



Then and

Then and Now

is a zine by mike weber,
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Originally intended for the

November, 2002 mailing of the SFPA, then
for the January one, and then....

Some long-time New Orleans people will
remember Stacy, the leftover hippie, and
her younger daughter, Miss Julia, to whom i
became an Honorary Daddy because i was
in NOLA regularly and her real father, a
friend of a friend, couldn't be.

Stacy just sent me the pic to the right, one
of Julia's high-school graduation shots; the
one above just came to light as my mother
cleans up my grandmother's house to sell it.

She plans to be a lawyer, by the way.

Now



Speaking of Stacy, she sent me the following the other day:

"These are the 10 winners of this year's Bulwer-Lytton contest (run by the English Dept of San Jose State University), wherein one writes only the first line of a bad novel."

10) "As a scientist, Throckmorton knew that if he were ever to break wind in the echo chamber he would never hear the end of it."

9) "Just beyond the Narrows the river widens."

8) "With a curvaceous figure that Venus would have envied, a tanned, unblemished oval face framed with lustrous thick brown hair, deep azure-blue eyes fringed with long black lashes, perfect teeth that vied for competition, and a small straight nose, Marilee had a beauty that defied description."

7) "Andre, a simple peasant, had only one thing on his mind as he crept along the East wall: 'Andre creep... Andre creep... Andre creep... Andre creep.'"

6) "Stanislaus Smedley, a man always on the cutting edge of narcissism, was about to give his body and soul to a back alley sex-change surgeon to become the woman he loved."

5) "Although Sarah had an abnormal fear of mice, it did not keep her from eking out a living at a local pet store."

4) "Stanley looked quite bored and somewhat detached, but then penguins often do."

3) "Like an over-ripe beefsteak tomato rimmed with cottage cheese, the corpulent remains of Santa Claus lay dead on the hotel floor."

2) "Mike Hardware was the kind of private eye who didn't know the meaning of the word 'fear'; a man who could laugh in the face of danger and spit in the eye

of death -- in short, a moron with suicidal tendencies.”

AND THE WINNER IS...

1) "The sun oozed over the horizon, shoved aside darkness, crept along the greensward, and, with sickly fingers, pushed through the castle window, revealing the pillaged princess, hand at throat, crown asunder, gaping in frenzied horror at the safed, sodden amphibian lying beside her, disbelieving the magnitude of the frog's deception, screaming madly, 'You lied!'"

(Turns out that these are actually the winners from some years ago...)

Doctors warn men that bras can damage their health

Doctors say men run the risk of injuring themselves when they take off a woman's bra.

A report in a medical journal says one patient suffered major ligament damage and a fracture to one of his fingers while completing the task.

The man ended up with his finger in a splint for three weeks after picking up the injury, which is often associated with rock climbing.

It also says surveys show 40% of men in their 30s and 40s have problems removing bras.

It adds a recent test found men spent an average of 27 seconds taking them off using both hands.

The article, which will be in the August issue of the British Journal of Plastic Surgery, says right-handed men using their left hand took an average of 58 seconds. While one unfortu-

nate volunteer took 20 minutes.

The case of the 27-year-old man who injured his finger is cited by plastic surgeons from St Georges's Hospital in London.

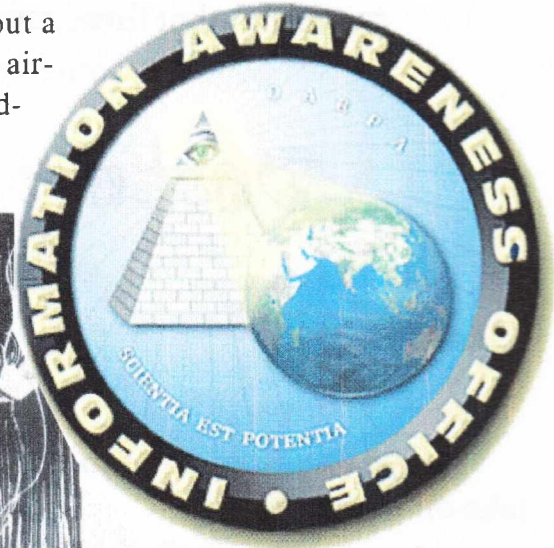
The Daily Mail quotes reconstructive surgeon Andrew Fleming as saying: "It was a very nasty injury to the second knuckle down the finger. It was the type of thing that is more commonly associated with sport, particularly rock climbing."

He says the man twisted the finger when it got caught between the double straps of a lady's bra.

New Post

Ned

The thing about a bullet puncturing the skin of an airliner at high altitude is that in modern aircraft design, the skin itself is a



structural member made rigid and given load-bearing capabilities by locked-in stresses. Ever see a Prince Rupert drop? Little tadpole-shaped drop of stressed glass, made by dropping molten glass into ice water. You can hit the "head" with a hammer with a very high probability of doing no real damage -- but simply nick the "tail" with a file, and it flies

to powder. Damage the structural integrity of a monocoque airliner fuselage, even in a small manner, and you risk catastrophic failure. Remember the Aloha Airways 737, where an initially relatively small metal-fatigue failure wound up ripping the fuselage open and tossing several seats (one occupied by a little old lady) out in midair.

As to the question of cheap illegal-immigrant labour being necessary to the produce industry (among others), Woody Guthry's song "Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos)" asks, in its last verse, "Is this the best way we can raise our good oranges?" That was a few years ago, and it's really not much better now.

