

Twygdrazil And Treehouse Gazette #76

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Illos - German money, sort of, I inherited from Heidi's grandmother fourteen years ago. Why the mother allowed me to get away with it, I will never know. There was nothing in writing. I am afraid I haven't looked at this money much until now. It was local money used when the Reichsbank closed down after World War I rather than pay reparations. There are many more examples in the scrapbook I inherited. I chose these as illos precisely because they looked even less like money than other items. Some even seem to have advertising on them. I presume they were still used as money, which is what I was told the collection was devoted to. Here are where different illustrations are. **FRONT** Man getting into bed with woman, **p5** Cabaret?, **p10** Liqueur, **p15** Hearth, **p20** Man chasing a pig, **BACK** People climbing out of a well.

XMAS CARDS

In case you're why you got Xmas cards in April, I had them left over from Xmas. Unlike my wife, I haven't been sending many people Xmas cards so I didn't know what to do with them. I finally figured I couldn't throw them out. My mother did too good a job of painting my niece Laura. My mother may have some problems these days but they aren't with painting. Or sketching.

A MURDER SOLVED

About twelve years ago, the two daughters of a secretary of mine were slain in an obvious gangland slaying. They were both shot in the neck. And their toddlers swam in their mothers' blood. I hope they finally caught the murderer. The man convicted was also convicted of being a member of the K Street Crew, notorious for trading in drugs and killing witnesses. He was sentenced en masse along with his cohorts.

However, his sentence was more severe, life plus 250 years, because he killed those two daughters. The court believed he had murdered one of the daughters because she had lost a gun he had given her. And the other so there would be no witnesses. SOB. What a waste!

While a load was off the secretary, she had a reason for petty embarrassment. She complained about inaccuracies in the *Washington Post* article. Thinking about it, the main inaccuracy is that one of the daughters is under therapy because of the incident. We in the office know that she is under therapy for Down's Syndrome. I guess it sounded better to tell the reporter repressed memories was the problem.

BUSH APPOINTEES

As I have said many times, my agency, Food and Nutrition Service, administers Food Stamps, WIC, School Lunch and a number of other Federal feeding programs. It apparently doesn't have a high priority in the Bush Administration. We are only now getting Bush appointees.

And the tendency is that they don't want us to know that they are there. We first got Eric Bost, the Under Secretary. A Black who was Bush's welfare director in Texas. He keeps out of the limelight in a nice way. When he comes down to headquarters from his DC office, he listens and is very low key.

The Deputy Administrator for my organization, Communications and Governmental Affairs, is another thing entirely. He has been in his position for over a month but never announced his arrival. To those who know he is there, he would just as soon we don't. Apparently, he doesn't want to speak to you without an appointment. Probably he doesn't want to speak to you, period. He can afford to do this since he acts mostly as Bost's gofor.

It is just as well as far as I am concerned. I did have a short talk with him. He seemed to believe all knowledge was on the web, and you don't need a library. I agreed that a lot of knowledge is on the web – but then, I pointed out, that much of it costs money.

A third appointee is on the way: the agency Administrator, Roberto Salazar. The only thing I know about him is that he is a Hispanic who talks fast.

The Bushies so far are better than the maniacs we had during the Clinton Administration. And I say this as an overall Clinton supporter. On the other hand, they leave us puzzled about our place in the

Administration's firmament.

COMMENT ON SFPA #226

JEFF COPELAND
the southerner # 226

🍷▲🍷 4. ...If you had told me the pain part in the first place. Ever hear of the S&M Deli? One of its specials is Whip on Toast.

🍷▲🍷 George, our flea infested werewolf, seems to have been more active this time in being an flea infested werewolf of the email lists. I have been receiving a lot of emails from him. The last announcing the Children of Dune series, and pontificating on the existential angst of Skippy the Sloth in the movie *Ice Age*.

JEFF COPELAND
for your consideration

🍷▲🍷 I was told that *A Beautiful Mind* is one of those great fakes. Like Milos Forman's *Amadeus* (1984). There is no proof that Mozart was killed by the machinations of Salieri. And the proof is just the opposite that Nash was cured by love. He claimed in the book, I hear, he was cured by reason. He figured out that his hallucinations had to be hallucinations. This is something the movie makers, I guess, decided an audience today couldn't accept.

NORM METCALF
tyndallite v3 #200

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I probably could think up some curiosities of science fiction, but I have become obsessed about that tale I described to you. I wonder where and when it was published. It concerned a new Civil War over desegregation (War between

States? North Aggression? Southern Rebellion?). I remember an illo of soldiers being dressed in Civil War uniforms and shooting off cannons. I gather in the story those were atomic cannons and America was completely laid to waste over the issue of desegregation. It wasn't a long story, as I remember it. I bet it was published in late 1957 or 1958. Late 1957 was when the Little Rock incident took place and that galvanized America about desegregation.

I guess it could have been in *Astounding*. That would have been *Astounding's* style. On the other hand, I remember it as being in some other magazine.

I just wish I hadn't left that issue at my cousins' house and my cousins' parents hadn't thrown it away. It might still be around today in the morass that is my own parents' house.

So Norm, are you sure there never was a story like that in any science fiction magazine?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned Brooks. If the 20,000 Leagues submarine was feasible in the 19th Century, how come longterm submersion was not feasible for the world's navies until the 20th? Or did the Nautilus submerge for long periods of time? I haven't read the book. Not yet.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Arthur Hlavaty. Come to think of it, having read Kurt Vonnegut, it's too bad that he didn't stop writing before he started. A book reviewer I know thinks he appeals to the twelve year old crowd. I'm not certain it's not the depressed crowd. Kurt has always been fairly depressed.

Now a second wave of thoughts comes over me. I do remember I liked his books from the late '50s and early '60s. I really liked *Sirens of Titan*, and might still



like it. Ice-Nine was a great concept as was Mr. Rosewater. It is only his later works that make my skin crawl. *Galapagos* (1985), for instance. It seemed like one bummer after another. Each bummer worse than the other. I wasn't able to pick up any Vonnegut work after that.

ct. Guy H. Lillian III. The mafia just run New Jersey in Kornbluth's *The Syndic*? Doesn't it do that anyway? In Kornbluth's book I thought it ran the entire country. I remember there being conflict with a gang in Chicago. And that the evil old U.S. government was out somewhere nearby, maybe in Greenland, ready to take advantage of the first opportunity and return.

The evil, old U.S. government was not the pencil pushing bureaucrats vilified today but the U.S. military, who were unassailable heroes at that time. They were the ones who won World War II and people depended upon them to beat the Russkis. But they certainly were not unassailable to Kornbluth.

ct. Don Markstein. With great literature, some payoff from reading it has to outweigh its unreadability or unpalatability. It doesn't have to be entertaining but there has to be some visible payoff. I definitely am not one who would

hold a work great because I can't understand it. Or couldn't stand it, period.

ARTHUR D. HLAVATY

confessions of a consistent liar 76

ct. Me. Even in a futuristic bodice ripper, I think the hero would still have to tear something to show his manliness and passion. Having the space suit de-materialize is for wimps.

Once again, Arthur, you see the whole from the parts. Not breaking grammatical rules unintentionally is what I should have said rather than that run on sentences, dangling modifiers, etc. *can* be OK.

I notice I misspelled "Gingrich" as "Gringrich" in my comment about Newt and the shutdown. Gringrich, I guess, is his cousin, the white sheep of the family.

Once again, Arthur, you see the whole. I wish I had said that our Afghanistan adventure was a total success, except for its object. Still, I can say now that our entire war against terrorism has been a total success except for its object.

ct. Richard Lynch. I am changing my views. I think government can HELP or hinder prosperity. I think Bill Clinton helped create the prosperity of the late '90s by *increasing taxes*. I hope someone challenges me so I give the bloody details.

ct. Janice Gelb. How about getting graduated bifocals? I think that's what they're called. You see different depending on what part of the glasses you're looking through. You wouldn't need separate reading glasses and bifocals.

