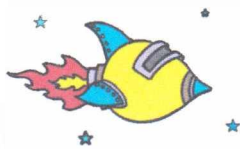
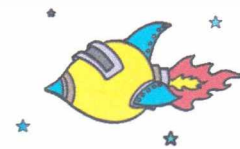


Comments 11



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The Southerner

I like your putting the postmark date as well as the actual receipt date for each submission. That makes it really easy to see how long it takes things to reach you. Have you considered building the web list of zines received as your get them? It might add a little incentive to get things in before the deadline.

I'm getting the web address set up and should be a position to point it wherever you need by the next mailing. I have also been working on a prototype web page for SFPA but have not got it to the point where I can show it to anyone. I'll try to get something done by the next mailing.

It's great to see a new member joining and the copy requirement going up instead of down.

Tyndallite #94

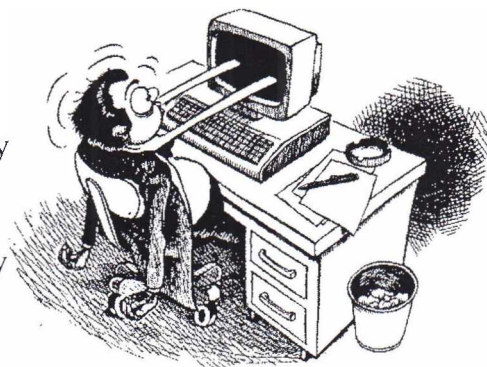
Norm Metcalf

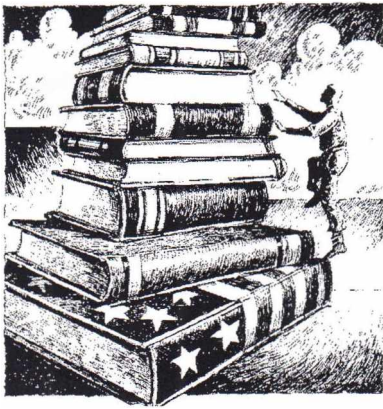
I think I have to disagree with your assertion that *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* isn't really science fiction. There is a tendency to think that technology was far more advanced in many time periods than it really was. Oddly, I think movies, showing fictional and impossible "primitive" airships, tanks and other technical toys are responsible for this common illusion. I don't think anyone could have built a whole submarine at the time the novel was written; much less one with the capabilities of the Nautilus. Jules Verne was writing science fiction as much as most science fiction writers today are writing science fiction when they push our technology just a little bit beyond what it's actually capable of doing. I do agree that *The Mysterious Island* is in no way science fiction since, other than the presence of the Nautilus, it has no science fictional concepts involved. It is a rather nice adventure story. I remembered it fondly for giving me a detailed recipe for making gun cotton. A recipe that worked pretty well!

The instructions for making explosives in the book are so exact that I suspect if people knew they were there it would be on somebody's banned list of terrorist publications.

I have heard the claim that Jules Verne did not write science fiction many times before. What I have never seen is a convincing explanation of why his books are not science fiction but a lot of contemporary novels are.

Your objection to *The Invisible Man* not being science fiction, namely that the basic approach is not possible, is also something that could be applied to a large number of books that we call science fiction today. I don't know of anything in the literature that requires that science fiction novels be in any way reasonable or apply the scientific method. In fact I suspect that I could produce a long list of novels widely regarded as science fiction that are in no way practical and in no way apply any trace of the scientific method.





The Newport News 196

Ned Brooks

You know it's not real often that you make a comment about the government that I fully agree with, but one in this issue really strikes home. I totally agree that the war on drugs is mostly a way of financing some law enforcement agencies and a particular a bad way of doing so at that. I was reading a legal journal in someone's office I was sitting in and found a fascinating article claiming that the majority of police establishments in the United States are in some part funded by illegal drug money. In fact they make so much

money from "the war on drugs" in some cities, I believe Houston was mentioned, that some police departments have no official budget but derive all of thier operating expenses from drug seizures.

