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The Knarley Knews

Issue 81 - April, 2000

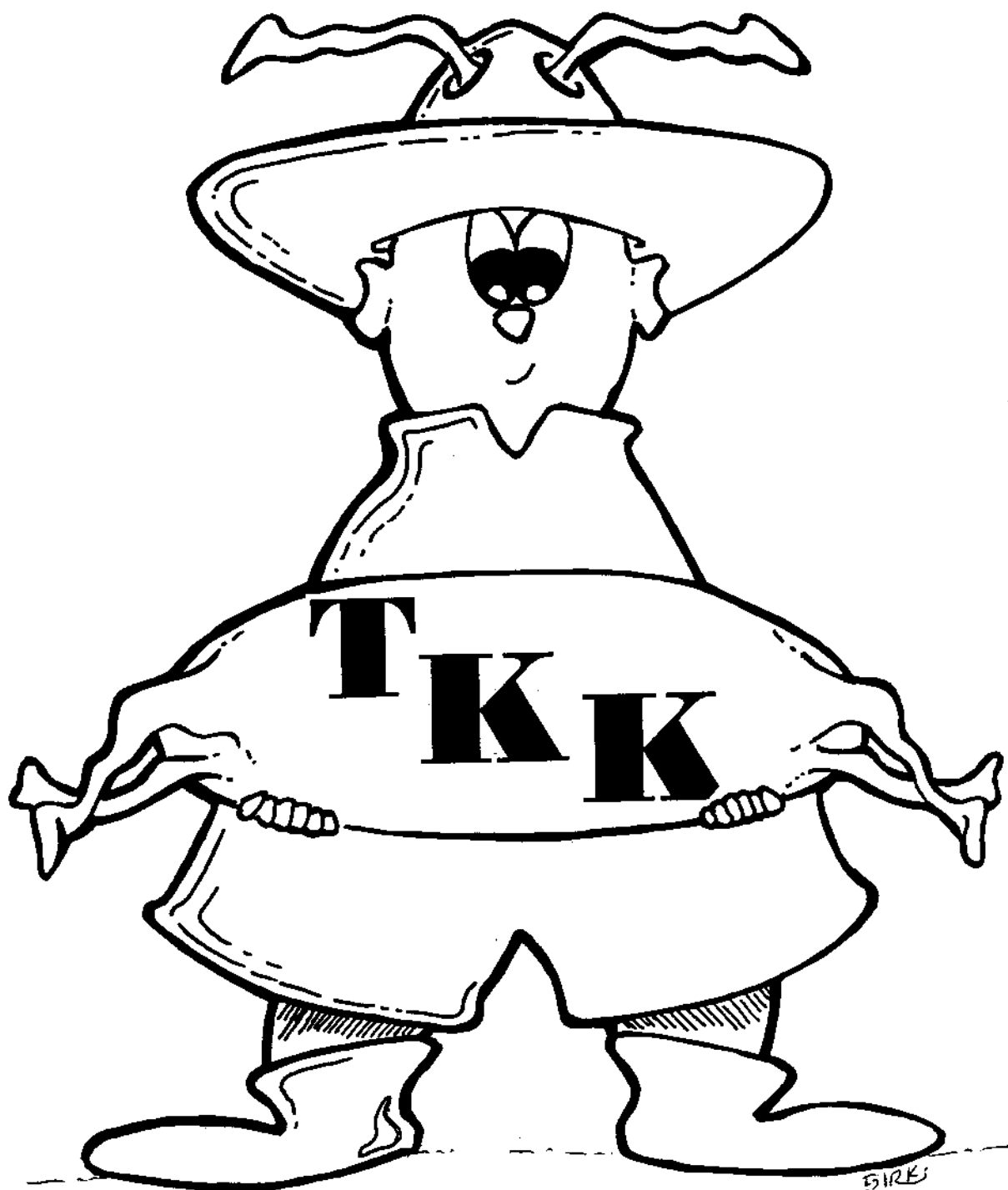


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Ms. TKK:

Editorial and Subscription Policy

The Knarley Knews is meant to be a general purpose fanzine whose primary goal is to maintain lines of communication between the editors and those beings they consider to be friendly. With this in mind, the following are the general guidelines.

1. All contributions may include a pseudonym (e.g. Knarley, Sydrous, Shit-for-Brains) at the contributor's whim.
2. To get this fanzine you are required semi-yearly to initiate contact with the editors. This could be a postcard, phone call, your fanzine, or contribution of your choice. The editors, of course, prefer a contribution so they don't have to write so much. This notwithstanding, you may purchase copies for \$1.50 each.
3. Advertising is free provided that the ads are of interest to the editors and that it is for a non-profit organization.
4. It is the editors' policy not to unduly censor or restrict the ideals of free speech. (We like a good argument as much as the next guy.) However, we reserve the right to make minor content and format changes to fit your piece in or to add appropriately denoted editorial comments.
5. Contributions are currently acceptable using the following computer formats.
IBM: Virtually any format
MACINTOSH: Virtually any format
6. The editors are open to bribes of any size and have never turned down a financial contribution.

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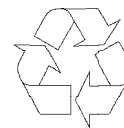
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Editorial

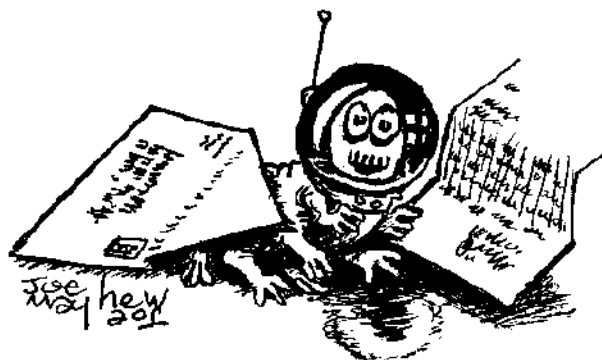
(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

This issue is late, very late. It was due out in April and here it is mid-May and I'm finally finishing up. There are too many little factors that add up my tardiness, but the bottom line is I just didn't get around to it. It typically only takes me two or three long days/evenings to get an issue together. One to type in the snail mail LOCs, another to edit in the e-mail LOCs and contributions, and a final session to do the artwork, spell checking, editorial and miscellaneous whatever. Typically I can find the time to do this over one or two weekends. I had penciled in the two weekends following the tax filing deadline (April 17th). We filed near the wire this year since we had initially thought that the bookkeeping software for Letha's business was screwing up the data big time. It turns out that the tax preparer had read the wrong line in figuring cost-of-goods sold and would up about \$4000 off in the governments favor.

Somehow I never really got around to the issue. I've been burning much of my Sunday on lecture preparation, etc. (the glories of PowerPoint mentioned last issue) and somehow found excuses (new computer games, naps, very nice outside weather, etc.) to not get started. It also took me way too long to prepare the "Credit Card Abuse" column because I've been lax over the past few months entering the data.

The last time I wrote about his a bunch of you chimed in and said that maybe I should take a hiatus if this was all too much work and the point is that it is just not it. I have toyed with going quarterly, but that will have some impact on the immediacy of the LOC column which is one of the more consistent aspects of the zine. I'm not ready for gafia, fafia, or whateveria; I'm just tired of working at the computer and expect the 3 month layoff from work without lecture preparation to be a big help. (NOTE: I'm still going to lie a bit and use the April publish date, so sue me.)

I should hear tomorrow whether the job I've lined up for the summer will pan out. One of the regents of MSOE stated a company a few years ago that specializes in e-commerce to deliver medical and related supplies to nursing homes and hospitals. The beauty of the system is that the only two people that have to do anything are the person that orders the goods and the person that packs them for shipping. The purchase orders, invoices, payments, and so forth are all processed electronically and never see a printer or fax machine. My role will be to head up a research and development effort to look at adapting their business model and software to accommodate small- and medium-sized suppliers who cannot afford or justify the fully integrated system. I'll get to work with a number of current and former students which will be interesting.



One of the ongoing threads in the LOCcol has been the issue of sending cash through the mail. I've maintained that it is illegal (I'd always heard this) to send cash out of the country. Others of you have been equally passionate in saying that this is simply not the case. I decided that I should look into it.

The US Postal Service maintains an extensive web site (<http://pe.usps.gov/cpim/ftp/manuals/Imm/immicl/immiclcd.pdf>) which contains all the rules for using the mail system to send whatever wherever. It is a bit of work since the document is 100's of pages long and the pdf files are broken into small chunks making what you are looking for hard to find.

The bottom line is that the rules vary from country to country. Being basically lazy I was not willing to search multiple files for all the countries listed so I concentrated on Canada figuring that the rules for Canada would be the laxest of the lot. Here is what I found:

Coins; banknotes; currency notes; securities payable to bearer; traveler's checks; gold, silver, platinum, manufactured or not; jewelry; and other valuable articles may be sent only in registered letter packages.

Banknotes valued at \$100 or more must be put up in a compact package and securely tied with strong twine before wrapping. The wrapper must be linen or other strong, woven material, linen lined paper, or two thicknesses of strong kraft paper. After wrapping, the package must be again securely tied or stitched and sealed at the points of closing.

Registered mail to Canada has an indemnity limit of \$1,000, with the exception of cash that has an indemnity limit of \$200.

This essentially says that you cannot simply tuck a bank note in with a letter. Since other countries were also in the same file I looked up Cambodia and found that the sending of cash is strictly prohibited. So next time you think about sending cash, you better do some research if you want to stay law abiding.

MORE WITCHARD'S ARMAGNAC?

“But Is It Real?”

Witchard's Armagnac is a potent spirit that some say adds clarity to otherwise muddled thought. Let's hope.

E.R. Stewart

When Dahmer was caught many asked what took so long. Did no one notice? His neighbors all denied suspecting, even with rotting flesh stench emanating from the premises.

This led to condemnation of uncaring police, willfully blind neighbors, and the apathy and callousness generally infecting modern USA. Big talk about how fragmented the USA had become clogged the media until the next phosphor-dot wonder came along. The spectre of family values was once again raised, exorcised, and banished in a typical fit of political opportunism and expedience.

Well, it's not USA's problem alone, as was proven by the recent cult murders discovered in Uganda, in Africa. Neighbors of a house where at least 70 people were murdered and buried – some in the basement, others in the yard – all claim to have noticed not a think out of the ordinary. This despite the victims all having come from elsewhere – did they not wonder where all the strangers went? They didn't care. It's human nature, not American.

“Am I my brother's keeper?” – Cain.

“What, me worry?” – Alfred E. Newman of *MAD Magazine*.

A blind eye, a deaf ear, and thou...

This latest horror happened in Uganda, where Big Daddy Idi Amin once served human flesh at state dinners. The death-toll is near a thousand now and still growing as more graves are sought. It all gained media attention when a church burned and was found to have been crammed full of people and locked from within.

No one knows if the pair of excommunicated Catholic priests and the woman who channeled Mother Mary survive, but this trio led the cult – and demanded all members' earthly possessions. Supposedly when a group demanded their property & money back, the killing commenced.

Cynics bet the leaders are living the good life elsewhere yet Uganda maintains a special national task force specifically to keep an eye on dangerous cults. So how could these criminals escape without detection? It has been reported that one of the Ugandan government ministers knew this cult was dangerous, yet did nothing.

Was he looking the other way? Why would he do that? Pay-offs? Bribes? Kick-backs? Baksheesh is as notorious in Africa as it is elsewhere, after all.

Cults are profitable for those at the top of the pyramid scheme. Murder in remote areas is a good way to disappear.

If we look at it cynically, we see how easy it can be to manipulate the lost, the gullible, and the desperate. Someone without scruples can eradicate witnesses and evidence at will and bribe his way to the good life.

Human nature makes this possible and inadequate information conspires with insufficient laws to make it easy.

Please note that this latest doomsday cult or millennial cult or cult of no return – pick a trendy term – is not only nothing new but stems from a pair Roman Catholic priests, not from a fringe group of alienated loonies or freaked-out goth losers.

These whirlpools spin off from the mainstream. These aren't weirdoes, they are you and me. These are people like us who had their own best qualities – hope, trust, belief – used against them in the most appalling betrayal.

While skeptics with a hard “k” like Martin Gardner or Joe Nickell count techniques, assess methods, and list tell-tales to look out for, the truth is any of us might fall for such a scam because they're designed to take advantage of what's common to all of us, and best in each of us. Being wary or even skeptical with a hard “k” isn't enough – to escape this life unscammed one must be unnaturally lucky.

But Chance is a whole other confidence game...

Well, bottle's closed. Hope such a short snort did you some good. And if you liked it, come back again for more, on various topics.



MY REALITY CHECKS ARE BOUNCING

A somewhat regular column about whatever strikes my fancy

© 2000 by Alexander Bouchard

Rethinking the Paradigm

Well, as always, circumstances alter cases. I haven't been working for the Post Awful now for fifteen months, and my mental stability hasn't been better in years. However, the fact that I haven't been working makes our financial situation precarious, at best.

