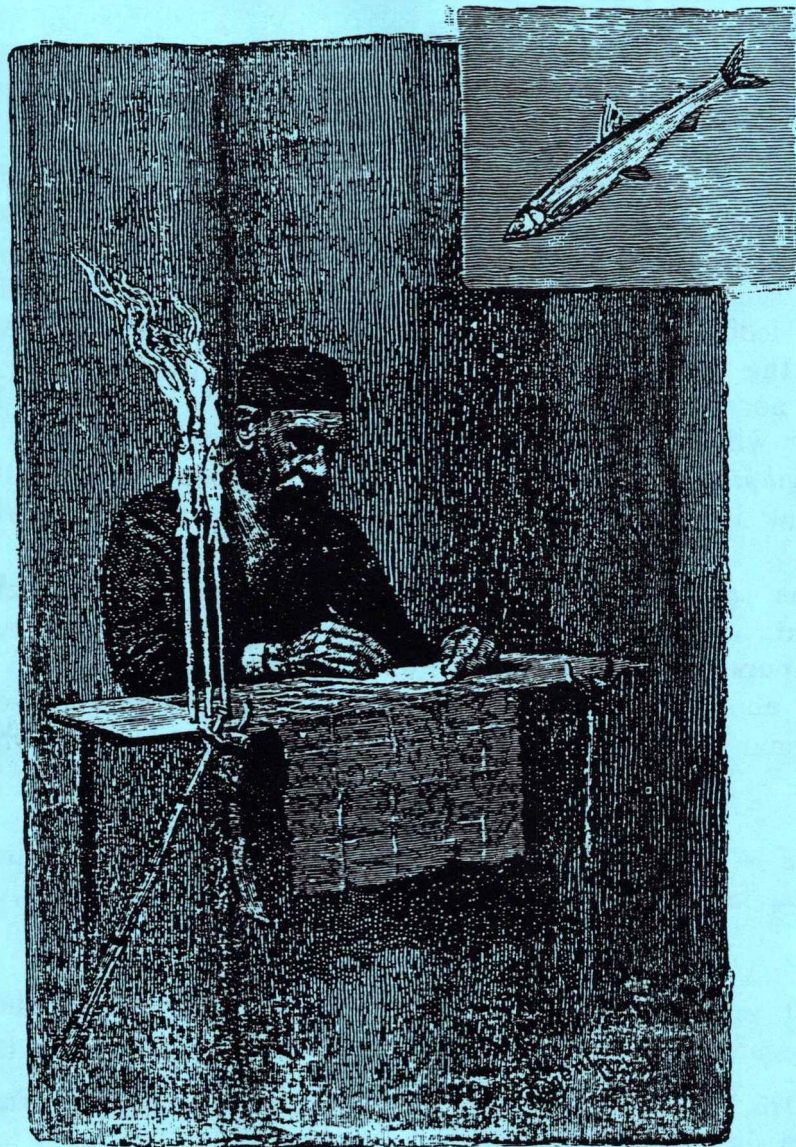


The New Port News  
169



WRITING BY THE LIGHT OF CANDLE-FISHES.

Art by J. M. Nugent from an 1885 *St. Nicholas*

## 169 The New Port News 169

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**OO - Gary** - The mailing arrived August 3. I don't understand Rule 4 - what is the *Macerana*? Is it possible I have done it and don't know it?

**Confessions - Hlavaty** - I never learned Motors either - I can change a battery or a tire or a fuse, or add some fluid, but that's about it.

**DR - Hlavaty** - I get those damn calls all the time, and usually cut them off pretty quick, saying that I 'don't do phone solicitations'. Last night some woman called and wanted to know if I was the 'head of household'. I don't know why she would care, she was selling photo portraits. I have a vague recollection from the 70s that there was some federal law that a 'head of household' could make some amount of wine or beer for the use of that household, but that a person living alone didn't qualify as 'head of household'. My interest was purely theoretical - I don't care enough about beer or wine to go to the bother of making it.

I had no idea *Mythprint* was still around. I was a Tolkien fan from the beginning - I read LotR in the late 50s - but never had that much contact with the west coast wing.

As to the Masons running everything, I have a British trade pb about Satanic Child Abuse that hints they are behind that and stop the police from pursuing cases - **Blasphemous Rumours** by Andrew Boyd, Fount, London, 1991.

I too heard that about Dilbert's tie, but if it has happened I missed it. I only saw it as the occasional dump from the net until a year or so about when the local paper picked it up.

