

SKUG

NUMBER 10

GARY & PATTY BUY A PC

APRIL 1989



This is the first Skug produced at home on a PC. I am not at all sure how this will turn out. I am also wondering how to get stuff on the right side of the stupid figure. Anyway this comes to you from 7501 Honey Ct., Dublin, CA 94568. Skug is available for a show of interest usually or you may just get it out of the blue (which is the color of the screen at the moment). Believe it or not it is also available for artwork. This means I'm interested in putting more artwork in this thing and maybe even having a cover again. Also available for trade, LoCs, etc. Please do not send money!

A brief introductory request is in order at this point. I'm interested in putting together a brief history of Bay Area Fandom/fanzines over the next six months. I'm particularly interested in the period from the 1930's to the 1980's. I got here in the 80s so I have some vague knowledge of that period. Has something like this already been done? If so, please tell me about it. Otherwise I'm interested in fanzines from the Bay Area during that period, conventions, whatever you have at hand. Thanks.

You may or may not be interested in the equipment I bought. I'll tell you anyway. The PC is a clone from a company called MSE. It has a 20 MHz 80386, 80387 math coprocessor, 80385 cache controller, 1 Mb ram (at the moment), a hard disk which has about 68 Mb after formatting, a color mouse, Paradise VGA card, NEC Multisync 2A monitor, 101-Key enhanced keyboard, 2 5-1/4" floppy drives (one 1.2 Mb, the other 360 kb), one serial port, and one parallel port. The printer is a HP Laserjet II. This is presently being typed using Wordperfect 5.0. I haven't figured out if I need something like Pagemaker or not. I definitely have to get some more fonts for the printer. I recently read of a cartridge that has fonts from 25 HP cartridges, or something to that effect. I actually think I'd be satisfied with an italics font and a couple of different sizes, especially one for headings and such.

We considered a MAC but this system was cheaper and will probably more than serve our purposes. Any information from people out there using a system similar to this would be more than appreciated.

"...the liberating function of negation..." Herbert Marcuse

BRUCE'S PARTY

We did get to Bruce Townley's party tonight. (Tonight being Saturday, 04/08/89). Unfortunately Patty was not feeling particularly well so we left after being there only about one to one and a half hours. It has been unseasonably hot these last few days and it was definitely hot in the City tonight. It should have been expected. Bruce's flyer included the note, "It was one of those hot dry Santa Anas that come down through the mountain passes and curl your hair and make your nerves jump and your skin itch. On nights like this every booze party ends in a fight. Meek little wives feel the edge of the carving knife and study the back of their husbands' necks. Anything can happen." Course in the Bay Area I don't know too many meek little wives (shoot, I don't know any) so I doubted seeing any carving knives. But I was ready for his booze party to end in a fight. The only problem is the only fights I've ever seen at parties were ones I've been involved in. Well, hm, is this a problem? Rich usually gets blamed so I guess it's okay. Well tonight felt like a good night. DTK was wearing the outfit she said she only wore when she expected to get drunk, or was that just drink too much. I forget. It was a nice outfit. Someone else obviously was also fitted for air conditioning. Those gaps between the buttons were just too hard to not look at. Did R touch her? Hey, who am I to say. Finally saw the infamous "X". I can understand the reasons behind the desires but are the horror stories true? Jay Kinney brought along an artist who worked with him on Young Lust and now does illustrations for Juggs magazine. (One g or two, I give up). This fellow supposedly brought along some drawings if I remember correctly which I would have liked to have seen but our hasty departure prevented that. I understand he works under (?) the editrix (is this the feminine version of editor?) who was shown with R. Crumb on her back in a recent version of Leg Show. Hm, no doubt there will be women (possibly even men) who are out there decrying my lack of correct social/sexual politics by mentioning these magazines, but hey, a woman edits them. No excuse, huh?

Art Widner was there talking up the good time at Tropicon and looking forward to V-Con. I've read a number of good reports of Tropicon and am really sorry I was not there. Not that I would have talked that much but I love to watch. Norwescon got thumbs down from Loren MacGregor. I was tempted to go to that one too but just too many things going on with me. Art said he was going to Corflu in Minneapolis, as are we. Rich and Linda McAllister (also from the Bay Area) are to be there too. Definitely sounds like it's shaping up to be a great convention. I must lower my anticipatory feelings though. Always best to think the worst will occur and be pleasantly surprised at a marvelous time. John Bartelt said he was going off to South Carolina for another job interview and would be in Minneapolis for the week before Corflu. Matt Householder, John and I talked a bit about the current news on the "cold fusion" experiments performed by Fleischmann and Pons.

(What a techie crowd?) Actually it would be great if their results were true but most in the field seem to definitely question them.

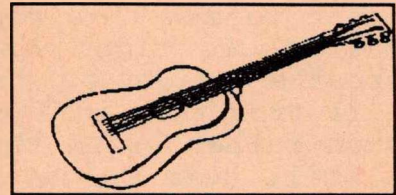
All in all I had a good time at Bruce's party and look forward to the rave reviews sure to be circulated in the ensuing days/weeks. (Why am I writing like this? Pretty silly, huh?) Even the elusive Bill Breiding and Kent Johnson appeared. BB left a message on our answering machine while he was still at the party that he forgot to mention that Cockpit by Willeford had been made into a movie and Harry Dean Stanton was in it. I knew it was a movie but hadn't known Stanton was in it. Have to look for it. Now when will Bill B have his long promised party?

More later.

"The girls in Cincinnati are the best. They never remember you."
Kate & Allie - 03/27/89

JOHN WILLIAMS CONCERT

On Tuesday, April 11, we went to the Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco to see John Williams. This was part of the Merrill Lynch Great Performers Series. Our Wells Fargo Visa Card purchases gave us the opportunity to obtain tickets to a symphony of our choice, dinner for two, or a few other selections. The tickets were \$24 a piece. I seriously doubt that I could fully enjoy a \$24 meal besides which I would rather go to the symphony.



This was a solo performance. The first half had a more classical orientation. It included Six Sonatas by D. Scarlatti, and Chaconne in D Minor (from Violin Partita No. 2, BWV 1004) by J. S. Bach. Both were transcribed (I think that's the right term) for the guitar by Mr. Williams. The second half was of a lighter bent, including Folios by Takemitsu, Four Guitar Pieces by Barrios, Tango (Verano Porteno) by Piazzolla, Berceuse and Danza caracteristica by Brower, and Sunburst by York. After a standing ovation Mr. Williams played an additional lullaby by York and one other Mexican piece the name of which escapes me at the moment. John Williams is an excellent guitarist. If the guitarists at filk sings were half as good, hey, a quarter as good as he is I wouldn't mind hanging around. I believe he said nothing during the first half except, "Thank you." He mentioned some changes in the order of the pieces in the second half and that's about it. If you read the last issue you may have noted that I mentioned a CD containing pieces by Piazzolla. Piazzolla is to appear in the Bay Area in May and I am very tempted to get tickets for the concert.

