

# Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #85

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November 2003



I think I am supposed to be the model of Christ in this retelling of the good Samaritan story. I don't feel especially appropriate for the part. Apparently, the original is in Harry Belafonte's Church.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

An apology.....	3
Comments on SFPA #229.....	3
Arthur.....11	Ned.....3
David.....17	Norm.....19
Eve.....19	One Shot.....13
Gary B.....20	Randy.....23,29
Gary R.....24	Richard L.....9,28
Guy.....9,13	Sheila.....15
Janet.....25	Steve.....10,12,30
Jeff.....3,26	Suzanne.....10,30
Liz.....25	Tom.....12
Mike.....5,9	Toni.....28

ILLOS: COVER I as Christ by my mother. BACK My Bother and Sister as religious by my mother. p5,10,15,20,25 are all from the Pulp of the Day news group, where Nathan Shumate sends me a pulp cover of the day. Usually, they are quaintly lurid and I was in the mood for quaintly lurid covers, what can I say, so I picked some especially quaintly lurid ones.

## AN APOLOGY

Do I have things to tell you guys! But I didn't have the time to. I was too busy doing the things that I would be reporting about. At some other time, I am going to have to give a thumbnail description of my nieces and tell about my trip to Massachusetts to see old college friends. But, for now, I have got to get this out.

## COMMENTS ON SFPA 235

### JEFFREY COPELAND

#### the southerner #234

♥▲♥ MISCELLANEOUS. The effective deadline for SFPA being Saturday; not Thursday as it theoretically should be. Isn't that endemic? Especially since Thursday is a workday and the weekends are the best time for people to deal with their mail. Maybe we could make this part of the rules or something.

♥▲♥ Also, typos in the SFPA constitution which went on for years. Typos are endemic too. A friend of mine who is the top agency editor was telling me that typos remain even after seven people see a document. And even though that is what they are looking for rather than any substance. That and grammar errors. Of course, I doubt we should enshroud the typos in the SFPA constitution.

♥▲♥ ROSTER NEWS. If George has serious business, he would have no time for his usual method of writing zines. Namely, drinking coffee and staying up all night and writing the first thing that comes into his mind.

### NED BROOKS

## the new port news 211

♥▲♥ ct. Me. My zine looks so much better ever since I stopped having it photocopied at Office Depot and started printing it out on my spiffy new printer. It is more of a pain in the ass, but the zine looks a lot better.

♥▲♥ Forgetting things is the beginnings of Alzheimers? Then my Alzheimers started around ten years of age.

♥▲♥ You don't like obscurantist elites and that's why you don't like the Rosicrucians. Your problem is that you are a decent person. Obscurantism and elitism are the attraction of the Rosicrucians. It is true most people are anti-elitist, but that is only of other people's elites. Jules Feiffer once illustrated that quite well. He drew a cartoon where two 'sophisticates' were telling how all their snob friends were out of town. Then they lamented bane of cliques.

♥▲♥ A few Islamic militants, I bet, are threatened by any portraits, and only nonrepresentational art will do. Most aren't. I gather you can see enough of posters of bin Laden in Arab countries. And of the late Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran.

Where Islamic militants seem to draw a big line is representations of Mohammed. There was a bad movie years ago where the best you could do is see Mohammed's tent and his camel. And maybe his uncle, played by Anthony Quinn.

However, in the past, there were representations of the Prophet. A Persian one was presented in a museum exhibit in D.C. An Arab next to me said that he felt it was pure ignorance on the artist's part.

Islamic strictures are even weaker against smoking. A few Moslems are crusading against smoking, but smoking is

more pervasive in Arab countries than here. To these Islamic 'crusaders' chagrin.

♥▲♥ As I have said, Weapons of Mass Destruction are irrelevant. Most Americans believe that Saddam had something to do with 9-1-1. Bin Laden is bad and Saddam is bad, so they have to be in cahoots. The Weapons of Mass Destruction are considered just windowdressing for the international community.

What could get Bush is if we are seen to be in a quagmire in Iraq. That we were not welcomed like the nations liberated in World War II was a demerit. That our troops are still being killed is a big demerit.

♥▲♥ Having unwinnable Freecells would be an act of sadism. It would be comparable to what Sir Max Beerbohm did, I think, in the '40s. He created a crossword puzzle in a newspaper. And a few days later announced that it could not be completed.

♥▲♥ My writing did not follow my thinking on the issue of Cavourite. What I meant to say was this. First, Cavourite blocks, and gravity only of the Earth. It does not attract anything..

Second, it would not be attracted to a bowling ball above it because the bowling ball would not exert sufficient gravitational pull. However, it might be attracted by the Moon, which has plenty of gravity. Which was the idea in H.G. Wells novel *First Men in the Moon* (1901).

As for the effect of Cavourite on a bowling ball, you give an interesting exposition on that.

♥▲♥ I have reached the conclusion that the human mind does repress memories of trauma. And the process is certainly

different from mere forgetting of trivia. It certainly does it for physical trauma. You are dropping from a cliff very fast. Then you black out. It certainly does it for things you are genuinely embarrassed about. I find people forgetting their bon mots all the time.

On the other hand, memories can be faked as well. Before anyone gets prosecuted for child abuse, there should be corroborative evidence. A recent book claimed that it is difficult to do that. What?! I find I fabricate memories all the time! And the review I read didn't say what evidence the author had.

In addition, when there is a fad, like there was for repressed memories, nothing would be simpler than fabricating memories. Some people follow fads over a cliff.

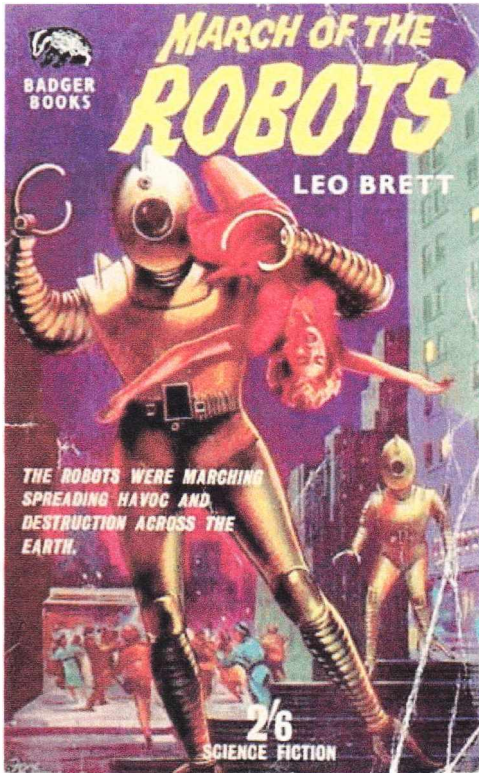
♥▲♥ I won't even comment on your remarks about Hank's 'pointy' skullcap. All these animosities have developed over decades of friendship.

♥▲♥ Certainly Franco's death swiftened the demise of the Fascist regime. And the Communist regime, while remaining after Stalin's death, certainly changed itself. For example a major portion of the Russian population had been freed from the Gulags by the late '50s.

♥▲♥ ct. Hughes. My Toyota can't compete with your record. Yours has been in good condition since 1986; mine only since 1992.

♥▲♥ I can see Steve's 3-D effects. I have to squint and adjust, but I see them eventually.

♥▲♥ ct. Lynch. But hasn't the Earth had more CO<sub>2</sub> at one time and less at other times? Like during the age of the dinosaurs, the Earth was mostly tropical because of all that CO<sub>2</sub>, and during the Ice Age less.



And the effect is the opposite of what would happen if the oceans absorbed the CO<sub>2</sub>. Since the ice caps had melted during the age of the dinosaurs, you would think there would be more ocean water. And since they had frozen up during the ice ages, you would think there would be

less.

So you say it was not incompetence that produced the Shuttle break up; it was something unforeseen. Supposedly, though, technicians on the ground knew something was wrong, and asked for additional testing. And it was denied because the project was behind schedule.

I agree, though, that the middle managers are probably taking the fall for the upper echelons, who ordered them to make the shuttle launch in time, no matter what the technicians said.

ct. Guy. I think Susan Smith's problem in advertising for a correspondent over the internet was not madness. It was that hope springs eternal in the human nitnerd.

There seems to be a tendency to defend bad apples. The Atlanta police officer Mr. Bunn, for example. Also, I hear recently a doctor Stein, who killed all sorts of people in Maryland, just was given a wrap on the wrist by the medical society. And then there is the Church's protection of pedophile priests.

I think the idea is that one rotten apple will make people think the whole basket is rotten. On the other hand, protecting them encourages the belief even more.

Ashcroft can't even threaten younger judges by reporting on their leniency. If they are liberal, they know the Bush Administration is not going to appoint them to higher judgeships, no matter how tough they are.

An Interrupter to keep a king from going off the deep end. And an Encourager of the Interrupter. Something similar happened in early Israeli ideas of heaven and God. God had satans to denounce people on Earth, I hear. Of course, people did not like them. And prophets were praised who succeeded in casting them aside.

Wasn't the quote about the rich and poor being forbidden to sleep under bridges Anatole France's?

## MIKE WEBER

### bob's infected thighs-legs-nose

SFPA 229 ct. Me. Apparently, a first court is established by the Constitution, but not the Supreme Court. The Congress can abolish the Supreme Court and create another first court as part of its prerogatives.