The "extra time" (a precious illusion at best, a burning frustration at worst) this produced, that would have enabled me to fill up the time with fanac, was instead packed to the gunwales with miscellaneous administrivia, most of it having to do with the <(SERIES OF UNBELIEVABLY HORRIFIC EXPLETIVES DELETED)> lackwits that warm chairs in various bureaus and offices, inside and outside the Post Awful.

In addition to all this bureaucratic felgercarb, and the ensuing legal maneuvering that obtained, there has been the need to put me in relatively intensive therapy to maintain whatever mental health I went in with, to find and maintain some sort of income to keep a roof over our heads, to keep receiving the medical care we need in order just to survive, and the necessary time for actual physical chores of the day-to-day sort, like shopping, like laundry, like cleaning.

Needless to say, there hasn't been a whole lot of time to put out another ish of my fanzine.

I have been rethinking what I intended to do with my zine in the first place, because what has happened certainly hasn't been the way I intended it in the beginning. What I'd wanted to put out was a fairly frequent medium-sized zine, maybe every quarter to every other month, with a bunch of good stuff in it.

As I'm sure you guessed, *scopus:3007* hasn't turned out that way. Oh, I'm not saying that it doesn't (or didn't) have a bunch of good stuff in it. just that it ended up being almost at the FantasyScope end of frequent. (Hi, Roger!)

Maybe it's time to rethink the paradigm. reformulate the objectives. move to a newer view of the old vision.

And in a less expensive version, too? One can only hope.

And so, through the murky vapors clouding the future, we press onward, only seeming to learn when the future becomes the past.

Recovery

As I sit writing this, I am six days post-operative for having major throat surgery. (Major for a forty-three year old, at least. I had a uvulopalatoplasty, which is where the surgeon reduces the size of the uvula and soft palate, and while he was in there, he did a tonsillectomy and removed my adenoids.) I am weak, tired, frustrated, and grumpy as hell. All these are being taken as signs that I'm "in recovery".

I have the second-worst sore throat I've ever had, very little (if any) patience with anyone other than Megan, and a great burning desire for hot, spicy junk food. At least now I'm not sleeping sixteen to eighteen hours a day. I get up, I take my antibiotics, I try to keep drinking, I eat little somethings, I take pain medications, I nap, I peck at the computer, I try to stay cheerful, and helpful, and focused. And what I want to do, at the root, is cuddle up in bed, in my comforter with Megan, and tell the rest of the world to take a walk out the nearest airlock without a suit.

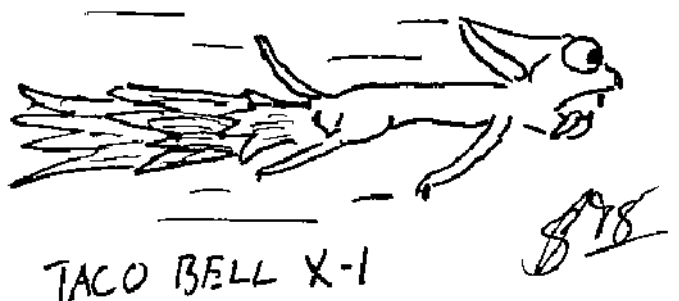
The surgery I had is supposed to help the obstructive sleep apnea I was diagnosed with, and, to date, it has helped some; it's still too early to say for sure. It has helped the snoring that went with the apnea to some degree, although my throat is still too swollen to be sure. (The stitches come out in about another week to ten days.)

Before this time, I had had an inkling of just how poisonous I'm capable of being. now, after these six days, I know for certain how much like a pony nuke with a hair trigger I can be. This is not a comforting thought.

What this process is going to mean to me in the long run is probably not going to be evident right off, but what it means right now, at this moment, is a bit disturbing. I'm capable of being a much worse person than I had thought I could be.

I have to keep an eye on that tendency. It could get me into serious trouble, if I'm not careful.

Shredded paper packaging material!



Credit Card Abuse Take 4

A Look Into the Wacky World of Capitalism

by Knarley

Yet another year has come and gone and I in my somewhat anal-retentive nature have quietly recorded all of the unsolicited credit applications Letha and I have received. I suppose it is unfair to continue to call this column “Credit Card Abuse” when about half of the prospective credit grantors are for personal loans or home equity lines of credit. So what, “Credit Card Abuse” has a certain ring to it.

The damages this year come to nearly US\$2.5 million which is a 14% drop from a year ago, but the total number of offers rose sharply from 112 to 133 with 60 unique offers. The deflation if you will is probably due to the high persistence of some of the credit issuers and the fiscal responsibility shown by others.

The persistence award has to go to the Discover Platinum Card with 10 attempts with the same offer. A very close second (or first depending upon how you count things) goes to the Citibank Platinum Select MasterCard with 9 attempts with the same offer and a total of 14 offers in five variations. Not to be forgotten are the Fleet Platinum MasterCard (9 attempts), Community Bank of Northern Virginia (9 attempts), and CapitalOne Bank (18 attempts with 6 variations).

The creativity award goes to the MBNA bank which now has most of the professional and technical societies shilling for it. Variations this year include The American Society for Engineering Education, National Society of Professional

Engineers, and the Association for Computing Machinery. Conspicuously absent from that list this year is the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. With a trend like this I should probably offer to sponsor a card for my subscribers and make *The Knarley Knews* a profit making enterprise. Would you sign up for one?

The complete fiscal irresponsibility awards should be shared between the CapitalOne VISA Signature Card which comes with no credit limit and the BankOne Home Equity Service which offered us up to US\$500,000 on a home equity loan for a home that is in no danger of qualifying.

Once again in honor of April 15th (US tax filing day) I present my modest proposal for retiring the national debt.

Step 1: Every family in the US should apply for all the unsolicited credit they receive.

Step 2: Request cash advance checks for the entire amount and turn it over to the federal government for debt reduction.

Step 3: Declare bankruptcy.

If we assume that there are about 90 million families in the US with a success rate of 2.8% of my grand total (US\$70,000 per family) we can retire a debt of over US\$6 trillion and leave the wretched credit card companies holding the proverbial bag. How about it?

Who	Issuer	Qty	Guar.	Up To	Amount
Letha	Discover Platinum Card	10		25000	25000
Letha	Citibank Platinum Select MasterCard	9			
Letha	Citibank Platinum Select VISA	1			
Henry	CitiBank Driver's Edge	1			
Henry	Citibank AAdvantage Card	1			
Letha	CitiBusiness Platinum Select MasterCard	2			
Letha	CapitalOne Platinum MasterCard	7		20000	20000
Letha	CapitalOne VISA Signature	1	No Limit		
Letha	Capital One Platinum VISA	4		20000	20000
Child	CapitalOne VISA	2		1000	1000
Letha	CapitalOne Platinum Milestone VISA	3		20000	20000
Henry	Fleet Platinum MasterCard	9		50000	50000
Henry	USAA Platinum MasterCard	3		25000	25000
Henry	USAA Platinum Eagle Points Reward Card	2		25000	25000
Henry	ASEE Platinum Plus MasterCard (MBNA)	1		50000	50000
Henry	NSPE Platinum Plus MasterCard (MBNA)	1		50000	50000
Henry	ACM Platinum Plus MasterCard (MBNA)	2		100000	100000

Who	Issuer	Qty	Guar.	Up To	Amount
Letha	MilesOne Platinum VISA	2		20000	20000
Letha	American Express Corporate Optima	2		50000	50000
Letha	Optima Platinum Card	1		100000	100000
Both	Traveller's Bank Platinum MasterCard	4		50000	50000
Both	Wachovia's Prime for Life Gold MasterCard	3		12000	12000
Henry	EDVANCE Platinum MasterCard	2		50000	50000
Both	Walmart	2			
Letha	Chase Platinum VISA	1		100000	100000
Letha	Partners First Platinum MasterCard	1		25000	25000
Henry	Provident Bank Platinum VISA	1		20000	20000
Henry	Marcus Rewards Platinum MasterCard	1		10000	10000
Henry	Associated Bank Platinum VISA	1	5000		5000
Henry	AMTRAK VISA	1		2000	2000
Henry	AT&T Universal Platinum MasterCard	1			
Henry	Security First Network Bank Gold VISA	1			
Henry	Amoco Gasoline Credit Card	1			
Henry	JC Penney	1			
Letha	MBNA GoldOption Loan	2		25000	25000
Henry	TCF Command Credit	1		10000	10000
Letha	MBNA Unsecured Personal Loan	1		25000	25000
Henry	Fleet Instant Advantage	1	4500		4500
Henry	Associates Capital Bank	1	2000		2000
Both	Community Bank of Northern Virginia	9		69375	69375
Letha	Resource Bank	4	45250		45250
Both	GE Capital Financial BonusBack Loan	4		20000	20000
Letha	SMC Lending	3		35000	35000
Letha	payoffyourbills.com	2			
Both	Bank One Home Equity	2		500000	500000
Letha	Mutual Savings Bank	1		100000	100000
Both	The Money Store	2		39018	39018
Letha	First Union	1		250000	250000
Both	DiTech Freedom 150	2		150000	150000
Henry	Century National Mortgage	1		100000	100000
Letha	Advanta EquityCard	1		75000	75000
Letha	Providian Financial	1		75000	75000
Henry	GMAC Mortgage	1		50000	50000
Henry	GoldOption Loan	1		25000	25000
Henry	AAA Financial Services	1		25000	25000
Letha	CapitalOne Lending Services	1	15381		15381
Letha	US Bank	1			
Genric	Infinity Home Mortgage	1			
Henry	PNC Bank	1			
Letha	Champion Mortgage	1			
Totals		133	72131	2423393	2495524

INTERLOCUTIONS

Sheryl Birkhead
23629 Woodfield Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
2-23-2000

Dear Knarley,

Nice cover by **Joe Mayhew**. □**TKK**: *Issue 79*□

You can add the passing of Mae Strelkov to the list of few who have moved “on”.

I maintain my Teachers’ Credit Union accounts (even though none of the branches are convenient) because they are more affordable and scaled down.

I think that the local phone company charges a monthly “carrying fee” – meaning it allows you to move and carry your phone number along – as long as you are still in their area. Unbeknownst to me, Maryland added at least one more area code (240) when they added 410. There was a lot of information, but I guess that by #3 it wasn’t news anymore.

Sheryl

□**TKK**: *Credit unions have generally been a better deal than most banks. There are no “profits” that needed to be sent to the stock holders. I have had the opportunity for years to join one through work, but the requirement for direct deposit of my paycheck and no-fee interest bearing checking where my accounts currently are has given me no real incentive to switch.*□

Trinlay Khadro
PO Box 24934
Brown Deer, WI 53224
3/9/00

Dear Knarley & the Knews,

Wow, what a cover! It’s all one line isn’t it!

Charlotte, thanks for your movie reviews. I haven’t been out to see a movie that wasn’t a kid’s flick since *Blade* or maybe it was *Kundun*? Anyway it’s been a while. I’ll keep an eye out for them at the video store.

I guess I’ll have to hunt down “The Ugly Little Boy” since I do like stories that evoke emotion and thought.

As for Gencon, I suspect the news of relocating to Indy may be a play for certain perks? I wonder if the Milwaukee associated traditions (excursions to The Safe House and the like) might get the fans involved in influencing whether it stays or goes. The new convention center is **huge**. The trade show area at Gencon this summer was the largest I’ve ever seen for that con. (And there was room left in the exhibit hall.)

TKK, If you wonder if you fall in the “dog” category you most certainly aren’t! You may still have “stinky” moments, but you are very much a decent and nice guy. Ask Mrs. **TKK**. The “dogs” are the ones who think it’s not anyone’s business or any big deal if they abandon their families, run away from supporting their kids, or stealing from family members. Women, by the way, can be and have been “dogs” as well.

Joseph Major what is Crohn’s disease? I’m hoping that for you and many others there is no “agonizing death” in store.

I believe the Potter books get released in the UK a year or two before they come out stateside. I also suspect Amazon/big river has gone into pre-release sales; much like software, cars, etc. I personally refuse to order a product and prepay for it when it isn’t even in production yet.

On 2/12/00 I was in a car wreck. It’s already been a very rough year. With the roads full of snow I was headed out to pick up my daughter from her friend’s house where she’d spent the night. When I stopped for the traffic light and was waiting for it to change. I glanced up to the rear-view mirror and saw a purple minivan coming up. I thought “he’s going too fast for the weather, I hope he doesn’t slam on the brakes...” Then he slammed on the brakes and went into a spin. “Don’t hit me! Don’t hit me!” BAM! His left rear corner slammed into the right rear corner of my car. My car spent about a week in the shop; got about \$4000 in repairs (his insurance is going to cover it), but here it is about 4 weeks later and I’m still hurting. I’ve got pain meds that make me sleepy and leave some pain. And an intense muscle relaxant I can only take at bedtime. (I understand what “stoned” means after taking it.) And a very annoying wrist brace so I can work without reinjuring my wrist/hand. Watch out for those purple minivans.

