

The Knarley Knews 119



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The Knarley Knews -- Issue 119
Published in August, 2006

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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 (black-holish behavior is not rewarded). 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, although their efficacy is highly suspect, and have never turned down a financial contribution.

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Next Issue Deadline: October 10, 2006

Editorial

(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

The landscape formatting project is being put off indefinitely. I am just too damn busy to mess with it at this time.

This is your last chance to comment on the 20th Anniversary theme of "Why do we do fanzines." Next issue (late October) will represent of 20 straight years of publishing *The Knarley Knews*. It has been a long road, but one well-worth traveling.

Please help me make this a great issue by sending in your input and feedback.

Unfortunately, after many treatment attempts, we were compelled to have Stumpy euthanized in July. Despite a round of chemo-therapy, anti-biotic, and steroid treatments his condition did not improve. By the end, despite eating and drinking regularly, he was down to less than five pounds and could hardly walk without listing from side to side. He seemed happy enough at the end, but it was clear that despite his appetite his body was simply unable to receive any nutrients from the food he was eating. Kyle and Kira accompanied us to the vet and the entire family was present when we buried him in the back yard next to Tiger and Nemesis. Stumpy was approximately 7 years old. He is survived by his brother, Cheetah, who continues to be aloof and vomits somewhere in the house most days. Despite his obvious digestive issues he is quite plump and otherwise happy. Many thanks for your many words of encouragement and well-wishes for this recovery over the past months.

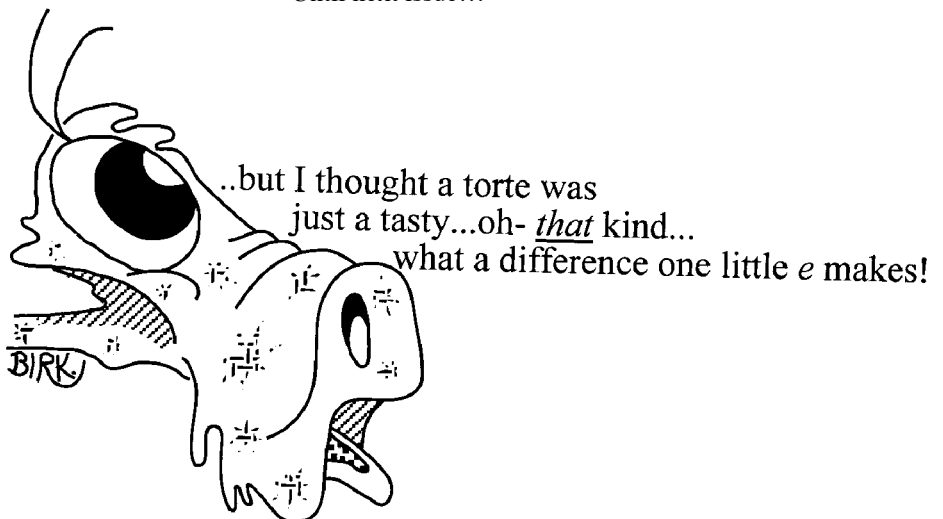
The summer in law school was rather light. I got an A in my one-credit Advance Legal Research course and passed my three-credit Mediation Clinic. This puts me at 42/90ths of the way through law school. I expect to be at it at least two more years. The fall term is already started and in addition to my Intellectual Property Survey and Alternative Dispute Resolution courses I am also on both the Marquette Law Review and the Marquette Intellectual Law Review as well as participating in a judicial internship with Judge Coffey of the Federal Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals here in Milwaukee. This is a busy schedule on top of my more than full load at MSOE, but it will all

be over at the end of November. It is too early to comment on the full effects of this schedule as MSOE will not be in session until after this issue sees print.

Development work in the Cherney-Maribel Caves Park continues. In addition to helping standardize the digging procedure the group we are working with has taken on other projects in the park. The debris removed from the cave is now being actively used to upgrade one of the trails in the park and we are cleaning out the old stables that burned around 80 years ago. The stables will be used as a staging area of rock materials (fill, building, and paving stones) that have been recovered from the somewhat deteriorated stables and from the cave. Letha and J.D. (a local expert on the park and the area) have developed drafts of brochures for the park and will be involved in a tour that will be given to the Manitowoc Country Planning and Park Commission. The long-term goal is to get an interpretive center built in the park that tells the history and provides support and exposure for the caves, natural area, and nearby springs.

