Ackerman

Kate has been enjoying the Aisling Grey books; i finished the first at a fair clip, but burnt out on the second.

May i take this occasion to again mention

how much fun Maryjanice Davidson's "Betsy, Queen of the Vampires" books -- *Undead and Unwed*, *Undead and Unemployed* and *Undead and Underappreciated* -- are.

"...[N]o stalactites or stalagmites because Florida caves are limestone formations..."?

Ummm, i thought stalactites and stalagmites are specifically found in limestone caves.

"You have to be slightly insane to go dry caving. You have to be seriously insane to go cave diving."

An episode of the BBC comedy series *The Goodies* revolves them finding a pothole (vertical cave) right under their office and deciding to check it out. (There turns out to be a T.Rex in suspended animation down there, but that's for another time...)

Bill is going down the cave first. Graeme gets a book on potholing. He reads.

"One person remains on the surface to handle ropes and safety equipment. He is called the 'anchorman'. The other person goes down the pothole. He is known as the 'flaming looney'."

## VARIATIONS ON A THEME

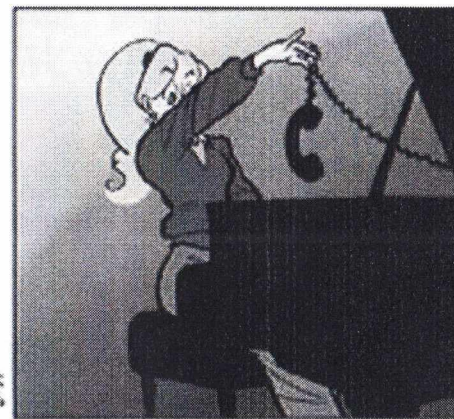
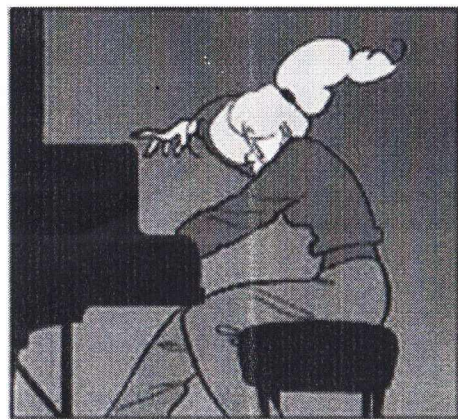
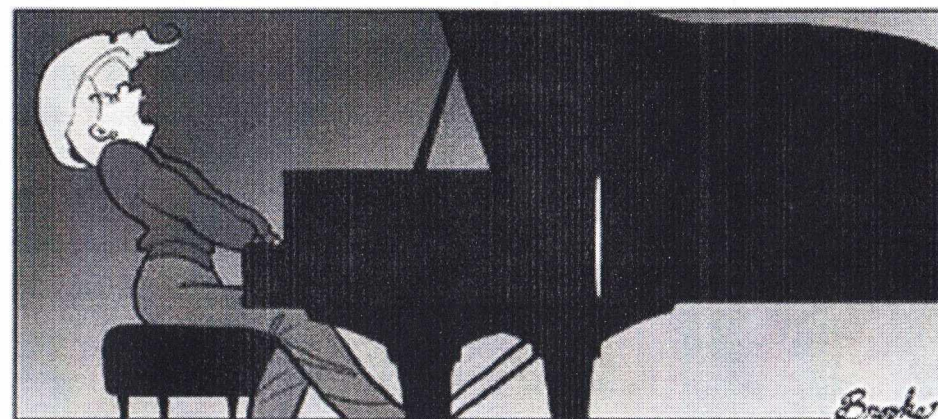
44

R.Lynch

"M"adness" -- Gary Brown says not to worry; there has never been a catastrophic housing bust in the US.

page XI









© Brooke McEldowney Dist. by UFS, Inc.

I say there's always a first time for everything, and some of the hottest markets (San Diego, I think I was reading yesterday) are starting to cool off...

Are you aware of/following Brooke McEldowney's other comic strip, *Pibgorn*? The current continuity involves a spell that zaps Pib and Geoff back to Vienna, July 1791, and brings Mozart and Anna Gottlieb to 2005. Pib and Geoff are doing the Quantum Leap thing -- people see them as Mozart and Gottlieb, they see each other and themselves as themselves. Aside from worrying that he's going to die in less than six months, poor Geoff is going to have to write the Requiem from memory (he is a church organist and concert pianist).

Meanwhile, in 2005, poor Mozart is having to sight-read 1930s show tunes and figure out on the fly how to play them on a concert grand. (After all this began, I did a little Googling and found several articles on the fortepiano. I don't know if Mo-

**phone etiquette**

zart's was one such, but not only did fortepianos of the period mostly have only five-octave keyboards, but some of them had keyboards that ran the other way...

