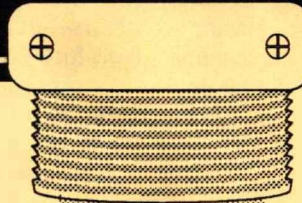


Union St

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NOT IN MY NAME, NOT WITH MY MONEY

(SC) George Bush is *still* a wimp. This may seem like an odd conclusion after all we've been through the last two and a half months, but it seems all too clear and troubling to me. He is powerful and dangerous to be sure, but he is still a wimp.

At first I was genuinely relieved at how quickly and painlessly (for our forces) the ground war proceeded. After being led to believe we were facing hardened, dug-in, opposition that would cost us a thousand casualties or more, we were simply amazed that the Iraqis broke apart almost at once and we suffered a "miracle" of less than a hundred casualties. The media went wild praising the military genius of the generals' strategy, plus our superior equipment, training and morale. Commentators left and right were shamefacedly admitting they "over-calculated" the toughness of the Iraqis. Everyone was relieved and vindicated. A few pundits chided US intelligence agencies for poor intelligence information that led to overestimates of the "enemy's" ability to fight.

But then I had this feeling. Maybe you felt it too. The feeling I'd been flim-flammed again. Lied to. Manipulated. Perhaps there is another reason we were so "brilliantly" successful. Maybe our intelligence was not bad, but good. Very good. Just not shared with the public. George Bush, you remember, is a wimp. He doesn't take political risks. George could be reasonably certain in the beginning that we would gain quick air superiority. We could then bomb at will. No one speculated much about a ground war early on. The Administration seemed to want to avoid that by massive bombing not only of Kuwait, but Iraq itself and especially Baghdad. Much of our most sophisticated firepower had never been tested in actual combat, it was anyone's guess how it would work, but we could insure at least control of the air right away. What happened next? Our untested technology turned out to be a sensational success. Everything seemed to perform exactly as hoped. Then Bush started our march to ground war. That march was unstoppable. No peace plea nor proposal would get in the way. They were swept aside. George wanted that ground war. He said it was necessary to free Kuwait. He really wanted to exterminate Iraq's Army, topple Saddam and solidify his image at the polls as the leader of our country in war. A "good" and popular war. Why not? He knew there was no serious risk of heavy US casualties.

Have you ever noticed in pro and amateur team sports, no matter how lopsided the contest, the favored team will always build up the weaker team before the game? There is a practical

reason for this. It is helpful to build up the quality of the game to encourage people to watch and to avoid diminishing the victory once the favored team wins. I think that is what has happened in the war. The military and the Administration deliberately misinformed us about the risks of a ground war in Kuwait. The Iraqis were likely pulverized and defeated before the ground assault began. George knew this. We were led to believe otherwise. The vast difference between our projected casualties and our actual losses and the behavior of the Iraqis as they surrendered in droves suggests to me that we were misinformed. Such manipulation is typical Bush behavior. I was initially astounded that he launched the war and then a ground action. But I feel George was convinced all along he had little to lose and much to gain. He took no chances. Now he is a "hero." I say he's still a wimp.

(JG) I agree with Scott 100%. There's no more dangerous a man than a man who's trying to prove that he's not a wimp...

WISCON

(SC) Congratulations to everyone who worked on WISCON. It was a terrific convention, particularly the Turbo party.

KIM NASH

(SC) Two things I want to clarify first off. Jeanne did not write the Caller ID comment to you last month, I did. Second, I do not know why the comment turned out so brusque. I think I wrote in haste intending to go back and rephrase but overlooked it in the end. Sorry about that, I'm really not that personally offended by your position.

I still disagree with you however. I don't think this is a case of the privacy rights of the person receiving the call "superseding" the rights of the caller. In both cases, the parties have a right to a measure of privacy and I am unwilling to give up either.

