



Comments 10

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The Southerner #219

You know I was wondering if the Post Office would treat *Stamps.com* postage as metered mail. That's the only reason I think of for using their service but it is a pretty good one.

The cost of first class is duly noted and I'll get a check off to cover the cost for the rest of the year. It's so nice getting the mailing in a predictable time frame. When I was getting it book, make that "media", rate, I never knew how long it would take to arrive.

On the subject of a web site, I can point "SouthernFandom.com" to wherever we need to. I started to put one together but got busy on other things. I'm having a lot of problems doing anything creative these days. I think it's the result of all the effort I'm putting into my book.

First Zine In the OESHIP

Gary Brown

I think the first thing I ever remember reading on crypto was written by Poe. It was an article on how to break simple ciphers. That was a popular past time at one point. What does surprise me is that it took much effort to break the two bits of code.

The New Port News 195

Ned Brooks

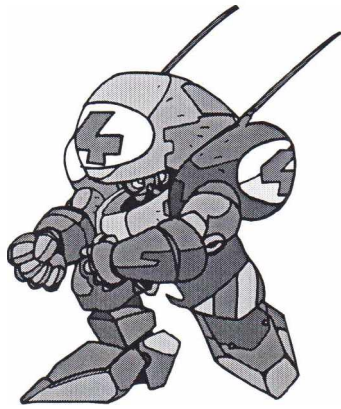
Sorry you couldn't play the video. I suspect it's a problem with out of date DLLs in your machine. Playing video actually requires a lot of the systems resources and shows up any problems you may have. You mentioned problems getting your machine to shut down and that's another symptom of corrupted system files. It's also a very common *Windows* problem.

Watch out for anyone claiming to sell a DVD player that will play all DVDs. The regional encoding is part of the chipset and any player legally sold in the US must be set to Region One. It's a royal pain and in some other countries you can buy the players with instructions on how to change the region code. If the people offering the "all region" players are honest, they may well not be, you will get a player that no one will support. Most likely it's a credit card scam.

Variations On A Theme #4

Rich Lynch

Your question, "What happens if the guy holding the tail of the glider goes off the end of the ramp?" is a good one. In reality the glider is longer than it looks, about 10 feet long, so he doesn't have to get real close to the end of the ramp to push the glider off. If something did go wrong, there's a metal grate a few feet below the end of the ramp that *should* catch him. The grate wouldn't do the guy with the 70 pound glider on his back much good, no body is strong enough to stop that much mass once it gets moving in only 2 or 3 feet, but it's enough for a person to grab. That said, running toward a 1300 foot drop without a glider on my back is not a job I want!



I do believe I've had Glogg. I used to go caving with a kid whose father was the ambassador from, I think, Great Britain. One trip he bought a girl from the Finnish Embassy who had some great spiced wine with her. It was a cold rainy weekend and we spent most of the time in camp because the cave we were trying to get into had too much water in its entrance. That trip was memorable for me because the girl, gee I can't remember her name!!, and I got bored and "dived the siphon" to get into the cave. Siphons are places in caves where the cave ceiling dips below the water level in a stream passage. It takes a lot of nerve, and maybe a little hot spiced wine, to dive into the dark water trusting that you will come up on the other side. It was the first time I'd done it and still ranks as one of the

stupidest things I ever did.

The reason I can't believe I've forgotten her name is that we decided to take our clothes through the siphon in plastic bags, the water was cold and the cave air wasn't much better so we wanted dry clothes for the cave, and she decided to do it totally nude. I wouldn't have thought I'd ever have forgotten her.

Rear-End '00

Guy Lillian

Funny how the other person in your life can make it so much better and more interesting. I totally agree with you about *Almost Famous*. I loved the movie and just picked up the DVD.

Frequent Flyer

Tom Feller

Humm.. so your fund manager thought that tech stocks were approaching a bottom. He was right in the same sense that a meteor is making a soft landing when it hits the earth. I don't think we'll see a "bottom" until the end of this year. If then.

