



Oh yes, this is WILDHACK #3, from Dave Locke, 6828 Alpine Avenue #4, Cinsanity, Ohio 45236, and is aimed at Apanage #94 of March 1986. Believe it or not, this is Second Coming Pub #144, and all background music is courtesy of Dunheath Scotch, 86 proof.

Upon request, I wrote this mass-mailed letter to all ChoiceCare providers addressing a gross error in our provider newsletter. My instruction: "Make them smile about it."



STEPHEN P. HOGG, M.D.  
PRESIDENT

KERRY D. TARVIN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ChoiceCare Participating Physician:

This is a followup commentary on the April, 1985 issue of our ChoiceCare News, with regard to the article on page 7 which is entitled "ChoiceCare Participates In Employee Benefit Fairs...".

We are retroactively retitling this article "Typesetter Steps On Foot". As printed, the article reads:

Mr. Dennis Curran, Director, Human Resources Development, Childrens Hospital Medical Center, expressed his satisfaction with the plan.

"It's been a pleasure to be a member of ChoiceCare for the past year. My coverage has given me many problems concerning coverage and delay of payment. In contrast, during the past year both my daughter and myself have had surgery and all claims have been paid by cumbersome paperwork on my part. It's been great!"

Mr. Curran, whose name was misspelled "Kurran" under the accompanying photograph, did not say that at all. Actually, he did say that, but he also said a few other words which somehow got lost between the typesetter and the printer. If we add those missing words back into the text, what he really said was (and we've underlined the missing words and the one changed word):

"It's been a pleasure to be a member of ChoiceCare for the past year. My previous coverage had given me many problems concerning coverage and delay of payment. In contrast, during the past year both my daughter and myself have had surgery and all claims have been paid by ChoiceCare without delay or cumbersome paperwork on my part. It's been great!"

Quite a difference, you'll admit. Had Mr. Curran's statement really been worded the way it saw print, we would have been in error to say that he "expressed his satisfaction with the plan." In fact, had he said what we printed it would be more likely that his statement would have been read in the Grievance Committee instead of in the ChoiceCare News...

Our apologies to Mr. Dennis Curran for this error. Also, our apologies to all ChoiceCare physicians who read this article and were unnecessarily amazed or disconcerted. Additionally, you should know that our typesetter called today to inquire about ChoiceCare's complete vision examination benefit.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

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Many of you young persons out there are seriously thinking about going to college. (That is, of course, a lie. The only things you young persons think seriously about are loud music and sex. Trust me: these are closely related to college.)

College is basically a bunch of rooms where you sit for roughly two thousand hours and try to memorize things. The two thousand hours are spread out over four years; you spend the rest of the time sleeping, and trying to get dates.

Basically, you learn two kinds of things in college:

- *Things you will need to know in later life (two hours).* These include how to make collect telephone calls and get beer and crepe-paper stains out of your pajamas.

- *Things you will not need to know in later life (1,998 hours).* These are the things you learn in classes whose names end in *-ology*, *-osophy*, *-istry*, *-ics*, and so on. The idea is, you memorize these things, then write them down in little exam books, then forget them. If you fail to forget them, you become a professor and have to stay in college for the rest of your life.

It's very difficult to forget everything. For example, when I was in college, I had to memorize—don't ask me why—the names of three metaphysical poets other than John Donne. I have managed to forget one of them, but I still remember that the other two were named Vaughan and Crashaw. Sometimes, when I'm trying to remember something important like whether my wife told me to get tuna packed in oil or tuna packed in water, Vaughan and Crashaw just pop up in my mind, right there in the supermarket. It's a terrible waste of brain cells.

After you've been in college for a year or so, you're supposed to choose a major, which is the subject you intend to memorize and forget the most things about. Here is a very important piece of advice: *Be sure to choose a major that does not involve Known Facts and Right Answers.*

This means you must *not* major in mathematics, physics, biology, or chemistry, because these subjects involve actual facts. If, for example, you major in mathematics, you're going to wander into class one day and the professor will say: "Define the cosine integer of the quadrant of a rhomboid binary axis, and extrapolate your result to five significant vertices." If you don't come up with *exactly* the answer the professor has in mind, you fail. The same is true of chemistry: if you write in your exam book that carbon and hydrogen combine to form oak, your professor will flunk you. He wants you to come up with the same answer he and all the other chemists have agreed on. Scientists are extremely snotty about this.

From the book *BAD HABITS*, by Dave Barry, a gem.

So you should major in subjects like English, philosophy, psychology, and sociology—subjects in which nobody really understands what anybody else is talking about, and which involve virtually no actual facts. I attended classes in all these subjects, so I'll give you a quick overview of each:

**ENGLISH:** This involves writing papers about long books you have read little snippets of just before class. Here is a tip on how to get good grades on your English papers: *Never say anything about a book that anybody with any common sense would say.* For example, suppose you are studying *Moby-Dick*. Anybody with any common sense would say *Moby-Dick* is a big white whale, since the characters in the book refer to it as a big white whale roughly eleven thousand times. So in *your* paper, *you* say *Moby-Dick* is actually the Republic of Ireland. Your professor, who is sick to death of reading papers and never liked *Moby-Dick* anyway, will think you are enormously creative. If you can regularly come up with lunatic interpretations of simple stories, you should major in English.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Basically, this involves sitting in a room and deciding there is no such thing as reality and then going to lunch. You should major in philosophy if you plan to take a lot of drugs.

**PSYCHOLOGY:** This involves talking about rats and dreams. Psychologists are *obsessed* with rats and dreams. I once spent an entire semester training a rat to punch little buttons in a certain sequence, then training my roommate to do the same thing. The rat learned much faster. My roommate is now a doctor.

Studying dreams is more fun. I had one professor who claimed everything we dreamed about—tractors, Arizona, baseball, frogs—actually represented a sexual organ. He was very insistent about this. Nobody wanted to sit near him. If you like rats or dreams, and above all if you dream about rats, you should major in psychology.

