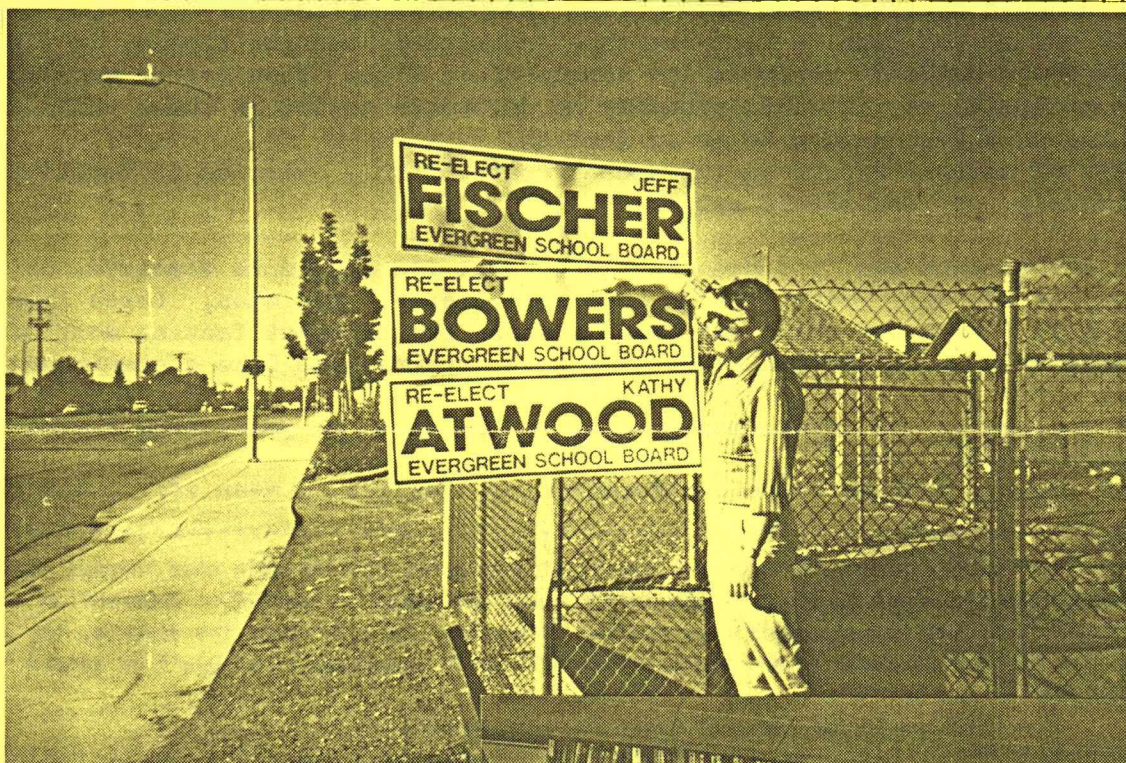


from: BILL BOWERS • P.O. Box 58174 • Cincinnati • OH • 45258-0174 [513] 251-0806
for: the Fannish Little Amateur Press Mailing #68, and Friends ... my publication #169



SKEL...

In San Jose, 10/31/90

and:

Interviewing Richard Brandt

having a peanutbutter & jelly

In the Bowers dining room....

[I do, still, seem to have
most of my books!]

Photos by Cas



.....
...and, just to demonstrate how traumatized I've been by the Whole Ordeal, it wasn't until after I started mailing out X:33 that it dawned on me that the last four digits of my ZIP + 4 equate to my Box number. Given that the "5" in the 5-digit portion makes it unique to a Branch Office (and not a geographical area) it should be possible, in theory, to address mail to "45258-0174"..and have it reach me.

Should any of you wish to test-out this indubitably tenuous thesis, in light of the New, Improved Rates [I remember low single-digit First Class rates; more than that I hesitate to admit to], it would probably be advisable to let me know, under separate cover, of the date you decided to be so foolish.

I will, of course, report on the success rate of this exercise in futility.
Anonymously...? You should only wish.