A four week stretch without any business trips? I don't think I ever had that much time between trips in my whole career. I used to get a lot of presents from vendors, most were given to other employees. I did keep the "logo" items I got. Things like pen sets and desk clocks. I always had problems with the psuedo gifts like paid trips to conventions or meetings that were thinly disguised vacations. Most of the time I just said, "No I'm too busy." Now I think I was way too fastidious.

Challenger 13

Guy H. Lillian, III

It's funny I still remember meeting Rose-Marie, she was just a kid in New Orleans at the Nebula awards banquet. Celko, Glenn Brock and I had driven down from Atlanta the night before in my new Corvair convertible. We had to leave about 11:00 at night because we all had finals at Georgia State and ended up arriving very early in the morning in New Orleans. We were extremely tired but quite eager to go out and see the town. So we ended up checking into the hotel room taking quick showers and then going off to a bookstore in the French Quarter. That night we got into a card game with a number of New Orleans fans including Rose-Marie and, I think, her father. My goodness that

seems like a long time ago.

I liked your tribute to Toni. The photos are great. I specially like the one of Tony in the mask.

Overall a nice Challenger. I always look forward to reading them.

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #68

Richard Dengrove

I suspect we will be seeing that cartoon of the ballot used on your front cover for a long time because both parties find it funny. The thing I think is the funniest about it is that it was actually carefully designed to make the type clearer so older voters could see it better. It was intended, by the local Democrats who designed it, to reduce the problems their residents would have voting and instead it may well have cost the Democrats the election. Sometimes life is just too just.

I see you share my opinion that the economy will probably come crashing down. I think the thing you have to look at is that it actually crashed last year during Bill Clinton's term when the stock market fell by about 30%. That's a pretty good crash by most people's definition. It's a great pity that Clinton didn't have time to look after things like energy policy as well as spend time chasing interns but I suppose even a *good* president can only do so much and he just had set his own priorities.

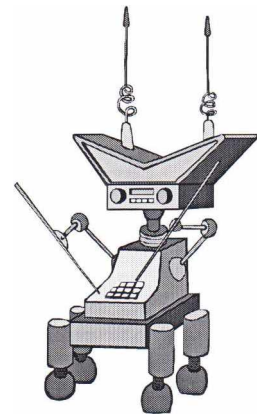
Making the video CD was actually a lot of fun and yes I agree it did come out rather amateurish. But it was also my first effort and it takes a lot of time to learn to use the tools. It also gave me a real appreciation for the work that goes into professional video productions. Some things, like lighting control, you just can't do on an amateur production. On the other hand the editing tools I used producing it are more sophisticated than even the professionals had only a short time ago. You'll certainly be seeing more videos from me in the future. In fact I'm thinking about doing one of them at the next SF convention I get to.

I don't understand why you would want to not sign your credit cards but have the people in the stores ask for identification. I have never really understood why people would do that since the cardholder has absolutely no liability for someone else using the card. Even if you lose the card and it's found and used by someone else your maximum liability is \$50.00 and most banks will even forgive that if you just ask them to. I would be much more worried about carrying a checkbook around with me, since anyone can fill out the checks, sign them and cash them. It is much more difficult to get your money back from a forged check than it is from illegal credit card use. It's funny nobody seems to worry about their checkbook while almost everybody worries about their credit cards.

Spiritus Mundi 181

Guy H. Lillian III

I see you managed to beat the postal rate increase on the last issue of *Challenger*. You know a friend of mine who worked for the post office once told me that they usually allow a day or twos leeway on rate increases before they start turning mail back. I've never actually taken advantage of it but can see where it would be more trouble for them to return mail then to let the rate increase slide for a day or two.



Well, I will have to say I certainly understand you're riding to Pensacola with Rose-Marie. I find I can't stand being away from Suzanne and even now that we're approaching our third anniversary I miss her when she's gone even more than I did when we first started dating. If you're very lucky it will never change.

