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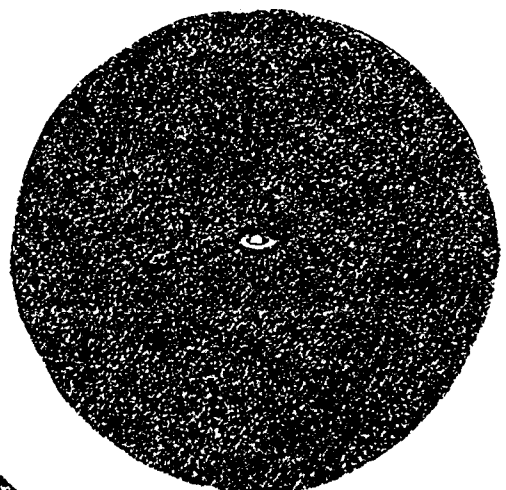
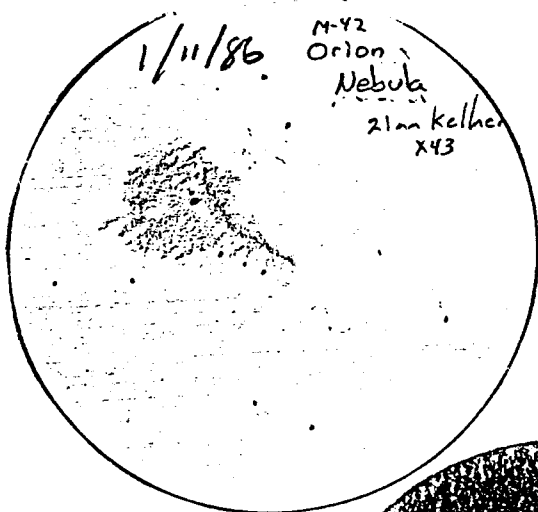
5 May, 1988

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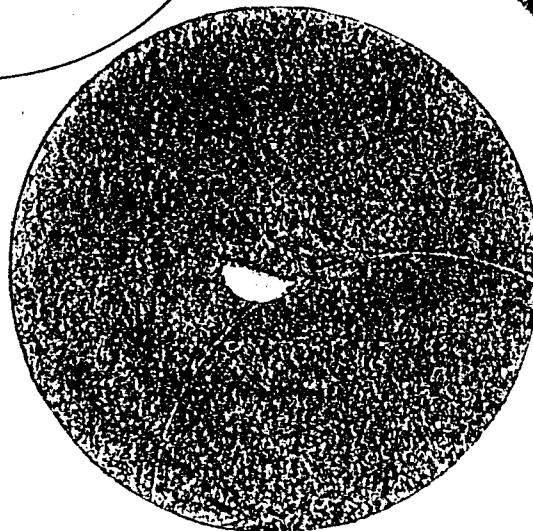
Dear All;

Look! Real Nice Quality Print, for once! I got an old daisy wheel printer the other day and hooked it up to my PC. *sigh* - it looks so much better than my dot matrix printer..... slower than h*ll, though.

Now that the weather is finally turning decent my attention has been turning back to my astronomy hobby again. I was going through some old stuff the other day and came across a whole bunch of drawings I'd made in times past. Being a proudly unrepentant pack rat I didn't want to throw them away, but saving them seemed kind of purposeless. They are, after all, of value to neither Science nor Art. Then I thought of y'all (and thought again that I was in Mustwrite and didn't have a thing to say,) so here some of them are. All were made within the last 2-3 years through my little 60mm refractor, which is really small as telescopes go, and goes quite far in explaining why none of them look even remotely like the photographs one sees in books. They are, however, reasonable approximations of what one sees through a small telescope.



Saturn
72x



Venus [on the half-shell?]
224x

*** Mailing Comments ***

FITZSIMMONS: Your FR was very good - much nicer than the last. Black ink on white paper is soo much easier on the eyes...

I'm not sure why I'm doing this, but congratulations on your court victories. I think. Actually, I'm not at all sure that congratulations are exactly the term that I meant, but I wanted to start out on a high note and then work my way down. I'm afraid that's about as good as it's gonna get today.

On your drunk driving case: why are you so excited about getting that woman off the hook? From the way that you put it about the re-trial it sounds like you believe that she was indeed drunk, did cause the accident, and is responsible for the injury of another person. If this is assumed to be true, shouldn't she be punished? Why does the rest of the public have to put up with her stupidity because of a technicality that you imply won't change the outcome of the trial? This is justice? For whom? Does the person whom she injured have the same viewpoint? How about the next one? Or, as I have so often suspected, is this just some inane word game?