Up until a few moments ago, I'd been convinced that I'd been more discrete. Or cautionary. ...or, at the very least, CYA'ed to a fair degree. But when, three lines from the end of X:33 I said: "I can't say exactly when, but the next fanzine most of you will see from me will be OUTWORLDS 60." ... well, that sounds like a commitment.

Sorry.

This: One way or the other, and even if it can never be everything I want it to be --: Before Corflu. OW60.

[Thank you for your patience & understanding. Really. I mean it.... You bet!]

.....
"Your mailing didn't give too many facts that I didn't already know, but the pain came through loud and clear. It sounds like the worst is over -- hope better times are ahead for you. (One observation -- you may find people don't know what to say, don't know whether it's better to talk about the divorce, the arrest, or if you're sick of hearing about it and would rather talk about something else. Don't be afraid to take the initiative.)"

---Carolyn Doyle; Personal Slant #9 [In FLAP #67]

.....

...here, several things:

1] To the FLAP roster: Admittedly, this (the third) time around, I've been using the FLAP Deadline as an impetus, a drop-dead date for this, my current window to the world. As one who not only craves, but literally demands direct feedback to my publications (only if you wish to stay on "the" mailing list), I must admit to the obvious, with chagrin mild, that the proportion of mailing comments to natter is negligible. And I can neither promise "to do better" real soon now, nor predict my longevity this time around. I do read the mailings through as soon as I get them, and I do want to/plan on direct response to you, albeit the obvious that you aren't getting it. And I didn't, despite the empirical evidence, enter into this go-around in FLAP strictly as a matter of convenience. But, again despite what I've done vs. what I said, if push comes to shove, and a decision has to be made (on the basis of either time or finances) -- OUTWORLDS will eventually/inevitably win out over FLAP. Or even XENOLITH.

Today, start date, for the record, is 2/3/90. The deadline for FLAP #68 is 2/7/90. Just to put everything in context.

2] Again a first draft effort, and one made even more perilous this time around in that I've gone through the correctable ribbons Dick & Leah provided, and have ended-up with a multi-strike version. I did manage to locate some white-out...but it's such a primitive way of eliminating the typos I manage to catch!

3] The main reason I procrastinated to this late date was that I was hoping to make this issue a Progress Report. ...having had this silly notion that there would be some "progress" over the course of two months. Silly me. For those of you who've lost track (unfortunately I'm not one of you...) -- the original "discharge date" on the bankruptcy petition was 9/11/90. After the "blow-up" at the hearing [7/13] and the Ides of July/August, the date was "extended" until 12/11. A second hearing was scheduled for 11/8; then cancelled at the last minute. "They" never quite managed to reschedule it... and in mid-December I received a notice from the trustee not only informing me that the new improved discharge date was now 2/11/91...but inferring that I was withholding vital information...as well as sitting on unspecified "hidden assests". I was perturbed.

Sandra L. Jordan
2142 Selim Avenue, Apt. #12
Cincinnati, OH 45214

January 3, 1990

Dear Bill,

Yes, your eyes are not deceiving you, this is a LOC from me of all people. In fact I think it is my first one to anyone ever but not necessarily my last one either so please don't rib me too much about it, huh.

I can't speak for the others who told you "it could be worse..." but for me it is almost always better to try to find a good side to everything that is bad. I should know, this is exactly what I have been doing especially for just over 24 years now.

Over the years, by dint of size, circulation, complexity —okay, pretentiousness... DOUBLE:BILL and OUTWORLDS have gotten more "press" than this humble X-factor. That's as it should be, but XENOLITH does have its own set of "uniques"....

It hasn't been easy for me as you well know but I have found a couple of "good" things to my accident. I am alive and here, and I now have tons of time... time to be with my children, to write, to be with family and friends. Yes, there are plenty of "bad" things going on for me as well, but without my "good", family, and friends I wouldn't be able to cope with it all.