Let's look at this from a practical standpoint. You have Caller ID installed at home. How is that really going to help you avoid salespeople? The phone rings and you will see a phone number. It will probably be unfamiliar. Most of us will only recognize a dozen or so phone numbers. So then what? Look up the number in the phone book while it is ringing? Maybe your personal computer will have the phone book installed so you can call up the number and find out who it is? Of course not. You will be faced with the same decision you face now. Ignore the phone, answer it or let your answering machine screen it. You gain very

little. But that is OK because you already have ways of protecting your privacy.

Caller ID may be sold to people like you and me, but it was not intended for us. It is intended for big corporations and government agencies with large computers that *can* look you up from your phone number to find out all sorts of information to use to their advantage. You can be sure that if such a company felt threatened by the availability of Caller ID to individuals, they would come up with a strategy to negate it. As a person placing a call you now enjoy a certain anonymity that allows you to identify yourself when, and to whom, you choose. Caller ID will rob you of that.

STEVE SWARTZ

(SC) After reviewing our comments back and forth on the white male bonding thing, I think we agree in most respects.

Answering the question about the nature of an Islamic democracy is rather tough because I don't know enough about government systems in very many Islamic countries, or about Islam itself. I can only make an insultingly uninformed guess. Based on the impression I get from the media, most Islamic countries are run by ancient monarchies or dictators. I have the feeling that is not true everywhere (Egypt?). The principal difference to me would be to what extent religion would dictate who would have the right to be a "free individual." I have little doubt that a system of British or American style government could be set up with a Constitution and even a Bill of Rights type document. Trouble is, would religion dictate who would have rights under the system? Women? Foreigners? Other races? Would they all really be equal, or would they be excluded? Could other religious beliefs be tolerated? I would need to know more about the nature of Islam and the strictness of the people setting up the rules. I have the feeling that if all the Islamic countries threw off their rulers tomorrow and set up democratic governments, they would all be different from each other, and us if you're using the US as the standard of democracy, in significant ways.

On the future of the "worship of the individual" in a large pluralistic society. I think it is inevitable that American style individualism will decline over time. It already has since the turn of this century. If we were able to talk to someone who grew up in America of the 1880s, I'll bet they would be horrified at America today. Not enough room, too much government, too many people, etc. Americans have adapted slowly (sometimes badly, as in most large cities) and they will need to continue to change and adapt to the crowding of our society. Not to say we are quite ready for the Oriental mindset of Japan or Singapore, or even Europe. I think the romance of the untamed individual will remain strong. But the reality will change.

(JG) I thought you must have been peeking over my shoulder when I cracked open the apa last month and discovered that you were discussing two Pat Murphy novels this time. I'd just got done reading the same two books, *The Falling Woman* and *The City, Not Long After*. I liked them both quite a bit.

The Falling Woman, I think, is the better of the two, though I didn't read it as a commentary on societal pressure. I found myself focusing more upon the interior and psychological stuff that Murphy placed in parallel with the mythical roles of a shaman. Just as the "messenger from the gods" needs to survive a near-death experience (falling into the cynote), Murphy's main character falls too. Her first "fall" is her near-death escape from her husband, for which

she sacrifices her daughter, just as the ancient Mayan priestess sacrificed *her* daughter... Then, later in the story, she literally falls into the cave, and this time her sacrificed daughter rescues her, and shares her visions. To me, this book is an example of the new kind of feminist sf/fantasy, which isn't obviously or politically feminist. But it pays attention to a part of the world—women's interior lives, their relationships to one another with no men as important actors—that was made accessible by the "blatant" feminist literature of the 70s.

Another thing that occurred to me as I read *The Falling Woman* (and you have to remember that I was reading these books in preparation for the WisCon programs on which I was supposed to talk about feminism and SF, so I guess I was sort of looking for this sort of thing), was that this was the third woman-written time-traveling story that I could think of immediately that differed markedly from the traditional time travel story. By traditional I mean the kind of story that involves a machine with wheels and a lever or a dial which one sets the destination time and buttons and keys to set the process in motion. *The Falling Woman*, Marge Piercy's *Woman on the Edge of Time*, Eleanor Arneson's *Daughter of Cave Bear* all involve protagonists who may or may not actually travel in time. Perhaps they only imagine traveling in time, but for sure they do not have a machine that takes them anywhen. These women authors all use the time travel idea much more as a metaphor than H.G. Wells, or Robert Heinlein. I've got the feeling that that's significant.