I'd love to say that I have lots more to comment on, but much of July and August were rather slow months. We did take a week long vacation without any cell phones and computers at the start of July, but there is nothing really interesting to discuss regarding that. I'm hoping to get away for the Labor Day weekend. I'd like to tour Hendrie River Cave in the UP of Michigan and then possibly take part in the annual Labor Day walk across the Mackinac Bridge. The later is something that we used to do every year when I was a child.

Until next issue...



Analysis

(c) by Jim Sullivan

In the quiet little community of Stopat, Indiana, just 20 miles south of Kokomo, residents have been coming down, for no apparent reason, with an unknown malady. Everyone's symptoms are alike: runny nose (more than expected), diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy (more than usual), and an overwhelming urge to sing or, at least, to hum old show tunes.

The illness lasts about a week; then it's gone. No symptoms remain, save for the singing compulsion. (Talk about your hills being alive with the sound of music!)

Floyd Flatowe, M.D., the town doctor, was stumped for a cause of this outbreak. After exhausting all possibilities he could think of, he thought it might be prudent to have the local drinking water analyzed. So, he turned the matter over to Stopat's mayor, Dr. Flatowe (16 terms), to find a reputable water tester. The best and only one in a 50-mile radius was hired. A week later, the test results were in and posted prominently on Stopat's downtown, outdoor, corkboard bulletin board (with neon night lights). Here's what was in the report:

Stopat, Indiana Water Test, October 20th, 2002

Water tested came from Stopat's one well and creek (Upha Creek, named in honor of the community's beloved former Fire Department leader Chief Charlie Upha). Water contains, in addition to suspected H₂O,

- 1 Part-Per-Billion (PPB) Florine, good for children's teeth
- 1 PPB Constantine, good for adult teeth
- 1 PPB Imogene, good for cats' and dogs' teeth (and gums)
- 1 PPB lead, frequently found in old miner's pants, not to mention old water pipes
- 1 PPB arsenic (mice poison) to get rodents out of town
- 2 PPB old lace, still leaking out of the old doily/pantaloon factory
- 1 PPB urine from little Billy-Joe Jankowitz who, upon spying a bear, got scared (who wouldn't have?), and peed, involuntarily, in the creek last May
- 3 PPB Mrs. Ora O'Reilly's washing machine suds (she does her laundry too close to the creek)
- 1 PPB Mr. O'Reilly's dirty dinghy (always leaking in the creek)
- 1 PPB Sam Paternoster's feet soaking in the creek after the daily trek to and from the only local tavern (Tyoneon's Inn) on the outskirts of Stopat
- 1 PPB Willa Mae McKonkle's perfume, Eau de Terre Haute, for her annual skinny dip in the creek on April Fools Day last year
- 1 PPB Barry Treebottom's fishing lure (fermented, small-mouth bass sperm) used extravagantly every Wednesday afternoon when he fishes the creek for brook trout

- 1 PPB rye whiskey from Pastor Bill Jenkin's wife emptying another newly discovered bottle of her minister husband's stashed booze
- 1 PPB mercury from Chief Upha's '68 Marquis that sank in the creek last Christmas
- 1 PPB PCBs from unknown but frequently guessed source (note: ask old lady Price what she's doing with her divorced husband's extensive LP phonograph records)

CONCLUSION: NOTHING UNUSUAL, UNEXPECTED, UNTOWARD, OR PARTICULARLY NASTY OR DANGEROUS FOUND IN STOPAT'S WATER SUPPLY!

In short, local creek and well water is fully fit to drink, to cook in and with, and to bathe yourself, your food, or your game in. Any ill effects after using this water in any manner are the fault of individual users, or their parents, depending upon users' ages.

The water testing firm (known hereinafter as: The Water Testing Firm, Inc.), is not liable nor is in any way responsible for any illness, disease, or accident connected with or assumed to be linked to the foregoing, analyzed water from Stopat, Indiana.