Returning to John Williams, all the pieces in the performance were excellent. His technical ability, the emotion imparted, the grace and style, all were marvelous, enrapturing. Words (especially mine) can hardly do justice.

BACK TO THE COMPUTER

I know, boring after John Williams, alas. BBS's are quite, um, addictive almost. Rapid response, well you probably have heard about the instantaneous reinforcement necessary for today's generation. (Shoot, am I in today's generation or am I one behind?) Well, it's sure faster than a lettercol Stanley. Some weird people out there. (I know that's not a sentence, tough.) One in Hayward seems pretty conservative, talking about killing commies and if you're so in love with that leftie stuff why don't you leave the country. Sheesh. Some have definitely "young" people involved. Why, in one I have even seen mention of the Dead Kennedys. Ohmyghod. Kay*Fog is a San Francisco BBS. You have to send in a written request to join and an SASE. I forget my SASE so I'm still not in it. I may not send it in. Seems might picky to me. Lenny Bailes is in that one. There is a fair amount of technical information there. Much of it is particularly good for the novice, which includes me with respect to BBS's and downloading via XMODEM, YMODEM, KERMIT, et al. I have been trying to download a fix for King's Quest IV for a week from the game company's bulletin board to no avail. It's a fix for 386 machines. Seems they're too fast for the game to operate properly. Oh well. You ought to see this pinball game I got in a floppy magazine. The ball zooms right down through the flippers. Is this a speed freak's delight or what? I have yet to receive the first telephone bill from this insanity. I doubt that it will continue. I would much rather spend the time and energy on these stupid fanzines. I still seem to have a greater affinity with the people reading these things than those reading BBS's. I'm sure there are those out there that might question that. So it goes.

I finally figured out what I was doing wrong in trying to download fonts to my Laserjet. It is still a slow process, particularly without extra RAM in the printer. There's a 25 in one cartridge out there that I really must obtain. I need to find it at a lower cost though. It seems that I will still have to download larger font sizes. HP cartridges seem to only go up to 18 point font sizes.

Michael J. Fox has no Elvis in him.

Oop

SCHOOL

Well, I dropped my one class in Probability, Random Variables and Random Processes. I wasn't studying for it to an extent necessary to really learn the subject and it is seemingly necessary as a background for Communication courses. Although my prime interest in communication is with respect to stereo/music the possibility always exists that a job in that area may not exist and the closest I can get is in the telecommunications area. By the way this isn't your elementary probability class. Dealing with two random variables and beyond gets into double integrals, convolutions, and just real entertaining kind'a stuff. Changing jobs didn't help my brain either. I like the job but learning all the stuff and thinking about meeting a deadline is just the tiniest bit nerve

wracking. (I have never before said nerve wracking in a fmz.)(So?)

I doubt that I will take a class next semester due to the time I want to spend on DITTO. I actually withdrew instead of just dropping a class, since I was only taking one class and it was about twelve weeks into the semester. I had heard horror stories about the head of the EE Dept giving lectures to students who wanted to drop this late in the semester. The EE Dept is heavily impacted and there is almost always more students wanting to get into a class than is possible. Amazingly enough he just said give him the form and he'd sign it. I think he likes me. Later when I brought the form in he said he wanted me to do my Master's project on the Valid Workstation and asked me to think about taking over the Engineering Department's Computer Services. I tried to keep my jaw from dropping but I'm not certain how well I succeeded. He then asked me what I was making and he didn't bat an eye when I told him how much. I don't make that much for an EE but state schools don't traditionally pay wages that come up to industry standards. I told him I would think about it but I just don't know.

In the past I have spoken about going into consumer electronics but I do actually like what I'm doing now. The digital area of electronics is something I find enjoyable. Gate arrays and microprocessors are fun, believe it or not. I'd like to do more design work but I certainly don't find going over other people's designs in the process of turning them into gate arrays a bad job. I get to work on a Sun workstation, do schematic capture, build models, run simulations, figure out why things don't work, nothing particularly creative but entertaining. Now if I could just talk them into sending me to Germany for a couple of weeks . . .

"Let's get absent minded."

TELEVISION

I don't know if you've ever seen those commercials about what drugs do to your brain, like the one where they show the brain activity of the teenager after smoking the dread marijuana but they should run those same tests on people watching television. (Actually they should run the same tests on people reading a book, meditating, etc. - It's a stupid commercial.) Anyway television is a horribly addictive drug, at least to me. When growing up, from the time we got a television when I was in grade school through high school I was an ardent television watcher. Of course, without social activities and sports I still had plenty of time left over to study and read lots of books. During most of college I was able to escape the evil plague. Denise and I had one in Detroit, I think, but I know that I didn't have one after she left. You can get a great quantity of things done without television. Well Patty brought along a television and I succumbed again. It wasn't her fault. I just don't have much willpower when it comes to that lowest common denominator (in most instances), the television. I can't miss Alf, Star Trek the Next Generation (I know Wesley is pretty dopey, but . . .), Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt, and

the list continues. Tonight I watched Quantum Leap. I think that's what it's called. It's about this guy who travels in time and winds up in other people's bodies. Tonight he helped a young Buddy Holly on the lyrics to Peggy Sue. I even watched UNSUB. Okay, Mike, it was even fairly good tonight. This one was the one about the teenager whose father had died and he was trying to shout out to the world about his pain and that he existed by starting fires. The bit about the empath in the Congressman's office supposedly picking up on the Congressman's illicit affair was pretty entertaining too. And really it's hard not to watch Jeopardy and even Family Feud some of the time. Say, have you seen Hard Times on Planet Earth? Bill Breiding admitted to watching it and said he even sorta' liked it. It's really dopey. The guardian or whatever that keeps track of the main character is totally technically unbelievable. I haven't missed an episode. I could go on but I think you get the picture. Why try crack when I have TV? Does Betty Ford's place cover this kind of stuff? (It is Betty Ford's place, right?) (And yes I know I should have broken this up into a couple of paragraphs.)

I really had to comment that she had unexpected shoes.

MOVIES

Finally got to see Pascali's Island. It thought it was well done but quite depressing. Also saw Three Men and a Cradle. This is a French film amazingly like Three Men and a Baby. I do believe the French Film came first. They were both fairly entertaining but light fare. The French version was dubbed. I would have preferred subtitles. The voices sounded incredibly like the voices on the show on NIK at night where they dub in strange dialogue to old movies. Unfortunately I can't remember the name of that show at the moment. Speaking of dumb shows, I also saw Amazon Women on the Moon. I thought there were some pretty funny bits in it. Patty thought it was stupid. Well, it was stupid too. I liked the advertisements with B.B. King asking for donations for Blacks without Soul.

THINGS IN THE MAIL

It was really hard to pass up the class on "Single and Multiple Sensor, Multiple Target Tracking." It is to be held in Albuquerque, NM. The explanation was that tactical and strategic defense, ASW, air traffic control, and other new systems must handle extremely dense environments, where a multitude of targets or false detections will cause failure with traditional "simple algorithms. At the same time, more complex algorithms require greater resources, and may in fact overwhelm processing capabilities. How could I pass it up?