Graduated bifocals are expensive, no doubt about it, and I was lukewarm about getting them; but now I couldn't do without them.

♥▲♥ We seem to have ended our phone spam with what's called, where I am, Call Intercept. Callers have to have a listed phone number or the call does not go through. While it may seem a not insurmountable obstacle, the last thing phone solicitors want is for your to be able to call them back.

♥▲♥ ct. Gary Brown. I remember that Ann Coulter said that we should invade the Arab countries and convert them to Christianity forceably. Then, to show how consistent she is, she admitted recently to dating an Arab Moslem. While she would not tell reporters his name, she said if they continued to harass her, he would come and beat them up.

In short, who's kidding whom?

♥▲♥ It's true civil libertarians will not protect us from a plane coming at us. But apparently neither will John Ashcroft.

NED BROOKS new port news 202

♥▲♥ COVER and BACK. I hear a lot of people didn't think too highly of the War of 1898. That the Speaker of the House resigned as part of the fallout rather than be a mucky muck in a new imperialist empire.

♥▲♥ ct. Me. No, the *City Paper* is not a comic book; it is a tabloid newspaper. But an alternate newspaper with ties to artists and the avant-garde. That's why it illustrated itself with EC style art.

I liked that touch to a tale about flying saucers and DC. Other artsy touches in the paper, I am not as fond of. I finally

had to stop trying to read its comics. They were too gross, too sick and too puzzling.

♥▲♥ You seem to have gotten to the bottom of Captain Jinks. Now we have to figure out who wrote *The Queen of Sheba: Her Life and Times* (1922). The colophon says Phinneas A. Crutch. Of course, one of his titles is SOS; so I'm not certain he was a real person. As far as I can tell, it was written by Stark Young, a Mississippi born writer of a little fame who spent most of his time as an academic.

♥▲♥ Gwillick's website claims that Hannes Bok's name came from Johannes S. Bach, the Composer. So it would have been Hannes as in Johannes rather than Hannes as in archtypal man. Of course, I have to admit that Gwillick could not confirm this.

For what it's worth, Bok means Book in Swedish, as far as I can tell. Why Hannes would name himself Man Book, I could not begin to guess.

♥▲♥ The CD you were talking about seems to be the *Esoteric Archives* by Twillit Grotto. It boasts 29 grimoires and 48 completed books. It is sold by magus books of Minneapolis. And costs \$42. But if it does what it says it does, it's cheap.

♥▲♥ I see that P.T. O'Leary's *The Clones* (1968) is a bad science fiction classic that I have not heretofore heard of. Also, according to the web, it is the first novel with the word Clone in the title.

♥▲♥ ct. Guy. I can understand Scalia's position that Federal judges who refuse to exact capital punishment should resign. They don't have much leeway under the law. Apparently judges don't have much leeway anymore in anything.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Schlosser. All this political correctness is a substitute for common sense. Something that is in short supply, so people have searched long and hard for a cheap substitute. Unfortunately, they don't have enough common sense to realize there is no substitute.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don. A lot of people arguing for occult doings always appeal to our intuitive knowledge of things. It's a good strategy: some things we know are doozies. We intuitively know that a person in an accident would end up with a steering wheel around his neck. As you point out, that's improbable. Also, one school of thought claims we can learn to do without sleep, and we won't even feel tired.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Sheila. Didn't the doctors give Woody Allen a cigar to smoke when he came out of his coma in 2200 A.D. or something like that in *Sleeper*? And who knows? It may yet be a cure for something. Either that or medical science might change our bodies so much that we need tobacco to get it back on even keel.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Copeland. Jewish theology in Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*? Oh well, there is a book from the 1840s that proves that the nursery rhymes are lamentations against Catholicism in Old Dutch. An Old Dutch no one has ever heard of.

On the other hand, *Through the Looking Glass* does have meaning of sorts. Carroll starts out by saying that various characters in the book are paralleled by chess pieces. And various events have parallels with chess moves.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Eve. I thought my beat up old dictionary is a Webster's; but it says here it

is *American College Dictionary*. I don't know what the difference is. I seem to remember that its general editor was the general editor of the unabridged Webster's Third, C. I. Barnhart.

Even if there is a difference, I can say that it has held me in good stead since I received it for my Bar Mitzvah in 1958. A lot better than some supposedly fancier dictionaries.

🍷▲🍷 About intermarriage between slaves and their White masters, H. L. Mencken said that Southern Blacks were superior to White Southerners because they had the blood of aristocrats in their veins. It was no wonder many people in the then Solid South were having conniptions over his words.

GUY and ROSE-MARIE LILLIAN the patriotic route. Dec. 20-31, 2001

🍷▲🍷 We all love our country. The problem is the baggage that patriotism comes with. Do we have to approve of all wars the country fights? Do we have to believe all foreigners should be kept out? Do we have to believe Dubya and his cronies are always right?

On the other hand, a lot of people believe that you have to use patriotism to force people to believe the way they believe. Or what's the point?

Because of all these connotations, many of us have been turned off to love of country. We may have given it a new try after 9-1-1, but all the old irritants have come out with a vengeance.

🍷▲🍷 The Niagara Falls gift shops. I remember gift shops as a young kid. I must have spent a lot of time in them. What I liked best were those signs. I remember one

quoting W.C. Fields: "Everything I like is either illegal, immoral or fattening." For some reason, I found that hilarious.

There were also actual vulgar signs, most of which I don't remember. ...Shucks!! ...I do remember a towel with a fellow standing in a toilet poised to flush. He says, "Goodbye cruel world." Now that's vulgar. But, as a kid, I found it hilariously funny. What is disconcerting now: so did my mother and father.

There was something I liked in a New Hampshire gift shop that was neither a sign nor a towel, maple syrup candy. You could see how that would appeal to a kid.

♥▲♥ I don't know about Nathan's hot dogs. I don't remember it being that great shakes when I ate there years ago. Was it eons? Of course, I'm in the minority. Everyone raves over their hot dogs. More so their french fries. At times, I have suspected my sister would die for some Nathan's french fries.

♥▲♥ There is some charm to New York in cold weather. I was there a year or two ago. Unlike yours, the trip wasn't planned. My brother was going and he said hop on aboard. We ate at the Carnegie Deli, which served mile high sandwiches. They were \$15 but they were worth it. I wonder how many meals you can get from just one.

That was quite an experience. But actually what stands out most in my mind was Rockefeller Plaza. And there weren't any people there. It was too cold and nothing was playing at Radio City. Though empty, there was a haunting feeling about it. A lot of other people found it that way too. In heated nearby stores, they were always turning their heads to look at the empty plaza with the Manship statue of a stylized Atlas.

♥▲♥ I have often gone to the Strand bookstore. In later times, for occult books. I don't know why. They never had a really great selection of them. Still, I have to admit they have had an incredible selection of other types of books.

But the reason I have gone there all along was probably atmosphere. I could tell it was hopping with something beside books. Periodically I have gotten glimpses of it. How relationships rise and fall in that store. My sister met someone who was working there. They became long term friend and he even wrote comedy for her.

Years later, I applied for a job at the Strand but, with a masters, they considered me overqualified.

♥▲♥ I don't know about that Virginia seafood place. I remember a place in New Orleans where I ate crawfish that were very hot. Although the taste remained; so, I guess, it couldn't be all that bad. Just that I may have looked like a dragon for a short time.

♥▲♥ Rosie's a good sport. Pulling all night trips across the nation like you. I would never have pegged her for a hearty traveler.