**Box Scores - GBOE** - A blast from the past - but Lon's given name is spelled *Alonzo* (quite common in the Spanish-speaking countries, there was a King Alonzo), not 'Alonzo'.

**Afterburner - Binker** - I don't think Tennessee ever actually passed the law setting  $\pi=3$ , it was just presented as a bill for consideration. William Jennings Bryan did 'die suddenly' in 1925, a few days after the end of the Scopes trial - it's in *Webster's* biographical dictionary.

I thought *Disaster in Time* seemed vaguely like something I had read. The old Day index says that *Vintage Season* appeared in the Sept'46 *Astounding*, and that 'Laurence O'Donnell' is a pseudonym of C. L. Moore.

*Don Juan DeMarco* sounds better from your review than I would have guessed from the promotional material. I will have to watch it on the cable sometime. The last Brando film I saw was *Candy* where he plays the *guru*, an old Beta tape from when that movie was on TV occasionally.

**Not Minac - Lynch** - You were in Kennerdell and didn't stop to say hello to

Danner? Your Eastern European visitors might have enjoyed meeting him – I know I would. Interesting idea about forcing the 200th mailing to coincide with the B'ham DSC by switching back to quarterly – but the frequency isn't mentioned in the Rules, so I suppose it would take a change in the Constitution to do it.

**Tyndallite** – *Metcalf* – No, as far as I know **The King in Yellow** is Robert W. Chambers only really successful eldritch fiction – the rest seems very dull to me. I must admit that I have not read **The Dark Star**, of which I have only a very decrepit copy, or **Athalie**, which seems to be about a child with unusual powers – but neither of them dragged me in from a glance at the first page like **The King in Yellow** did.

I don't understand your comment about the copyright on Tolkien's LotR – why would the fact that there was a British edition keep the US edition from being copyrighted? The books were all printed from the same plates, if the US edition could not be copyrighted it seems they would have just sold the British edition here – it would have been automatically copyright under the international convention.

**Challenger** – *Lillian & Dolbear* – Wow, 100 pages... Nice cover too. Is that you or Dennis in the colophon?

Fascinating account of Harry Moore. I would have thought that *phenolphthalein* would have more serious effects than turning urine blue – it's the active ingredient in ExLax.

If Hogan is right about HIV and AIDS, someone has certainly sold the world a bill of goods. I would like to hear the other side of the argument, but I'm not sure I am qualified to judge between them. I remember back in the 60s the local paper carried a medical column that insisted there was no such disease as rabies.

**AFAB** – *Meade* – I have been the only patron in a movie theatre. One of the local multiplexes has four auditoriums and the one to the left of the lobby is only about 8 rows deep. Odd movies and things toward the end of their run would wind up there.

I saw the trailer for *The Arrival* a number of times, but never got to the movie – probably catch it on the cable.

**Jewel of the Senile** – *Harry* – I did discard all the bags, boxes and envelopes that SFFPA came in over the years, and put all the mailings in clear plastic bags – SFFPA100 took up several!. I think only spirit-duplicated material is much harmed by light – the rest of the damage is mostly due to oxygen in the air and acid in the paper itself.

The PBS *Matinee at the Bijou* runs here, and I recently set the VCR to tape one so I could watch it later – alas, it was not the horror movie advertised but some asinine Harold Lloyd thing. The Betty Boop cartoon was good.

Gary Grady recently asked me if I had a libretto to Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* – seems like the sort of thing you might have.

Apparently the big seller at the Atlanta Olympics was a misting fan, almost the opposite of an umbrella! Perhaps for future Olympics they should make Bombing a regular event...

Mark Twain had it right about the *stately nation Christendom* – and little has changed in the last century. I know what you mean about music on the PA system

– they have it everywhere now, malls, restaurants, doctor's offices, even on the telephone; and it's always something I would just as soon not hear.

John P. Brady may have put up the monument to Adam, but the date of his creation as 4004 BC was worked out by James Ussher (1581–1656), Archbishop of Armagh. His *Annals of the Old and New Testaments* was published posthumously in 1658, and had it that Adam was created on Friday, October 28, 4004 BC. Did you ever see Brady's monument? Is it still there?

Harry Hopkins' *Fandom Directory* reveals that there are at least 7 fans with the surname *Adams* – searching for the given name would be altogether too tedious!

**Twydrasil – Dengrove** – Interesting reviews. I wonder what 'scurvy grass' was – if it contained vitamin C it might have actually worked, as scurvy is a dietary deficiency of that nutritional element.

