

The New Port News
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Cover art by Harry Clarke
from **The Year's At The Spring**, Harrap, London, 1920
May 1994

for

STPA 179

155 The New Port News 155

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OO - Gary - Sorry to hear about George Wells! As for the idea of dropping the membership to 25, I have no strong feeling one way or the other. I do think you will find that there is no such word as *yay* - it looks silly anyway. One is generally said to vote *yea* or *nay*.

'An ill wind...' and all that - sorry to hear about your uncle. If you hadn't mailed late the *It Goes On The Shelf* wouldn't have gotten in. I didn't really expect it to, I just went ahead and sent it because it was done and I wanted it in some mailing. The mailing arrived here on April 14.

Hot Rats - weber - Funny cover. The spellchecking of *Jabberwocky* seems inconsistent - the voodoo makes different changes in the repeat of the first verse. Was it you or the spellchecker that changed '*Twas* to '*Teas* in the last verse? I'm sure it was you that switched 'sword' and 'blade' in the third and fifth verses!

This 486 has DOS 6 and Windows 3.1 (which I use only to run CatchWord for the scanner and OCR). I have a DTP package from DAK that is supposed to run a bunch of TrueType fonts from Windows, but I can't make it go. No matter what I do Windows has some incomprehensible complaint about it.

I enjoyed the account of the circus. I'm glad it wasn't me doing the *Hoopla!* flip though, I have had something wrong with my right shoulder the last few months. Sorry to hear about your car.

I don't know whether it is a matter of banking regulations or the procedures of the particular bank, but on the few occasions I have wanted to stop a check, it was explained to me that there would be a charge - *but only if the check actually re-entered the system*. If the check was truly lost in the sense of being trashed, there would be no charge.

Harmonica Virgins - Linda - Great cover art! You will no doubt be horrified to hear that not only did I not send anyone a Valentine card this year, as far as I can recall I never have participated in that particular bit of tomfoolery at all.

The way your zine is set up, the only thing that would be lost if the bottom 1/2-inch were cut off would be the vertical centering of the cover art. Not much of a job for 35 copies - if you have a paper knife. All the copy shops here provide them free, and I have one that I bought from George Washington University for \$10 back in the 70s - someone had cut himself on it so they wrapped it in strapping tape and stuck it in a closet until they could get rid of it. Perhaps they thought it was possessed! And of course as long as you set the spacing right, I can easily amputate the extra half inch myself.

If my right leg was as bad as my right arm, I probably would need a walking frame!

Hibernatin' Blues - Lon - I enjoyed some of Calvino's earlier books, but *If on a winter's night a traveler* just didn't hold my interest, I tried several times to read it.

Spiritus Mundi - Guy - I enjoyed the account and photos of Mardi Gras and the Frolich art. Thanks heaps for the remark that I look like the 'hole-in-the-head' guy on NPN153 - it does look a lot like a guy at the wind-tunnel who does always wear one of those stupid caps. If we are to sing (I forget now who came up with this idiotic idea) I could probably manage *Praise the Wolford* but not the others you mention. The most merciful (to the listeners) selection would probably be the Coca-Cola jingle version of *Green Hills of Earth* - it's short!

What I already wrote completely exhausted my expertise on the anti-aggression drugs *clozapine* and *amperozide*, they were mentioned in some magazine. But in the skiffy what-if mode, suppose there were a drug of reasonable cost and minimal side effects that did inhibit violently antisocial behavior - do you think the state

should be able to mandate that a citizen take it?

It seems to me that in order for a person to believe that he is evil, he would have to also believe in some standard of good - otherwise he would have nothing to compare himself to (C.S.Lewis uses this argument to prove the existence of God in *Mere Christianity*). The mere observable fact that his actions led to undesirable results is insufficient - he could just be unlucky... You seem to think that social unacceptability is some sort of standard, but I do not have that much regard for the murky social standards of our so-called civilization.

I pointed out to you at the time that I had 'Good Guy' points in the breakdown of the Egoboo Poll that did not appear in the total, but you never replied and I did not consider the thing worth pursuing.

Well of course the closing paragraph in NPN153 was not 'mine' but a quote from the same silly book that provided the cover art.

The theory of evolution - which has evolved considerably since Darwin - is still a theory. There are a number of problems, but all in all it is still the best theory on the subject that we have. All of the important theories about how the universe works are flawed and still under development.

You admit that a suspect was convicted of capital murder because his lawyer misread the jury polls - and still you are in favor of capital punishment? I see where that toad Clinton is trying to push through a 'Crime Bill' with 70 new reasons for the federal government to slaughter helpless citizens. Bah...