In his latter years, my dad became quite interested in Dvorak (and, in fact, almost anything else that had to do with our Bohemian/Czech ancestry).

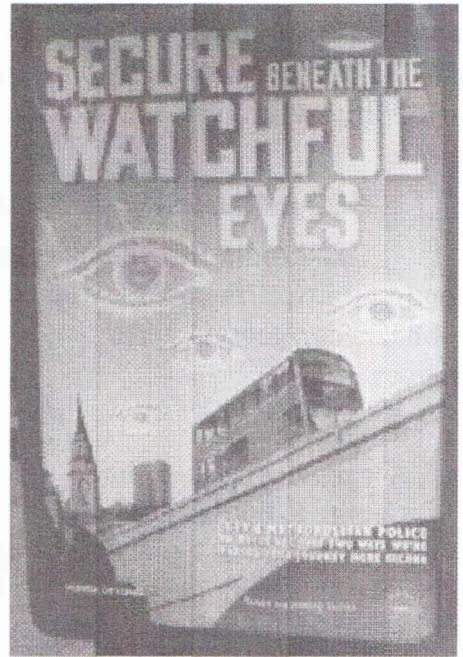
I used to have the first issue of "Spockanalia" -- i'm not surprised there wasn't any slash in it, given its pioneering status and the time of publication, but i did begin hearing of slash not too long afterward.

Regarding witches riding goats -- there are some fairly large goats (and the hairy little mothers are strong for their size*), and, at the time that the legend probably relates to, the average human was rather smaller than today -- for that matter, as recently as when i was stationed in Sicily in 1970 - 1971, the average Sicilian was a foot or so shorter than my six feet.

Whether or not Tiptree was female didn't bother me, or affect whether or not i read "his"

=====

*Which reminds me of Pratchett's offhand remark that entire civilisations have been based on the load-bearing capacity of little old ladies in black dresses...



books. What did was the fact that, in general, i rather more admired than enjoyed "his" writing, if you see what i mean.

George "Burdell", not "Burdette".

I just did a little Google, and found (at http://members.tripod.com/~bhaznedar/georgia_tech/history.html):

George P. Burdell

A legend in his own time, George P. Burdell was created in 1927 as a practical joke. Incoming freshman Ed Smith received two application forms by mistake. He used one for himself, and on the second, gave the first name and initial of a relative who was the headmaster of his prep school, George P. Butler. The origin of the surname, Burdell, is somewhat unclear. One version of the story says that Burdell was the maiden name of Smith's best friend's mother, another version claims it was the name of Smith's cat.

By secretly signing Burdell's fictional name in addition to his own name on all of his classes, Smith developed Burdell into a legitimate student. He even

turned in separate exam papers for Bur-

dell, changing the handwriting and answers enough to convince many professors that George was actually a student in good standing. In 1930, George P. Burdell received a bachelor's degree from Tech and later a master's degree. During World War II, George continued his education at Harvard University before serving with the Eighth Air force in England.

Keeping George Alive

Other creative students, dismayed at the idea of losing this precocious schoolmate, have devised ways to keep George an active participant in the Georgia Tech system. In the spring of 1969, the first quarter that Georgia Tech used completely computerized registration, George beat the system by enrolling in not just a few courses but in every course the school offered - more than 3000 credit hours! Though the computer system improved, it could not outwit George. In the spring of 1986, he was again on the official roster of every course on campus.

With the help of his friends, George spent much of his time



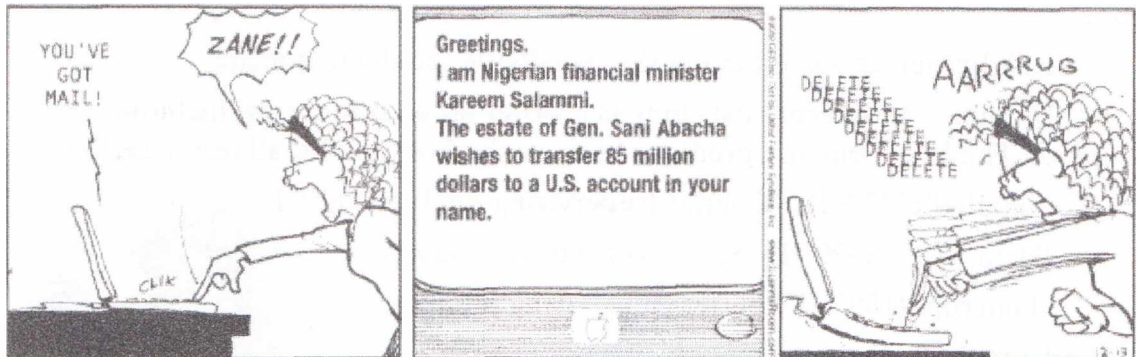
writing letters to the editors of various student publications and Atlanta newspapers, subscribing to magazines without paying to them, and applying for major credit cards. He appeared on Tech's 1987 commencement program and was paged at the 1990 Citrus Bowl when Tech beat Nebraska 45-21. At the 1995 inauguration of Tech's 10th president, Wayne Clough, George's name could be found within the inaugural program as a distinguished guest.

I will point out that Burdell was officially listed as a donor to Furman University in SC (<http://gtalumni.org/StayInformed/techttopics/sum93/legend.html>):

George P. Burdell has received recognition at Furman University, where for the past 20 years he has contributed \$1,000 annually to the school's fundraising campaign. His name is even included on the university's bronze Scroll of of Georgia Tech's Honor.(sic)

Dr. Frank C. Taylor, PRY '65, chair of Furman's Department of Physics, sent an article from the spring 1993 issue of Furman Reports that pays tribute to Burdell's philanthropy - including a \$50,000 contribution made in Burdell's name.