Certainly the term *commercial* has been used as an insult – but in the mass media, if it isn't commercial (or believed to be commercial), you likely won't ever see it.

**Ben-Beor** is a strange book – alas, I will probably never know how strange, as it is virtually unreadable.

Neither Kaczynski nor McVeigh look particularly evil to me. Anton LaVey does, but I expect he works at it as a professional thing. This guy Jewell in Atlanta, if he was the Olympic bomber, looks as bland a piece of soap. And they're apparently sure now it wasn't his voice on the phone, because he has a strong southern accent and the phone voice was said to be 'accentless' – whatever that means. Like a TV announcer, perhaps.

**Spiritus Mundi – Guy** – Cute cover, at first I thought it was by Taral – and I don't believe anyone is named *Quagmire*! Sorry to hear about Geis – I thought he was supposed to understand investments. I certainly never understood his comments about them.

You can certainly have a xerox of the Chappell article if I can find that book. It's probably next door with the non-sf anthologies. No, not there... Well, if I ever find it I'll make you a copy. I need a full-time librarian...

The obvious way to reduce the number of citizens trying to live below the poverty line would be to raise the minimum wage and change the tax structure. Any number of improvements in the penal system have been touted over the years as reducing recidivism but they don't stick with them – probably because the Criminal Justice Industry does not really want to reduce crime. I thought gambling was illegal except in Nevada. I don't follow your mad dash from pornography to cigarettes laced with formaldehyde – I know of no way to keep lunatics from poisoning themselves. I agree that abolishing capital punishment would have little direct effect on the crime statistics, because capital cases are such a small percentage of the total – but it would certainly set a better example for the government to stop slaughtering helpless convicts.

I can't believe you are that ignorant, you Louisiana lawyer – many French names, and a few British ones, include a *St.* without the owner ever having been canonized. In England you find mainly *St. John*, pronounced, it seems 'sinjun'. I think you are right about Alan Rickman, but I can't remember who he is.

I think the *DeRoach* is the award for extreme putridity, but Elst must have dropped me off his list, I no longer get these Hogu things – not that I was ever

any better at them than I am at the Egoboo Poll.

Oh, if no one at all wanted to be OE, I would do it — probably after I had done it a little while *lots* of members would discover that they wanted the job...

What is this vicious hatred of Carl Sagan? What did he ever do to you? I don't think he is as good a writer as Loren Eiseley and his speaking mannerisms are vaguely annoying, but I expect he does the best he can.

**Peter Pan & Merry** — *Schlosser* — Funny cover cartoon! I am a Christian, but I feel no need for the phony support of Creation Theory — at the time of Darwin some spoilsport pointed out that it might well be impossible to detect whether the universe was created last Thursday, in full running order. Of course he was immediately lynched (metaphorically) by both the Evolutionists and the Creationists for spoiling their fun — but did the trees in the Garden of Eden have growth rings?

I heard on the radio the other day that poison ivy is related to the cashew, so it may be that nut that I should not have eaten rather than the Brazilnut — I am severely allergic to poison ivy. I never drink diet sodas and wasn't aware of the phenylalanine warning.

To say that Rabin was 'working for peace' while he was in control of men who were bombing civilians (even in a UN compound) and torturing prisoners is doubletalk to me. Obviously he was not in immediate control of every man — but the situation has been going on for years now.

I loved the folk songs of the 60s, and have a collection of what was published at the time. I am not inclined to worry much about the 'low blood phosphorus' in the absence of any symptoms — I suppose I could eat a match or two...

I don't think gas here ever got worse than \$1.25 for unleaded regular, and it's back down to \$1.15 now. Atlanta, for some reason, is always much cheaper.

I don't know but what Farrakhan is a hypocrite or, more likely, a lunatic — but we are not at war with Libya and if he wants to go there I don't see what business it is of the idiots in Washington to hassle him for it — note that their hassle consisted only of vague threats, and no action was taken. If what he did is really illegal, why weren't public charges brought?

I still hear from Bill Bridget occasionally, and although I can understand how many people found him annoying, I don't think he ever had any evil intent.

In theory it may be possible to have a nook without a cranny, but in the real world I think you will find that almost all nooks have several crannies...

**Seasons** — *Binker* — If I thought I understood your psychobabble about scaling the heights of techno-politics, I would have myself committed to the nearest booby-hatch (to use the old non-PC terminology). If I didn't know you better I would say it was the 6"7' topped by red hair plus hormones, and the rest is window-dressing...