It can also have people tried by military courts rather than civilian courts.

🍷▲🍷 You claim because you only mention *The Clones* as predating a novel I mentioned, you did not say it was the first novel using that title. You would have actually had to have said that it was the first novel.

I don't know. I just quote somebody, and do not say it is my view. But it becomes my view anyway. For instance, I haven't actually said that Malowick did produce the '57 Chevy into the '60s, have I?

🍷▲🍷 Actually, I remember reading a book of Walt Kelly's in the '50s, a satire on McCarthy; and the bitterness showed through. So that strain was always there. On the other hand, I read later some episodes in *Pogo* that were obvious satire. And they were good natured.

🍷▲🍷 If Mr. Malowick's people pounded their '57 Chevy over a replica rather than used a die mold, would that be a handmade car? Or just a poor man's means of mass production?

🍷▲🍷 ct. Brown. My Windows 98 machine died on me. Apparently, the power source went and took the mother board with it. So I got a Windows XP.

It's a great computer, but I could not bring up my old CD-RWs. Which is what I had backed up my files on. After some machinations with Roxio, which produced the CD software, it told me a program, Isobuster, will bring up old CD-RWs. It does not cost much, \$20, but I was wondering why the standard Roxio software could not have done the same thing.

I really did not have to download that program to get at my backed up files. I had had a local computer service place

download them from my Windows 98 hard drive. I just wanted to be able to access older CD-RWs in general

🍷▲🍷 ct. GHLIII. Maybe voters should vote on the ballot before they vote on the candidates. Vote whether they shall have a proportional or district representation, winner take all or majority wins. Maybe that would make people happiest. On the other hand, I have the nagging suspicion that it would mean circuses like the California election.

🍷▲🍷 Whether a regime falls because a dictator dies depends on whom its supporters owe their allegiance to. If they owe it to a party, like in the Soviet Union, the regime will remain after a Lenin or a Stalin. If they owe their allegiance to a leader like Franco, forget it: the regime is dead meat.

🍷▲🍷 All over the web, people attribute the Big Lie technique to Joseph Goebbels, the German propaganda minister. The one quote, however, he made on the big lie was in attributing it to the British.

I found a quote from Adolph Hitler, however, on the big lie from *Mein Kampf*, v2, ch. 10:

"The great mass of people...will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one."

I don't know the context.

I also found a quote attributed to Lenin: "A lie told often enough becomes the truth." The Quotations Page does not give the source.

<http://www.calvin.edu/academic/cas/gpa/goeb27.htm>

<http://www.quotationspage.com/search.php3?homesearch=Big+Lie>

<http://www.quotationspage.com/subjects/lies/>

♥▲♥ MR. RICHLAND'S

FAVOURITE SONG. Can being a failure, like Dash Rip Rock, mean being a success? That, I know, sounds like a contradiction, but hear me out. If not many people succeed and you get pretty far, can that still mean you've achieved success even though you did not reach your objective?

That's the way my sister looks at it. She got to make two pilots for a show called *Bad Date Diaries*. One for Fox and one for Disney. As she says, few people ever get that far.

Of course, most people don't look at it that way. You didn't succeed at your goal, no matter how high, so you're a failure. LBJ failed to become emperor so he was a failure.

♥▲♥ SFPA 230. ct. me. I gather the Anglican position on magic is the same as it has been all along: namely, it is bad. I don't think anyone ever actually got around to changing that policy, which loomed so large in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Of course, it has not been as well enforced in the last several centuries. And, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in particular, the authorities have turned a blind eye.

Actually, the example you give is more radical still. A Devil worshiper actually worships God if he does good. I have to give C.S. Lewis credit for it. However, I am sure that Lewis belongs to a very decent, very small minority.

Worshiping the right God is still de rigueur with most established religions today. Catholics and Protestants may not still send one another to Hell, but each considers the other's religion not quite

right.

♥▲♥ I found the text of George Hohman's *Long Lost Friend* in two places on the web.

<http://www.locksley.com/llf/>

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/ame/pow/index.htm>

I think it got its name *Pow Wows* because it was translated from the German at a time when, during the beginnings of spiritualism, Indian spirits were associated with magic. And a name like that was thought to sell the book.

♥▲♥ I am sure the Straight Dope is an example of quick and dirty research. And, in fact, Cecil Adams depended on one authority.

However, all the best sources have suspect and flatly wrong accounts. Cecil is in good company. The 1953 edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* allowed its article on the Rosicrucians to be written by the head of the AMORC Rosicrucians, H. Spencer Lewis. The people who used in advertise in pulp magazines.

H.L. Mencken's 1917 Bathtub Hoax has been found in plenty reference books, and is still making the rounds. Even though Mencken pleaded several times that he made it up out of whole cloth.

♥▲♥ As for "In like Flynn," there doesn't seem to be the slightest bit of evidence the term is associated with Edward J. Flynn the Democratic boss rather than Errol Flynn the actor.

On the other hand, neither Cecil nor the others say Flynn's sexual exploits were the reason the phrase was used; instead, his film daring do was. So the 1943 date when

his statutory rape charge was dismissed would not be relevant. Cecil's belief, based on his authority, was it dated to World War II. You differ in that your authority finds evidence it was used earlier.

By the way, Dewey's Pulp Fiction website at one time had an account of one of Errol's paramours. Which makes you think she was underage for practically everything.

♥▲♥ I hope you're not saying that Bob Dylan wasn't booed at the New Port Folk festival. Or it wasn't because he had violated the 'authenticity' of folk singing; that it was for an overly loud system, instead. I remember the tenor of those time all too well. "Purity" and not using an electric guitar were very big with folk singers.

♥▲♥ I'll certainly remember Serif when I have to get software.

♥▲♥ Actually, I got our erstwhile Alma Mater from the *Abe Burrows Songbook* (1955). Anyway, as I remember it.

♥▲♥ So you can still dial nearby States in the Atlanta area without the area code. In the DC area, we have had to dial the area code for every call, even local ones. And that has been true for many years now. However, we have one consolation: we can omit the one when dialing nearby states.

♥▲♥ Johnny Gruelle, who created Raggedy Ann, had the same problem. He did editorial, sports and weather cartoons for his newspaper; and was finished by mid-morning. At any rate, so the legend goes. Supposedly he then wrote his books to look busy. Which he later made a lot of

money on.

On the job, he also made this one creation for the *Indianapolis Star*, its weather bird, Jim Crow. Not a name that would go over well these days, but the paper was still using it as of 1938.

♥▲♥ ct. J. Copeland. Fan writing uneducated because of subject/verb agreement, I/me, "he/him", "discreet." Well that's education today. ...Come to think of it, I remember some pretty bad writing by supposedly educated adults in the '50s.

Anyway I am one of the people misusing "him" and "he." Some uses of "he" annoy me. In fact, a lot of supposedly correct grammar annoys me.

♥▲♥ ct. T. Feller. I think the idea behind the musical *Roberta* (movie 1935), was that people break into song only at the appropriate times. During an act, for instance. Or, with "Smoke gets in Your Eyes," to sing someone to sleep.

Only breaking into song at appropriate times never caught on. Most audiences don't seem to mind people breaking into song for no apparent reason. They wish they could.

♥▲♥ If memory serves me right, Winston Churchill's alternate history, where the Confederacy won, was published in the *Life Magazine* during the '50s. Slavery gets abolished in the Confederacy by the 1880s. And the Confederates conquer Cuba. There are some problems in the '50s when the Soviet Union is a threat and no united United States to respond.

♥▲♥ ct. TKWR. I am utterly against the *death tax*, but only until I inherit.

♥▲♥ Good luck getting a new job fast. Sorry Wal-Mart and the video store did not



pan out.

**GUY LILLIAN III**  
**old iron butt is back**

🍷▲🍷 Is that any way to talk about an example of Classical learning in the South? The statue of Vulcan. ...Maybe.

🍷▲🍷 I was busy at the time with my father's death and problems with his and my mother's estate, but now I regret not having gone Deep South Con. I could have used an actual vacation. And it was doable: I was allowed sick leave for the time spent with the death and estate.

Well, I'm a Deep South Con member for next year; my membership should carry over. I am afraid I won't see some SFPAn that showed up this one year. I really miss seeing Ruth. But I will be back with the old gang. Especially George. I can't conceive of him not coming.

Also, at least I got to see some great photos from it in this One Shot.

🍷▲🍷 Same here. I remember when 3 AM was when I got to bed. Don't ask me when? Now I turn into a pumpkin at 12:30.

🍷▲🍷 The Vern Clark SYT award? Does it have something to do with the snake?

**MIKE WEBER**  
**...gang oft astray**

🍷▲🍷 I have a Uniform Power Source. They have gone down in price. I think I got mine for \$30. It protects from power surges. Also, it gives me some time to save my files. For \$30 only five minutes leeway, but do you need more than that?

Of course, even \$30 can be a fortune to you at this time.

**RICH LYNCH**  
**variations on a theme #22**

🍷▲🍷 **POLITIC-SPEAK.** Bill Hoagland, our first Reagan Assistant Secretary made that mistake because he never realized he was no longer staff, . David Stockman rescinded His Ketchup as a Vegetable regulation very fast. And he complained to the press Stockman should at least have consulted him first.

