



Comments 8

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DSC

I really enjoyed the convention. It was fun seeing people and having a chance to just sit and talk. It was a really relaxed con and I spent most of it just enjoying the location. Hopefully I'll have a con report with photos in the next *Spider Pie*. Now I'm looking forward to RiverCon.

ELLIJAY

We finally got our house in Ellijay back from the contractor. Notice I've stopped calling it a "cabin" because people in my tax bracket don't own cabins with 3000 square feet of living space. Yes the garage almost doubled the size of the house. We still need to do the floors and ceilings in the new downstairs areas. We want to do something 'neat' with the ceilings and need to spend a little time thinking about it. Actually we have to do something unusual with the ceilings because the huge I-beams that hold up the garage floor are just a little too low to allow hanging a suspended ceiling.

The project only cost about 50% more than budgeted and took twice as long as the estimate so I suppose, by current standards, we're didn't do too badly.

3D CONVENTION

We went to the National Stereo Association convention in Phoenix the first of July. It was a very good con. For many years people interested in 3D were mostly collectors who bought old cameras and stereo views for their collections. They didn't use the cameras to take 3D pictures. The people who actually wanted to make 3D pictures were called "shooters" and considered 2nd class citizens. Now the "shooters" are taking over the hobby.

It's really a nice thing because now there are enough people interested in taking 3D pictures to justify producing new equipment. Slowly but surely new viewers and cameras are coming on the market. Unfortunately the new stuff is not cheap! Well I guess there are two ways of looking at it: The Stereo Realist, a standard 1950s camera, cost the equivalent of about \$1800 when it was new. A new RBT S1 stereo camera costs just over \$3000. The Stereo Realist was mass-produced while the RBT is made by hand. All in all, the newer camera is probably a pretty good buy. Humm, why are all my hobbies so expensive?

ULTRA LIGHTS

Planes I mean. While we were in Phoenix, I went out to the glider port and spent a day flying. It turned out my instructor was also an ultra light plane pilot and offered to give me a lesson in one of those. I loved it! It was just as much fun as hang gliding but you've got power and can go wherever you want. Now I want one of those planes.

A LITTLE DRIVE

Suzanne and I are about to leave on a little drive. We're going to drive up to RiverCon stopping overnight in Kentucky with an old friend, then on to Toronto see more friends, from there we go to Boston to see Suzanne's family and, finally, we drive down the East Coast stopping to see yet more friends. All in all it comes to about 3000 miles of driving but we'll get to see a lot of people we haven't seen in years.

Mailing Comments

The Southerner #215

Hey a new member! Good!

I've registered the name 'SouthernFandom.com' and can start on the web page as soon as we generate some content. I think it is possible to attract some new members from the web if we get things set up properly. There are a lot of people who enjoy playing with desktop publishing and have no place to show their work. If we let them know that's what SFPA can be for them, it should make membership attractive. In the old days keeping the SF content of the APA from dropping might have been a concern but these days I don't think it's a problem.

A Modest (Constitutional) Proposal

Jeff Copeland

Needless to say I'm 100% in favor of the proposed change. I don't think it takes anything away from the OE or the APA. In fact I think it merely changes the constitution to reflect the way the APA has always been run.

If you agree that the APA has always been run as a distribution only channel for member's publications, why do we need to spell it out now? Well the legal climate of this country is changing as publishers, feeling threatened by the rampant piracy seen on the Internet, are looking for creative ways to crack down on what they perceive as copyright violations. While I believe that no one would be successful in prosecuting SFPA *as a group*, we might have to spend a lot of time and money defending ourselves against such a suit.

This change is simply a way of making it a little less likely that anyone will ever try to sue us. It costs the APA nothing and does, I believe, reflect the reality of the APA's purpose.

Cool, If Obsolete, Toys

Steve A. Hughes

It was really funny how well the Color Tag stuff worked. All the times I tried to use it in the past, I'd only get about 10 percent usable copies. This time they almost all worked.