"This is my ticket into the big time." Derrick Johnson, former supermarket clerk, trying to rise to fame with "Turkey Bowling," in which people "bowl" frozen turkeys at 2-liter plastic soda bottles.

BAY AREA HI-FI SHOW

Stereophile magazine put together a very entertaining but also very crowded stereo show in San Mateo at the Dunfey Hotel. It was held April 21-23, the weekend before Corflu 6. I left work on Friday at about 3 PM and it was already moderately crowded when I got there about half an hour later. Parking was horrendous as it was on Saturday. I attended two panels, "Loudspeaker, Electronics and Turntable Luminaries talk about the Future of Hi-Fi" and "Hearing Amplifier Differences with John Atkinson". Almost all of the panels were repeated two or three times over the weekend.

The first panel included Richard Vandersteen, Jim Thiel, Gayle Sanders, and a number of other people. I can't remember if Jeff Rowland was on the panel I saw or not. If you're into high end stuff several of these names are very recognizable. They didn't really say very much that was that illuminating. They mainly indicated that they expected the major work to be done on refinements of technology that already existed and had been used for years and didn't really mention anything new.

The second panel was a blind listening test with two different power amplifiers but with all the cabling, speakers, CD player, etc. the same. They used the VTL 300 and the Adcom GFA-555. I thought this was great since I have the Adcom and am very interested in obtaining the VTL 300. Anyway they played sections of seven different types of music twice and the people in the audience were supposed to mark whether they thought the piece of music was played through the same amp twice or if the piece was played on different power amps. I hadn't had much sleep the night before and had just had a rum and coke so I figured I would probably do terribly. Amazingly enough I picked right six out of seven times. When they asked how many people had picked correctly six or more times only three or four people out of about thirty raised their hands. It could have been pure luck. Seven trials is not a particularly exhaustive sample. Fortunately they didn't ask you to specify which was which. I could not tell without some in depth listening. Admittedly hotel function rooms do not have the best acoustics in the world but the VTLs didn't sound that much better. I definitely have to listen to them again.

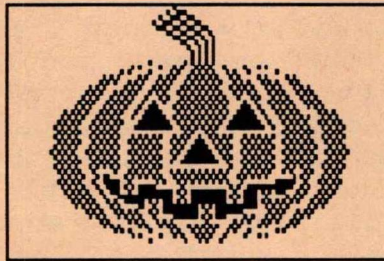
Another little demonstration I went to that was sponsored by VTL had Manley (I forget his first name), the head of VTL, illustrating some differences between the half inch master analog tapes versus some CDs. He was running the analog stuff through some large studio speakers and the CDs through Infinity speakers. It was fairly interesting. It's strange at times going into rooms where people are just sitting there listening, not conversing, for the most part, just listening to music. He played some CDs put out by Chesky Records. They sounded excellent. I'll have to pick up some soon.

There were three floors of rooms with sound equipment. It was sort of a rush going from room to room and seeing and listening to thousands of dollars worth of stereo equipment. One of the larger rooms had the new Martin Logan Statement speakers. They consisted

of a pair of electrostatic speakers covering the mid and upper range and a pair of speaker cabinets containing just woofers covering the low range. The woofers were cones. Both pairs were at least six feet tall. The electrostatic speakers were about three or four feet wide. These were great sounding speakers. Of course someone behind me said something about the bass being too "punchy" and not really that great but considering the room acoustics, the fact that we were behind a five or ten foot wall of other people I thought it sounded pretty good. The complete set of speakers only costs \$33,333.33.

Rich Coad was with me on Saturday. Unfortunately it was even more crowded then. We listened to Apogee Divas, Magnaplanar 3s and 1.4s, KEFs (they really have a powerful low end considering the size of the speakers), B&Ws (the 801s are great), Merlins (We'd never heard of these before but their bass also sounded great particularly considering they cost under \$3000/pair. Unfortunately the guy in the room didn't play too much in the mid-range and treble.), and many other speakers. Of course the amps included Rowland, Carver, Hafler, Audio Research, Mark Levinson, dbx, Threshold, and more. One thing of particular note was that most of the turntables in the various and sundry rooms were SOTAs. I'd say at least 90% were SOTA Sapphires or Star Sapphires. A number of high end CD and record companies were there, including Harmonia Mundi, Chesky, and Sheffield Lab.

The crowd looked moderately fannish. Probably at least 80 to 90% were male. Many obviously had a lot of money. It's weird hearing conversations about this guy's Divas and this other guy's Infinity IRS Betas. Too bad it was so crowded.



PUMPKIN RECIPES

Since several people showed an interested in the pumpkin recipes, here they are.

HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN BARS

2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. nutmeg
4 eggs
1 (16 oz.) can pumpkin
1 2/3 cups sugar
1 cup oil
1 cup chopped walnuts
Cream cheese frosting (recipe follows)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg, set aside. In another bowl, beat together eggs, pumpkin, sugar and oil. Add flour mixture. Beat well. Stir in walnuts. Spread into baking pan. Bake 25-30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool. Frost with cream cheese frosting.

CREAM CHEESE FROSTING

1 (3 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
1/4 cup margarine
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups powdered sugar

Beat together cream cheese, margarine and vanilla till fluffy. Slowly add powdered sugar, beating until smooth. Spread over cooled Pumpkin Bars.

PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE

Crust:

2 dozen gingersnap cookies
3 tablespoons sugar
1/4 cup unsalted butter (melted)

Mix cookies and sugar together in blender or food processor. Add butter and mix again briefly. Press into pie pans and place in freezer for at least 15 minutes before adding filling.

Filling:

16 oz. cream cheese
16 oz. can of pumpkin
5 eggs
3/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup Frangelica (hazelnut) liquor
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ground clove

Mix all ingredients together in blender or food processor. Pour into pie crusts. Place into oven pre-heated to 350 degrees. Bake for about 45 minutes -- until edges of filling pull away slightly.

Topping:

16 oz. sour cream
1/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup Frangelica liquor

Beat ingredients together with a whisk until blended. Pour topping on hot cheesecake. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.

The Pumpkin Cheesecake was from Denise Rehse. She said it makes two.

THINGS FROM THE PRINT MEDIA

In one of the previous issues I mentioned an article appearing in a local paper which concerned Biomuse. If you're interested in more information about it see Science News, April 1, 1989, Vol. 135, No. 13, pp 202-203. The following are a few more articles I found interesting and I thought you might also.

A step toward molecule-size machinery

Physicists from the University of Colorado and Boston University have won a patent for a way to make patterns that could be used in developing molecule-size machinery.

The invention consists of a thin film covered with regularly spaced holes measuring about 100 angstroms in diameter, or about one one-hundred millionth of a meter.

Kenneth Rothschild, a biophysicist at Boston University, said the regularity of the holes could make the structure useful as a plug-in board for tiny switches made from biological molecules.