**SOCIOLOGY:** For sheer lack of intelligibility, sociology is far and away the number one subject. I sat through hundreds of hours of sociology courses, and read gobs of sociology writing, and I never once heard or read a coherent statement. This is because sociologists want to be considered scientists, so they spend most of their time translating simple, obvious observations into a scientific-sounding code. If you plan to major in sociology, you'll have to learn to do the same thing. For example, suppose you have observed that children cry when they fall down. You should write: "Methodological observation of the sociometrical behavior tendencies of prematurated isolates indicates that a causal relationship exists between groundward tropism and lachrimatory, or 'crying,' behavior forms." If you can keep this up for fifty or sixty pages, you will get a large government grant.

You know, for a brief moment I considered doing this in a pica typeface and including the last three issues of the "ChoiceCare Family News". I guess the whole idea of Pagecount Pagecount Pagecount is beginning to Get To Me. I shall resist it. However, one of these days real soon now, I may photo-reduce an issue of our member newsletter and run it through. Maybe. I still think it would bore the bejesus out of you, but the terminally curious may find it close to interesting. This, of course, is what holds me back. You may cherish the fact, and hope that it holds me to abstension.

Okay, let's roll right into it. Any news of the day, if I think of some, will be conveyed along the way.

OO

Jon Singer, on the Apanage waiting list? Be interested to hear what prompted him to sign on. I've read a few things by Jon in general fmz fandom, and met him once, and I hear tell he may be fandom's best candidate for having a genius-level IQ. I'll look forward to the possibility that he might outlast Apanage's present languishing period.

And with the next mailing, out goes an invitation to Walt Willis. And the waitlister after that is Elinor Busby. My gosh. Sheckly must have been right in his Theory of Searches; if you stay in one spot long enough, sooner or later everyone will pass by (I don't believe it, but MINDSWAP is one of my favorite novels...).

DEBRA DOYLE

69-2897. Smaller areas, like Panama, have shorter phone numbers. For a long while, after first moving to Indian Lake, NYok, we needed only four turns of the dial to reach any phone in the area. Unfortunately, each of seven families would have to listen to the ring to tell whether the call was for them or someone else on the "party-line". Still, this beats calling the operator and requesting that she shoot the call south of town and let it ring four times...

Enjoyed your natter about visiting the bottom edge of the motherland.

"...the scratching-post, crying-shoulder, friendly-ear, screaming-room functions of the apa should never be forgotten." And some of them are well-remembered...

I liked your succinct descriptions of various cities you've seen. Let me try: Chicago is too dirty, LA is too smoggy, Sarasota is too old, and Amarillo is too full of cowshit. Say, that's fun.

Well, just read in today's paper (2/2) that Hubbard died on 1/24. Fingerprints matched. Guess that ends the issue of whether or not he's dead.

Went to high school in upstate NYok with a twit whose family spent most Winters in Florida, and when I'd see him in the Spring he had a Southern accent so thick it would take most of the school year before it gradually wore off.

Jim's "Astrology, feh!" interruption in your text reminds me that us Taurians don't believe in that As-

trology stuff.

Roger Elwood and my reference to his "Christian sensibilities": Roger didn't publish stories if they seemed at odds with his religious beliefs.

Nazis and Nazi-hunters: if we put this show in the Olympics, it would be called the Wheelchair Races.

Haven't yet seen YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES, but intend to, and your comments are noted (I follow such comments on the basis that the more input the better in deciding if I want to really shell out \$ -- for tickets, or tape rental -- or to wait for cable or network premier, or to skip the movie altogether). Good buddy Al Curry confesses to being a purist, and to being unable to accomplish a willing suspension of disbelief in a situation where the Holmes canon sets forth the initial Holmes/Watson encounter while the movie waves such things aside. I, not particularly a Holmes fan, don't care. For that matter, not being a Tarzan fan, I liked LORD GREYSTOKE. Beyond that, being a Howard Conan fan, I mildly, very mildly, enjoyed both Conan movies despite knowing that neither one gave a damn for canon. So it goes.

Sincerely sympathize with your unique (in fandom) problems in regard to obtaining duplication services. It's comments like yours which make fanzine fans realize how lucky they are to be where they are. Like you say, "This is not one of your big-time Free Press countries". Not to say that fellow fans who reside within the free world won't occasionally try to take your head off, but they're not being literal about it..

Really love reading your wordwhipping. With all the crap we get which is strained through the tube or through newsprint or slick paper, it's a goddamn breath of fresh air to get away from all that and read someone who has style and openness and presence and a wonderfully marbled, dark sense of humor. In a broader sense, one of the great joys of fandom at its best is getting an interesting, unfiltered view of the known universe. Self-filtered, of course, but that adds depth. In a specific sense, you give good wordwhipping...

JIM MACDONALD

Your epic play needed spacing to keep me from reading it twice to follow the twists and turns (like, between lines 2/3, 10/11, 15/16, 18/19, etc.). Yours could be the proper form for such things, for all I know. Ah, the perils of Pauline. No, wait, it was Little Nell.

Was hoping you'd tell us about the Photon game in Dallas.

Definitely, I wouldn't want your job. The unclassified bits are very interesting. Don't slip up, though, or the Navy might send us 26 Intelligence Officers as an official postmailing.

DONYA HAZARD WHITE

Oops, excuse me, but I spit up just a little on that recipe for curried potato salad.

Seems I've turned a lot of folks into Dave Barry fans.

There's two things to be aware of about venison. Prepared correctly it can taste like steak or it can taste like roast beef. Prepared wrong, it can taste like venison.

I never heard of cloudbberries, either. In fact, I never heard of bilberries until Joni Stopa sent me a jar of her bilberry jelly. I've lived a berry sheltered life, obviously.

I've been tempted to, er, take up juggling. Some of the local fans are into that. I still might do it, but not anytime real soon now.

Cute bit on one of my favorite pet peeves -- hot air dryers.

Thanx for the invitation to the Jan. 3rd party at your house. I got into my time machine with the thought of attending, but at the last moment had to back out (it's a small model, with no room to turn around). Perhaps some other time.