And history is screwed up -- Constanze Mozart is not only pregnant but completely childless, Mozart had an affair with Ann Gottlieb, which he apparently historically did not...

I'm collecting the daily strips as a PDF "graphic novel".

As to "Messiah" -- I'm sure you must have heard -- from me if nowhere else -- the Roches' arrangement of the Hallelujah Chorus for three voices, a capella. I remember Jim Gilpatrick and Beth Pointer both dashing over to me to find out what the hell it was the first time they heard it.

I wish you had seen me at the WorldCon, 'cos that would mean I would have been at Cropredy (quite possibly the last Cropredy, at that, considering Peggy's divorce, ending the unbroken run from 1979 for Fairport Convention reunion

festivals...) too, if I'm remembering the scheduling properly.

To be honest, I'd rather attend a Cropredy Festival than a WorldCon, and have, a couple times.

## FREQUENT FLYER

T.Feller

**B**luebirds. I think I've seen about two bluebirds in the last couple years; when I was a kid in Ohio, fifty years ago, they were so common that a small flock of them once broke at the side of the road and flew right in front of our car.

Fairly soon the car began to overheat.

When Dad stopped at the next gas station, he discovered a couple of dead bluebirds with their wings spread blocking much of the airflow through the radiator.

Also, in *The Two Georges*, it's worth noting that the shots that kill "The Steamer King" ("Would you buy a used...?") come from a grassy knoll..

## WEIRD THINGS I FIND ONLINE

me

**I**'m looking again at this, and all I can figure is that maybe the signs were put up for a movie shoot -- sort of a "Telltale Heart" series of delusions in the killer's mind as he drives along the road?



# THE SPHERE

D. Markstein

That Doonesbury strip -- which I read when it was new, but didn't think too deeply about (in and of itself, that is, as opposed to the whole arc it was a part of) suddenly puts me in mind of some of the dialog Stan Lee used to write for the Evil Nazis in the glory days of Sgt Fury -- you know: "Destroy the foolish lackeys of the so-called freedom-loving democracies".

What makes that scary is that, more and more, I'm coming to realise that the Shrub undoubtedly thinks in just those terms.

(A moment whilst I adjust my... err, search my cartoon download files. Ah -- there it is.)

"Surely, nobody in this country's prior history, in such a position of authority and trust,

has ever seriously contemplated twisting the law as to move torture to within the boundaries of the permitted."

I dunno -- we've had some mighty mislovent types in power in our history -- Andy Jackson comes to mind -- and torture and casual murder was not too far outside the normal parameters of the white man's relations with the Heathen Chinees, Those Dirty Red Skunks and the Ignorant N (torture applied either or both ways, that is, depending on who currently had the upper hand).

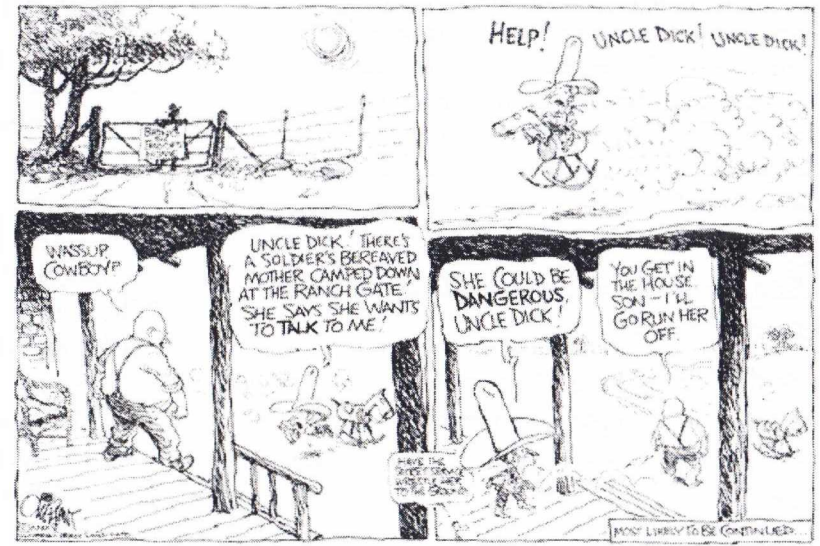
And it wouldn't surprise me to discover that Nixon contemplated similar thoughts about extra-legal means (possibly including torture) -- but gave all the orders strictly orally, being too smart to put it in writing.

I remember Dick Nixon. Dick Nixon was a bete noire of mine.

And George W. Bush is no Dick Nixon.

He seems even less scrupulous (if such be possible), but, possibly luckily for the country, also less intelligent or crafty. In the long run, with any luck, he'll do less damage than Nixon would have if he hadn't been Found Out.

"Furries Lifestyle"? C'mon, Unca Don -- you got us all interested; now you gotta 'splain what that is.