Hoagland was fired immediately.

I agree with you that politic-speak, where officials bite their tongue and take the Administration line, is not lying. Everyone knows it's not the truth. No, it is only simple hypocrisy. And it is better than when people are being delusional. Which seems to be the alternative.

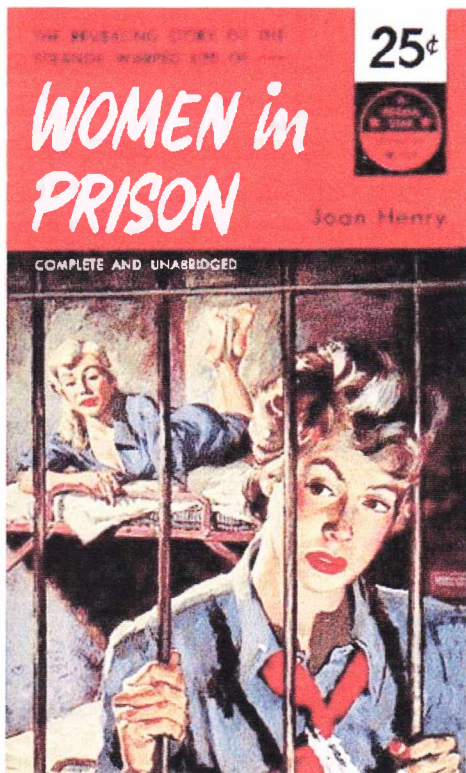
🍷▲🍷 **EUROPE.** I have to agree with the Europeans: the Iraqi Invasion was a big mistake.

It seems no one can admit that there are pluses and minuses to every policy. But I can here. The plus is maybe Iraq will end up a democracy even though anarchy looks more like it right now.

However, there is a bigger minus: we are helping al Qaeda. A threat to our national security. By going in there, we added fire all over the Islamic world to the Fundie Islamists who claim the Crusaders are coming. In addition, we overthrew someone, who SOB that he was, would have tolerated no Fundie Islamists in his domain. Bush propaganda to the contrary. In fact, we have given el Qaeda a base of operations they did not have before.

On balance, I think the invasion was one hell of a turkey of an operation. And it is almost guaranteed to come back to haunt us.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. OK, it was Rachmaninoff's *Symphony* rather than his *Piano Concerto*. I get confused by the beating



pianos take in many of his works.

As for Glazunov, I loved his *Seasons* as a kid. Even though my father's recording was ancient and scratchy, I still loved them. As an adult, I have discovered the pleasures of *Rosamunde*.

♥▲♥ I know a few co-workers who are into science fiction and we talk

among ourselves. But not outside. We don't get laughed at but nobody else is interested.

♥▲♥ ct. Ned Brooks. All space missions in a synchronous unit with the international space station so there is a better possibility malfunctions in space might be fixed. Sounds like a plan.

♥▲♥ ct. Janice Gelb. In the DC heat here, I would pay the \$350 for an A/C unit. Hey, I would pay the \$6,000 for a system. California, where Janice lives, must be different, but I can't believe you don't need an air conditioner now and then.

♥▲♥ ct. Gary Brown. Part of the reason we are such slow readers is that we want to understand what we're reading. I once found out that I could read 1,000 and 2,000 words a minute if I didn't have to understand. In fact, I could read *War and Peace* in eight minutes if all I wanted to

know was it was about Russia.

I was told that people who took the speedreading courses had trouble figuring out when someone took every other line out of a text.

♥▲♥ ct. Toni and Hank Reinhardt.

Haven't I told you: it's only the other side in politics that is mean spirited.

On the other hand, the idea about politics, at least political rhetoric, is to be mean spirited. ...Those sons of bitches!!

For instance, my views about Arnold Schwarzenegger. Next time, they should run Britney Spears against him. She may be a brainless teenybop, but brains had nothing to do with how Arnold got into office. The fact that he was reading a script did. It showed he wasn't a real politician. Real politicians know what they're talking about.

You see I am totally in line with politics.

## STEVE HUGHES travelers tales

♥▲♥ LOOKING FOR ELVES. You took a month off to visit New Zealand. Did I take a month off to deal with my father's death and estate? ...Maybe almost.

♥▲♥ I also have always traveled by caprice: when the spirit hit me. Usually to see friends. Also, I went to the University of Dijon one summer in my teens because I had heard about Dijon in a song. And the University of Tours one summer because Joan of Arc had something to do with it.

I went to San Francisco in the '60s, of course, because of the famous Scott McKenzie song.

♥▲♥ CASTLE HILL. Can anyone really tell one wine from another? I hear the French hate the fact that a lot of American vintages

win blind tastings.

There was the tale I have told I-don't-know-how-many-times about the carafe filled with Ripple. And the wine expert who declared it a good vintage.

So New Zealand wines may be as good as any.

🍷▲🍷 PANCAKE ROCKS. The rocks as you have photographed them don't look like piles of pancakes at all. Particularly when viewed in 3-D. I guess they looked like pancakes to someone.

🍷▲🍷 Maori arts. I guess the Maoris use their art and maybe the tourists buy it. I remember seeing how the Japanese have preserved arts and artisans no one buys. For example, a paper maker.

🍷▲🍷 Actually, I don't think it is a matter of people not taking responsibility for their actions. The idea in America of signing forms is that people know they are imperiling their lives. And have to take responsibility for that. In New Zealand, you have to figure out that you are imperiling your life before you figure out whether you want to take responsibility.

In Spitzbergen, one of the most northerly islands in the world, the idea is that the entire island is dangerous. And going anywheres on it is at your own peril. And, to boot, disrupting the coal and oil industries that are flourishing there.

### ARTHUR D. HLAVATY nice distinctions 3

🍷▲🍷 I also know you have a weblog. I like to claim I have stayed with paper zines because I can take time to rewrite them and get them right. Actually, the real reason is that I am downright reactionary.

🍷▲🍷 QUEER GUY. My father the enlightened psychiatrist explained to me early what Gays do. My problem was the opposite of yours: wondering why they swished so and were into clothes.

🍷▲🍷 SNAFU. No, no, the SNAFU principle is not that you tell the truth, as I see it. It is not telling the truth in time. The Enron people knew the truth. Management just told their employees to hold their tongues until they could get the mess straightened out. And they kept up that policy even as management was up to its ass in alligators.

🍷▲🍷 MOTHER'S DAY. I got a great idea. I agree Endnotes are too hard to find while Footnotes interfere with the narrative. So here's what I would do: have short Footnotes that refer you to the Endnotes on such and such a page. And Endnotes that refer to the Footnotes on such and such a page. Some authors have had an inkling of this idea. The pages referred to at least are given on the page with the Endnote.

🍷▲🍷 WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS. You have Asperger's? No, you're introverted. Never substitute a complex syndrome for a simple one.

🍷▲🍷 JACK KEROUAC. I read a passage from Kerouac where he uses Buddhism as an excuse for not saying anything. He visited his family and slept outside. That was the exciting action packed episode.

🍷▲🍷 ROBERT NOZICK. I remember one thing I read by Nozick against democracy. Namely, if a representative votes one way, he cannot vote another way no matter how sensible the proposal. Which sounded good from a game theory point of view, where men are reduced to machines.

But that is a pile of you-know-what in the real Washington I know. Congressmen change their votes all the time for all sorts of reasons.

♥▲♥ READING. Speaking of websites, how about the Jean Shepherd website. <http://www.flicklives.com/> I remember him as a high school kid in the New York area. They used to allow him to talk about anything. And he did. Including ridiculing the commercials.

Including elaborating a lot on his life as a kid. I wouldn't say lying like the website says; I suspect there was some truth somewhere in his tall tales.

### STEVE HUGHES adventures in a graphic design

♥▲♥ I wonder why the problem with printing out the fonts and color on the computer screen? Particularly the printouts of websites. Graphics look a lot more like the screen I am printing from.

♥▲♥ The hell of it is that, in most clubs, you don't get rewarded at all for volunteering. The club big wigs make sure they get all the kudos. That is what my wife has been complaining about in the United Ostomy Association.

Strangely, the problem is not as great in Toastmasters. We seem to give a lot of credit to any who volunteer. Why in a club set up for speaking this should happen, and not in one set up for some disease, I can't fathom.

### TOM FELLER frequent flyer

♥▲♥ 9/11 AFTERMATH. So the insurance companies expect to get money from bin Laden. Or is there a quirk in the

law; and if they don't sue bin Laden, they can be sued themselves?

♥▲♥ ROMEO AND JULIET. I notice the idea in Shakespeare is to alternate comic scenes with serious scenes. As a break. The technique lasted long after Shakespeare. In fact, I remember seeing it used in 1930s films.

Come to think of it, maybe it is something we should bring back. Of course, not to the extent of convincing people that Romeo and Juliet is going to be a comedy.

♥▲♥ COMMENTS ON #234. IRAQ. I wonder what the Bush Administration was thinking. There was an article in the *Washington Post* about bringing electricity back to Baghdad.

Bechtel was given a billion dollars, or something like, to bring electricity back. However, the Iraqi engineers had to scavenge parts from junkyards and improvise. When asked about it, the Bechtel people said that it was not part of their contract to provide spare parts.