Andrew, I’ve had the impression that Lewis and Tolkien were friends for a good many years. *Narnia* by the way has a fairly evident “Christian” subtext; however most of the Christian motifs are also pagan in origin. (I’ll have to say that both *Narnia* and *Lord of the Rings* show a good knowledge of mythology and faith motifs and aren’t contrary to each other or to the later works of Lewis.) As far as I’ve been able to tell Lewis would have found the book banning bunch to be ridiculous loons. I do personally believe that it’s possible to be both a Sci-fi/Fantasy/Horror fan **and** a person of faith. **Gene** I think the Satanists are just a bit too weird for my tastes, but Wiccans, assorted neopagans, folklorists, historians who dress up in period clothing and armor and hit each other with rattan swords...sci-fi/fantasy/horror fans/authors/artists; and good grief even some of the more moderate

Christians are cool, fun, normal people. (Or at least no weirder than me.)

Thanks for the thought, **Gene**, that you'd notice if I went missing. Sometimes I feel quite effectively invisible.

What I recall from my 70s era trip to Israel was that despite being there in June/July it wasn't terribly hot. Jerusalem and environs were a lovely climate, but Elat could cook eggs on the sidewalks before noon.

I wonder if one of the links between Buddhism groups and sci-fi is a powerful love of literacy, that and the idea of "sensawonda" being something one can carry within them and apply to everyday things.

There is a nice wooded hillside zoo in Michigan City, IN. At several points on the grounds one can also see Lake Michigan. There is also a depression era tower on the grounds (the whole zoo was a public works project) which when restored and opened to the public in the 70s and 80s quickly became vandalized and the site of underage drinking parties, etc.

Gene, please e-mail (trin@dias.net) me more info about your local "atheists, pagans, and New Age Satanists" being hounded out of jobs. Is your local government aware that Equal Employment Opportunity laws also apply to civil service jobs. Hounding people into quitting or providing a "hostile work environment" can lead to some very expensive law suits.

Robert L., hemp paper is rather pricey because the fiber (or finished paper) has to be imported. Not being legal to grow in the US. Kenaf is also a nice paper, but likewise hard to get, it doesn't have as nice a "feel" as the hemp. I do have a hemp dress shirt that quickly became a favorite. It feels like linen, but not as stiff. By the way, the "industrial hemp" is likely to be a huge disappointment to any pot-heads.

Lloyd, I've never seen *Lost Brats of the Galaxy*, but *Farscape* is on the Sci-Fi Channel on US cable and presumably elsewhere in the world. In my opinion the *Farscape* characters' limits are personal and not species specific. This has been particularly evident in episodes where the characters were involved with others of their own race. Zhan is the way she is because she's a cleric, not necessarily because she's a Delphian. Dargo is a warrior and a loving parent who misses and worries about his child. Aeryn was pretty much raised to fill a very specific Peace Keeper role. She's got her soft side which we've caught glimpses of. We're all restrained by how we're educated, raised, our cultures, environments, and infinitum. Some things we're apparently born with, but what we do with them is subject to many variables. In most of this world choices of career, educational path, etc. aren't available. I suspect most of the universe isn't much different than good ol' Terra.

Well take care,
Trinlay

☐**CKK**: *I'm heartened to find that I am not classed as a canine, even if I may be a bastage. Get better and off the medications soon. I think the second season (Dargo is much mellower than in the first season, was it perhaps his near death catatonia during the escape from the Gamic base?)*

E.B. Frohvet
4716 Dorsey Hall Dr. #506
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Henry,

Thanks for *Knarley Knews* 80. Typically fine sparkly cover by **Teddy Harvia**.

Perhaps we should hold an election for the vacant title of fandom's resident curmudgeon. I nominate you, Henry, to distribute the ballots and collate the results. Personally I could not vote for **Harry Warner, Jr.**, he's too nice to be a curmudgeon. A hermit, maybe.

Lloyd Penney says that "the dalliance...between Thomas Jefferson and slave Sally Hemings was confirmed..." Not so, **Lloyd**. The DNA testing result was sufficiently vague that both sides claimed victory. What the DNA test actually said was that, assuming the individuals tested were actually descended from Hemings, at least one of her children was fathered by one of the male Jeffersons. This could have been Thomas Jefferson, his uncle, one of his nephews, etc. The TV movie played it as a genuine forbidden love on both sides, still rates as dramatic license. Or quasi-historical fiction. In any case it would not be called "adulterous" as Jefferson was a widower and Hemings not married. Of course, the actress who played the role was stunning.

I'm not sure I can agree with **Andrew Murdoch** on wither count, that SF fans are either "neater than Shriners" (less drunk possibly) or that we "tip better than businessmen".

"We need to take away EB's publishing license." Oh, really? You and whose SWAT team? I plan to appeal—I'll go to the Supreme Court if necessary (the one in Arthur Ashe Stadium, no doubt), or even higher, to Ted White.

In the WAHF you say that **Jeanette Gugler** "survived a 20 inch snowstorm in North Carolina". We got that same storm here, a classic "nor'easter" sweeping up the Atlantic coast. The difference is that we get a storm like that every couple of years; the preparations and equipment are available, no one panics, we just go about life as normally as possible. As far south as Carolina, they panic.

Best wishes,
EB Frohvet

☐**CKK**: *I doubt my zine has adequate circulation for me to oversee the selection of the resident curmudgeon. I had always thought that adultery occurred when the two involved were not married. I can recall my mother reading history books when I was growing up that Jefferson had a long standing affair with Sally Hemings and either her mother or daughter.*

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740
March 12, 2000

Dear Henry:

You can't imagine how relieved I felt when this February issue of *TKK* arrived. It eased my fears that something had stopped me from receiving fanzines. Except for several clubzines, there had been next to no fanzines in my mailbox in almost a month.

I'm among those who think "The Ugly Little Boy" was one of Asimov's finest stories. It occurred to me some time back that maybe there's a reason for this; the story might be autobiographical to some extent. Isaac was quite small when his parents brought him to the United States, I believe. It must have been a terrible change in environment for a little boy from a backward nation to the hustle and bustle of 20th century United States, a different language, the disappearance of everyone he had known except his relatives, and if I may judge from his appearance in middle and old age, he may not have been a particularly handsome youngster. Subconsciously he might have put himself into the character of the prehistoric child. Those who think the end is illogical may be on the right track, since the ending was a departure from what happened to Isaac as a child.

The 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Sydney would probably drive me mad. But maybe if I somehow found myself on that journey, I would feel better by remembering that early in my life, the quickest public transportation from New York City to Los Angeles involved nearly three days on the train. I suppose persons who made that cross-country journey in the early part of the century consoled themselves with the knowledge that it took Magellan's ship a couple of years to go around the world several centuries ago.

I suppose much of the problem between hotels and convention committees today involved an old problem with science fiction conventions. They are one of the few species of large conventions whose attendees pay their own expenses. The vast majority of large conventions are populated by delegates who receive most or all of their expenses from some sort of organization and can afford to spend some of their own money for extras at the hotel. Science fiction conventions usually result in less patronage of the hotel's restaurants, less tipping, and more free loading in rooms. When the hotel must choose between a science fiction convention and

a Rotary event for a particular weekend, it will prefer the group that will spend the most.

The Blair Witch nonsense is the most blatant current example of inability to distinguish between reality and imagination. The first movie was ostensibly situated in Burkittsville, a small town about 25 miles from Hagerstown, and its residents are being driven mad by visitors from all over the nation who want to see the site of those events. The producers of the film have repeatedly admitted it's not based on any real events, the film was shot for the most part in another location, the town council virtually threw out of their meeting rooms several people from the producing company who wanted to talk with them about a sequel, and still people want to believe the original movie was a filming of something that really occurred.

An even better way to reduce the length of telephone numbers would consist of their replacement by the letters of the alphabet. Nine letters in various combinations provide enough identification to serve the probable demand for another century. Of course, this would mean replacing all of the telephones, computers, and other devices with new ones that could handle 26 elements instead of 10, but industry has never been backward about obsoleting important possessions in other fields.

I suppose the importance of keeping children with their own age group has been a major reason why almost everyone in a school class gets promoted to the next higher grade in June. I can see the importance of keeping kids with others of their own size and intellectual capacity. But it does tend to make kids lazy with their studies, knowing they will be promoted unless they are hopelessly had at final exams.

I'm glad that Vinç's computer is staying in fandom. **Terry Jeeves** mentions that it will be a while until he familiarizes himself with all its capabilities. That leaves me wondering how many lifetimes I would need to learn all the functions of a computer. I bought this typewriter about a year ago. It took me six months before I finally found the lever that changes the direction of the ribbon's movement and it was only a couple weeks ago when I finally discovered how to relax the platen's grip on the paper so it can be straightened out if put in crookedly. I hope to work off and on during the coming summer to determine the way the margins can be reset.

Yrs., &c.,
Harry Warner, Jr.



☐CKK: I suspect the early cross-country rail travelers gave no thought to Magellan. I doubt most could recall who he was, what he did, and how long he spent doing it. Technically an eternity since he never personally finished the trip. The Federal government is notorious for not letting industry obsolete stuff. They've mandated, for example, a 30 year conversion period to HDTV during which the current transmission signals must also be provided. You never learn everything the computer can do. There is so much bloat in the programs that all of the features will never be discovered, much less used.☐

Julie Wall
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March 13, 2000

Dear Henry,

Got *The Knarley News* in Saturday's mail and thought I'd better go ahead and LoC before I forgot – again.

My friends Gary and Debbie Rowan and I went to see “RiverDance” at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center Theatre when it came to town in January. That's the show that Michael Flatley originally choreographed before going on to do “Lord” – in which he gave himself a much larger part. I saw the latter on Public Television, and it was good, but the live show of RiverDance was incredible. I really liked it.

As far as I know, I'm not in any danger of becoming a “man-hater.” There are plenty of nice men that I know. Unfortunately for me, they do all seem to be either “just friends” material or married/otherwise involved, or both.

I hope **Harry Warner** is wrong about Harry Connick Jr. As someone who *does* like both rock and “serious” music, I can say that I also like Connick's stuff quite a bit. He received “Playboy's” nod as Best Jazz Musician of 1999, for what that's worth.

Gene Stewart: I don't know what Stella's last name is, but I'm pretty sure it's not Kowalski! She's from Montgomery, and so has to drive the 90 miles to Birmingham for the Bulls games, and concerts too, of course. I haven't seen her in a while, but I did ask her what she and Harry did while the lights were out. “Just talked,” she said.

Alas, I did not make it to MarsCon to be SMOF GoH. My father had open heart surgery on January 13th, so I went back to California (I had just been there for Christmas) for a week instead to visit my parents. Dad had a triple by-pass, and is doing really well with his recovery so far.

I have been invited to be Fan Guest of Honor at Con*Stellation in Huntsville this October, so I'm kind of excited - flattered, certainly – by that. I am much more comfortable as a fan than a SMOF.

I guess I will be seeing you and Letha in Chicago. I am scheduled to work the Green Room, so that should be inter-

esting. As for other cons to put on your list, maybe you could make the Last RiverCon? It has always been a great convention, and this last one looks like it will be a blow-out.

Fannishly,
Julie

☐CKK: The end of July is a real pain for us. Letha is supposed to be in Charlotte, NC and I simultaneously coordinate a week from our “summer camp” program.☐

Mark Strickert
2891 Canyon Crest Dr. #58
Riverside, CA 92507
3/14/00

Hello Knarleys!

Thanks for *The Knarley News* 80. I read it today at work which is a real challenge since my current desk partner is a real chatterbox, much of it thinking out loud (What's that guy doing way over there?), but only when I'm obviously doing something like reading or writing.

Trinlay Khadro, I'm personally beyond being sick of mailroom employees being treated as the scapegoats when thievery occurs in an office. I have seen too many good people shown the door when prejudices are treated as reality or when some crook up the line convinces the right person that the crime “had to happen in the mailroom”.

I am guessing that the CD store you're referring to is The Exclusive Co. About as good a music store as I have seen in the post-LP age, even with the extra charge for credit cards.

There is no point in applying logic to Madison Avenue, **Harry Warner Jr.**, and in turn the broadcasting and movie industries. Somewhere it was set in stone that the target demographic was 18-39, no matter how well of the old farts may be.

I barely remember exchange names now these days. Some outfits have swung back to far spelling out part or all of their phone numbers with the company name or some word related to the business. Nevermind that some of the words end up being 8 or 9 letters long, or that some phones have either no letters or they're too small to read quickly.

I would probably not have believed you, **Gene Stewart**, about long drives between gas stations in Nebraska until my big Great Plains tour last August. I noted several counties in Kansas which had none at all!

I have never been confused between the LOC text and your responses (what you wrote, maybe, ha!), good font contrast, methinks!