## NOTES FROM ALL OVER

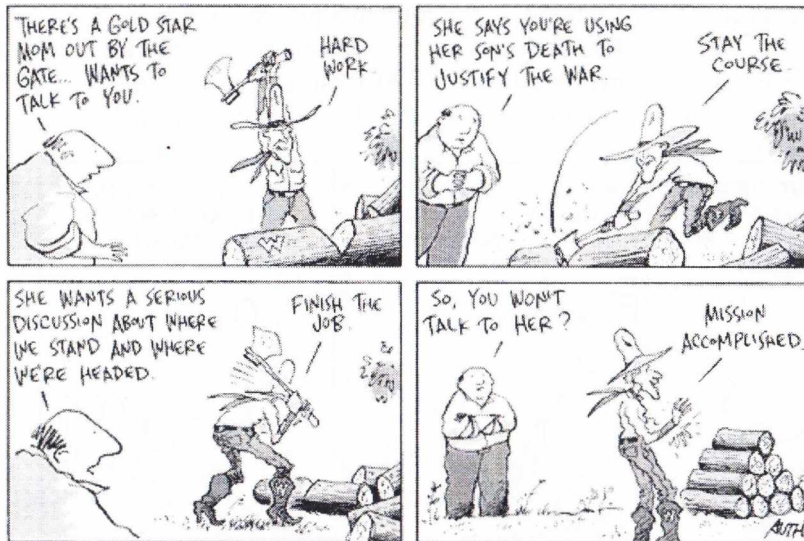
### 'ISLAND' PRODUCERS BLAME ACTORS FOR FLOP

from IMDB.com, 12 August 05

The Island's producers have blamed the movie's stars Scarlett Johansson and Ewan McGregor for the critical-mauling it's received.

Producer Walter Parkes and his wife Laurie have used their website to stage a vicious attack on Johansson and McGregor, claiming their half-hearted efforts have resulted in a poor reception for the high-budget sci-fi epic.

And Johansson's talents take the biggest beatings, with the hus-



phone etiquette



band and wife team claiming a television actress could have done a more professional job. They write, "Listen those are superstars of the future, not superstars of the present. Even lesser television actresses, quite honestly would have more connection to that audience."

Can someone please translate that last sentence for me?

And, while blaming the stars for a film being no good is an accepted and legitimate critical tactic, when producers start doing it, i begin to wonder.

Lessee -- who picked those people in the first place? Didn't they also hire someone called a "director" to tell the actors what to do?

Reminds me of Bill Cosby loudly blaming the film company -- on talk shows, before it was released -- for how terrible his film *Leonard, Part 6* was gonna be. While carefully not mentioning that the name "Bill Cosby" appeared as writer and Producer, and the name "William H. Cosby, PhD" appeared elsewhere in the credits.

Meanwhile, this also appears on IMDB:

## WAS CLONE MOVIE CLONED FROM ANOTHER CLONE MOVIE?

IMDB.com, 12 August, 2005

The producers of the 1976 independent movie *The Clonus Horror* have filed suit against  
phone etiquette Dream-Works and

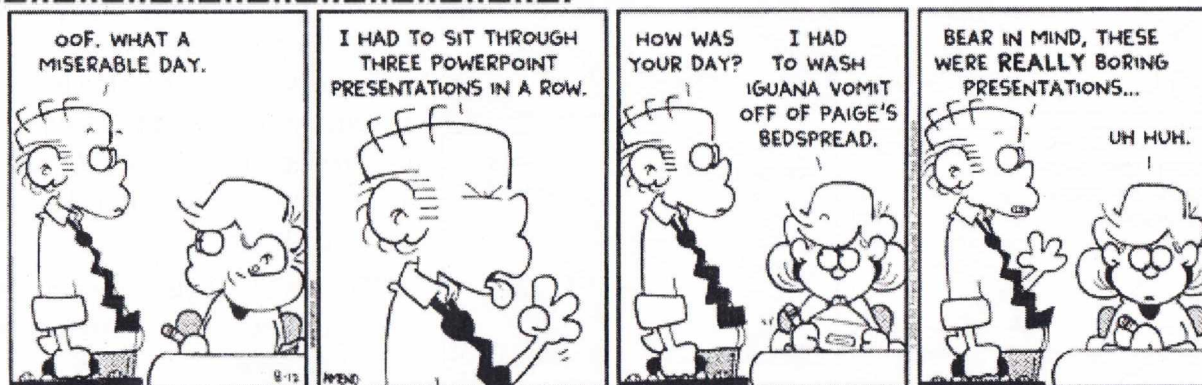
Warner Bros., claiming that the plot of their film, about a colony of clones kept on an island as spare parts for ailing rich people was cloned for the recent flop *The Island*.