Ol' George does us proud!



Regarding the Nigerian scam, see cartoon above

Jeff's cover for **osushigummi** was (i assume) a package for the latest Japanese perversion of comfort food that i have heard of -- gummi sushi.

While i can't recall specifics, there have been more than one cases of software shipping with viruses in it, mostly inadvertent,

occasionally malicious; i seem to recall something some years back about code left behind by a disgruntled former employee that got out in some Micro\$oft stuff, for instance.

And, of course, you run the usual risks for such stuff if you install software that's been hacked or that you get from "warez" sources.

I doubt that a .22 shotshell would have any significant effect on either fuselage or cockpit windshields, as small as the shot have to be to get any significant number in there.

On the other hand, i doubt it would have much effect on a hijacker either. Except to tick him off.

One possibility for (mostly) non-lethal, not-dangerous-to-the-plane anti-hijacker weaponry is the StunStik and its relatives -- it's a nightstick-sized and shaped device (which can be used to crack heads if necessary), which uses a powder charge roughly equivalent to a 12-gauge shell to launch a tough plastic "beanbag" filled with lead shot. Generally non-lethal, as i said -- no weapon can be guaranteed as absolutely non-lethal in all circumstances -- it hits with sufficient force to jolt most people off their feet, or at least knock the breath out of them and slow or stop them. (It can break ribs, but i'm not really all that concerned as to whether the fellow trying to kill me winds up with a couple broken ribs...)

Isn't Verheiden something in the "Smallville" production team?

Ummm -- IMDB.com lists him as a writer on several things (including "story" on The Mask, but as a producer he has only three credits, all teevee series:

"Smallville" (2001) TV Series (supervising producer) (2001)

"Strip, The" (1999) TV Series (consulting producer)

"Timecop" (1997) TV Series (supervising producer)

I'd rephrase your comment to Steve:

"...expositions of the claimed and for the most part exaggerated aspartame hazards could easily be found..."

Overtones in string instrument waveforms -- particularly bowed instruments, i believe -- are influenced by the specific type of instru-





ment (each class is unique, giving it its distinctive sound), by the particular instrument itself (both by the builder's skill or lack of it, variations from the standard design, material, varnish, age and wear-and-tear and so on) and by the technique of the performer (due to bowing style, fingering and other factors, and contributing to the player's recognisable "style"). A 'cello played by Yo Yo Ma would show different overtones from one played by Casals, even on the identical instrument and piece...

No -- i haven't sent your tape; i thought i had, but it has just turned up. I wish you'd reminded me before, when i had postage money. Will try to get it going ASAP.

Variations on a theme

R.Lynch

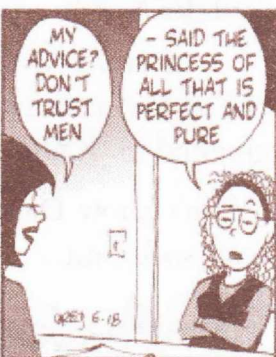
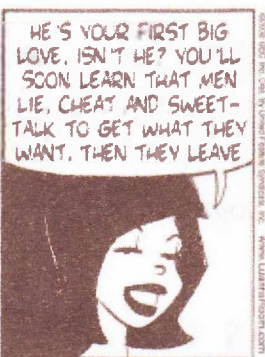
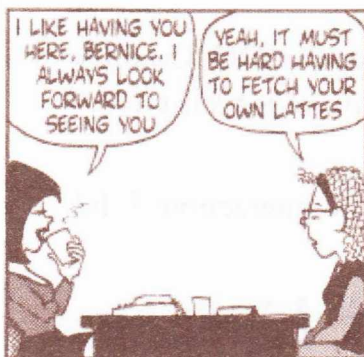
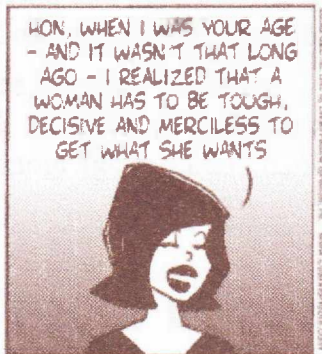
I really would like to get to Prague someday; the Old Country (Bohemia) fascinates me, and now that i've seen some of it well-photographed in "XXX", i really want to go there.

I didn't know Dal Coger all that well, but i enjoyed the interactions i did have with him...

Confessions of a Consistent Liar

A.Hlavaty

Everything i have ever seen by Joan Aiken is children's books, most of them in some way part of a semi-series beginning with "The Wolves of Willoughby Chase", set in a universe where the Stewarts are on the throne in the Nineteenth Century and people are plotting to replace them with the house of Hanover.



Trivial Pursuits

J. Gelb

Speaking of things you might say that will get you excused from jury duty -- here in Atlanta it is said, more than half-seriously, that saying that you listen regularly to Neal Boortz's program will get you excused.

What you missed in "Luann" (which was in the strips i reprinted) was that when it came down to Eiffel firing one of them, she chose Zane. After that, she moved in on Bernice with the "Men are scum, women are the only worthwhile people.." routine. And a few other things, straight out of the "predatory lesbian in PG 13 rated storyline" cliché book. (See previous page.)