At least I can understand the appeal of caving, though I'm sure many people would find the desire to crawl into awkward holes in the ground a sure sign of dementia.

About all I could grasp of your holy fund-raising adventures was that you ate at the *Black-Eyed Pea* — in my ignorance I would have been inclined to try such a place, as I love black-eyed peas. But if they could screw that up, there's no hope for them.

You got scruples but you stole Thomas Jefferson's lilies? Tsk tsk... What if

everyone did that... Categorical imperative, don't you know... I wonder if there's a reward for turning in lily-nappers...

I will quietly ignore that Shaggy Dog in hopes that it goes away before it sheds (or worse) on the carpet...

Well-done story, but the ending is puzzling -- I rather expected that the mystery lady would turn out to be a circus knife-thrower.

**The Sphere** - *Don* - The cover makes me feel better after reading about Binker's friend, who was a child when Kennedy was assassinated -- you look older than I do...

We have two different models of the digital camera at the wind-tunnel, and outside researchers sometimes bring their own. An amazing technology, which I have had no occasion to play with.

Your description of the Zip disk technology shows how over-optimistic it is to talk of putting old fanzines on CD-rom -- each page would have to be treated as a large photo. I guess we'll have to wait for Asimov's *nudged quanta* storage medium!

Is that where you're going with the 'Important Documents of Sci-Fi'? I'm not sure that any two fans would agree on what documents are important. To me it would be books and fanzines (and especially the art and letters in the fanzines) -- the constitutions and regulations generally make my brain glaze over.

I think it was Gary Grady mentioned that Hulan had written an Oz book -- you don't say who is publishing it or where it is likely to be found. I'm surprised you don't remember Richard Garrison, but my sense of chronology is weak. He was/is an Atlanta fan and collector and small-time publisher. George Beahm worked through him to get our **Vaughn Bode Index** printed there, I think. Page and Celko and Reinhardt must have known him. I met him a few times. He's connected in my mind with a small sf publishing house in the Atlanta area that did a fancy Thomas Burnett Swann book -- Heritage Press in Forest Park, that's it. I also have a vague notion he was in the police or security and a gun nut when that was rampant in Atlanta fandom -- I remember being at a party where I was the only one not packing a gat.

**Spider Pie** - *Steve* - Snazzy cover! I used to hear from a telepest stock broker occasionally. I hate telepests...

For a while in the 70s I printed a newsletter for the local soaring club. Some of the people at the wind-tunnel were in it, but the newsletter was written mostly by a Dr. Wolf Elber and typed up by his wife. They had their own tow-plane and a hangar to keep it in. Seemed like a very complicated and expensive hobby to me.

I'm surprised they manage to keep the high-octane scam going, with most people driving cars that specifically call for lead-free regular in the manual.

The interest in putting fanzines on CD-rom is mostly in the preservation of paleo-zines -- I have been approached, for instance, about my set of *Slant*. Aha, I see that you say it is possible to scan stuff into PDF format.

I'm not sure I understand your diskette well enough to do anything with it, but I will try. Hooha -- it seems to work fine! Not that I actually had the patience to assemble a puzzle, but it came up in Windows 3.1 and I could move the pieces around with the mouse.

**Trivial Pursuits** - *Janice* - I never eat pizza with unidentified toppings... I guess

it's a good thing you're testing that new software, rather than have the customers cursing you as they stare at their frozen screens!

Being hot makes your fingers swell? Weird... Perhaps you are not human — humans are mostly water, and the coefficient of thermal expansion of water in the range 80–107°F is quite moderate, only about 0.00011/°F so that over a range of 100°F you should only swell about 1%.

Glad to hear you got the thing on the King's English — I didn't know that until I looked it up, but it's the sort of thing I can look up easily.

The story about Dole and the three former presidents sounds like something put out by his PR people — any time I have heard him speak (rather than read a speech), he was as incoherent as Bush.

The curious 1891 book *Ben-Beor* (Locke notes a 'revised and improved edition in 1892 with the same number of pages) that seems, from the title page, to be a sort of Jewish reply to Wallace's *Ben-Hur* and Sue's *The Wandering Jew*, has so far resisted my feeble efforts to extract any edification from its centenarian pages... I suppose I could serialize it in SFPA, but it would take a while — there are 528 pages of small print. If I started with the 200th mailing and did 5 pages per issue, you would have read it all by the 306th mailing... If you must know, however, after a good bit of preliminary matter about the finding of the manuscripts, we finally get to the first *Lunar Intaglio*, where it is revealed that the Prophet Elijah has written the story of his trip to the Moon on plates of jasper in 'the Holy Hebrew language', and after cementing these plates together (edgewise, stacked, what?), has sent them hurtling through space back to Earth. I really must read this thing... Maybe I could send a xerox to Dave Hall and he could condense it down as he did *The Night Land*.