The Lafferty tape was mentioned in two consecutive issues of *It Goes On The Shelf* (I got it wrong the first time...), you just haven't been paying attention. I doubt you can get it from United Mythologies, it was a bonus on a book deal. Send a blank and I'll dub it.

I recently read of a poll in Japan where some enormous percentage of the polled gave as their major reason for not visiting the southern US *a fear of armadillos!* I must admit I have never seen one close up, but I never heard they were particularly dangerous. I suppose it would be theoretically possible to get leprosy from one, as they are said to be the only animal other than man that can carry it.

Damon Knight says that he did not do the Bok art in IGOTS 11 (shamelessly lifted from the recent Korshak book, but I did review it after all), but admits to having done Bikish art elsewhere.

I had considered doing a zine of typing samples from all the old machines I have, but there are considerable obstacles - not all of them are operable, new ribbons would have to be fitted to others, etc. And some (such as the Blickensderfer you mention) never had ribbons, but inked the type by brushing it over a inked felt as it moved - I suppose I could substitute carbon paper. Another problem is that many of them, the newer ones, would produce text of very nearly the same appearance on the paper. I did recently find a Triumph (a pre-war German brand made in Nurnberg) with a Cyrillic keyboard.

Frank Denton is still active in Slanapa, and also occasionally does issues of *Rogue Raven* and *The Cafe of the One Bridge*.

Of all the movies you mention I've only seen *The Piano*. I recently saw *Sirens* and enjoyed it, though I thought it could have been done much better.

Frightening that you lost that first case, where the guy was arrested for stopping when the cop stopped his friend's car - why didn't you go for false arrest? The local gestapo have charged a woman for 'evading' or some such crap because when a cop signaled her to stop for an expired decal - at night, in a rainstorm - she went on until she could stop in a lighted area. A local man has been convicted of impersonating a policeman to stop women on the road; and there is another unsolved case of a cop's uniform, badge and gun being stolen. I do not understand why the courts not only support the police in almost any misdeed but even allow them to attack potential witnesses to their misplaced aggression.

Confessions — *Hlavaty* — Sorry to hear about Bernadette's diabetes. My father had Type II - and my mother managed it.

I am doubtful of any statement that begins 'Discordians believe that...!'

Aha, I didn't know that *a la recherche de temps perdu* was from the French translation of the King James Bible, but it isn't surprising - most novels for a long time took their titles from the Bible or from Shakespeare. Nor did I know that Justin Lieber was a philosopher.

I once knew a guy at work who said that no man in his family had ever lived to be 40... He was some sort of

Middle Easterner, I've forgotten his name now. He left before I could learn if he would beat the odds!

DR — Halvaty — I enjoyed the David Bunch stories in the prozines of the 60s and bought the collection **Moderan** (1971) to have them all together, though I doubt I would want to read more than one at a time. I haven't been able to get into his recent book. I am surprised to hear that all of Bester is out of print.

Religion is probably one of those things that is too important to take seriously... I am interested in the ideas, but I find organized worship quite impossible.

I have gotten those notices that the PO couldn't find me - and I live in a Cartesian grid within a mile of the local PO. Recently I had IGOTS returned from Inzer with the stamp block for 'address changed due to E-911 renumbering' checked off. I took this to the PO and asked them what it meant. Of course they had not the faintest idea.

I get *The Realist*, but have not seen Krassner's new book - perhaps WaldenBook, which has a monopoly in new books on the Peninsula, has not bothered to stock it.

Jewel of the Senile — Harry — The local Goodwill that just opened is quite upscale in appearance, but has nothing worth the bother. The best of the local thrifts is in an expensive location with very poor parking, quite cluttered and junky. Their pricing policy can hardly be criticized - they reduce the price periodically until the item sells. This requires a rather large staff, however.

Ghad, I hope some guy with a burnoose and an Uzi doesn't show up at your door for saying Mohammed was illiterate - truth is a weak defense against religious fanatics!

On most cars that are large areas of the windshield that contribute nothing to the driver's vision - behind the rear-view mirror and at the bottom where there is nothing to see but your own hood. But reason has little to do with state law... Someone told me recently that lockback knives of any blade length are illegal to carry concealed in this state - and yet that is almost the only style folding knife sold now.

As far as I'm concerned Clarke's **Songs of Distant Earth** is crap, but not in a way that I would have thought to attribute to switching from a typewriter to a PC. What did he write **The Fountains of Paradise** on?

It makes more sense than ever to duck when you hear a gunshot - it's true that you will be too late for the first bullet, but if that misses you may well get out of the way of the next few, which with modern weaponry are quite likely to be along soon.