I did like the idea in *the City, Not Long After* that artists (or anyone) becomes someone different for the actions they take. But, I agree with you that the "war" lacked something, that Murphy didn't take the idea far enough. Recently I read the unexpurgated version of Steven King's *The Stand*, and I think he managed the same dilemma better. There's a price, both King and Murphy seem to be saying if you determine to guard your morality and integrity *while* opposing evil, and it's apt to be an enormous one. But it *is* possible to succeed. King convinced me during the course of his grand finale; Murphy didn't. But I wasn't too much bothered by it. Again, like *The Falling Woman*, it seemed to me that we were dealing with metaphor more than plot.

I hope you don't mind but I quoted you in a little article I wrote for the living fanzine project that Jerry Kaufman and Suzle Tompkins are publishing for Minicon this year. (We actually read the articles at the con and Jerry will be handing out copies of the zine there. He and Suzle are fan GoHs at Minicon this year.) The thing of your's that I quoted was your comparison of my Mac-obsession with Ross Pavlac's religious fervor.

I don't think we're going to convince each other on this quality-control thing vis-a-vis reading material, Steve, and actually, I don't think we're very far apart either. I've never perceived a derth of material out there that I suspect will (and that actually does) "stretch" me. If anything, I've got the opposite problem, i.e., not enough time to read all the stuff that might stretch me. One partial solution I've used is to avoid the obviously trashy stuff, the stuff where the stretches and Epiphanies will *probably* be few and far between. Obviously, I will miss some good stuff, but that small amount is staggeringly outweighed by the enormous

stack of stuff that I think might be good and actually would have turned out to be mind-bendingly important to me on countless levels, but that I just didn't get enough time to read or see.

KIM WINZ

(SC) Hooray for the death of Lotus Marketplace. Looks like Equifax is the next dragon to slay. I will keep an eye out for more information, but you seem to be closely connected to the latest developments. Please keep up these reports.

(JG) I guess I'm relieved that the march towards still greater infringements on our privacy has been stymied a bit longer, now that Lotus' project was aborted. But the fact that—as you say—the same database is available to anybody with a PC and \$500 makes me think that the victory wasn't so great. I'm not sure I think a world that only the wealthy and powerful can find out anything about me is really better than a world in which anybody can access any information about anybody. I'd kind of like to see the big corporations and governments squirm when they realize that they can't hide their actions anymore.

BILL HOFFMAN

(SC) I enjoyed your Comments on the Nature of Consciousness article. You have the gift of making a normally intimidating subject area interesting. I imagine that you are successful at this in a classroom as well. Although I wouldn't put it past you to throw in some delightfully vulgar sexual aside just to juice up the attention level. I'm most likely to tackle *Godel, Escher, Bach* eventually since it has received such good remarks from people I know who've read it.

KATHI SCHELLER

(SC) I thought your memorial to your Grandmother was very moving. Few of us who make it to 94 should probably expect a big crowd at our funeral. But, as always, it's not the quantity but the quality of the mourners that really counts.

NEVENAH SMITH

(SC) So now that you're 30, you get your kicks hanging out at places like the Black Bear? Well, I have a couple of suggestions for you for future fun excursions. How about the Town Pump bar on E. Wash. near here, or better yet, Don's Place. Don's Place is a converted Long John Silver's, that sports a line of Harley's parked outside every day. I have never been in there, but a friend of mine told me he wouldn't go in there by himself unless armed with a baseball bat because "absolutely anyone will come up and want to start something with you in there." He's a 300+ lb. weightlifter who looks like he could eat a Harley. I can't wait to find out what you'll do for kicks when you're 40.