Respectfully submitted,
Phil T. Smythereen, DSO, FOP, SOB
President and HWA (Head Water Analyst)*
*Licensed by the Great State of Indiana,
Menlo C. Park, Governor

Epilogue:

Two weeks after this analysis, Dr. Flatowe, in his capacity as Stopat Health Commissioner, put two and two together and discovered the true source of the local illness: tainted sheet music and liner notes from Mr. Prices' LP collection now in the hands of his estranged wife!



ReVisions edited by Julie E. Czerneda and Isaac Szpindel
DAW, New York: 2004. 312 pages, pb, ISBN 0-7564-0240-9
Review by Janine Stinson

Yes...I've been a ghoo little fan...
even sent in my Hugo ballot!



This anthology of 15 stories centers on alternate histories (AH) from various points in our timeline. All the stories are at least competent, which one would expect from two editors with plenty of experience as both editors and writers in SF. Reader interest levels for each story will also vary depending on taste.

Anthology reviews which review each story in the book bore me to tears. Instead, we'll hit the alt-history nodes:

- * Perhaps because Adolph Hitler has been a magnet for alternate history (AH) tales since, like, forever, Geoffrey Landis chooses the First World War and the potential assassination of Tsar Nicholas II as a starting point, and involves Nikola Tesla and lasers as well ("The Resonance of Light").
- * Czerneda's selection looks at what might have happened if the Chinese had discovered what caused black plague in 1301 ("Out of China").
- * What if the U.S. push into space had gone underwater (with earlier development of self-contained dive apparati and associated inventions) instead of up? wonders Laura Anne Gilman, and gives us the results ("Site Fourteen").
- * Kage Baker presents a slightly whimsical, very earthy alternate look at the life of Leonardo da Vinci ("Silent Leonardo").
- * Man's best friend is given a decidedly less friendly status in Doranna Durgin's tale of dogs who never were domesticated ("A Call from the Wild").
- * James Alan Gardner dissects the rise of religions and philosophies in the Axial Age (600-400 BC) and wonders what those prophets and philosophers might have achieved if they'd spent a little time working their enlightenment into mathematical formulae ("Axial Axioms").
- * Robin Wayne Bailey pushes the advent of AIDS back 125 years and adds Sir Arthur Conan Doyle into the mix ("The Terminal Solution").
- * The carved cylinder seal and its potential if supersized by an ancient Sumerian scribe is John G. McDaid's fictional playground ("The Ashbazu Effect").
- * Peter Watts bases his story of a religious zealot who discovers the worst kind of betrayal on recent findings concerning the human brain and religious/spiritual/ecstatic experiences ("A Word for Heathens").
- * The school of Pythagoras was destroyed in ancient Greek times, and Jihane Noskateb examines what our world

might be like now if that school and its outlying chapters had survived ("A Ghost Story").

- * Kay Kenyon imagines what the Maya would have done with genetics if they'd known about it ("The Executioner's Apprentice").
- * The potential changes of a real cold-fusion discovery on the oil-rich nations in the Middle East is examined by Mike Resnick and Susan R. Matthews ("Swimming Upstream in the Wells of the Desert").
- * Copyright issues, government control of the Internet and the technoboom that never was are the hobbyhorses of Cory Doctorow and Charles Stross ("Unwirer").
- * Galileo Galilei's daughter died before she could provide further collaborative energy to her father, but if she hadn't, what else might they have discovered together? Editor Szpindel ponders the point in his story ("When the Morning Stars Sang Together").
- * Jay Caselberg brings us a story of clones based on a change in Einstein's life and the research of a German embryologist in the 1920s ("Herd Mentality").

My personal favorites? "A Word for Heathens" is a searing, scary look at zealotry (a.k.a. fanaticism?). It reminds me a lot, mostly in terms of my reaction to it, of Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. The sea change a person of passionate beliefs undergoes when those beliefs are revealed in their true form can be a frightening one, and Watts chooses this path to delineate his apparent loathing of all things religious. I count SF stories that make me think about them long after I finish reading them as good SF, and this is one of them. Czerneda's "Out of China" follows one man's quest to find the answer to a pressing scientific question and does so with characters that breathe from the pages. In these two stories, it's the characters that make the stories and not the reverse.