Mark

☐CKK: I much prefer the companies with the mnemonic phone number to also list the digit equivalent. It takes too long to hunt up the letters when dialing.☐

Joy V. Smith
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Pagadan@aol.com
March 14, 2000

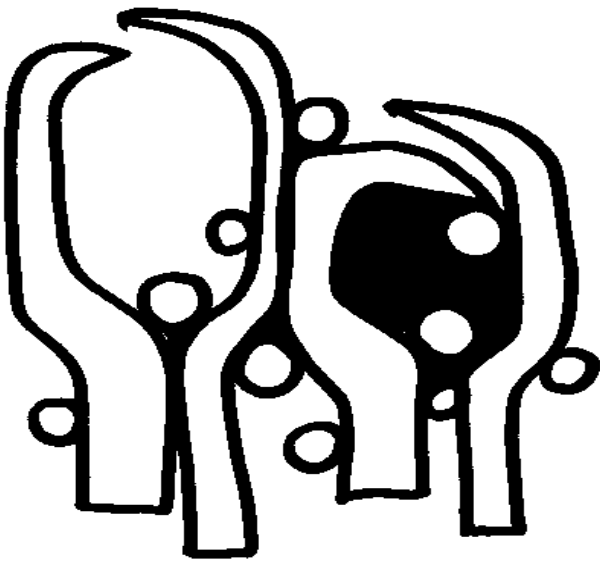
Dear Knarley,

What a fantastic cover by **Teddy Harvia** on *Knarley Knews* # 80!

Re: Editorial. I can't even imagine a paperless classroom! Electronic lectures?! Networking on computers in the classroom?! Reports accepted electronically, graded in Adobe Acrobat, and returned via e-mail?! The mind boggles.

I love *Lord of the Dance*, which I've only seen on PBS. Seeing it in a theatre is a wonderful opportunity.

Re: "More Witchard's Armagnac?" Like **E.R. Stewart**, I was amazed by the student's reaction to Isaac Asimov's story, "The Ugly Little Boy." It's this rigid attitude that causes many writers to use different names for writing different



types of stories. I always admired Asimov for using one name for all the varied things he wrote.

Re: LOCS. **Trinlay**, I'm glad you found out about switch to nowhere. Did you find out where the outlet is?

Thanks, **Joseph Major**. (Subaru is the Japanese word for Pleiades. That's why the corporate logo has stars.) That's interesting.

Gene Stewart—I remember the keyhole sniffing scene as being from Early Autumn. Now I'll have to check. Pastime, huh. It was with the kid checking on his mother, at least?

Re: my comment on AOL not charging a monthly fee. Hah! I cross-examined them, and they promised—No fee. Now I'm paying about three or four bucks a month charged to my

Mastercard (along with the AOL online charge) **and** all the long distance calls are on my local phone bill. This is so weird.

Karen Johnson—Sorry you're not running for DUFF. Another time, I hope.

Re: Fanzine reviews. Nice selection. I got *Vojo de Vivo* from **Orange Mike** too and am still puzzling over the name.

Btw, some of my interviews are running occasionally on the AOL SF column, Worlds Without End, if anyone's interested.

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

☐**TKK**: *Unfortunately I get as far away for AOL as I can. As a long-time sophisticated net user I have little use for an AOL-type front end. I understand the appeal of the point-and-click interface, but I do a better job when I have behind-the-scenes control.*☐

Rodney Leighton
RR #3
Tatamagouche, NS B0K 1V0
Mar.14,00

Hiya Knarl:

Thanks for **TKK** 80 which arrived yesterday. Being that I am on vacation, sorta, I sat down and read most of it right away. Read it all yesterday except **Gene Stewart's** incomprehensible blathering about writing.

I thought about blasting **Gene** about his ridiculous comment about **Mr. Harry Warner, Jr.**, the God of Letterhacks and one of the most polite and genial gentlemen I have ever encountered anywhere. But, well, I guess that anyone who considers **Harry** a curmudgeon has something wrong with their head and besides I am not in any position to argue with anyone. I do wish **Harry Warner, Jr.** would stop this silly business of beginning each LOC with an apology for tardiness or lack of a previous LOC. It's distressing. He's a fannish institution, for God's sake.

Guy Lillian sent me copies of *Challenger* 8 and 9. Both vanished somewhere into post office purgatory. Being me, I just assumed that he had dumped me. Amazingly he sent #10. Even more amazingly, he found a copy of #9 and sent that. Generosity like that is incredible. Very nice of him. I enjoyed reading it. Also enjoyed seeing your picture. I don't know if I should tell you that you look a lot like a young fellow who once worked for me. He was in his early 20s at the time.

I was amazed and pleased to receive *Stet* 9. **Leah** and **Dick** did a wonderful job. Everyone in fandom should get a copy. The fannish lexicon alone is worth whatever they might ask for a copy. What am I saying, they don't charge for fanzines. I did kind of think that the lexicon would have been better as

a stand alone publication which could be sent to any fan who requested one, which should be everyone.

I was interested to see that **Leah** did not mention one of the Katz items I mentioned in my essay on his lexicon. It was kind of amusing to see that some terms included were introduced by various folk named Smith. I would never argue with **Leah** about fandom, but really, is stet a fannish term? I guess it depends on who compiles these things. But as I said, I didn't dispute Arnie's right to include himself, his wife, and his friends as part of fannish folklore and language and neither do I dispute **Leah**'s right to claim the right to the origin of gongulator. I kind of doubt it will become a popular fannish term, but who knows?

The Blair Witch Project is dull, boring, silly, and as realistic as a porn movie.

Ciao
Rodney

□**TKK**: *I doubt your former employee was me. I've never been to Nova Scotia. And as long as you didn't intentionally drop a tree on him, why would I be offended?*□

Marty Cantor
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March 16, 2000

Dear Knarley Pipples:

I thank you for **TKK** 80, said zine arriving just recently. From the **Harvia** cover through to your planned Con attendance, it looks like you have some interesting stuff in there some of which I may find loccable.

Let me start with some serconnish material, something mentioned by **E.R. Stewart**. Whilst I agree that the fan who ranted against an Asimov story because it was not a typical Asimov story was over the top in his statement, a much milder version of this attitude is not at all out of place. I grant that there are other readers out there with hard-line attitudes like the mentioned fan, and I feel that there is not much which can be done with an attitude like that. But listen to the reasonable version of that attitude. I will give a personal example.

Poul Anderson is one of my favourite authors but I only enjoy his science fiction stories. Now, does this mean that his fantasy works are no good? No, even though fantasy leaves me cold and not even Poul Anderson writing them can get me to enjoy the reading of them. Now, whilst I would want him to devote all of his writing energies to the science fiction I like, I know that he likes to write in the other field and probably writes well enough in it to satisfy those who like that genre. So be it. I will read only the science fiction and will not "put him down" because some of his work is *not* science fiction.

Trinlay Khadro writes some good advice to me about picking up a part time job if I ever find myself looking for something to do. Thanks, but during my first four months of retirement I had more than enough to do. Then I went online. Does anybody still think that I need a part time job to fill out my Copious Spare Time?

Harry Warner writes about the time that telephone numbers had a two-letter exchange prefix followed by five numbers. I can remember, even earlier, when telephones had only the five numbers with no two-letter exchanges. In face, **Harry** can probably remember all the way back to when there were no such things as telephones.-)

Garth Spencer writes, "I wonder where fannish fandom went?" Well, some of it can be found in the Fan Rooms as Worldcons. Some of it can be found in the remaining bits of paper fandom. Some can be found on line: a bit of it in rec.arts.sf.fandom (fassff), but more of it on the three fannish listserves, Trufen, Memory Hole, and Timebinders (especially the first two). Oh – and at the two small cons for fanzine fans, Ditto and Corflu. At least in this country.

Old 815 asks me, "But what do you know about PHONES? And just how accurate was Hitchcock's *Dial "M" for Murder*." Well, when one rings, you pick it up, stick one part of it into any convenient ear, and bark into another part of it. Also, when you want to speak to your ex-wife in England, you type your message into the computer and bypass the much more expensive telephone. (Dial S for Smartass.) Oh, you meant *vis--à-vis* my jobs with BellSouth and PacBell. Why did you not say so? Actually, my jobs did require a bit of knowledge about telephones as I sold them to some callers, but at BellSouth I worked at the help desk and at PacBell I not only did that but I also handled customers' problems with their bills. And answer just about any conceivable telephone question you can imagine – and thousands of them which you cannot.

It is always dangerous to disagree with one's editor, especially when one is going on feelings rather than facts; but, never having let that dissuade me from putting words on paper, here goes. **Henry**, in your comment to **Tom Feller**, you state that the real money in credit cards is in the handling charge and not the interest payments. If most people paid their credit card bills in full when they got them (or, at most, within a month or two), I would agree with you. But, as reports have many people allowing their credit card bills to grow larger and larger, the compounding interest on all of these cards (at often quite high rates) has just got to be a significant amount of money for the credit card companies.

Robert Lichtman states his unawareness of the law which prices milk based on its distance from Eau Claire, WI. This C-SPAN junkie can tell you that I watched an attempt in Congress to overturn that law. I do not know the outcome of the debate □**TKK**: *The measure was defeated*.□ because I had to leave to do something else before the vote occurred.

Congratulations to **Yvonne** and **Lloyd Penney** on their upcoming GOHships. Been there, done that, and I would love to do it again (especially as I have oodles of time and no money).

Faanishly yours,
Marty Cantor

☐**CKK**: *Your phone use instructions sound incredibly painful. My ear is too small to contain any reasonable part of a phone. The discount rate (often as high as 3.5%) is much larger than the interest rates. It would take at least two months of interest to be equivalent to the discount and if everyone paid off their bills regularly, they would be able to charge more on a regular basis and the credit card companies would do better.*☐

Joseph T Major
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March 17, 2000

Dear Knarley and Letha:

And now the knews ... Editorial: Paperless classroom ... fine, as long as every student has a computer. What do you do about the rotund fellow in the back who refuses on principle to use a mouse, and therefore is unable to use Windows ® ©™ Bill Gates is GOD! software?

“Charlotte’s Web”: As for critical opinion, well, *Mission to Mars* opened to generally middling reviews and was first in ticket sales for its first weekend. How well it will hold up is another matter.

“More Witchard’s Armagnac?”: Readers, reviewers, academics, and particularly bookstore managers have a tendency to encapsulate writers; to put them in a particular category and then refuse to let them out. For example, Dudley Pope wrote both naval history and naval fiction, so categorizers prefer Richard “Patrick O’Brien” Russ, who only wrote naval fiction, because you can put all the books by Russ in one category, while the books by Pope have to be in two places.

This was not quite so firm in earlier eras. For example, one of my favorite fifties mundane writers, Frank G. Slaughter, wrote religious novels, medical novels, and swashbuckling adventure novels. Another, Richard Powell, wrote mysteries,

serious general novels, and humorous general novels. If you can find his *The Soldier*, *The Philadelphians*, *Pioneer Go Home!*, or particularly *Don Quixote, U.S.A.* you have a reading treat ahead of you. But then, Powell didn’t have to deal with packagers and publication lines. (“Tell me, Professor, how does the ‘J.R.R.Tolkien’s Middle Earth’ book line, with volumes by Anthony, Cherryh, Asprin, Bradley, Offut, Morris, Norton, Wu, and our other regular contributors, sound?” “Horrid.” Though actually the sharecroppers back then would more likely have been Randall Garrett and Robert Silverberg.)

InterLOCutions: **Trinlay Khadro**: Sir Arthur was doing computer communications long before most people. In fact, he put together a book of his computer communications with Peter Hyams during the making of the movie of 2010.

Actually, the most recent Imperial Dynasty of China is the current one, the Kung Chan Tang. Their most recent triumph was when the Zemin Huangdi, currently reigning, placed his candidate on the throne of the Meiguo barbarians.

Harry Warner: Hopkinsville had a TUXedo exchange (88). In fact, all the telephones in town were TUXedo and it was possible to dial any number using only five digits. For example, my mother was at 5-5445. This lasted until the late seventies.

Modern TV shows use the null exchange, 555. And on an episode of *M*A*S*H*, someone said to call “KLondike5”? same difference. If you put a real number in, people will call it.

Me: “**heresy** must **be** ruthlessly extirpated”[emphasis added] if Ruth does not happen to be available at the time.

Harry Potter and the Doomspell Tournament is still Number One on the sales list at BigSouthAmericanRiver.com. Now if it had been *Harry Potter and the Tournament of Doom* ... “If booksales have a name, it must be ... HARRY POTTER!” Harry in hat and leather jacket, cracking a whip down the storied halls of Hogwarts? but, fortunately, Spielberg is NOT going to do the Harry Potter books.

Marty Cantor: Back in the seventies, when there was not as much science fiction available as there is today, I read a lot of related stuff, such as utopian novels. (And here you thought I was going to say “flying saucer books”.) One of these was by the economic theorist Robert Theobald, titled *Teg’s 1994*. The narrator went around the world, doing a survey of why the utopia of the post-scarcity economy was not fulfilling its goals. Looking back at it now, I had the feeling that Theobald was paying off some scores. For example, one of the founding movements that brought about the current state of affairs was organized at a conference that was, in effect, the National Conference for a New Politics as it shoulda been done. Or Teg visits an artists’ community that is remarkably like the artists in Farmer’s “Riders of the Purple Wage”, and we are informed that it is held in low regard by everyone else, and is dying out. (“Riders of the Purple



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Wage” was also about Theobald's “Triple Revolution”, so PJF must have been a deviationist.)