Errors in claims coding can be disconcerting, too. I mentioned that one of my own claims had been miscoded so that the diagnosis read "osteoporosis" (I told my doctor "I wish you'd tell me these things, Herb", and he asked if I was post-menopausal...). One of my Member Services Representatives had a kaleidoscopic emotional display when one of her husband's claims was miscoded to indicate that he had syphilis. After confirming with his doctor that this was grossly incorrect, she violated company policy by accessing the EDP claims program and adjusting the diagnosis code. As this data is routinely accessed by a great number of ChoiceCare employees, I said absolutely nothing when she told me what she'd done (and would fight to the death if anyone challenged the act). On the other hand, my osteoporosis remains in the system because it amuses me to leave it alone (if it said syphilis, it would likely get changed).

I did neglect to mention my awareness that aerospace companies have been known to shut down between Xmas and New Year's. Having lived in the LArea for 12 years, it was impossible to escape knowing that. I guess what's interesting about my views on the distinctions between private industry and civil service is that companies which exist by doing contract business for the government (any U.S.A. government, though typically Federal) get classified by me as 'half-breeds' and excluded from consideration. They're indeed private industry, but by being married to government activities they altogether distinguish themselves from all other private industries. I guess I see an overview which breaks into three categories: Gov't, private enterprise, and private enterprise tied to Gov't contract. Within these three perceived categories, secondary and tertiary categories abound.

That's okay, Donya, I am old. I think I was born old. An old joke between David and I is that he grows younger while I grow older, which long ago totally negated the fact that he was born seven years before I was. I don't know his excuse, but mine is that I didn't start attending school full-time until the 5th grade, because prior to that I spent most of my time

in a hospital and all my 'friends' were old enough to be a parent or grandparent.

And, speaking of being an "Old Editorial Hand", I'm a bit leery about some news that's coming down the pike. I had mentioned that the next "ChoiceCare Family News" would be a transitional issue between my being the Managing Editor and turning the reins over to our new Director of Communications. The last issue, which was mostly written by me and in which I went balls-out in putting teeth into everything I wrote, has gotten such tremendous feedback from members, client companies, and physicians, that there is a wild rumor in the air that maybe this publication should not be turned over to other hands. As a backhanded compliment, I love it, but otherwise I'd prefer that things proceed as planned. I like the idea of being a columnist and being a technical editor to ensure that no material is contrary to ChoiceCare's contract or at odds with its policies & procedures. I don't like the idea of continuing to beat on the staff for material and having to write most of the material myself when little shows up, mainly because the nature of my duties as Member Services Manager means that most all such newsletter-related activities are things I must bring home at night and on weekends. I'd rather do less for the newsletter, and more for fanzines...

I definitely get the idea that I should see how Pinkwater stacks up against my reading tastes.

A fellow arachniphobe, are you?

"A NageCon". I'd be interested if it tied in with, say, DeepSouthCon, which I'd like to attend some day. Or, how about the '87 Corflu (the fanzine fans' convention) which will be held in Cincinnati, probably in February. Bill Bowers will honcho it, many will assist, and I've agreed to utilize my hardass ex-purchasing agent abilities to establish a viable hotel contract ("I need someone who can bullshit mundanes" Bill told me). As FLAP co-OE and 'Nage member, if interest is sufficient I can operate from the standpoint of ensuring that apahacks Have Their Due at the next "fanzine fans' convention". This is a serious request for expressions of potential interest. I'll go with the flow, but if the Apanage and FLAP flow is of significance, I'll go all the way.

It says A Lot when you name your car "Albatross".

"I'm infamous in local fandom for sleeping anywhere, anytime." Phew! I'd hate to verbalize that for fear of slipping up and saying something embarrassing.

Patents. I'm in favor of an Originator having some manner of lifetime original rights. I don't believe in discouraging competition, but I do believe in compensating the person who made it all possible to begin with.

I don't think I've ever eaten a Black Elfin Saddle. Tend to agree with you that they must need a lot of cooking.

To pamper your laziness, my birthday is May 5th, ~~1844~~ 1944.

"Why don't you come here and be immoral?" Ah, it's

hard to take you seriously. If I showed up, you'd probably do something immoral like offering me gin instead of scotch.

"... it isn't a very interesting con." Loscon didn't impress me, either, though I enjoyed being introduced around by old drinking buddy Milt Stevens ("and this bunch of weirdos consists of \_\_\_ & \_\_\_ & \_\_\_, and that weirdo over there is \_\_\_, & --!!"). Of course, that was 1977.

"The sushi was certainly adequate, though not the best we've had." How much of a sushi criteria can there be? Probably all you can do is throw a stopwatch on how long it takes a place to gather and serve the raw fish and seaweed. Four days: "adequate". Three days: "not bad". Two days: "quite good". One day: "outstanding". Their own aquarium; "superb!"

The Northwoods chain of restaurants. An old favorite. It was a memory-flogger to read of David & Marcia taking you & Allen & Jon there.

"I'd still like to know what people think is outside the bounds of good taste for this apa." Speaking only for myself, I can't imagine anyone here -- even you -- abusing anything to the point of incurring an objection from this neck of the woods. Lay it on, see what happens, and adjust accordingly.

Esoteric except to you, but I laughed out loud at your story about the ants.

Next time you see Debbie Notkin, say howdy for me. I remember her fondly. And I've never met her.

Your bacover quotes are excellent. I've used the Maslow ("If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail") when, in a mailing comment, I was speaking to Joe Nicholas... (A "kill-the-fuckers" type of fan reviewer.)

Best to you, Donya. Huggies.

DAVID HULAN

"Jotum Publication 630." Jesus Christ, Loquacio...!

Nice, pleasant, clean & crisp natter, as usual. The only hook that came down and snagged me was to wonder if anyone has given attention to the exercise quotient of dancing. Probably has. Used to have posted on the refrigerator a calorie burnoff chart for various types/durations of kissing & various acts which might be considered to sometimes logically follow. Somebody has probably investigated dancing in this light, too.

Hi there, Marcia! Did all that plying, wheedling, and cajoling from so many of us 'Nagers, way back when, finally trigger a delayed reaction? Whatever, I'm glad to see you doing a column.

Listen, Marcia, if you're occasionally going to get caught talking to yourself, a little snappy patter might be in order. Tell folks you do it because you like to feel you're dealing with a better class of people. Tell them you know yourself so well that if you don't like a subject, you won't even bring it up.

