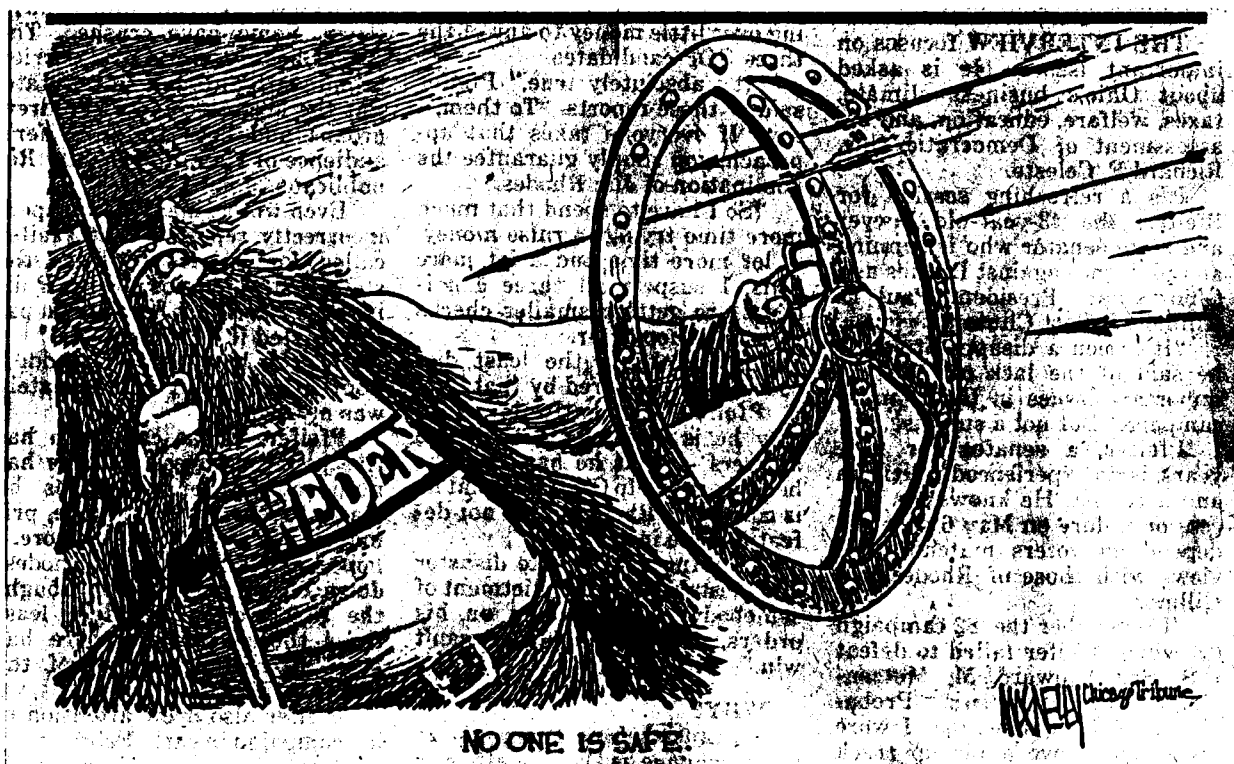


Fantasy Rotator 525



Alas, No one

DRY RUN # 22

The Roster
FR #525

#	Pub	Date	Name/Address	524	525
1		9/29/86	Warren Salomon 1230 City Nat'l Bank Bldg, Miami FL 33130	Y	N
2		10/20/86	Richard Court 743 Kenbrook Dr.?* 415 S. Dixie Dr. , Vandalia OH 45377	Y	Y
3		11/10/86	<i>* sticker on letter envelope - No change?</i> Johnny Lee 3705 Cedar Hill, Houston TX 77093	N	Y
4		12/01/86	Dian Hardison 4687 Sisson Road, Titusville FL 32780	Pub	Y
5		12/22/86	John Conlon 52 Columbia Street, Newark OH 43055	Y	Pub
6		04/14/86	Megret Stull 54349 O'Keefe Rd., Dowagiac MI 49047	Y	Y
7		05/05/86	AW/KG Weinstein 859 North Mountain Ave. #18-G, Upland CA 91786	Y	N
8		05/26/86	Alan Lankin 4525 Pine St. #14, Philadelphia PA 19143	N	X
9		06/16/86	Dal Coger 1433 W. Crestwood, Memphis TN 38119	Y	Y
10		07/07/86	Dave Rike P.O. Box 11, Crockett CA 94525	N	Y
11		07/28/86	Michael J. White 3404 87th Street, Lubbock TX 79423	Y	Y
12		08/18/86	Yale F. Edeiken 1590 Alta Dr. #D-16, Whitehall PA 18052	Y	N
13		09/08/86	George Scithers P.O. Box 8243, Philadelphia PA 19101	f/r	Y

THE Anxious AWL

- 1) Candice Massey, 8107 Brace Street, Detroit MI 48228
- 2) Peter Rowe, 8458 Auburn Rd., Detroit MI 48228
- 3) Cathy Fitzsimmons, 200 S Ridgeland Ave, Oak Park IL 60302
- 4) Dian Crayne, 1717 6th Street, Manhattan Beach CA 90266
- 5) Gregg T. Trend, 16594 Edinborough Rd., Detroit MI 48219

p/c
f/r
N
Y
N

THE Impertinent IWL

- 1) Marie Bartlett, 834 W. Lakeside Place, Chicago IL 60640 N
- 2) Steve Swartz, 19103 Canadian Ct., Gaithersburg MD 20879 N N Z
- 3) Teresa Troutman, P.O. Box 2803, N Z Z
Fort MacArthur, San Pedro CA 90731
- 4) Kathleen Hodgkinson, 10025 Aspen Circle, N Z
Sante Fe Springs CA 90670
- 5) Debra Metcalf, 7611 SW 48th Court, Miami FL 33143 Y
- 6) John Betancourt, 410 Chester Ave., Moorestown NJ 08057 N
- 7) Dick Eney, P.O. Box 589, Bladensburg MD 20710 N
- 8) Brenda Hickey, c/o ~~Leader Nursing and Rehab Center,~~ Y
~~Room C-78, 800 King Russ Rd, Harrisburg PA 17113~~ ~~N~~ C/A*
- 9) Janice Morningstar, 49 Leland Drive, Novato CA 94947 N
- 10) Martin Wagner, 642 Cherrybark, Houston TX 77079 N

Limbo:

Must Write: Salomon, AW-KG, Y

OA: Johnny Lee, 3705 Cedar Hill Rd., Houston, TX 77093

Next Pubber: Megret Stull, 54349 O'Keefe Rd., Dowagiac, MI 49047

Official Nonsense:

A petition is before the membership to replace all Cultstitutional references to a "postcard" ballot with "written ballot, separate from other written materials". The vote will occur NEXT ISH; don't forget to vote!

BRENDA L. Hickey Hwy Towers Apt 306 301 Mohr St SIELTON PA 17113

Candice	(313) 846-0066
Meg	(616) 782-8312

Dear Smokey and CULTics,

Before I say anything else, I am announcing LatePub, though I don't intend to use it. Pre-printed material will be included only if my postage budget can afford it. Copy count should be current number of Cultics plus 5. There is no cheap photocopying available, so stuff will be reproed via mimeo, ie re-typed and edited if necessary. If you want to save me some typing time, you can upload an ASCII file to Babble, 8 data-1 stop-no parity, at 616-782-9162 between the hours of 7 PM and 9 AM (ie nights ONLY). When asked for a password, use CULT. Deadline for computer submissions is 9 AM Saturday, April 12. If anyone wants an ASCII copy of the Cultstitution, download a file named CULTRULE.ASC. (Johnny, are you listening? It's silly to retype the thing if you can get access to a modem some night.)

Mailing Comments to FR #524

Smokey: I recently heard a story that reminded me of some of your bizarre tales. It seems that a lady laid a fire in her fireplace, then climbed into the fireplace, stood in the chimney, and lit the fire beneath her. Weird way to commit suicide, yes?

Dal: Can you please expound on the qualitative differences between "gemeinschaft" and nationalism? I thought the classic example of gemeinschaft was pre-WWII Nazi Germany -- and that seems awfully close to just plain blind nationalism...

Michael: I'm all for having Micky reinstated, even against her will if necessary, but ... well ... We can reinstate her, but can we make her write?

Yale, George, and Johnny: Considering that each of us managed to come up with a different phrasing for last cycle's amendment to Article VI sec. 2, is it safe to conclude that the wording of the original petition was incredibly vague? Maybe we should just toss that vote out and start again, since it's relatively obvious everyone had a different idea as to what we were actually voting on...

Dian H: Well... Bicycles don't harm the environment, and the exercise is good for you. *chuckle* I never realized Uncle Sam had such a nasty sense of humor. // I miss Pam too. Lots. Especially when I'm feeling sorry for myself. She was so good at finding the ridiculous aspects of my self-pity... My life is certainly richer, even though I only got to know her for such a short time. It almost sounds as though you are angry with her for abandoning you... I mean, I know she didn't exactly like the idea of dying, but, at that point, there wasn't a lot she could do about it... // "Betrayal"--yeah, that sounds like the perfect word for NASA's actions! And it sucks. // The dolphins and the memorial wreath? CBS got footage of it. It was on TV that night, and it was spectacular! // Hang in there, Dian, as long as you possibly can. In part, all of our dreams of space depend on you and your co-workers. We can only dream, but y'all can still fight to make all of our dreams of space come true.