I can't believe SFPA is about to have its 40th anniversary. If you do work on the Book of Years, perhaps it can be done in such a fashion that we could put it on a CD and/or a web server. I would be more than willing to help with that project.

As far as "the bastard not beating Clinton", I think you may be a little bit premature. It's clear from the way people are taking the Fifth Amendment in their testimony that there was definitely something illegal going on with the pardons especially of Rich's. I'm not saying that Clinton will actually have to face criminal charges of any sort but it should be the last nail in his coffin as far as he's having any ongoing reputation in the political world. I'm also amused to see the number of companies that are canceling his speaking engagements because of the outrage their stockholders feel over having a person with his morals and lack of regard for the legal system hired by companies they own stock in. It seems like there may be a little justice in the world after all.

Avatar Press

Randy B. Cleary

At one point several people in the company I worked for who, like me, weighed over 200 lbs. decided that they would have a contest to see who could lose the most weight. It was similar to the one that you're talking about with everybody putting \$50.00 into the kitty. I chose not to take part in the contest and it was really a silly decision since I ended up losing down from 245 to 165. Actually in retrospect it was probably silly since losing that much weight in less than a month is extremely bad for your long-term health.

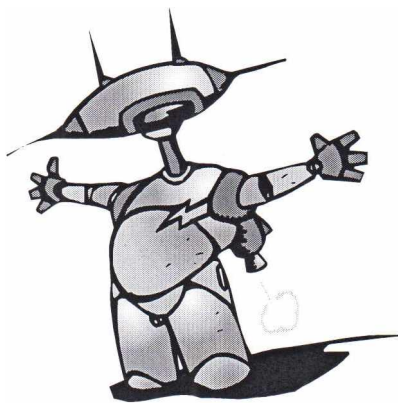
I too liked the movie *Unbreakable*. Suzanne had a little trouble with it because she didn't get any of the comic book references. I think you had to be somewhat into the comics to really enjoy it.

Sorry the jewel case was mashed on the CD. We used the small cases in the hope they would survive better than large ones. I think if I do another one, when I do another one, I'll try packaging them just in cardboard envelopes.

Offline Reader

Irv Koch

It seems like almost everybody I know is having the flu or a really serious cold. I wonder if it has anything to do with the flu vaccine not being available at the beginning of the year?



As I'm sitting here today the stock market has lost about 800 points in the last five trading days and my stock portfolio is down about 50%. The only good news is that I sold out quite a bit of it before the decline started so it's not a significant part of my overall portfolio. The really bad news is I'm afraid that the worst is yet to come and we're going to see the market go down by about another 50% overall before the decline stops. Say a DOW of around 6000. We certainly do live in interesting times.

Oblio #132

Gary Brown

You know I'm beginning to appreciate the comic book covers that you publish a whole lot more than I used to. I've been trying to restore the covers to several Planet Comics and I had never appreciated how difficult it is to get something that will print looking anything like the original. Not to mention how bad a shape most of the old comic book covers are actually in. I'm finding myself having problems restoring these because it's very difficult to figure out what the original colors were.

I liked your baby picture on the front cover. My sister found a bunch of old family pictures of us kids and our grand parents and great grand parents. I've been touching them up and making copies for her. What I would like to do is make a single picture that has all five kids and my mother in it at the same age. Some of the really old photos, which were taken about the time the civil war ended, are very difficult to copy but they are absolutely fascinating. It's really fun seeing my great grandfather and great grandmother as children. Especially since my great grandmother, who lived to be well over 100, I knew when I was a kid.

I hope you succeed in getting information on Deep South Con. I'm going to email you the address and phone numbers just to make sure you get it. It's been years since I saw you.

Actual you're probably better off not seeing *Fantasia 2000* at the Imax theater. We went to see it at the Imax here in Atlanta and the graphics looked really bad on the big screen. You could actually see the jaggies around the objects and lots of flaws in the animation. It did look great on regular screen though.