KATHRYN BETH WILLIG

(JG) Another thing I like about CNN is its attempt it makes to be a truly international news agency. Apparently the word "foreign" is absolutely forbidden to its news announcers; likewise, terms like "we" and "them."

Well you threw me two big comment hooks, but unfortunately I'm blitzing through the comments on this issue, letting Scott take the largest share of the work. It's only a couple days until the deadline, I've got a serious cold/

flu, and a million things to do in the next week and a half. So maybe you can catch me at some con sometime and I'll tell you about *The Dead Cat Through History* slideshow (very much a joke). Likewise the question about how I draw on the computer. The short answer is with Adobe Illustrator, Aldus Freehand, Adobe Photoshop, a mouse, a scanner, and bezier curves. The long answer requires a demonstration. I promised Nevenah a demo last WisCon, but never got around to it during the con. Suffice to say that I no longer use pens very often because I've gotten used to the so very much greater control (of line width and quality, smoothness, curve) that I can get with a Mac.

BILL HUMPHRIES

(SC) Thanks for the Norman Solomon article. I will be on the lookout for his book. I think your opening remarks on the war were on target. Now that the war is over, we begin a long process of looking back on what happened, sorting out lessons for the future, and putting forward an agenda for peace. For nearly twenty years, the trauma of Vietnam and a strong Soviet opposition kept us out of bloody adventures like this. Now those obstacles have been swept aside. In order to prevent our having to painfully relearn the lessons of Vietnam in some future bloodbath, we must press forward with an agenda for peace.

(JG) I liked the Solomon article too, and thought it was neat that you printed an article about inversion white (or green) on black.

Now, as to your comments on abortion being anti-feminist because it puts the onus of responsibility on women: Don't worry about that too much. Most women I know may want men to take more of the responsibility in this area (I certainly welcome it), but are not at all willing to give up final control, because the final results always turn up planted in our bodies.

CATHY GILLIGAN

(SC) You absolutely must follow this issue up with some good news. I insist. You have, unintentionally I'm sure, created this compelling suspense serial zine that is leaving us hanging on for the next installment. I don't mean to sound flippant, I just want to point out that we are very concerned.

(JG) Barb Gilligan told us the other day that Greg was released from the hospital for while (and may be out even as I write). I hope he's out and cured for good. Good luck to both of you.

STEVE JOHNSON

(SC) Welcome back to state service. I suspect that some readers will be amused at your story of why you returned to the state. I took it quite seriously. There are big drawbacks to working in private industry. I think I would have trouble doing it again, unless I started my own business and wrote my own rules. What reactions did you get regarding the short story letter/explanation from your co-workers? I was amused, but I wondered as I read it how my co-workers would react to such whimsy.

KAREN BABICH

(SC) I enjoyed the Babich Media Awards.
YCT. Dyer about 12-Step programs. Very interesting comments and I largely agree with you. One of the most

impressive elements of a good A.A. or N.A. program to me was the idea that an individual need not feel alone to deal with his addiction away from the group. The pairing of new members with sponsors who were to be available to talk when needed, coupled with the emphasis on placing yourself in the hands of a "Higher Power" sort of insured that you didn't have to feel you were totally alone to deal with stress or temptations. There was always somewhere you could turn for help.

(JG) Somehow I doubt that we'll all remember where we were when the Gulf war broke out. I've got the uneasy feeling that there will be more wars coming up that will claim our collective consciousness more horribly. Just the cynic in me, I guess.

VIJAY BOWEN

(JG) After reading your comment to **Bill Hoffman** on the subject of weddings, and learning about the role of the bridegroom ("to fight off the bride's family as the groom escapes with her"); well, I couldn't help but wonder what the *bridesmaid's* traditional role used to be...

BILL DYER

(SC) Great pictures!

(JG) Scott hates puns with a passion, so half the fun of reading your humorous comments to me on the subject of dead cats, was to *read them aloud to Scott*. Thanks.

JOHN PEACOCK

(SC) You ask me whether your comments "clarify things." I can't say you clarified much, but you certainly confirmed a lot. Your zine was the usual mass of contradictions and insults.