"We look at it as just one step to the ultimate realization of molecular memories and molecular circuits, but you have to start somewhere," he said.

The method is based on observations about "self-assembly" that certain proteins will combine to form particular structures.

Noel A. Clark and Kenneth Douglas of the University of Colorado in Boulder and Rothschild received patent 4,802,951.

Harper's Index

Percentage of "Gilligan's Island" episodes that were about getting off the island: 32.

Percentage of the audience of "thirtysomething" who are in their thirties: 29.

Percentage increase, since 1987, in the number of children killed by guns in Broward County, Fla.: 209.

Number of the 41,000 applicants for concealed-weapon permits in Florida in 1988 who were turned down: 246.

Percentage increase, since 1978, in the number of private security firms operating in Colombia: 127.

Percentage increase, since 1981, in the number of acres in Colombia that are planted in coca: 762.

Total time that the song "Yesterday" has been broadcast or performed since it was written in 1965, in years: 29.

Number of years Steve Jenne of Springfield, Ill., has saved a buffalo sandwich bitten into by Richard Nixon: 28.

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Digging the Dirt The Kansas Way

California has an official fossil (saber-toothed cat), insect (dogfish butterfly), rock (serpentine), gemstone (benitoite) and, thanks to state Senator Quentin Kopp, a dance (West Coast swing).

But it is running behind Kansas when it comes to dirt. The Kansas Senate has voted to propose that Harney Silt Loam become the official state soil. Orville Bidwell, retired agronomy professor at Kansas State, told the senators that the soil is so rich in potassium, calcium and magnesium that farmers can grow wheat in it without using standard potash fertilizer.

The fifth-grade class in Sedgewick, Kan., was so pleased by the Senate vote that it has petitioned Norma Daniels, their state senator, to get busy on selecting a state vegetable.

California doesn't have one of those, either.

May the [U] Force Be With You

Broderbund Software (San Rafael) is planning to unveil its first computer peripheral this May. In keeping with the company's practice of bringing new concepts to market, its U-Force product is a new kind of input device. Scheduled for shipment in May, the \$69.96 U-Force is designed for Nintendo game systems, although a PC version is being worked on. U-Force uses a patented series of electronic sensors and circuitry to detect a player's exact motion, velocity, and position relative to the on-screen action. It's designed to work without modification with existing Nintendo games, such as Mike Tyson's Punchout!!, where you'd actually be able to make punching motions with your hands, and have the on-screen boxer fight in concert with those movements. Similarly, U-Force is supposed to enhance such simulation games as Top Gun (flying) and Rad Racer (driving).

U-Force is the brainchild of Sausalito inventor Dave Capper, who says it has "capabilities which have yet to be tapped. Nintendo represents the most significant, immediate market opportunity. There will be some even more exciting stuff once software specifically designed [for U-Force] comes out."

One of my favorite pastimes was mentioned in a small article in one of the local papers. Unfortunately I really don't get to participate that much in it. It's miniature golf. It seems that a few miniature golf courses are going upscale. The Congo River Golf & Exploration Co. in Kenosha, Wisconsin, is an outdoor African jungle with five waterfalls, two caves and lots of foliage. More

are planned to open next year in Illinois, Michigan and Indiana. That was from a little article by someone named Mary-Ann Bendel. Many miniature golf courses have one or two waterfalls. What I wonder is how tall are these waterfalls. Five or six inches is pretty unmentionable in my opinion. Hopefully they're at least three or four feet tall and those caves better be big enough to walk through. Admittedly natural caves can be much smaller. I crawled through one in Kansas that was no more than two feet high in some places. What made it quite entertaining was the stream going down the middle. Has anyone from the Midwest been to this golf course yet?

Another item in the news recently is Abbie Hoffman's death. This was moderately startling. Not that I was a rabble rouser (those two words don't look right at the moment but I'll let it stand) during my teens and twenties, but I did think Hoffman was trying to do some good things/make some good points. His disappearance after the cocaine charges was interesting as was his reappearance. It would have been interesting living in his shoes for a while. Of that I am pretty certain. // One further note is that the news later reported the possibility that he had committed suicide by drug overdose. Reports from his family said that was unlikely since if it had been the case that he planned suicide he surely would have scheduled a press release beforehand.

Another great piece of news was the discovery of HIV-2, a second strain of the virus. Obviously it wasn't great it was a bit horrifying. I wonder if the population will have changed much in the next twenty years, what with AIDS entering particularly into the communities of the poor, drug users, and prostitutes. It has had a devastating effect on the gay community but I think that the gay community, for the most part, is realizing what they have to do to not be totally decimated by this disease. Appropriate precautions are being taken and I think that the per centage of new cases, at least in the Bay Area, among the gay population has been decreasing. I may be wrong on that point but I am sure that the gay population is far more concerned and educated about the situation than the poor minorities.

On NPR last week Patty did hear a discussion with respect to Bay Area AIDS education/outreach being targeted primarily to gays. The discussion indicated the other minorities were trying to change this, but were finding it difficult to get funding away from established groups.

FANZINE REVIEWS/NOTES

Well, I can't remember ever doing fanzine reviews before. If I did it was a long time ago. I hold no claim to being a great reviewer. I just feel like mentioning the fanzines I get in the mail. At least throw in a few odd notes here and there.

IDEA Volume 2, Number 2, Geri Sullivan, Toad Hall, 3444 Blaisdell Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408-4315. 32 pp. Available for the usual. Although I feel certain that I've heard Geri's name bantered about for a number of years this seems to be the first fmz she's published. It's all done with Desktop Publishing (Is that

anything like mirrors?) and looks great. The graphics, artwork, etc. all are very nice. The articles are, for the most part, interesting and moderately entertaining. Nothing really grabbed me but it was still an enjoyable read. Contents included articles by Dave Clement, Mike Glicksohn, Robert J. Berlien, and Geri, and artwork by Larry Becker, Erin McKee, Glen Tenhoff, Robert Pasternak, Robert J. Berlein, and Giovanna Fregni.

MIMOSA, August, 1988, Dick and Nicki Lynch, P.O. Box 1270, Germantown, MD, 20874. 42 pp. Available for \$2. This is a quite entertaining fanzine, plus it has a bunch of names I remember from the brief period I was in SFPA. I don't know if it still is but SFPA sure did have huge mailings. Anyway, there's entertaining stuff about life and stuff from Dick and Nicki, some interesting conversations with Roger Sims, Howard Devore, Lynn Hickman, and Ray Beam, another Farm article by Robert Lichtman, an article about Claude Degler by Dal Cogger, more articles about life from Sharon Farber, Carolyn Doyle, Greg Hills, a Hoax Convention Report by Alan Hutchinson, and LoCs. Artwork was done by Alan Hutchinson, Brad Foster, Wade Gilbreath, Alexis Gilliland, Jeanne Gomoll, Teddy Harvia, David Haugh, Craig Hilton, David Rose, Julia Scott, and Charlie Williams.