I recently found a company on the web that does comic books on CD ROM. They are selling a lot of stuff from the Forties, things in public domain. I have one of their CDs with several issues of Planet Comics. They've done quite a few things but, if my example is typical, not all that well. The scans tend to be a little out of alignment and sometimes the coloring is not that good. But at least it gives me access to some comic books that I could never afford myself. You can find them at "www.comicsoncdrom.com".

I like your cell phone story. The thing I find most annoying is when people take cell phone calls in restaurants. Especially if it's a nice restaurant and I'm trying to have a romantic meal. I've even had the experience of sitting in a theater while someone took a phone call during the movie!

I'm glad you're enjoying your new place. Suzanne and I have decided to sell our house in Atlanta and move to Ellijay. There are several reasons not the least of which being that we're really enjoying the outdoor life that we live when we're in the country.

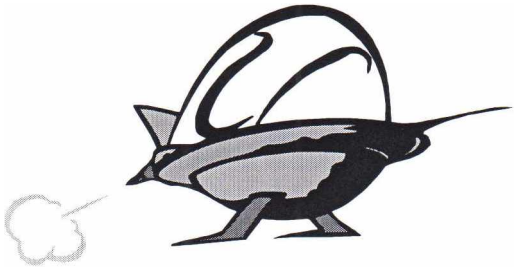
The other reason is that Atlanta traffic is becoming unbearable. It doesn't hurt that real estate in our neighborhood is selling at extremely high prices. We're thinking we sell now and maybe, in a few years, buy or rent an apartment in one of the downtown Atlanta areas.

Trivial Pursuits #93

Janice Gelb

It's kind of funny hearing the same complaint about John Ashcroft as attorney general from several people: he has strongly held





opinions on some subjects. It seems no one thinks a person whose opinions differ from theirs ought to hold the post of attorney general. I suspect if those strongly held opinions were those you agreed with you would have no problem with his having the job.

The California power crisis is, I'm afraid, something of a joke among a lot of my acquaintances. We've all been expecting it for quite a few years now, ever since

California decided to not build new power plants. It is of course very nice not to have power plants built in your backyard, but sooner or later somebody has to produce the power that people use. What is especially interesting is that until this current crisis, California has had no really rigorous program of power conservation. They even have fixed prices for electricity, which is one of the best possible ways of encouraging people to go on using it. I can assure you that here in Georgia where the price of natural gas has skyrocketed everyone is conserving natural gas! What was really silly in California was fixing the price that consumers paid for electricity while not allowing the power companies to sign long-term contracts with their suppliers. It absolutely guaranteed that if there were ever an energy crunch, the power companies in California would probably go bankrupt.

That's not what happened, but only because the legislature is bailing them out. The thing I find incredibly funny is that no one in the California legislature wants people's power rates to increase but they're perfectly at ease using the same people's taxes to cover the cost of electricity. Maybe it doesn't occur to them that taxes come out of people's pockets just the same as electricity bills and that they are only causing the citizens of California to pay for their power using a different mechanism: taxes.

Always a good idea to refinance mortgages but I don't think it's that critical to do it right now. Every indication is that long-term interest rates are going to continue to decline for at least the next couple of years. You may very well see the day when 4 or 5% mortgages return, if things keep up the way they are now.

More Travel Tales

Janice Gelb

Your panel on fanish tolerance, or intolerance as the case may be, sounds like it would've been fun. It's a subject I have often thought about since we do not seem to have as many new fans as would be nice. When I got into fandom it was an extremely open place, everyone was extremely tolerant of everyone else. Of course that may just have been the time and the place since what I know of fannish history implies fans have always been pretty argumentative and opposed to new ideas. I still remember the fights over "new wave SF" and all the rhetoric from fans I knew.

"Yngvi Is A Louse" And Other Graffitos #69

T.K.F. Weisskopf

I'm going to miss the collating parties. I hope we do manage to keep getting together just before the mailing to do a one shot. Speaking of fireworks, I've figured out how to fire a lot of mortar rounds in a short period of time. Maybe I can demonstrate it at a future party.