Yes, working for yourself can be tougher than working for others, and usually is. There's more

flexibility, and there's less. More, as in establishing your own work patterns. Less, as in taking time off. Best of luck to you with it. Sounds like a good setup, to me.

See you next mailing, too, I hope. Kissy kissy.

David, I take it that your "anything that tastes like cooked tomatoes" riff means that you don't want my recipe for stewed tomatoes.

I'll belatedly pick up on Frank's ten-movies-to-choose-if-I-could-never-see-any-other-one pop quiz: 1] Harper, 2] The Graduate, 3] The Producers, 4] Duel, 5] The Night Stalker, 6] The Thing (Carpenter version), 7] Dirty Harry, 8] The President's Analyst, 9] The Onion Field, and 10] Slaughterhouse Five. If I could somehow smuggle in five more they'd be: 11] The Birds, 12] Forbidden Planet, 13] Starting Over, 14] Death Wish, and 15] Blazing Saddles. This is an off-the-cuff response, you understand. Were it a serious exercise I'd toss in five more movies, do a lot of pondering, and cull the 20 down to 10. Were this a For Real thing, I'd pick up on Bruce's thoughts, see all these movies in one month, and then choose the ten.

I told everything I know about MZB in the Albany area back in the 76th mailing. Her parents and her brother lived there, as did Don Studebaker, but she didn't live in the area at the same time I did (wasn't big enough for the both of us...).

Is your untold joke about the camel the one where the men use it to ride to town?

I would tend to think that Reagan's first election as U.S. President marked a "turning point between 1972 and 1985". It kicked off a new conservative movement and brought such assholes as Jerry Falwell from the radical-right fringes to some sort of participatory grace.

I agree that aspirin and acetomenaphen aggravate a migraine, or at the very least do little good. Codeine works.

ELINOR BUSBY

I find the concept of "past lives" as credible as astrology, phrenology, creation science, and Deros. And almost as interesting. I was a skeptic in my last life, too.

In school I always volunteered for theater, such as it was, and usually wound up with a lead role. Had no interest whatsoever since graduation. In fact, my interest crapped out prior to any signups for the senior class play, which I couldn't work up the interest to even watch. I'm at a total loss to explain the basis for my prior involvement. Must have been one, I presume.

Congratulations on your retirement. Yes, that does go far toward explaining why you're in six apas.

MARY FRANCES ZAMBRENO

Sorry to hear of the tumble you had. Falling down is bad enough. Six stairs is definitely worse. Listen, don't do that anymore.

Take ~~better~~ care of yourself.

JANE YOLEN

Sorry to hear of your father's death. My sympathies.

I was going to say something about Medicare, but let's wait a bit. We'll sink teeth into it some other time.

Nice looking jacket for MERLIN'S BOOKE, and the premise is intriguing to the point that I intend picking this one up.

After DaVinci has dinner at your place with Chaucer, Donne, and Blake, I'm inviting him over to my place the next night for dinner with Tesla, Sagan, and Rucker.

It doesn't surprise me that Harlan blasts such, imho, good movies as STARMAN and BACK TO THE FUTURE while touting such, imho, appalling twaddle as DUNE. Does it surprise you? Does it surprise anyone?

"If you move, what area are you looking -- and what kind of job?" I almost skipped this question, because I don't have an answer. Terrible, right? I never reached the point where I was forced to come up with one. The "job" part of the question is probably straightforward enough; likely I'd take temporary work while searching for a middle management spot in materials management, purchasing, or customer service. Likely. Not what I'd like to do, but likely what I would do. What like to do is either: 1] not have to worry about working, or 2] find something interesting to do. Lotsa luck either way, right?

Really, MZB might get to read my lines here in Apanage? [Hi, MZB! Up yours!]

The word "cute" does seem to cover a lot of territory. Too much, actually.

This mailing's typo award goes to your "Did you learn all that stuff about makeup by trail-and-err-or--?". Yup, she just kept hunting for it until she was out of the woods. A path-etic comment, right? Yeah, I know, go take a hike...

Like your pomes. ~~DATE~~ Clever.

BEV CLARK

Your "tenth (gasp!) armish"? Congrats on your stamina.

"I HATE SNOW!" I knew you were a soul sister.

Your experiences at the huckster table only reinforce the old bromide that, generally speaking, fans are not slans. The 20 cons I've attended over the last 25 years lead me to firmly believe that, predominantly, fans are twits. Of course, the rest of us aren't in fandom to associate with the twits. Only to be amazed by them.

Decaffeinated coffee doesn't give me the kick-start that I need each morning. And regular coffee doesn't give me as much of a kick-start as it used to. As Jackie said about my morning persona: "You fake it well, but you have no brain in there." She should talk: when she wakes up and stumbles into the kitchen I have to take her arm and point to her seat at the table... (all observations are

based on one of us being awake enough to qualify as observers of the other's behavior; after 8½ years, that happens once or twice.)

I've always been mildly "frustrated" with media fans, too, and also I always "defend" them "when the occasion arises." Why do we do this? I guess because the label "mediot" sounds too much like "nigger", and I don't like what it means. Every group seems to have their generic "niggers", and I hate it.

I wouldn't put too much stock in anything 'rich brown' says, about anything. This may be only the third or fourth time, in print, that I've even acknowledged his existence. Just to amaze or bedevil me, I think, a friend recently sent me copies of two of brown's recent letters. In the first, brown promulgates and belabors an obvious and disgusting lie. In the second he admits the lie, rationalizes it, laughs at the possibility that he got away with it at the time (he didn't), and then tells several more. He's one of the few people in fandom I might be capable of being civil to if I ever had the misfortune to be introduced to him. Civil, hell. My probable inclination would be to invite him off to a quiet spot for a little bit of ~~ADAPTABLE~~ close communication.

Er, sorry about that. But you know what Debra says about "functions of the apa"...

What's wrong with having an auto accident on your record if the other car ran into yours? I think I missed something there. Has it to do with a byproduct of no-fault insurance, or what?

SIGNE LANDON

A Kaypro. Aha. Soon you will be mildly disgruntled at a scenario where your typewriter can be used to print out the words, but you have to type them on a keyboard which has much less feel to it. The flexibility on edits may compensate, somewhat.