And then there was the bit from the "dissenting Libertarian justice." Is this for real? Let me see if I understand what he/she/it was saying: law enforcement causes crime. If so, I would have to say that this is certainly a unique, not to say oblique, viewpoint. I would also say that judges who get stoned should not be writing opinions on drug enforcement but that, of course, is merely my opinion.

I read about another unfathomable opinion in Fortune magazine a few weeks ago. A jury awarded \$600,000 to a surgeon in Troy, MI who claimed that a hospital had discriminatorily barred her from working on their premises. The hospital seemed to feel that her problem with narcolepsy was not conducive to proper surgical procedure. (Narcolepsy is a disorder that causes those afflicted with it to fall asleep suddenly, without warning, and occasionally at the most inopportune time. I have in mind several jokes concerning narcoleptic lovers, and also the sneaking suspicion that I ought to restrain myself.) One assumes that the jury members were from a location far removed from the area served by this hospital, or at least, this surgeon.

Another question (or two) caused by the belated arrival of FR561 today. In a footnote to Smokey's letter you gave (to me at any rate,) the impression that the true goal for a trial lawyer is to make law from the issues involved. Maybe

it's silly and naive of me, but I always thought that the point of the thing was discovering the guilt or innocence of the accused.

In another footnote to Smokey you mentioned that many police departments are coming to be against the widespread ownership of handguns. This was in response to an item that Smokey related about a fellow who the local coppers apparently decided wasn't even worth the trouble to turn down, even though they kept taking his money. Again, I may be an innocent child but I was always under the impression that the police were charged with enforcing the law and that the courts were the ones who made it. If the guy had paid his fee and otherwise complied with existing law, what justification did the police have for keeping his money, besides the fact that they didn't approve of handguns?

No more Gary Hart jokes? *sigh*. How about Joe Biden?

STULL: Well, since I seem to have gotten on to the subject of medical malpractice I might as well carry that theme onward for a bit. Congratulations, Meg! Truly a landslide vote in an election not nearly as entertaining as the less important one now being played out in the newspapers and on TV. One question, though: does this mean that I must now be nice to you on the computer bulletin boards, or may I continue to revile your every position on the important issues of the day? For instance, your opinion that jelly beans make great bath salts is simply ridiculous. The green ones are passable but the orange ones suck eggs. My kids were furious when they woke up on Easter morning and found all their eggs empty! And your proposal to repeal the Law of Gravitation couldn't possibly work: everyone knows that it's a staple of the Republican platform. Since they're going to win again in November, there is absolutely no chance of such legislation passing Congress. If the Democrats win I admit that you may have a chance, but I'd rather not think about that possibility right now, thank you. I've had enough bad news this week to last for a while.

Dear OA, I haven't been "flirting" with Ms. Wibble on the bulletin board. We just trade jokes to pass the time. I try to be at least minimally polite to her because she holds so many silly opinions and I like to bash at them. If I get too rude she goes off to a corner to hide and who would I argue with then?

Hodgkinson: You think my spelling is bad now, you should have seen me before I started using a word processor with a spell checker...

Wileman: Actually, I've been too intimidated to read Asimov's autobiography. His Foundation series has gone on far too

long, in my opinion, and I half-way suspected that his autobiography would do so as well. I'm glad to hear that my first impression is shared by at least one more soul.

Omnes: My thanks to everyone for recommending those books on the history of Fandom, although to be perfectly honest, Aldiss's Billion Year Spree isn't really about Fandom per se. So far I have managed to locate copies of Phol's The Way the Future Was, Knight's The Futurians, and of course the aforementioned book by Brian Aldiss. There's also Gunn's Alternate Worlds and a Moskowitz (whose title I cannot recall at the moment) sitting at the used book emporium right now, although they want an inordinate sum for either of them. If I don't find them more reasonably than \$15 and \$10 elsewhere by the end of the summer perhaps I'll see if they're tired of having them on their shelves by then and willing to dicker a bit. They aren't so inclined at the moment, a sore blow to my black Yankee heart.

I'm still pressuring my favorite bookstore to begin carrying a selection of the SF magazines. I specifically requested Analog and IASFm and told them that Fantasy and Science Fiction and Amazing were up to them; I don't particularly care for either of those. Aside from Omni, which I personally don't think can be categorized as an SF mag., are there any others that I've missed?

Enough natter, already. What do people think the Presidential tickets will look like come November? Does anyone care? I kinda think that on the Democratic side it could end up as either Dukakis/Jackson or Dukakis/Gore, while the Other Guys will end up with Bush/somebody else. Possibly a woman, if they can find one who wants such a dull job. I saw a name not too long ago but can't remember it. My own "dream ticket", Zonker Harris and Milo Bloom, hasn't got a chance, obviously. *sigh*

Regards to one and all,



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