GUY H. LILLIAN III **spiritus mundi 188**

♥▲♥ My main problem with the French Quarter about a decade ago was finding a bathroom. Especially since I and my friend Jerry had drunken so much beer. There seemed that night to be a lot of facilities for ingesting things. But not enough for getting them out.

Of course, it could have been we were too drunk to look in the obvious places.

♥▲♥ Good times and virtue seem to have been contradictory during the Mardi Gras. The 'Christians' driving out the Tarot readers, face painters and tourists with sermonizing. Of course, maybe it's good times and fanaticism. The determining factor may not be virtue but lack of a sense of humor. That certainly would be contradictory to the spirit of the Mardi Gras.

♥▲♥ Good for you. Getting Cindy a place to stay. Albeit not one that is conflict free. Of course, with life, conflict comes with the territory. I hope she can come to terms with that Egyptian woman.

♥▲♥ I hate to say it, Guy, but having an investigator testify about what two prisoners said about your client sounds like Hearsay. Which, I gather, is not allowed in U.S. courts.

♥▲♥ ct. Me. Why if Gore had done what Cheney has done in Afghanistan, it would have been the height of incompetence to the Right. I remember Clinton's invasion of Haiti. To hear the Repubs tell it, it was one of the greatest military disasters in U.S. history. You never heard a peep from them that we won Haiti without firing a shot.

On the other hand, I am not altogether convinced that the Bushie strategy is the right one. And I would hope that if Al Gore used the same strategy, I would have the guts to cry out the word incompetent.

♥▲♥ Your wish is my command to see when Daisy Mae finally catches Li'l Abner.

As far as Al Capp being a rightwinger. He wasn't until 1960 or so. In fact, I remember an ad he did for a group that seems to have been leftist. Which was

on somebody's list of Communist organizations. Of course, it's after 1960 you remember him, I bet. What a difference a few years in age makes.

♥▲♥ About unpalatable wines. At the two Passover Seders I attend there is a war of the wines. It has normally been that I, my friend Larry and his friend Phil want a good white wine. And the women want the Maneshevitz they grew up with.

We had a defection this year. Phil decided we needed red wine. And he had a point. You have to put drops of the wine on your plate during the ritual to symbolize the First of the Ten Plagues, the Nile waters turning to blood. I agree with him. It should be red wine, but not sweet enough so that you puke.

Which the Carmel that got served approached. Fortunately, I drank it in sips. The four cups you are supposed to drink during the Seder were closer to four sips.

♥▲♥ I am willing to give the Bush Administration credit for two things. One, they have coordinated the search for al Qaeda and bin Laden well between countries. Also General Franks claimed they finally did get around to searching the battlefields for bin Laden memorabilia.

Let's give the Devil his due. We may as well not get too far from reality.

♥▲♥ Frank Edwards hawked magic. Strictly speaking flying saucers are not magic. They are a scientific fact manqué. In actuality, they give us the feeling of magic that astrology and Tarot does. And that people have lost in their lives and have been seeking desperately.

♥▲♥ I'm sure the Matt Helm movies were James Bond parodies. In an era of many bad James Bond parodies. And they



were probably terrible. But I don't think I saw any of them to completion. And they marked an era for me. So, in my mind, they weren't so bad. I would never get the DVD, but in the part of my brain that processes nostalgia, they weren't so bad.

♥▲♥ I hear portrayals of sado-masochism were a lot more socially acceptable in the '40s than now. But sometimes Moulton's Wonder Woman scripts were too much even then. And Bill Gaines had to reign him in.

♥▲♥ ct. Rich L. I have another position that could potentially cause conniptions among SFPA's Conservative contingent. I am willing to argue for Hilary's rhetorical stumble, that Clinton's Administration was the most honest in the 20th Century. Not the least scandalous, mind you, or the most chaste. But the most honest. There's a difference.

Some lies Clinton was taken to task for are common ordinary ones. Supposing Clinton didn't keep a campaign promise, so what? No Administration but Clinton's hasn't? And supposing he did distort the Republican position on Social Security. No partisan ever distorts the position of the opposition. ... Rrrriiiiight!!

Such things only show that Bill was a normal President. What has convinced me

he may have conducted the most honest Administration is this. He survived investigations by an army of detectives and lawyers: Burton's, Starr's and Scaife's. Also, he survived a hostile judiciary. A judiciary that let Larry Klamann interrogate cabinet members many hours. A judiciary that deputized Starr, apparently ultimately to get Clinton on anything he could.

I'm not certain, with that amount of scrutiny, any other President would not have been found guilty of at least a couple of felonies.

Of course, the Conservative contingent knows Bill's guilty of all sorts of things even if they can't prove it to the satisfaction of liberals. Or even a sympathetic judiciary. Like the death of Vince Foster. And maybe the fifty-three. And, for them, if there is any justice in the world, knowing is more important than proving. At least in Bill's case.

♥▲♥ ct. Norm. I agree that it's ridiculous that the primitive man could not have raised the statues on Easter Island. Or the Stonehenge. However, I believe there are many things modern man could not have done without the help of extraterrestrials. Like building the Empire State Building. In fact, I hear, in the second floor Men's Room is proof conclusive. Graffiti that says: "This place must have been built by Martians."

You know the Empire State Building mysteriously was built pointing toward the flying saucers – i.e., up?

♥▲♥ I don't know about the terror of clowns. You can make them into creatures of horror. But you have to work at it. If I opened my door at midnight and saw a clown, I would tell the person he was drunk. And to take off that silly outfit.

♥▲♥ ct. Arthur. No one ever extols the real working class, the real middle class or the real upper class. It is only the ideal. Many of the real working class are doing quite well financially; so much for being oppressed. Many of the real middle class get divorced and watch porn; so much for middle class values. The real upper class can get involved in all sorts of financial shenanigans; so much for entrepreneurship and initiative. The trouble arises when people believe the ideal real when it's something we should shoot for.

♥▲♥ So Guy, what's your Greek mean? The first two words are "Spiritus Mundi." Latin spelt with Greek letters. The last word is "ghliiii." Or GHLIIII. It's what's in-between I have trouble with. One word is "Phor," which, I guess, means 'by.' So 'Spiritus Mundi is by ghliiii.'

The word before that is the one I really can't make heads or tails out of – something like "bps." No vowels. Bachelor of Psychology? That's not really a degree. I guess you could get Bachelor of Science out of it, although I don't picture your major as being in the sciences, Guy.

♥▲♥ I liked what Lafferty I read. It was simple direct action, told like the Norse sagas or parts of the Bible. However, there is a difference: it was not done soberly like the Bible or sagas, but with a sympathetic tongue-in-cheek. Maybe Lafferty's problem was that he really didn't have a mean bone in his body. And all the meanness of the world was the cause of his drinking. Of course, I didn't know the man.

RICH LYNCH variations on a theme #11

♥▲♥ ct. Me. Fortunately, my mail,

neither at work nor home, comes from the Brentwood facility. So it didn't have half the delays yours did. And, in fact, speed of delivery seems back to its old pace. For me, it normally doesn't seem to deviate much from the advertised three days.

♥▲♥ In part, I was doing what Catherine Asaro warned against: judging her books by her covers. Her publishers, she complained, have used misleading covers with abandon. Often advertising her last book better than the one the cover is supposedly for.

On the other hand, I have also used her admitted awards, which have often been for the romance in her novels. Her first novel *Primary Inversion* may have been closer to hard SF, but I suspect her later tales are Spacesuit Rippers.

♥▲♥ ct. Ned Brooks. So far the problem with spacecraft is not meteors, cosmic rays and solar flares. Instead, the problem with outerspace has been innerspace: namely, making a spacecraft with sufficiently few defects it won't breakdown.

♥▲♥ ct. Guy Lillian. Given that it is so difficult to tell who had the first SF fanzine, maybe the competition should be considered a draw. Julie can get credit for it and so can *The Planet*.