The New Port News 191

Ned Brooks

I plan on trying to use a remote mike with the voice input program. Several people I've "talked" with on the web tell me that you can get good results out of these programs if you take the time to train yourself to use it. I suspect it would be a much easier way for me to write since I wouldn't be watching the words and constantly going back to rewrite sentences.

You and I were talking about doing a ditto zine at Toni's last week and then I came home and found a story I'd written directly on ditto masters. I can't imagine writing on stencil



today. I mean there's no spelling checker! I found the story in a file folder full of bits and pieces intended for future APA zines. Of course it looks like the most recent thing in the file was written sometime around 1977.

It might be fun to get together with some other printing freaks and see if we could put together the equipment and supplies to do a memo or ditto zine.

You commented on the possibility that a steam engine in a plane might work better due to the cold at higher altitudes making the condenser work better. I would think that the lower boiling point would make the engine turn out less power. Interesting to think that you could get a steam engine to produce enough power to get a plane off the ground. Did the book say anything about how high / fast the plane could go with the steam engine?



This is Not a Minazine #99

Richard Lynch

Funny to read you measure distance by the time it takes to play classical selections. I have a couple of CDs of folk music I use the same way. Now I'm looking for an MP3 player that I can hook up to my car stereo so I can have enough music for long trips loaded.

Oh, the NRA has sponsored legislation, like the current Georgia handgun law, but somehow their support never makes the news. I never stop being amazed at how we all seem to work so hard at demonizing anyone who actually disagrees with us on any important issue.

Hope I'll be seeing you guys at RiverCon.

Revenant #1

Sheila Strickland

Welcome to the APA! My first SF book was *The Door Into Summer*. It really had a profound impact on my life and made me an SF fan at the age of 10. That would have been in 1957 or 58. I ran into fandom via the letter columns in SF magazines.

Good Con report!

Frequent Flyer

Tom Feller

I got a few calls about the "Love Bug" worm myself. I think anyone who received a message with the "I love you" tag line would have to be close to super human, or very dull, not to open it. One of my friends, who's very computer literate and a bit paranoid, got suckered by the worm because it was his birthday and the message came from his wife! I really couldn't fault his being taken in. I spent a day at my sister's gallery installing the latest security fixes for *Outlook*. It's a pity Microsoft produces such junk!

I'm working on a program that will let anyone put a cookie on my system then delete it as soon as I leave the web page. That way I won't have to put up with all those messages asking me if I want to

accept a *cookie* and they won't accumulate on my system. It's going to be set up so I can accept some *cookies* from trusted sources.

IT MAY BE BETTER TO LIGHT A SINGLE CANDLE THAN TO SIT AND CURESE THE DARKENESS, BUT HOW MORE EFFECTIVE TO BECOME A FLAMING IDIOT #1

George H. Wells

Nice seeing you at DSC. I hope you like the way the one shot came out. We've been seeing a lot of movies this year but *Frequency* wasn't one of them. I did like *Pitch Black* but thought they shouldn't have killed off the captain at the end. We saw *Fantasia 2000* at the local IMax theater and had mixed feelings about it. The choice of music and animation was good but blowing it up to IMax screen size showed every flaw in the drawing. A little kid sitting in front of us commented, "The screen has the jaggies." It was very distracting seeing it like a low-res computer monitor. I'm planning on going to see it when it makes it to the local theater on a normal sized screen.

The last movie we saw was *Dinosaur* and I loved it. The plot may have been simple but the execution was wonderful. There were little kids in the audience loudly telling their parents the proper name of each dinosaur as it showed up and it didn't bother me. Somehow having kids talking in a kid's movie doesn't bother me the way someone talking during the show normally does.

Guilty Pleasures

Eve Ackerman

On the drive back from DSC, I found myself wondering if you and Janice could have contributed to the one shot by dictating to the voice recognition program? Would asking the computer to record your words fall under the same class of actions as asking someone to push the buttons on an elevator to get you to your floor? Weird thought I know but I get bored on long drives.