Mind you, when I say *drug seizures* I'm not talking about drugs themselves but personal property and money seized from convicted or *suspected* drug dealers. In reality most of the people who have their property seized are never convicted of any crime and in all probability are not even guilty of one. It's a major bit of police state nonsense voted in by Congress trying to do something about the drug problem. The bad part is that when the law was passed it was widely acclaimed as a major step against the drug industry. Instead it has become a money raising technique for local law enforcement types. Being the paranoid type that I am, I have to suspect that they would be very tempted to allow a drug dealer to grow to the point where his property is worth seizing. Otherwise their income would fall. It's never a good idea to make any government agencies income depend on the *success* of a criminal activity!

Well at last we finally did get a flyer for DSC, in the mailing. I wonder how happy the people currently running the con are about the \$10.00 memberships that were sold at the DSC? I'm rather looking forward to the convention and am sorry that so many members of SFPA won't be able to attend. Maybe next year in Huntsville.

Challenger Submicron

Guy H. Lillian III

My goodness had you managed to lose your web site? I regularly back up a couple of different sites for friends and it's a relatively trivial job. If you ever get yours set up again, I'd be happy to back it up for you.

I am a little surprised that you consider *Crunching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* a science fiction movie. What isn't about it that you think makes it NSF movie? I liked it but think of it as the *High Noon* of martial art flicks.

As We May Think

Jeffrey Copeland

It's always amusing to read other people's predictions for future technology. In this case the writer did a great job of extrapolating existing technology to it's logical, if not always quite accurate, conclusion. Even the best predictions are thrown off by the introduction of completely new technologies. Some where around here I have a small set of vacuum tubes no bigger around then a pencil and only a inch or so long. They were to have made possible radios small enough to carry on

your person! Amazing technology developed at great cost, pity transistors did away with 99% of vacuum tube uses.

On the other hand, the “vocoder” is still in our future. I was using a new microphone and a new speech recognition program to do this zine but gave up because of all the errors. I still have a very slight cold and the system cannot recognize my voice. Speech recognition is a very good example of seemingly simple ideas that are almost impossible to implement.

Spiritus Mundi #182

Guy H. Lillian III

Gee just think, maybe someday you’ll get to defend the guy who lifted your wallet, assuming it was stolen.

I know just how you felt at seeing your ring on Rosy’s finger. Suzanne’s ring was designed for us by a local jeweler and I knew exactly what it was going to look like weeks before she got it but I still got all choked up when she put it on the first time. We had it designed to look like the gumball machine ring I first gave her as joke. Isn’t it amazing that women are willing to commit to life with men? I suppose it’s some genetic thing that overrides common sense to insure the species continues.

I recently had my first pass at jury duty in years. I had to wander down to the Fulton County Court at 8:15, which meant getting up about 5 hours earlier than I usually do, to present myself for jury selection. There were about 300 people in the waiting room. Roughly 40 of them were called in the first hour and none for the rest of the day. I can’t say that I was disappointed at not being on a jury, it’s a necessary job but not much fun. What did appall me was the waste represented by having at least 200 people spend a whole day sitting around doing nothing. It cost the city about \$5000 in jury pay plus all the work lost. There should be a better way of scheduling people.

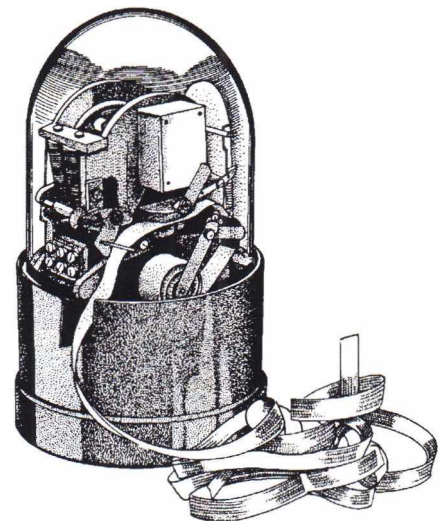
I found the mix of well-dressed business types, housewives, blue-collar types and “senior citizens” interesting. The jury pool in Fulton county is drawn primarily from the voter registration rolls so it does not truly, only a small percentage of people register to vote in Fulton, represent the population. I talked to quite a few people, practicing my social skills, and most were perfectly willing to “do their duty” but really resented the wasted time.