The *Clonus* producers claim that there are 90 instances in which the two films are identical. Indeed *Premiere* magazine recently wrote, "The first hour of *The Island* plays like a much more expensive albeit scene-for-scene remake."

The *Clonus* team, producer Myrl A. Schreibman, director Robert S. Fiveson, and screenwriters Bob Sullivan and Ron Smith, are asking for unspecified damages. Dream-Works issued a statement saying, "*The Island* was independently created and does not infringe anyone's copyrights."

And when they pay a \$50 million or so settlement, it'll just be because the *Clonus* people are such deserving, nice guys and they want to help them out.

"Dump the condiments. If we're going to be eaten, we don't need to taste good."  
-- "Visionaries" cartoon



## TWO REVIEWS FROM AMAZON.COM

(These are two recent reviews of *Hallmarks of Felinity*, the only *9 Chickweed Lane* book so far available)

1 of 30 people found the following review helpful:

BARBIE-O-RAMA, DE-  
CEMBER 10, 2004

(2 of 5 stars)

R. Garcia "tsuba-hi" (Sacramento, CA)

So bad there are no books ever published on *9 Chickweed Lane* other than that little one about a vain Siamese kitty doing silly kitty tricks without even emitting a single balloon.

Just shove him aside with the foot and I will talk about the strip itself. It seems to be all about female vanity. All it features is flaunting how perfect and limber that blondie teen's body is as well as how young and sexy her mother still is. I think the girl is a slut-wannabe rubbing up against her nerd boyfriend and trying to make his hormones shoot off like fireworks. At least the grouchy old granny is there to break up the dreamy, wide-



eyed fantasy world of prancing and galloping bimbos and their equally limber kitties.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful:

ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE,  
NOVEMBER 17,  
2004

(4 stars)

Alan Dean Foster

**B**rooke McEldowney is one of those rare daily strip artists who can actually draw. As I did with Murray Ball's *Footrot Flats*, I marvel at the amount of effort McEldowney puts into every panel... including, recently in *9 Chickweed Lane*, the occasional use of airbrushed highlights. His characters are real, his angles cinematic (sometimes experimentally so), his line remarkably fluid (reminding me of Norman McLaren's landmark short film *PAX DE DEUS*, for the National Film Board of Canada), his knowledge of music a bonus joy, and most important of all, he's funny. He's also a genuine romantic, a true rarity in comics.

While *9 Chickweed Lane* (and *Pibgorn*) collections are long overdue (are you listening, Andrews & McNeel?), in the interim we must make do with Hallmarks of Felinity. Both graphically and content-wise the opposite of Gilbert Shelton's Fat Freddy's Cat (Solange the cat is pure Boston, Fat Freddy's is pure Berkeley), both share their creators' love of all things feline. Enjoy

page XVI

**N**ote that 1 of 30 people found the dingleberry's "review" helpful; 4 of 5 so found ADF's.

I'm sure this guy is over 18 -- because he's registered with Amazon's "Real Name" program (as am i), he has to have a credit card to show. If not for that, reading over his reviews, most of which have this sort of "It's popular so I shall make mock of it" attitude, i'd figure he was about fifteen -- and a young fifteen at that.

I don't know why he keeps posting; certainly he must have gotten the message by now that should he actually be sincere instead of just a troll, he's a voice that cries in the wilderness.

To make a point (not -- precisely -- to blow my own horn. TOOT), my present status on the Amazon reviewer list is #709. I have been as high as the low 300s/high 200s (i forget exactly).

Reviewer ranking is judged mainly by two things -- how prolific you are, and the number of "helpful" votes you get. I have posted 202, one in the last six months, 4 in the last year.

Garcia has posted 181, about five in the last six months. He rates #2709, mostly because "1 of 30" is fairly typical of his responses.

Ya know, now that i'm recovered both from Hertz and from my surgery and seem to be getting a little more prolific, i need to see if i can make it back to the Top 500 -- or higher -- again.

And get my website up to date.

NICE DISTINCTIONS 10

A.Hlavaty

**"W**e can now see large areas of floor and rug whose existence was previously a matter for faith." There's a Luann strip in which her mother stands outside Luann's room as Luann (reluctantly) cleans it up, reporting on it as if it were an archaeological dig: "Wait ... There's something ... Yes -- It's a previously-unseen carpet strata!"

I have to go along with the opinion that McBain is the greater loss as a writer -- either genre or more serious work.

I remember being totally disbelieving that Evan Hunter's screenplay for the film *Fuzz* could have so totally missed the point of the Ed McBain novel.

Interesting -- it was pretty well accepted for years that Craig Rice ghosted Gypsy's first mystery, as she did for George Sanders.

SPIRITUS MUNDI 208

ghliii

**I** like the Buzz Aldrin cover. At first glance it looked like Dan Clowes, but i guess it isn't. Where did it come from?