Actually, Kim Kinnison would have sworn by something like "Klono's titanium tuchus and bulging beryllium balls!"

I truly love the Sorel strip on your back cover I do find it somewhat amusing that he feels comfortable using the initials "SDS", confident that his readers will get the reference, but doesn't use the initials "YAF", which were similarly used at the time.

TYNDALITE

NESTOR

I read somewhere that it's pretty well documented that Dent wrote all but about fifteen of the Sav-

age stories; however many he didn't write, he wrote a lot higher percentage of them than Walter Gibson did of the Shadow stories (though Gibson wrote at least one Savage story).

Referring to Nemo's batteries, "...mercury isn't consumed but sodium is...". What happens to the sodium? (Is this some form of pre-Einstein cold matter-to-energy conversion?) What does the sodium react with in order to be "consumed"? (Sodium will oxidise readily -- even burn -- but i doubt that that's what's going on.) What part does the mercury play in the reaction, if it's not likewise used up? I find these batteries somewhat hard to believe in. Can you (or anyone) furnish the chemical reactions/formulae by which they operate?

Williamson used the idea of clones grown to ensure immortality for their progenitor in a novel (a fixup from shorter pieces, i think), the name of which escapes me; it's the earliest that i ever encountered the idea.

Speaking of Westerns-converted-to-space operas reminds me of three things -- the "Bat Durstan" ad that "Galaxy" used to run, "Doc" Smith's comment in an introduction to a book (i think E.E.Evans's "Man of Many Minds)

ge (10)

about such a story in which (quasi-quoting)"...the hero's imperfectly-converted blaster 'emitted a stream of lead'..." and the fact that C.L.Moore's "Northwest Smith" was originally created as a Western hero.

(Incidentally, in Miller and Lee's recent novel "I Dare", a "LaDemeter" is a heavy automatic pistol...)

The 60's paperback of "The Firebrand" included a bio piece on Faust which claimed that he left enough material at his death during WW2 to allow at least one of his publishers to keep putting it out till sometime in the 50's.

"V.C.Andrews" has been a house name for something like twenty years (just a minute while i activate my trusty Googler...)

Quoting from The University of Delaware "Review" for February 16, 1999:

V.C. Andrews, author of "Flowers in the Attic" and "Heaven," died of cancer in 1986. Her latest work, "Olivia," released in January, is a total bore.

And the unoriginality of this novel is no surprise. After her death, ghostwriter Andrew Niederman has been trying to keep up her legacy while writing under her name.

But he has not succeeded.

Unfortunately, Niederman is simply copying Andrews' previous plots -- just changing names and hair colors to vary the work.

In each of "her" almost 40 novels, of which Andrews only authored eight, the lead character is beautiful and tormented...

[end quote]

I believe that the name "V.C.Andrews" was registered as a trademark by her family only shortly after her death.

Was "Skylark of Space" rewritten between magazine and hardback publication? My father had a copy of the original hardcover, and i remember it well.

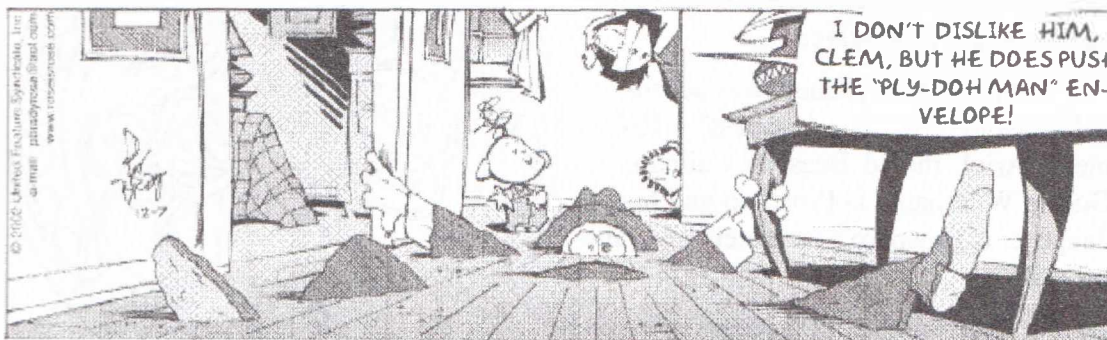
While i haven't read the serial versions of the Lensman books, i can see that the rewrites that explain from the beginning what's going on do de-



tract at least somewhat from the overall structure of the series. I would love to have reprints of both the magazine versions of the stories which had magazine versions to read in parallel with the versions actually published in book form.

Sorry -- i thought i had read that Edd Cartier had died; so many who were active that long ago are gone, these days...

Re: F.M.Busby's first letter -- by an interesting coincidence, my step-daughter, her boyfriend and i just finished watching *Galaxy Quest*, which he mentions favourably -- the important thing about what makes *GQ* such a great film is that it's obvious that the people involved in its production know *Star Trek* inside out, are aware of its ridiculousnesses, and love it anyway, treating it with respect even as



they send it up. It reminds me, actually (since we were discussing Frederick Faust a couple paragraphs ago), of the sort of attitude that gave us the film version of *Destry Rides Again*.

Twyggdrasil & Treehouse Gazette

R.Dengrove

Your comment to Gary about the fact that we cannot see the stars for the city lights (for the most part) reminds me that i have heard that the latest versions of the "Boy Scout Handbook" advise that, if lost in the woods, you should look for the skyglow of the nearest city and head for it to avoid wandering in circles.