♥▲♥ ct. David Schlosser. I read an article in the *New York Times* where the owner of the World Trade Center declared his intention to rebuild. Just not a building quite as tall. And thus, I guess, not quite the target for Islamic extremists.

♥▲♥ ct. Janice Gelb. Your bifocals for \$200-250 sound like graduated. I have them and that's what the cost is. Whereas

you might be able to get by on \$99 for glasses with the bifocals separate from the main lens.

About what I use my bifocals for, I need glasses for driving but I couldn't use my regular glasses for reading as well. I am sure I could get by with bifocals separate. But my current graduateds are more comfortable. And what, I figure, is more worthy of pampering than your eyes.

ct. Steve Hughes. I hear Enron stock and Polaroid are worth 10¢ a share. I wonder if I should get a hundred shares of each. I will probably lose my \$20. But many people spend more on the lottery and my chances are greater for recouping from either one.

DAVID SCHLOSSER peter, pan & merry #42

I don't know how much Saudi subsidies to fundamentalist schools has protected them. There was a coup attempt and one of their kings was assassinated.

I like the idea Cotton as in Cotton Mather came from the Hebrew word for Little, i.e., Katan. Cotton Mather being Increase's son.

On the other hand, my trusty *American Collegiate Dictionary* claims that the word cotton once meant Increase. And I am wondering whether it did in Cotton Mather's time. And that when he was named Cotton, it was just another way of saying his father's name, Increase.

I think doctors exacerbated the shortage of nurses for the longest time by keeping down their salaries. Of course, there have to be other reasons why other health professionals are currently in shortage.

My wife has sciatica and, from it, a limp. She let it go for the longest period of time; only now does she seem to be finally getting around to getting it treated. I think you took the wiser course, namely immediate treatment. By doing that, you may have prevented a limp. And, from the way you described your problem, something worse.

You know who could find out what the word is for touting some sponsor's products during the program? Gary Brown. It was mentioned in one of the '50s *Mads*, and he has the *Mad* Magazine CD.

That's the thing about symbols; they don't have to have anything to do with the substance. The Stars and Bars can remind people of the Antebellum South even though it postdates it. How gay were the gay '90s and how roaring were the Roaring '20s? How conformist were the '50s? An anachronistic flag pales by comparison.

If the Magen David decorates synagogues, it is getting damn close to being a holy symbol.

ct. Ned Brooks. I gather that Lancelot started out as the hero of a bawdy Norman tale. And somehow got grafted onto the Arthur legend. But, being grafted on, the lake he is connected with could be the same one as the Lady of the Lake's. He was there with Arthur, Merlin and Gawain. Why not the Lady of the Lake and her lake?

I gather the Constitution allows the Congress to decide what courts will decide justice and what their jurisdiction will be. During the Civil War, jurisdiction for trying Copperheads was given over to

military courts. The Supreme Court ruled that perfectly legal.

In fact, I hear Congress could eliminate the Supreme Court if it wanted. And Robert Bork, failed Supreme Court nominee, recently was advocating that Congress do just that. Which didn't help those who have wished to claim his views have been in the mainstream.

ct. Richard Lynch. I understand blood banks are into zero tolerance for impure blood. But sometimes that seems the equivalent of zero brains. Not being able to give blood because many years ago you traveled out of the country is zero brains.

Not zero brains but closely approaching it is my experience. The last time I gave blood, I had to sign several forms that I didn't have AIDS. And now I have been barred permanently from giving blood because of hepatitis I never had. A reading a hundred times that would show hepatitis. According to my doctor, mine didn't.

ct. Arthur Hlavaty. The people on my Solo librarians' list claim that Enron stadium is back to Astros Stadium again. Of course, the owners are looking for some other well heeled dude to name their stadium after.

ct. Guy Lillian. Guy doesn't have to send us \$10,000 to find out what the Nigerian Prisoner scam is about. All he has to do is give us info about his bank account.

ct. Jeff Copeland. I imagine converting Fahrenheit to Centigrade using $F=2C+30$ is bad for many purposes, like determining fevers. It's like setting Pi at 3.5. Which urban legend claims some legislature did.

ct. Eve Ackerman. "Science Fiction Flans"? Is that something like the Blanc-mange from outerspace in the Monty Python skit?

SHEILA STRICKLAND

revenant #11

As an old Toastmaster, I'd tell you to volunteer to teach Sunday School. It would be a good way to learn public speaking. You would be throwing yourself into it. After a while it will become second nature. And public speaking seems an advantageous ability on almost any job.

I admit speaking to kids may be different than speaking to adults. But I bet not that different. And one of the differences, kids' unruliness, may make talking to adults a piece of cake.

ct. Derogatory Reference. I had a hard time with those pictures on the tool bar. And didn't use them much for the longest time. I used the menu bar instead. Now they are second nature.

So maybe I am more visual than you are. And, by the same token, not as much of a reader. I guess it figures. My mother's an artist and I would have to have inherited something from her.

ct. Tennessee Trash. I used to have school-related nightmares. Traditionally the test is about to begin in ten minutes and I haven't done any studying.

But I haven't had them in years.

Also, I have been more fortunate: I have never gotten nightmares about my current job. Maybe because it is basically hasslefree. I work mostly alone and am mainly responsible to myself. Of course, I realize I have to give people service to keep my cushy job. ...Or if I don't have to, I give

'em service anyway.

♣▲♣ ct. Peter, Pan & Merry. You can't expect any movie to be like the novel. Things have to be massively taken out to get it within an hour and a half. Even three hours. Even five hours.

Early TV was worse. Probably the LOTR people kept more in than the people during the '50s who were responsible for getting through a classic in half an hour. Here is the plot for Sinclair Lewis' *Arrowsmith*. Arrowsmith meets Dr. Gottlieb. Arrowsmith becomes his acolyte. How about this plot for *Tom Sawyer*? Tom Sawyer is scared by Indian Joe.

I and Ned Brooks decided to do a half-hour *Gormenghast*. I originally offered this as the plot: kitchen boy makes good. But Ned convinced me it had to be this: kitchen boy makes evil.

♣▲♣ ct. Oblio. The sewer bill insists you are "Shiela." Well, what can I say: EVERYbody's pREfect.

♣▲♣ ct. Can't Believe Everything. You are going to hate me. The only videos I have bought in the past several years are the first and second Austin Powers. I bought them a year or two ago. On the other hand, I have yet to watch them.

♣▲♣ ct. The Werewolf is Napping. Yeah, illogic is all over the place in the mass media. Others have a different take on logic. I am reading Al Capp's *L'il Abner*. The United Media website has that comic strip from 1949. A ploy Capp uses again and again is that you think the plot is going to be illogical until in the end it proves to have a logic all its own.

For instance, a little, fiendishly evil invisible man does evil until he gets picked up by little invisible cops. Cops not

previously mentioned but logically inferred. Another case of a logic all its own: *L'il Abner* is shot and survives. It was only a wound to the head. Which says something about *L'il Abner*'s intelligence.

TOM FELLER frequent flyer

♣▲♣ So Rock groups, like the Lettermen, are becoming like the Big Bands. I read a *Wall Street Journal* article on the surviving Big Bands years ago. A number survive without, of course, their original members. Sometimes some band member even writes new music in the Big Band style.

The article claims most old people nostalgic for such music prefer if it is played by young people. That further reminds them of their youth. There are exceptions, however. There was a report of a man who claimed he drove six hours to see Tommy Dorsey. And felt he was gypped when Dorsey wasn't at the concert.

♣▲♣ Why is GMAC suing Silverstein for lobbying to limit 9-1-1 liability? That means less money will come out of its hide, right? Or wouldn't it?

♣▲♣ I hear Southwest Airlines lost fewer passengers than the other airlines because it didn't cut back as much on amenities.