The bogus in-flight mag you put together sort of reminds me of

phone etiquette



the en route "conventions" some Georgia-and-nearby fans organised while going to the Austin NASFiC and to NOLaCon -- both called "DeltaCon" -- one because they were on Delta Airlines, and one because they were riding the Crescent to the Delta. They even had an art auction on one -- Val and Ron Lakey-Lindahn (and what ever happened to them?) were among the assembled loonies.

=====

# STOP PRESS!

As of 1 September, 2005, we will begin moving out of the trailer into an apartment we will be sharing with Helen (and, eventually, with Wiggly [Helen's name for the coming baby] and Steve [when he gets home]).

As of right now, i know that ththr apartment number will be 12-F... but i have no idea of the full address.

More news as it develops.

=====

See my comments on War of the Worlds in my MC to **Gary**. I think it would be an understatement to say that you and i disagree on this one. Unlike the time we happened to be leaving the theatre in NOLa as you were arriving to see *Damnation Alley*, when afterward we agreed that

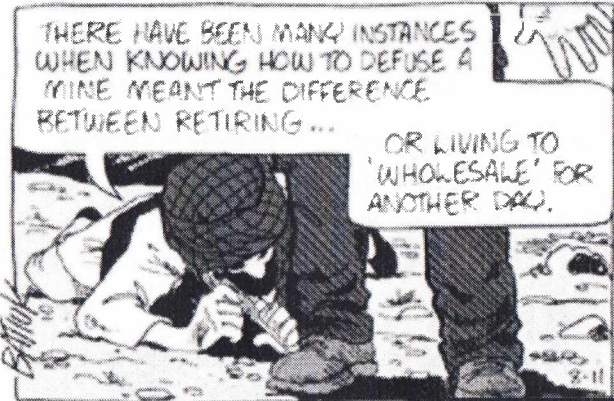
phone etiquette Starhelm had

summed it up perfectly: "Forget my money -- I want my time back."

"Is it safe?"

Dustin Hoffman told a story on himself and Lord Larry after Marathon Man -- he took up running (not something he normally would have done), and Olivier saw him coming in from a run, panting, sweaty, hot and unhappy. He asked Hoffman what he was doing.

Hoffman explained that he was running to get a feel for the character to help him play it



more believably.

Lord Larry said (probably looking at him as if he were two bananas short of a bunch) "My boy, have you considered trying acting?"

Of course the acme (sorry) of Termite Terrace craziness is *Duck Amuck* -- so definitive that Chuck Jones entitled his autobiography *Chuck Amuck*.

I will point out that colour inkjet -- while

not cheap -- costs less than colour xerox.

And you can buy a colour laser printer for under \$300, too.

The cashier's check scam is very popular with American scam artists -- they find someone selling a car on-line, offer to buy it, and give him some excuse for sending him a chasier's check for a thousand or so more than the price. He sends them the change, deposits the check, and a month later his bank informs him the check was bogus and he owes them \$5000... Another



One has now discovered something one would even less rather hear than a doctor saying "Ooops"...

When one is standing on a landmine and one's companion is attempting to disarm it, "Uh-oh" is not what one wishes to hear.

scam involving bogus checks is to recruit the mark as a "purchasing agent"; send them a bogus check and a list of expensive items to purchase and mail off to the scammers.





A lot of businesses will no longer accept cashier's checks or postal money orders, because they're so easily and commonly forged by computer these days.

(Either this mailing or the next, i'll run a couple of articles on how one variety of this sort of thing works...)

And again we disagree on a matter of cinema -- Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video was a self-indulgent piece of trash on the parts of bth Jackson and Landis -- neither of whom bothered to check out the legalities involved, and thus wound up sued by Vincent Price... because they didn't know (though, oddly, i did) that shooting on film instead of video meant that they had to pay everyone involved in the original recording sessions all over again.

Price knew, though.

"The Failed War for Southern Independence", perhaps -- personally, being a career smartass, i prefer "The Late Unpleasantness Between the States"; i believe that **Don** likes "The War of Northern Aggression"

At the theatre where i saw Fantastic Four, they ran two Coke commercials before the film that both did violence to "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing". The most hilarious butchery of a song i've ever heard was the time Susan i were having lunch at Sizzler and the Muzak suddenly began playing a schmaltzy string arrangement of "Look What They Done to My Song, Ma"... which in turn led to one of my *SFPazine* title-parody covers.

I'd say accidentally killing someone who was in the process of committing suicide while intentionally either attempting to kill someone or even just making terroristic threats ought to qualify as felony murder.

I was so happy to be able to put both the Marlette cartoon of the Florida teacher with the smoking gun saying "I felt threatened" and the article about the eight-year-old being arrested and cuffed in a Florida school on the same page.