Rogue Raven 38, Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98166. 10 pp. This is a personalzine and some LoCs. I have always enjoyed this and find both his writing and what he writes about interesting and entertaining. It's not everybody's cup of tea but I like it.

Wing Window 11, John D. Berry, 525 19th Avenue East, Seattle, WA, 98112. 4 pp. Another personalzine that I've always enjoyed. John is an excellent writer and artist and really should do more.

FILE 770:78, Mike Glyer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401. 20 pp. 5 issues/\$5. A very good newszine. This issue includes news about TAFF (Robert Lichtman won), DUFF (John D. Berry won), Britain, Bid News (How come I don't know these people that are bidding for the San Francisco Worldcon?), various and sundry convention reports, even the N3F. Nice artwork too.

Fuck The Tories 6, Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh St, Pimlico, London, SW1V 2ER. Available for the usual. And did they finally get a copy of Satanic Verses? It was out of stock here locally but I finally got one about a month ago. Anyway, this is one of the best genzines around. Great stuff about daily life from Judith and Joseph, 20 Never Before Revealed True Facts About the Assassination of President Kennedy by Mike Shearing, a CD List from Joseph, an article by Leigh Edmonds, U.S. trip report by Joseph, and various and sundry pieces of art and cartoons. Oh, there is also a strange shopping article by Judith. P.S. There was an excellent article by John D. Berry in #5 if you happen to see it laying around someplace.

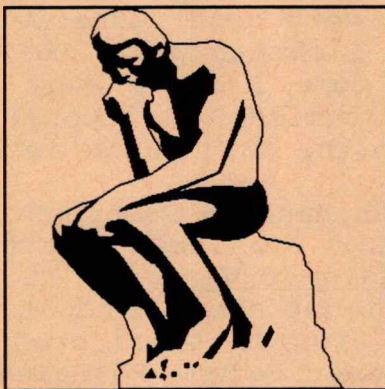
Outworlds 59, Bill Bowers, 4651 Glenway Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45238. 4 pp. Always entertaining reading but a little slim this time Bill. I'm trying to remember if I got #60 yet and have just stuck it in the wrong pile. Hmm.

torus 4, The Kamikaze Editorial Collective, P.O. Box 186, Stn. M, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6S 4T3. The Kamikaze Editorial Collective is Lloyd Penney, Keith Soltys, and Michael Wallis. This is a fairly professional looking fanzine. I'm trying to figure out if it's just photocopied or offset. This issue includes the editorial by Keith Soltys, serious articles by Robin Rowland and Karen Wehrstein, an Interview with Orson Scott Card, a story by Terri Neal, and LoCs. There is also a nice portfolio by Taral, and other artwork by Michael Skeet, William Rotsler, Brad Foster, and Phil Tortorici. An interesting fmz but I wish I had #3 with Taral article about Canadian apas.

Ben's Beat 13, Ben Indick, 428 Sagamore Ave, Teaneck, NJ. 19 pp. This is a FAPA zine by Ben. He has some interesting fmz and books reviews and lots of interesting mailing comments. I enjoyed it but I think it's primarily for FAPA. Nice cover by Brad Foster.

BSFAN 17, A Organ of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, ed. by Elaine Stiles, 8631 Lucerne Rd., Randallstown, MD 21133. Here's another good fanzine. This one contains the editorial by Elaine, an article about Faaaanfiction by rich brown, an interesting piece by Taral (words not artwork), A Conspiracy Report by Steve Stiles (with additional notes by Steve Brown), an article by Alexis Gilliland, and LoCs. Also there is artwork by Alexis Gilliland, Bill Rotsler, Steve Stiles, Taral, and Kip Williams.

Well, I'd actually better end at this point. I have some fmz around I'd like to mention but I'm sort of running beyond my page limit and time limit since I want to get this reproduced tomorrow or the next day. Apologies to all who have sent me their fanzine and it hasn't appeared in these pages. These reviews/listings are a bit brief. Any comments about length/content would be appreciated, even ones which say I should give up.



LOCS

This is obviously the LOCS section. I do appreciate LoCs but I may edit them slightly because I don't want this thing to get too big and unwieldy. If I cut something you think should not have been cut, I apologize. Such is life.



Cy Chauvin
14248 Wilfred
Detroit, MI 48213

I supposed I worry a little about getting old too like you and Bill, and so I faithfully put money in my IRA account every year. Perhaps because we don't have children who might look out for us when we're older and worry a little for us it seems a little more troubling. Obviously the solution is a fannish retirement village. Why I think Tucker probably has enough bricks by now and ...

// Actually I don't think that it is just fans. I recently saw an item on TV which pointed out that many people in their twenties and thirties were not saving, particularly those without children, something about Yuppies haven't looked that far ahead yet. It was a rather blanket statement but seems true for most of the people I know. I've started a 401k plan at my new job. I'm not entirely sure what a 401k plan is, but ... //

Customs at Toronto International Airport is pretty strict/awful. (I left from there to go to England.) I was body searched by this Indian with an electronic wand. In contrast, the customs in the UK were simple. No one looked at my bags. They even ~~forget to see~~ ~~if~~-overlooked the fact that I forgot to sign my passport! And of course the customs between Windsor/Detroit often seem a joke, with the thousands that commute through every day.

I once made some pumpkin soup for some people (including Denise Rehse) but I can't say it was really good, and I'm fond of pumpkin too. I really liked the mini-pumpkin pies I had at a party once (too small even to be called "tarts", I think). (Besides, tarts always accost Tony Cvetko, and these little pastries sat nice and quiet, even though he was there.)

I sort of like the idea of a convention that is held at least partly outdoors (like Midwestcon at least used to have a swimming pool outside). But maybe a convention wouldn't be a "con" if it was held at a farm, but it still could be fun.

// I have this horrible propensity to start climbing things when I've drunk too much and the weather is nice and things are being held outside. People become very irritated with me for some reason or another. Well I've actually only done this three or four times, which isn't bad over a twenty year period and I never once hurt myself doing said climbing. It might be interesting on a farm, except who would do the cooking? Several things to be consider here, such as cooking talent/ability, dealing with more than one cook in the kitchen at a time, who owns the kitchen, and of course, who does the clean up, especially after a particularly messy chef? //

Like you and Wm., I often think of "dropping out" of it all. So much of modern American culture just seems pointless to me. All these things we work long hours to buy in order to work long hours, etc. And it's just that when I look closely at what I do at my job, that seems pretty stupid too, even though my boss believes it important. I have a list of faraway places I think I'd like to

visit, most of which are sparsely inhabited. Gosh, you have a letter from Don Fitch, emerged from gaffiation (or perhaps just fanacing in an area that doesn't intersect with mine). I hope you all have fun at Ditto. I actually think I might be more tempted to visit SF in January for Sercon -- I've always visited SF in October. But the really important question is, How have the earthquakes been lately?