Anyhow, another of the people Teg visits is an old New Left activist. Throughout the visit, he continually shows her movies of the Good Old Days, complete with commentary. Teg sniffs at his silliness, noting that movies can be manipulated, with the right soundtrack, to “improve” anything. (Theobald should have been congratulated for creating an odd character – a 21-year-old prig and bore.)

Scott Patri asks, via illo, “Aside from jiggling breasts, can anyone explain the appeal of *Baywatch*?” What about the firm pecs and ripped abs? Those who like guys can also get an eye-feast by watching *Baywatch*.

Garth Spencer discusses people who can no longer tell the difference between what is on the screen and reality. I tended to wonder about that. To take one recent example: the movie *George of the Jungle* has a scene where George swings through a tree, leaving a George-shaped hole. (Straight out of the original cartoon – and an article on the intellectual and creative poverty of a Hollywood that can do no better than seventies animated cartoons as a source for movie ideas would be intriguing.) Reports were that children were exiting the theater, running at concrete pillars in the lobby, while shouting “George, George, George of the Jungle!” – and being very surprised when they were hurt, and the pillars unmarked. This sounds like an urban legend to me.

“The Jet-Propelled Couch” was not an urban legend, though, albeit one has grown up about it. The article was written by psychiatrist Dr. Robert Lindener, and was included in his book *The Fifty-Minute Hour*. The patient in question believed that he was the hero of his favorite science-fiction adventure series, and spent a considerable amount of time writing background material, further adventures, and the like. So far, all this proves is that he was a Trekkie-type. But, he was spending plenty of time on the job “on the other side”, living out the current adventure of his hero – you see, the character had the same name as he did – and the bosses did not like paying for this on-the-job vacation time.

The “urban legend” part of this has to do with the claim that the patient was Paul M. A. “Cordwainer Smith” Linebarger. Who had fixated on the *Lensman* series because he wrote under a pseudonym that had the same last name as the author of the books, E. E. “Doc” Smith, Ph.D. This makes little sense, and makes even less when, in the course of a discussion on this point in Richard E. Geis's *Science Fiction Review*, it was revealed that in the fifties there was an American nuclear scientist with known mental troubles named John Carter.

I believe I have seen the very comic **Andrew Murdoch** refers to. It is one of a series produced – written, drawn, and published – by someone named Jack Chick. Mr. Chick has done a great many such works, all as silly and purblind. I remember particularly the one where the bunch of New Left-

ists murdered a Christian, then went on to overthrow the U.S. government and let the Communists in; who promptly shot them all (presumably after a close reading of Lenin's *Left-Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder*) where they arose to Heaven, only to hear Jesus say “I never knew ye. Depart from Me, ye accursed, into everlasting fire!”

This is the sort of Christian evangelist who inspires theories of his being a secret agent of the Devil, sent forth to discredit Christianity. If he had a brain, he'd be dangerous.

And if **Gene “Old 815: Stewart** wants something even more outré than Manga, how about Hentai? Then, considering that several of the Sailor Moon story arcs end with the Sailors being crucified, well! But then Xena seasons have a habit of ending up with Xena being crucified, so maybe not. (“Oh no! They've killed Xena! You bastard!” Latin dictionary and grammar at home, so no can do properly.) [Got it. “Vae! Xenae necaverunt! Notho!”]

Right now I have been trying to beat the enemy in *Heroes of Might & Magic II*. In spite of setting the A.I. to its lowest level, those sons of Gungans still cheat.

Eric Lindsay reports with some pleasure that Australian banks are refusing to become associates of Iranian terrorist policy. You see, the Islamic Republic of Iran had first-class paper money printing presses, courtesy of the late Shah's extravagance and the cash-hungry salesmen of the Great Satan. So, having read *In Stalin's Secret Service* by Walter G. Krivitsky (né Samuel Ginsberg) [and Isaac Don Levine] {British title: *I Was Stalin's Agent*}, which describes an effort by the Soviet Union to make some foreign exchange at home, they decided that they too could print hundred-dollar bills. This is one reason why we have the new Monopoly™-style money.

Tom Feller observes that “Jack Ryan ... would not be out of place in one of RAH's novels, except that he goes to church and is faithful to his wife.” Good observation. Put him in *Rocket Ship Galileo* or *Have Space Suit – Will Travel*, and you would not even have that problem. Reports are that Clancy had to give his ex-wife fifty percent ownership of the Ryan character in the divorce, which was why the President in *Rainbow Six* was never named.

And that it isn't SF because “his ... world never changes as a result of a scientific discovery or a technological advance” or even some of the events in a previous novel. For example, not once in *Rainbow Six*, during the attempt to uncover the plot by the mad billionaire to kill everyone else in the world with a plague, did anyone mention that not six months ago, the U.S. had been under a nationwide quarantine because of an attempt to kill everyone in the U.S. with Ebola. Not mentioned even once!

Well, **Lloyd Penney** has me beat. I spent four weeks in First Grade, albeit it was in the summer, as opposed to his mere three days. However, I was born in December and the regular cutoff birthdate was the end of October, so I was not

that far out of step, age-wise, with my classmates, than he was. However, reading above the class level in class annoys some people. Some of them are even fellow students.

Conventions have been having trouble in this area the past few years. For example, Kubla Khan in Nashville used to have a big masquerade. Now, its successor Parthecon barely has a program. And the RiverCon masquerades are not what they used to be. And so on. The conventions have (or had) been made up in numbers by a substantial population of gamers. Sue Francis once characterized gamers as perfect congoers, because all they needed was a gaming room and a supply of beverages. And true, they do not tie people to inadequately-mounted sprinkler heads or leave prop drinking horns labeled as radioactive in parking lots.

The Steve Francis-Khen Moore generation of conrunners is getting towards retirement. The problem is that their work force is, too. It is like the demise of the Permanent Floating Worldcon Committee. This is our specific example of the "more bowlers, fewer bowling leagues" syndrome; everyone wants to enjoy the facilities of a convention, but no one wants to go to the trouble of doing the work to put one on.

Congratulations on your FGoH stints. See you at ChiCon.

Terry Jeeves comments on "how authors seem to go off as they get older." The book that persuaded me that Clarke should not collaborate was *Crystal*. It was obvious, blatantly so, that not-yet-Sir Arthur had written the intro, the piece in the middle, and the outline while Gentry Lee had done the rest. Clarke's crystalline, resonant, transcendental prose stood out like clear-white icebergs floating in the sewage of Lee's plodding, drab text. So I never even bothered to read the subsequent *Rama* books.

Well, with his health and legal fees perhaps we ought to cut him some slack. Wonder what Sir Arthur C. Clarke's *Sunday Mirror* will look like? Page 3 VoMaidens (or, more likely given the population drift, Betazoids)? Linos in news items?



Issues available for The Usual? "Sarn't Saturn, Sah, I wish to report the first hippogriff of the season," letters to the editor?

Namarie,
Joseph T Major

☐**CKK**: All full-time freshmen are required to participate in our laptop computer program and they are the only students I inflict mandatory electronic classroom status on. I've recently seen the live-action remake of *Dudley Do-Write with the same actor as George of the Jungle*. It is not much better.☐

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March 18, 2000

Thanks for the February ... March issue.

I can certainly sympathise with the time wasted using PowerPoint. The academics where I worked used it, and although it gave reasonable results, getting them often took a lot of time. Like you, I find Windows 95/98 very frustrating and annoying. Also unbelievably fragile. I must give you the URL for a file that will kill Win 95/98 if you even point a windows browser at it. Well, at least people can use it to keep Windows users out of web pages they don't want them to view. Just the thing for us paranoids.

Ned Brooks comments that he can't get HTML to do an indent at the start of a paragraph. I suspect doing a string of non-breaking spaces would do the trick, although I haven't tried it.

Harry Warner, Jr. makes some good points about the demographics at which advertisers aim. I'd be willing to buy certain products if they were made, and promoted to me, but the advertisers don't seem to think I am a purchasing audience and so they entirely miss out on my trade. Their loss, and mine. I also find it annoying to be told that manufacturers are making the sorts of things I want to buy. If this were so, I'd be out there buying them.

Regarding the collecting channel website, we heard at Corflu that there were unfortunate changes at that venture which lead to many fans losing their jobs. A real pity, as they seemed enthusiastic, and what little I knew of the site seemed pretty good. Of course, being an ebusiness, this may all have changed again in a positive sense by now.

Re **Dale Speirs'** comments about a manual typewriter being faster than a computer for short LoCs, I entirely agree. Of course, if popular computers had a decent "instant on" feature, and didn't crash so often, the computer would be even faster. Still, if Wintel won't supply that sort of feature, someone else will. I'm considering a Psion NetBook, since it is "instant on" all the time. Don't know how reliable it would be. My Psion 5 crashed back in December 1998, which really pissed me off. Took nearly 4 minutes to restore my

data from backup too, but it hasn't crashed since, so that counts as a good sign.

Eric Lindsay

☐**CKK:** *My university issue lap top crashes about twice a week (irrecoverably) and I'm incessantly having to kill of tasks. A backup takes over 45 minutes to do to LS120 disks and I haven't ever had to recover, yet. It also takes almost 2.5 minutes to recover from hibernate versus almost 5 to boot.*☐

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March 21, 2000

Apologies on being so remiss on LOC'ing your zine – things have been quite busy for me of late. I'm hoping that I'll have more time after I wind things up related to my unproductive last semester at SIU and get moved.

Sympathies on the indoor air pollution problem at *Lord of the Dance* –unfortunately, some rude smokers can really make it difficult for everyone (including the courteous smokers out there, who get lumped in with the rude ones for vilification). I can still remember the days when, as a librarian at a community college library, I had the unhappy duty of trying to enforce the clean indoor air rules. Especially on rainy or cold days, we'd have problems with people who wanted to stand *inside* the doors to the ramp instead of going outside to smoke.

An excellent set of LOC's from last time.

☐**CKK:** *Unproductive implies ungraduated; what's the deal?*☐

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March 21, 2000

Dear Knarley and Letha:

Many thanks for issue 80 of *The Knarley Knews*. Got it just a short time ago, but the supply of fanzines is drying up a little bit...gotta get some more. In the meantime, I'll deal with the issue at hand.

Laptops at school are a great idea, but human beings still have the old-fashioned tendency to remember things better when they write down notes. I've heard of some universities that don't want you as a student if you don't own a laptop. With availability of student loans at an all-time low, and the cost of tuition at an all-time high, the incentive to get that higher education would have to be very intense.

Yvonne and I did see an Irish dance show last year, *Riverdance*. Very enjoyable, and an interesting story of emigration to the New World through the universal art of dance. Expensive, but we very seldom do this kind of thing.

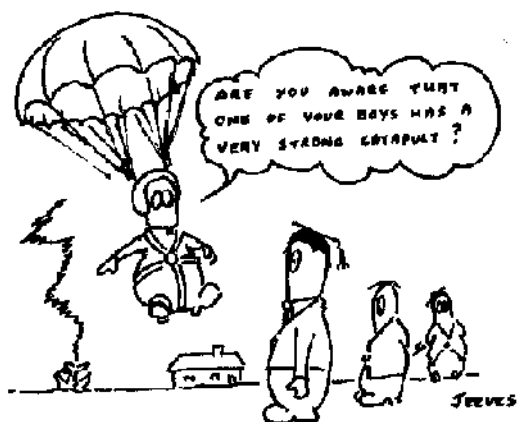
Sad to see that some SF readers demand of their favorite authors what they've come to expect, but no more. Many of us are guilty of this on an unconscious level. For example, Terry Pratchett writes humorous fantasies, and Stephen King writes gripping horror and dark fantasy. Those writing styles are what we know them for. What would our response be if they decided to switch? We'd be puzzled, and a little alarmed, I think. Can we really see King writing about Granny Ogg, or Pratchett writing something like *The Green Mile*? They might even be intrigued at considering the challenge, but would their readers allow them the chance? The two Asimov stories mentioned stick out in my mind because they were so different from the usual stories Asimov would tell. I grew up reading Asimov, and read a lot of his R. Daneel Olivaw and other robot stories. Both "Ugly Little Boy" and "Bicentennial Man" were successfully translated into films, IMHO..."The Ugly Little Boy" was made into a small-budget film shot in Toronto, around the Ontario Science Centre.

I always thought that Gencon and Milwaukee would be inseparable. I guess they need the bigger space to stage a bigger show in order to attract a bigger audience. Maybe these gamers are also allergic to light? The company that stages Gencon (Wizards of the Coast, probably) also stages other gaming cons in other cities...maybe they're moving one of the smaller cons, or trying a new con in Indianapolis.

I've seen comments on the idea of doing away with Star Trek-based technologies like the universal translator. You must admit that the appeal of Star Trek to fandom in the 60s was the imagination used to concoct things like the transporter, universal translator, phasers, matter/antimatter engines, force fields, photon torpedoes, etc. Some of these items from Roddenberry and his writers were good enough to make real, such as the sick bay's diagnostic bed and spray hypo. Your cell phone is a communicator. The major ideas like the starship itself, the transporter and the phasers, while a physical impossibility (so far), should be recognized for what they really were, plot devices to add that sfnal touch, and advance the story past large hurdles in reality like getting from orbit to the planet's surface and going through the story in 52 minutes or less. Star Trek tech was cool stuff for the 60s, but seeing its about 35 years since the premiere of ST, SF writers have to come up with fresh ideas instead of Trek ideas which are not stale, but not fresh either.