I too am on the flat fee plus rate for the phone bill - I think I get five calls a month free. This is now \$5/month plus 0.19 per call. Of course I pay another \$5/month or so in various line charges, surcharges, and taxes.

George Sylvester Viereck's **My First 2000 Years** (co-authored with Paul Eldridge) is one of those books I have had for twenty years or more and never read. Right next to it on the shelf (a region of shelving containing books acquired long ago and never sorted) is their **The Invincible Adam**, which I haven't read either.

I don't agree with you that the movies made under the Hays Office were superior to those made later, but even if this were true it would not, in my opinion, be a sufficient justification for organized censorship.

Cotton Mather is not criticized for his 'dislike' of witches but for his persecution of people he thought were witches - if it could be proved that witchcraft (of the malevolent Satanic variety Mather believed in) were actually possible, persecution would be quite justified! You are right though that his promotion of smallpox inoculation is forgotten - I don't recall ever hearing of it before. And after looking through several reference books I consider it unlikely - Mather died in 1728, and Jenner didn't discover vaccination for smallpox until nearly 50 years later, and didn't publish his theory until 1798.

I would not be surprised if I had read something and forgotten it, because I know I have forgotten much of things I know I read long ago. Some things I remember better than others... I can remember only the vaguest outline of **Titus Groan** even though I thought it a great book. I don't remember there being any supernatural creatures in it, but Dave Hall assures me that there is a flying woman.

The Spanish philosopher Juan Ramon Jimenez said *If they give you lined paper, write the other way* - as far as I can tell, he never said anything else of much interest. But I suspect that the stuff is cheap because

it is produced in such vast quantities for the schools. And certainly if I had to write by hand I would prefer it, my writing is so sloppy anyway.

The big Xerox at OfficeMax makes double-sided copies automatically from normal single-sided originals - so will be the one in my office for that matter, though not very fast. They don't put paste-ups in the big machine though, it moves the paper too fast.

Twydrasil - Dengrove - While I agree that a correlation, as between obesity and mortality, is not a cause, such a correlation often indicates that there is a causal relationship that has not been discovered or fully explained. In spite of the self-serving obfuscation of the tobacco company gurus, it is pretty clear that there is a causal connection between inhaling their product and getting lung or throat cancer. As with obesity, there is a wide range of parameter involved - how fat is too fat? how much smoke is too much? And some correlations are not well explained by the prevailing theories - the French don't have a high incidence of heart disease in spite of their fatty diet. I read recently that this may not be just because of the wine they drink - another big difference in their diet compared to ours is a much lower average intake of sugar.

I ran across another unexplained correlation in one of Wallechinsky's **People's Almanac** while looking for something else - he presents data on a handful of cases of *doctor's strikes*, and it turns out that when the doctors go on strike, mortality rates *drop* by 18-35%.

My boss at work finally agreed to buy me a 486, so I put in all the specs for a Gateway 2000 486/33DX with 8mb RAM and a 213 MB disk and both size floppies - total cost, \$1460, and it would have DOS 6 and Windows 3.1 already installed. This was two months ago and nothing had appeared, so I went to find the purchase request so I could query the buyer - and discovered that the boss was still sitting on the PR because, he said, the secretary was so far behind on her typing! This guy has no earlobes, sure sign of an ax murderer - or is it the sign of an ax murderee?

The Second Amendment implies that freedom to bear arms is *necessary* to have a 'well-regulated militia', not that it is *sufficient*.

I just had my yearly physical and was told that everything was fine except that my cholesterol is a little high at 207 and that my HDL is low - but it always has been. They attribute it to lack of exercise, but I exercise about as much as I can stand. The hell with it... I asked about the very high blood ferritin they were so exercised over for several years - and was told they no longer test for that. Now they only do total blood iron, and my total blood iron was always normal.

I agree with you that all believers in capital punishment should die - and they will.

I knew the Smithsonian had typers, they just never had them on display when I was there - which admittedly wasn't very often. But if you saw one from 1830 it was a purely experimental model, it was 1875 or thereabouts that the first one went on the market, the Sholes & Glidden. And what was typed on it was not visible to the user unless he lifted the platen, as the type-bars struck up against the bottom of the platen. It was around the turn of the century that this serious flaw was corrected, and in fact the 1900 Remington had all of the conveniences one would have expected on a portable of the 50s - floating shift, shift lock, backspace, adjustable margins, ribbon control (two colors and out), auto ribbon reverse, variable line spacing.