Speaking of helmet laws, I've never believed in the mandatory use of safety equipment. Partly because I do honestly believe in the right of people to live their lives how ever they want as long as they're not directly harming someone else. I know you could make the argument that letting them

selves get injured does harm to "society" but I think that argument can be made for not eating right, not exercising, having "bad" thoughts, voting for Democrats... well you get the idea. That same belief makes me "pro choice."

Oh, I would never think of flying without a helmet or riding a bike without one but then that's my choice.

It was really nice seeing you at DSC though I have to admit it took me a moment to recognize you.



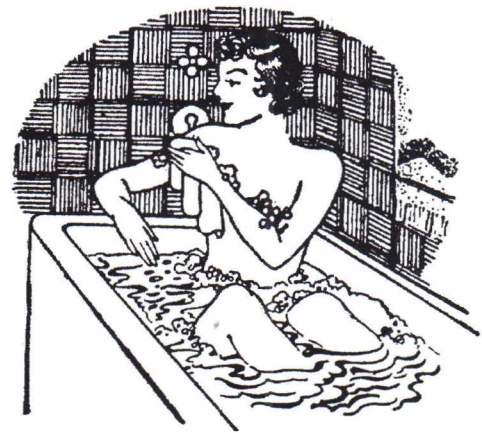
Home With the Armadillo #41

Liz Copeland

One of my main hobbies is 3D photography. In that world it's normal to send some stranger a large check and expect to get exactly what you ordered. Ebay has changed all that. Most of the

3D stuff is now on Ebay and the prices have soared. Worse still, items are frequently misrepresented! I suspect we're going to see some FTC investigations and, eventually, government regulation of online auctions. What I've seen on other auction sites, are items that suddenly aren't available if the bids are too low.

We were talking about allergies at DSC and the new medicines available to help cope with them. Claritin worked very well but caused my vision to blur just a little bit too much. Zertac had less side effects but made me very drowsy. So I decided to stop taking medication for a while and see what happened. So far I'm not doing too bad.



I don't think I agree with your comments about online messaging replacing APAs. There are people who like the instant feedback and others that like words on paper. I suspect that APA membership will drift more toward those of us who enjoy the production of zines. One of my 3D internet groups just decided to set up the internet equivalent of an APA.

Each member will post an original 3D photo to the net site every month. Then they'll all be mailed to each member. The intention is to use the Internet to collect the submissions but maintain the periodic nature of a mail exchange. I hope it works.

I have just switched keyboards. I was using the fancy, ergonomic, USB keyboard that came with my new Dell. Now I'm using an IBM keyboard I bought about 5 years ago. It was being sold off, with a lot of other stuff, because it was "obsolete" due to not having the "Windows" keys. I've switched back because it seemed to me that my typing was a lot slower on the new keyboard. I gave it a try because several people had told me the curved keyboard was a lot easier to type on. I think I disagree! Anyway on to more comments.

Cross-Train at the Office

Jeffrey Copeland

Actually I'm a big fan of a Microsoft breakup. Why? Well I think Microsoft has used, and is using, it's market position to suppress innovation and competition in the software industry. I mean really doing it!

In an industry the size of the American PC software market, there should be at least 3 or 4 major players. Just look at any other industry, like oil or appliances or automobiles or PCs, and you'll see what I mean. It's simply not normal to have no competition.

In the normal course of events some little company would develop a killer product, sell a lot of them and use the revenue to develop a good word processor or spreadsheet. Soon Microsoft would have a real competitor. But that is not allowed to happen. As soon as anyone develops a nice product, Microsoft either buys them out or suddenly starts giving away a version of their product. No company can compete with free!

What about innovation? Well Microsoft doesn't do that. The technology behind *Windows*, a graphical interface and a mouse, was developed by Xerox; net browsers came from the academic



world; peer-to-peer networking was developed mostly by Artisoft; I can't think of a single Microsoft contribution to basic computer technology.

I think the Justice Department's plan to split Microsoft up into an application company and an operating system company makes great sense. Oh, while I'm thinking of it, Novell is an operating system company that made a lot of money until Microsoft starting giving it's product, server operating systems, away for pennies. Needless to say, as soon as they had Novell on the ropes, Microsoft raised its prices on NT!