Hope Leibowitz was the only Torontonion in attendance at Potlatch/Corflu...she reported that I won one of the FAAn Awards Corflu hands out, for Best Letterhack. I have been in touch with Arnie Katz about writing for Collectingchannel.-com...something may yet happen. We'll have to see.

Ad Astra this year had good relations with a hotel that gave them decent rates, but the con is moving yet again because the hotel for this year raised rates for next year's con by 30%. To try to answer **Garth**, I find that too many concons stage the con they themselves want to see, rather than the con their attendees want to see. Also, attendees want their membership



money to deliver to them a fabulous experience in SF and fandom, and that seldom happens. A local new conrunner had to cancel his small one-day con...he had such grandiose ideas, and Yvonne and I, brought aboard as advisors, had to bring him down to earth about committee polo shirts, special programme books, etc., and this was for a one-day con. Eventually, once reality settled, he found that his pre-registration was nearly non-existent, and he had to cancel his event. He lost a little bit of money, but that's better than losing a lot of money. He was staging the event he wanted to see, an event that obviously few others did. (In case you're wondering...it was a one-day Klingon convention. Sigh...) As **Trinlay Khadro** mentions, fannish cons are easier on the furniture than are Shriners, and other groups, too. We leave the place cleaner than when we got it, and we show the hotel that we're responsible by having our own security. Unfortunately, too many hotels think of how much money they can make. They demand a food function the con may not want, and then serve substandard food. We drink, but rarely touch the cash bar hotels provide at some events within the con. We rarely order room service to our rooms. And, as always, the hotels kick out the cons, saying they could make a lot more money simply hosting a few weddings.

Gene Stewart...not in any movies yet. At the end of the months, Yvonne and I will be doing some shooting for the documentary I mentioned. We'll be interviewed at Eeriecon 2 in Niagara Falls, NY, for this documentary. The other movie is still in the screenwriting stages, but may yet happen. You may have to tell me more about *Farscape* before I can realize why so many people seem to hate it.

To add to **Trinlay Khadro's** and **Robert Lichtman's** list of good cars, I would add Suzuki. We own (or will when we finish paying for it) a 1998 Suzuki Esteem station wagon, with all the bells and whistles. It got us to the Baltimore Worldcon and back, and takes on regular trips to cons, as far as Cincinnati. It will get us to Chicago this coming Labour Day. Maintenance has been cheap, and we haven't had a breakdown yet, knock on virtual wood.

Karen Johnson for DUFF...sounds good to me, but she may be running into the same critics I did when I voiced some desire to run for TAFF. I wasn't considered the right

kind of candidate. Yvonne and I ran for CUFF and won, and we're still working on our trip report. And, I suspect that will be it for our fan fund efforts.

Terry Jeeves has been the beneficiary of fandom at its best. I am hoping that the next issue of *Erg* will be easier for him to produce, and that responding to his zine will be faster and easier than ever.

Okay, I'll bite...what's a fumit generator? And with that, I shall wrap it up at the two-page mark. Take care, and see you all nextish.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

☐**CKK**: *Fumits are the little piles of smelly stuff left behind by animals. I use the term more generally to refer to Connor's amazing habit on not being able to keep things picked up. You can give him something to put in his backpack for school and somehow ten steps later it isn't in his backpack, but somewhere else.*☐

Robert Lichtman
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March 23, 2000

Dear Henry,

That's a pretty amazing cover **Teddy Harvia** provided for *The Knarley Knews* No. 80! I don't think I've ever seen this sort of style from him, and I like it. There's something very '60s about it – meant as a compliment.

In your editorial you complain about PowerPoint. Well, join the club. It's on my computer at work and I've seen some of what it does, although fortunately I haven't yet been asked to learn it. It seems to me that it takes processes that were formerly very simple and complicates them unnecessarily. Sure, once you're done you have something on your computer resembling a slide show, but wouldn't it be easier to simply make slides, or viewfoils, or just about anything else? My sympathies.

Regarding **Charlotte Proctor's** column, I didn't see *Mystery, Alaska* or *For the Love of the Game* – in the latter case, because I make it a point not to see movies with Kevin Costner in them – but I did see *American Beauty* and don't really understand all the hoopah about it. Sure, there are some good performances and a few funny bits, but the story line is a mess and too many of the characters are merely cartoons – mainly the homophobic neighbor and his wife, but the cheerleader too. I also saw *Bringing Out the Dead* and consider it a far superior movie to *American Beauty*. Yes, it deals with unpleasant stuff, but it does so pretty honestly and doesn't, like *American Beauty*, rely on disconnected skits to hold your interest.

About **Harry Warner Jr.'s** comments about television advertising: well, of course a lot of it goes on programs

aimed at young people for the very reason he states: "that age group... is most apt to try out new products." I disagree, however, that people between "late teens to 40 or thereabouts" necessarily "have the most money available to spend," since on the younger end of the scale they are in entry-level jobs and at the further end they tend to be raising a family and have less money for discretionary spending. Dot com millionaires excepted, of course. I see quite a lot of advertising aimed at "middle-aged and elderly audiences" but more of it is in print rather than on TV. I don't know if I agree with **Harry** that the latter ages groups "eat just as much as young people." If my own case is typical, they don't. And I don't spend any more on "patent medicines and household cleaning products" than I did when I was younger. I do spend more on vitamin and mineral supplements, though, and I see a lot of advertising of them – but it falls on both ends of the age spectrum, from Centrum Silver to Flintstones.

Not being a big congoer, I'm not able to offer much in the way of commentary on **Garth Spencer's** question about "what parameters have generally changed for conventions, in the last, oh, ten years alone?" The primary convention I attend is Corflu – that's "where fannish fandom went," **Garth** – and even that not every year. If a worldcon is in California I'll probably go to it, and I've hit a few Potlatches, but that's about it. I prefer to do my fanac through the mail and, more recently, over the Internet.

I know of no law that prohibits sending cash out of the country, at least in this country. Where do you get that impression, Henry?

I agree it's too bad that **Karen Johnson** didn't stand in this year's DUFF race, but she certainly has

compelling reasons not to at this time. Her distribution figures for *Out of the Kaje* are interesting, especially that she finds 44 fans in Australia and New Zealand to send it to, but only five in the U.K., and that her total circulation is just under 100 copies. On my mailing list for the last issue of Trap Door, I sent out 146 U.S. copies, 53 to the U.K., 13 to Canada, 12 to Australia, and 5 to other European countries (wonder if they're the same 5 she covered?).

Best wishes,
Robert Lichtman

☐**CKK**: *I've become quite a bit more sophisticated with PowerPoint in the last two months. Someone showed me how to do animations and, more importantly, how to keep certain information on the slides from showing in the printouts. This wipes out many of the limitations that I had been fighting. I'm still having to wrestle with the smallish screen size, I don't miss the incessant blackboard work.*☐

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March 24, 2000

Dear Henry & Letha

Many thanks for the latest issue, received a couple of days ago.

"I understood that Petra was Arab, not Roman, but it is Roman-era," says **Joseph Major**. To be thoroughly pedantic, Petra isn't Arab either, but Nabataean – and although the Nabataeans (inventors of the trickle irrigation system rediscovered by the Israelis) were certainly an Arabic people, "Arab" as a cultural signifier is generally taken to date from the Islamic conquests of the seventh century CE. Ergo, the term perhaps doesn't apply to Petra, whose architecture is (or was) entirely classical – not that you'd guess from the photographs generally shown of it, which misleadingly feature not the ruins of the city's public buildings but the rock-cut tombs of the nobles in the mountains which surround it.

Petra's chief period of wealth and influence was the last century BCE and the first century CE, when it controlled the Mediterranean end of the overland caravan routes from Central Asia; but in 106 CE the Romans annexed the Nabataean kingdom, cut off the city's piped-in water supply, and redirected caravan traffic to the geographically more accessible city of Palmyra, in modern Syria. Petra went into terminal decline, being finally destroyed by an earthquake in the sixth century (the same earthquake which also destroyed Jerash and Philadelphia – modern Amman – further north), by which time the population had been reduced to a few hermits, and apart from a brief occupation during the Crusader period was not rediscovered until the 1820s, in the first waves of nineteenth century antiquarian interest in the "Lands of the Bible" following the French and British expeditions to Egypt in the Napoleonic period. Then, it was very difficult to reach; now, it's very easy – a modern highway goes past it, and several resort hotels are located outside it. For the full *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* experience, visitors can hire a pony and ride in along the siq to the Khasneh, or the Treasury, the most-photographed of the tombs, as we did when we went there in 1992. (But it's difficult to take photographs from horseback, or make adequate inspections of the tomb architecture, so on our return visit the following day we walked.) The next most photographed tomb (just in case you were wondering) is the Monastery, so called because monks did once live there, on top of one of the mountains and reached by a long, sometimes steep, but not actually very tiring walk; the views are spectacular. I wanted to climb to the top of the tomb, like other members of our tour party, but was dissuaded by Judith, who feared the possible effects of gravity.

Portions of Petra's public buildings – the Arched Gate, the Temple of the Winged Lion, the Baths, the colonnaded main street – have been reconstructed from the earthquake-topped ruins, following archaeological investigation (as have some of the structures in Jerash), but thanks to the political instability to which the Middle East is (perceived to be) prone such investigation proceeds slowly. There's little local archaeological expertise, and no local funding for it, so the work is usually done by Western experts brought in for the purpose – who leave whenever trouble threatens. Even in 1992, archaeological investigations were still in the state of suspension they'd assumed following the 1991 Gulf War; one hopes they've since been resumed, and more of the buildings reconstructed. After all, it's a large site, and there are a lot of them....

Changing the subject entirely, I see that a couple of people have praised the film version of Asimov's *The Bicentennial Man*. Really? I haven't seen it myself, but I did note the blitz of poster publicity for it around the turn of the year – and was immediately put off it when I saw that Robin Williams starred as the eponymous robot. Disney-style schmaltz, I thought – an impression borne out by the reviews which appeared when it finally opened a few weeks later. They were universally excoriating. The *Guardian* newspaper's critic, declining to give it even one star for “mediocre”, managed to review both the film itself and the horrified and embarrassed reactions of the other members of the preview audience, who received the thing in stony silence and could barely bring themselves to speak once it was over. The distributors obviously had no faith in the film: it was pulled after a single week, and presumably now languishes in the formless hell of the video rental store's less frequented shelves. Either that or it's screened as wee-small-hour filler material for the cheaper cable TV stations (where it probably belongs).

Best wishes to you both,
Joseph

☐CKK: I feel I now know more about Petra than is safe for my brain. As they say, all information can be found in fanzines.☐

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3/30/2000

Dear Knarley,

At long last I have a chance to LOC your fine zine. Well, maybe that should have “again” appended to it, as I haven't seen #81 yet and am not sure if there's a LOC from me in that ish.

Lord of the Dance doesn't work well with anyone except Flatley in the lead role because he choreographed the role for himself. Perhaps the reason the show is touring without Flat-

ley is because the people financing it hoped that audiences wouldn't be so enamored of Flatley himself as to not attend the performance if he wasn't dancing that night. I've heard several times from those who profess to be lovers of Celtic culture that Flatley had “sold out” by taking the role he made famous in *Riverdance*. I'm enamored of things Celtic, and I think of Flatley's performances in both shows as a form of cultural guerilla propaganda. After all, how many people had even heard of Irish step dancing before seeing *Riverdance*?

Charlotte Proctor 's rant on movie critics made me nod my head in agreement. I don't pay much attention to movie reviews because what I like is usually opposite of the reviewer's taste. I don't go to movie theaters often, but I do see a lot of movies on cable TV channels and videos. In the last year I've seen *Elizabeth*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Haunting*, and *The Matrix*,” among others.

Elizabeth looked gorgeous but shortchanged the historical Elizabeth; I much prefer the BBC-TV mini-series *Elizabeth R* and Glenda Jackson's vulnerable yet steely performance. On the other hand, Dame Judi Dench's Elizabeth I in *Shakespeare in Love* was wonderful, for such a short time on screen. I loved the part where she mutters, “Too late! Too late!” to all the courtiers who stood dumbfounded before her and the mud puddle. The rest of that movie was quite luscious, as it was intended to be; Hollywood loves luscious movies. *The Haunting* had pretty good SFX but lacked the gutpunch of the original film with Julie Harris. *The Matrix* also had good SFX, but SFX alone can't hold a movie together. To most SF fans, the plot was old news. Now there's a bunch of quickie reviews!

“Inflexible reader expectation” is exactly how I'd characterize what's wrong with fantasy novels these days. Thanks to **E. R. Stewart** for the phrase. I don't mean to hurt anyone's feelings, but I stopped reading the Robert Jordan *Wheel of Time* series after the third book. I just couldn't stay interested in the characters any longer. But as long as other readers are willing to buy the endless series novels now on bookstore shelves, and writers keep writing them (for whatever reasons), and publishers keep printing them, those who seek something different from their fantasy fiction will have to look elsewhere. I was surprised to see that GRR Martin's *A Game of Thrones* came out from a major publishing house because it was such a fine fantasy novel. And yes, it's part of a series. Jordan's first *Wheel* book was good, too; perhaps Martin can sustain my interest longer than Jordan's book did.