In point of fact, I am Cagliostro - but I'm not allowed to tell anyone.

Even a man who pure of heart
and says his prayers by night
May turn to a wolf when the wolfbane blooms
and the moon is full and bright

Not Minac - Lynch - Frankly, the buyout offer of \$25000 that was finally made was not much of an inducement to me. In any case Langley was in the 4th tier and unlikely to get any benefit of this cycle. The stress of my job is probably no more than I need... I sometimes think I would like to retire - but only if I could get a half-time job (8-12 would be nice) so as to have the same total income.

I got the catalog that is supposed to list 30,000 movies but it does not include *Rug Suckers From Mars*... However, a Virginia man did win his lawsuit to be allowed a vanity tag saying GOVT SUX.

Oneshot — *Steve* — Nice cover! Congratulations on the house. I am surprised that the phone wiring didn't work, it isn't that difficult. I agree with you about leaving the yard as nature intended, wish I could do it here.

My fuse box would never have caught fire again, it was completely wrecked. Still, in the end it did cut the current flow, but it might have been too late if I hadn't been there to beat out the fire in the closet.

I was always a little concerned about carbon monoxide because of the old gas floor furnace so I got one of those detectors that looks like a smoke alarm. So far it has not detected anything...

Soufpaw — *Brandt* — Welcome to the apa! I will take you off the IGOTS mailing list, since you will get it here.

Technically, an apostrophe in the middle of a word, as in your title, indicates a missing letter - but what letter is missing? The 'f' fully indicates the common mispronunciation of the 'th' in 'south'.

Is *Rug Suckers From Mars* one of the 10,000 movies you've seen? I rather wish I had kept a log of all the films I have seen, but I'm sure it's nowhere near that many.

Sugar Magnolia — *JoAnn* — Wish I could help you with the Dunnet books, but I never heard of her. Let me know the dates and publisher and full titles, I might run across something.

Of all the movies you mention I have seen only *The Piano*. I liked it because it was weird, but all of the Europeans seemed to be a few bricks shy of a load - no wonder the natives were laughing all the time. The most interesting movie I have seen lately is *Sirens*, which could have been a lot better but interested me because it is about censorship and the great Australian artist Norman Lindsay.

No, I have not read Proust nor am I likely to... I have the old Random House edition of Vol.I of **Remembrance of Things Past**, over 1000 pages, bought long ago for 50 cents. Maybe I will hollow it out to hide something in. I would give it to you but I expect you can buy one there for less than the postage.

No problem to dub the Pogues for you - how much do you want? To my taste all their good stuff fits on one 90-minute cassette, and I see that I have two of the *Hell's Ditch* cassette, which is at least one too many.

Your complaint to Lillian about the working of the legal system is valid, but of course he is stuck in it like the rest of us. A perfect legal system where the guilty were always convicted and appropriately punished and rehabilitated, and the innocent always exonerated and compensated for their harassment would certainly be a Good Thing, but I have no idea how it might be arranged. The punishment imposed on the innocent (being arrested and jailed is bad enough even if they are not convicted) bothers me more than the fact that many of the guilty get off - they still have to live with being scum, after all.

Can't help but giggle at the idea of the SCA using ice chests... Are these authentic medieval ice chests or do they cheat and use styrofoam?

I didn't know cedar pollen was ever a problem. There are cedars all over here - they are having a blight at the moment but the one in front of my house is still ok - and I never knew they had pollen. The pollen I notice this time of year is from the oaks - not only the yellow dust and tangles of nubby string all over, but lots of little green caterpillars too. I had to hose down my car before I could drive it this morning.

Oblio — *Gary* — The Schultz story got only a small mention here, and nothing about the civil rights aspect. I was surprised after seeing the pictures to see it stated that he is 43 - looks more like 63!

If I was into collecting guns, I suppose I would want an Uzi - and it would have to be in working order. But we all know collectors are demented. Fortunately, my collecting interests lie in other regions and no one in this country worries about how many typers you have or whether you can get ribbons for them. Yet.

If I should find those comics you are welcome to them - it would cost me nothing to stick them in with the next zine - but I suspect they got into the box that went to Goodwill.

If I had been in charge at Waco there would have been no surprise raid. If I had been put in charge after that idiocy I would have apologized for it and negotiated with Koresh without tying up a siege force - did they think he was going to send his cultists out to ravage the countryside? If they wanted to do that why hadn't they done it before? In actuality they were apparently totally innocuous as neighbors - I don't recall seeing any testimony that they ever waved their arsenal at any of their neighbors or passersby. As long as they weren't bothering anyone and

no personnel were tied up besieging them, what would it matter how long the negotiations took?