I said what I said because it is true, it could have been worse. "She" could have said and done a lot more to ensure severe damage to you and those you care about. You didn't go to jail, pay even more than you did, or pay for hospital a/o doctor bills from anything she may have done to you physically.

IF (remember...?) used to publish "Firsts" — first sales, as a regular feature. And, in its varied (and varying) manifestations over the years, XENOLITH has managed to print a surprising number of "first LoCs"...much to my delight.

If "She" wants to believe we are having an affair then that is something she is going to have to live with. When people have as close as a relationship as we do, people have a tendency to make more of it than there is. The ones who matter know what is going on and that is all that counts.

You have been handed a great injustice and I don't mean to make nothing of it. And yes, it's not fair but what in life really is. I can't get the guy who hit the car I was in anymore than you can get her. It's just one of those things we have to live with.

This one was totally unexpected, which makes it all the more appreciated. (Even if, having a spell checker, Sandy didn't have to go out and buy a dictionary for the occasion. As did one first-timer, back in March of 1981.... There's even a "clue" as to who that was in Sandy's LOC. Ah, sweet esoterica!)

I wish these things weren't happening to you that somehow it all ends up being some kind of weird dream we are all involved in, but reality sneaks back in and I find myself fumbling around with the right words to say. At least you know we are here if you should have the need of some friendly ears. Besides, Michelle is sitting here watching me as I type this and says "it all right, I'm here" and that is the kind of thing we all need to hear from time to time.

I am very happy to have you "back" among us. I missed your jokes, seeing you at cons and meetings, etc. Besides it has been a long time since I last saw a Xenolith or an Outworlds and it's about time too. I have never said so in writing but I really do enjoy reading your zines. Whatever you do in the future don't let anyone stop you again.

Love
Sandra

...back, then, to me being perturbed:

So I gathered together everything I'd gathered together for the 11/8 meeting, and on December 26th I trundled a shopping-bag full of "records" down to my lawyer, along with a slightly feisty letter addressed to the trustee. My lawyer took a look at my pile of kipple, the letter, and had me trundle the bag over to the trustee's office. In a different building but in the same city block. And that's where it laid, shall we say, until I received a call from my lawyer's secretary, saying that "the meeting" was re-scheduled for 2pm, Tuesday, February 5th, 1991...

...which, through the magic time-warp of avoidance, was earlier...today!

I spent the intervening week being, by far, more apprehensive at the prospect of seeing "her" again... than in worry of the impending legalities.

I needn't have worried.... The trustee, remembering the July "antics", together with the Current State of Animosity ... had scheduled separate meetings for us!

...but I should have: By next week I have to provide a list of everything of value left in the house. Then he'll see "her", compare lists.... He said he won't "deny" us the bankruptcy -- but reserves the right to sell off what he can. Past a certain (unspecified) "exemption" level, I'll be able to "buy back" what I want/what I can.... In the meantime, the NEW discharge date is April 11th. *sigh*

I may well end up "losing" the copier out of this. Which would be an inconvenience

February, 1991

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*** Wm. Breiding

12-12-90

It's not inappropriate to say I loved the layout of the front page of XENOLITH 33: It was cool--both in context --and out.

Frank Denton was recently bemoaning in ROUGE RAVEN that his computer broke down and he had to do fanzines the old-fashioned way! Gads! This is the excuse I use for not writing! I'm glad to see you're plodding on with a typewriter--even if you are listening to Led Zep! (On a "Stereo" -- How quaint!)

Gess what? I just finished an APA-50 zine! Can you believe it? It's even rumored that Chris Sherman is working on a history of the early days of the APA! The next question is: do I really want to rejoin the APA or should I just throw those 4 pages out? Only Whim can tell for sure.

You made the best decision in going to Corflu and Ditto instead of appealing. I understand why you wanted to. You made a mistake--you're paying for it more dearly than you should be. But as my sister says about bumper things that happen: "Maybe there's a reason why all of this happened." Hard to think of one, isn't it? That's what I always say.