Offline Reader 21

Irv Koch

Sorry to hear about Kay’s medical problems. The house problems are all too familiar. I’ve had to treat for fire ants a couple of times and so far am managing to keep them under control. Our main house news is the decision to sell the Atlanta house and become full time Gilmer County residents. It will take a few weeks to get the house ready to list so I don’t expect to make the move to Ellijay until the end of the summer. It’s a good time to sell as houses in our neighborhood have been getting good prices.

Suzanne and I just like the peace and quite of the mountains a lot more than the traffic in Atlanta. I’ve got my hopes up that we will make a decent profit on the house. It’s in much better condition than when we bought it and general real estate prices





in our part of town have gone up. I suspect someone will buy it to rebuild or, even, tear down since the current fashion in houses runs to much larger and more elaborate than ours. It is sitting on a pretty lot in a quiet cul-de-sac so it might not be that hard a sell.

My own investing has not gone too well. It's not that I've lost money, I took my hit last year, but that I'm not having much luck finding any long term investments that I like. Right now I've got a lot more cash in my portfolio than is good.

Frequent Flyer

Tom Feller

I still miss my Grandfather even though he died almost 30 years ago. I have no memories of him when he wasn't very ill and I think that made his death even harder to bear. Somehow his illness, he died of cancer after a 20-year fight, was just a part of him and not something that implied his passing. He wasn't bothered by the thought of death. I can remember his comforting me when a family friend, one of my father's police buddies, was killed by explaining that the dead did not suffer and one should only feel sorry for the living. He truly believed that death was not necessarily a bad thing for the individual and I suppose that's why I feel that way today. Still I miss him.

This first part of this was done before DSC now we're into material typed after the convention.

Revenant #5

Shelia Strickland

Count me among those eagerly awaiting the *Lord of the Rings* movies. Suzanne has been reading the books to me, she likes to read out loud while I work on things like mounting 3D slides, and I find I like them even more now than I did all those years ago when I first read them. Let's see that would have been some time around 1964. The animated features based on Tolkien's work have all been pretty bad and my first reaction when I heard someone was filming the trilogy was along the lines of "not another bad movie of a book I love!" Now that I've seen the trailer, I'm getting my hopes up.

The Harry Potter movie looks like it could be fun. I like the people they've cast for the main rolls and that's half the battle. Just imagine the crowds for that opening weekend! I suspect it will set a new record.

Speaking of record openings, I did get to see *The Mummy Returns* and was very disappointed. The original was a decent action movie with some good effects. This was a collection of good effects with a little movie thrown in on the side. I suspect they just had too much money to play with.

Sorry about the 3D pics in *Technical Toys*. I'll try to run some that are a little easier to see in a future zine.

It was nice seeing you at DSC!

Twygdrasil and Treehouse Gazette #69

Richard Dengrove

It was nice finally getting to meet you!

I have always avoided new “super duper” computers because of just the problems you’ve been seeing. If the technology is really new, it always has a lot of problems. Suzanne bought one of the Dell 1.4 ghz machines and has had pretty good luck with it so far. Meaning not too many unexplained reboots or mysterious failures. One of my friends, who sometimes gets a little too good a deal on things, bought a 1 ghz machine and it’s almost unusable. It hangs up after only a few minutes running heavily graphics based programs. But fear not, Microsoft will have its new, stable version of *Windows* out this fall and that will fix all our problems.

Interesting comment there, Microsoft has allocated a record amount of money for advertising the new release. Seems they are worried that we won’t all run right out and buy it. I suspect sales will be disappointing. Most people are reasonably happy with the systems they have and see little reason to upgrade. I mean just how much machine do you need to surf the net? Now if they would fix Outlook so it wasn’t quite so friendly to virus writers, I might upgrade myself.

By the way, keep up to date on the video drivers. Most PC problems seem to be related to high performance video cards. I suspect you have an AGP card and those can cause system hangs.

Speaking of bridges, the dental sort, I don’t think I have as many as half a dozen unmodified teeth in my head. The bridges are in pretty good shape but the implants, I have 4, aren’t doing so well. So far I’ve had three bone grafts trying to save them. The basic problem seems to be that I had them done about 6 months before they discovered a problem with the inserts used to anchor the teeth. Now I’m told they are much more reliable. Come to think of it that sounds a lot like Microsoft.