There was a condensation in *Readers Digest* - the issue was current when I was in Atlanta at Christmas - of the story of Reno's persecution of a 15-year-old Dutch boy, a diabetic, who she had held incommunicado and without proper medication for months over one of those day-care fantasy child-abuse cases. He was ultimately acquitted and the family has returned to Holland. I can't recall the name, it was unpronounceable.

Why would anyone want to go to some distant office to pay a bill? I would much rather do it by mail. Every year the local paper runs a picture of the long lines of idiots waiting to buy their auto decals - I have never stood in line for that, I always did it by mail and it always worked fine.

The long narrow shape of Chile is quite natural - at the time it was settled and the boundaries set, the Andes mountains were an essentially impassable barrier - even as late as the 50s flying over them was risky. So the country was limited to the land between the Andes and the Pacific on the east and west, while it ended at the ocean in the south and at the Atacama desert in the north, also a significant natural barrier.

The Tyvek itself may be waterproof, but the envelopes are not - I know the one I got that was delivered in the rain was wet both inside and outside.

Tyndallite - *Metcalf* - I remember Paul Zimmer only from a convention of the 60s - I suppose I thought he was Marion Zimmer Bradley's son because he seemed so much younger than she.

So when Hubbard advertised *Excalibur*, Crowley was already dead and couldn't complain that it was a ripoff of *Merlin's Sword*. I have had some correspondence with Virgil Wilhite, but not about this and not lately - the latest catalog seemed to indicate (without saying so explicitly) that he was gone and the business in the hands of his wife.

Tennessee Trash - *Robe* - Funny cover. Speaking of cheesy movies, last night I was watching a bad video copy of the 1964 *Castle of the Living Dead* with Christopher Lee and Donald Sutherland and noticed that the thing was written and directed by a Warren Kiefer - must be where Sutherland's son got his odd first name. But shouldn't this movie have been in color? The video I have is b&w but looks funny.

Enjoyed the account of the convention and the antics of the locals. If you get to Chile again, there is a fan in Santiago named Moises Hasson, but I have only a box number address (3657). And in Argentina there is the very neepneep skiffy Eduardo Carletti (probably rich too) who produces the computer prozine *Axxon*. He has addresses in both Buenos Aires and Ituzaingo.

Your plant has over 10,000 PCs? The mind boggles... We don't have that many employees at Langley, and a lot of them are on 'workstations' to Unix machines now.

Crimson Cowpoke - *Guy* - I thought *Sirens* had a great idea for a movie (I am curious to what extent it was based on fact) but I was not impressed with the casting, the writing, the acting or the directing. It all seemed sloppy and ill-paced. The sets and scenery were great, but what the hell was that business about splicing in random views of distant scenery at odd moments? I guess in the end the wowsers won after all - I have at least eight books of Lindsay's art, but *The Crucifixion of Venus* is not in any of them. I think Dolbear has a lot of his stuff too. Both Virgil Finlay and Roy Krenkel were strongly influenced by Lindsay - in fact Cockcroft has sent me xeroxes proving that Finlay lifted faces out of Lindsay illustrations and put them in his own work.

Running On Empty - *Janice* - Great cover! I have the Steadman *Alice* somewhere, weird stuff. Godel always wins... It amazes me that he was able to *prove* that theorem - seems more likely that it would be true but unprovable!

Purple Flowers - *GiGi* - See comment above to *Oblivion* about Janet Reno. Whether she is truly evil or just obsessed and inept is hard to tell - and probably irrelevant to the victims.

I must say I am amazed at your statement that you see no reason to try to communicate with 'people that are living in a different reality' - sounds more like a cultist than a member of an sf apa! To some extent we are all living in different realities - it is the great error of the cultists to try to convince themselves that this is not true.

Don is a lot further into neepneepery than I am - I had no idea it was possible to convert files from CP/M to DOS that easily!

The Sphere — *Don* — Hey, how come your sphere got corners? A fan I know through Slanapa is reading his 6-year-old the Sax Rohmer books - and the kid likes it!

Sorry to hear about your father, but I think you are right that he is better off. My father was very unhappy the last couple of years of his life because he realized he was in a fog and sometimes remembered things that had never happened.

My dislike of the free comix from Plant - admittedly not my sort of thing anyway - was mostly because I thought the art was inept and ugly. It's true I was seeing only a segment of a continuing story, but the dialog seemed very stilted too. Still I wish I could find the things since Gary says he wants them - but if you keep everything forever you probably won't be able to find it when you want it.