"NOTE TO ALL APANAGERS IN THE MIDWEST". All six ears went on alert. Have a good trip. Sorry I won't be anywhere near Chicago.

Oh, hell, go ahead and argue if the mood suits you. Nothing wrong with doing it, per se. I live with a woman I once asked "but why would you want to argue?" and she responded "because I'm Irish." Everybody has their own excuse. I know that I tend to get argumentative if I discover there isn't any scotch around.

I enjoyed many of the movies on your top ten list. Particularly, THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS and YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, and the first half (complete in itself) of THE BLACK STALLION.

I'd heard the "you sure are a mean drunk, Superman" joke, but it's a good one. When I first heard it, though, it was a racist joke instead of a drunk joke.

"Exciting" is not a word I would use to describe moving.

Yes, some ages do kind of blur together. It happens more as you grow older, because subjectively time speeds up. By the time you're 150, time will be whizzing by so fast you won't even be able to move.

Based on your drink preferences and the statement about your limited knowledge of drinks, this old bartender recommends you consider trying a Sidecar next time you go out and feel like having a drink before dinner.

#### CHRISTINE LOWENTROUT

Al crapped out early on his idea of a cowritten novel. He got into one that he'd been working on alone, and is about done with it now (and, along the way, he digressed from that one and sold two others). Doubt we'll go back to what we were doing, but if he suggests it I'd be interested. I was enjoying it. And thanks for blowing smoke this way.

Moving from the figurative to the literal, I take my doctor's word that medicine is more of an art than a science. Concerning smoking, to medicine smoking is out. To science, medicine is out on a limb. And you're wrong that my smoking has trespassed on anyone's rights, unless you think all smokers are alike, in which case you'd be twice wrong. That's ok, I love you anyway.

A fellow migraine sufferer. Migraines are a real headache.

#### ALICE MORIGI

Ah yes, THE JOURNAL OF IRREPRODUCIBLE RESULTS. We have their BEST OF collection. A lot of fun.

I like a bit of catsup with scrambled eggs once in a while, too. Usually, though, I fix scrambled eggs with, say, leaf oregano, parsley flakes, MSG, garlic powder, and thyme leaves. Plus, I add salt & pepper at the table. "Dave's Eggs" we call it, and the recipe varies each time. The one I just gave came from the recipe before last. The last batch began with some finely shaved beef simmered in garlic and onion, which later got folded in with the eggs. Say, I'm getting hungry.

What makes you think that, at my fictitious dinner party, Paine and Christ would carve up O'Hare? I don't think so (of course, it's my party...).

Damn, I forgot about ARCHIE AND MEHITABEL and their spelling of "wothell"! Dean Grennell must have written this a thousand times, and would be ashamed of me. Well, let's never tell him.

Some folk use IMAO instead of IMHO, when the situation calls for it. This only means substituting "arrogant" for "humble"...

Ah, yes. Eofan F.M. Busby declared that, upon his retirement, he was going to write skiffy, and by ghod that's just what he did, and more than just merely successfully. Buz is, indeed, Elinor's ~~old~~ ~~husbby~~ hubby, and one helluva interesting fellow.

When Elinor becomes a member seems academic, because she contributes from the waiting list. It's great that she can do that, and even greater that she has the mindset to just go ahead and do it.

Well, since you doubled your top ten movie list ("That's another advantage to having an amiable life-house mate -- we get twice as many as you poor deprived singles..."), I'll just have to list Jackie's

choices, in no particular order: Wizard of Oz, Beckett, Lion In Winter, Andromeda Strain, Zulu, Witness For The Prosecution, Advise & Consent, The Graduate, On The Waterfront, The Ruling Class, Cowboy, From Here To Eternity, The President's Analyst, The Russians Are Coming The Russians Are Coming, It's A Wonderful Life, and A Star Is Born.

Yes, that's 16 (my list was 15), but that probably, extemporaneously captures most of a preliminary list from which a top ten might be culled... Oh hell, I'll throw in Brian's top "ten" (my son Brian is 18): Invasion Of The Body Snatchers (original), The Changeling, Star Wars, Raiders Of The Lost Ark, Cheyenne Social Club, Dirty Harry, Blazing Saddles, Grease, Rambo - First Blood Part II, Jaws, Places In The Heart, Planet Of The Apes, Duel, Flight Of The Phoenix, Back To The Future, Beverly Hills Cop, The Outlaw Josie Wales, and Escape From Alcatraz.

"Xine" for "Christine". ~~Clevert~~ Cute.

Good zine, as always.

#### AMY FALKOWITZ

Bob bob bob, bob bob er-ran, bob bob bob, bob bob er-ran, oh bob er-ran-ann-ann, oh take my han-arm-ann-- No wait, we weren't doing that crap anymore. Nor, apparently, any less. Quick, Amy, name that tune!

You seem to be aware of the hazards of getting along with a roommate after ten years of living alone. Little things magnify. Words get held back, fester, and develop a hidden sentience. Good luck on it. As almost a total non-sequitor, have you ever seen PLAY MISTY FOR ME?

Yup, three years. Don't time fly? I joined Apanage with mailing #76 in March, 1983. It's been a kick. I've really enjoyed it. I wonder, in this regard, if David thought that things would work out as well as they have?

RCT Lisa: "Naaah, you don't want to bother with PET SEMETARY." Foop on you. It's, IMAO, one of the best horror novels ever written.

My Apanagezine title comes from Vornegut's SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE, which is one of my favorite skiffy novels. For that matter, it's one of my favorite novels.

My response to your esoteric question ("Was that 'Believe It or Not' for real?") is: yes. Hard to believe, right?

#### JOHN HOPFNER

Hey, good luck with grad school. That's a big chunk of commitment in terms of time and attention. "So the road is long, but shortens by one step for each stride I take." That attitude, together with your goal orientation, is 100% the best way to get to the other side in an intact state. Go for it. Personally, I look forward to the new element of natter this will generate, though I presume in all probability you will, overall, be writing a little bit less.