We agree that skepticism is appropriate regarding UFO's. The difference between us is that I respect other people's beliefs partly because I know I can't prove that UFO's don't exist. You, on the other hand, have no respect for anyone else, spend a considerable amount of time attempting to prove the unprovable and then call me a "science novice" (some sort of rough insult?) for pointing this out.

If a killing was committed in a legitimate case of self defense, dragging the body away and hiding it will not change the act to murder. It will certainly make it tougher to convince a third party of the truth, but actions after the fact do not change the original circumstances.

The rest of your comment on women and self defense is so muddled as to be impossible to determine what you really are saying. Originally you said that women shouldn't be trained to fight attackers because use of deadly force is wrong, so they should just scream and run. Now you say that self defense training is OK so long as women "know their real strengths and limitations, so they know how to act" (scream and run again?) Anyway, making all women black belts is equal to giving them all guns. I assume that means that women should not have access to deadly force for self defense. So what should they do, John? They shouldn't fight because they will likely lose, they can't kill their attacker because that would be wrong, and if they can't scream and run, what then? Lay back and enjoy it?

I am opposed, in the American tradition, to the idea that "Society" (government?) should be given more rights than individuals. You give Society the right to kill people off left and right who they define as "dangerous parasites." Individuals can

only resort to deadly force in the narrowest ("last resort") circumstances. I don't find that inconsistent. I find that troubling. (You contribute to the ACLU with this attitude and your point of view on capital punishment?) Your attitude toward hunting and extinction of species is contradictory. The extinction of the cheetah is also a "waste" and should be objected to as much as recreational hunting (you contribute to Greenpeace with this attitude toward endangered species?)

I would like to tackle capital punishment another time in a general comment. I, of course, disagree with you on this issue as well.

(JG) You know, the image that occurred to me when I read your zine title, *Rattlin' Cages* was of a prisoner banging on the bars surrounding him.

PAULA LEWIS

(SC) Welcome back to Turbo. You certainly have been through a lot with the arthritis. I hope you don't drop the subject completely. I would like to hear about any progress or new developments.

I think people will tire quickly of firing back at John. After all, how seriously can you take someone with a zine subtitled "A zine of abuse and taunting?"

(JG) Nice to see you back here again, Paula. I'm sorry to hear about the arthritis. I think I know what you're going through, although my experience was limited. I got over it after only 6 or 7 months after I started taking iron pills, weirdly enough. But I recall that period of time quite clearly, and sympathize with you a lot.

ABOUT THE TURBO COVER

(JG) It was produced rather "on the run." Soon after our bowling expedition, I scanned the bowling coupons (earned by bowlers who made strikes on pins that contained a red pin. I understand that **Steve Swartz** and **Elk** won a large number of them, by the way.). After I scanned the coupons I placed a yellow tint behind each coupon and outlined each in black in Aldus Freehand. Then I waited for one of the group photos to be developed. (**Diane Martin** and **Pat Harlo** had both taken shots of the group who bowled after WisCon.) Unfortunately, I missed an early Wednesday night meeting to which Pat had brought her pics and didn't get a photo until the Wednesday night before the Saturday deadline. Kim said he had no cover for this issue so I said I'd do it, but with only a couple days left had to give up on my idea to have a color scan made of the photo (because I don't have a color scanner at work, just a gray scale scanner). I xeroxed-enlarged the photo and scanned that. Then I manipulated the black and white scan in Adobe Photoshop, "coloring" various parts of the image--for instance, giving everyone a red bowling ball. The main problem turned out to be the fact that I'd saved the photo with the wrong dpi. I should have saved it as 300 dpi rather than the screen resolution of 72 dpi, so the actual image is much too raster and there was no time to go back and redo it... Ah well, Live and Learn. So that's how it was done.

—Scott and
Jeanne



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After three solid days of WisCon, punctuated only briefly by intermittent sleep, the thing that naturally occurred to us on Sunday night was bowling. Naturally.