I was probably wrong about the MahJongg program causing the computer disk crash, apparently it was just a coincidence that it was on at the time - Kip thinks it was the DOS 6 file compression utility.

Your question about my memory of the Steve Patt incident will be taken up in detail in a future issue - I am still preparing exhibits in the case.

Armadillo — *Liz* — What, you don't have *Gorilla* where the two gorillas on urban buildings throw bananas at each other until one of them is hit and explodes? The Hearts with the wisecracks from the players sounds like the Sierra version - is one of the players a bulldog?

I don't understand your comment that 'if there aren't any books in the bottom shelf of my bookcases, they fall over' - what falls over? Not the books, if there aren't any; but why should the bookcases fall over for lack of books on the bottom shelf?

Fingertip Reality — *Moudry* — If Simak had a son the fact had escaped me, but then I never was a big fan of his stuff. I cannot cite any technical reference on the cholesterol business - the longest article I read on the flaws in the research was in *Harper's* or *Atlantic* several years ago. The problem seems to be that while low-density blood cholesterol correlates well with heart disease, the correlation between diet cholesterol and blood cholesterol is much more complex, having large variations that seem to depend on genetics and other dietary elements such as wine and sugar.

Looking at **The Haunted Pampero** I am disappointed to see that in spite of the voluminous scholarly overburden there is no detailed accounting of sources, though the ones mentioned are so obscure that perhaps it was felt that such a list would be of no benefit. The stories are *The Haunted 'Pampero'*, *The Ghosts of the 'Glen Doon'*, *The Valley of Lost Children*, *Carnacki The Ghost Finder*, *The Silent Ship*, *The Goddess of Death*, *A Timely Escape*, *The Wild Man of the Sea*, *Date 1965: Modern Warfare*, *Bullion*, *Old Golly*, and *The Storm*.

Seasons — *Binker* — Wow... Had a serious attack of logorrhea, did you? I expect you are right about the fundamentalists and creationists just wanting to keep things stirred up - some logician long ago asked whether the trees in the Garden of Eden would not have had to have growth rings.

Fascinating account of the cave trip. I was able to find the definitions of 'flash cove' and 'gentry mort' in the **Analogues of Slang!**

I have not seen the statistics on recidivism, but I cannot believe that anyone is improved by a stay in the prisons as currently run - and the average stay is only three years. It may be that the failure of society to provide any place for the ex-convict overcomes the benefit of whatever rehabilitation he recieved in prison.

You are right that the average citizen will go along with reasonable requests of the government, but many of these bureaucratic notions have long since passed any definition of reasonable! Virginia is now trying to collect a 'use tax' on mail-order sales from out of state where they lost the sales tax. And of course the federal income tax has long since complicated itself beyond all reason.

Enjoyed the beach-ball giant story!

Trivial Pursuits — *Janice* — Great card from Dave Barry! I don't know that I *need* two cars - it's sort of a habit from when I bought a Volvo to go to cons in back in the early 70s because the Cortina I drove to work was too small and I was afraid it might be hard to get repaired in distant places. Actually it turned out to be a very reliable car, but it was too small. When it finally wore out, I got a Honda Civic to drive to work but kept the Volvo to travel in. And so on...

I see no reason to abandon 'execute' when 'executive' and 'executor' are in at least as common usage as 'execution'. As for 'user'... hooha. I finally got the scanner to work from CatchWord, but the thugs at TigerSoft and the other thugs at MicroGrafx still refuse to answer my queries about the missing software.

Not only do I not cook, I have no desire to learn to cook. I have had no spare time for years and certainly don't plan to waste any on cooking and cleaning up the resulting mess - it would probably run to at least two hours a day.

I think it quite likely that there was some Flood that got encoded in the legends of various ancient peoples - but it could not have 'covered all the earth' nor could it have killed all living creatures ('end of all flesh') not in the Ark nor could it have been followed by a rainbow never seen before - I can make a rainbow with the garden hose any sunny day.

Well, it's all relative... I remember when most fanzines looked like George Wells' so it doesn't bother me much - and compared to his *Sick Elephant* it's positively elegant...

Vicar of Whimsy — *Gatewood* — Your insistence on the sanctity of the lost Confederate cause (with flag-worship yet) is bizarre to say the least - I suppose it is this sort of mindset that maintains the bloodbaths in Bosnia and Somalia. Even the Biblical injunction that the sins of the fathers be visited on the children even unto the 4th generation should be run out by now!

Certainly the printing press made pornography available to the mass market, but it's rather stretching it to drag Gutenberg into a discussion of Victorian pornography - the mimeo was invented by then! The Victorians are closer to us on the time scale than to Gutenberg.