## PETER, PAN & MERRY 62

D.Schlosser

**M**onsters, Inc. is also quite Chuck-Jones-esque; as a matter of fact, the trashmasher scene directly quotes at length from a Jones short.

Maybe i misinterpreted something you said about The West Wing -- i haven't actually watched it at length -- Kate and son-in-law Steve got hooked on it and watched all the back episodes on whichever cable channel, but with Steve Over There and Kate working full time days, we haven't watched much of anything -- i watched CNN Headline for an hour or so last night and that's more teevee than we watched between us the previous month.

Yah, well, perhaps. (Having a Universal National Service program that isn't 100% Universal Military Service.) I wasn't so much thinking of Universal Military Service so much as Doing Something For Your Country, but rather as a means of ensuring that we have a reasonable-sized pool of at least partially-trained soldiers ready to call without having to maintain a huge standing army; the sort of thing that European countries used to do (and Switzerland still does).

The Roman military "pace" was a

phone etiquette



double pace -- one with each foot; you counted as the left foot (i think) touched the ground.. This works out to somewhere between five and six feet, depending on leg length, height, and a number of other things. In our own military, best i can recall from boot camp thirty-eight ears ago, the single pace is thirty inches, which would give a double pace of 5 feet, so 1000 paces would be 5000 feet. Wlth my normal stride -- i i ever have a "normal" stride again -- it works out to about 880 double-paces to the mile.

Well, remember that Nixon tried to argue that the President was essentially above the law on matters of "National Security". Seems to be a Republican trait.

Your comment to **Gary** about road rage being legalised under the Florida "Shoot Till They Aren't Scary Anymore" law brings to mind that **Guy** said that some Florida prosecutors are afraid of just that.

"I'm not so sure that the ones who hire illegals for low wages are the same ones who complain about their use of public resources but I'd say that there is an overlap" -- of course there is; the ones who hire illegals are the kind who complain about anybody using public resources.

British Trojan ads? As of today (8/15), anyway, you can view them at <http://www.visit4info.com/static/16.cfm> -- the site offers downloads of a lot of interesting-sounding ads for £2 a time. You get a long list of ads to pick from. There is a laugh track.

phone etiquette

Rain? Record rainfalls?

From a National Weather Service website:

The monthly total of 14.63 inches of rainfall was the second wettest July on record.

The rainfall was also the fourth wettest month ever recorded. The wettest months in Atlanta are:

Rainfall	MonthYear
17.71"	July 1994
15.82"	Jan. 1883
15.72"	Nov. 1948
14.63"	July 2005
14.26"	Sep. 1888

5.14 inches of rainfall recorded on July 6th was the highest amount ever recorded on that date.

4.69 inches of rainfall recorded on July 11th was the highest amount ever recorded on that date.

The equipment you talk about being trained on -- mentioning a "cap piercer" caught my eye -- sounds as it if might be the same sort of things my first employer in the Atlanta area, Micromeritics, produced in its HPLC division. I remember that one of the things they had trouble with from time to time was the piercer getting either misaligned or driving too far and

crushing the vials...

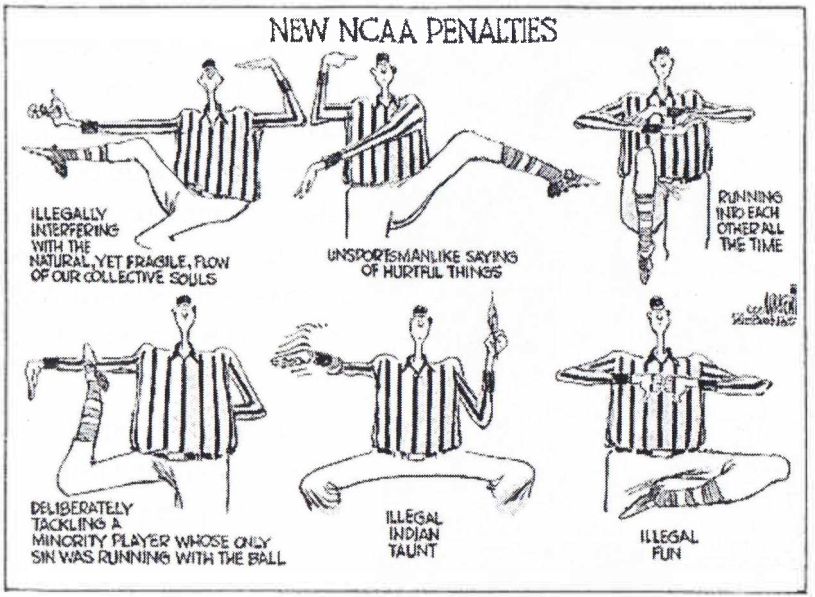
And then there was that damned dual-wave-length HPLC detector that had a current to voltage circuit in it that gave a measurable output for an input in the femtoamperes.