Go gently all, and go with God,

Megret
Megret

OAish Stuff: George and Yale are both right in that I erred with the new wording of Article VI:2. It was a mistake on my part. However I must point out that George's interpretation of said ruling as given in his recent f/r 523.999, is not the way that the original amendment did read. The article number referred to in the wording is incorrect and assumed to be a typo.

Next comes the problem I have with the phrasing of the amendment that was passed. It was for that reason that I wrote the amendment the way I did (keeping in mind that I did forget to leave out the stuff about negative votes and I thought the stuff about 9 votes was already covered in Article VI:5 [I misread it]). Specifically, the way that George wants Article VI:2 to read means repeating the same basic wording as regards discussion FR's for all Petitions, as given in Article VI:1, just above.

I dislike repeating stuff back to back. But that's you all's problem now. I hope any and all Petitions to come up after this are worded well. It's so easy to mess up (I know, alas).

For reference: the Petition that changed Article V:1 was given in FR 513 and the Petition that changed Article VI:1 and Article VI:2 (the first time) was given in FR 514. The wording I gave each was slightly different in both cases than the petitioners presented, in order to make the amendments more understandable (as I saw it). Their official forms were given in FR 522. Since I recieved no complaints about these changes I have no plans to reverse any Rulings which made them legal.

Article VI:2 was petitioned about once more in f/r 520.13 and an incorrect wording and Ruling was given in FR 523.

OFFICIAL RULING / Correction to Article VI:2 --

VI:2. Petitions to amend the constitution require 7 affirmative votes to pass. Such Petitions to amend are discussed as in VI, 1 above and also in the FR after that, with the FR editor next after the second discussion FR acting as Teller. However, Petitions to amend which have the effect of expelling one from the Cult or the Waiting List require 9 affirmative votes to pass.

All other Rulings made by me regarding earlier versions of this article are hereby null and void.

OFFICIAL VOTING RESULTS ON AMENDMENT:

Yes: 9 / No: 1 / Abstentions: 3.

Happy George? I was the deciding vote.

I still don't like the way it reads. But it does solve some problems.

As usual, if anyone dislikes any of my recent Cultstitutional changes, please feel free to utilize Article VI:3.

MEA CULPA: I also made a boo-boo regarding Joyce Schrivner's Limbo status. Sorry about that. The point is irrlevant since she never wrote and is still Out.

REGARDING THE PETITION BEFORE THE MEMBERSHIP

As stated in FR 523 I want to do this, simply in order to give folks an option regarding the mailing of ballots. With all the recent mail problems we have had with post cards, I feel it is needed. The reason for the wording is to prevent some joker from placing a ballot in the middle of some other written material and causing folks problems with either finding it, or perhaps mailing it back. It does not (I believe) mean that said ballot cannot be mailed along with other material, so long as both are not on the same paper/material/whatever.

At about the time FR 525 is to be mailed out I will put out a f/ractional that details each place such a wording change would affect, as well as a ballot (post card, alas). This is to make it easier for editor Stull to tally up the votes.

Sorry about everything, folks. I'll quit trying to do my best and fall back on being "wicked and evial." Which is what George wants, I think.

Why do I keep hearing rumors concerning even more Petitions that are in the works?

Johnny M. Lee (DA)



7

Martin Wagner's Son of Wagnerama

c/o MARTIN WAGNER
642 CHERRYBARK • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079
(713) 932-7638

8 March 1986

Dear CULT-at-large:

First, let's clarify one thing.

The half-page idiot-blither near the back of FR 523 was not written by me, and anyone who is remotely acquainted with me or my writings would have picked this out in a second. It was, in fact, written (if that's the word) by Johnny M. Lee, who, in a valiant attempt to destroy whatever vestige of reputation I might have left, accosted me one day and informed me that if I didn't get a letter in to him right quick (after all, he had been trying to get me into the Cult for about five years), he'd write one himself and put my name to it and send it in and be done with it.

"That's not necessary, Johnny. Besides, you can't afford the legal fees."

"Well, it's not as though you haven't had four weeks notice about this," he retorted. Not even Johnny is so tactless as to bring up the preceeding four-and-11/12 years.

"I'll get you in the letter. Don't worry about it. It's not exactly top priority with me, you know; I do have other things on my agenda." Like my own zine, and school, and the several movie scripts I've been putting off.

But in the end, if only to get him off my back, I acquiesced and let him write the letter.

I had no idea it would be the absolutely moronic drivel that it turned out to be.

The sheer blatant mindlessness of that missive leads me inexorably to the conclusion that Johnny Lee was operating with malicious intent. It just doesn't make much sense; I'm still puzzling out why, after all these years of trying to entrench me in the ranks of the Cult, he'd do his level best to fuck up my standing in this esteemed (you are esteemed, aren't you?) organization from the outset. The only answer I can come up with is as hopelessly inane as the nature of the puzzle: "Well, that's Johnny." Johnny has always been an expert at doing first and thinking later, and this is a textbook example of that rather questionable trait. When he showed me his copy of FR 524 (I'm curious how, on the cover, it de-aged 100 issues), with its occasional responses to "my letter," he mumbled an apology and admitted he might have gone a bit far. When I got my copy of FR 524 the next day (the day that I'm writing this letter, in fact), and read through it, I had to agree. Gee, Johnny, maybe you did. Dust off the old cerebrum once in a while!

I don't know how things march in fannish circles elsewhere in the country, but in Texas, fandom, among other things, is the refuge of the terminally immature. Personal and practical jokes fly about with such impunity that it's common for people to forget that there is a threshold beyond which a joke is no longer a joke and you're really starting to piss someone off. As a kid, which most fen seem to be overlarge examples of, the worst that can happen to you is a black eye or a weekend's grounding. As an adult, which most fen are but don't realize it, the worst that can happen is a lawsuit in the tens of thousands of dollars. Since most fen likely grew up as the school nerd, they've doubtlessly come to think that goofball pranks and gags, which they have often been the butt of, are a way of life. A similar example: if your dad beat the shit out of you when you were a kid, you're going to beat the shit out of your kid. Simple. It is the norm. What else have you known? Thus, the explanation is simple.

8

It's okay in fandom to libel or slander somebody because "they'll know it's a joke, they'll think it's funny." Well, guess again. Johnny's letter is not exactly a case of libel, but it's a case of thoughtlessness, which is very close; I have been libeled once before in a fan publication, but I was 17 at the time so I let it ride. I won't let it ride again. There are those of us in fandom who move liberally in other social circles as well, and there are those of us who have a slightly different worldview when it comes to these matters.

Therefore, to the rest, I say: use your heads. And if need be, grow up. Some. So, those of you who responded to "my letter" in the last FR (Michael White, who is one of my subscribers, commented on one of my reviews but didn't seem to catch any inconsistency with the letter, interestingly enough) weren't really talking to me anyway, so I can't answer your questions. So, Warren, if you want Johnny to amuse you, all I have to say is good luck; the harder he tries the less funny he gets. As for his being deranged, well, take that up with him. And to Dian Crayne, aka Bawdy Jane; I think Johnny's "preversion" is also something you'll have to approach him about. As for my status in that clique--well, I'm not sure; I suppose it depends on your definition. No one's ever told me for sure. Most girls I've been with have been too exhausted to call me anything. (And if you believe that, I'll send you a free autographed copy of the Johnny Lee Etiquette Guide. See, I do have a sense of humor.) By the way, "Jane," how "bawdy" are you?

Anyway, on to bigger, better, lighter, friendlier, funnier things. I am glad to be on board, though I don't really know how much good it will do me since my coming was heralded not with a bang but with something on the order of a large fart.

THE CHALLENGER: Farewell. Amen.

SON OF WAGNERAMA: The "S.O.W." some of you read in "the letter" may take a bit of explaining, so here we go. Back in 1982, I began writing SF and fantasy book reviews in a column called the "Wagnerama," in a crudzine entitled Mathom, the periodical zit that appeared on the nose of the Houston SF Society about once every twelve years or so. My reviews drew comments from all quarters and I decided to go solo with them. So late in the summer of 1982, I printed my own Wagnerama fanzine, which died such a nasty death I shiver to remember it. For a few years following, I dropped out of SF reviewing, and, largely, out of SF fandom, since I suddenly found myself busy attempting to survive post-adolescence. Finally, at the beginning of last year, with all of the nastiness of youth behind me, I revived my reviewzine and christened it Son of Wagnerama.

When the readership began to expand beyond the small circle of friends who were familiar with the earlier spasms I'd had years back in the HSFS, I began to subjugate the "Son of" part of the title, & broadened my contents. Today, S.O.W. is one of the biggest fanzines in Texas. I think a little over a hundred people read each issue. I've lost count.

It's something I do because it's a lot of fun, which I think is the essence of fandom. And as long as my readers like it, I'll keep doing it. Johnny, KT, Michael White, and Meg Stull are the Culties who subscribe. Needless to say, I'm happy to have y'all and everyone else on board. Anyone want a sample? Mail me a buck!

Well, gotta run. I offer apologies to any property damage caused by any tectonic plates this letter might have dislodged. Johnny and I are good buddies, but some things can ruffle the feathers. Know what I mean.