The pure applications company, part of Microsoft would have to face the reality of making a profit on it products and would not have the money from operation systems sales to subsidize give aways. On the other hand, everybody would have equal access, in theory anyway, to new operating systems developments and support. Another big plus might be a slow down in operating systems development.

Today Microsoft manages to screw up every standard anybody tries to put in place. Take Java as a good example. Then they propagate their own new standards at dizzying rate. Maybe the break up would give them time to work on the current software and actually get it to work. I'm not just being a smart ass with that comment. *Windows* really is a pretty bad piece of software.

Anyway, I doubt that it will happen, unless the Supreme Court takes the case, because Microsoft has done a pretty good job of buying itself a congress and a president. In the mean time, I spent the last three days getting Red Hat 6.2 working and I'm going to load Corel *Office* next week. Getting off Microsoft products is my own small rebellion against the Evil Empire.

Spiritus Mundi 177

Guy H. Lillian III

The Chicon Hugo nomination certainly makes a good cover!

Half cent copies sounds almost too good to be true. I figure it costs me about 4 cents a page to print on my laser printer. I've been looking hungrily at one of the new HP color laser printers. The price has gotten down to the point where it's not impossible but the cost per print is still pretty high. Someone recently pointed out that "pretty high" is relative and color laser is cheaper then ink jet. I'm going to see what's new at Comdex this fall and then probably buy one.

Your problem with your accountant almost checking out right at tax time is scary. I can just imagine the mess I'd be in if that happened to me. The lady who does my taxes has her own small firm but she's the only one who really understands the logic behind some of my returns. I'm not going to feel safe until I'm past the IRS statue of limitations. Not, mind you, that there's anything flaky about them. It's a matter of very complex transactions and returns based on the incredibly complex AMT rules. The IRS very nicely lays the burden of keeping records to support your returns on you.

Your comment on the rarity of competent, well balanced cops, is quite true. They are hard to find. In part, I think, because the general public has such a poor opinion of cops and tends to pay them rather badly. I suspect policeman fall under the same rule as politicians: you get what you deserve.

Trivial Pursuits #89

Janice Gelb

We now have both DSL and cable modem. They both run at about the same speed, the cable modem is a little faster, but the cable modem is a lot more erratic. I've decided to cancel it as soon as our contract expires. Right now I'm in the progress of hooking it up to my new Red Hat 6.2 server. I wanted to hook them both up so I could switch back and forth but there doesn't seem to be an easy way to do that in *Windows*.

Speaking of new toys, Suzanne picked up a new Canon digital camcorder. I wanted to tape our attempts to learn to hang glide and our old, very old, S-VHS camcorder just wasn't up to it. Now I'm looking for a FireWire card for my PC so I can download from the camera to my PC.

I saw one of the cameras like the one you bought and it's really nice. I love the panoramic feature. I try to do the same thing with Suzanne's camera but it's really hard to get a series of pictures that will line up properly.

Offline Reader Volume 1 Issue 16

Irv Koch

It was fun reading over your portfolio. You're a little heavier into real estate then I'd feel comfortable being but the overall income is pretty nice. The stocks I'm holding at the moment are all long term, stuff like Coke and GE, and I have no intention of selling them any time soon so most of my loses are paper loses. The only really risky stocks I hold are people like Corel and Borland and my exposure is pretty low. The only stock I've written off is Red Hat and I really blew it on that one. Of course even Red Hat may turn around if I wait a while. Say 100 years! Oh well.

I saw your note about getting together. It's a great idea but I have had a hard time getting in touch with Joe and Glen. Maybe one of these days.

Derogatory Reference 95

Arthur D. Hlavaty

Ouch, that was a tough light bulb. I've started using the very long life bulbs in any fixture I can't reach. We have a couple of outside bulbs that require 20-foot ladders and they make me very uncomfortable.