Actually, Archimedes *did* use weight as part of his test to determine if the gold was adulterated; the water-displacement part of his test was to measure the volume of metal in the crown so that it could be compared to the volume of pure gold of the same weight.

Gold was rubbed against a "touchstone" to determine whether it was real; true gold would leave a streak of one colour, other elements or compounds would leave other coloured streaks on the surface of the stone.

They were writing "sympathetic Luthor" stories thirty or thirty-five years ago; there was an occasionally-recurring running storyline planet where Luthor was such a big hero that they renamed the planet "Lexor" in his honour...

Sherman did **not** burn Atlanta -- that is a myth that persists because the Sherman-haters don't want to admit that Atlanta burned because its defenders, in attempting to burn supplies and materiel to deny them to the enemy, did it themselves.

"Forbidden Planet" was admittedly inspired by "The Tempest" -- Robbie is Ariel, the Id Beast is Caliban, Doctor Wossname is Prospero and his daughter is Prospero's daughter -- Miranda, right?

I believe that all Don has to go on in Pat Gibbs' case is his writings, and a limited selection of them. Pat is a nice enough guy in person, but inclined to be doctrinaire and dogmatic -- he is, after all, an attorney. ~~Just like Guy Lillian.~~

I don't recall a giant spider from any of the Dean Martin "Helm" films. I do recall a gun that shot backward if you pulled the trigger normally -- in one scene the girl kills a Bad Guy by pretending to be killing herself...

Amazon pays you from 2.5% to 15% if someone uses a link from your site to get to them and buy something -- the higher rates come when someone jumps straight from your site to an item at Amazon and buys it before they do any browsing at Amazon. If someone goes to Amazon via a link from your site and then does some browsing, anything they buy on that visit is good for the lower rates -- exactly how much depends on what it is they buy and on how much you have already sold for Amazon that quarter.





I made almost \$87 off my site last quarter, and i already have about \$18 in commissions accruing since 1 January this year...

I haven't read any such by Tanya Huff, but "Dead Until Dusk" (see my review online at <http://electronictiger.com/reviews/dead.htm>) and "Living Dead in Dallas" by Charlaine Harris are romantic vampire novels, AND (respectively) a Southern Gothic mystery and a hardboiled detective novel. With a non-vampire protagonist who also happens to be a telepath. And a vampire named Bubba who's not quite All There, but whose undead state explains a popular set of Urban Legends...

WEASEL CROSSING

J.COPELAND

I haven't been to a movie in a theatre since "Lilo & Stitch" (which was quite enjoyable, to say the least). I haven't seen the first Harry Potter film, and so haven't seen the second, either. I haven't seen the new Bond, though i did want to. As i type this, "Daredevil" is playing, and i want to see that. But am i? Not this week, anyway.

Sigh.

The IMDB points out that there are explicit/implicit referencs to all of the previous nineteen Bond films in this one... Some of the things they cite sound pretty strained. Brosnan's Bond is a lot tougher-minded than his Remington Steele would lead one to expect. I really would love to see a film of



J.D.Robb (Nora Roberts)'s "In Death" books with Brosnan as Roarke. Dallas would be harder to cast, now that Di Rigg is too old.

Most Westlake (or Stark) is worth reading, though i didn't get past about the second chapter of "The Hook".

There's a Navy base in Marietta, Georgia, too. Of course, it's a Naval Air Station.

Actually, there are sports announcers who add something -- the Atlanta Braves' broadcast team are really fun to listen to and manage to call the game in a manner that actually makes sense.

But whether you're printing the zine doirectly or making a master and copying, you're still using a variant on xerography if you're printing on a laser printer.

No, the other thing that would reliably fill a video room at 2AM -- despite how it seemed universally to be panned as abysmal by fans -- was "Battle Beyond the Stars" (also, now i think, "Dark Star" -- but that's in a class by itself).

As to "Betty or Wilma?", we used to have a local band in Atlanta called "Betty's Not a Vitamin" -- Betty was the only major cast member NOT offered as a vitamin tablet. When someone asked them why the name, they said it was to publicise this injustice, and then one of them added "Betty or Wilma -- which would you rather eat?"

I, on the other hand, barely remember "The Body" and really enjoyed the musical episode of "Buffy", finding it not only well-done as a musical in which the cast KNEW they were living a musical, but well and imaginatively staged. (I liked the little touch of one of Sweet's messenger demons being totally unmusical...)

Yeah -- our DVD is an Apex, but instead of having a hidden menu, it had to have new firmware taken from an Australian machine installed for the region-free, no Macrovision thing.

Talking about a cartoon featuring Jimmy Carter that involved baseball reminds me of the week or so in which "Tank Macnamara" showed Carter negotiating between Pete Rose and Major League

compromise ... Mr Commissioner, the people in Cooperstown may not like having to build an annex to the Hall. Mr Rose, you may not like what it says on your plaque."

Peter, Pan & Merry D.Schlosser

It's been said that the HIV-positive "Sesame Street" character is only in the African version.

"Vault-solid cockpit doors" can only prevent hijackings if the pilot doesn't open them (as you say) AND the pilot refuses to allow himself to be swayed by threats to cabin crew and passengers.

As to the question of how Liz (with page count that would put her 13th on that scale): I looked at the scores that ran in this mailing, and i find myself listed with 98 pages total, and an average of 19.5. Now, as i add up the number of pages listed -- 26, 2, 10, 1, 40 and 23 -- it comes to 102. And neither 98/6 nor 102/6 equals 19.6 -- that's either 16.33... or else 17 pages per time.