Turning justification on and off in your system, with the page-width line and the constant-width characters and the short paragraphs would have only a slight affect on the appearance of the page. In normal book text, with double-column, proportional characters, and longer paragraphs (as in *It Goes On The Shelf*), the affect would be much more marked.

Chatsworth — *Ruth* — There is a woman who comes to SciCon that deals in hand-carved boxes and books about wolves. I don't know her name or address though... Aha, I did reach her through the HaRoSFA network -

Phyllis White
Flying Coyote
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She does not have the book, but says that Micheal C. Fox is a well-known author in the field and has been for so long that a lot of his books (mostly in the animal field) are out-of-print. Apparently **Wolves In Myth and Legend** is one of these. Ms White says she will be glad to search for it for you, and that it would probably cost in the rather loose range of \$10-60. I just put all this stuff here to show off, I will have sent it to you immediately. In the process of acquiring the info I was offered an old typewriter, alas one of those 1920s Royals with the glass side windows that I don't need another of.

Glad to hear you survived the quake!

SFPazine — *George* — Argh, that's gruesome... Hope your bod has healed from the fall. Good talking to you on the phone.

I would tell that story about why I am called Ned again except that I have told it so many times I might be thrown out of the apa for self-plagiarism...

See the comment above to Gatewood about the Confederate flag - I think it is a mistake to grant so much emotional weight to a symbol that you worship it or on the other hand get all bent out of shape because someone else displays it. The map is not the territory and the symbol is not the ideals it supposedly stands for - which no two people ever agree on anyway. The same would apply to the swastika, which was old long before the Nazis - though I have no idea what Kipling thought it meant. The Biblical injunction against idolatry is good advice.

Speaking of Nazis, ex-SFPAn Curt Phillips says that he will be in Virginia Beach in June for a re-enactment of D-Day - he and three other guys will drive over from Abingdon in costume. He is to be an American soldier and the other three are Nazis. He says the expression on peoples faces when three Nazis walk into a MacDonalds is priceless...

Are you sure that song said *hocus pocus* and not *voodoo*? The rest of it sounds like *That Old Black Magic* which has a line that goes 'do do that voodoo that you do to me'.

It seems to me that in most of the fantasies that I have read where the author tries to describe the afterlife, the accounts are quite similar to Matheson's **What Dreams May Come** - so maybe that's how it is. And these books vary in date by at least 50 years. It would be interesting to compile a list of such books - I can't remember any other titles at the moment but one was by C. S. Lewis.

Bouffant Jellyfish — *Dolbear* — The data I saw indicated that the US is the world's primary arms merchant, but I have no way to check it or how current it is.

Your recollection of Carce is colored by the b&w Keith Henderson illos - go back and read the detailed description of the King Gorice's banquet hall.

The piece on Janet Reno in the recent (late 1993) *Reader's Digest* was not an article but a book condensation - are you saying it is incorrect? I had heard essentially the same facts elsewhere long before it appeared. Reno's opposition to the death penalty is apparently worth about as much as Clinton's support of democracy in Haiti and his campaign promise to change the US policy of supporting that dictatorship - his support of Aristide is mere lip-service and Reno presents no opposition to the bloody-minded new crime bill with its 70 new capital crimes.

Did you see *Sirens*, which is 'about' (as much as modern movies are about anything) Norman Lindsay and the attempt to suppress his painting *The Crucifixion of Venus* as being blasphemous? I can't find this painting in my collection of Lindsay books, did the wowers succeed in suppressing it? It is shown in the movie and certainly appears to be in his style.

Not Depressing — *Alan* — Well, actually, it is depressing - the more so that I have no idea what to suggest you do about it. I am surprised to hear that you cannot claim Valerie as a dependent on your taxes, but I am not a tax lawyer. In the olden days a man in your situation would have just left - for the frontier, or Africa, or Australia, but that option is pretty much closed down by civilization.

Guess What? — *weber* — Argh, more depression. Just think how well off you are compared to Alan... Today's paper seems to offer two jobs for a computer technician - seems like a small number for an area this size. Both seem to want a flexible general-purpose sort - one is Casey Automotive, a big auto dealer; and the other is the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

That Time — *weber* — Fascinating explanation of 'proof spirit' - but what kept the gunpowder from going off? I don't see why they ever involved black powder in the testing of alcohol distillation anyway - now you have two substances to worry about the purity and storage of.

I have some zines from an apa HPL was in - not his, but another member's - Arthur Harris' *Interesting Items*. HPL is last mentioned in the bound volume I have in an issue from 1933.