That thing was a bird to build, set up, maintain... or (reportedly) to use.

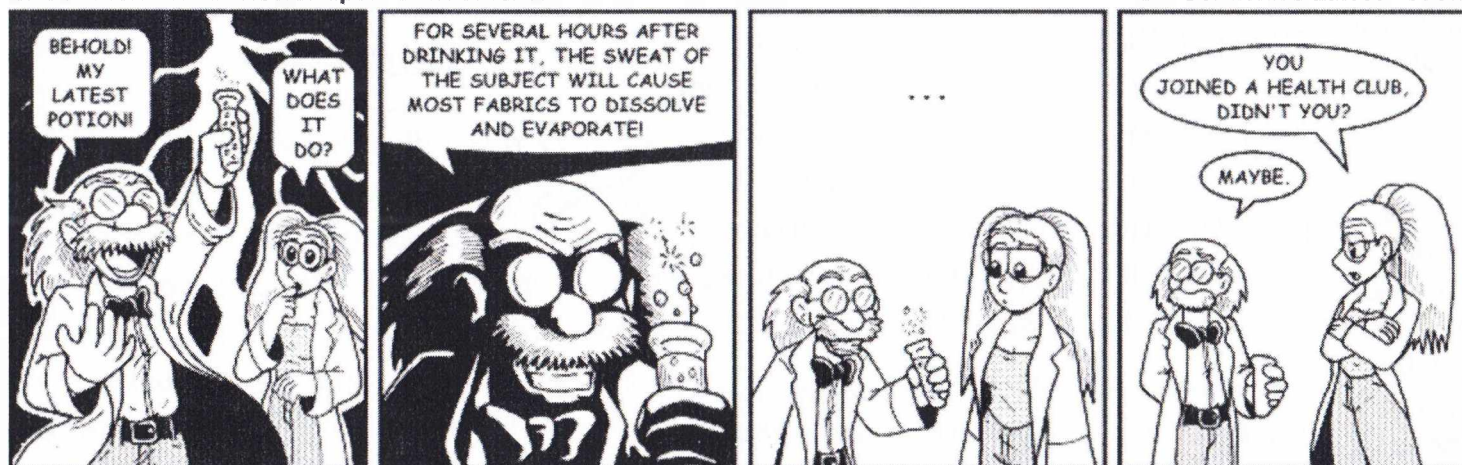
# *WEIRD SCENES INSIDE THE GOLD MINE DEPT. REMAKING THE LAST UNICORN?*

from IMDB.com

this is one of the more unlikely film remakes i've ever heard of -- and i think it has to be counted as a remake of the animated version, if only be-







cause of the cast. Christopher Lee, Angela Lansbury and Rene Auberjonois are reprising the exact roles they played in the Rankin-Bass animated film (although Auberjonois also will be playing Captain Cully (good casting, i think).

The most interesting bit of casting is Mia Farrow, who voiced the unicorn in the animated film, but will be appearing as Molly Grue, who was voiced by Tammy Grimes in the Rankin-Bass production..

## THE LAST UNICORN (2006)

Directed by Geoff Murphy  
Writing credits Peter S. Beagle

Genre: Fantasy (more)

Plot Summary: A unicorn begins a long and difficult journey to find the rest of her kind, who have disappeared

page xx

off the face of the earth...

Production Notes/Status:

Status: Pre-production

Comments:

Status Updated: 13 July 2005

Note:

*Since this project is categorized as being in production, the data is subject to change; some data could be removed completely.*

### Credited cast:

Christopher Lee	....	King Haggard
Mia Farrow	....	Molly Grue
Angela Lansbury	....	Mommy Fortuna
Rene Auberjonois	....	Capt. Cully/

Voice of The Skull  
rest of cast listed alphabetically:  
Jonathan Rhys-Meyers .... Schmen-  
drick

Country: South Africa / UK / USA

Language: English

Color: Color

"Dr. Germahn's Latest Potion"

## FROM OUR DE- PARTMENT OF "WOW, D'YA RE- ALLY THINK SO?" IRAQ RISKS POLITI- CAL TURMOIL AFTER MISSED CHARTER DEADLINE

Agence France Press 8/16/05

Iraqi politicians  
warned of political  
turmoil after failing to

meet a deadline on the country's new  
constitution...

(As opposed to the utter peace and  
collegiality which previously pre-  
vailed, that is.)

August 16, 2005

### THIS JUST IN...

from Peter David's blog

In a tragic setback in Iraq, it  
was announced today that a  
dog ate the just completed  
Iraqi constitution.