I didn't know you were a student of General Semantics. I ran into Korjebksi (sp?) at a very early age and was fascinated with his ideas. Then I managed to talk the Copperhill Librarian into getting me some of the other works in the field. It was a way of looking at life that just made sense to me. It still does. I've been amused to see General Semantics reemerge in the disguise of *Systems Engineering*. There's a great book on the subject, *General Principles of Systems Design*, that you might enjoy.

I've always thought General Semantics would have attracted a much wider following if only it had been called some thing else. I was actually looking for a book on Semantics when I found I was reading one on how to think. Of course most people seem to think



they know how to think and don't seem to realize it's not something you just naturally know how to do. It's like sex, everyone thinks they're good at it and almost no one is.

It's funny you should talk about how to give people orders. I once attended, was sentenced to 3 to 4 days at, a seminar on proper management technique. The whole thing was intended to help technical people become managers. It was given by someone who had never met a real techie and had no idea how to manage technical people. He spent what seemed like hours on the subject of "How to Give Orders Without Offending." The whole point seemed to be that you should never say "Do that" but always phrase things as a request or in a fashion that made it a mutual decision.

Now most of the people I've every known were pretty much aware of where they stood in the power structure and under no illusions as to when they were being given orders. I think most people are happier when they either get clear orders or are honestly part of the decision process. The idea that you can make people "feel" like they are involved in decisions when they are NOT shows a pretty poor opinion of the general intelligence level. But then I've never really believed that changing the words you call things in any way changes the way you think about them.

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #64

Richard Dengrove

Why did I think SFPA got to be too hostile? Well the OE was having problems getting mailings out on time, there were some problems with the treasury, I perceived a couple of members as starting fights just for the fun of it and the Egoboo Poll had become controversial. The combination of all these resulted in mailings where there was always something I found upsetting. At that time I was having a very difficult time at work and needed a hobby that was relaxing not one that added to the stress.

I don't know how much it comes through in my writing, but I normally try pretty hard to avoid conflict and emotional arguments. I find enough things in day-to-day life to upset me without seeking them out. That's why there are some things I just don't talk about in the APA. You may

remember when I was starting to write a lot about Clinton and the Democratic Party and then suddenly stopped. I stopped because personal feelings were starting to creep into the discussion and I knew that that would greatly reduce my enjoyment of the APA.

Your right about the low quality of Studebakers produced near the end of the company's production. Studebaker's management totally messed up the conversion from war production to civilian vehicles after WWII. They failed to update their production methods and totally lost control of production cost. It's said that no one in the entire company knew what it cost to produce a car. Sad, since they were a first rate design company with a lot of very innovative ideas. They actually invented the modern small car years before the rest of the American manufacturers caught on. I still want to own another Hawk.



Passages #5

Janet D. Larson

I've tried to type in the car but never had any luck. The bouncing of the screen and shaking of the keyboard make me a little sick and send my typo rate into the stratosphere.

Glad to hear the pregnancy is going well! I can't imagine how people cope with twins. One of the people I used to work with had two pairs in a row. First two girls, then a girl and a boy. We all told her she needed to think very seriously about birth control.

Avatar Press

Randy B. Cleary

Nice illos!

I tried fencing at one point, quite a few years ago now that I think of it, and really enjoyed it. I remember being surprised how energetic a sport it is since it looks like the fencers are not moving all that much. I discovered the advantage of point over edge from a documentary film I saw on TV when I was a kid. We were always "sword fighting" using the slash, slash, slash style so popular in the movies. When I suddenly started poking people with the end of my "sword" it caused a lot of bad feelings.

Peter, Pan & Merry #29

David Scholsser

Random's distaste for taking vitamins might have a real basis. I don't know what kind your giving him but I vividly remember the problems I had swallowing large pills when I was a kid. I could never get the problem across to my parents. I had to take a lot of pills, 6 or 7 a day, for a few years. Ironically, the problem they were intended to treat turned out to be a bad diagnosis!