I agree with you about legalisation of drugs - it wouldn't solve all the problems, but the severity, as with bootleg cigarettes and moonshine, would go way down. And the bootleg cigarette 'problem' is the creation of the

states' tax structures and could be eliminated any time they had the sense to get rid of the tax differential.

That is dumb about the dog abortion - if they really believe that the bitch is terminally contaminated by having one litter of cross-breed pups, it seems that they would believe that the contamination occurs at conception, not at delivery! Even their illogic has no logic...

Ah, I misunderstood your comment about the Burroughs... Must be because your writing is so very complex, like the ProScribe says! Well of course I agree with you in this particular case, if I never read any more of ERB I would not miss it, and in fact I have not read a lot except in Spanish. I expect the Oxford University Press had Hadfield clean it up and shorten it in hopes of making a few shillings off the educational market in Merrie Old England - it was definitely mean for the schools, has questions in the back: 'What did a ventilated tomb and a lock opening from the inside suggest?'

Again your spellchecker treats the first and last verses of *Jabberwocky* differently even though they are identical in the original! How does it manage that? What would happen if you ran just the first verse through umpteen times?

It Goes On The Shelf - *my own self* - I noticed far too late to ask Gilliland to fix it that the wizard Wizenbeak on his cover for this issue does not know the right *spell* for 'rhythm'!

Yngvi - Toni - Sneaky cover gag! Alas the lead singer that the Pogues lost - I forget his name - also wrote what I thought were their best songs - *Dark Streets of London, Metropolitan, Death Bed of Chuchulain...* Shane MacGowan, that's it - getting old and CRS syndrome setting in, had to look it up.

Ghad, what can I say if you agree with me all the time... That's no fun... Any luck with the Heinlein estate and my desire to use (tastefully, of course) his verses for the song *Green Hills of Earth*?

A million square yards? That's not too much - wouldn't even cover a square mile.

I don't understand why you say that the Communists 'came to their senses' - surely you don't imagine that they chose to have the Soviet Union disintegrate? To me it looks more like an enormous ill-designed engine that overheated and blew itself apart.

I agree with you that it is ugly to sneer at someone because you find them boring - you probably just haven't looked closely enough. Of course, in an apa, if they don't do much, there isn't much to look at.

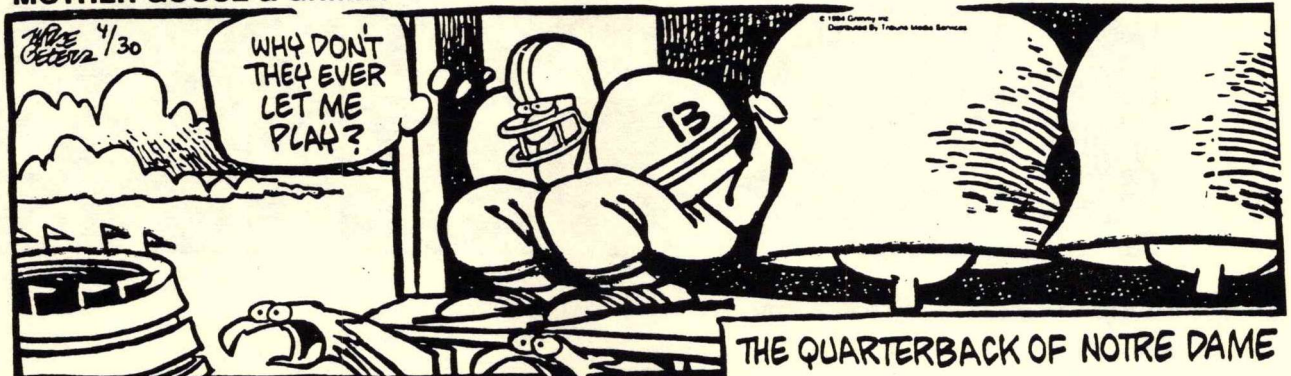
I would probably vote for a woman for president... Unless it was Janet Reno...

Harmonica Virgins - *Linda* - Ghad, you got so excited about the lady priests that you put a '!' next to a ',' - almost always a no-no in English... Great cover - that screech to the north is old HPL spinning in his grave at a gazillion rpm.

You own that whole entire house in the picture, chimney pots and all? Looks great! And a multi-format video machine too - I could send you *Werewolf vs The Vampire Woman* since I learned from George Wells on the phone tonight that he already has one.

Is this a coincidence or what?:

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM





“WHEN WE COME AT THE END OF TIME, TO PETER SITTING IN STATE”