Chris Sherman
P.O. Box 990
Solana Beach, CA 92075

December 14, 1990

Dear Bill;

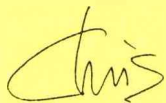
Today I got Xenolith 33 and I can't wait to write you any longer. I'm busier than I ever have been, and really enjoying it. Everything other than the video and software I'm producing is on absolute hold until January 19th, when the First Round of Delivery is complete. Then I'll have two weeks to breathe, and I'll try to write you a proper letter at that point.

I was shocked and dismayed by Xenolith 32. What more to say? Only an echo of what everyone else wrote to you -- I'm glad you're back.

The "APA-50 Thingie" is on Deep Hold like everything else right now. My interest in the whole thing waxes and wanes, though I do have probably a dozen or so pages written, here in the bowels of the computer. Some Day...

I'm sending along the last unfinished letter I was writing to you. It's made me want to renounce good intentions forever, and just stare the awful truth of procrastination in the face. Right. Real Soon Now.

Anyway, hope you're well, and enjoying the season as much as possible. I get to Ohio about twice a year these days (Canton), and maybe on one of those trips we can share a few beers and do some good old-fashioned APA-50 style gutspilling.



P.S. You must have started the upward cycle of life again. As you can see by the "return envelope", Xenolith made it to California with no postage at all. Good move.

.....

-- but, no, Sandy, neither this, nor "anyone" will "stop" me again! Not that there won't be gaps, diversions, set-backs and, occasional changes of policy! In the meantime, I am back, and you all are stuck with me one more time....

...this time, though, rather than ramble aimlessly--and while I've access to the Canon "toy"--I'm going to pad out this issue with cut 'n paste excerpts...

4] In addition to the clip-LoCs you see about you, I've also heard from:

LINDA MICHAELS •

RICHARD BRANDT: "At least my prison record is clear, even if hers is not..." • GAY HALDEMAN: "We marched in a local peace march last Saturday, a four mile walk. It was fun and made us feel better. Shades of the sixties! I don't know who's right about the Mideast Crisis, but I don't want anyone to go through what Joe went through in Viet Nam. And I don't want their lives affected the way ours have been. Let's just bring 'em all home, alive and unharmed." • MICHAEL WAITE... who sent another batch of stamps, which do help! [So, were you at ConFusion, Michael? I was....] • PAT MUELLER (and a photo of Baby Pat...) • ROGER WEDDALL • BRAD W. FOSTER, who sent "a little surprise semi-Christmas gift, a pile of the full run of my STUFF series..." Thanks, Brad! (...err.... humm...hint: I do have a cover for OW60, but #61 [while not imminent] is "open"...) • AVEDON CAROL "...I'm just glad you're in one piece and back in my world. I have to say, I had a bad feeling... but that's all over, and things seem normal again--now that I'm seeing your name on the return address again. This is as it should be." • SKEL • and my first ever letter from CAS! It was so good to meet you both, at last...and we are going to do it again someday...somehow! Take care...! ...and two totally open and honest letters that I really wanted to run, but I was asked not to by one, and the other I won't without asking. BILLY WOLFENBARGER [181 North Polk St, Eugene OR 97402] • and ERIC MAYER [Lawyers Cooperative, Aqueduct Bldg, Rochester NY 14694]: "When people asked about my own marriage I was able to say-- 'Did you read Bill Bowers' fanzine? Well--he described my marriage to the smallest detail.'" • ...both have new addresses, and have had "years" of their own.... Hang in there, guys! Someday we will meet again, Billy! And, Eric... for the first time. Perhaps, perchance, at Mikecon? •

5] Courtesy of the Cavin-Shuttle, and the Altus hospitality, I made it to ConFusion; I'm glad I did; I had a wonderful time! • Thanks All! 2/7/91

I think I'd skip the scrapbook. I know your propensity for saving things, but I think these are mementos you can do without. File away the critical legal paperwork and pitch the rest. Look forward, not back.

I say that, though I liked best the part where you wrote of your old home and your parents. Some kinds of nostalgia have a place.