// We've only had two in the last month or so. It was great fun at work on the third floor when it felt like somebody had just grabbed the building and gave it a couple of hard shakes. My office is only three or four blocks from Great America, an amusement park. Think of the fun people could have had there. They probably wouldn't have noticed on some of the rides. Unfortunately the park hasn't open for the summer yet. Oh well. //

If I haven't mentioned it before, I really like the typeface on your zine. And it looks even better now that it's not pale white.

// I usually don't include compliments but I did this one so that I could ask you what you think of the new typeface(s). The italics I'm using now are downloaded to the printer and are not the same font, unfortunately. //



**Ben Indick
428 Sagamore Dr.
Teaneck, NJ 07666**

It was awfully nice to see all those names from yesterday -- yours, Bill Breiding, Bruce Townley -- all of you quite grown up now (NB I speak as a geriate fan near 66).

I think many of your comments about fandom are true. It is a sort of never-never land in stasis. Still, although I do not get to Cons anymore, it is nice to know it exists. I enjoy doing my couple apazines, which do not really have to please anyone, since I do them for myself. If anyone likes any part of them, well, that's a bonus.

I share your enthusiasm for Charles Willeford. My buddy Don Herron (of SF) is a major Charles Willeford fan and editor. He helped on a posthumous collection of short stories, essays and letters, a small edition from Dennis McMillan -- I forget the title!

I'm nearly distressed at your review of Phantom of the Opera -- I have to assume you saw it in SF, a road show. This is too bad. It is impossible to do a traveling show as it is done in NYC or London, where a theatre is adapted for it. Phantom is and always has been a dumb story, but the production on Broadway is superb, even spectacular. It is a grand show. You'll have to take my word for it.



Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

The ninth Skug creates an uncanny aura of immediacy, as if I'd joined one of those electronic fanzine circuits and it had spewed forth something far more extensive than the bulletin board creations normally are. You speak of starting it six days ago and finishing it yesterday and you apparently invented a time machine so it could be postmarked Feb. 21. All this has shocked me into an immediate loc, the way I used to behave when I was young and gungho for fanac.

// Well this one took a little longer to put out. Hopefully I didn't wait too long to do it. Actually it wasn't a matter of waiting as much as it was a matter of getting everything set up and figured out, dealing with work/school, and pulling myself away from other stuff. It wasn't that hard pulling myself away from yardwork today, however. Pulling weeds never was one of my favorite things to do. I feel required to put in a couple hours every now and then since we have so many weeds at the moment. I even planted some stuff today, six yarrow plants and two clematis. I still have four more clematis to plant and Patty has three rose bushes she wants to put out. Hopefully we get these out before going to Corflu. //

I regret having failed to watch Lonesome Dove. It will probably rerun because its rating were so high. I like Westerns when they're either the old B movies of the 1930s or the thoughtful ones like Shane or Hud, although I can't endure the ones that attempt to crowd into the frame of the Western social problems that don't really fit there. The only thing I've watched on over-the-air broadcast tv stations in the past few weeks was a dreadful movie called Bridesmaids which I endured because one of my favorite actresses, Brooke Adams, was in the cast. I'll probably waste four or five apa stencils soon detailing all the things I found wrong with it and how the film struck me as a complete illustration of where modern life has gone wrong.

// Tonight the new Around the World in 80 Days is on with, um, Pierce Brosnan, I believe. My TV addiction may very well pull me away from this to check that out. However it does run for three nights I believe. I have some reading for work I want to do in addition to putting this out and then there's tentative fanzine reviews and Owen Meany. //

It's very good to know you found a better job with so little effort and no job hunting ordeal during worklessness. As you suspected, the technical chatter was completely beyond my narrow circle of knowledge but it sounds very impressive. I have the vaguest of uncertain memory that there used to be a Siemens record label years ago specializing in classical music, but if there really was such a thing, I haven't seen mention of it for a long while.

// I haven't seen mention of a Siemens record label at work. They do put up bulletins about buying Siemens telephones from the operations someplace in Florida. //

It shouldn't have been any problem to get that jet fighter from

Seattle to San Francisco. If it's typical of Boeing products, it would have disassembled itself into small pieces for easy transportation.

Hagerstown is a red hot spot for train enthusiasts just now, although it may cool off in a hurry. There's an enormous roundhouse in town which is no longer needed and the railroad company that owns it planned to tear it down. Both locally and nationally, railroad fans began efforts to preserve it for a railroad museum possibly combined with other uses. But the prospects don't look good. The railroad people seem to fear that any such use would interfere with their railroad operations in the general vicinity, and moreover the structure is filled with asbestos that would cost an enormous amount to remove before it could be turned to public purposes. There's also talk of establishing a scenic passenger train route from Baltimore to Oakland in the far western corner of Maryland, 180 miles in length, over the old Western Maryland Railway right of way, and it would come through Hagerstown.

I do turn up the treble control on my preamp as Don Fitch suggests, but only by a moderate amount, and it doesn't help much. If I turn up the control very far the music sounds shrill and I'm still unable to hear the highest fundamentals and harmonics. I don't know exactly where my hearing now cuts off completely, but the topmost keys on my piano with fundamentals in the vicinity of 4,000 Hz produce to my ears almost as much noise from the impact of the mechanics as the amount of tone I hear. Back in 1954, I believe it was, we got our first television set and I was able to hear the extremely high pitched whistle it created, around 18,000 Hz, so I've fallen off a long way. Curiously, solo violin music is the hardest for me to hear. I have little trouble with a solo flute in much the same register, but for some reason the solo violin is so faint it ruins my enjoyment of violin concertos and sonatas.

Haydn's symphonies nos. 41 through 49, with the exception of no. 45, are usually considered the main expression of his Sturm und drang period. They have minor keys predominating, modulations are more daring, melodies tend to have wide skips, and there are lots of spots that sound Beethovenish. Apparently that temporary change in his symphonic style resulted from some sort of personal crisis, perhaps sexual in nature. If you like Goethe's Werther, you might want to explore Massenet's opera. Most Frenchmen who drew their opera plots from Goethe sentimentalized and watered them down terribly, but Massenet's opera retains much of the spirit of the novelette. All winter I've been fretting with indecision over whether I should buy a videotape which turns the opera into a movie. It got a rather bad review in Opera News, because it's cut and the video quality isn't first rate. But it has my favorite contemporary singer, Brigitte Fassbaender, in the role of Charlotte and I don't think I can hold out long from making the purchase (and the day after I send in the order, I'll undoubtedly see it listed in the program schedules for PBS or Bravo).

// I'll look for the Massenet opera. I don't remember much about sexual crisis in Haydn's life. I believe he remained married to the same woman throughout his life. I don't think she was that infatuated with living at Prince Esterhazy's palace or whatever or I don't remember

that Haydn's marriage was that great. I'll have to look around to see if he had any extramarital affairs. Have you heard Kathleen Battle? I greatly enjoy her singing. //

If you're worrying about old age, that's a good sign. It might impel you eventually to start a systematic saving program or investment in annuities or something. So many fans seems sure the nation's economic system will collapse or nuclear war will end civilization before they become too old to work any longer. But it's an awful risk to count on disaster. I wouldn't have wanted to retire on just social security and my employer's pension plan, and some fans don't even have the latter in their future as a result of self-employment or too much jobhopping.