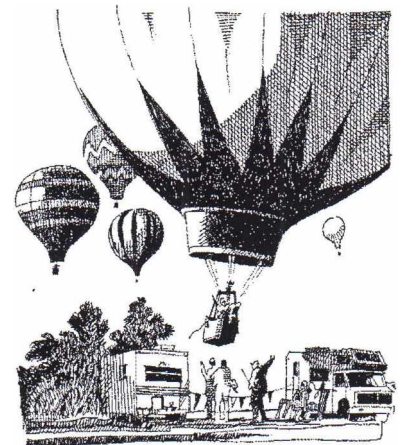
Don’t feel too bad about the price you paid for cell phone time. The phone companies have some very good people who spend all their time working out ways to hide the true cost of their service. Suzanne used to strike fear in the hearts of AT&T and WorldCom with the words, “I think we may have a problem with your bill.” She was never wrong and always in a position to prove the phone company had made a mistake. I suspect very few people truly understand their own phone bills.

Aristotle Meets Gernsback

Jeff Copeland

I once went to one of those awful management seminars, where they try to teach you the latest management fad buzz words, who’s main topic was the difference between “leadership” and “direction.” ‘Leadership’ was a good thing; ‘direction’ was what a bad manager, especially one who had not attended the seminar, did because he was too incompetent to provide leadership to his employees. We sat around at dinner that night and tried to figure out just what the guy giving the seminar thought the difference was between the two. We decided he didn’t actually have a very clear idea.

You should know that everyone at the table, except me, were ex military officers. They had a very decided view on what constituted leadership and it had nothing to do with slogans and buzz words. The “do this task by this date” is direction; leadership is making you



understand the companies goals well enough that you would decide, correctly, for your self what needs to be done.

Most companies are pretty good at providing direction but do a lousy job of providing leadership. The funny part is that leadership can be clearly conveyed all the way from the top of a company down to the lowest level. Direction is usually only conveyed downward one level at a time and frequently gets very distorted in the process.

I am curious, do you feel your boss demonstrates clear leadership? Clear enough that you could convey to someone who worked for you?

Dewachen

Trinlay Khadro

Welcome to the APA!!

Interesting zine, I like the centerfold format but I must admit I know little about the subject matter. I've studied Western religion for many years but know very little about Eastern beliefs.

By the way, you're the second person I know who has a pet ferret. What do you feed yours?

Trivial Pursuits #94

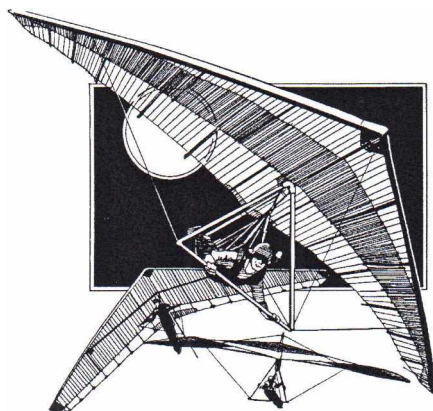
Janice Gelb

The stock option trap has gotten a lot of people lately. I was telling a friend about how you can get trashed by paying taxes on stock options you have exercised but not sold and he simply didn't believe me. He seemed to think that the government would never make you pay taxes on money you hadn't made yet. He just kept saying, "...but it wouldn't be fair!" As if there was anything fair about our tax system. I've always been of your opinion that incentive stock options are free money so why worry about them. The other good trap is taking loans against stock in your 401k.

Snow and Shmoozing

Janice Gelb

Your rental car troubles are right up there with my best war stories! I've only locked my keys in the car one time and that was way out in the middle of nowhere in South Carolina. My car at the time, a Fiero, is one of the hardest cars to break into. Fortunately I grew up hanging around used car lots so I finally worked out a way of getting in without breaking any glass.