I quite regret having started the comment string about Geis and FAPA, as I know nothing whatsoever about it except what Ben Indick told me.

Glad to hear Roy Tackett was at WesterCon. My Uncle Oliver had a similar stroke and recovered almost completely.

Processed grape juice is not kosher? How could anyone possibly obtain grape juice without some sort of a process? I suppose if you shrunk down as in Asimov's *Fantastic Voyage* and had yourself injected into the grape, you could have absolutely unprocessed grape juice...

**Prime of Life** — *Guy* — Nice photos! I saw *The Frighteners* and, not expecting much, was not disappointed. Pure Gothic horror, too much driving.

No, 51 (=3x17) is not a prime number — the next prime number after 47 is 53. Note the true injustice of the universe in this analogy — them prime numbers get further apart the older you get, while the odd numbers turn up every other year. However, you can console yourself with the thought that 49 is *trimorphic* and 52 is *untouchable*. My current age, 58, is apparently a dull and stupid number, as it doesn't appear at all in David Wells' *Penguin Dictionary of Curious and Interesting Numbers*.

**SFPazine** — *George* — Great explication of the nature of God. I can see though how some people might think God was malevolent or utterly mad, based on their particular life experience — especially people who aren't fans and thus don't have a Cosmic Mind.

I don't get that about sperm donors not having tattoos or pierced ears — it

would seem to me that anyone who ever had an operation or injection would be at as much risk for hepatitis as someone with pierced ears.

All these years I thought *Morie* was a chocolate-flavored soft drink... Sounds awful. Good to see you and Jill for lunch in between the SEGWE. Just as well you didn't go to Grand Junction with me, it was a long hot drive and there was nothing there I wanted. Someone is bringing a Friden machine from Nashville for the reunion though, which is what I went to look for.

**Chatsworth - Ruth** - Hey, if you have any call for old-fashioned waltzes, I can send you *The Atheneum Waltz*, composed by my grandmother on my mother's side. My mother had me publish 50 copies and copyright it 20 years or more ago. Or we could find someone to read **Ben-Beor**, you could add appropriate music and put it out on audio.

I have not yet tried to read *The Celestine Prophecy* - as popular as it is I will no doubt buy a copy for 99 cents soon enough. But I would be surprised if I could actually read it with any pleasure.

I loved *Phantom of the Paradise* and have it on video. So far they have rerun it about as often as I want to see it.

**Hey Mars!** - *GBOE* - Watch out for 2005, that Martian sample will probably contain a virus in revenge for **War of the Worlds!** Or perhaps it's too late already - the recent discovery of fossil bacteria in a million-year-old Martian meteorite prompted our NASA Administrator Danial Goldin to issue the following news bulletin:

NASA has made a startling discovery that points to the possibility that a primitive form of microscopic life may have existed on Mars more than three billion years ago. The research is based on a sophisticated examination of an ancient Martian meteorite that landed on Earth some 13,000 years ago.

The evidence is exciting, even compelling, but not conclusive. It is a discovery that demands further scientific investigation. NASA is ready to assist the process of rigorous scientific investigation and lively scientific debate that will follow this discovery.

I want everyone to understand that we are not talking about 'little green men'. These are extremely small, single-cell structures that somewhat resemble bacteria on Earth. There is no evidence or suggestion that any higher life form ever existed on Mars.

The NASA scientists and researchers who made this discovery will be available at a news conference tomorrow to discuss their findings. They will outline the step-by-step 'detective story' that explains how the meteorite arrived here from Mars, and how they set about looking for evidence of long-ago life in this ancient rock. They will also release some fascinating images documenting their research.

Do we detect some tinge of *War-of-the-Worlds* paranoia here?

**Angels on Ariels** - *weber* - Nice song on the cover - as well as I can tell from just the words. Must be a typo in the 13th line.

The *5th Wave* cartoons are funny - the fins on the PC would do about as much good as they ever did on a car. More in fact - they could be used for cooling.

I'm sure **Alberic the Wise** is by the same Norton Juster - it's a juvenile and at about the same time. Medieval knights and dragons, etc. I bought it for the art.