Your want to appeal is understandable. But I think you made the right choice. An appeal would only drag it all out longer. I hope the rest of it is resolved soon.

It's cold comfort to be told, "it could have been worse," I know. (My newspaper closed Nov. 28. It was tremendously upsetting -- especially as we were given all of a week's notice -- but all of the union editorial employees have been transferred to another part of the chain. So I've been hearing, "At least you still have a job," for a while now. But it doesn't help much.) All one can do is live each day as it comes.

Mike wrote, "Stacked against all you have lost is the fact that I have regained a friend...." but I never felt that I'd lost one -- just that he'd gone away for awhile. Welcome back.

Take care.

Love,



I expect that you've heard that Don Thompson passed away yesterday. I was shocked when Maia told me because I didn't expect it to happen so damned fast. I haven't seen Don in a fair while but during the 70's he meant a lot to me and I'm just glad that I wrote all that in a letter after the last issue of DON-o-SAUR and got it to him so he'd know how highly I regarded him as a writer and as a person.

Anyway, thanks for XENOLITH. Even if it isn't an OW. (And isn't it neat what fun you can have with a copier that can reduce and expand? Neat way of presenting the title. I hope the OW will contain more such graphic delights.)

The trial/parole stuff was interesting in a morbid sort of way. I regret having to learn about such things in this way (by having you suffer through it, I mean) but I suppose I'm a better person for it. I was particularly glad to see the certificate indicating your successful completion of the AMEND program since now I'll feel completely comfortable in arguing with you on paper or in person without having to worry that your legendary temper and infamous violent streak won't suddenly erupt against me. Sigh. I hope you write about it some day; it'll be interesting to see how a completely non-violent person reacted to a program aimed at truly violent people.

What on earth do you mean by "It makes absolutely no economic sense for a 'single' person to occupy a house this large..."? Are you telling me I've got no economic sense? Step outside, pal! But I know what you mean, especially after this past Fall. I've never been more busy working to earn the money I need to stay here or more tired when I wasn't working but it actually does make economic sense. The only option would be to sell the house and buy a smaller place and right now that would be economically disastrous since prices are 'way 'way down and it's a real buyer's market. So I'll continue to make some sacrifices for a short while and should end up well ahead in the long run. Besides, things should get better. My mortgage payments only increased by \$4 every two weeks which I can obviously handle. All the work for the extra courses will be done and I can use it all again next year so I won't have to put in anywhere near the hours. And if Joan decides she likes Toronto and can get some paperwork cleared to move up here she'll pay rent which will help ease the financial burden as well. Perhaps 1991 will be an interesting year even if I don't get to many conventions.

Hope the holiday season is a good one for you and you take advantage of the proximity of good friends to help you make the most of it. And what the hell, there's no way but that the new year has to be a hell of a lot better than the one you've just survived! Take care of yourself and I'll look forward to seeing you somewhere or other before too long.

All my love



Jamie Bowman
PO BOX 982
GLEN ELLEN
CA 95442

Ye Editorial Note:

The following four pages are excerpted from four letters, totaling twelve pages. Pure distilled essence of Jeanne.... Enjoy.

WE B DUES FRANK

PO BOX 982

GLEN ELLEN

95442

707 996 9009

DEAR BILL -

I HEAR THERE MIGHT BE RUMOR
THAT YOU THINK FANDORA MIGHT BE MAD AT YOU!
'CUZ WE DIDN'T HEAR FROM YOU FOR A WHILE.
WELL, I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK
THAT I, PERSONALLY, WAS WIFFED BY OUR
LACK OF COMMUNICATION. UNLESS OF COURSE YOU
MEAN IT TO CONTINUE!