Till whenever,


MARTIN WAGNER

COGER
Mar 16, 86

Dear John et all,

Spent last weekend at Cave Con in Park City, KY. A nice relaxicon with a better than average (for them) huxter room and nice parties. This year they had some 200 plus, which is a record I believe. Greta and I attended about 8 SF conventions last year, along with miscellaneous professional meetings. Greta has been to several teachers' conventions but for me this was my first "fix" since Austin in August and I enjoyed it hugely. Picked up three or four small press books: 2 Gnome and 1 Fantasy Press, plus a Polaris Press, etc. One book in hardcover that should be a must for everyone is The John W. Campbell Letters, Vol.1, in hardcover. It is a beautiful book with a small portrait of the great man, holding his cigarette holder and looking serious, drawn by Kelly Freas, on the cover. The process is one in which the picture is on the front cover proper, and there is no dust jacket. Hard covers go for \$35, about average for a university press book (which this is not) and paperbacks for \$5.95. Greta bought two cases, 72 of the paperbacks, some of which we will sell at cost to the local SF club for resale. Since the publication of volume 2 depends on the sale of this volume, this is a project that we should all get behind.

Thought I would include this short bit:

"No Time for That"

Even as I was writing this Greta was urging me to accompany her to a play at Rhodes College theater, Sheridan's "The Rivals." I had to say, "I'm sorry, but I have no time for that." Somehow that comment is one I am making more and more often these days. For a time, for example, I was watching "St.Elsewhere" on Wednesday evening, but regretfully, 5 minutes into the program last week I had to say, "I have no time for this," both a comment on the quality of the show and my priorities.

John P. Marquand in one of his books--I think it was So Little Time --has one of his characters observe, "I knew, for example, that I would never get to read all the books I wanted to read." I have arrived at the same condition. My age, I will be 63 in May, and miscellaneous health problems tend to make me more aware almost daily that my time is limited. Even if I can teach to the age of 70, there is too little time to finish the 4 or 5 books I want to see in print.

The theater and opera alike are areas where I invested a lot of time in learning a little and enjoying a lot. Shakespeare, for example, has been a preoccupation of mine for as long as I can remember. Since I was essentially self educated in the humanities outside of history, I did my BA in nightschool in the military, I tried very hard to learn about theater by reading and attending plays. Dee and I saw "Troilus and Cressida" at Stratford in 1948 and "Timon of Athens" in Zurich in 1952. The latter was simply incredibly good. I have perhaps three fifths of the plays on records and when I bought a reel to reel recorder some 15 years ago, started to tape the other plays. But I haven't listened to any of them in years. The same with the operas. I have most of the standards, and while my appreciation is limited, I enjoy "La Boheme" and "Butterfly" and "The Magic Flute" and a few others, but never play them.

Poetry and art are other things for which "I have no time." While my approach to any new subject has generally been, "If enough people enjoy this, then you should give it a listen or a look and discuss it with those who understand it." But so much poetry that is currently being produced is so subjective that the poet has to explain what he has written, an absurdity in communication equaled only by much non-representational art. I am sure in both

instances the profundities are there, but "I have no time for that."

All this is sad, because I still have the conviction that one should maintain an openness and interest in new things right to the end of the line. Those new or innovative ideas or inventions should not be strained or evaluated through a rigid set of values or opinions. But how does one make time for them? To say one should is not to say how. . . .Enough a'ready!!!

Most affectionately

Da
Coger

Alas, too true. I have noted many times that things slip by a lot faster than I can do anything about them. Old friends die, young ones age or sicken, and so forth. The things I took interest in get fouled up by time or clumsy movement by all wise gummint.

The enclosure on Campbell's letters lists address of AC Projects., Inc..R4 Box 137, Franklin TN 37064..

Hardcover-\$35(numbered) Paperback \$5.95//

Other workes listed by Goldin, Chapdelaine, leGuin, Reamy, van Vogt.....

Flip side lists Rheumatoid Disease Foundation. with a lot of works on various illls of man, woman, child, and possibly aardvark. Same box and address. Will include to Megret for use or pass onning.

While slicing hard rool for toasting a few days back, slicing knife went into left little finger abit. Said some appropriate words and bandaided it. Have tried Duco cement in lieu of costly New Skin since it recorvered a bit..Not healing badly for 68 and dia etic.

Media out sniffing strange sterns in bushes, seeking the Good Guys who all too soon become the Bastards in Benzes in Downtown Managua or Manila..

The NPA may give Aquino and Co a couple weeks ere they go into a full scale war. She is also talking to the Moros. She may convince them to eat pork a week before they have peace with the NPA...

Negotiate with the Nice Leftists. Yeah, like Panmunjom. They were talking before I got to Korea, during my tour, and after I left. They wre still at it 25 years later. It is 35 years and still no peace. If the Communists do anything better than relentless war, it is relentless bullshit without endd. But some day, surely, we'll get Meaningful Dialogue. We may also get dry water or wooden iron, to quote a founding father of that faith, one J Stalin.

Trudeau had a couple good bits in his cartoon, like a fugitive from Nicaragua who was talked into being Salvadorn due to the lads backing the strip's Relevant Priest being Lib Theologians. He also worked Uncle Doc in as a zombie..Best casting in years! Sometimes Trudeau sounds as if he had Brain One.

Good scary books- Deep Lie, Stuart Woods. CIA mole and family fuss almost let Sovs take over Sweden...

No EXit-Scott.. UK finds Sovs intend to protect them from us, aided by previous labor admin disarming Britain....

Odd mystery-Barbara Michaels. Skeleton in wrong plase, plus some psychic with bats in belfry..Be Buried In Rain. Turns out to be a 17th Century burying ground and a very real modern family skeleton. Good, and with background from Old Virginny...

The Ratel Rat-de Wittering...More Dutch police including a corp= oral from Friesland who looks good on cycle, and a fair amount of cops in bed, etc. And a man tearing out a cupboard wherein his wife committed adultery...Quaint....

Spring spzang and left, is now chilly and predictions of cold to kill a lot of things...@#\$\$%&*()+ $\frac{1}{4}$ " :?.

12

! " # \$ % & ' () * + , - . / 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; < = > ? @ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ ` a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z { | } ~ " # \$ % & ' () * + , - . / 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; < = > ? @ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ ` a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z { | } ~

RIKE ° PAGE THREE

! " # \$ % & ' () * + , - . / 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 : ; < = > ? @ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z [\] ^ _ ` a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z { | } ~

JOHN: a slight interruption here in the typing-up of my handcraft that was initially intended for Ms. Die-Hard to mention that you should be receiving it along with some other things that I've found around the house ... more on those later. A couple of things: (a) if amendments brot forth by Johnny are to be voted on at this time then I vote "N°O°!! on them. and

(b) I wish that you would mention on your roster page that I did indeed have a contribution in Dian's FR #524. It wasn't her fault that I wasn't credited for the cartoon you enclosed with one of your letters to her since you didn't tell her that I drew it and sent it to you for your last FR but you didn't get around to using it. Of course she might have guessed from noting the drawing style and subject matter but, hey, she's got alotuv heavier things on her mind than games like that ... like I hear on NPRadio how there's a possible lay-off for thousands of KSC workers because of the delays in the shuttle program. Which was brot to you by the same myoptic mba penny-pinchers whose 'thrift' killed more than 240 troops of the 101st Airborne at Gander, Nova Scotia back in December ... in a word, reaganomics.

[the print-out at the top of this page is a sample from a thermal dot-matrix printer. I wish it was as dark and as dense as this typer's print-out on this paper.]

like expectation

(continuing from where I left off at the bottom of p.2)...
... even I was tho since I didn't vote for him I didn't have any rosy expectations as to his performance ... I mean, here we have this of Johnny acting as a noble wise judge, dispensing justice for all, like a modern-day Solomon. When the two women dispute whose child an infant is, the biblical Solomon drew forth his sword and offered to cut the child in two, giving each a half. One woman is agreeable while the other loudly protests, deploring the suggestion, urging him to give the child whole to the other woman instead of harming him. In that way, so we are told, the wise Solomon was able to discover who the real mother was. Maybe the story wasn't real, but at least it's inspirational and gives us a goal to aspire to. So what does Johnny do? In effect he wrings the kid's neck, twists off his head, cleaves the body with his hands and flings arms and legs and other body parts hither & yon. But, don't hold it against the kid ... I mean he just couldn't help himself ... he didn't know that such strange dark passions lurked within himself, hidden in those dark corners of his mind, and that he was capable of things like this. Mere seconds of pleasure, yes, but what ecstasy!, what a great turned-on rush! Now, the problem is how to do it again, how to once again achieve those lofty vistas, far above mere rabble such as ourselves, no matter how bestial an act he has to commit. The acts are nothing to him, of no especial import you see, for they are merely a base means to a noble end, to get some more of that ever-lovin'High. Can anyone help him? Only sincere & non-threatening proposals will be considered. Suggestions that he marry a woman with a pack of kids, figuring that should settle him down and quiet his restless spirits will be scornfully rejected. Next thing you know, it'll be suggested he take up bowling and watching football games on tv, swilling down beer, just like 'most everyone else who lives on his block dahwn thar in Houston.

Back to the Real World (more-or-less) ... so why bitch when things

RIKE are back to 'normal' here in the Cult with everyone who
FOUR wants in the Bucket somewhere on the roster? Because there
was a 'gestalt' back before Warren's edict that while
fragile maintained itself for three yr.s which appeared, with
more additions to the iwl, to be getting better and all of this
somehow came crashing down around us after Warren, George & Johnny
finished up with their carnage. It's not just that Micky's missing
but rather the disappearance of the gestalt that I complain about.
She was a vital part of it and I hope if we can get her back into
the bucket that her contributions will help (along with the rest
of us) will help spark another gestalt.