♣▲♣ ct. Me. I think comparing Tarot predictions to what happens a year later would ruin the magic for people. The tingling feeling that they have something in common with the rest of the universe. However those predictions came true, they could never live up to the hype that feeling engenders.

What would ruin the magic even



more is if the predictions had to be made in the precise language of modern science. The mere act of doing it would probably ruin the magic.

♥▲♥ Dick Gregory was up-to-the-minute. If he talked about crashed saucers in 1974, that was when Carr's book on them came out. And inaugurated the craze.

♥▲♥ I bet you're right that the idea a good ruler does not want the job goes back to Plato. I know Cyrano de Bergerac's Republic of the Birds worked that way in his *Comic History of the States and Empires of the Sun*.

♥▲♥ ct. Guy Lillian. It is more than a coincidence that the young Lex Luther has become a sympathetic figure after the young Darth Vader, Anakin Skywalker, has become so popular as a sympathetic character. Makes box office sense. Not that Lucas didn't plan for the young Darth Vader to be sympathetic from the first.

♥▲♥ Enron committed scams. But, for a time there, it looked regular business was going to become a scam. All these financial devices came out to hide costs and exaggerate assets and profits. When the Enron scandal broke, *The Wall Street Journal* had one article a week, each on a different device from the '90s. And, yes,

they may have encouraged investment, but they encouraged skulduggery as well. And may yet bring on the crash.

IRV KOCH
offline reader

♥▲♥ I understand what your motive is right now: you are investing to support yourself so you won't have to work. Which means you take more risks than if you were investing for pin money. Despite that and that you are far away from being a man of leisure. I have to admit you have done OK.

However, the MBS REITS sounds like one of those investments where you can't lose, you can only win, as the salesman says. Which, the experience of friends has taught me, means you can lose big.

♥▲♥ Ah, the ground floor of the Social Security bureaucracy. Ah, Income Tax Examining Assistant. I applied for both those jobs twenty-seven years ago. And blew both of them. The first, because I annoyed someone. The second because I was overly honest.

Probably could have gotten both right now. I have since learned to keep my mouth shut during an interview.

♥▲♥ Yup, Google is the best search engine as far as I can tell. A number have come out and I have tried them. They have all been touted as the wonder of the age; and as far as above, Google as 'man is to the dinosaur.' Teoma claimed that.

But I couldn't find anything on them that I was looking for. Whereas on Google I often can. So I look on Google..

♥▲♥ ct. Me. I understand why you gave up your Federal pension. You wanted the lump sum so you could invest it and it

would help you become self-supporting. I'm a lot more cautious than you. For me, my pension is a bird in the hand. Versus two invested in the bush.

♥▲♥ I agree that old word processors are worthless right now. But that would be the beauty of collecting them. And old computers. That they might be worth something as collectibles in twenty years. In twenty years, CP/M and Wordstar might be the stuff of connoisseurs. And you would have gotten in on the ground floor.

Of course, there is a good chance they might not be worth anything: they might be considered the same junk then they are today. You take that risk.

♥▲♥ Libya and Syria cleaned up their act because they are secularists/modernists. And presentday terrorists are Islamic fundies. Iraq would be cleaning up its act too except for the hostility of the U.S.

♥▲♥ There are rumors all the time that the government knows who sent the anthrax mail. Or the whereabouts of bin Laden. However, I am dubious about the Ashcroft Justice Department knowing anything. They are too much into their appearances.

♥▲♥ In addition to catering to old folks, libraries gain support for themselves by being useful to businesses. Those Dun & Bradstreet directories, the Dialstar online service, the Dow Jones service, their *Fortune* subscription can produce manna from heaven for libraries in the form of political support. If not from search fees.

♥▲♥ I defer to you about *Wind Done Gone*. I didn't know what happened in that case. I'm sure the Margaret Mitchell estate didn't like it; and figured that, by their

opposition, they at least showed *Wind Done Gone* was not an official version.

Also, I bet they breathed a sign of relief. It could have been worse. Someone could have put out a version where Scarlett was actually a man in drag.

♥▲♥ ct. Ned B. I wonder if the part of the World Trade Center people could get out of was the part where the beams had been insulated with asbestos. That contradicts another theory I have heard, however: that the separating point was above and below where the plane hit.

♥▲♥ ct. Jeff C. Eric Raymond has had all sorts of personas. I remember seeing him preside as the reigning nabob at an impromptu at the 1998 Worldcon. So I can see him as a person of some fame. I couldn't see him that way at the 1984 DISCLAVE, where I first met him. Then he seemed to be a garrulous, egocentric kid.

GARY BROWN oblio no. 139

♥▲♥ FAHRENHEIT 451

REVISITED. Literally, Ray Bradbury is wrong. In the internet world, we have to read and write. The '50s with its television culture has not been totally a harbinger of the future.

But he is right in another way. The tendency is to crush anything with intellect and anything with depth. And cling to the conventional for dear life.

♥▲♥ MEGACON, ORLANDO 2002. Ray Bradbury is right about something else too. We have to say to hell with it with old age. And get on with our life as best we can. You and I, for instance, with our arthritis.

Maybe we should say that about all the roadblocks we meet with in general.

With all the roadblocks we have ever met. There is no such thing as 100% satisfaction or 100% security even when we are young.

♥▲♥ The only come-in I remember ever having with baseball cards was that a friend collected them in the early '50s. We must have been seven or eight at the time. And I noticed most of the players were in their twenties then. Which meant they had been born in the 1920s.

There would be no reason to think anything of it at the time. But, thinking about it now, those fellows, so young and strong in my childhood, are in their seventies. And that freaks me out.

However, there is a similarity between me and Michael Chabon. I have a collection but I'm not collecting. The local money which I explained in the Table of Contents and which I inherited from my wife's grandmother. Which I have illustrated my zine with this time around.

A stray fact. On the one on the front with a couple getting into bed, the caption reads, 'Cheer up, share a bed with a friend.' Or something to that effect.

♥▲♥ AND WHAT ABOUT BOYS TOWN? My limited experience with Catholicism showed me how a priest could get away with child abuse. I didn't know any priest who was doing anything fiendish. Quite the contrary, my determining experience had to do with a priest who was quite a decent person. And that was the problem.

At the mausoleum, he presented the last rites. And got the name of my friend's mother wrong. He called her Agnes when her name was Alice. My friend refused to correct him. He was a Monsignor.

With this particular priest, it was apparent he would have been only too glad

to correct himself. He was apologetic as it was for having to cut the service a little short to go to his brother's funeral. And he was willing to admit in other ways he was a mere human.

If my friend, a liberal Catholic, wouldn't have complained about her mother being given a wrong name, how would conservative Catholics react even if the accusation was child molesting? And even if they were the victim? And how would they have reacted if the priest was not a decent individual, like one I met, but instead willing to use all the status of his office to hide his crimes?

There would be nothing to stop him. If the laity would be cowed, the hierarchy would have lacked the will. The Catholic hierarchy was too interested then in appearances. They figured it would ruin their appearance of godliness if bad apples were revealed among them. That is why they transferred their child molesters.

This is also the cop mentality. And why cops are so reluctant to blow the whistle on bad cops. I guess it's the doctor mentality too toward malpractice. Although, from my brother's experience, I get the impression it's easy enough to get doctors to testify against other doctors.

♥▲♥ ct. Me. Don't worry about not spelling Twygdrasil right. I have trouble with the word myself.

♥▲♥ I once thought that bin Laden was in Pakistan. But now I see there are enough caves in Afghanistan to hide. A troop of Taliban or al Qaeda's were found in one complex recently. Near the capital Kabul, no less.

♥▲♥ Maybe you should get rid of LePore and make a cocker spaniel the

election commissioner. Maybe there would be more efficiency that way.