I AM SADDENED THAT YOUR MARRAIGE HASN'T
WORKED OUT (AND IT'S ALWAYS WORK, ROMANTIC BULLSHIT
ASIDE). I KNOW YOU MUST HAVE PUT YOUR HEART INTO
IT & UNFRIENDLY ENDINGS ARE EXTRA ORDINARILY
PAIN FULL (OTHER THINGS TOO, BUT I'M MAINTAINING
PROPER MATRONLY DECORUM NOW... MAYBE....) MY
SENSE OF LOSS, THE FANTASY OF YOU MARVELOUSLY HAPPY
& FULLY ENGAGED IN A LOVING FAMILY IS SIMILAR TO
THE LOSS I FELT WITH THE DEATH OF DEBBIE
NOTKIN & ALLEN BOSTICKS CHILD. SO MANY AGES &
EXPECTATIONS, YET SHE NEVER COULD HAVE SURVIVED
HAVING BEEN BORN, I'M SAD FOR THIER LOTS &
SAD FOR THE LOSS OF MY SENSE OF WELL BEING &
THINGS GOING RIGHT WITH THE WORLD. SO YOU
BETTER BE TAKEN GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF. NO,
EXCEPTIONAL FINE & SWEET CARE OF YOU.

NKK IS PATIENTLY WAITING MY BEING DONE WITH
THIS LETTER SO WE CAN FIX HIS RED WAGON.
I GOT NEW HUBCAPS THE OTHER DAY & MAYBE THOSE
WILL DO IT. MORE SOON -

Jamie

OCT 9, 90

WEB Dudes RANCH

GE 95442

707 996 9009

DEAR BILL -

GREAT TO GET YOUR NOTE. WHAT A BITCH!
(OH, HOW UNAVOIDABLY AMBIGUOUS, OH MY, GEE WHILLIKERS!)
ONE NASTY THORNY SET OF COMMENTS. WE, THE
SOCIETAL ROYAL WE, HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT SPOUSAL
BIKERING YET, WITHIN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM. I KNOW A
GUY WHO SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL WITH A FINGER
HIS WIFE HAD BROKEN - THE POLICE BROKE IT ^{THEIR FIGHT} UP BY
PUTTING HIM UP. DOOPS. I ALSO HAVE HEARD THE
COMMON WISDOM, "THAT NO MAN WHO ABUSES ANY
WOMAN ADMITS TO IT. THEY JUST DON'T" SOUNDS LIKE
A REAL CATCH 22 EH?? HORMONES, TESTOSTERONE
PRISENING. YOW, NASTY THORNY & PLAIN, LEGALLY, IRRESPON-
SIBLE. WELL, I ALSO KNOW A GUY WHO SPENT THE
NIGHT IN JAIL BECAUSE HE STOOD IN THE DOORWAY
DURING A VERBAL SHOWDOWN. HE WAS OBSTRUCTING HER
EXIT & WAS SENT TO GO TO A MEN'S COUNSELLING
GROUP. HE'S A NEAT, SWEET, KIND, LOVING, SMART
CHARACTER WHO I DON'T BELIEVE WOULD EVER HAVE
RAISED A HAND OR ANYTHING ELSE BESIDES HIS
VOICE TO ANYONE. EVER. HE STILL WENT TO JAIL.
I GET A KIND OF EERIE WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS
PICTURE SORT OF FEELING. IT'S WRONG TO HIT ANYBODY,
BUT MEN DO IT, DON'T ADMIT IT & WOMEN DON'T GET
CAUGHT OR PUNISHED WHEN THEY DO. TOO RUINERD.
I'M SORRY THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS STALKED AGAINST YOU.
I HOPE YOU ARE HEARD FAIRLY & NOT MADE TO SUFFER
ANY FURTHER. THE MEN'S COUNSELLING GROUP WAS OKAY
BY MY INFORMANT - HE SAID HE SAW SOME REAL HARD
CASES SOFTEN UP.