I've heard the theory that cookie-cutter fiction (of any kind, not just SF) is popular and sells well because contemporary readers are bombarded daily by so many different types of sensory detail that they crave sameness for relaxation. If it works for them, fine. Personally I prefer a challenging read to get away from my worries.

Trinlay Khadro writes “How can we respond to an A or B on a report card followed with a comment 'Not working to potential'...” I would send back to the teacher who wrote that

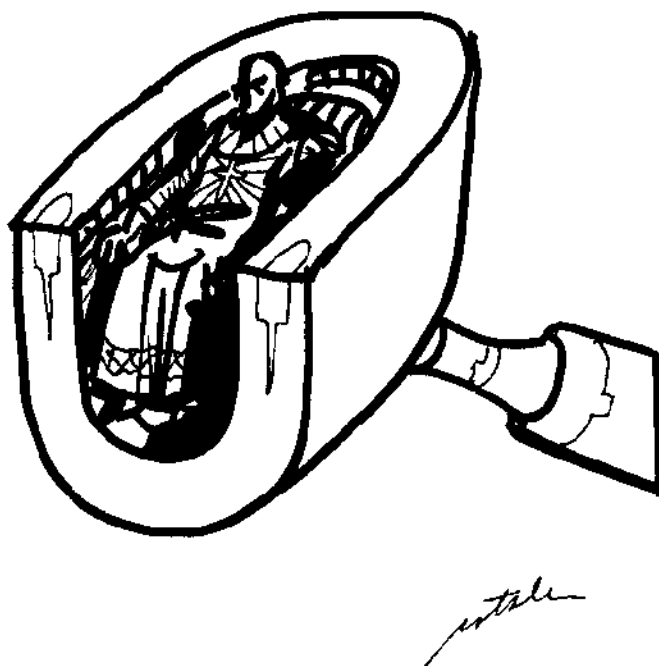
nonsense the following note: "Please put aside your perfectionist obsession and leave such comments off future report cards." Comments like that are what depress students and parents alike, giving the impression there's something wrong with the grades A or B. Now don't get me started....

"Tschüß", when I lived in Germany in the early 1980s, meant something similar to the Italian "Ciao." A sort of "see you later" farewell saying. Of course, a native German speaker likely has a better response.

I owe **Joseph Major** a thank-you for making me laugh when I read "...high on the book sales list of BigSouthAmericanRiver.com..." in his LOC. And again for informing me that Subaru is the Japanese word for Pleiades. Like my mama always said, you learn something new every day.

To **Gene Stewart** re: his David Berkowitz comments, I see your point. But airtight cases are pretty rare no matter what era is referenced; my definition of airtight would be a witness who stood there and watched one person shoot another with no provocation and saw the entire act, but even then a defense lawyer could try to weaken that witness's testimony by attempting to find out if that witness was prone to hallucinations. But enough of that. Whatcha readin' these days?

Teddy Harvia's cover is really great. I thought of sitting down and trying to trace the thing through to see if it really was all one line, but then sanity returned when I realized how long it might take to do so. I'm a maze fan from way back.



Maybe I'll be committing some major faux pas when I say this, but with all the comments on TV shows (and please remember I'm new to *TKK*), I wonder if any *TKK* readers are reading... books? Magazines? Anyone? And here's another brand on the bonfire: did anyone with Internet access buy and read Stephen King's electronic-only (for now, at least) work *Riding the Bullet*? If so, reactions? I didn't, because, despite the fact that I liked *Bag of Bones* very much, I'm not that much of a King fan now.

□*TKK: Haven't been to the movies much lately and have only seen Shakespeare in Love among those you discuss. I did get a chance to see a pre-release screening of Battlefield Earth and while it is a good movie, it is not Battlefield Earth and they put in some plot wholes you could drive an entire planet through. TKK readers do read other stuff. I refuse to print everything that Joseph C. Major is reading because I simply don't have the space.*□

George Flynn
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March 31, 2000

Dear Henry and Letha,

Thanks for *TKK* 80. **Teddy's** cover is quite impressive; but why didn't he do *all* of it with a single line, instead of what looks like about 95%?

It seems to me that **E.R. Stewart's** column overgeneralizes a bit in attacking as an "ungenerous [and] martinet attitude" the position of a student who called *one* story "a disappointment." Tastes do differ, after all, and **Stewart's** reaction could be taken as a "martinet attitude" toward criticism. To be sure, perhaps the student's full statement might have justified this response, but the evidence given here isn't sufficient to demonstrate it.

Well, I also still haven't seen *The Phantom Menace* (though I intend to when the video comes out). But it strikes me that it's a good deal harder not to have seen Jar Jar Binks, when there's been so much discussion of the film (and Jar Jar in particular) in other places in the media, often with the showing of snippets, trailers, etc. For related reasons, it's very hard for any major work with a surprise ending to stay that way for long (often it's given away by people who *think* they're being discreet, but are incredibly sloppy about it).

Like **Lloyd Penney**, I spent three days in the first grade before being promoted because I could already read. The effects were much the same as **Lloyd** describes.

Sincerely yours,
George Flynn

□*TKK: The problem with seeing The Phantom Menace on video is that the movie is more about special effects than particularly great story. The video will not do it justice, just as video was a lousy format for the first three movies.*□

Gene Stewart
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April 05, 2000

Knarley & Mom,

A-MAZE-ing **Harvia** cover. Ben Franklin probably knew the feeling depicted quite well, eh? (Go fly a kite but keep your head in the stars.) And like TH, BF knew how to string out a line,

too. Impressive art.

KNARLEY'S SPUME - You need grad students to do the PowerPoint scutwork for you. The laptop is merely today's notion of portable. Wait 'til we're wearing our computers.

Thanks, **Charlotte**, for your excellent reviews. They illuminate and I much prefer light to the carping most paid critics tend to do.

Trinlay Khadro – I agree that religion won't vanish any time soon but it has undeniably caused quite a bit of bad behavior. Getting past that would help. To the extent that religion mitigates against tolerance it's a negative influence. Consider pre-fish Rome and other polytheistic societies if you think getting along has always seemed impossible. On the other hand, religion has evolved toward intolerance, it seems, so perhaps it really was easier back then.

You folks know that E R Stewart, Gene Stewart, and Gene R. Stewart are all me, right? My by-line has appeared several ways in several places recently and I'm not even sure why.

Not sure, either, how many in Congress owe alimony or child support, but I'd hate to be at the mercy of any of them.

If a teacher says a kid's not working to potential it probably means the teacher knows the kid is smarter than they are.

You're probably right about George Lucas loading his films with references we're supposed to spot, but the sheer number give me that queasy derivative feeling. Not that being derivative is a flaw for Hollywood movies, but Lucas slips in stuff from written material.

Violence tends to numb both giver and receiver in many ways, yes. Alas.

The defense that "advertisers wouldn't do it if it didn't work" is generalization not necessarily true for each specific ad. If Madison Avenue really knew how to make ads work every time, then it's be The Marching Morons all over again. Or is it just me?

Oh, yes, kung-fu was an influence on me, too. Can you imagine, though, if Moe Howard had studied martial arts? (Might have been a short career for the Three Stooges, eh? Or a whole weird new genre.)

Yes, print zines are eminently portable. I like them because I can loc while my kids are hogging computer time.

Tschüß is informal German for "be seeing you" or the equivalent. (Just saw it on a license plate in the BX parking lot yesterday -- synchrony.) I like the construction "Tschüß wisely" because it rhymes with "Choose wisely" and also reminds us to say goodbye cognizantly because each time may be the last. Carpe diem, memento mori, and so on.

Actually, all men are dogs, but some aspire to become fire hydrants.

A discount for cash is likely a last gasp as credit infiltrates our lives ever deeper.

You're right, most of us don't care about the private lives of public officials, but we like to know in general terms how thin the veneer is. That way we know better when they need a good shellacking.

Elizabeth Garrot – I fully agree about teachers. If only they weren't human -- oh, wait, that's Asimov's notion and it doesn't work (yet) either.

Harry Warner, Jr. – Connick is a rara avis these days but perhaps enjoyable for that very reason. He's not a bad actor, either.

Each of us has a list of pet peeves, both sf'nal and otherwise. Trouble arises when we try to apply generalizations, that's all. I tend to do what you do and avoid what bugs me. It's easier on everyone.

Ah, but you forget that advertisers do not target the audience. They target the bozo execs who hire and pay them. That's Madison Avenue's real audience.

I actually remember party lines, but don't recall exchange letters being used, nor the mnemonic words such as Butterfield 8. However, the letters are still useful both as memory aids for some numbers and for encoding responses to menus and surveys and such.

My kids can't recall a night when at least one of their parents wasn't in the house, either. It's sad that this is rare these days, and it's dangerous, too. Not just to the kids left alone, but to society, who must deal with what they get up to when unsupervised. Like finding guns.

Joseph T. Major – Hey, my wife's a Major now, too, as of yesterday. Of course it's a USAF rank, but still.

Give Chron's Disease back at once.

As for when sf came to an end, I say it hasn't even been invented yet. It's just us remembering the future as we've always done. Ask PKD. And the Panshins are obviously ETs bent on confuddling us.

Quite so, bootleggers profit from dry counties. How could I have forgotten one of my rules of thumb, which is that Things are as they are because those with the power to change things want them that way. Heck, the dry county/bootlegger dynamic is the same as the federal War On Drugs nonsense.

Marty Cantor – My kids compare well with the general population in most things, but don't sell GenPop short. Kids are usually far hipper than their thoughts, speech, and actions let on. Just ask their parents.

So you're fandom's resident curmudgeon – and here I'd been thinking Ted White had that title sewn up.

But, but...if someone consistently wins a Hugo every year it means we like them, we really really like them, so limiting each to a certain number seems churlish. Or is it merely curmudgeonly?

Sorry, **Marty**, but the Cult considers as locs especially letters marked “Not a LOC”. Of course, we're the nastiest bastards in fandom, so this offer may not apply in your locale. And death shall not release you.

Garth Spencer – The difficulties in having the reader read what you wrote is but one of the challenges of writing and is why writers are such highly-paid and highly-esteemed professionals. Ahem. Do not try this at home.

Quite right, there probably are folks who take entertainment as reality but I've never visited that particular aunt, either.

Andrew C. Murdoch – Did that fishfolk comic you cited advocating the burning of the works of Tolkien & Lewis -- sounds like a faanish comedy team of yore – happen to mention why the fishfolk fear fantasy so fiercely? (Pardon the spontaneous alliteration, it's akin to hiccups.) Indeed so, fiction's about people, so all things human are fair game. As King Stephen demonstrates so well.

The religion of reality has a nice ring to it. Let's hope it's not the One Ring, though.

I, too, tolerated *The Phantom Menace* well enough, Jar squared Binks & all. He was like the Brazil nut in the can of mixed nuts, though, y'know?

A new faanish motto: “We're neater than Shriners.” Rally round.

Knarley - Ah, yes, “The Wife of Bath” in *Canterbury Tales*, aye. Hoohah...

Dale Speirs – I find manual typewriters a sensuous experience that recalls my misspent youth. I use a Brother 50 electronic only for envelopes these days, and that rarely. Sure miss my old office Royal, though. As for a manual typer being faster than a computer, I'll race ya.

Joy V. Smith – No limits for sf, hooray. We need to march on the hallowed halls, or hollowed HALs, of fandom and insist upon this, eh?

Eric Lindsay – True, companies left to run amok tend to do just that, but fair restrictions are difficult to come up with, too, when demonstrably no one understands the market to any great degree.

Tom Feller – I've noted Clancy's kinship to RAH, too. And yes, Clancy's not sf, but certainly sf'nal.

Harry Andruschak – Congratulations on 16 years of sobriety, a wonderful accomplishment. And sure, seeing damaged folks regularly colors one's view of humanity, but that doesn't stop the good ones. Bravo.

Robert Lichtman – No, no – Clarke said and I emphasized not that sf excludes all but science & technology, but that it covers all the ground other genres cover, plus science & technology. This makes sf more realistic. Further, the natural world and the human experience are inarguably part of sf -- where would anyone get the opposite impression? The weakness wasn't on Clarke's part but on your inexplicable misrepresent the quotation I paraphrased even after you'd just quoted verbatim what I'd written. This leads me to suspect you merely sought a straw man to knock over and burn, which is unworthy of this zine's usual level of discourse.

Incidentally, Asimov echoed Clarke's point several times in his scads of essays, and so did RAH and others. It's neither a new nor a particularly controversial observation that sf embraces a much wider range of materials than any other genre. It's demonstrably true.

Lloyd Penney – It's a mistake to think a future must be more scientific or rational, although many sf writers prefer them as it's then easier to plot neatly. Still, I suspect dystopia's holding its own. Congratulations on being FGoH, too, by the way.