Well, what was in their contract? Aside for getting a billion dollars. By the way, I heard that, after the *Post* article, electricity returned very fast to Baghdad.

♥▲♥ Patrick Jay Hurley a hustler? Clearly a strange one. I asked one China expert, John King Fairbanks, why Roosevelt chose Hurley as ambassador to China. The answer was that he liked the old guy.

♥▲♥ ct. Guy Lillian. You mean your company is into actual honesty when it comes to auditing? That's not the idea you get when you hear about all those megawumpus companies who bought out their auditors.

Of course, even they did not want small fry pilfering the till. They wanted to save it all for themselves.

♥▲♥ ct. Janice Gelb. My wife loves *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. She likes the idea of the Fab Five Gays remaking straight slobs. Which, she believes, so many straight men are. She also likes their catty comments, which she frequently agrees with. Her only problem is that the Gays' taste is more than a little Cadillac.

As far as I am concerned, it is one of the many TV shows I can do without.

### DSC ONE SHOT

**o.e. oh! o.e.!**

♥▲♥ GUY LILLIAN III.. So the big thing at DSC was hearts. Forget about the Rebel, Rubble, or SFPA O.E.

♥▲♥ RANDY CLEARY. Lame illo on the new O.E.? Not too lame. I am sure a lot of people here feel as you do that it is best when the O.E. is a Southerner. .

♥▲♥ DAVID COE. Is your agent that hard up that he has to get money out of a One-Shot? It's bad enough going around with the reputation of a One-Shot-er. In fact, some say One-shot-ers should be One-Shot.

♥▲♥ RUTH JUDKOWITZ. Your smile is eternal. We can always tell Ruth by her smile.

♥▲♥ GEORGE WELLS. I think I've heard you mention about King Clave the Argentinean singer. Have I ever told you about the Deranged Robots. I'll have to tell you about them. I have an hour long rap on them. And no breaks are permitted.

### GUY H. LILLIAN III spiritus mundi 197

♥▲♥ I wish I had known the original

P.L. Caruthers. She sounds like she was fun. Maybe a bit too much fun. The only thing I know about her are comments made occasionally in SFPA in the '80s. Which I liked. And the fact she had a whole bunch of diseases.

♥▲♥ ct. Me. Was death a release for my mother-in-law? As far as I am concerned, it was. My wife Heidi always held out hope she would change. Which I always doubted. My wife mourned for quite a while when her mother died. As for her father's position, I don't know. He isn't saying much. He isn't the type who does.

♥▲♥ I disagree that the weapons of mass destruction brouahah did much to Bush's popularity. I think what has hurt him is that our boys are being treated not as liberators but as targets.

♥▲♥ On the other hand, it may be that the Ayatollah remained intelligent and sensitive. We know the best and brightest are susceptible to aberrations. In the U.S., it was Vietnam. With Khomeini in the Middle East, Islamic fundamentalism.

♥▲♥ All the Fu Manchu novels seem a series of vignettes. They could all be called short story anthologies.

By the way, this is how I heard "Sax Rohmer" came to write the novels. He was playing with the Ouija board, something newly popular; and the word "Chinaman" came up. In this bit of divination, Rohmer figured his fortune lay.

♥▲♥ I think this one Pole had it right in the latter days of Soviet rule. Nobody believed in Communism anymore. And, subsequently, it had to collapse at some time or other.

♥▲♥ Did the Cro-Magnon mix with the

Neanderthals and are we the descendants?. There are two bits of contradictory evidence here. One is the DNA evidence. According to it, the Neanderthals had no Cro-Magnon blood whatsoever. I don't know which Neanderthal fossils were tested.

The evidence that contradicts it is bodies found of children that display both Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon characteristics. Maybe there was more continuity between the Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon than the fossils tested would indicate.

🍷▲🍷 Part of the reason forty-five year olds lack the exhibitionism and shamelessness of their younger years is this: they lack the bodies to show off.

🍷▲🍷 It's true some Native Americans are doing well with their casinos and whatnot. However, one has to wonder who is a Native American and who isn't. It's a question how much Native American blood the Massachusetts 'Pequots' have. What is known is they are prospering by being considered Native Americans and owning their own casinos.

🍷▲🍷 The thing with phobias, like yours against flying in a plane, is that they tend to disappear as we confront them. My late father's therapy for treating them was to first think about experiencing the feared object, and then getting relaxed with that. Next do it partly, as much as you can. Then do it fully.

You seemed to have jumped into flying in planes, however; and I bet your phobia disappears quickly.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don. I am convinced Bush believes the vision that told him to invade Iraq was from God. McKinley believed the

same thing about his for the invasion of the Philippines. People have a hard time distinguishing between visions of themselves and visions of God.

🍷▲🍷 ct. George. About your car problems, the Russian woman who won the Toastmasters Area Humorous Speech Contest this year just talked about her experience with cars. Cars setting on fire. Cars having tire trouble. When I talked to her later, I found that her cars were very much like yours. She did not really know how old the cars were. She bought them for a hundred dollars. And got her money's worth.

Her problems were worse, however, before she learned to change the oil on occasion.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Jeff. I 'm going to say the nominee will be Howard Dean. He is the candidate who most resembles President Bartlet on *West Wing*. A President we would really like to have despite all the horse trading his Administration does. Maybe because that makes the show realistic.

Barlet is liberal and Dean is liberal. He was governor of New Hampshire and Dean was governor of Vermont. On the other hand, Bartlet looks a lot older than Dean.

I don't know how many people watch *West Wing*. I don't know how many people find President Barlet attractive. And I don't know how many make the connection. But I am going with this theory and with Dean.

And I am doing that even though, recently, everyone has been going with Wesley Clark; and pooh poohing my old hat enthusiasm. But I could care less.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Norm. What's wrong with an alternate universe caused by someone choosing different socks? The physicist John A. Wheeler speculated that each time a quanta is given off, a particle smaller than an



atom, a new universe is formed.



ct. Dave. People overdo principles. I can see where we might have to launch a pre-emptive strike against an enemy

before it got us. Of course, when we did that, we would be speculating. But sometimes we have to trust to our judgment.

I could see a pre-emptive strike against Nazi Germany before it became big enough to take over Europe.

My argument is not with the principle of preemptive strikes; it is that I don't believe Saddam's Iraq was the place for one.

♥▲♥ TORCON 3. So with puns, Guy, are you a Pundit or a Punjab?



♥ At least, when the names auctioned off are finally used in science fiction novels, the characters will have nothing to do with the person named.

Johnny Gruelle, the creator of

Raggedy Ann, used characters that had something to do with the person named. He was at one time looking for home town characters to write into a panoramic cartoon he did for a certain magazine. You knew whom he was talking about.

Of course, Gruelle's humor was very gentle. And apparently a lot of people's skins were not that prickly. He got Lions and Kiwanis clubs, and towns, to send in characters whom he could caricature and poke 'gentle' fun at. Who understood the 'fun' of the thing.

### SHEILA STRICKLAND

#### revenant #20

♥▲♥ Your re-entrance into grad school not a priority? You mean the school has priorities?

♥▲♥ DEEP SOUTH CON. It sounds like the hotel you stayed at is more used to a welfare clientele than a business clientele. No microwave but a clock. When I was in New Jersey the last time, my hotel was relatively inexpensive for the area, the McIntosh. However, it was a business hotel, make no mistake about it. It had no microwaves, but it had a clock.

♥▲♥ The advice for SFPA O.E.s is not to get burnt out. Take it for only one year. Or two years if you really think you can stand it. There is going to have to be someone following you. Ned may finally be forced to.

Maybe even I will. Then I will show people who's boss.

♥▲♥ TORCON. What do you mean each type of fandom does not regard other types to be "the true way"? It breaks down more than that. I find individual fans, no matter the type of fandom: whether Trek, gaming, fanzine, etc.: only believe they

themselves personally as individuals have the “true way.” And are the one true fan. And every single other individual fan besides them is a misfit to be avoided.

♥▲♥ MAILING COMMENTS. ct.

Me. My father-in-law won't admit it; but now that his wife is dead, he is living a life more to his preferences. It will take some time for him to fully enjoy himself. She is still there as a psychological ghost looking over his shoulder.

It took some time for her psychological ghost, living though the mother was then, to disappear from my wife Heidi's shoulder.

♥▲♥ The Rosicrucians, for most believers, are a conspiracy theory in reverse. Believers hope for their triumph. And presume it will mean the unleashing of secret knowledge helpful to the world. The problem has been to find among the claimants the True Rosicrucians under the True Tradition .

As for organizations ruling the world secretly, the one most often accused are the Illuminati. That is a joke to most fans. Shea's and Wilson' Illuminatus Trilogy is taken as a joke. But, for many right wingers – and left wingers – it is no joke. The idea is that a rogue lodge of Masons in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century fomented the French Revolution. Since then these cranks believe that the Illuminati have grown more powerful still, and have taken over the world.

♥▲♥ Talk about the *Matrix* and *X-files* brings up more about the Illuminatus Trilogy. It was written in the middle '70s; and, like the *Matrix* et al, everything is a plot: the right, left, center, the sacred, the profane. The plot was inaugurated by the

Dealey Lama some 20,000 or so years ago in Atlantis.