Guilty Pleasures

Eve Ackerman

I'll have to go out and download your book as soon as I finish this zine! I'm still working on mine and hope to have the first draft done by the end of the year. I've discovered that I can "write" much easier using a voice recognition program and that's speeding things up.

Sorry your husband lost his race. Is he going to try again next year?

Tyndallite #93

Norm Metcalf

Actually the cover art for *The Southerner* #218 was from a clip art CD and attributed to the *Door Into Summer*. Toni asked where the art came from and got confused because we were talking about *The Skylark of Space* at the time. All the cover art came from the same CD. It was a professional clip art CD I bought in a weak moment, quite expensive, and I have used illos from it for the last 3 or 4 years. My only complaint is that the illos are often not from the works the CD says they are.

That Was The World That Was...

Mike Weber

I've been reading about the "Is Pluto a planet?" debate for a while and think it's pretty silly. Yes, we might not classify it as a planet today but there are a lot of things in science we'd probably change if we really wanted it to make sense. A good example is the electrical definition of "plus" and "minus". Electrons flow from objects with a minus charge to objects with a positive charge. Seems backwards? It is! Franklin guessed at which way current flowed and he got it wrong. We've been stuck with it ever since.

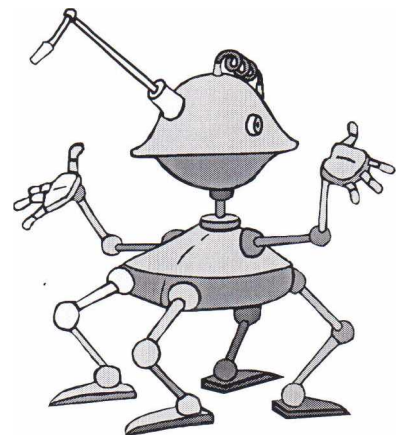
So I say, "Let Pluto keep its' planet status!" After all who wants to live in a solar system with only eight planets.

Fantasy and Reality

Jeff Copeland

Love your cover! In some ways it's sad that reality falls so far short of our dreams but at least a few of them are coming true. When I was a kid I really thought I would someday get to walk on Mars. Now I know that will never happen; the best I can hope for is that I will get to see someone else do it. The pity is that we could have done it if we had only kept the dream and not gotten bogged down trying to solve all the world's social problems.

We seem to have forgotten that adventure and progress bring with them the means to make life better for everyone. Yes, there are problems introduced by each new technical advance that have to be solved. The internal combustion engine is responsible for a lot of our pollution but it's also what allows us to feed most of the world. If we had not turned our back on technology,



making things like atomic power bogey men to be feared instead of tools to be used, we might all be taking vacations on the space station.

This is a very well done zine and there are a lot of things I could discuss. Unfortunately I haven't quite adjusted to not being able to drive a zine over to the OE the day of the mailing and I'm out of time.

Everybody

Well I didn't manage to comment on all the zines in the mailing but at least I managed to do the majority of the mailing. Suzanne and I usually sit down and read the entire mailing the day it comes in. Then, weeks later, I try to do mailing comments. I think I'll try to do comments on the next mailing as I read it the first time. Normally that wouldn't work but with the dictation software it might.

Anyway, it was a good mailing and I enjoyed reading it. Hope everyone is doing well!!

Speaking of things that don't work out, I bought a Canon 5100 inkjet printer so that I could go back to doing 11x17 centerfold zines. In fact this zine was layed out to be printed that way with color illos. What I didn't know was that the printer will only print on 11x17 paper if you hand feed each sheet and that it cuts the already slow print speed in half. The things they don't tell you when you're buying a printer! What really hacks me is that I've had the machine sitting here for a couple of months so I can't even return it.

A quick test printing one-copy shows that it will take just over 12 hours to print enough copies for the APA. Needless to say, that is not happening. So if this issue looks a little ragged, that's why. It's being printed on the laser printer and I don't even have time to fix up the layout. Oh, well maybe next time!