WELL, TOO CHEERY EH?? A GIRLFRIEND OF MINE DID
HAVE HER BOYFRIEND THROWN IN JAIL AFTER HE ASSAULTED HER.
SHE HAD BRUISES & CONTUSIONS TO PROVE IT. HE WAS A
DRUNK, MAGHO (SOUTH AMERICAN DUDE) ASSHOLE AT THE TIME.
HE GOT "SENTENCED" TO SOBER UP, DO A.A. AND GET
SOME COUNSELLING. HE HAS TURNED IT AROUND. DOESN'T
DRINK & BEHAVES HIMSELF. HE ALSO THANKED HER FOR
BLOWING THE WHISTLE. WELL, I'M SURE YOU ARE

GOING TO BE INUNDATED BY THESE THRILLING
TALES of WONDER IN ORDINARY LIFE, BUT HEY,
I BELIEVE YOU I DON'T THINK YOU EVEN CONSIDER
PHYSICALLY ARGUING WITH ANYONE. (GETTING PHYSICAL
IN A MORE FRIENDLY CONTEXT, NO COMMENT, TEE-HEE)

I WILL BE THINKING of YOU NEXT WEEK & DOING
ALL THE GOOD COSMIC SYNCHRONICITY ENERGY GOOD VIBE
THINGS THAT WE NATIVE CALIFORNIANS ARE JUST
NATURALLY BORN INTO. HEHEHE - WATCH OUT FOR THESE
SPINE TINGLING ENERGY RUSHES FROM NO WHERE... OR
ROCKS THAT SEEM TO ... SPEAK TO YOU

NOVEMBER TWENTY SEVENTH
PO BOX 982
6E 95442

HEY BILL POWERS

ARE YOU IN JAIL OR WHAT?? MY PSYCHIC
POWERS OVERLOADED & I HAVE HAD TONSILLITIS FOR A
WHILE (THATS WHY I DIDN'T CALL THIS WEEK I KNOW
YOU WERE WONDERING) AND SOME STUPID FLU
BEFORE THAT (AS OPPOSED TO THE STOMACH FLU,
OR INTESTINAL FLU... I HAVE A "STUPID")

WELL WHY NOT?? FALL IS MY STRESSFUL TIME

WELL, MY EX'S LAWYER PAID OFF FOR HIM. THEY
GOT SO MANY CONTINUANCES & RE-SET DATES THAT
THE OREGON DISTRICT ATTORNEYS OFFICE FORGOT WHAT
THEY WERE DOING & DISMISSED THE CASE. WELL, I
WAS MIFFED. I WASN'T EVEN THERE & THEY SAID I
HADN'T SUPPLIED INFORMATION THEY NEEDED. BULLSHIT -
I FILLED OUT SO MANY STUPID FORMS I HAVE A 1/2" FILE -
BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE IT. POOT. I HATE THE
LEGAL SYSTEM, DON'T YOU??

YES, HERE'S JEANNE WITH HER CALIFORNIA NETWORK -
WE HATE LAWYERS TOO, DAMMIT - YOU CAN JOIN
JUST REPEAT A NASTY LAWYER JOKE AFTER TAKING
5 - ONLY 5 - MINUTES TO TELL YOUR REAR LIFE JUDICIAL
HORROR STORIES. ONLY! THE TRUTH IS FUNNY ENOUGH.
BOZOZ!! AND NEVER SAY "THANK YOU FOR SHARING"

WELL, I'M TAKING A LITTLE BREAK FROM CLEANING MY
DESK - ANOTHER of my LOW PRIORITY LIFE MAINTENANCE
CHORES. BUT THE CAT WAS PISSING ON MY ANSWERING
MACHINE, SO IT WAS TIME. WOW, MAYBE NEXT I'LL