It's my opinion that there is seldom a true



hardship case where the OE must provide copying service or lose the member. Where that does exist, the OE can require an earlier deadline to allow for xerox/ditto/whatever arrangements on the OE's part. With a moderately expanded interim between deadline and mail-date, to allow for xeroxing the OO, the OE wouldn't even need an in-home copying ability. All you need is a close eye on realignment of timing to accommodate necessary OE copying (necessary=1) OO, 2) hardship cases).

Seat belts. Ah, yes. But if, say, 95% of your driving is at maximum-speed conditions, I believe a seatbelt will only ensure your death. Not wearing one gives you at least a slim chance of being thrown clear and surviving in a high-speed collision. Where most of your driving is in surface-street conditions, or low-speed congested driving of any sort, which is statistically what most people face, seatbelts are the way to go. The statistics don't usually deal with such breakdowns in situational driving. I believe that people have to be aware of the potential differences, and where they place, and adjust accordingly. Never go by the average statistic where your own situation is not average and you are aware of the potential difference. Naturally seatbelts are being promoted, and in some places mandated, because if everyone wore them there would overall be a gain in injury and survival. Situationally, I believe there would be a lower survival rate in high-speed collisions, but overviews don't take such things into account. I do, however, because over 95% of my driving is at freeway 55+ mph conditions. This is my case of druthers, and I resent mandated seatbelt laws; they don't worry me, though, because if I'm stopped for something I'm going to be the first one out of either car...

Think about it before you respond based on (varying) statistics which blurge all types of (known, reported) driving into one common mathematical pool. Food for thought. I don't really give a fuck, but if I didn't like you I wouldn't bother at this late date...

I'll vote for Bullheads (catfish) as the fish which generate the longest interim between netting and stringing. No other common game fish has that good an exoskeletal defense.

The Chicago "accent" used to be the closest in the US to standard American pronunciation, because national US network broadcasters were trained in Chicago. Now training sites are all over the place, Atlanta even, and there is no specific "standard". Used to be, even in Atlanta, broadcasters were trained for a Chicago "accent", but no more. The situation evolved away from a central control standard, which I think is all to the good.

WILDHACK bears no association with violence. Montana Wildhack, on paper in the words of Vornegut or on screen in the persona of Valerie Perrine, was anything but violent. I just thought WILDHACK an appropriate, multi-level title for a Vornegut fan who

loved SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE, is rather wildass in nature at times, and who often hacks out apazines on a first draft basis. But, no violence. Or, at least, very little...

Smoking. Let me succinctly answer your two most basic questions, which I'll paraphrase as: 1) What proof do you have that second-hand tobacco smoke isn't damaging to me?, and 2) on what basis do you maintain that science is unsupportive of "the" Surgeon General's claim that tobacco smoke is dangerous (nay, even specifically causes, heart attack, cancer, and emphysema) to smokers? But, I'll answer the first question this issue and the second next time, because even succinctness will result in using up a godawful amount of space. And I'm crowding the deadline, you see.

Let me preface my answers with a comment. The upshot of all this smoking controversy is that much of it stems from political and social machinations, and the rest of it comes from public omission of known data, unreason, and even from pure scam. I don't think anyone will ever come out and suggest that smoking is good for you, but at the heart & guts of the issue is the bald fact that science cannot be used as a plank in the anti-smoking platform. There is no scientific proof that smoking is harmful in any way, any manner, any form. None. Nada. Zip.

Ok, answer #1 now, answer #2 next time. Second-hand smoke. There has been a great deal of overreaction on the issue of smoking in public places. An objective look at all of the evidence available would clearly show a reasonable person there is no reliable scientific proof that cigarette smoke causes disease in nonsmokers. In fact, the weight of the evidence is that it does not.

The lack of evidence that smoke has a harmful effect on nonsmokers has been noted by some of smoking's harshest critics. A Japanese study that reported that nonsmoking wives of smokers have a high risk of lung cancer got a lot of publicity. But the validity of the study was seriously questioned in the medical literature by a variety of experts around the world. Dr. Lawrence Garfinkel of the American Cancer Society, the organization's chief statistician, published a study covering 17 years and 200,000 people which totally contradicted the findings of the Japanese study. In it he concluded that passive smoking has virtually no effect on lung cancer rates among nonsmokers and said: "Passive smoking may be a political matter, but it is not a main issue in terms of health policy."

Dr. Edwin Brandt, who was U.S. assistant secretary for health, said that the evidence on second-hand smoke was "not conclusive by any stretch of the imagination."

Much has been made by anti-smokers of a Califunny study claiming to show that exposure to cigarette smoke in the workplace over long periods of time reduces the lung function of non-smokers. Those who quote this study as gospel, however, fail to take

into account what one of the government's chief lung experts wrote in a guest editorial in the same journal issue: "The evidence that passive smoking in a general atmosphere has health effects," wrote Dr. Claude Lenfant of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, "remains sparse, incomplete, and sometimes unconvincing." And it still is.

Another study commonly used in support of smoking restrictions involved the measurement of particulate matter in public buildings around Washington D.C., by two researchers who then claimed that non-smokers are exposed to "significant air pollution burdens from indoor smoking." No definitive piece here, either, because the investigators measured no substance specific to tobacco smoke -- like nicotine, for instance. Nor did they take any readings before the introduction of tobacco smoke. Their measurements, therefore, may simply reflect the amount of dust in the air and have little relevance so far as tobacco smoke is concerned. Measurements of atmospheric cigarette smoke taken under realistic conditions indicate that the contribution of tobacco smoke to the air we breathe is minimal. One study at Harvard found only very small amounts of nicotine in the atmosphere of cocktail lounges, restaurants, bus stations, and airline terminals. Based on those measurements of a substance specific to tobacco smoke, it's estimated that a nonsmoker would have to spend 100 hours straight in the smokiest bar to inhale the equivalent of a single filtertip cigarette. Now, levels of carbon monoxide are affected by many factors -- cooking and heating equipment, motor vehicles and industrial processes, even the number of people around, because CO is generated by body metabolism. But as a prominent New Jersey pharmacologist said recently, environmental studies suggest that the CO in tobacco smoke has little impact on the content of room air, except under highly artificial conditions. The results of studies conducted under realistic conditions indicated that CO from tobacco smoke in the atmosphere rarely exceeds 10 parts per million and is closer to 5 ppm in public places with normal ventilation. Both figures are well below the limit of 50 ppm recommended by various health agencies for workers exposed over an eight-hour period.