Terry Jeeves – Yes, I suspect Clarke got lazy and wrote outlines for Gentry Lee to flesh out, which would explain the decline of the Rama series quite simply. Congratulations on the new computer, too. By all means email me when you get it up and running.

Jim Rittenhouse – Good news about your surgery; recover quickly, okay?

Arthur Hlavaty – Of course you realize this may lead to jokes about how many bones it takes **Hlavaty** to change a light-bulb– Mend quickly, hm?

Another excellent issue: Bravo, encore.

Namaste.

Tschüß wisely –

OLD 815 Gene Stewart

☐**TKK**: *Congratulations to your wife on her promotion. If I've contributed to your nom-de-plume proliferation it is only because I work very hard at trying to use the names as found. In one issue that resulted in a return address as Thayer and a signature as Harvia. Call me anal-retentive if you like. You'll notice I do that with LOC dates. I use the form provided.*☐

Karen Johnson
35 Mariana Ave.
South Croydon, VIC 3136
Australia
14/4/00

Hi Knarley One,

I just got *TKK*. I'm afraid I've been slipping into GAFIATION, because I've gotten so far behind this year... I owe about 50 people LOCs, but at this stage I'm afraid they're not going to happen. I am making a last desperate attempt to avoid my fate, which is why I'm sitting down tonight and writing actual letters.

I'm watching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* while I write and someone just got their throat cut—ugh! They don't actually show direct violence on *Buffy*, which is one of the things I like about it. It's generally a good mood lifter, unlike *Angel*! I like that show too, but it's a lot darker and my favourite character just got killed off after only 9 episodes. I didn't believe it...I'd wish for your standard Trek-type rewrite of history if necessary to fix things, but it's not happening. Doyle's gone and rumor says that he's being replaced by the character we all love to hate...

The last few months have gone past so quickly it's amazing. I've been on Benefits this year because work was very thin on the ground and I haven't had any income! Now they've expired and I've got to get back to work, like it or not. But the winter terms are the busy ones and I've got an interview next week for a real genuine full-time teaching job. It's only for the term, but that would solve the little money problem if it works out. I don't really **want** to work full-time, but I may not have the choice.

Take care
Karen Johnson

☐*TKK: Good luck with the job hunting. Teaching is such an under-appreciated profession and is often underpaid. Some of that is no doubt due to poor quality among some teachers, but if the pay was better it might attract more truly qualified individuals.*☐

Andrew C. Murdoch
#508-6800 Westminster Highway,
Richmond, B.C. V7C 1C5
Canada
raven@wolf.spydernet.com
21 April 2000

Dear Knarley,

Issue 80 arrived and, of course, was read cover to cover as soon as time permitted. And now, to LoCcing (I love e-mail!).

Charlotte's not the only one to notice the distinct bias of some critics about movies. More than once I've loved a film the critics hated, and vice versa. No accounting for taste, which is why I tend to ignore the critics on everything.

Gene Stewart's response to **Lloyd Penney** theorizes an interesting turn of events. It used to be that only the haves could read, and now it seems only the have nots will be able to, because it is a lower-tech alternative to having machines do all the work. Now, going into a Chapters bookstore, for example, I think this may be a long time coming. After all, who'd be able to read the technical manuals when something goes wrong? Not a have not, as the technical expertise required pays well.

I didn't get to the WorldCon in the Netherlands like **Lloyd** did, but I did go there in the summer of 1992 for upwards of a month while I was backpacking my way like a vagabond around Europe and Great Britain. I did see what was perhaps the biggest horticultural show going, though, the Floriade, which happens once every ten years. In addition to some interesting displays (like a walk-in beehive, agricultural technology, etc.) it had one of the largest landscaped areas around. (**Lloyd** will know what I mean when I compare it to Victoria's Buchart Gardens. It's that big or larger.) I also saw one of the WWII cemeteries solely dedicated to Canadian soldiers. During the visit, my friends and I encountered a Canadian Government official whose job it is to travel Europe, survey the war cemeteries, and make arrangements for them to be tended to on an annual basis. He never has to make any arrangements for the cemeteries in the Netherlands, as they're tended by Dutch school children as part of their education on WWII history. Something about Canadian troops beating back an SS division and Canada sheltering the reigning Queen and newborn Princess.

Karen Johnson's troubles with the local power company would have had me up in arms. A labour dispute is probably the least justifiable reason to ration electricity. I have to ask, though, what would have been the consequences of not adhering to the restrictions? I personally can't imagine anyone else sitting too still for it, either. If anything, more things might have been turned on in protest during the ration period!

Until next ish,
Hail, Centurion!
Andrew C. Murdoch

☐*TKK: Australians must be more laid back than us North Americans. Anything other than a brief and occasional power outage is cause for major moaning and complaining. It is simply not tolerated.*☐

We also heard from:

Harry Andruschak, Melissa Dunajski (who reports that the SciFi Channel has purchased the rights to *Babylon 5*), Tommy Ferguson, Mike Glyer, Terry Jeeves (who points out that Joyce Grenfell was mid-20th not mid-19th century), Guy Lillian (who is still euphoric over his Hugo nomination), Mike Lowery, Joe Mayhew (who denies that the word "Katherine" was intended), Karen Pender-Gunn, Alexander Slate,



REVIEW TEMPLATE

Fanzine Title by editor(s)' name; address; e-mail (if known); web URL (if known); frequency of publication; acceptable "payment" to receive a copy. Some mostly useless commentary by me about the issue. "The usual" generally refers to either a letter of comment (LOC), a contribution, or trading with your fanzine or generally any friendly means of communication.

Challenger I` by Guy H. Lillian, III; PO Box 53092; New Orleans, LA 70153-3092; GHLIII@yahoo.com; irregular; \$6 or the usual. This is a fine genzine with good articles, lots of photos and letters. A good read and now even a Hugo nominee.

Covert Communications From Zeta Corvi #5 by Andrew C. Murdoch; 508-6800 Westminster Highway; Richmond, BC V7C 1C5; Canada; raven@wolf.spydernet.com; irregular; \$2 or the usual. This issue contains a list of awards, zine list, and articles.

Fanzine Fanatique by Keith Walker; 6 Vine St.; Lancaster LA1 4UF; England; KWalker777@aol.com; irregular; exchange or editorial whim. A short zine composed primarily of capsule reviews of other zines. Special focus on Spanish zines in this issue.

File 770: 134 by Mike Glyer; 705 Valley View Ave.; Monrovia, CA 91016; MGlyer@compuserve.com; irregular; \$2.50 or the usual. A newszine with articles in this issue on conventions, Chinese baby adoptions, and fanac on the net.

FortyTwo Episode 1 by Mark Strickert; 2981 Canyon Crest Dr. #58; Riverside, CA 92507; marktime42@earthlink.net; irregular; the usual. This appears to be the successor to *Marktime* and continues the ongoing discussion of Mark's hobbies which include county visiting, baseball, radio stations, and mass transit.

FOSFAX 189 by Tim Lane & Elizabeth Garrot;%FOSFA; PO Box 37281; Louisville, KY 40233-7281; quarterly; \$3 or the usual. A very large zine issues with oodles of SF related material and lots of political discussion.

Memphen 265 and 266 by Michael Kingsley;%MSFA; PO Box 820534; Memphis, TN 38182-0534; monthly; \$12/12 or the usual. The unofficial publication of the Memphis Science Fiction Association. These issues contain a little bit of everything.

Fanzines Received in Trade

Mimosa 25 by Dick & Nicki Lynch; PO Box 3120; Germantown, MD 20885-3120; fiawol@cpcug.org; <http://www.jophan.org/mimosa>; irregular; \$4 or the usual. Lots of great stories and anecdotes in this perennial Hugo nominee.

Opuntia 44.1D by Dale Speirs; Box 6830; Calgary, Alberta; Canada T2P 2E7; irregular; \$3 or the usual. The multi-part review zine continues with a focus on fanzines and mail art.

PhiloSFy #14 by Alexander Slate; 8603 Shallow Ridge; San Antonio, TX 78239-4022; alex_slate@hotmail.com; irregular; \$1.50 or the usual. This zine has the expected personal diary and a continued look at medical ethics.

The Reluctant Famulus 55 by Tom Sadler; 422 W Maple Ave; Adrian, MI 49221-1627; tomfamulus@dmci.net; quarterly; \$2 or the usual. A long overdue (copier problems) installment of this great genzine. Lots of SF and other interesting things along with a good letter column.

The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette #5 by Garth Spencer; PO Box 15335, V.M.P.O.; Vancouver, BC V6B 5B1; hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca; <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/sig/rsn>; irregular; the usual. Garth finds himself overburdened with too many fannish projects and would like to find takers. Are you interested?

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Vol7 No6 by Julie Wall; 470 Ridge Rd.; Birmingham, AL 35206; jwall@usit.net; quarterly; \$10/yr or the usual. The usual host of southern fannish lists plus an interesting feature on unusual drinks encountered at conventions.

Thyme 128 by Alan Stewart; PO Box 222; World Trade Center; Melbourne, VIC 8005; Australia; irregular; \$15 %Mark Olson; 10 Shamutt Terrace, Framingham, MA 01702 or the usual; fiawol@netspace.net.au. The official Australian newszine with news fallout after Aussiecon

TommyWorld50 by Tommy Ferguson; 17 Delhi St; Belfast, BT7 3AJ; Northern Ireland; tferg@lineone.net; irregular; the usual. A letter substitute from the man that has move more times than I can count.

Twink 17 by E.B. Frohvet; 4716 Dorsey Hall Dr. #506; Ellicott City, MD 21042; quarterly; the usual. A nice genzine which actually discusses SF which some might view as a disgrace in a fanzine, but I appreciate it.

Vanamonde No.343-52 by John Hertz; 236 S Coronado St No 409; Los Angeles, CA 90057; This is John's APA-L zine with interesting tidbits on the side.

"Yngvi is a Louse" and Other Graffitos #63 and 64 by T.K.F. Weisskopf; PO Box 130162; Birmingham, AL 35213; irregular; the usual. This is a SFPA zine plus a whole lot more. It fits the definition of a genzine much better than most APA zines.

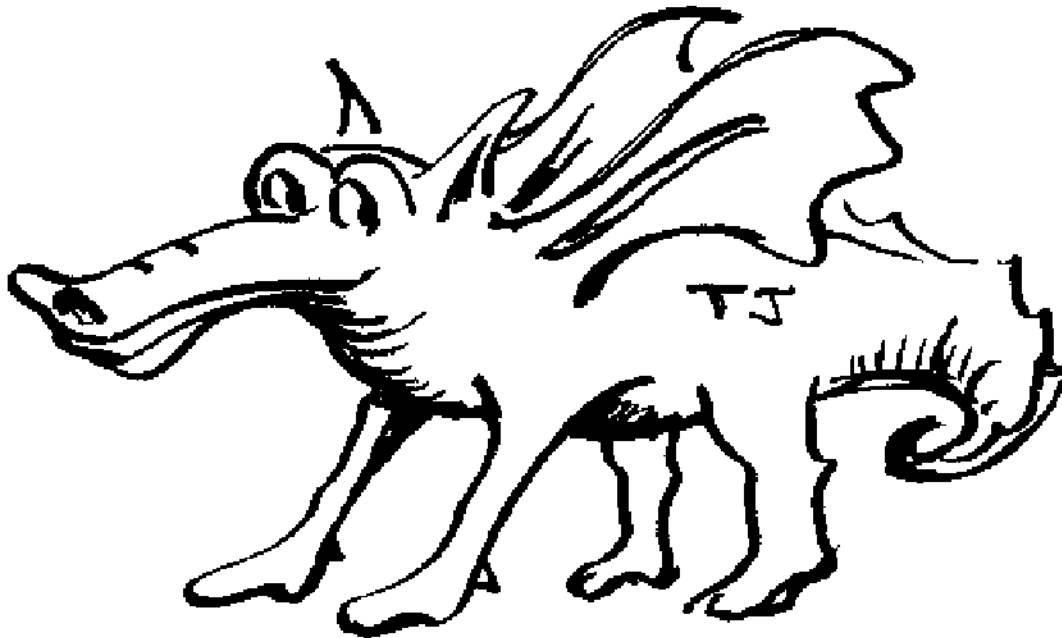
A number of e-mail newsletters from Joyce Scrivner; PO Box 7620; Minneapolis, MN 55407; jks1@unisys.com. The last few issues have covered a variety of loosely linked topics.

Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

Chicon 2000 – Chicago, IL
Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) -- Marsport, Mars

August 31 - September 4, 2000
Labor Day, 2095

This list has become embarrassingly brief. Inspire me, please!



You got this issue because ...

- _____ It is not a student paper, it is not to be graded electronically, and should be enjoyed.
- _____ The weather has been really lousy the last two days. Which is relevant, because...
- _____ Operation 'Snow White is in full swing so I'm a bit pre-occupied.
- _____ We Trade
- _____ You sent me a contribution
- _____ You sent me a letter of ~~complaint~~ comment

According to subscriber records, you have _____ more issues left in your subscription.