🍷▲🍷 That's what I said: Krispy Kremes taste great hot. It may have confused you that I said "Cold Dunkin' Donuts has them hands down." Maybe I should have said "Cold, Dunkin' Donuts has them hands down" Or better still "Cold; Dunkin Donuts has them hands down"

🍷▲🍷 So I was right: there were fewer caricatures in Turok than Conan Doyle's *Lost World*. For instance, the hero Professor Challenger looked more than vaguely like the Missing Links that make an appearance in the novel.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian. Actually exercise helps with arthritis. Since I started weight lifting, my arthritis has reversed itself to a great extent. Others, I hear, have found the same thing. Of course, you have to do only as much as you can without too much pain.

Then there is the problem of when you would have time to exercise. I lead a comparatively indolent life.

🍷▲🍷 Your friend had luck with chemotherapy. He didn't lose any hair.

I have had luck with Avonex so far. While it causes flu like symptoms in some people, I only had them once. Also, while the shots can be very painful for some people, they have only been mildly painful to me.

Further, I was lucky with the diabetes medicine. It caused me to lose weight and be more energetic. It causes other people to gain weight.

Go figure.

🍷▲🍷 You can't hide from terror. Even homegrown terror. You remember

home invasions. The best thing you can do with it is what Ray Bradbury does with old age. Forget about it and get on with your life.

🍷▲🍷 *Pearl Harbor* sounds like it was one of those monster spectacles. Long and dull.

I remember a *Mad Magazine* parody of the movie *The Alamo* starring John Wayne. In the end, these Mexican troops surround Wayne.

And they shout, "We want to get John Wayne!!"

He replies, "What you really want to say is we want to get Davy Crockett."

And they reply, "No, we want to get John Wayne. And Charleton Heston. And anyone else who puts out monstrosities like this one."

Or something to that effect.

🍷▲🍷 JOHNNY HART. I remember when Johnmy Hart was popular in the '60s. Particularly popular was his character Grog. Just an enormous head mounted on legs who could not speak but gave off loud noises. For some reason, the character was considered cool.

🍷▲🍷 BACOVER: THE PHANTOM. Too bad the Phantom has become such a bore. I read him in the '70s and he was a bore. And I was reading him online at King Features a few months ago and he was a bore then. After a while, I couldn't read the comic any longer. The problem is the Phantom is never vulnerable and the outcome is never in doubt.

STEVE and SUZANNE HUGHES
travelers tales v1 #1

🍷▲🍷 HEY WE'RE BACK. You haven't been doing SFPazines much

because you are interested in other things. That seems to be the real fall of fandom. Joel Nydahl, for whom Nydahl's disease is named, claimed recently in Robert Lichtman's *Trapdoor* that was the reason he gave up fandom. Not that he was burnt out from his monster *Vega*. His family moved from the country to the town and he discovered girls.

♥▲♥ You've outdone yourself with this zine – beeeaaautiful graphics. Ordinary color photos are not half as clear and bright.

♥▲♥ IMAGINE – A WORLD WITHOUT FIGMENT. Remember this: "There is no mind, it's all a figment of your imagination." I don't know what this means but a friend of mine always used to say it. It helps to explain things that he said it thirty years ago and under the influence of quite a bit of marijuana.

♥▲♥ WHY I KEEP ON GOING. I don't know if we need illusions. Maybe we do. But we certainly need ideals. Some vision of a world where things are better. Certainly where there is no strife and no poverty. And maybe where all the streets are clean.

That's the problem we've been having. We have no ideals. The moment someone gives us a glimpse of the ideal. Someone else has to come along, find some fault in him, her or it; and say they have feet of clay.

Which makes you wonder whether we have ideals like freedom, justice and happiness right now? Or are they just self-interest?

♥▲♥ FINDING EAGLE BEACH. A friend of mine suggested Orbitz. And so I have used it like you, only in reserving a flight to Hunstville for this year's

DeepSouthCon.

♥▲♥ EATING OUT IN ARUBA. The Buccaneer has an aquarium. It doesn't have to serve decent food.

RANDY B. CLEARY
avatar press v2 #20

♥▲♥ This is an easy zine to read. I have a distinct feeling I met some of these people during DeepSouthCon last year. But you can't tell: the photos hide their true personalities. As usual, by your photo, we can't see how cleancut you really are. Or do you wish not to look cleancut? Also, Hank's daughter doesn't seem to care for the proceedings, but she may have had a lot of fun.

The problem is although photos can serve to bring out the real person, usually they hide the real person. Given my total inability to photograph anything, the personalities are hidden by accident. And I come up with all sorts of weird people. I bet a trained photographer can hide or reveal by design.

One thing is clear, though, Charlotte's smile shows the real Charlotte.

EVE ACKERMAN
guilty pleasures 23

♥▲♥ CRUISIN'. Your voyage sounds great. It sounds like something I would love, but I can't afford or I would never get around to it.

As for your kids, they sound like good kids. If they threw a wild party, they would clean things up so you would never know. Anyway, as you say, the cat would watch them.

♥▲♥ A friend of mine from the deep South claims that they get really expensive



watches like your \$8,000 Ebel as a nest egg. If they ever need the money, they can pawn them – I guess.

♥▲♥ JELLY SIDE UP. It's great that you got the transmission fixed just under the warranty. You seem to understand cars better than my mother. I inherited a Volvo from her.

Me: "Ma, the brake lights on."

My Mom: "Is that what it is?"

Lots of luck, Mom.

♥▲♥ No good deed goes unpunished in the material world. In the spiritual world, no bad deed goes unpunished. If only because we fail to rein in our desires and we end up with greater desires.

♥▲♥ I don't think we're ready yet for a convention based on Ancient Roman themes. People's heritage doesn't seem to go back farther than five years. An exaggeration, of course. But our world is notoriously for the moment. Five years does indeed seem like a lifetime. And how many fans would *even* think of the Illiad or Aristophane's *The Frogs*?

GARY R. ROBE
tennessee trash #46

♥▲♥ THE FLU IN PERU. One of these days I also am going to have to organize my computer too so I can find the files I need. Any power point file on my file would be God knows where too, and I could easily forget to download the message with my hotel arrangements.

I guess one of these days I will have to compile some subject classification plus a multitude of links for crossreferencing. Plus several categories of messages, like hotel arrangements, I would automatically download. After a while, I guess, I could secondguess my subject classification.

As it is, everything is dumped into trash heaps and I have to keep my fingers crossed I will be able to find things.

♥▲♥ THE GLAMOUR OF RUNNING. This is the flu season, isn't it? You sick, your wife sick, your son sick, Gary Williams sick. People sick both in North and South America. Maybe Concave this year should have been called Morflu.

♥▲♥ Isn't Xerps for a Worldcon on Mars? With a jacuzzi, they will get the nomination hands down. Many of us will have to look forward to blasting off some year.

♥▲♥ MIDDLE OF THE EARTH. Dupont's not the only one who forgets whom their audience is. I have done it numerous times. The Toastmaster manuals tell us to do indepth research. But who's going to do that? It's common sense or luck. Or you've lost them.

♥▲♥ THE TIME MACHINE. The problem is the class conflicts that H.G. Wells' *Time Machine* was satirizing have disappeared. And film makers have looked for a substitute in making the novel into a

film.

In the '60s one with Yvette Mimieux, the government Morlocks ate the trusting Eloi after they had lured them into fallout shelters. Sort of a satire on its time.

As bad as it was, it sounds like it was head and heels above the recent remake. Which does not know what it wishes to say. One reviewer described the movie as in effect exhorting us to rid the world of Morlocks. Of course, there aren't any.

I had an idea for grafting the *Time Machine* onto now. If they made the Eloi into New Agers and the Morlocks into the hardheaded at least they would have made a statement about something. The movie still would still have been crap, but it would remain satire.