"We finished it, honest to god," said as-  
sembly speaker Hajim al-Hasani, looking  
greatly chagrined and scuffing his toe. "It  
was all done, we had it, we just needed  
that extra day to make it look really good.  
And then we  
were carry-

phone etiquette



ing it to work and this dog just came out of nowhere. It barked and scared us, and I was so startled that I dropped the constitution. Next thing we knew, it was in this dog's mouth and he was running away with it, chewing on it."

The constitution and dog have eluded capture. Authorities believe that the dog may have been associated with insurrectionists, since there have been several instances of dogs being employed as suicide bombers.

Fox News reported CIA suspicions that protestor Cindy Sheehan may have been behind the theft, stopping at nothing to make President George W. Bush look bad.

"I sympathize with the Iraqi assembly," President Bush stated from his annual one month vacation in Crawford, Texas. "I remember when a dog ate my copy of the Bill of Rights and the Geneva Convention. We still haven't gotten over that one."

With the Iraqi assembly now having to start all over again, a new delivery date for the Constitution is uncertain since they'll have to re-create it from memory.

Posted by Peter David at 09:03 AM

# MCs CONTINUED

## TYNDALLITE

N.Metcalf

It was either Jerry Page or Jack Chalker who told me that Cartmill wrote those specific Saint stories; i also remember, phone etiquette

from the same conversation, i think, being told that Theodore Sturgeon wrote three books under the "Ellery Queen" name. (Not "Ellery Queen" mysteries, though.) Note that those three are the Saint Stories that definitely cross over into SF/fantasy territory -- if you consider the Loch Ness Monster to be SF or fantasy, at least

As to why i thought the Binders were cousins, i'm not sure -- i seem to have conflated them with Fredric Dannay and Manfred Lee (who i also mentioned in that comment), who definitely were cousins.

I can't recall which Johnny Black story was the one with the "softspeaker" -- which worked, as nearly as i can tell, exactly like the gadget the article i was referencing described, but it's the one in which the professor who increased Johnny's intelligence tries his technique on himself and becomes a practical joker -- i would guess it's "The Incurigible". It would have been easily possible to build the thing in 1938, using vacuum tube technology, but it would have definitely not been something you could conceal in a pocket as the story describes.

*"I don't know which possibility worries me more -- that things may never get back to normal, or that they may already have."*

# HOME WITH THE ARMADILLO 67

L.Copeland

So -- didja have the arthro yet? same thing i had -- torn meniscus cartilage, with the complication in my case of the joint being somewhat arthritic.

Listen carefully to what the surgeon says about how to treat it immediately after surgery; i misunderstood what to do and spent a day or so in unnecessary discomfort.

I got about halfway through *The Hero* -- but when it suddenly changed midstream from *Sergeant Rock and the Combat-Happy Joes of Easy Co. to Hell in the Pacific*, it lost me.

I may have to hunt up *Stuffed and St Dale*.

## AVATAR PRESS V2, #39

R.Cleary

Kate's new job is going quite well; it was like we were both saving up medical problems until we had insurance again...

Helen's finger is fine, and, as i have mentioned, she is pregnant again. As near as i can figure, it happened when Steve kissed her the first time when he got home on his pre-deployment leave. These two are not going to have any trouble having Lots Of Kids if they want to; fertility does not seem to be one of their problems.

Perhaps i ought to



get Sheila to warn those who recently had dental work to not look at the back cover of this zine.

The Fifth Element was Transcendentally Silly, which i often like. It also Made Very Little Sense, which bothered some people. (But then, again, i liked the Gil Gerard Buck

Rogers and the original Battlestar: Galactica, too.) {I liked a lot of what i saw of the new Galactica, for that matter, but i only saw the pilot and the first two episodes...}

No LibertyCon for us this year, though Kate sorta wanted to go -- now that the knee is (mostly) all better, i gotta find a job so that we can afford such things as cons...

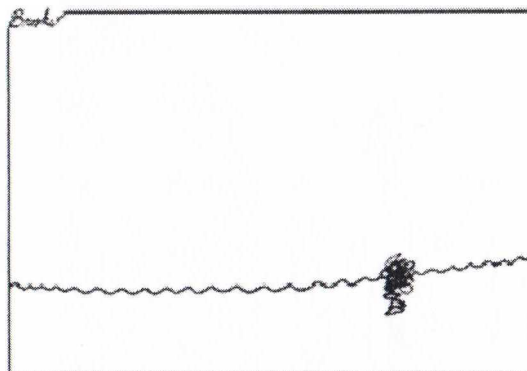
**AND THAT IS OFFICIALLY THAT FOR THIS ZINE -- THANK GOODNESS I HAVE A LOT OF INK AND TONER ON ORDER, 'COS THIS ZINE PLUS THE LAST COMES TO ABOUT 64 PAGES.**

SEE YA IN SIXTY

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# FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By LYNN JOHNSTON