What's welcome in an anthology of this type are the "Revision Points" by each writer, where the details of the historical point each chose to alter are provided. Those (like me) who aren't big history buffs might want to read each revision point first and then the story, so as to be able to better understand what's being changed. I wish I'd read it that way. In fact, I wish the editors had put the revision points before each story. It would have made some of the stories more comprehensible in term of their import.

Sue's Sites: Beijing New Oriental Language School at Yangzhou

by Sue Welch

"Come on, Sue. You can do it! I am not taking no for an answer this year." pleaded Janet, a close friend of my brother and sister-in-law.

"Janet, I don't know anything about teaching little kids. They are wiggly; they don't pay attention and besides I only know two words of Mandarin: Nihao and Xie xie." I replied.

"You are a native US English speaker. This is the only requirement. The purpose of this program is to give Chinese children a chance to listen to spoken US English and hopefully be able to respond to you in a simple manner. They learn to read and write English from their first to their last day of schooling; their teachers are Chinese and struggling to speak English. No matter what you say or teach them, this is a huge opportunity for not only the kids but their teachers as well."

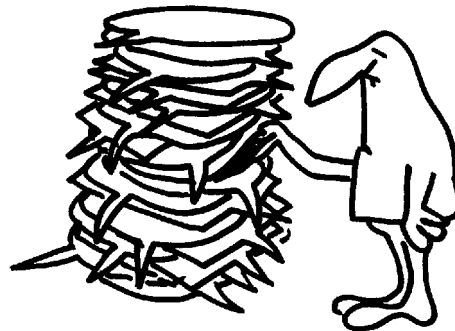
And this is how I found myself sitting on flight 858 bound for Shanghai on July 11 along with 150 pounds of teaching supplies as well as all the stuff I could not leave home without. A flight to Beijing also carried others who were doing this in the Beijing area. This program is sponsored by Global Language Villages; classes on their Minnesota campus include both language and normal daily Chinese activities for children, ages 7 to 18. GLV does a total of 14 different languages including Arabic, Japanese and Finnish.

In Shanghai we were provided with 3 days of local touring to give us a flavor for China as well as recover from the time difference. But there seemed no time to catch our breath as we were hurried to our hotel in time for dinner and orientation; then back in the lobby the next day at 8 am for 14 hours of not to be missed sights in Shanghai.

The fourth day each group traveled to their respective schools. Ours was a four-hour bus ride to the northwest. Following a quick lunch we were immediately in an orientation, meeting our national teachers and then setting up our classrooms. No time for tea or a much needed cup of coffee or even seeing our sleeping rooms. And this is how our 15 days at the school were – very intense. Early the next morning found 6 boys and 8 girls seated in room Y1-3, staring at me.

"The Beijing New Oriental Foreign Language School (BNOFLS) at Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, PR China, is hiring native speaking English teachers. The school is new and has state-of-the-art facilities. It is managed with a philosophy of education that is a unique blend of the best parts of both eastern and western education. International teachers are both welcomed and made comfortable here.

BNOFLS at Yangzhou is part of the greater BNOFLS education system, the biggest privately owned school enterprise* in China with 350,000 students nation-wide at 14 sites. The



LEXICON

new school in Yangzhou opened in September 2003, with over 1,000 students in grades 1-7. The modern facilities expanded in September 2004 enrolling 2,000 students in grades 1-8, and again in September 2005 enrolling 3,000 students in grades 1-10. In September 2006 the student population will expand to 3,500 students in grades 1-11. Situated on the outskirts of Yangzhou and located between the Grand Canal and the Liao Jia River, the school's spacious grounds include a beautifully landscaped canal running through the center. A convenient bus stop with regular buses to the city is located at the school gates.

Yangzhou, a medium sized city of 4.5 million people, is a beautiful mixture of both modern and old traditional style buildings built around an ancient canal system lined, as are the streets, with gorgeous willows. It is about an hour's drive from Nanjing (the capital city of Jiangsu Province) and about four hours drive north of Shanghai. With a long history, Yangzhou has many historical and scenic locations to enjoy**, such as homes and gardens once privately owned by wealthy salt traders in the distant past, ancient Buddhist monasteries, and the magnificent Slender West Lake Park. Yangzhou is the home of Huaiyang cuisine, one of four famous cuisines in China. It also has a unique bath and massage culture which is a must experience for visitors.