🍷▲🍷 As I have often said, a lot of What Ifs have gotten stale. What if the South had won the Civil War, like in the Turtledove trilogy you read. What if Nazi Germany had won. Why not what if we had won the Vietnam War? That isn't hackneyed yet. I once did a what if Humphrey had been elected rather than Nixon.

Hey, what if we had actually won the Afghan War?

But a split in time does not have to be brought about alternate great events. Alternate micro-acts theoretically would have the same worldshaking effects. O. Henry had a person choose a different fork in the road for a split in time. Someone choosing to put the right shoe on rather than the left could theoretically do the same thing. In fact, I gather the alternate action of an electron could too.

🍷▲🍷 AND THEN THINGS GOT WORSE. Diseases can be insidious. You thought Isaac had the flu and it turned out to be rheumatic fever – although it does not

sound that it has affected his heart.

I thought I was having the flu a lot several years ago. And it turned out to be gallbladder. For me, there was a happy ending. I haven't had 'flu' since.

MIKE WEBER

...a monument that neither government nor time can eradicate.

🍷▲🍷 ct. J. Copeland. Of course, the Nuremberg trials were revenge covered with legalisms because we are sensitive about the 'r' word.

And I bet the government now wished that it had chosen to try Lindh by military tribunal. His lawyers have brought out photos of him tied to a stretcher and blindfolded. Not good p.r. I bet they even wish they had sent Lindh for interrogation in Egypt.

🍷▲🍷 ct. D.Markstein. I think Bush's bombing in Afghanistan may at first have been of strategic targets. But there aren't many in Afghanistan. After a while, we were bombing nothing of any value. Just trying to prove we were doing something.

Then we said, What the hey!, and joined the Northern Alliance in overthrowing the Taliban.

🍷▲🍷 USENET GUIDE. I can see why Usenet is being used less these days. The flamers alone would repel participants. And then, I hear, there are the pornographers, who have taken over a number of News Groups.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Ned. Periodically don't physicists come up with a repulsive force to account for discrepancies in their equations. From Einstein on down. Maybe we can have a space ship run by one of these stopgap repulsive forces.

It would be more authentic – I guess – than the repulsive force of nothingness from that hack SF novel. Which, since nature abhors a vacuum, must be very weak.

LIZ COPELAND

🍷▲🍷 Since I was reading your zine during an attack of insomnia, I had to sympathize with you not being able to sleep. And given how puzzling my insomnia is, I had to sympathize with your explanation of it: neighbors having pasta for dinner. That may as well be the explanation for my insomnia.

🍷▲🍷 SYLVIA 2. Enron shredded documents being collectible. Why not? *The Onion*, I hear, had certain extension cords being collectible. Only 12,500 of them were made.

JANET LARSON

passages #13

🍷▲🍷 Everyone in your family coming down with the flu. Sounds like Gary Robe's family.

🍷▲🍷 The 9-1-1 terrorism being an act of selfishness. Oh contraire, those arshlocks sacrificed their lives so the twin towers might fall.

As for red blooded Americans being selfish, we are in-between selfish and sacrificing. Fortunately, man can't live on money and power alone. He needs to give. However. I have to admit we have to get some red blooded Americans in touch with this need.

🍷▲🍷 Why can't the Israelis give the Palestinians dignity and autonomy? They would regard that as rewarding terrorism. Of course, the Palestinians won't stop the

terrorism because that would be rewarding Israeli tyranny. It's a vicious cycle.

It resists slowing down too. A single individual acting can speed it up. I have no doubt some groups, including Arafat's supposed organization, are involved in packing people with explosives and smuggling them in to Israel.

But a single individual could do it. And maybe do it better. And it would still be met with collective punishment. And the belief all Palestinians are at fault. A Palestinian Timothy McVey could keep the Arab-Israeli dispute going indefinitely.

In short, the Israeli government is allowing terrorists to make policy for it.

🍷▲🍷 That's what my wife, the horsewoman, has always said. You basically buy a horse to ride it. And only secondarily to show it. Chippie sounds like he might be able to fulfill both bills.

He differs quite a bit from the Polish Arabians selling for millions ten years ago. My wife complained most could not be ridden; they were back at the knees.

🍷▲🍷 Coffee allows you to function without sleep. It doesn't really work that way with me. It only energizes me when I have had enough sleep. When I have too little sleep, I even cut back because it gives me nerves.

🍷▲🍷 I'm glad you were able to hear Dr. Fadel speak. Sometimes everything seems to be conspiring to keep one from doing something. I can see where whispers about the New World Order, the Masons, the Jesuits and the Illuminati come in.

However, I usually presume it is a conspiracy of chance. In my experience, even when people are conspiring, their conspiracies have only worked by chance.

JEFF COPELAND
playing pepe le pew

♥▲♥ REVIEWS. Why doesn't someone make a computer's platform the internet? And beat Microsoft to the punch.

Or maybe someone has. Remember the fellow, I told you about, who lost it on the bus on 9-1-1. I found out something from him. He worked for a firm that was doing all sorts of things with the internet. You would have an account and could get your email, do your own calendar, and be capable of other good stuff. I went to the website and it appeared to work.

He claimed it was lot less complicated than the LAN we have. And lot less prone to disruption. Search me.

♥▲♥ MAILING COMMENTS SFPA 223. ct. Me. The Chandra Levy Case a tempest in a waterglass? More a drop of water. Often, though, it amuses me to see how shallow the media can become squeezing a story after story out of a bit of fluff.

♥▲♥ *Nope, [bosses being threatening] falls into the same problem as Dilbert does occasionally when it gets to be documentary rather than entertainment.* Even when the bosses suck blood and turn employees into zombies?! ... You're right, it's a documentary.

♥▲♥ I guess a sliderule would be programmable if you could take out one rule with one mathematical function and put in another rule with another mathematical function.

Yes, I know I must seem impossible, but I'm not getting a completely clear picture. And I'm not certain anyone else has one. That we aren't depending more on the

connotation of the word computer rather than its meaning.

♥▲♥ Even when there were great income disparities, I'm not certain a rational population could not deal with it without oppression and rebellion.

The problem is that politics is specifically designed so it isn't rational. The issues it chooses are specifically those that cause a gut reaction. Specifically those where our egos have a high investment. Specifically those tied to the bedrock of our deepest hopes and fears.

We try to ignore those things and pretend we can act rationally about politics at our peril. Of course, we do it, completely oblivious to this fact.

♥▲♥ Then neither the internet nor Lasswitz's universal library would enlighten us one iota since they contain all the misinformation of the world as well as all the information.

In fact, they might add to our ignorance. H.L. Mencken claimed the truth always takes a backseat to untruth when the two are in competition. Often not; but always, if the untruths are like ones I was talking about up above, where we have a great emotional investment.

♥▲♥ Actually, my mail is being delivered no worse than before, at the present time. Three days is about right.

It is true that I sent someone a video recently from DC to Alabama. And it took two weeks for him to receive it. But it seems it was waiting in his university's mailroom most of that time.

♥▲♥ ct. Ned Brooks. I agree the neutron bomb and land mines are immoral. How about random bombing to decrease the enemies' morale? Or for public relations

purposes? That may be hitting too close to home for a number of people.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. And then there's also the Michael Moorcock tale "Behold the Man." Where not only is the time traveler a participant in Christ's crucifixion. He is Christ himself.

🍷▲🍷 Yes, Mapquest leaves something to be desired. The last time I had a map printed out from it, the first leg suggested was over a section of ground I know doesn't have a road. And is fenced in.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Liz Copeland. My problem when I write is not that I have to make compromises with other people, as Woody Allen complains of. It's that I have to make compromises with reality. What I am thinking does not work quite as well when I put it on paper.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Brown. I went to an art exhibit once where this fellow's specialty was architectural plans for fantasy condos. He had the Statue of Liberty condos, the Sphinx condos and the Grand Canyon condos. When I met him, he had these words of wisdom: "Location, location, location."