This revelation comes after a contest between two rock musical groups for spiritual supremacy in the world, one representing good and the other evil: Clark Kent and the Supermen representing good and the somewhat Nazi-esque American Medical Association representing evil.

Great spiritual power being attributed to rock groups was far more credible in the mid-'70s than now. Also, not by accident, the Dealey Lama had the same name as the Dealey Plaza, which had something to do with the Kennedy assassination. Again something regarded with far greater importance then than now.

And thus more open to lampoon.

♥▲♥ My Slash-Fiction thing was just a tease. I couldn't help myself. ~~Probably you think I should be locked up.~~

♥▲♥ I guess the word for “sex with someone unborn” : i.e., Jar-Jar having sex with Luke Skywalker: has to be some word other than ‘impossible.’ At least for humor's sake.

As it is, sex with other species, while not being impossible, is unlikely. Someone pointed out that, given the vicissitudes of Evolution, having sex with aliens, Risathra, is apt to be as appetizing and practicable as sex with a lobster.

♥▲♥ ct. Nice Distinctions. Some Kabbalists were very much into the problem of justice vs. mercy. To reconcile God's harsh justice with his tender mercy. There have been a lot of subtle points made about it.

♥▲♥ ct. Peter, Pan & Merry. The public often lives in a dreamworld. Sometimes legislation that will keep the ~~country~~ running will be unpopular in the extreme. To ~~pass~~ it



on the sly, legislators have to slip it onto popular legislation. That is the only way you are going to get a tax increase or a budget cut right now.

On the other hand, passing unpopular legislation on the sly is how legislators give undeserved favors to special interests.

♥▲♥ ct. Guilty Pleasures. You bet that the publishing companies are vying to buy Jason Blair's book. They believe lots of people are yearning to read anything about this notorious figure. In fact, plagiarizing and writing a book may be a career move these days.

The motive goes beyond merely making money. People are often willing to take risks for money. Not these publishers: they want a slam dunk, something guaranteed to make money.

None of the big publishing houses any longer accept manuscripts from unknowns. As an unknown, you have to send your manuscript to agents. Whom, as far as I can tell, no longer accepts manuscripts from unknowns either. They don't wish to take risks either.

It would be interesting to learn how unknowns do get published. I know bribery helps.

♥▲♥ *Law and Order* is not a bad show: it portrays the wheels of justice from police work to the courts. In fact, the show is so good that it sometimes defies the stereotypes

♥▲♥ The Patriot Act and Librarians. It is as you say: Ashcroft was condescending to librarians. He said that we were being misled by notorious liberals, such as the Civil Liberties Union. Perish the idea that he is misusing his power to peek into

patrons' library records.

His condescension was followed up by Ed Meese, who claimed that librarians were only interested in having porn in their libraries. To give him his due, he apparently was being badgered at the time.

The right wing columnists who outright insulted librarians have no such defense. Including one that said that people who collect overdue books have no business commenting on civil liberties issues. Which betrayed a complete ignorance about how a library works. ...Librarians in libraries of any size do not collect overdue notices, you arshlock!

Apparently, Ashcroft's attack on librarians did not prove as popular with the public as he thought it would. Apparently, we are sufficiently far from 9-1-1 so that civil liberties is no longer a dirty word. And, other than Right Wing running dogs, the public was less than impressed.

So Ashcroft announced he had opened up his records. And claimed they showed he had never used his powers to peer into patrons' records at all. He had done librarians no wrong at all.

This is a two-edge sword. If what he said is true, he hasn't been misusing his power. On the other hand, if he never ever uses his power over patrons' records, why does he need it?

**DAVID SCHLOSSER**  
**peter, pan & merry #51**

♥▲♥ Theoretically an Islamic fundie could believe all photos are graven images. But whoever believes that must be really fanatical. I have seen too many photos of bin Laden paraded about in the Middle East.

♥▲♥ I don't know whether Heidi's stoma resembles the Phyllis Dilleresque

puppet character. But, at times, she really regards Madame as naughty.

🍷▲🍷 You're right. Jar Jar may still be alive when Luke Skywalker is old enough for sex; so, I guess, they could practice Risathra together. ....Yeccccchhhh!!!!

🍷▲🍷 Sex with people from different eras? Coitus Anachronus. I know there is Greek and Latin mixed in there, but the same is true of the word Automobile.

🍷▲🍷 You bet there was a hope that in a Partitioned Palestine, Jews and Arab would learn to live together. That they couldn't was considered an international headache.

🍷▲🍷 About biographers, of course, an honest biographer presents flaws as flaws. I was just commenting that so many are not honest. And give the biographee a whitewash. Of course, other biographers claim their biographee has nothing but flaws.

🍷▲🍷 Unfortunately, with wars, every side believes God is on its side, so, for an aggressor, all aggressive wars are OK. Even if the Devil told them to do it.

🍷▲🍷 I don't know. If the big wigs really want another war, the money is there. It's believed all over Washington if the big wigs really want to do something, the money will be there. But I doubt the big wigs are hot to trot for war after Iraq. War doesn't seem the slam dunk the Bush Administration first thought it was.

🍷▲🍷 Apparently some people did forget that the object of the Gulf War was to kick Saddam out of Kuwait. And nothing more. That we had the Saudi bases and Saudi support only as long as we stuck to

that objective. A lot of people take Bush, Sr. to task for not overthrowing Saddam then and there.

🍷▲🍷 My mother's estate is over \$1,000,000 and thus is currently liable for Federal taxes. In fact, it is large enough so it will be liable for several years. And, on that taxable amount, we are going to have to pay 42%.

I'm not asking for sympathy. There would still be a lot left if the estate is well-managed. But, as for being liable for lots of taxes, my mother's estate certainly is.

🍷▲🍷 I act in full accord with the principles of politics. I don't see anything good about the Bush Administration, including the words 'the' and 'and.' About internal security, where the Bush Administration is supposed to be strong, I believe its policies have created inconveniences for the average person while making it easier for al Qaeda to slip away.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. Eating the sheep who escape naturally selecting stupid sheep? It may be that smart sheep know not to escape or that they are well enough off where they are.

🍷▲🍷 Even seven members are enough for some APAs. The problem isn't membership; it's enthusiasm. If people aren't willing to support an APA, it is doomed, no matter how many members it has. Of course, the more members, the greater probability someone will be enthusiastic.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy Lillian III. I don't know about the differences you have found between Bush Jr. and Teddy Roosevelt, but, as far as I am concerned, the big one is this. Teddy said: "Speak softly and carry a big stick." Bush's motto is: "Speak loudly and carry a small

stick.” For some people, like Kim Jong Il of Korea, it is “Speak loudly and carry a white flag.”

🍷▲🍷 ct. Janice Gelb. I wouldn't be angry at an English teacher for telling me about her grading criteria after the course, or a college selection board for basing their acceptance on extracurricular activities. I always presume schools are arbitrary.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Gary Brown. I agree that Democrats have to stand for something. There is no reason to elect them if they act like Republicans. The public knows it too. If the public is Conservative, they are going to vote Republican no matter what.

🍷▲🍷 APAC. You did some good detective work in finding your golf partner. The situation would not have happened to us. We have caller ID so if, in their message, someone left out the last three digits of their phone number, we could find the whole number by reviewing recent calls.

🍷▲🍷 According to Joe Nickell in the Sept./Oct. 2002 *Skeptical Inquirer*, there is no evidence Sarah Winchester, the Winchester rifle heiress, kept on adding to her house on the advice of a spiritualist. A number of people who knew her said she had no spiritualist leanings.

On the other hand, a local historian claimed she did it on the advice of a doctor. He thought an all consuming hobby would ease her grief after her husband's death. And, in fact, suggested she build a house without an architect.

**NORM METCALF**  
**tyndallite v2 #109**

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. Actually, with the

corrections I made earlier, I think we're on the same wave length about Cavourite. By the way, I suspect Wells got the name of its inventor, Cavour, from Count Cavor, who helped unify Italy.

🍷▲🍷 What basis do I have Jules Verne's science is in good part fantasy? What you have been willing to admit to. His gun to the Moon will not allow humans to survive under known principles. And his submarine could not fuel up on the Canary Islands. Need I say more.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Arthur D. Hlavaty. Apparently Kipling wrote a lot of what would be considered science fiction or fantasy today. There is of course Mowgli, who speaks to the animals, if memory serves me correct. Also, I remember there was a story in one of the anthologies but I can't remember anything about it. The book edited by John Brunner, *The Science Fiction Stories of Rudyard Kipling* (1987, 1998?) would inevitably have more.

🍷▲🍷 By the way, I hear one of the best selling British greeting cards had this on it.

HE: What do you think of Kipling?  
SHE: I don't know. I've never kiplled.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Sheila J. Strickland. There is an essay by S. J. Perelman, “Captain Future, Block That Kick.” I doubt there was much science fiction in it, but what it was about is something else I have forgotten.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Don Markstein. Harlan's lawsuit against AOL/Time Warner is one more indication he is crazy. Not only is it David against Goliath. It is David against an amenable Goliath.



**EVE ACKERMAN**  
**guilty pleasures 30**

♥▲♥ WORLDCON. How can Janice be into gourmet food and still be model thin? It boggles the imagination.

