

IPZIK!

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THE 'L' YOU SAY

--comments on disty 66

L--(Tew) I enjoyed your write up of your experience flying an airplane. From the sound of it, it must be a really nice way to remember someone on his birthday. Is it so easy to fly a plane that you can do it like that with no experience? There are a lot of provisions about flying time etc. in the license laws, and I would've expected that flying a plane was a very tricky business.

Are you a chess fan or not?

I enjoyed the Brunner Squares of the City very much as written. The slow pacing you speak of was necessary to advance the various pawns and pieces to the center of the board. I'll agree with you that the conclusion was weak, but Brunner couldn't have allowed Hakluyt to be taken. Had the story been told from a spectator's point of view rather than that of one of the pieces a necessary element of suspense would have been missing. If the book is read as a straight story, I suppose it might not be as interesting, although Al Lewis, a non-chess fan, read and enjoyed it, but when you couple the plot with a knowledge of the moves Brunner is indicating on a real chessboard the thing becomes fascinating. It's the best attempt I've ever seen to write a story around a chess game, and a very good game was chosen. The idea of the absurdity of the game is brought home very well, as Diaz and Vados are exposed as the irrational characters they are, and the side touches, such as the description of the game of chess played at Vados' estate with real people on a huge chessboard are very enjoyable, to me anyway.

Hey I remember the Twin Earths and the piggy people and the two teenagers and the girl. Whatever happened to the strip? I remember one day the three of them were trapped on a planet of giants, with no way of returning to Earth or Terra. They had landed in the garden of a giant scientist, and then the strip just stopped.

LaGASH--(Klassen) There's more to the matter of censoring a child's reading than meets the idea. I don't think FredW necessarily had pornography in mind. Of course, there should be no laws concerning restriction of nonclassified printed matter outside those of libel, but parental supervision is another thing entirely. I don't believe a parent should forbid a child to read a given book, but if the child insists on reading it, the book should be placed in proper perspective by further readings, suggested by Parents or perhaps a reliable teacher (who are hard to find during impressionable elementary school years). Too much Nietzsche or Machiavelli unbalanced by other viewpoints, for example, could successfully warp a child's beliefs, since all children are looking for a rationalization for being selfish brats anyway. Of course, if a choice must be made, it's probably better for a child to read a "forbidden book" than to obey the dictates of a mealy-mouthed prude (intellectual or sexual), but where possible an objective examination of what is being read should be encouraged. Here, I think, some of the points made by Bjo in an earlier discussion of this theme would apply.

DER HOLLANDER--(Hollander) You're taking the wrong tack with your plans for a genzine. Telling people that you're here and expecting them to rush forward with material will only get you a long wait. The thing to do is publish a small first issue written by yourself with a few outside things if you can get them. If people think your fanzine looks promising they will send material (some will even reply if asked, once they see that you've already produced something). I'm reminded

of the passage in The Enchanted Duplicator where Jophan is forced to show the Subrs that he can survive his journey across the Desert of Indifference. He does this by running around in circles for a long period of time until gradually, noticing his persistence, the Subrs start to join him.

FARGUS--(Kaiser) The fact that my apazines haven't (harrumph) been Extremely Large lately does not change my opinion that little zines are not usually as enjoyable as large ones. There is a limit, however. I'm finding it hard to get into Rich Mann's latest SaRSzine because it's too big.

You know, Dwain, I think it might be interesting if you spent some time in writing fanzines which project your personality a little bit more than your present stuff. Where do you stand politically, what motivates you? Despite all the pages you've put into APAL you still seem like a stranger. Never mind mouthing platitudes about fanzines and apas, how about devoting some space to what Dwain Kaiser thinks of life. I've disagreed with one or two of the opinions you've occasionally let seep through the wall of innocuous blather, but they've been interesting, and I'd like to see more where they came from.

GRUNION--(Shaw) I'm also enjoying your little bits of iconoclastic satire. Your plots inc. shtick, however, reminds me of someone I knew who thought along similar lines. As I recall, he started out by sending a proclamation to the US Gov't, declaring that the grounds of his house were now a separate and inviolate country, and then recruited neighborhood kids as a guerilla army, lest Uncle Sam should try to reclaim its territory. Gradually a series of houses in the neighborhood were annexed. As the kid grew up and graduated from high school he held on to the idea. He had a 200 type IQ and was a weirdie. Others humored him in his scheme to increase the boundary of "his country" because they thought it was terribly amusing. I didn't. It was the Coventry syndrome manifesting itself. I saw two fairly close friends go off their nuts over the thing when they'd started out by thinking it was funny. They wound up singing marching songs in the streets and plotting a revolutionary coup. They figured to start off small and raise an army of student sympathizers, gradually gaining control of schools, and from there to seize control of the town of Great Neck (wherein they resided). It must be remembered that the Leader (who designated himself Supreme Maximum Commander of the Universe) was dead serious, and the others began to be, too... One of them wound up needing psychiatric help, and the other one was sent off to school in a Military Academy. The 200 IQ boy is still around, waiting to infect the mind of anyone who'll listen too hard.

Not that I'm trying to be dramatic, but these little ploys always frighten me slightly because of what I observed. Of course, we fans have too firm a grip on reality and are too smart to take any of this crap seriously, right gang?

DEGLER--(Porter) I know exactly how you feel about New York. I love the city too, but we must permit the Latypes a bit of chauvinism too. Comments praising NY don't seem to go over very well around here. As I recall, LA is usually put down equally in New York. Southerners know that both are dirty Dens of Sin, however. I was told this once at a southern hamburger stand by a very reliable lady passing out propaganda to the effect that smoking would send one to hell. And of course, we know that the South is an uninhabitable wasteland full of rednecked clods and dirty fascists. Alas regional prejudice. When are you all going to realize that New York City is the only civilized spot on the planet? (Los Angeles is Nice, too, Bjo... they have excellent Gilbert and Sullivan companies here in California and Very Fine book stores)

BUCKET OF PLAID--(JT) A pity the urge to take master in typer doesn't strike you a little more often. Batman has played down the campy undertones in the past few installments, but the first one, with its fishing trips and corny dialogue sounded campy to me. Which is abrupt changes of subject for this issue.