Sure, Janice is back with us ... it's about time since she wrote
to every FRed since Mike didn't receive/print her letter to his
FR, plus communications to whoever was supposed to be OA at the
time including Johnny. It was only after the third letter from
Janice that it occurred to our OA that she wanted back in the
bucket and was writing a letter of application. Bright boy!

So What Happened to Steve? I don't know. At first it seemed he
was coming out here around the third week of January and then he
didn't answer/return Janice and I made to him and then nothing,
not even a response to a couple of cards from me. For awhile it
seemed that IBM was going to announce they were coming out an Unix-
based pc and then they didn't ... could that have something to do
with it? Your guess is as good as mine, maybe even better.
¶ My attending Corflu fell thru since I couldn't get the time off
work and other things unraveled so it became a no-go situation.
I dunno about this year's Disclave. Can I get time off work? Can
the other pieces hold together long enough to Do It: travel con-
nections, a place to crash, etc.? I don't know. I don't even
think about Atlanta ... the last time I had the opportunity to
attend a world con was 1968 when it was in the Bay Area (I didn't
since I was gafiating at the time & didn't know about it.). Other
than that it's not been possible to have attended one because of
work since most of my vacation-time was eaten up by the summer &
winter plant shutdowns. I did hope to have made it to LA in '84
but I got this job you see. I sorta expect the same problem to
arise this year. Sure it'd be great to appear on the Carl Brandon
- Fan Hoax panel with Terry Carr, Pete Graham & Bob Stewart and
talk about the Good Ol'Days and all that but first I gotta get
there and the pieces just don't seem to fit together for me. Of
course besides the objective conditions there's always the sub-
jective ones. Like, attending a con in a far away city in an ex-
pensive hotel isn't really fanac to me while sitting here on my
bed handrafting/typing up this letter is. One remains, for me,
an elusive goal about which I have continual hesitations & doubts
(Would it be worth it? Will I be able to meet & enjoy the company
of people I'd like to know or will I just be caught up in a hurly-
burly rushrushrushrush like it's the Fourth of July at Great America?
Like that.) while I can do the other 'most every day and at any
time I'm not working or sleeping.

JOHN: so now we're in real-time with a bunch of goodies for you.

[a] I think you'll like the clip from the Wash.DC POST.
too bad it wouldn't reduce in a legible fashion (I tried). Imagine,
when Yale or Johnny sees "Rambo" they think that's the way we
shoot. Of course the article isn't without its errors. The basic
rifle is available in most sporting goods stores or gun shops

*

13

RIKE pump and semi-auto shotguns (pumps in WW I and later and
SIX semi-autos possibly during WW II and def. during 'Nam.) and
lots of others including silenced pistols and Gatling guns
both old & new. Kates's book is recommended to those who'd like
to grapple with the issues surrounding 'gun control.' Of there
Of course there are those who don't care to be bothered since
they've already made up their minds and don't want to be confused
by facts.

MARCOS: I can't get worked up over his ouster ... you will recall
that his beloved Imelda, besides visiting NYC and almost
literally buying up half the town, billing it all to the Bank of
the Phillipines, during the 70's was president of the Philippine-
Soviet Friendship Ass'n when they felt like doing some anti-US pos-
turing to squeeze a few million more bucks from Uncle Sam. Besides,
remember what Neal Knox said in his Firearms Hard Corps newsletter
Jan. 86 about how Marcos was able to get a gun registration law
passed by letting everyone who registered their pieces to carry
them and then declared martial law the next year and confiscated
all privately held arms, except for those belonging to cronies o
of his. A fellow-traveling gun grabber ... good riddance, I say.

DIE-HARD: I was suggesting a 357 lever action carbine for home
protection. For personal packing I'd suggest something
like the Star PD in 45 acp or the Charter Arms 44 Special Bulldog.
Both weigh less than a pound and a half and are compact pieces.
They are, as Jeff Cooper put it, "Guns you carry alot and shoot
little." My PD didn't 'kick' any more with GI ball than my M.1911.
I do understand that the Bulldog (which was used by the 'Son of
Sam' killer) does buck a bit with factory loads. A 22 lr auto
like the Ruger would work alright as long as you practice alot and
you have some experience in killing people so you know where to
hit them with lethal shots. The 44/45 can stop adversaries with-
out necessarily killing them while that's a hard job to do with
a 22.

¶ I sorrow for the astronauts but I sorrow even more for the 240+
paratroops of the 101st, their deaths were so absurd. The charter
line had a record of poor maintenance, besides using sub-standard
parts. They routinely estimated plane load by figuring each pas-
senger + carry-on luggage = 175 lb. Hell, most paratroops weigh
more than that, besides their duffle bags and stuff; the flight
that crashed they guess to have been at least 6 tons overloaded
beyond their figures. Plus they overwork their pilots. Talk about
undermining our national defense ... Of course the paper-pushers
in the Pentagon have all covered their asses all too well, but I
have a Modest Proposal that whenever a fuck-up like this occurs
they should soak every tenth paper-pushing bureaucrat in petrol
burn them, one a day, in the center courtyard with the smell of
his roasting flesh to be piped into the building by the air con-
ditioning system. Or maybe hire Idi Amin as chef and let him serve
'em up for the generals' lunch everyday. Or let the Cult's
Mascot do an exe-bish, demonstrating his speciality to all and
sundry. I bet the office workers would love it. They'll probably
start a pool, wagering on who's going to be next.
In NASA I guess it appears that administration overrules engineer-
ing and the politicians tell the administrators what to do. If
they build a new shuttle will they use titanium instead of alumi-
num so they won't have to use those touchy ceramic tiles? And



5

RIKE or, rather, the basic action is, because I assume it'd be a refined version of the Remington model 700 action such as one of the 40-X varmint rifles from their Custom Shop chambered for 300 Winchester Magnum. I wonder if anyone has tried using 8 mm Rem. Magnum for long shots? The case certainly has the powder capacity and there are a wide range of bullet weights in that caliber. Kicks like a mule, true, but so does a thousand-yard 300 Mag. Or are they using something built around the .50 Browning? ~~That~~ would be hard to find on the shelf of a gun shop, I think, ~~would~~ be the sights ... I'd assume that they would be using some sort of 'starlight' sight for night work or some advanced a.r.t. scope of high power for use during day time. But the basic message is there: One Shot -- One Kill. (The clip I'm referring to appears on p.28 of the 3 March 86 Washington Post National Weekly Edition.)

LONG

[b] We all no doubt have wondered what would make YaleF moved away from his beloved Philadelphia and its ethnic restaurants. I think last year's Osage Street shoot-out/bombing/massacre & fire gives us the answer. With bad vibes like that, big city life isn't for him any more. He left before that happened, you say: well that just goes to show how hip the dude is since he picked up on the scene before it all came tumbling down. Yale moved to the Allentown area because he knows something like that won't happen when he's under the protection of a chief of police who is a life member of the NRA. Of course he wouldn't admit this, but we know.

[c] Reader's Digest has been anti-gun for quite a while. I guess different people react differently to the same 'facts.' When I heard about the guy in the Uzi holding off those cops, that convinced me it'd be a dandy home-protection piece. With one in 45 ACP you can have one without the excessive penetration of the 9x19 mm/Luger cartridge and more 'knock-down' power. The anti-gunners have increasingly been knocking machine guns (even tho legally-held ones have almost never been used in any crime and they are highly regulated not only the feds but also state & local cops; I think Neal Knox cited the instance when one guy did shoot his wife with one and to some people that ain't a crime: after all he didn't do no man any harm, like Mose Allison said in "Parchman Farm."), 'easily converted' semi-auto guns: especial 'military-like' 'assault rifles.' Of course they never try to convert the guns: with or without 'kits,' nor compared how accurate the fire is before and afterwards or how reliable to conversion is and how much ammo it takes to feed a full-auto monster and how easy it is to sustain rapid-fire with one. Things like that are just too 'real' for them I guess. Besides no one reminds their readers/listeners/viewers that 'military-type' arms are Precisely the sort of arms cited by the Supreme Court in upholding the 1934 NFA restrictions on, among other arms, sawed-off shotguns with barrels less than 18 inches and overall length less than 26 inches. I think this was one of the case cited by Yalef last year; anyway I'm talking about US vs Miller, 307 US 182 (1939). This ruling, states Don B. Kates, jr in the collection of studies edited by him, "Firearms & Violence," San Francisco hb/pb 1984, '...suggests the further qualification (of the Second Amendment) that right of possession is guaranteed of only those civilian weapons that are closely analogous to standard military weapons.' (p.525). But, hey, that's ok by me since there's been a whole groovy variety of GI arms used during this century including handguns that would be considered Saturday Night Specials ... aluminum framed revolvers with two inch barrels, or 'snub-nosed' as they term them in the mass media ..., besides



RIKE howzabout some more unmanned flights, or are we gonna let SEVEN Japan beat us with their robots? Do you want to see the Rising Sun over Mars? Sure, we gotta keep up with the Russkies, I know, but the shuttle missions and manned flights are mainly for the large payloads required by military missions. We all know that now, don't we?

¶ Some Predictions: some tabloid trash will feature someone who will claim to have foretold the diaster in-these-very-pages but NASA just ignored him. * Naturally UFO sightings will be reported and, of course, it will be pointed out that the shuttle exploded over the Bermuda Triangle ... who's covering up on that one? And maybe some medium will report contact with some of the Seven in the Spirit World.