♥▲♥ So Filthy Pierre is still around. I remember him from the *Libertarian Connection*. In that APA, libertarians of the most bizarre stripes got together; and I was the lone liberal. He advertised me to outsiders as someone who could give you a good argument.

♥▲♥ My brother had chronic mono much of his life. In fact, he had periods where he nearly died. Ultimately, an antiviral drug did the trick and he no longer has it.

In the meantime, he became a

doctor and accumulated a practice so his bouts of illness did not prevent him from accomplishing things in life. And I bet a relatively short case of mono won't stop Raphi.

♥▲♥ I'm going to have to get me one of them Attache USB 2.0s. I have to have a way of backing up my computer. I should have kept on with my ZIP drive. As I said, the CDRW I used did not work on my new computer. I contacted Roxio, which made my CD software, and eventually found a solution. Eventually.

Also, you're right that it would be a good idea to keep a copy of my backup at work.

♥▲♥ FIRE. Bad boys are attractive to many women. And that I am a decent boy has been turn off for many women. (Though not, by all means, all.)

♥▲♥ MAILING COMMENTS. ct.

Lynch. There is a potential for intellectual stimulation in Washington; but, as you can see, most thinking takes place along party lines. Richard's fiendish strategy was to ask questions outside the party line, and these people did not know how to answer. The only one they could give was "There's the door."

♥▲♥ ct. Copeland. Crusie a good Harlequin author? Harlequins look the epitome of bad literature. Could there be a good Harlequin author? Of course, looks are often deceiving.

**GARY BROWN**  
**oblio no. 148 aug-sep 2003**

♥▲♥ DISJOINTED. My estimate of the bill to eliminate overtime: dead on arrival. I am sure Bush's friends and financial backers would love to have overtime eliminated in

law. But it is going to be unpopular, so the Bushies can forget it.

It's the same with Social Security. Basically, Bush's backers would like to eliminate it. The backers this time were a bit more sophisticated. They realized it would be unpopular. So they decided to make it something having to do with investing your money. And how much more money you would have for retirement. There were commissions that advised people of this.

But people said that it was spinach and to hell with it. Enron and the current stock market of course helped.

♥▲♥ STILL NO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. I can't say that I am adamantly against aid to Iraq. We really reeked hell out of their country. We should pay for something. And, as long as we're there – and we should get out as quickly as possible – we're going to have to defend ourselves.

On the other hand, I would not like to see the usual suspects getting rich at the trough with that \$87 billion, and not doing anything for it..

♥▲♥ TAYLOR COUNTY DAYS. The things we do for love. You gave up APAs and comics for Linda. Heidi swore she wasn't going to give up her horse for any man. But two days after her marriage she sold her horse.

♥▲♥ The problem in any marriage isn't someone wanting their way. Or someone trying to prevent someone from getting their way. That's natural. It's the incapacity to compromise, ignore things, or agree to disagree that's the problem in any marriage.

♥▲♥ Even though we strictly weren't

in the direct path of Isabel, we got it while she was making her way up north. Branches were falling right and left. Power lines were falling right and left. And the power company was afraid to come out and fix things for fear its men would be get killed.

My power held out for the longest time. It didn't go until 10 PM at night. The next day I had to get from the DC area to New Jersey for my mother's birthday. I woke up. I had breakfast at one of the few places with auxiliary power, the International House of Pancakes. It was the meal I needed to brace myself for the day.

Then I tried to find an open gas station. I wasn't going to make it without gas. None were open as far as I could see. Finally, I asked a cabby and he told me about one. Sure enough, he was right. That gas got me all the way to New Jersey. Hallelujah!!

When I left around 3 PM, the power was still off. I was afraid that everything in the refrigerator would go bad. However, my wife Heidi said that the power came on a few hours later. And everything was OK. As far as I know, it has been. Haven't gotten sick from any meat in the freezer yet.

♥▲♥ GOODBYE REBELS. My sister was Warren Zevon's girl friend – sort of. While he was living, the last thing she would have wanted to do was marry him. He had too many eccentricities.

While he was dying, things were different. She didn't mind that his ex-wife and kids were taking priority. My sister expected that. However, another girl friend was getting all the publicity. That, of course, did not sit well with her.

However, just before he died, she got a long phone message from him, and he told her he loved her. Also, he recalled all the great times he had spent with her.

That made her feel better.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Me. I gather my mother-in-law's problem was what she found easiest was spite. The reason she didn't get herself treated for depression was because she was afraid other people would be manipulating her rather than she manipulating them.

It was no way to live.

🍷▲🍷 You bet you have to abide by management. And sometimes even if you're not an employee. Didn't Enron try to get a reporter who wrote negatively about them fired? When rot sets in, only management itself can set things right. And outside auditors. The latter having been eliminated in the name of the New Economy.

🍷▲🍷 About new-ness vs. old-ness in management rot, I'm not certain that new hotshots aren't more likely to cause it than old managers set in their ways. Corporations rot the opposite of apples and roadkill.

🍷▲🍷 You may be right. Russian doughnuts may look like trapezoids. And the doughnut shaped Russian space station would look nothing like Walt Disney's space stations.

🍷▲🍷 You're right that kids around Tubby's age might associate with Tubby. My point is that Little Lulu is the world as kids – and adults — want it. As opposed to the more cliquish, elitish, snobbish world.

🍷▲🍷 I agree that my father's insistence I lose weight showed he cared for me. But it is as you said: he created animosity after nagging me 109 times. Plus the fact that my father could be very critical about anything and everything. I am not the only one of his children who has called him

hypercritical.

What is strange is to some extent he didn't realize the effect he was having. Once my sister told him that I was really resenting his criticism so the next time he didn't criticize me at all.

He criticized her instead.

🍷▲🍷 In all honesty, the example of the second-graders understanding the Florida Presidential ballot is more an anecdote than scientific research. What kind of controls were there in that environment against the teacher giving away the 'proper' choice? That's the type of stuff you would have to have in an experiment.

But upon anecdotes are our political views built. You should hear what I've heard about Bush.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Steve Hughes. Didn't the old 3-D comics depend on different colors superimposed on each other rather than two pictures and polarized glasses?

🍷▲🍷 I did some Googling. Several stations had telephone polls and most who called in never wanted to hear the Dixie Chicks again. So it wasn't only the big wig who ran Clear Channel.

On the other hand, there was a Right Wing call-in campaign. So whether the callers actually listened to these stations is another thing entirely.

An equal and opposite factlet is the Chicks' concerts in the U.S. remained sold out. Of course, that's not an indicator ordinary listeners weren't pissed off by that Chick's comments either. Despite propagandizing of both sides, we still don't know.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tom Feller. Of course, my brother is going to have to do more than cut the lawn and the do the normal repairs when

he acquires my mother's house. There is a matter of clearing away the books and journals. And then the plumbing is going to have to be fixed. I'm not certain which bathrooms work and which don't. I hear fixing one may mean gutting parts of the house.

On the other hand, it is beautiful property and on a lake. And I and my sister, per my father's wishes, will sell it to my brother as low as we are able.

### **RANDY B. CLEARY**

#### **avatar press**

🍷▲🍷 DEEPSOUTHCON. I hate to think about sleeping over a dance floor. I would expect the bedrooms to be soundproof. Lotsa luck. How about earplugs? How about boning up on your boogaloo? Your Quadrille?.

🍷▲🍷 CON\*STELLATION. You got enough of the guy's details to introduce him. I don't think you would need any more info. Come to think of it, do you need any info at all? I would have started out how Larry had discovered America and was responsible for the Civil War. ...Who would know the difference?

🍷▲🍷 BOOK REVIEWS. Gardner Dozois claimed years ago the next fad will be the Sword and Surf genre. It's been thirty years and Sword and Surf will still be the next fad. Pass it on.

🍷▲🍷 MAILING COMMENTS. ct. Me. I used to print the master at home and have Office Depot do the rest. I didn't like the result so I have been printing my zine out on my own printer. It takes longer but the result is so much better. The problem is that I better watch that the computer is printing both sides. I hope not too many

pages are missing.

🍷▲🍷 Fan artist, editor of SFC, you're a BNF. You can't deny it and you can't get away from it.

🍷▲🍷 In short, you haven't been dating because you're too independent. Being with women is no big deal. Doing your art. Doing your cons. Now those are a big deal.

🍷▲🍷 I tend to agree with you that more often than child abuse, what gets repressed these days was how nice our parents were. In fact, I bet we all had Leave It to Beaver childhoods and they are just being repressed.

🍷▲🍷 Good, Nicholaus' letters can be cut by nine-tenths without losing anything. Hank's, you can leave the way they are. Hank is a well-known put-on.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Guy. You didn't like the *Matrix*. I thought that was the movie to see. It proved to everyone finally that everything is a conspiracy. Something they believed all along. In fact, inspired by the *Matrix*, people having been killing other people. Of course, it sounds that you were one of the few people who, the first time, was not impressed by the idea that is everything is a conspiracy. And, the second time, you are equally unimpressed with the *Matrix Rebloated*.

🍷▲🍷 ct. Tom Feller. Rather than Space 1999 being a warning against nuclear material on the Moon, I would think it would be a warning against Rudi Gernreich fashions.