**The Book of Pow-Wows**, also known as **The Long-Lost Friend**, is no doubt in print somewhere. Wellman used it in *Vandy Vandy*, but it originated in Pennsylvania Dutch country. The author is John George Hohman. I have three versions of this book - a cheap pb with a white cover printed in blue, showing an owl reading a



book, no date, place, or publisher, only 149pp and only 84 are Hohman. On p.84 is the claim that carrying the book is protection against fire and water and enemies visible and invisible – the rest of the book is taken up with card tricks. There is no mention of Albertus Magnus, but there are pictures of archaic sorcerers.

Then there is a larger cheap pb called *Albertus Magnus Egyptian Secrets or White and Black Art for Man and Beast*, with no publisher, place or date – but divided into three volumes as described in *Vandy Vandy*, with something like the spell Wellman quotes in the 3rd volume. No mention of Hohman, but much of the material is the same, though there is more of it as this book has 208 pages.

Finally – probably done for the tourist trade – is a nice hardcover called *The 'Pow-Wow' Book* as by A. Monroe Aurand, Aurand Press, Harrisburg, 1929, #50/100 signed by the author. The d/w has a witch on a broomstick, repeated on the binding. The first 85 pages are *about* folk magic; then there are 32 pages about the Rehmyer witch-murder trial of January 1929; and finally, 64 pages of Hohman's *Pow-Wows; or The Long-Lost Friend* 'reprinted from an old edition' – there is a note that the earliest US edition was 1820. The same spells appear as in the other books, the same awkward language. Nowhere does the spell that Wellman quotes appear; nor can I find any reference to the belief he mentions that the book must be buried when you are through with it.

I have never seen one of the old editions – either they are all buried or the witches are still using them!

I can't find the story you mention from the 60s about the Civil War – the closest I found was the last segment of *Wonder As I Wander* called 'Who Else Could I Count On', which has an unnamed man visited by himself from 40 years in the future with a proposal that they go to the 'big men' and try to prevent the 'war that neither side would win' – but no book is mentioned.

I thought it was Dickensheet... Your account of the H-M copyright is more complex than I have seen before – but if they used the British sheets, what happened to the British copyright notice? Wouldn't it have been on the back of the title page? I don't have any of the Allen & Unwin volumes to check except the 1-volume india-paper edition of 1969 – it has five copyright notices on the back of the title page.

**Armadillo** – Liz – Well, all right – as long as you do really good Rule #4s. Why does my aging brainpan insist that it used to be Rule #6 that was silly?

**Radio Daze** – Eve – All these years I've heard of *bar mitzvah*, no one ever explained before what the words actually mean!

**Tennessee Trash** – Robe – Weird cover! Enjoyed the trip reports.

In some ways society seems to have advanced over 30 years ago, as you say – and yet I get the feeling that most recent change is just window-dressing over a *status quo* that consists of a serial rape of the environment for the enrichment of a few.

Fascinating that 'Scopes II' died for financial reasons. I agree with you about the newspaper not always getting the full story out, but it provides a great deal more detail than TV news.

**Oblio** – GBOE – Good luck with the new car. Your picture reminds me how much

you look like the editor of the local paper, Will Corbin - perhaps the Great Glaroon only uses a certain type of android for the editors of medium-size newspapers...

Well, let's see - 1-B, 2-B, 3-A, 4-A, 5-A, 6-A, 7-A, 8-A, 9-A, 10-A, 11-B, 12-A, 13-C, 14-A, 15-B, 16-A, 17-B, 18-B, 19-A, 20-C.

*Dilbert* is funny, but the art is crude - *Calvin & Hobbes* was very well drawn in addition to the wit.

Yeah, but if Tesser and Davis were in the apa, they could say whatever they wanted and not have to worry about defending themselves - I have always said whatever I wanted. The only person ever thrown out of SFPA for saying what he wanted was Steve Patt, and he was only on the waitlist.

Not only is the poetry in *The New Poet News* self-composed, it is well-aged - I don't think I have written any poetry since the 60s.

Speaking of the FBI files caper, I have yet to see any explanation of what it is about. The FBI is an arm of the executive branch and its director is appointed by the President. All the presidents since Eisenhower have let or instructed the FBI to accumulate files on anyone and everyone, regardless of whether they had been accused or convicted of any crime. So now Clinton is criticized for having accessed some of this data? What possible use was there in maintaining these files if the president wasn't allowed to look at them? Who would look at them then? If no one is ever to look at them, why not pulp them and save the file space?

Wish I had seen the Family Channel show on the Masons, sounds like a hoot. It's obvious that the world is really run by the Discordians.