They will probably issue a commemorative stamp honoring the Seven; this will not be done for the paratroops. I was half expecting some terrorist group to have claimed that they did it; maybe one did but no one paid any attention to them.

AWKG: The blacked-out portions of my letter in Johnny's FR were done by Johnny. The first was to black-out my vote on the amendment. The second is the following 'old cult joke':

K-T: Damnit, I got dropped even tho I did send in a letter.

YFE: That's alrite, I'll send out a petition for your reinstatement, like I did for Candice, if you'd do me one favor.

K-T: Gee, that's awfully sweet of you. What do you want me to do for you?

YFE: Shut up for a whole year, will ya?

This was inspired by reading Yale's response to K-T's d.O: I thot it sorta summed up what he was saying. Why Johnny cut it out, only he knows.

¶ Your new brochure seemed to have been done by Laser Writer, it looks alot better than the previous ones where your fonts were all too indistinct and fuzzy.

JOHN: My friend with the FFL [Federal Firearms License] has worked for the City of San Francisco for 12-15 yrs. at various jobs ... for the probation dept., DA's office and now as a maintenance machinist. His feeling about what would really turn a big city police dept. around and give the cops a better attitude is to require that before becoming a cop that they have to be firemen/paramedics for at least five years; this goes for the whole PD, not just the cops out on the street. He doesn't dislike cops, it's just that he feels the attitude of the PD (in SF in particular) is on the wrong track. ¶ Since S&W have reissued the model 24, a large-frame ('N') revolver in 44 Special, cops in SF have been getting them, esp. the 3 1/2 bbl model. ¶ He got a neat .22 lr sporter for me recently. It's made in China and patterned, he sez, after one made by Brno in Czechoslovakia (he should know since he lived and worked over there for awhile during the 60's). It's nicely machined and finished and is comparable to sporter 22's that Winchester and Remington have turned out and the more recent Kimber. Cost me \$75 and shoots great. ¶ When I mentioned the San Jose incident with the guy holding off the cops with an Uzi carbine, telling him that the cops didn't have to be 'out-gunned' if they had 15 shot pistols with four spare magazines each, which is in common usage across the US and the current US military standard, he scoffed at me. "That's besides the point, Dave. Cops nowadays

RIKE pack guns to go up against unarmed civilians, not people EIGHT, who shoot back, they aren't paid nor trained to do that."

That's part of the 'bad attitude' he feels police dept.s have. And you don't gun them down but bring them in alive to the rest of the criminal justice system can get a piece of the action.

WARREN: I used to have a sub to Reason, besides Inquiry and Libertarian Review but I let it lapse after they gushed all over their pages with ecstatic wet dreams when Reagan was elected. To them it was like the Second Coming, a Thousand Year Reich by the rule of the wise, etc. Have they changed any? In the New Libertarian, Oct. 84, editor Sam Konklin mentions how Reason editor Robert Poole talked about unleashing the nuclear dragon's breath of the State to scourge commie-land of Lenin orcs. ... Debating Bob Poole was Rogers Hummel, about as Left Libertarian as a party-arch gets. Hummel of 1983 was little more advanced than Ingalliners of 1969 (then the furthest "Left" we had). He proposed that none of what Poole supported could work in the way Poole wanted and it would "defend" only increased state power -- no matter how it was implemented. An elementary insight for a Libertarian, a fairly commendable leap forward for a Partyarch. But something remained missing from Hummel's presentation and it kept the audience from completely going over to him. It was, ultimately, the same thing lacking in Poole. ... I tiredly (taking notes all evening) got up and asked the naked-emperor question of Poole and Hummel: "What are you trying to defend?" Does it matter if the tax collector has an American English accent or a Russian one? < Now, that's a Libertarian point-of-view! New Lib. isn't slick and professional like Reason but it has, for me, alot more interesting reading in its pages. From the copy I have I get the definite impression that they are real sf fans instead of making occasional patronizing references because their readers read Schulman, Smith, Heinlein and Anderson. Myself, I'm deep-down an old-line anarchist-wobbly type more than anything else in attitude. Programs and agendas are just so much hot air; the real bottom line is that your real politics is how you live.

I do believe the World Weekly News is another one of the tabloid trash found alongside supermarket checkout stands. The most recent one I noticed as I was waiting in line had headlines denouncing the coverup on AIDS, how it's spread by mosquitos and can be caught by humans in just plain day to day contact. Last summer, about the time "Reanimator" came out, they had a story about how some East Germans were able to keep a severed human head alive six days after a motorcycle accident and that the head was able to communicate by blinking its eyes for three days but went downhill after that. I would believe that we can take both stories with equal seriousness.

OMNES: I have a film to recommend: "The Best of Times" with Robin Williams and a good supporting cast. Sure, it's a sit-com with the under dogs whipping the big guys in football, just like in *M*A*S*H*, but it somehow overcomes this limitation and works as an entertaining film. Kurt Russell was great as the star quarterback who now decorates custom vans and runs an auto shop. While Williams is the 'star' the supporting cast has enough depth so they are more than frill and decoration. I took Derek & Darius ... who had come out to visit during their spring break from Bemidji State ... to see it because it was a one dollar double feature with "Enemy Mine." The alien wasn't. It's too bad Hal Clement hadn't done the script.

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For those of you who are interested in the future of the world, there will be trouble and here we go again.

17

Michael J. White
3404 87th St.
Lubbock, TX 79423

*19 March 1986

John Conlon
52 Columbia Street
Newark, OH 43055

Dear John & Cult,

If I'm a little foggy, I bet indulgence. I flew out to Travis AFB last Friday, for my first AF cross-country flight. We had problems with the hydraulic pressure during our descent from 39,000 feet and when we landed, we found the jet was indeed broke. The rest of the weekend was spent trying to get it fixed, with only a few hours spent with our hosts, some long-time very close friends of mine. When we finally got the jet fixed, late Monday afternoon, we flew back to Luke AFB, Phoenix, AZ and found ourselves stranded there because our home base, Reese, was shut down for high winds. (Reese was laid out when the AF was still part of the Army, and was therefore built by the Army Corps of Engineers. At any rate, Reese has norht-south runways exclusively and has a west wind 90% of the time.) We finally got back late yesterday. Today I "trip-turned", that is I flew three different sorties in rapid succession. First, a VFR (visual flight rules -- daylight, unrestricted visibility) acrobatics sortie. The second sortie was a formation ride, where we practiced high-G precision maneuvers with two aircraft, the kind of thing fighters and attack craft have to do routinely. The last flight was a low-level navigation flight, at 1000 feet above ground level, at around 350 knots airspeed. Flying these kinds of missions is a lot of fun, because I get the stick most of the time, unlike the P-3 missions I used to fly. But these missions are also tiring. I suppose it didn't help that Suzanne had two trees for me to transplant last night when I got home. Anyway, I'm exhausted.....

YaleF: Good point about Lubbock being a University town. In a recent New England Journal of Medicine article, the authors described data indicating that AIDS is only now reaching east Africa. Yet people try to tell us that it's been in Africa all this time.....?

My sister got safely married at the beginning of this month. The ceremony was a scream... the priest is "foreign-born Irish" with a thick brogue. His parish is a retirement community and I doubt if he does many weddings, because he kept stumbling over the ritual and repeating himself. Then, in the middle of the ceremony, he sat down for 2 full minutes and leafed through his book. The maid of honor is Jewish, the other bridesmaid is Lutheran, and my sister, Annabelle, was too nervous to know what was going on or what to do next. I was trying to concentrate on taking the pictures, a job for which I was volunteered, when my "sedate" 2 year old daughter woke up and starting running around the back of the church, chortling and exclaiming her glee... Organized it wasn't.

Ciao



THE TERMINUS, OWLSWICK, & FT MUDGE ELECTRICK STREET RAILWAY

GAZETTE

20 March 1986

Esteemed CULT & all:

Being unemployed is not filled with as much available time off as I would really like it to be. A trip to visit Virginia Kidd, a while back. One editing-job interview yesterday; another tomorrow. And the massive job of straightening out the accounts for this year's tax time. (The bookkeeper tried to computerize; not only was it a disaster, but it also revealed that she knew remarkably little about bookkeeping.)

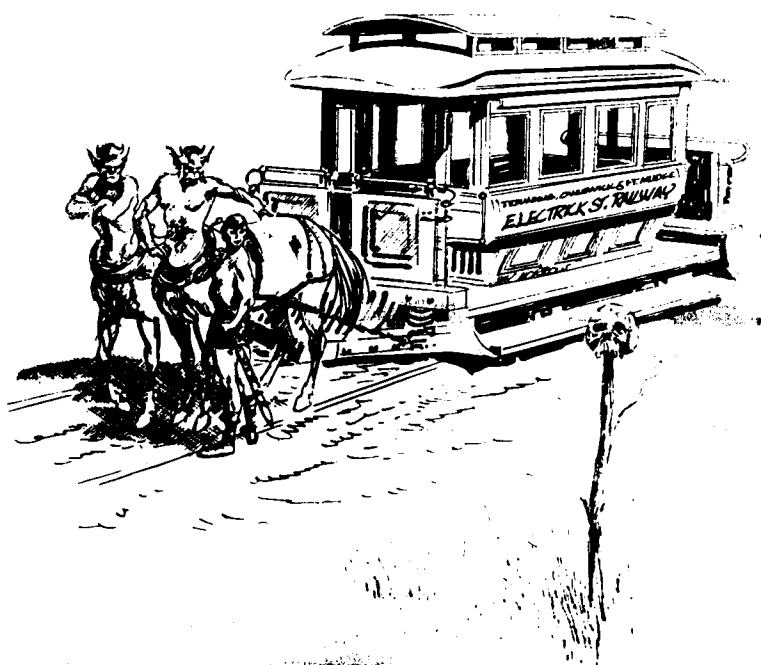
I note that Amtrak and ConRail are taking down all the overhead wires from all their freight-only trackage, thereby making it impossible to resume hauling freight trains by electric locomotives. The response of the US to the repeated oil crices is so dumb as to be beyond all belief: before the first one, there were about 1,000 miles of common-carrier freight-hauled rail in electric traction, and much of that hydro-electric. (Route miles, by the way; not track miles.) Now -- there are about 10.