### **JANET LARSON**

#### **passages #18**

🍷▲🍷 So all your fanac disappeared because you were going to medical school and had no time. I was going to become

involved in fandom several times before I finally did in 1984. Then I joined my first APA and attended my first convention.

Before that, one thing or another killed my interest. I came pretty close when I did a masters on A.E. Van Vogt in library school, but I did not quite make it.

As it is, I haven't read much science fiction in years. I have been doing my reading for some unconventional research projects, which probably will not see fruition.

Of course, the fact that I don't read much science fiction has nothing to do with whether I am a fan.

♥▲♥ Have I told you about my wife's horses? As I said elsewhere, she swore she would not give up her interest in horses for any man. And I accepted that fact when I married her. Then she gave away her stallion, San. Within days.

I don't even know how much she shows her model horses anymore. You know you can do that. Where you send in the model itself. Or mock up photos of your model horses doing all in sorts of things; using dolls and mini-tack to make the photos look real. My wife used to do that a lot, but I do not think she even does that much since we were married.

Still, her interest remains. She has a shelf full of model horses. Including her crown and glory, Cody's Chief. Also, she knows what is going on on the model horse showers news group Haynet. And a friend is always telling her what is happening at shows. Finally, she is always buying more models.

♥▲♥ MAILING COMMENTS. ct. Me. My mother-in-law psychotic, paranoid schizophrenic? I would like to call her all sorts of names. But my father the

psychiatrist said people like that are considered sane. Just in need of motivation. That I can see too. I would have liked to have given her a kick in the ass.

♥▲♥ According to Jean Paul Sartre in *Being and Nothing*, free will and determinism far from being opposed compliment each other. So, according to him, if all our actions were caused by DNA, which is apparently untrue, that would not mean we did not have free will.

♥▲♥ ct. Jeff Copeland. Jeff was great. But two years is enough. Otherwise, members become burnt out and tend to leave the APA completely. I am glad Sheila is taking over. But I hope she doesn't stay too long either.

♥▲♥ ct. Sheila Strickland. Is it a good idea to keep up with the Jones' in a kid's development? I hear kids' development is likely to be all over the place. If Samantha's speech is average, it is no indicator it won't be better than average in a year or two. Or if it is better than average now, that is no indicator it won't be worse than average in a year or two.

♥▲♥ ct. Arthur Hlavaty. You don't watch reality shows because you have enough reality. I find them surrealistic so I don't watch them because my life is surrealistic enough.

♥▲♥ ct. Liz Copeland. Sometimes misdiagnosis is a sign of incompetence. But sometimes it is a sign that the disease is hard to diagnose. Often, I have been told, medicine is more art than science.

**GARY R. ROBE**  
**tennessee trash #55**

♥▲♥ YOSEMITE. I can see how





Yosemite got half a planet from where it started out in the Southern hemisphere – Continental Drift. And I can see how it got several hundred miles inland – Vulcanism. Or is there some sort MacGuffin here I am not including? ♡▲♡ I was told the way to get

through a hike like the Grand Canyon of the Sierras is not so much toughness as patience. I have forgotten where it was, but this one park ranger claimed this about his mountain terrain. A fit hiker could die of exhaustion. However, an ordinary person could get through it if he stopped periodically and let his heart beat get back to normal.

Of course, the temptation is to keep climbing.

♡▲♡ I was going to give you advice about how you should have handled the Tioga route so you didn't get lost. And got to the lodge. But the best advice seems to be to paraphrase Robert Burns.

The best laid plans of mice and men go oft astray.

From "To A Mouse, On Turning Her Up In Her Nest With The Plough," 1785.

♡▲♡ EL DORADO. Your wife got caught with her Swiss Army 'knife' in Reno. I got caught in the Adams building of the Library of Congress with my Swiss Army Knife. And they said I could not check it there. It might be a terrorist weapon. So I went outside, threw it away and went back in because I had some research I needed.

I would have placed it where I could find it later, but I have hardly used it.

♡▲♡ BRAZIL. I was told by a Spanish speaking person that it takes a month in Portugal for them to be able to speak Portuguese even though the languages are supposedly so much alike.

♡▲♡ WORK. Good luck in your life not being made miserable by the new layoffs.

### LIZ COPELAND

#### home with the armadillo #60

♡▲♡ That's what my wife always says: her ostomy beats the alternative of dying from cancer.

♡▲♡ Another reason why Heinlein needed an editor even more than he needed a heart surgeon. I think some of his later works were written very fast. Probably because editors were demanding them very fast. And *The Cat Who Walked Through Walls* was one of the novels he wrote very fast.

At least, he didn't do what I remember hearing John Buchan do: changing the name of the hero in mid-novel.

♡▲♡ Bad idea of Nicole Hollander, to make the terrorist color code specific. The idea is for it to remain vague so the government doesn't actually have to do anything.

♡▲♡ MREs. It's as I have said: the

people who rule right now would not know efficiency if it went up and bit them. I am sure that the Meals Ready to Eat, which the soldiers would do anything not to eat, increased efficiency three hundred percent on someone's chart. And the contractors that didn't show up increased it one hundred and fifty percent. As opposed to having civil servants screw these things up.

This is what contracting out under OMB Circular A-76 is all about.

### JEFF COPELAND

**wave to the nice mountain, dear**

So your daughter as a child climbed up a reluctant Uncle Arthur's leg. Which reminds me of a joke.

QUESTION: What is white and climbs your leg?

ANSWER: Uncle Ben's perverted rice.

SFPA 233. ct. Me. Apparently, there are number of sources that claim 9-1-1 was planned as a more massive undertaking even than it turned out to be. One el-Jazeera reporter heard from an al Qaeda operative the Capitol was an objective after al Qaeda decided against bombing atomic plants.

Lindt claimed he had heard there were going to be quite a few more hijack bombings. And he apparently was nowhere near the center of al Qaeda power, so these things were not as hush hush as people would make you believe.

The Honest Cabinet Act. Just as impossible as the Honest Preamble Act.

So academic egoboo is given in lieu of the stock options and other fringe benefits of corporate life. Of course, right now both are equally worthless.

Why shouldn't the Bushites claim that Saddam was in cahoots with bin Laden? The public believes it. And are going to continue to. Both bin Laden and Saddam are evil, right?

On the other hand, the public doesn't like the quagmire we are in. And it's going to be hard to get them to believe the light is at the end of the tunnel.

Of course, Google has actually gotten into advertising in a big way. You have to look below the advertisements before you find out how your search turned out.

About Peggy Noonan saying Kennedy's illnesses made him unfit for the Presidency. It reminds me of an episode on *West Wing*. It turned out that President Bartlet had multiple sclerosis, which may get him at some time or other. The other side was trying to make a big deal out of this. But, in the end, everyone ignored Barlet's disease. And some on their side thought it was hitting below the belt.

*West Wing* is idealized. But we can hope. Illness was not a problem for Kennedy or for Reagan.

You better believe that the *Asbury Park Press* obituary said something about the dynamics of my family. I was never close to my father, and my brother and sister were.

Plus my brother had an additional advantage. He treated my father when he was ill with Pemphigus, and was forced to sit all day in an undignified position. My father felt there was no possibility of respect, so he gave up his obsession. And he told my brother a lot of things about the family.

Some of these events had to be clouded with time. No way was my Uncle Sam going to support his parents and siblings at age nine. But other of these events, I am

sure, were true.

♥▲♥ ct. Sheila Strickland. That's what she said: OCLC is the nationwide source for cataloging info. It is also, as she said, the nationwide source for interlibrary loans. I have used it a lot for interlibrary loans

♥▲♥ ct. David Schlosser. What would improve the tax system a lot is not sweating about the little things. We may lose money on interest. But if the U.S. Government had to give back the interest, it would have to tax something else to make up the difference. Either that or we have a higher deficit, which might ultimately turn out to be an even worse tax.

♥▲♥ Dean may be the Ronald Reagan of the new era. Karl Rove may end up wishing he had to run against Kerry or Edwards. Or Lieberman. And not Dean.

A liberal wishdream? Yeah.

♥▲♥ Fortunately for the Democrats, the Presidential election is not run concurrently with the primaries. During the primaries all the candidates are squabbling. And look petty. During the election, the party has united and whoever is running looks more like a President.

♥▲♥ Toni Reinhardt. Whether Christianity or Islam helps the accumulation of capital depends on how orthodox each is. In the Middle Ages, people took very seriously the Bible's injunctions against charging interest: it was considered improper for Christians to do it. That's why they had us Jews do it.

♥▲♥ Librarians like to think they are 'in' and 'with it.' And not little old ladies who go around shushing people. But the

biggest thing in solo library circles right now is an action figure from Archie McPhee of an elderly librarian shushing people. She is based on the real life librarian Nancy Pearl.

By the way, my eyes do not roll at the term Information Specialist. I remember the term from thirty years ago and it designated 'information specialists,' who were dealing with computers rather than books. Both 'librarian' and 'information specialist' were completely different fields

Of course, these days, librarians use computers a lot so the two fields are not as different as they used to be.

♥▲♥ Samuel Johnson was right that Patriotism is a refuge for scoundrels. DeLay no more 'supports the troops,' when push comes to shove, than any Democrat. He didn't in Bosnia.