In 1983 the organizer of an international conference on environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) summarized the evidence on lung cancer as follows: "An overall evaluation based upon available scientific data leads to the conclusion that an increased risk for non-smokers from ETS exposure has not been established."

The US Surgeon General Julius B. Richmond -- who was no friend of smoking -- said in his 1979 report: "Healthy non-smokers exposed to cigarette smoke have little or no physiologic response to the smoke, and what response does occur may be due to psychological factors."

And in the 1982 report, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop could not conclude that passive smoking is a cause of cancer in non-smokers.

In 1983 appeared the final report from a workshop sponsored by the US Public Health Service Division of Lung Disease of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. Participants were 21 investigators from the fields of epidemiology, statistics, and adult and pediatric pulmonary medicine. Their conclusion: "A review of the data from the studies which have been carried out or are in progress which address the effect of passive smoking on the respiratory system suggests that the effect varies from negligible to quite small. From this review, it was not possible to determine whether there is a specific group which is at increased risk or what the mechanism of the effect (if any) may be."

In a 1981 issue of the AMERICAN HEART JOURNAL, a scientist known for his opposition to smoking said that exposure to the tobacco smoke of others did not have any long-term cardiovascular consequences for the nonsmoker.

The late Dr. Michael Halberstam, a physician and medical columnist, once suggested that the symptoms of nonsmokers "may come from anger rather than the smoke itself."

In March 1983 there was the "Second Workshop on Environmental Tobacco Smoke" in Geneva, Switzerland. In May 1983 there was the "Workshop on Respiratory Effects of Involuntary Smoke Exposure" in Bethesda, Maryland. In April of 1984, leading experts from around the world gathered in Vienna for a symposium, "Passive Smoking from a Medical Point of View." After the symposium was over the presidents of the two organizing groups issued a press release summarizing their findings. The summary said: "the connection between (ETS) and lung cancer has not been scientifically established to date." It also said "there is a high probability that cardiovascular damage due to (ETS) can be ruled out in healthy people." And it went on to say: "Should lawmakers wish to take legislative measure with regard to (ETS), they will, for the present, not be able to base their efforts on a demonstrated health hazard from (ETS)." The media, for the most part, considered this "non-news" and gave it little coverage.

The late, respected pathologist, Dr. H. Russell Fisher, stated in testimony submitted to a Congressional hearing on passive smoking: "...in the absence of any scientific proof of harm from atmospheric tobacco smoke, we are dealing with a social question and not a medical one. In this regard it should be noted that, since fears and phobias can lead to ill health, those who urge policies based on fear and not scientific facts could be making a medical problem out of a social one. This is indeed a strange prospect to see coming from the efforts of members of the medical profession."

The emotional reaction of some nonsmokers may simply reflect frustrations with life in general, says Sherwin Feinhandler, a cultural anthropologist who has studied smoking customs in different societies. As the Harvard Medical School lecturer told a

Congressional hearing: "To some people, the smoker has become a ready target for general frustrations, anxiety, and discontent."

The overreaction to the considerable publicity given studies that purport to show environmental tobacco smoke is a risk to nonsmokers has resulted in insufficient attention to scientists who caution that emotion and fear must not be allowed to obscure scientific facts as they currently exist.

One such scientist is the former head of the government's smoking and health research program. Public smoking, Dr. Gio Gori warns, is so laden with moralistic overtones "it is not always easy to separate fact from emotion." Too often, he wrote recently, those who would advance the nonsmoking point of view use "supportive statements from the most popular and successfully persuasive force today, namely science." The combination of science and "a vigorous advocacy" has resulted, he said, in a legislative action -- "but at the cost of leaving science abused in too many instances." Dr. Gori, who described himself as prone to "strong statements" that nobody should smoke, nevertheless predicted that people will continue to do so and that studies will continue to explore the effects of ambient smoke on nonsmokers, even though "the likelihood of finding future correlations of passive smoking exposure and significant public health problems is negligible."

And he warns: "Without a sense of proportion and perspective, researchers risk diverting prodigious amounts of goodwill, work, and scientific credibility toward issues whose solution is likely to be unproductive, compared to other issues that are momentarily out of the public eye but of vastly greater health significance."

Now you can see why I'm going to answer your second question next issue...

Fandom. Ah, it's just a goddam hobby, John. Besides, it's one of the few things I can do while drinking... (I've tried other things. Like rewriting the Bible in iambic pentameter. Once I tried developing a Unified Field Theory, but arrived at the dubious conclusion that  $1 + 1 = 2$  except when it doesn't.)

Harriet puts things off, you say? Well, better to be put off than put on, I say. Of course, remember that I say things while drinking.

LISA COWAN

ON THE MARK was interesting. Not, to me, the subject matter, but rather the presentation. The medium but not the message, to phrase it another way. Thanks for sending it.

Every once in a while the comic strip FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE is good, and you reprinted one of those (the "star" who gets "to hold a flashlight on a stick"). More often, the strip makes me grind my teeth at the type of children's behavior up with which some adults are willing to put (sorry, old Churchill joke on the sentence structure...).

Yeah, even my doctor -- ChoiceCare's chief of physician consultants -- says medicine is more of an art than a science. Obviously, he's correct.

I don't live in Cincinnati, actually. I live in Silverton. I work in Cincinnati -- downtown, in the city's tallest building.

Aha! You're the potential link to MZB! Well, I'll accept your promise that you won't tell on any of us. You have an honest typeface.

Loved the statements written by drivers who had been in accidents. My favorite was "A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face."

ANDREW SIEGEL

A "Boggle shark", eh? I can envision the movie: W A

RCT Alice: "If you come to Boskone, I can at least promise you Shameless Public Hugging before you turn eighteen. Whaddya say?" It's my extra-sensory perception that Alice is somewhat beyond puberty and might even be as old as, say, 25 or 32. Of course, this might be just a scurrilous rumor. I hugged Alice once, but didn't count her rings.