It seems to me that if the managment-twits at Thiokol who overruled their engineers on the launch are not fired -- and soon -- then those management-twits will fire all the engineers -- at which point, Thiokol will be a worthless shell on its way to the bankruptcy courts. Overall, it's not the "decision process" that was faulty -- it was some of the deciders; what's needed is not the establishment of an elaborate paper-your-ass "system," but the summary sacking of those top managers to caused the disaster.

My copy of D. Hardison's FR arrived with a postmark of 6 March 1986. I do not remember her having announced late-pub. Is she to be forgiven again (& again and again) for her flagrant unwillingness to follow the Rules of Our Little Group?

Bah, humbug to all . . .

G Himself the Scithers



Alan Lankin
4525 Pine St #14
Phila PA 19143
16 March 1986

John Conlon
52 Columbia St
Newark OH 45055

Dear John and CULT:


Pam and I have been real busy lately looking for a house. It's great that the interest rates have fallen so much. Unfortunately, everyone else is also looking and there isn't a lot of houses on the market in the area we're looking in (West Mount Airy). Either they've been too expensive to even look at, been in a busy location, or had very strange renovations. (The last house looked like someone tried to bring a little of South Philly to Mt Airy -- the house had ugly carpeting, paneling, awnings that blocked out most of the sunlight, and a statue of the BVM in the garden.

I've also been very busy at work. The woman I share responsibilities with is out on maternity leave, so I've been handling her work in addition to my own. In one way I don't mind, because I'm getting a lot of good experience, but on the other hand there isn't much spare time.

We saw a couple of good movies recently: Terry Gilliam's Brazil, which is a very strange movie from the former Monty Python member. The best I can describe it is 1984 on acid. We also saw Woody Allen's latest, Hannah and Her Sisters, which is very good.

YaleF (f/r 521.12): Your former employer seems like the type of lawyer who would try to take a parking offense to the Supreme Court. They sure wanted to nail Karoly but good, didn't they?

I'll have more mailing comments next time. . .

All best,

ALankin

Richard F. Court
415 S. Dixie Dr.
Vandalia, OH 45377
1-513-898-3951

20

Dear Smokey and all,

I see time has once again crept up on me, and I had better get something entrusted to the PO or Sarge will think I am discriminating against him.

I am pleased to announce that I have been cast in "The Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie. I play the medium sized but plummy role of Paravicini, which I have coveted for some time. We open in about a month, which means right now there is much hard work to do. I will announce performance times in Meg's FR, just in case any of you are motivated.

Michael White has been tried in absentia, and found to be responsible for the floods in Southern California, and for the tornadoes and minor floods right here in Southwest Ohio.

Dian C.- Your tale of the Cessna reminds me of something that happened at the Dayton Airport when I lived even closer than I do now. A well known Dayton dentist was coming back from a trip in his lavish private plane, and discovered a few miles out his landing gear would not descend. He radioed the tower, and followed instructions, which were to circle until he was almost completely out of fuel, then do a belly landing. While he was circling, they foamed the runway, called out all the fire and medic equipment, etc. The news media got word, and there were camera crews from both then local stations, plus print media, and multitudinous curiosity seekers. The landing was successful. The trip was less so, as he was accompanied by a nubile young dental hygienist, whose presence on the trip he had neglected to mention to his wife. The divorce settlement was very expensive, although I am not sure if it was that or sheer pique which led him to sell the plane.

Warren rect Debra- You don't really stand in grocery checkout lines at all, do you?

Brenda and Dave- it's coming, I promise.

Dian H.-A whale of an FR.

Omnes, and the rest of you, too- Write, call, or visit.

Peace,


10 March 1986
1717 6th Street
Manhattan Beach, CA

Dear Smokey and Cult,

Life goes on much as usual, in the Far West, except that our rainy season started late and is continuing. Our ten inch allotment of rain per year usually comes in February, but here it is, the second week of March, and still soggy. I seem to detect a trend. The Great Lakes are at their highest level in a century, and likewise Lake Titicaca. In fact, some 80,000 farmers got flooded out in the Andes. Can we still blame it on El Nino?

RICHARD COURT -- The "fortification" jibe reminds me of the welfare worker who asked about a client's female relative and was told, "She ain't demonstrated for three months and I think she's stagnant." // Incidentally, what became of Lucretia Borgia's child? Obviously it was the product of a virgin birth, and you know what that leads to.

JOHN CONLON -- The latest interesting development in the AIDS saga is, that the virus has been isolated from women's vaginal fluids. This presumably means that lesbians are not exempt from danger -- especially if one of them has a cold sore. Doctors stress that the viral count is very low, but I assume it only takes one. (Of course, the same could be said of pregnancy, but oddly enough it does take more than one sperm.)

MEG STULL -- Having nothing to say has never stopped the rest of us from filling up paper.

DIAN HARDISON -- Nice looking FR. Re: your comments to Gafiate, since there were only two paragraphs and one sentence of original, unpublished, material, I think he ought to get postcard credit instead of letter credit. // Well, Norway's geothermal energy sources are little known in this country since we tend to regard it as largely experimental. After all, we've got at least two generations worth of fossil fuel, so why bother to change...

YALE F. -- The depression surrounding the shuttle disaster is only alleviated by watching Richard Feynman cut through the political bullshit. I rather wish the bodies hadn'd been found, though. It's not only hard on the families, it's anticlimactic.

Best and all,

Dian Craige
"Bawdy Jade"

22
A final word of sorts. Most heard from, others noted. I have been wondering about Teresa, but there have been no news bits about aquarium people eaten by orcas. Usually she writes regularly, if only to keep the DieHard's water warm.

I have my usual springtime cold, with nose and eyes dripping, and trying likehell to keep the virus laden fluids from dripping on the pure gem-like prose of the members.

GH's comment about being unemployed? Has he tried to manage Amazing like when he was OA? At least he should be able to get some sort of rocking chair money until he finds some other gainful employ. Luck.

Niece got job. Worked 1st day. Called for Federal jury duty on 2nd. Not chosen and went back to work. She always has luck, bad kind.

After looking at one diagram of SRB joint, occurs to me that my youngest grand nephew could have done better. Open end up? Anything can run in. Water freezes and expands, which could have raised the joint level and opened the seal neatly. After all, ice often makes cracks in rock larger in nature. I wonder. How can people go to school and emerge stupid? Even engineers? I thought they could at least add. And study expansion of natural fluids, like H₂O..

Peter and GH got under the wire. Peter snickers about "fortification" and not about bad shuttle jokes. Someone observed Jesse Jackson said the same of 51-L that Watt said of his Dept. Jesse's job not a sensitive one, I trust..Pete feels that when one dies it would be nice to have time to speak sayonara..Prefers to postpone as long as poss. Feels Challenger was not unavoidable.(Understatement of cycle.) Still having trouble with blood in his sugar, or vice versa. I sympathize. Doc raised my dose to 35 units and last reading better than previous. I need someone to keep on me about second helpings, and in some cases, first ones, and force bunny fodder on me instead of starchies.

Congers turned down Contra money. Back in 1941 they voted for Pearl Harbor, not knowing it. Extension of draft and reserve call-up passed by one vote. After war, someone interviewing Japanese military found they had viewed the narrow margin as proof that we didn't really feel serious about fighting, and it boosted the War Group. I think at that time, the attack force was at sea waiting for the last orders. We never learn.

NRA and anti gunsels going round and round. Madia picked up idea that NRA backed bill opens floodgates to anyone anywhere to buy anything. Not so. Basic controls still stay on automatic arms, etc, and sale to various groups like nuts, crooks, minors, etc, still on ban list. I keep wondering is some day the busting of one amendment might lead to the loss of the rest, followed by agonized howls as media realizes they sat on a seat with crevice and their scrota are cught in the same crack. Paranoid, of xourse..But even paranoids have enemies. Like poor old Forrestal. He suicided after claiming Israeli agents tracked him all the time. Shrinks pooh-pooed this. MOSSAD later revealed it was so.

It was so important to have us on their side, they had to know what way he'd jump. Out the window, it proved.

Generic Terrorist Front at it. More doctored pills. I hope whoever it is gets caught and someone feeds him his own medicine to see what the LD/50 is. This land is a haven for idiots..Too many in politics..

Such as those who voted for the LaRoucheites in Ill. Stevenson is in need of a way to go along and let them expose their brilliance normally. It took years to find what an ass Wm Jenning Bryan was, but in the days of TV, it should not be such a long porcess. Comments?