🍷▲🍷 The one thing I heard about the birth rate increasing during 9-1-1 said it was a myth. That it was no Great Blackout of 1966. Of course, the evidence was not especially scientific. Whoever came up with it asked some obstetricians and they said they hadn't perceived in an increase in the birthrate.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Richard Lynch. I'll buy that: 90% of the criticism of the World Trade Center's structure is 20/20 hindsight. Except it's not really 20/20. The problem with the

World Trade Center was, as you say, not insulation or cement or steel. The problem was that it was the symbol of world trade and thus the target for terrorists.

A lot of the ideas have been to enable the World Trade Center to withstand a hit by fuel filled aircraft. Something that was unlikely to happen to begin with. And that is even more unlikely to happen again.

🍷▲🍷 The way I remember Clinton bashing, it was originally less partisan than that. It started before Bob Barr. The big media was looking for a new Watergate to bring back its reputation sagging from a surfeit of sensationalism. And Clinton being an outsider and not savvy in the ways of Washington yet was a great target.

That Bill's nickname was Slick Willy, of course, helped.

In fact, the big media became committed. They couldn't get out of it. The *Washington Post* and *New York Times* were big supporters of Starr to the bitter end. And beyond.

Soon politicians were getting on the bandwagon, Democrats as well as Republicans. While Bob Barr was promoting impeachment, others were not far behind. Many moderate Democrats wanted to bring Bill Clinton down. They figured they would somehow benefit by that.

Of course, after the 1994 Elections, it was found the only ones who would benefit were the Republicans. And so fellow Democrats were more circumspect about investigating his Administration.

JEFF COPELAND
three foreign countries, six airports, nine flights, eighteen days: the asian tour

🍷▲🍷 That was some adventure. And it was only in the course of you doing your

job. I remember on the Bob Newhart show. He asked one of his patients what his greatest fear is. And the fellow responded it was going over the Colorado River in a raft. Then Newhart asked what the fellow was doing on vacation. And he said going over the Colorado River in a raft.

Unlike that fellow, you didn't have much choice in the matter. On the other hand, I envy you. Seeing foreign places, doing exotic things, seeing solutions that you may be able to transfer here. Seeing that, in some ways, things are not so bad here. And, in others, they are.

☺▲☺ I guess it is an art telling someone something in an elliptical fashion and having them understand perfectly. Other forms of indirect communication are also an art. A friend of mine used to smile all the time, but you knew exactly where she stood.

☺▲☺ Phonics being the only way kids actually learn to read? You bet. Way back in the '50s, I was taught to read with the Progressive method. You were supposed to learn purely by sight without mouthing the text silently. 'Progressive' educators realized that reading would take longer to learn. But, in the end, they believed kids would read faster and with greater comprehension.

That belief was all the rage then. I remember during my adolescence coming upon a tome in the library from the '40s. It claimed Black students were inferior readers, as they were in other things. One reason was they mouthed the text silently.

The Progressive technique was the basis of a speedreading class I took. One thing we were taught to do there, in addition to what we learned in grammar school, was to move our eyes properly.

In my experience, it was bunkum.

Speedreaders are born and these techniques, like all speedreading techniques, are b.s. What was learned in grammar school was b.s. too. I learned to read by phonics like kids these days who are taught it formerly. Just that the teacher didn't help. She was teaching by the above Progressive technique.

☺▲☺ So even teenagers feel bad when they overdo exercise. That makes me feel better – realizing of course that Allie's overexercise made her feel worse. Also realizing that overdoing exercise comes sooner to me than it would a fourteen year old. And can last a much much longer time.

☺▲☺ I hear when a sufficiently fat person gets on the plane, the regulations are that two seats should be made into one for them. This is a regulation, which, of course, airlines hate to comply with. And will give you an argument each and every time. Even if the person weighs six hundred pounds and looks like a house.

☺▲☺ Isn't Whorehouse Modern the appropriate decor for many business people? ...Anyway, the Thais, I take it, unlike us, are no prudes. Bare breasted dancing girls are a way of life.

☺▲☺ Not a literal translation from the French, is it? It seems to read that the first is Solange not Mary and her father is a chef not a mail man. The second is Yann not Andy and his father is not a mechanic; instead, he's THE postman. In both, it is clear that third kid's daddy is not a stripteaser at a gay men's club, like he tells the teacher. However, it isn't clear that the father plays hockey for Team USA in the French version. Instead, it is an occupation I can't really make out – "chez Microsoft"?

♥▲♥ The one person I saw in the U.S. with a sign proclaiming "I've lost forty pounds – ask me how" was an India Indian.

♥▲♥ The mattress was like a rock in Hyderabad. It was the in-thing to sleep on mattresses that were rocks in the '70s. It was one of the quackeries of the time that such mattresses were good for your back.

I remember twenty years ago getting one and sleeping was hard for the first couple of weeks. And then I got used to it. Of course, there's been a lot of water under the bridge since then. And I would probably once again feel like I was sleeping on marble.

♥▲♥ Your experience with Hyderabad traffic reminds me of a speech I heard once. It was given by a fellow toastmaster, a military man, Major Noble.

The good major was training this officer and they got on a helicopter that was acting seriously defective. The officer was hoping it wouldn't get off the ground. It did, and made all sorts of foreboding noises while flying unsteadily and wobbly.

Finally, the fellow lost it, went into hysterics and started blubbing. The major calmed him. And said he was a good officer after that.

Of course, the good major never explained why he had no misgivings about flying on the thing.

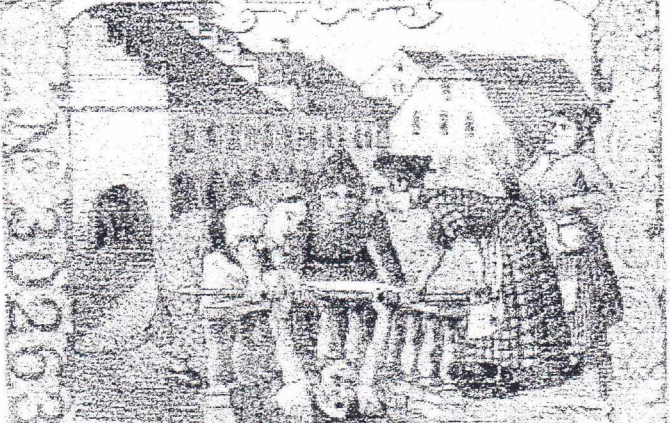
♥▲♥ Jeff, SFU 3.0 isn't the only software where the blind are leading the blind for a good part of the way. Janice Gelb told of her experience with DBASE IV. How it was such a turkey it was easy to see why Ashton-Tate fell. Now I will tell my experience. It was such a turkey the techs at my agency refused to install it on the computers even though they had some sort

of commitment to Ashton-Tate. We made do with DBASE III Plus.

Of course, the trouble with SFU 3.0 is not administrative incompetence, as in DBASE IV's case, but cheapness. Microsoft is developing it on the cheap in India, and it looks like it will get its money's worth.

THE END

Gegen Entfälschung dieses GUT-
SCHEINES führt die Stadt BECKUM



Die vorstehende Bescheinigung
kann in dem Fall der Fälschung
nur durch die Behörde der Stadt
Beckum und nur durch die
Behörden der Städte Beckum und
Beckum wieder hergestellt werden.

Bei Verlust dieses Bescheinigung
scheines ist die Behörde der Stadt
Beckum zu informieren und
zu beantragen, dass die
Behörden der Städte Beckum und
Beckum die Fälschung
verhindern.

Dieser
Schein verliert
seine Gültig-
keit, wenn er
nicht immer-
während eines

Monats
nach erfolgter
öffentlicher
Aufforderung
zur Einlösung
vorgewiesen wird