If it comes to city fighting in Bagh-

dad, and the US populace turns out to not be as bloodthirsty as it likes to think itself and support for the war evaporates in mid-battle, we may well be "humiliated".

The first Marvel/DC crossover was unofficial, and took place Halloween of 1972 (i think) -- Wein, Gerber

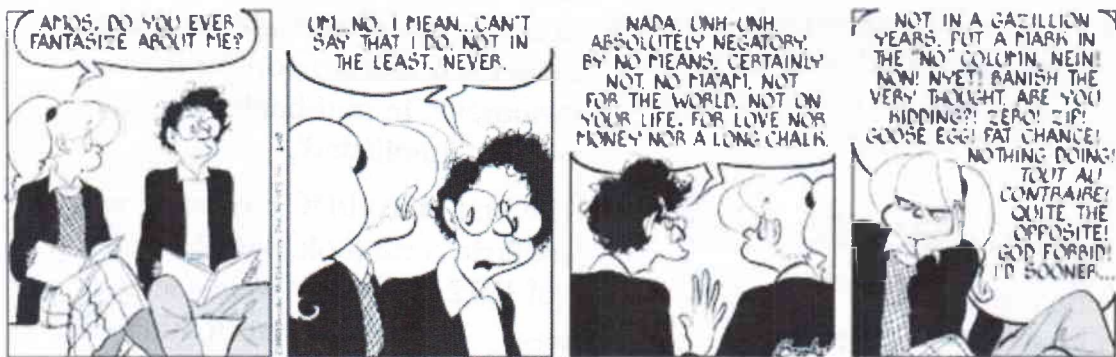
and Englehart (i think -- at least one of the Steves was involved) came up with a common story frame for that month's stories about Thor, the Beast and the Justice League, and wrote themselves and Glynis

Wein in as characters in stories set in Rutland, Vermont. Although the various characters never directly

interact, the three stories affect each other (though not in such a way that one had to read all three; each stood alone).

Example: at the end of the Justice League story, Felix Faust steals Gerber's (i think) car to make his getaway. As he roars away, an indistinct figure runs up to the road, trying to flag him down. In Thor, Loki,





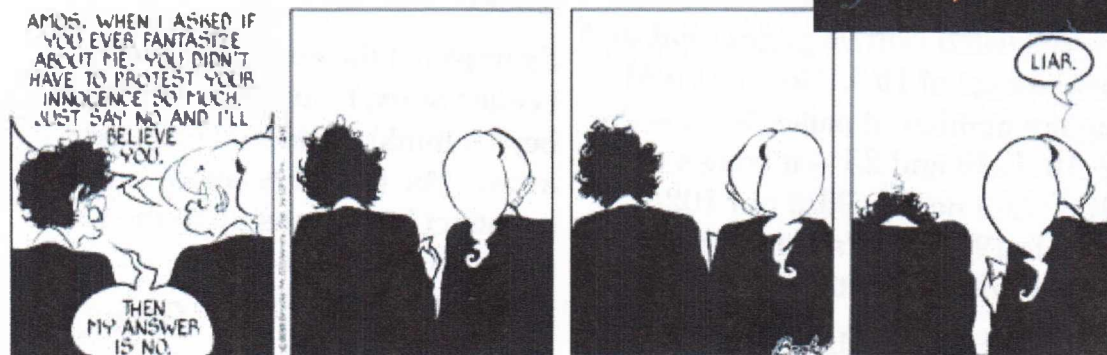
who has been blinded, hears a car roaring toward him, and tries to flag it down to escape. The Justice League story ends with ordinary cops stopping Faust (and ending up arresting him) because Gerber's car has a loud exhaust, the muffler having fallen off near the beginning of the Beast story.

And so on.

SPIRITUS MUNDI

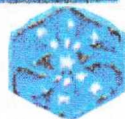
GHLIII

Ummm, Guy, if you phrase your questions while cross-examining witnesses as badly as you did the one about the medal, your clients are in trouble. If you had asked "Is that the Congressional Medal?", the officer would have answered "No" -- the Congressional Medal doesn't hang on a red-white-blue ribbon; it





hangs on a pale blue one; watered silk, i think, with tiny silver stars on the octagonal plaque-like piece the the medal hangs from. The ribbon worn with the rest of your "fruit salad" with less than full-dress uniforms is also pale blue with small five silver stars on it:



There is also a "rosette" that is to be worn by Medal of Honor recipients when in civilian

clothes:

What you saw was probably either a Silver Star (*Air Force version, above left*) or a Bronze Star (*Air Force version, above right*), both of which do hang on



(more or less) red-white-blue ribbons.



(There are three different versions of the Medal of Honor -- the Navy version on the previous page, which was originally designed in 1862 (which, incidentally, did originally hang from a RWB ribbon, the Army version (*left*), a design dating from 1904, and the Air Force version (*right*), adopted in 1965 and [trust a zoomie] 50% larger than the other two. Ribbons and rosettes remain the same for all three.)



[Note the tacky over-ornateness of the Army and Air Farce versions, compared to the simple elegance of the Navy design...]

.Actually, it may well be the bookstores who, effectively, put the Willis novel "on hold" -- the big book chains have pretty well got veto power, at least over genre books. If it makes them toopnervous and they refuse to advance order it, that may well be the difference between a book getting published or not getting published. The specific

example that comes to mind was a Delaney book some years ago that got scrapped because the big chains wouldn't accept it -- the stated reason was that it didn't *look* enough like a sci-fi book to sell well; the rumour was that it was strong gay themes (i think; something of the same sort, anyway) that did it.