And, so as my last hanky sogs into a pile on the floor, I bid you all a fond farewell. To those who wrote at great length and got left out, apologies. I do not touch type and when I can't see the keyboard, is a lpt worse than usual....A votre sante, or is it sanite?

old sneezing

Smoky

from Gregg T Trend at 16594 Edinborough Road, Detroit, MI 48219 written rapidly on 3-19-86

Dear Smokey & assorted neuroesthetes,

I would've thought that Johnny would've been informed that Dian was going to Latepub (or late PM, as she refers to it.) As it was her envelope was PM'd 3-6-86, sent First Class; I received it 3-10-86: her pubdate, was, of course, 3-3-86.) Is she exonerated because of continuing mental distress (re Challenger disaster), or what? Did she inform Johnny privately in time for publication in his FR, and he forgot to mention it (print it) publicly? // By the way, Dian, I figure I must write, too, though you forgot to mention it. Peter Rowe's f/r was PM'd on Johnny's pubdate or yours (I forget-- but it seemed legal to me.) // A letter usually takes a day (for instance) to reach Chicago (a place were I send mail most frequently and receive mail from same most frequently); postcards take up to 3 days (one picture p/c took 5 days.) I think it has something to do with the sorting machines. By the way (minor nit point): the cards with indica (the square or vignette thing in the upper-right corner) issued BY the USPS are called POSTAL cards, everything else (bare cards) to which YOU add postage is called a POST card.

Quasi-quote of the day: on the local evening news yesterday, the sportcaster noted that an NBA player said, "I always read SF books, because after reading about universes being blown up, losing a basketball game doesn't seem so bad." (caught only the end of this, & didn't catch the player's name.)

Warren: OK, so yr sec'y reads that rag; didn't you insert the copies of the pages of WWN in yr FR? //No, I thought yr very short story wasn't worth \$2 needed to purchase a copy of AMAZING (or was it \$1.75.) I will very, very rarely buy a publication just to read one short article or story. // re yr cts on Challenger: You ARE sick. // re Debra's ct on yr armament: I had acquaintance w/ an assistant proccsutor in another county (we were on the Board of Directors-- I was Treasurer, he was the Pres -- a social/culture/educational org). Our meetings were always in the evening/night. At the first meeting he had reason to remove his suitcoat, whereupon it was revealed that he had a .38 Special in a shoulder-holster. I asked if he wore it all the time. He said only when he was driving in or near Detroit (this was about 1978.) // Yr reference to OMNICON as "sci-fi oriented affair" to mean vsual media oriented? I remember going to a film teacher's conference here in '74 or '75 and listening to a lecture about the need for today's youth to be "visually literate", which would seem to be a contradiction in terminology. Visually astute or intelligent, yes, but "literate" (I've seen this phrase used in texts written by academics, which seems to point to the fact that less and less literate people are being let out of our colleges and universities with advanced degrees and allowed to impose their dopey ideas upon an even dumber student population.) /// To Court (the man, not the institution): In sentencing an 86 year old man for manslaughter for shooting to death a mentally-disturbed 43 year old, after the older man had chased after him, threatening to kill him here in Detroit last Summer: "You have been an ornery person all your life, and you are an ornery old person now." And, to explain the relative severity of the sentence: "He's been getting away with everything because of his age. He knew his assailant was ill, if he was the assailant ((the old man claimed the younger had tried to beat him up on the bus; all other witnesses testified that Jerome Gilbert, the aged man, started the altercation and elevated its insensity by goading the mentally-ill man))an d I'm not assuming that. There was an intention to injure ((i.e., the intent of Jerome Gilbert with his pistol.))"/// I would ONLY go to a George Winston concert IF someone had given me a free ticket. He's nothing but a hack-version of Keith Jarrett. ///Smokey: re yr cts (2-2-86 cultletter)on the Shuttle and public reaction: And look at all the wonderful thing throwing \$ at some social "problems" has done for certain industrial cities (e.g., HUD house-buying programs in Detroit c. 1967-72, and subsequent mortgage defaults destroyed over 1/3 of the single-family dwelling stock here, because of mismanagement and down-right criminality of people in the local HUD office and real estate brokers.)///We had an earth-quake here in late January; I felt and saw it (cabinets/metal shelves/loose doors shaking)because I was on the second floor of an old house--tho people in new office building hereabouts saw and felt same. It was 5 something centered 30 mi. out in Erie NW of Sandusky. Some jerk even tried to make a few T-shirt \$ on it: "I SURVIVED THE 'QUAKE 5.0" 1-31-86

The color offerings had a sense of art humor that I appreciated, however: "Continental Shelf Blue"; "Lava Yellow"; "Bermuda Swell Green"; "Earth Crust Grey." // I have chronic transitory problems with my vision (thinking of the horrors of a detached retina-- I had all the symptoms, I went to my local HMO-- not having had an exam for 3 years ((my uncle who was an optometrist for 30 years or so, recently went into semi-retirement, besides the fact that his office is about 25 miles away in a quaint little town, after he and his 2nd wife decided that a quad-bypass, 3 yrs ago, and full-time practice didn't go together.)) Fortunately only another case of eye-strain; the optometrist at the Hank Ford -Dearborn clinic said I wouldn't need bi-focals for at least 3-4 yrs (my 43 yr old sis-in-law already has them and she does less close-work than I do; I spend 2-3 hrs/da., at least looking for imperfections in paste-ups/mechanicals and printer-proofs, through magnifying lenses in bright light (when I have a project, that is, 2-3X mo. for several days running.) The optometrist was a visual delight, tho: she looked like she belonged in a fashion layout. // Judging by yr expounded philosophy of US life, I presume you'll have something to write about Martha (not to be confused with SF's MARTA) Randall, poet, teacher, and government crit re Nicaragua. // Re "plastic" guns: a switch to all X-ray, or ultrasound would be the answer on checks (what abt bullets; can they make those all plastic, too?) // It takes me three days to do my taxes (I've got business, depreciation and other forms to fill out--I'm slightly ahead of The Feudal Empire on The Potomac, and hundreds ahead of the MI state deal (only because of property tax rebates), and must pay the City because of "unearned" income-- investments.

Meg: Even for somebody not in the mood you write interesting prose. You have talent.

IBM has establish training programs for the disabled (re computer work) in 31 communities (why not check with them?) // You never ct'd abt what you thought of my (& researchers ideas) thoughts about sunlight exposure in winter (or lack, thereof) and onset of depression. Because you spend so much time inside during that time of year I think that's part of your problem (down-moods.) // AWKG: When I suggested alien influence (Soviet germ-warfare gone awry or on-purpose) to Michael at a party in '83 he thought not (however, they were in Angola/Nigeria back in the early '70s.) TO MICHAEL WHITE (sidenote): You mentioned the incidence of AIDS among Africans in western equatorial countries bordering on the Atlantic (Nigeria?) being traced mainly among hetro populations (something pointed out on a talkshow by some author of a compendium for popular consumption on AIDS): however, one must realize that in these populations, young women (single) remain "virgin" by allowing anal intercourse, and this form is a common method of birth control there (in that culture.) Something more to think about? I still think the potential for acquiring AIDS (besides a metabolic predisposition) is exacerbated by chronic sepsis. // Back to ELST: I agree w/Dian: I wish you would spend less time promoting yr MAC-font co. and more time with cultic cts. Where's that Australian Worldcon report? DAL: Did you ever receive the WORDS book; I always wonder abt lower classes of mail arriving intact. Re yr cts regarding lone-justice: I guess it all depends whether the judge agrees with the manner of punishment as a solution to a social problem (armed robbery; child abuse-- why didn't Mr. Jones do something less desperate (re his daughter situation; child abuse is cumulative, starts small and, after some time ends at the hospital-- but goes on for some time-- or he tried all less drastic solutions and went for the Big One. Note: most crimes by blacks are against blacks.) MICHAEL: (noted yr name as an alum contributor in the Roeper Yearbook; thanks.) If Micky really wants back in at her former position and wins, I guess I'll be soon back to the lowly IWL (after 3 ghoddamn yrs; it only took me 1 1/2 yrs to make Member in '58-'60.) (Not that I want the financial burden of pubbing; it's just the principle of the thing, the progression.) (OK, I miss Micky's smart remarks. I could tell her how much I like the Nevelson piece on the MIT property--finally, I looked it up in a book of her works; looks good to me, but it may be set badly for the site.) // Don't overwork yourself: do you volunteer for all that crap; you're going to reduce your immune-response with all that stress. Watch yourself; I've read that doctor's pay the least attention to their OWN health. // YALE: I agree heartily re yr ct WHITE on the volunteer aspect of tested cohort. // How's yr new law office/job coming along? CRAYNE: Glad somebody agrees w/ me abt "Enemy Mine" (the novella.) // I have a reference to the term "Bawdy Jade" to pass along to you; look for it in the mail soon. // Since eating human brains isn't likely among most populations "kuru" isn't likely to spread Don't you mean some other disease? Re Baboon in Africa cf. my ct above. All: Got To Quit,

"I would like to dispel once and for all a certain question often put to us by the press: why spend so much money on space when the ocean still holds so many secrets and is so rich in resources? It's a question which I answer straightaway by saying that attitude is mistaken, for ... mankind has the duty to expand the scope of dreams...." -- Jacques-Yves Cousteau, 1985.

There is a very beautiful beach just beyond Launch Complex 34, where my fuel recovery facility is. (Remember your history? LC-34 was the site of the Apollo 1 fire.) Not much remains of the launch complex -- twenty years on the Florida coast is like two hundred in less destructive climates -- just the retainer ring, a giant steel framework box with a rocket-sized hole in the middle, and the flame deflectors, two huge vertical concrete slabs with out-sloping bases. A decade or so back, the launch tower and so forth were buried on the beach between the fuel facility and the water to create an artificial dune barrier. A few years after that, a storm expressed its opinion of the artificial dune by hauling the whole business out into deep water, breaking it up and spreading it all over the bottom, where it still serves as an artificial reef. Fishing is good off the shore here.