I'm very surprised you were able to find someone to patch your carpet. My experience has been that it always costs just as much to fix a carpet as it does to replace it. We had the carpets replaced in the basement in Atlanta and the master bedroom and everyone we talked to gave us quotes within a few dollars of each other.

The Sphere Vol. 186

Don Markstein

We were in Phoenix a couple of weeks ago and I couldn't believe the changes. It's only been 4 or 5 years since I was last there but the city has grown almost out of recognition. I was attending a 3D photography convention out in Mesa. You guys even have smog!

Tennessee Trash #35

Gary R. Robe

The first thing that strikes me in your zine is the comment about Eastman's board of directors. I can't imagine trying to be an executive in a company where the board could turn over every year! For one





thing, it would make it very hard to find quality people willing to serve on the board. New board members are expected to take substantial stakes in the companies stock and usually do so in anticipation of having enough control to make sure the company makes money. Then again losing a board seat is very career negative and members would run the risk that they would get fired simply because the company had a bad year. It's already hard to get company boards and senior management to plan beyond the next quarter. They get so focused on the Street's opinion of the company's numbers for the last 10 minutes that they just refuse to make tough decisions. Some times you have to have a bad quarter or even a bad year to get the company positioned for the future. Oh my, did you push one of my buttons!☺

Buffy is still my favorite television show. *Sex and the City* was gaining ground until this season but it's really going down

hill. I will say that I liked the first two seasons of *Buffy* a lot more then the current one. Mostly because the focus was a lot more on neat plots and less on developing the characters. I'm hoping it will come out on DVD so I can own the first year's episodes.

It was good seeing you at the con. By the way, those little scorpions, like the one you found in your hotel room, are common in Georgia and Tennessee. Fortunately they only have a mild, about like a bee, sting. We've killed several of them at our place in Ellijay and one in Atlanta. They like to live in houses.

Oblio No. 128

Gary Brown

So you're actually a criminal who's violating your patrol from a Texas jail. How come that doesn't surprise me? Seriously though you'd be amazed how much hassle mix-ups like that can cause you. You were right to not give out information on the phone, especially you SSN. I just hope the cops didn't pick up at work or something equally silly.

Nice *Flash* reprint! I always liked that comic when I was a kid. One of my aunts gave me their son's old comics and it had things in it that are worth a fortune today. Pity I didn't keep my comic collection but we sometimes moved 3 or 4 times a year and that made it hard to keep anything.

You asked about the voice input programs correction capability. It's actually pretty good and will accept commands like "erase that last word" or "change that from lower to upper case." With a really good mike and quiet room, its accuracy is very good. I'm looking for a wireless mike to use with the program.

"YNGVI IS A LOUSE" and Other Graffitos #65

T.K.F. Weisskopf

Let me say right up front that I love the cartoon you reprinted. It exactly sums up my feelings in the Elian Gonzalezs case. I've always been amazed how political cartoonists can sum up a complex issue in one picture.

You're right about there not being a *monolithic gun lobby* but I think there will be. More and more of us who are normally pretty politically apathetic get passionate on this issue. The anti gun forces run the very real risk of creating the boogey man they've been scaring people with for years: a determined and organized group willing to defend their freedom with force.

I enjoyed Hank's article. You know its kind of funny how you only hear one side of the political debate in this country. Even the news shows that pretend to air both sides of an issue usually pick a Harvard professor to take their side and some red neck who dropped out of 3rd grade to represent the opposing viewpoint. I'm not even going to get into the distortions of the truth that have become commonplace.

mikey doesn't work here any more

Mike Weber

The Cruel Sea is a good book. It is, of course, a work of fiction and in practice the British navy was not quite so kind to its enemies. The *Bismarck* is a good example. After they sunk it, the British ships sailed off and left over a thousand Germans to die in the sea. Later, when it stopped being politically correct to kill Germans, they put out an unsubstantiated story that submarines had been spotted in the area. If you want to read a book that shows this side of the story read *The Enemy Below*.

Pity the world can't be a romantic place where you can find something noble in men even in the worst circumstances. The problem is that idea dies in the harsh light of truth.