I only differ with Samuel Johnson on one thing. Patriotism is not the 'last' refuge of scoundrels. Right now it is the 'first' refuge of scoundrels. If it doesn't work, they have to think of something else.

♥▲♥ SFPA 234. ct. Me. Stephen Fry might have been right. Hitler, especially later on, proved the most incompetent of tacticians. Paving the way for his destruction. Another dictator might have decollectivized agriculture in Russia thus gaining the overwhelming support of the Russian countryside. Or might have allowed retreating and regrouping in Russia. Or may have decided not to fight on two fronts at once.

♥▲♥ Private enterprise is more efficient than we Feds are even though it makes a profit. Right now many companies outcompete us hands down in ripping off the government. It boils down to what I said: would the people in power know efficiency if it bit them?

☺▲☺ In short, Winston Churchill's warmaking was less political than Bush Junior's. By the way, my quote on being an American first and a Politician second comes from a song entitled "Barry's Boys" on the Chad Mitchell Trio record *Reflecting*. While no one on the web would mention the record's date, I would imagine it was 1964.

☺▲☺ I guess the idea behind the stock dividend tax cut is that investors will have more money. Then they can re-invest it. Of course, will they do that in the current economic climate?

☺▲☺ I don't know whether it was great reporting. But it is right that that is what the general view during 9-1-1 was: that terrorism is such a danger to the West that the West has not only a right, but a duty, to overreact. It would have been hard to point out that that is exactly what bin Laden wants. And that his plan for world domination depends on it.

### **RICH LYNCH** **variations on a theme #23**

☺▲☺ Not only Dvořák's father was dubious about his music. I thought I remember hearing that his mother-in-law to be told her daughter that his music was dreadful. And not to marry him.

About his 9<sup>th</sup>, "New World" Symphony, a better title to my mind is "From the New World." It is a rather Bohemian take on America.

The piece by Dvořák I like the best next to the "New World" is "In Nature's Realm." Which isn't a symphony at all.

☺▲☺ What has calmed me down about 9-1-1 is that people have not learned

the right lessons from it. And it is apt to be repeated – although not on aircraft anymore. Something similar has calmed me down about the Holocaust.

☺▲☺ Solar power makes no economic sense now. But I bet it has stimulated enough creativity in people that in time it may make economic sense. And gas won't.

☺▲☺ So you were a real BNF at Worldcon. With a Hugo, it's certified.

☺▲☺ When I meet people from the way off past, they are either the same and we continue the same conversations. Or they have changed 100% and we have nothing in common. Time is like that.

### **T.K.F. WEISSKOPF REINHARDT** **'yngvi is a louse' and other graffitos #85**

☺▲☺ CARLOTTE'S WEB. A misbehaving child can be the result of a home environment or it could be physical. Maybe he is a hyperactive and ritalin will calm him down. Not unknown. My brother the psychiatrist has told me he has performed miracles with vitamin B-12.

On the other hand, it could be the mother. Or the father. Or something we don't know about. There is a lot about humans we don't know about.

☺▲☺ SHARON FARBER. AIDS is a disease fearmongers love. They would have you believe you can get AIDS by breathing the same air. Sitting on the same toilet seats.

On the other hand, I hear in Africa it's not only the prostitutes that have sores in their vagina. And that is why both sexes are equally susceptible to it.

☺▲☺ ct. Gary Brown. I guess if worse comes to worse, you can always rent a car.

And get around that way if your car is in the shop.

Fortunately, worse has not come to worse. If some city planners of the '40s had had their way, it would have. A community nearby was the cutting edge community of the '40s. And it didn't have sidewalks. It was difficult to get anywhere on foot. I know I walked down that way and dodged the cars.

♥▲♥ WAM. There is plenty of evidence that Hussein had weapons of mass destruction in the '80s. We gave them to him. But after the '91 War and the inspectors, he gave them up.

For instance, UN inspectors couldn't find them. For another instance, knowledgeable defectors I heard from said that Saddam had had weapons of mass destructions, but not then.

In short, plenty of evidence existed that there were no weapons of mass destruction when Bush attacked.

♥▲♥ ct. Jeff Copeland. You're right that the Bush Administration is not like the Clinton Administration. No one from the Bush Administration would jail American citizens without trial as Enemy Combatants.

Or, for that matter, out the wife of an opponent, who was a CIA agent.

♥▲♥ ct. Liz Copeland. A lot of people seem to be having trouble getting their high speed internet hooked up. All I found you had to do with mine was insert the splitter and ethernet cable, which looks the modem's but is larger. Most problems I can solve by turning off the cable modem's power and turning it on again.

I feel like an idiot now for having the company install it. Those sent did not

know that was all you had to do, and installed an installation CD, which created more mess than anything. A tech support call cleared everything up.

Of course, I have Cox, which seems to do a good job with this thing. I have heard an awful lot of complaints about Comcast.

♥▲♥ ct. George Wells. I have to agree with you. Our culture is superior. Make no mistake about it. We are imbued with our cultures' values. And other cultures are not quite as imbued with our values. So they are not as good as we are.

When people talk about cultural relativity, it means that we are not living up to their academic values. Which they delude themselves other cultures are.

♥▲♥ Logic, I was going to say, is a lost art. But was it ever found? We have no trouble with logic when things don't mean anything to us. The problem arises when something means something to us. Then Ad Hominem arguments, Ad Absurdum arguments, Ad Ignorantiam arguments, Undistributed Middles all become the height of logic. Better proven than  $1+1=2$ .

Once I pointed out to someone that he was using a common fallacy. And he replied it was an exception in his case. And acted as if that ended the argument.

**RANDY B. CLEARY**  
**southern fandom confederation bulletin**  
**aug. 2003 v8 #3**

♥▲♥ SEPARATED. K.D. Lang and Carrie-Ann Moss separated at birth? It looks more like they were fused at birth.

♥▲♥ JOY V. SMITH. Ah, *Pirates of the Carribean* bags! I won't have to see the movie now.

♥▲♥ ct. Guy Lillian. Some science fiction fandom, angry extroverted types who are into details? Lloyd Penney is right generally but wrong in the details. ...Of course, he could say I'm one of those angry, extroverted fans.

♥▲♥ ct. "Mad Dog" Madden. You're laid off and partially employed? You seem to be in good company around here. It's obviously Bush recession time. But prosperity is just around the corner. ...Or is that another train?

Anyway, good luck in your job hunt.

♥▲♥ TIMOTHY MARION. People like you should not be making ad hominem attacks on other people. Come to think of it, I'm mulling over making that my automatic argument for everything.

Also, saying Hank Reinhardt comes across as a voice of reason compared to Joseph Nicholas, and then saying he might be the voice of reason otherwise. That doesn't read.

Similarly, telling Charlotte you read her column in the bathroom and then stating that that does not mean it is the only appropriate place to read it. That doesn't read either.

But, for fortune, I haven't made gaffes like that yet.

♥▲♥ HANK REINHARDT. So if a few Moslems are terrorists, they all must be. And if some socialists were National Socialists, they all must be. And if a few wolves are a menace to the sheep of this nation. ... well, you can finish the sentence.

**STEVE and SUZANNE HUGHES  
nsa 2003. the 29<sup>th</sup> national stereoscopic  
association convention. july 23-28<sup>th</sup>**

♥▲♥ BOB ZELLER. So when was stereoscopic photography invented? It obviously predates the Civil War. I remember being told the first color photography dates from Edison.

♥▲♥ NOTES. When this program you published is good, it is very very good. That stereoptic photography was great. I expect some squinting with my cheap polarized glasses. I didn't expect some of these magnificent 3-D photos.

But when your program is bad, I just wonder. There could have been better coordination between the writer and the illustrators. I can understand why you didn't make some of the illustrations stereoptical. They were too small for one photo. In fact, you could hardly see what was in a few of the photos. Forget about the Davids. And we will have to wait for another picture to find out what a palmetto was.

♥▲♥ PLANTATION TOUR. Were the famous Boones of South Carolina related in any way to Daniel Boone? Even some of the best families, I have heard, went West. I hear Aaron Burr was dabbling in Texas. Lord Fairfax, for whom my county is named, came to America during the Revolution, and adopted a non noble name to keep his property here.

Of course, all these people would have wanted to keep their station when they went West. And wouldn't really have wanted to have the trailblazer reputation Daniel Boone had. Or a hat with a coonskin tail.

♥▲♥ SEA DREAM. Now that would be something. 3-D not used to throw something at the audience; 3-D used to erase the difference between the audience and what's on screen. Can't be done in these stereoptics. Maybe one day I will get to see the Sea

World flick.

Not that other techniques cannot reveal extraordinary effects. The MIT Museum of Science Imax theater used its enormous screen in such a way that it was almost giving me vertigo. However, to erase the difference between the audience and the sea would take real genius.

🍷▲🍷 H.L. HUNLEY. My online *Britannica* claims that the Hunley was destroyed in the same explosion that sank the Housatonic. The crew did not have time to signal anything. In fact, according to the article, the problem with submarines during the Civil War was that they kept sinking. The Europeans seemed to be having better luck. But the submarine didn't really become a danger to shipping until World War I.

**THE END**



My brother and sister as religious. I think this is a joke of my mother's.