WASH WINDOWS. ARE YOU HAVING THIS MUCH FUN??
I JUST NATURALLY THINK OF YOU WHEN I SEE BIG PILES
OF PAPER.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EXERT MY LETTERS -
IT'S THE ONLY WAY I'LL KNOW WHAT I SAID
SINCE I HAVE BEEN SKIPPING & WRITING TO
BEV INK, FORGETTING TO MAKE COPIES OF MY
MISSIVES. I SOMETIMES NEGLECT TO TAKE MY
LITERARY SELF SERIOUSLY ENOUGH I CAN UNDERSTAND
YOUR PENCHANT FOR PUBLICATION ONE OF THESE
YEARS I'LL GET OVER IT & GO PUBLIC (MORE IN
FANTASY, MAYBE, FOR A START) I'VE REALIZED I
WILL NEVER BE LIKE WHATSERNAME WHO STAYED
UP ALL NIGHT WRITING STORIES & STUFF & IRONED
CLOTHES IN THE DAY & RAISED 5 KIDS. (NOT POLE
CAROL OATS, BUT SOMEONE WHO WAS THAT SUPER
WOMAN??) I WAS HOPEING HAVING MY OWN (ALMOST
I SHARE THE ROOM WITH BRIGID WHEN SHE IS
HERE & HOUSEGUESTS OTHERWISE [UNTIL WE GET THE
BASEMENT CONVERTED TO A GUEST ROOM TV LOUNGE, VIDEO
PALACE, BREWERY AND STUFFED ANIMALS DISPLAY ROOM]
(I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT TEDDY BEARS EITHER))
ROOM WOULD INSPIRE ME TO TYPE REAL LETTERS ON
"MY" COMPUTER (A MAC PLUS) WITHOUT A PRINTER, AS YET)
BUT IT'S WINTER AND IT'S TOO DAMN COLD OUT
HERE. ALWAYS SOME EXCUSE I GUESS. I WONDER
IF WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH "HAVING A VOICE"
BUT NOT MUCH TO SAY?? AT LEAST I KNOW
I HAVE A VOICE AND CAN SING SOME TOO, BUT
NOT EVERYTHING BY GOD I THINK WE HAVE A
METAPHOR TO TAKE NOTE OF.

SO WHILE I AM HERE
A COLD WINTER, IT WILL NOT STOP ME FROM
CORRESPONDING AND TALKING WITH YOU.
DEBBIE NOTKIN SAYS CAROL CARR & I HAVE THIS ABILITY
TO FLIRT WITH AN ENTIRE ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE.
I STILL DON'T KNOW IF I BELIEVE THAT, BUT OTHERS
SEEM TO AGREE - I'M TOO OLD TO BE "CUTE" ANY MORE
EITHER MUST BE FREE OF PERSONALITY, BUT I
DO LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU, SEEING MY NAME
IN PRINT AND ENJOYING OUR PERVERSE & IDIOSYNCRATIC
VERBAL STYLES. YOU INSPIRE ME SO YOU ARE STILL
WITH AN ADMIRING FAN,

JOAN B

SF COMMENTARY
THE METAPHYSICAL REVIEW
Bruce Gillespie
GPO Box 5195AA
Melbourne Vic. 3001
Australia
6 January 1991

Dear Bill

I had thought we were having a bad year until I read your most recent fanzines. All I can offer is my best wishes, along with the slight consolation that I can imagine exactly how you might have got into the current difficult situation. Long before I got together with Elaine, I tried an experiment in cohabitation that might well have turned into the same kind of experience if either of us had been vindictive towards the other. But even with the best will in the world, and when both people are nuts about the other, there are certain combinations that don't work, which was our situation. So if you get a combination that doesn't work, and one party acts viciously -- yes, I think I can glimpse what a nightmare world you've been living in until recently. Congratulations for escaping at last.

As I say, 1990 was one of those years one would have preferred to miss. Elaine's father died in July, and Elaine and her sisters have spent most of the rest of the year clearing up the estate, finding homes for seven cats and two dogs, evicting two ghastly non-paying tenants, selling the furniture and the house itself, etc. Meanwhile, there have been random, frequent sackings at Nelson, where Elaine works. (It's owned by Canada's Thompson Group.) Macmillan, for which I work, is standing firm -- no sackings, no hirings. But both the American and Australian governments are officially admitting we are In Recession. . . .

What cheers me up, as always, are the books to be read, films to be seen, music to be heard, and the fanzines to be produced, time and money willing. I hope you enjoy the enclosed, and can keep producing your own unputdownable fanzines.

Yours



William L. Powers
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