From the shadow of the twenty-thousand gallon tanks, I can look clear out across a beach untainted by any human population or debris and ocean as clean as it gets up here beyond the gulf stream. There are no boats; the area is restricted. I could spend hours just watching the sun on the waves and hearing nothing but wind and sea. Sometimes the dolphins come in close enough to shore to watch.

I wish I could just walk out and join them and not come back.

They found the crew compartment, and the bodies, what remains of them. Apparently it wasn't as quick a death as we'd wanted to believe. It is a measure of the ocean's size that such a large piece of debris so close to home and in such shallow water was not found for so long despite such an intensive search.

If it had been me, I'd just as soon be left there.

FR 524: I will not apologize for mailing some copies late. With ten astronauts charging in and out at all hours, the five refuelers on 24-hour alert, commission members crawling around everything, four copiers down and the rest running day and night to take up the load, be impressed that I got the damn thing done at all.

WARREN: I doubt I would have found anything funny that day. (Although, if you'd given us a replay at the con....) People are telling Challenger jokes already. In the words of a local columnist, I don't know whether to make a speech or cry.

Heh. You mean, no one besides Micky and Teresa has the time to waste putting out "well-crafted offerings".... The problem is, Teresa will probably take your sarcasm seriously. She really believes those are "weighty substantive issues."

Too bad we didn't get around to doing a con f/r. It was a good idea, anyway.

A NOTE of explanation re Richard's letters: the one sent to Johnny was properly addressed and mailed in plenty of time, and returned marked "not deliverable as addressed" for no discernable reason. (The one Johnny printed was a personal letter.) Richard sent it on to me, unopened. I included it for obvious reasons.

Comment to the Judge: good anecdotes, but you need a new ribbon for repro-ing.

SMOKEY: Thanks for the Stuff. Enjoyed your news summaries. // I printed your personal note along with Culty submission to expand on some of your references, so if anyone accuses you of being repetitive again, they'll have to blame it on me. // God. Sabotage is considered extremely unlikely at this point, but it hasn't been ruled out. Surely even the Sov pros wouldn't do such a thing. (I can conceive of some religious fanatic terrorists trying it, but they don't have the brains. Besides, it wouldn't be something they'd want to claim "credit" for, in the face of public opinion.) // I know you know better, but just in case someone else doesn't: an ejection seat on an orbiter is about as useful as tits on a male dog. By the time you're high enough up for a parachute to do you any good you're also going fast enough that the wind force would rip you apart. (An

ejection system for the whole crew compartment is feasible, but damn dangerous.)

MEGRET: have you ever tried to sell articles, short stories, or columns (to the local paper, for example)? I'd think you'd make a very good editorialist. For someone not in the mood to write, you communicate your feelings quite well.

DAL: I see nothing wrong with Jones' wasting the wrecker driver, so long as all involved are quite sure that he alone was responsible for the child's death. But if that were so, why would the man take the child to the hospital and then wait around?

I have a hard time equating the loss of Challenger with the assassination of Kennedy, maybe because I never cared much for Kennedy. But if the comparison is valid, I wish I could ask those who were there if the memory ever loses its pain.

MJW: apology accepted. You're not the only one with bad timing.

Sorry to hear you have another asshole boss. Here's hoping for his speedy departure. But don't look for sympathy from this group about being overworked.

Micky would just get dropped again for inactivity. She tells me that she hasn't even really read the FRs for months now. Micky has never been known for her dedication, and her interest tends to flag once the newness wears off.

YALE: it is not accurate to say that NASA "put all its eggs in one basket." The STS was a means to an end, not an end in itself; the system was designed around its various customers, not vice versa. Voyager was a primitive probe compared to its successors, like the Galileo and Ulysses probes we were planning to launch in May. The more sophisticated electronics require the "softer" launch and in-space service that only a shielded and manned carrier can provide. We still use expendables for any satellite which can operate from them. The "next generation" -- heavy launch vehicles, for example -- are as far along as NASA's pitiful budget can take them. As for alternate methods of manned access to space, if you think a two-billion-dollar orbiter is expensive, the cost of a manned laboratory expendable would fry your eyes. (And "alternate power sources"? What in the world are you talking about?)

NASA has never been a political organization. Despite its failure to capitalize on obvious public relations strengths, we always considered that something of a point of pride. But yes, their ignorance of what to do under a public spotlight is hurting them now. The public is less likely to forgive such visible personal incompetence than the engineering mistakes which are actually responsible.

DIAN C: you need a new ribbon too. Blue is a copier's least favorite color. Columbia's markings are different from the other three. Sort of generic.

DEBI: Yeah, John Candy was the best part of Splash. The lack of regional authenticity that I objected to was the clear water and coral reefs in supposedly northern waters. To paraphrase your phrase, that ain't no New England ocean! -- I'm not so sure I'd be prepared to deal with a lover who sprouted a fishtail. He'd be kind of hard to carry around. I'll settle for webbed hands and feet.

Yes, women have superior buoyancy in the water, and not just because we have more fat on the average than men. The placement has a lot to do with it. Women also make better long-distance swimmers, for a variety of reasons, including insulation (fat again) and the metabolic differences in use of fuel. -- I find myself agreeing with so much of your letter that I can't find anything to comment on. Maybe I'll just retire and let you be spokeswoman for the Florida Feminists. I understand. If I never see that tape again it'll be too soon.

BRENDA and CANDICE: thanks for the thoughts. There really aren't many other words I can think of to say.

I guess that's all for this time. Stay Cultic, all,



March 10, 1986

Debra Metcalf
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305/665-5980

Dear Smokey & Cult,

I agree with the Die Hard, pregnancy scares are **not** fun. Ask MJW how he felt when they thought Suzanne might be carrying twins the last time around. (There's a nightmare for you, Michael, your determined daughter twice over. Yes, I know you're crazy about her, but enough of a good thing, right?)

I like the Mike Royko column and the cartoon you sent in to Dian's FR. The Challenger accident certainly brought out the sentimental side of the editorial cartoonists, didn't it? That's okay, there're times for sentiment.

My Naval brother-in-law espouses the no-civilians-in-space-because-they-can't-understand-the-dangers position. I suppose it's not surprising considering his recent entry into the military fraternity, but I told him that it was a little paternalistic for me. I'm also not comfortable with the thought of space being a solely military concern.

Why would the Soviets want to destroy a space shuttle and create martyrs/heroes for us? C'mon, Smokey, you were the one arguing with me that it would've been dumb for the French to blow up the Rainbow Warrior because of the sympathy it generated for Greenpeace.

Teresa (0.52212686): To quote from John & Johanna Hall, "Oil slicks some day will disappear / We'll stop dumping PCBs in a few years / But there is one pollution we should really fear / Because plutonium is forever." To a calypso beat.

And I thought my mother-in-law had the market cornered on attracting stray animals. Siren sounds like a Himalayan. The same genes that carry the Siamese markings also carry some of the voice characteristics. Believe me, I know. Our long haired female is part Himalayan, and she went into heat -- once. She went straight to be spayed as soon as she was done, because I was afraid that my normally nonviolent husband might strangle her if he had to listen to **that** again for a week. Poor Scaredy-Cat. A short life and an unhappy one.

To come full circle from a love of space to a love for the Earth, see astronaut Rusty Schweickart's remarks in the March Calypso Log. I think a lot of us are caught between our concern for our planet and our preferred lifestyles. Tom and I consider ourselves environmentalists, but we use a lot of electricity. More poignantly caught is a friend of ours from college, who found that her job for the Audubon Society took up too much time for her to live as simply as she feels she should in order to restrict her impact on the environment. One of the casualties of her conflict has been her

marriage.

Re obnoxious New Yorkers: There was an article in the Miami Herald a while ago describing the behavior of the passengers on the New York-Miami plane flights. Incredible. It's routine procedure to call the cops to meet the plane if it's been a lively flight.

I enjoyed your Cultoon, per usual.

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Johnny: I received your FR the Wed. after your pub date. Pretty good service to an "errant" IWLer.

Dian C.: Tom wants to know how one worships at the Shrine of the Sacred Scrotum.

Gregg: I don't like open casket funerals myself, although I suppose they can be helpful in providing catharsis for some people. // If we neglect to comment on your artwork it's probably because we have come to take you for granted. I certainly enjoyed your cover to this FR. Somebody ought to do something to provide you with appropriate contrast.

Omnes: I have been to Disney World with Mikezilla and Kathryn Kong, and I Have Survived. "Nothin' like this way out in West Texas..." (Jimmy Buffett)

MJW: Didja see that Bionetics Research/NCI have purified reverse transcriptase? What do you think of disrupting the action of this enzyme as an approach to dealing with AIDS? I repeated all of your public health suggestions to Thomas in answer to his question re what you think we should be doing about AIDS. He replied that since it's currently incurable, it's not clear to him what you feel all of this would accomplish.

Donaldson has some interesting things to say, but whether it's enough to justify 6 novels of several hundred pages each I don't know. I'm somewhat relieved that he killed off Covenant at the end of the 2cd trilogy. If he does any more he'll at least have to change his emphasis to the other "realistic" character.

Janice: I share your and Dian's pride in the composition of the last crew of the Challenger. I believe that Suzanne White does, too.

kT: Your letters moved me to tears.

*Pax Wokanda,
Debi*