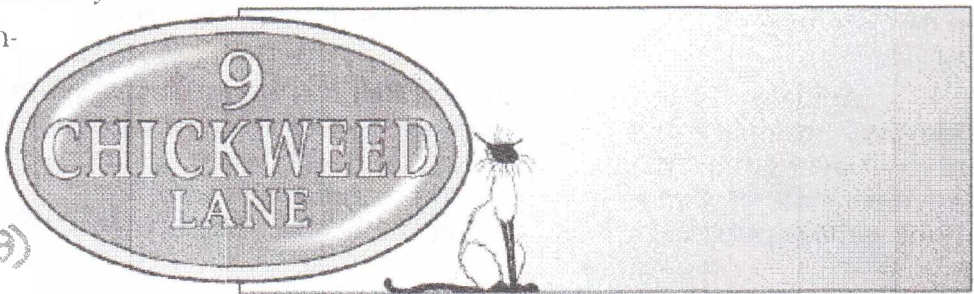
No, i doubt that the "Australian" Ballot (which isn't Australian, something a DUFF winner might want to get straight) -- i'd say that *Last Crusade* won over *Field of Dreams* mostly because (A) more people watched it and (B) a lot of people don't think of *Field* as SF/Fantasy, even though it is. And i sincerely doubt that *Dark Star* could have had any chance in the Hugo balloting, since hardly anyone managed to see it till years later. I'm amazed that it got nominated at all.



XXX was a fun enough film (fun enough that i made myself a Video CD copy), and i see they're already planning a sequel for next summer -- which, i am sure, will feature the GTO prominently -- and i agree that Vin Diesel would make an excellent Gully Foyle. I think he'd also make an excellent *Leon* if anyone was crazy enough to try to do an "American" re-make of that, like they did with *Femme Nikita*...

Your comment about the California sights you didn't see when you lived there reminds me of the way Londoners were totally ignoring the Roman Wall as they waited for 'buses.

I understand that the varnish on Stradi-



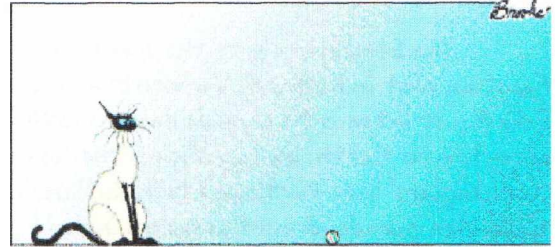


vari instruments is one of the reasons they are so good; recent analyses and experimentation give hope that we can duplicate it.

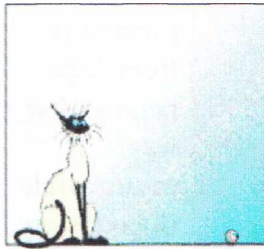
See my comment to Schlosser, right before this one, for the low-

down on that first unofficial Marvel/DC crossover. 1972, i believe.

Actually, i just did some research on this, and i find that it was in 1973:



Thor 207:



Marvel creators Steve Englehart, Gerard Conway, Len Wein, Glynis Wein appear in story. plot

crossover with Rutland stories in Amazing Adventures #16 and Justice League of America #103 (published by DC comics)

From a comics trivia website:

The first Marvel/DC team-up is generally thought to be the Superman/Spider-man comic from 1975, but there was actually an unofficial team-up in 1973. Thor 207 & JLA 103 crossed over with each other. Both comics featured Steve Englehart, Gerry Conway and Len and Glynis Wein

traveling from New York City to Rutland, Vermont in Steve's car. They wore identical clothing in both issues. Englehart's car was the same model and color and had a bad muffler in both comics. In Thor, the car was stolen. You didn't find out who stole it unless you read Justice League.



From a history of the Phantom Stranger:

Justice League of America 103: "A Stranger Walks Among Us!", December 1973
W:

Len Wein, a: Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano

The Phantom Stranger first meets the World's Greatest Super-Heroes!



The Stranger's prior interaction with mainstream DC characters had been limited to Deadman and Batman. Now, for the first time, he appears on the Justice League satellite without use of the transporter (a trick which was to invite comment in almost every Stranger appearance in JLA) and baffles them all.

The Stranger alerts the JLA to a Faustian plot in Rutland, Vermont: villain Felix Faust intends to provide demons with an entry to Earth, by sacrificing the Justice Leaguers' lives. Participants in Rutland's Halloween parade, dressed as heroes including Supergirl, Fawcett's Captain Marvel, and Marvel's Spider-Man, Thor, and Captain America, defeat the Leaguers and nearly kill them. Faust has placed the Leaguers under a spell of imminent death, which could be counteracted only by the sacrifice of a personal possession of each victim. After each battle, the Stranger appears on the scene, ignoring the Leaguers' cries for help, and picks up some possession from the battlefield. At midnight, he sacrifices them all, restoring the Leaguers and foiling Faust's spell. The demons are forced to flee. The JLA offers the Stranger membership, but he disappears without accepting or declining.

"I had read the Marvel comics when they came out, but (being in my mostly Marvel not-quite-dead-yet phase) i didn't pick up the JLA

till some months later. when i was meeting someone at the airport and was bored, so i bought a 'Comics Pak' [remember those?] that had three DC back issues in it, including the JLA. As i read it i began to get this odd sense of deja vu and when i got back to the dorm, i dug out the Marvel issues and checked."