// See the above note about my new 401k plan. //



**Mike Glicksohn
508 Windermere Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6S 3L6
CANADA**

I expect you're right about UNSUB's lack of staying power but apart from its awful title I thought the first couple of episodes were rather interesting. I liked all the oddball technology they used, although my engineering background is so non-existent that I had no disbelief that needed suspending. I notice it wasn't on yesterday though so maybe it's already bought the farm.

// I have watched a couple more episodes. It has some interestingly macabre parts. //

I do hope you're wrong about the Smothers Brothers since I really enjoy their hour. I happen to like their own brand of humour and song but it's for guests like Steven Wright and the ventriloquist Lucas that I'd miss them. I'll have to hope their weird assortment of oddball acts has a wider appeal than I suspect it has.

Gee, I'm glad to know I wasn't the only one who used to puke over Topo Gigio! But what can you expect from someone who apparently thought Wayne and Shuster were the ultimate comedians?

Glad to read that micro-breweries are appearing in your area. There are half a dozen in the Toronto and local area and for the serious beer enthusiast their advent is one of the true milestones in the development of civilization. The best of the local ones have carved out a not-insignificant slice of the beer market and their products can be found in the federal beer stores not just in their own plants. For sure all my future large parties will include kegs of Connors as well as the lighter ordinary brews from the large commercial companies. Bring on the warm weather so I take my bike on the road and check out the newer ones that have opened some sixty miles west of here!

// You're going to bicycle sixty miles? //

I always read with some degree of bafflement of people's efforts and successes in finding new jobs. I've had the same job for the same employer for the last seventeen and a half years, ever since I started working full time. Just in the five years I lived with Doris she had about eight different jobs but you probably know how things go in the computer industry. Right now I see no real reason why I shouldn't reach retirement in the summer of 2004 without ever having had to quit a job in my life. Different strokes for us different folks, obviously.

Fascinating articles you reprinted. This is the second fanzine in less than a week that has had reprints of interesting/oddball items from the fringes of current technology and as a techno-illiterate I can certainly benefit from such efforts. I have a tendency to run a lustrum or two behind the cutting edge of modern high tech innovations (what's this I hear about TV in colour?) but at least now I'll have a better idea of what it is I'm not a part of.

I think you have to draw a line when it comes to using animals in experiments. Research that can significantly improve the human condition should, I feel, take precedence over the rights (if such exist) of animals. It's a tough life when you're low on the food chain but some things merit such sacrifices. What is completely indefensible to me is the suffering inflicted needlessly in such areas as cosmetic testing. They know certain substances will blind test animals but the damned stupid law says they must regularly force more creature to suffer unnecessarily. It would be a definite victory if the recent story in "Bloom County" had any effect on such matters but I'm not naive enough to believe it will. All in all it's not an easy matter to decide about.

// Did you see the new Tarzan in Manhattan about experiments on chimpanzees. They're everywhere? I still haven't seen that many shows about abortion rights and anti-abortion activists yet on TV. Could be the network is just the tiniest bit worried about backlash of some sort or another. //

Someone probably cornered the market in Morning Funnies #1 and has a warehouse filled with boxes in case they become collectors items sometime in the future. Just think what you'd be worth with several thousand original Captain Midnight Decoder Rings to sell to avid collectors. (One at a time, of course, so as not to deflate the market.) Of course, if there's any justice all that sugar and all those chemicals will mutate into some hideous life form which will destroy the entire state of California before drowning in the tidal waves caused by the earthquake such destruction would cause. But if there were any justice I never would have sold my near-mint copy of FANTASTIC FOUR #1 for the going price of \$50 in 1973, would I?

// Amazingly enough shortly after I wrote about Morning Funnies a bunch of #1 boxes appeared on the shelves. It seems that they were not either produced or distributed in a manner I would have assumed normal or logical. //

The very same Boyd Raeburn that Don mentions was, as you should recall, Gary, the Guest in Absentia of DITTO. (Not Ditto 1, which

doesn't exist. DITTO II exists and so did DITTO but there was nor will there ever be a DITTO 1, he sniffed.) And I'd expect that the sort of comparison Don should have made would have required a much larger number than \$15 (especially in a city where medium-priced hotel rooms run \$95 a throw!)

Don's also right about sight-seeing, at least for this fan. Go early or stay late for the "mundane" joys of the city; the con time itself can quite easily be taken up with people mingling and socializing.

It seems appropriate that I should read comments about airline safety on the day that the paper's headline story was about nine people being sucked out of a 747 at 22000 feet when a huge hole was torn in the side of the plane. The pilot then made aviation history by returning using only the two engines on one wing of the plane. Sure makes me glad I've decided my mortgage expenses are too high to justify my flying to conventions for the next couple of years!

As a dedicated enthusiast of middle-class existence I say there's nothing to be ashamed of in admitting that fact. On the other hand, I've never been all that worried about providing for the future, so I'm not one of those who constantly studies up on interest rates and mutual funds and securities and stuff like that. My main concern is whether or not the economy will survive the next fifteen years so that when I retire I can actually do some of the things I've thought about doing. If it doesn't, well maybe I could adjust to a minimal existence again . . . but I'd just as soon not have to find out. (A minimal existence is when you can only afford blended scotch rather than single malts, right?)



Don Fitch
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Covina, CA 91722

Your difficulty in maintaining the desired balance between your material and LetterCol might be solved, up to a point, by you writing more, but such an interesting and popular fanzine is always to be in peril of The CRY Syndrome -- The LetterCol Taking Over - - and eventually you'll have to adopt the solution of Editing, Rigorously. (I know, all too well, that some of us aren't highly talented along that line, but some things must be done.)

//By the way, did you see that CRY is to be restarted? //

You printed my previous loc, for example, complete except for one paragraph; I'll try to keep this one short, but The Nattering Habit is difficult to break. Most locs I write contain: A) material which interests me, B) material I think will interest the publisher, and C) material I think might some or most of the readers of the zine. It's the Editor's responsibility, I think, to select from this mish-mosh abundance those comments which fit

the editorial personality of the zine, and firmly blue-pencil the remainder.

// I was going to "blue-pencil" that last paragraph except for the fact that I wanted to note that I would rather you would not self-edit your letters. I like your letters a lot and even though I might find it difficult to cut some of it I'd feel even worse if I knew I was missing some stuff that I really wanted to read but just didn't have enough room for. Does this make sense? Is this selfish? //

With childhood memories of the last years of The Great Depression, I have a Gut Feeling that one simply does not quit a job . . . though I did do it, once, after being hired for another, with far better fringe benefits and prospects for advancement. But even so, I've held only three full-time jobs in my entire (and now completed) working life. You, of course, belong to a much more mobile generation, but even so, I'm in awe of your ability to write about a job change with no more emotion than you display in writing about a concert or new loudspeakers . . . though I suspect that's more a matter of You than of the generation to which you belong.