Tennessee Trash #40

Gary R. Robe

You know one of these days we've got to make it to a Con cave. The con reports always sound like a lot of fun but somehow the timing just never seems to work out. I've gone caving all around that area and been in most of the public and private caves. I'll have to make a real effort to make next years convention

Congrats on your belt test! I never progressed beyond brown belt, though I made it there a few times, mostly because I usually get

bored with a given form of the art after 2 or 3 years. I have done the breaking three boards thing and do not recommend it. We heal much slower as we get older and the hand is very easy to damage.

Guilty Pleasures 18

Eve Ackerman

You may count me among the people who have bought *Pirate's Price* but not among those who have read it. I have made several attempts to read books off the screen and so far it just doesn't work for me. So I'm going to print a copy the first time I get a chance. I need to do that anyway since it's pretty hard to get a .pdf file autographed!

George Wells's Only An Idiot...

George Wells

So what do you think about the last *Buffy* episode? I have to admit I didn't see that coming. So what happens now? Does Dawn take over the Buffy role? I did like the bit where Giles killed the human form of the goddess. That was perfectly in character with the Giles we met in the first season.

Avatar Press 2.14

Randy B. Cleary

Upgrading PCs is usually a losing game. I tried to do a CPU upgrade on one we gave my niece and never did get it working right. Good luck!

I think I'm going to have to buy one of the *Babylon 5* novels. Your review makes them sound a lot more interesting than the usual worked over TV plots novel. I really like the series, especially the first season, and have a complete set of the episodes on SVHS tape. There were some good SF stories mixed in with the "plot" episodes.

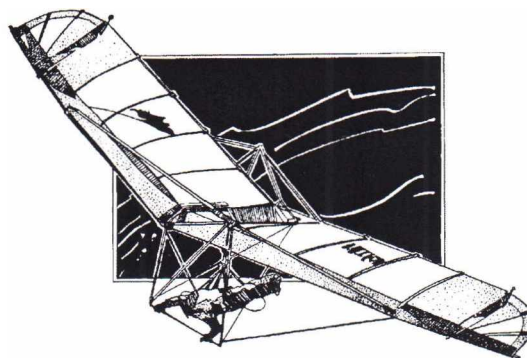
Oh, good luck with the house! I'm of mixed feeling about the joys of home ownership but that might have something to do with the plumbing problems I've been fighting lately.

Home with the Armadillo #46

Liz Copeland

One of these days I want to actually see one of these quilts you use as covers. They look really nice.

So Allie's turned 16. I suppose the belly piercing would have been more temporary than the tattoos. I can't help but wonder what a lot of these kids are going to think about the things they've done to their bodies in 20 years when the fads have all past. At least all I ever did was let my hair grow down to my shoulders and that was fixed with a pair of scissors and left no trace. Well that's not strictly true; whenever I start taking life a little too seriously I remember those days and that person. It helps to tone things down.



Passages #9

Janet Larson

Hey, cute kids! I used to hang around with two kids who were twins. They definitely did not like being lumped together as “the twins.” They were both boys and fought all the time except when anyone tried to pick on one of them. Then they were solidly together. I think the thing that annoyed them the most was getting the same of anything: toys, clothes, whatever.

Suzanne has a friend up in Boston with twins, boy and girl, and you would never know it. The boy is a foot taller than his twin and looks two years older. They are very close, much closer than most siblings, and don't seem to suffer from being twins.



Oblio #133

Gary Brown

Your new printer definitely does a better job than the old one. My own experience confirms your feeling that HP cartridges don't last as long as the Epson ones. On the other hand, HP inks don't seem to bleed through as badly as Epson inks. I saw a note on a news group claiming that HP, and some of the other companies, were deliberately reducing the amount of ink in their cartridges to improve sales. I don't know if it's true. I do

know that Epson has started putting chips in their new cartridges to stop third party cartridge sales. Hey when they virtually give the printers away they have to make money some how.

“Bush just lied to get votes” Oh come on now! Do you really think it would be a responsible act for the President to sign an agreement that would require US coal fired power plants to significantly reduce their power output at the same time that the US is facing the very real possibility of a major power shortage?

There are only two ways to reduce CO2 output from conventional power plants: 1. Reducing power output will reduce CO2 emissions, in some cases by a greater percentage than the power output reduction. 2. Major redesigns of the power plants to implement newer technologies can significantly reduce CO2 output.