Oblio

G. Brown

Actually, no matter how slim the odds of a meteor hitting the same place as the last Big One hit might be, there's abso-

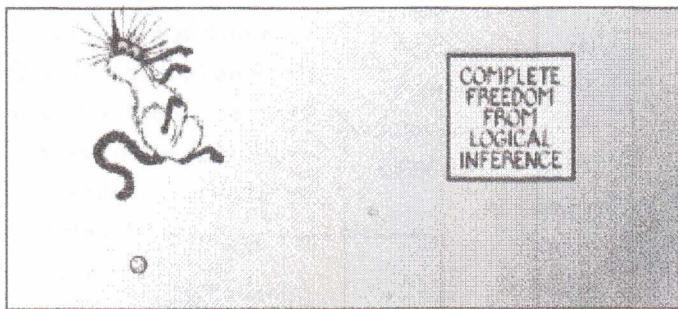
lutely nothing to prevent it from happening that way. I mean, while the odds say that flipping a penny 500

times will give 250 heads and 250 tails, there's actually nothing that prevents it coming up heads 500 times running. It ain't gonna, in your or my lifetime, but it COULD -- each event is totally unrelated to the one before or the one after.

Yngvi Is A Louse!

TKFW

Talking of ways of generating a plot -- someone (i think it was Jack Chalker, but i could be wrong) once described



to me the Futurian method of plotting a novel: you would create your protagonist (and, generally, the antagonist) and come up with the main story element to be resolved in the first chapter. After that, you would introduce a new character or device in each chapter, each of which would have some unique ability or property that related in some way to the main element. One of these new characters or elements would be the key to the solution of the conflict, the others were superfluous. But the Futurians were writing fast pay copy potboilers in those days, so they never rewrote or revised if they could help it, so the later chapters of Futurian novels might get a bit bloody as they disposed of the characters they had created that they didn't need, instead of going back and revising the story to eliminate them. ((This would seem to explain *Gunner Cade*, i suppose...))

Guilty Pleasures

E.Ackerman

My Amazon review of the previous Ben January novel was entitled "Dear Barbara: Fewer Characters Please" -- i am still looking forward to the current one that you mention here, even if it also has so many characters that i have trouble keeping track of them.

My own comics buying has lately been cut back to *Supergirl*, *Young Justice* and *Catwoman*, due to monetary issues. From what i hear/read, i will soon be able to add two other comics to my list, as apparently both *Supergirl* and *YJ* are for the chop after their next issues.

As a *Birds of Prey* buyer/reader, what did you think of the teevee sries? Kate says that the actress who played Huntress would be perfect for "J.D.Robb"'s Eve Dallas, from the "In Death" books. ((We're still arguing -- me yea, she nay -- as to whether Pierce Brosnan would make a good Roarke.))

It is improper to refer to the Coast Guard as a branch of the military; while it is, indeed, militaryish in organisation, it is technically not part of the military. That is why i wound up in the Navy rather than the CG back in the Viet Nam era; the Navy had to go by the eye-sight standards that applied to the military, but the CG



The animated Batgirl re-imagined in the style of the new Supergirl look.

didn't -- the Services had to take you (for most things) if you were correctable to 20/100 and no worse than 20/400 uncorrected. The CG was demanding no worse than 20/100 uncorrected and 20/20 corrected -- which was close to pilot standard for the military,

as i recall. ((We had Coasties attending Electronics "A" School at Great Lakes in 1968/1969 when i was there. In undress uniforms for classes, the only way to tell them from real sailors was a little embroidered badge on their cuffs. But boy did we make fun of their dress uniform hats. Mostly because a lot of us thought they looked better than white hats with the dress blues and were jealous...))

Comments Snitches

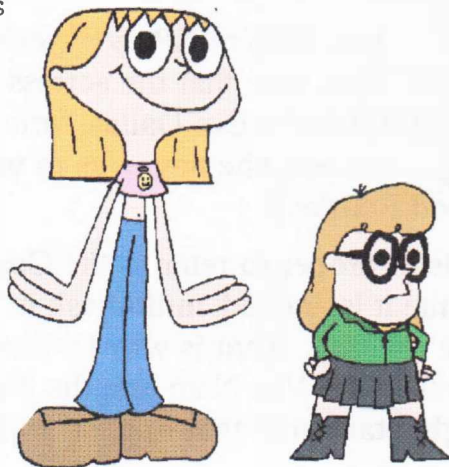
This cover somehow reminds me of the old Emsh Christmas covers for Galaxy showing the four-armed Santa.

Ummm, wasn't Richard Jewell the guy who *didn't* have anything to do with the Olympic bombing, whose life was pretty well screwed up by the FBI? ((A regular Book Nook comics customer, BTW. I thought he looked familiar when i saw pictures back then...)) As i recall, they didn't have any trouble finding Jewell at his mother's apartment on Buford Highway; i think you meant that other guy that they're still looking for in NC.

Actually, there are airguns that shoot BBs (sometimes interchangeably with .177 pellets) that are rather more than toys.

And that looks like IT for this zine, and i'm still not caught up with the MCs on the previous mailing, much less the mailing i ought to be making comments about. Maybe next time.

Illos mostly from online; the Mauldin cartoon showing Hitler, Goering and Goebbels laughing themselves sick over headlines was from the 1940s but seems just as fresh today...



Now see if i can afford to print this thing.