// Yes, I definitely agree that my emotional display is far more a matter of Me. I know some people of "my generation" that would gush over a lock of hair on a sidewalk. (What?) //

You certainly haven't attended many/any Southern California Conventions during the past decade; Regency Dancing is a distinct subset of fandom down here, though perhaps a less popular spin-off than the SCA (but similar to it in many respects). The particular culture being embraced in this particular rejection of the modern world is that of the British Regency -- the setting of Jane Austen's novels (and those of Barbara Courtland (?) and other writers of Historical Romances laid in that period). The Contra (or Country) Dances (of which Beethoven wrote at least a few) are rather stately and formal -- if I knew anything about the subject I'd suggest that they were allied to the Minuet and the Quadrille, and ancestral to the Virginia Reel -- interesting enough to watch for a while, but probably more fun to do.

I can't help wondering how one can tell whether or not a bagpiper is playing proficiently. (Actually, it probably wouldn't be too difficult since the music isn't all that alien. I can even -- much of the time -- tell when AmerInd Singers are proficient . . . and, especially, when they're not.)

Don't panic (too much) about not hearing such high notes as Patty can; if I understand correctly, women can generally hear higher notes than men. ## My loss started with the high notes, at about age 19 (unlike most of my companions, I could not hear the whine of incoming mortar rounds) and within ten years had progressed to inability to hear ordinary conversation, but again, Don't Panic; it was hereditary and almost precisely parallel to my father's, and doesn't seem to have gotten worse since then. ## Your famous Ambiguity enters into your comments about no longer wearing contact lenses; do you really mean that you haven't replaced them with ordinary glasses?

// Yes I have replaced them with ordinary glasses. I know someone that did these special

exercises for his eyes. He used to wear glasses but now does not. (And no, he doesn't bump into walls all the time). However I believe his eyesight was much better than mine to begin with.) //

I'm puzzled by Michael's comment that Minneapolis is too expensive to fly to and too far to drive to, unless he Really Hates Driving; it's my impression that driving and flying are about equally expensive. *sigh*

I'm also puzzled by his suspicion that I know more about most cities than the people who live in them . . . whether I've been there or not. Could that be sarcasm? (I do kinda Pontificate, sometimes.) No, not from Glicksohn; maybe he has me confused with Phil Paine, or maybe he remembers that I looked relaxed after transversing Canberra. My Real Secret is that I'm so used to getting lost in cities that I'm quite comfortable about it . . . and, after all, places discovered while one is Lost are often quite as interesting as the places to which one intended to go.

// I agree about the interest of newly discovered places. Usually when driving someplace within San Francisco I just head in the general direction. Patty gets a little perturbed with this method at times for more often than not she believes there is a far more direct and quicker route. I usually don't disagree with that opinion but I've found some really interesting places just by sort of wondering around (I guess that goes for thinking too). //

By all means, publish the pumpkin bars and cheesecake recipes -- I've had this quart of pumpkin in the freezer since a few days after Halloween . . .

And I'd sure like to see more reviews or listing of fanzines; it doesn't feel right to complain that not enough genzines are being published in these decadent days, when I don't get many that are being published.



**Wilson Tucker
2516/H East Washington St.
Bloomington, IL 61704**

I'm a train fan. Not a model train fan with a railroad in my bedroom or den, but a fan of large, real, by-gosh steam locomotives. I've been a train fan ever since my early teenage years when I ran away from an orphanage and hit the road, the railroad. I rode boxcars all about the midwest, sometimes looking for work and sometimes just getting away from the last town to find out what the next town was like. I've been picked up by the railroad police and kicked off railroad property, and picked up by village police and kicked out of town, but in the end I always went back to the rails and hopped the next train out.

About 1933 I had a hankering to see the World's Fair in Chicago, but had only about ten dollars to my name, so I hopped a freight into the city. And I managed to spend the entire weekend there

(living in skid row hotels for 25 cents a night) and saw all of the Fair, and came home on a freight with a little money left over.

I'm still a train fan, although the steam locomotives are long gone. I take trains to many conventions rather than fly in. The Amtrack coach cars have seats as wide and as long as first class seats in airliners and you can buy food and drinks in the club car and bring them back to your seat.

*// There are still steam locomotives at a number of different locations in California that are run by train fans. Some of their runs are only a mile or two some much longer. The times on the rails you mention sound great. I do wonder about the bad times/occurrences though.
//*

Another subject: I knew what a skate was when you mentioned it in your barbecue report but, dumb me, I thought you had typoed and misspelled "steak" when writing about it. See what happens when I try to out-guess you?

Another subject again: I've ridden first class on airlines a few times, although I didn't pay for the privilege. The government enforces a rule called "Rule 240" which airlines must honor when they are responsible for you missing a flight. That is, when they cancel or lose the flight you are booked on. You getting a hotel room and a meal voucher for your cancelled flight was "Rule 240" in practice. They must make amends in some way, and put you on another flight on another airline when possible.

In general, if the airline is clearly at fault and if they cannot get you to your destination with two hours of your originally scheduled arrival time, they must make amends. They do not have to volunteer this information however. It is up to you, the passenger, to request a "Rule 240" settlement.

In the past I have cited this rule on three occasions. The first two times they upped me to first class on the next flight out, as compensation. The third time, the clerk merely glared at me and said "sorry". I could have reported him to the FAA but didn't. First class seats are, indeed, as wide and as comfortable as ordinary seats in Amtrack coaches. They serve meals on real china, all drinks are free, and quite often there are free headphones to listen to taped programs. I don't listen to the music, however. I ask the stewardess for the channel number to the cockpit, and then listen to the pilot as he talks to the various control towers from here to there. I much prefer that because at home I have a radio that listens to the nearby airport tower, and I've learned most of the special lingo that pilots and controllers say to each other.

// I don't know if I would like to listen to the pilot or not, at least not when they had discovered a bomb, hole in the fuselage, dead engine, etc. and were temporarily trying to keep it from the passengers. I would rather stay ignorant as long as possible in these circumstances.//

And yet another subject: if you would live in the desert and have visions, do as the ancient Hebrews did: eat roasted or baked

locusts and wander about a lot. They dined on those delicacies as they wandered, and their visions were often reported in various religious books.

// I understand many insects are quite high in protein content. I guess you could consider their exoskeletons as good roughage. Let me think about that one for a while. //

WAHF: John R. Benson, Taral, and also received Spirochete 47 from Redd Boggs. Included with Redd Boggs' zine was a copy of a letter from Barbara Harmon on the death of Elmer Perdue. Definitely sorry to hear about that.

Final apologies to anyone I forgot to mention. Hopefully my home publishing of SKUG will get a little more organized next time around and the next issue should come out a little quicker also. It will probably contain a Corflu 6 convention report which I'll be going to at the end of this week. -- Gary