Yes, Harlan is now *finis* with AMAZING. As I have masochistically found only 3 episodes, maybe 4, worth watching, it will be interesting to see what happens next. More amazing, to me, is my curiosity about watching the series despite what I think about it (in general, it's slick and terrible).

Interesting that I know everyone you mention in your retrospective on mailing #32 from 10/75. "What were you doing ten years ago?" In 10/75 I was 31, married, living in a house at 819 Edie Drive, Duarte, Califunny, had just been fired on the 17th from a job I'd held for seven years (Materiel Manager for Bushnell Optical in Pasadena), published SLOW DJINN #6 for the 12th mailing of David's apa, called STOBCLER, and THE BEST LINES ARE FOREVER ON THE FLOOR #3 for FAPA (& general distribution) with Charles Burbee and a host of others, and was working on the last issue (#10) of my genzine AWRY which came out the following January. That's what I was doing. Seems closer than 10 years ago.

SALLIJAN SNYDER

Good categorization on beards: distinguished, back-woody, or scruffy. Mine is back-woody. But then, so am I.

We had our cat declawed, which is a reasonable thing to do so long as the cat never goes outside and never has to defend itself inside.

BRUCE COVILLE

Writer's block. Sorry to hear about it. Never had that, though I'm not a writer by some interpretations of the label (I am a writer in the amateur sense, and have supported myself by writing for my paycheck, but I'm certainly not a professional writer). Have drawn an occasional blank in casting about for subject matter, but never beyond that point. Actually, I don't think you've a writer's

block at all. I think you're at the tail-end of a period where you just don't want to get a round tuit. That's something else, very familiar, and goes away when the real problem gets dropkicked. Keep smiling, Bruce. This too shall pass, even if it feels like kidney stones.

Good followup comment to Bev on her discussion about separating critical response from enjoyment. I will never see a movie or read a book with the idea of writing a critique. That has to be generated afterward, or not at all. I want to be as open as I can be in going in. If my intent is to do a critique, then what I'm looking at has to run through a whole different set of filters and I'm going to lose out on a lot of things that -- were I more open -- would otherwise strike me as enjoyable.

Good comment to me: "Can you honestly say that a reasonable person can look at the choice to smoke as anything other than a conscious decision to take an enormous gamble with their health?" You want a real answer? I think the choice to eat or drink or breathe anything is a gamble. I think a person who is far beyond being anecdotally informed on the state of health research on smoking will come to the conclusion that the whole issue is no more than a smoke-screen. Science has shown me that I'm taking a big gamble with my drinking (and I've checked into the research which purports that moderate drinking is good for you and found it to be bullshit, and wrote an arkle on the subject for the CHOICECARE FAMILY NEWS), and science has shown me that the only thing wrong with marijuana (the most studied drug in all of history) is that it's illegal, and science has shown me that death from cancer and emphysema and heart attack is more likely the closer I live to urban industrial & auto pollution (statistical correlation keeps pace between the pollution and the diseases; it doesn't keep pace between the diseases and the relative percentage of tobacco smokers in the population), and science shows me or theorizes a large number of other things. If all I knew on some of these subjects was what I read in the newspapers or saw on tv or listened to as 'common knowledge', I would be very ignorant. As there are so many subjects where my knowledge is only from such sources, I do feel ignorant to a large degree about accepting what I would otherwise think I know. I'm a certified skeptic, Bruce, and the older I get the more I think I might know and the less I'm certain that I know much at all. I knew more at age 18, but mostly I was wrong...

Agree and disagree on Goldman's HEAT. Agree with your reaction. Disagree that: 1) hardcover is a better indicator of quality than is paperback, 2) there is a "mainstream Goldman" to which this novel can be considered inconsistent, and 3) that this is a "men's adventure novel" rather than an outre parody of the genre.

Your comment to Andrew on lack of referent points in his MCs, and your comment to John on comparing Alice & Donya in the "aural sex arena" were remarkably

similar in thrust to my words. What's wrong with us?

JYMN MAGON

Jackie thanks you muchly for the Ngaio Marsh book, Culbreth.

No, I've never written a memo that said executives and workers should pee within three feet of each other. Never had to, since I've never seen urinals built more than three feet apart, and men's and women's restrooms shared a common wall...

\*ring ringgg\* "Hello?" "Hey, Bothius, this is Dave." "Is this a local call?" "I think so. I'm standing on your doorstep with my mobile phone." "Who are you calling?" "Open up in there, Jymn." "Couldn't you have given me more notice?" "Hell, I warned you about this in the November '85 mailing. Open up. My icecubes are melting out here." "This is a recording. Please speak up and maybe I'll get back to you within the current geological epoch." "No sense trying to sneak out the back. I've nailed the door shut." "Beep beep." "I'm standing at the window now. Your recording looks remarkably like you. Cute bathrobe, Jymn." "Hello, hello?" "I brought that record you gave us, Jymn. The Star Wars thing. Want to show where you can play it backwards and hear Darth Vader saying 'eat shit and die, you twit' during a tender moment." "Take all metal objects off your person before stepping through the doorway."

I got more enjoyment out of this than I did comment hooks. But I got a lot of enjoyment. Later, Placido.

PAULA SIGMAN

Michael J. Fox is a very accomplished young comic actor to judge by BACK TO THE FUTURE and FAMILY TIES (which we didn't start watching until we'd seen the movie). Good to find out he has all the appearances of being a nice fellow, as well.

Don't have Beta I on our machine. Just II & III. Have no idea what I might like to borrow or what anybody might like to borrow from me, but I guess determining who in here has Beta and might be interested is a first step.

Touching a snake is no big deal to me. Touching a spider is something I would never voluntarily do. I shudder just thinking about it. I have been known to involuntarily leap backwards at the realization that there's a spider right in front of me. This does little to help my macho image, of course.

AMY CARPENTER

Wow, what a typeface for doing apazines! If I had that, I could beat out John in total pagecount in about a year...

Hope you get a chance to write a little more next time.

.....  
Well, bye y'all. It's been fun. See you in May if you don't see me first. Everybody stay warm.

JIM BORGSMAN 1986 CINCINNATI ENQUIRER



"HE'S CLEAN... IT'S POT."