The first option is simple and costs little. It doesn't even necessarily hurt the power companies' profits since they will simply raise their rates to make up for lost profits. It does reduce the power available, in the case of older plants by quite a bit.

The second option is the better choice, but takes a long time to implement and costs a lot of money. It also requires taking the plants off line for significant time periods during which, duh, they generate no power at all.

I think keeping our options open while we figure out what we do about our national power problems is exactly what the President should do.

I can't help but point out that your darling Mr. Clinton when he was running for his first term in office promised to support a tax cut for the middle class. In fact in the second debate in response to the question, “If elected would you favor a tax cut?” answered, “Yes I would support a tax cut for middle income Americans.” He then went on to speak at length about not engaging in “tax and spend” politics. Just to refresh your memory, Mr. Clinton announced, a few days after he won the

election, that he would NOT support a tax cut but would instead seek a tax increase!

I guess he just lied to get votes.

Me and My Monkey

Mike Weber

We too have scorpions here in Ellijay. After we first moved in, I found and killed 3 or 4 then we stopped seeing them in the house. I'm under no illusion that they are gone. The reading I did on them indicates they love houses and are virtually impossible to eradicate. On the other hand if you do in the bugs they feed on, they may leave for greener pastures out doors. At least the ones we have here aren't very dangerous.

By the way, the Model T was extremely reliable in large part because Ford didn't come out with a new version every year. I've actually driven one that a friend of my father's restored. It was pretty easy to drive. If Microsoft would put some time into fixing the current software instead of creating new versions they might have some decent products by now. Of course that would really hit their bottom line so it will never happen.

I wonder what the royalties on *Green Back Dollar* would amount to by now? Several million dollars I would guess.

The Sphere

Don Markstein

So you got your site up for \$44.95. Funny, a couple of years ago you could probably, with a professional presentation, gotten \$4.4million to launch it with from the venture capital guys. I think I like your approach better. If it works out, you own it; if it doesn't your not bankrupt. Good luck!

“YNGVI IS A LOUSE” and Other Graffitos

T.K.F. Weisskopf

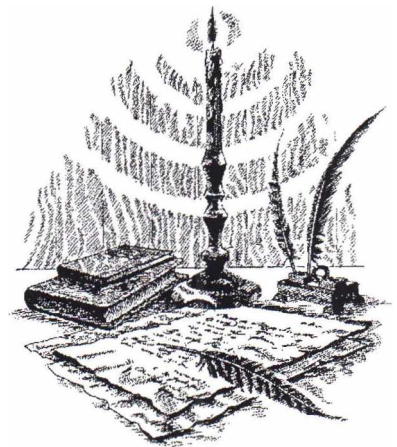
I loved your Voltaire quote! I've always considered government to have reached the end of it's usefulness when it spends more time trying to find ways to get more money from it's citizens then it does trying to find ways to improve the general good. Ours passed that point a long time ago.

I got hooked on reading other countries history's of the US when I translated part of a French text on US military history in high school. Now I try to watch the international news coverage on satellite as often as I can.

They rebroadcast foreign news shows with English translations. It's amazing how much is not covered by US news shows.

I liked Pat's article on the Electoral College but it's rather sad that there was any need to write it. It's disheartening to realize how little most people know about their own form of government and it's implementation. When I was a kid we had a course called “civics” whose whole purpose was making sure you did know how government worked.

I suspect the Electoral College is the most misunderstood of the entire electoral process. It's right up there with the idea so loudly



put forth in the wake of the presidential election that the election process is supposed to be "fair."

It's not.

It is supposed to be conducted in an **open manner** according to **rules uniformly applied to all voters in a given political entity**. There is no way to make sure every person is educated in the process of voting and understands what they are doing when they enter the voting booth. What you can do is provide them with the information they need and try to set things up so that voting is as easy as possible. The rest is up to the individual. If he can't be bothered to read the ballot or ask for help when he gets confused, then he has no one to blame but himself.

Of course there I go talking about personal responsibility again. Not a very popular concept with an increasing percentage of the population of this country.