Dr. Xiuwen Wang is the head of the school. Dr. Wang lived in America for over 15 years and understands both western and eastern cultures, a necessity for pleasant working and living conditions in China."

*This school is for profit. Tuition here is expensive which means that the students are from well off families. There are no spots for needy children who attend public schools. Most of the other GLV groups were at public schools with varying kinds of facilities. Almost all of our students are year round at BNOFLS and live at the school. During our program they also lived here in dorms. China does not do weekends as in the States: Saturday and Sunday are regular workdays.

**Yangzhou also has a very nice hotel that serves western buffet meals.

Juhu and Bombay

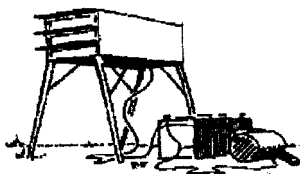
I experienced my first monsoon at Juhu, an experience it is best to avoid. Imagine the most torrential rainstorm you have ever met, double it, throw in thunder and lightning, then let the whole thing run for several hours and you have a pale idea of what goes on during the first day of the monsoon. It doesn't help to know you're sitting at the bottom end of several high aerals. The near endless rain continues on and off for weeks, the sun is seldom seen, clothes, bedding, papers all get clammy and damp. If you didn't keep turning and airing your kit regularly it would acquire a nasty green mold. A monsoon may look exciting and glamorous on film, but in practice a life of gumboots, wet clothes and endless mud is not a fun thing.

Once the monsoon ended life resume a more pleasant manner. Strolling on the beach was resumed, including dodging dried up jellyfish, watching snake charmers in action and handling the monkeys offered a photo props by native trainers. The monkeys were warm and friendly, but handling the snakes produced a cold, clammy feeling.

Service life kept intruding on all the jollity at Juhu. Signals Personnel avoided such fascinating party games as "Guard Duty for six or more players," or "Fire Piquet bring your own matches." However, we had other crosses to bear, one being "Night Flying." No, we didn't go zooming around in the Dominie, the CO, Squadron Leader Lancaster did that, but since Juhu lacked any form of aerodrome runway floodlighting, he needed some assistance in getting down again if he wanted to do it in one piece. When detailed for Night Flying I collected a 12 volt accumulator, an Aldiss Lamp and a strange device called a Glide Path Indicator, a box about the height of a tea trolley. Inside was a lamp which shone through a three-coloured pane of glass, amber, green, and red. The idea was for the pilot to bring his aircraft in so he only saw the green. Amber meant "Too high," red was "Too low." Having collected all the gubbins and carted it to the end of the runway, I plugged in the Aldiss and the GPI, then waited. Eventually, the Dominie came droning along in the night sky from somewhere as much as half a mile away and began to orbit the aerodrome. A flashing lamp warned me the CO wanted to land. I switched on the GPI and gave the Dominie an "OK" on the Aldiss to indicate he could come in. Having completed this intricate and highly technical manoeuvre, I sat back and waited. The Dominie came round, settled into its approach and began the long, slow protracted and shallow glide required to get it back safely.

It was at this moment that the Jeeves bugaboo factor struck. A stray dog chose to investigate the middle of the runway with obvious unmentionable ideas. Happily, frantic shouting and a well aimed brick saved the day.

Juhu landing strip was not all that long by the way. It was OK for the slow landing Dominie or Wapiti – the latter could almost land *across* the width of the runway. No so, certain visiting aircraft. Came the day when nine Hurricanes escorted by



Carry on Jeeves

By Terry Jeeves

a twin-engine Hudson arrived on a ferry flight. The Hudson made it, but three of the Hurricanes overshot into the post-monsoon mud.

As mentioned earlier, our Signals section had three mechanics, myself, Pete Foster, and Jack Hazell. Our three-shift system has us tending a rather ramshackle empire comprising one transmitter, T-1087, two T-1190s and an ex-aircraft, battery-operated T-1155 – the one with the green, blue, and yellow knobs. The '87 and '90s stood some six feet tall and had similar-sized power and control units. It was our job to keep the things operating properly and repair any faults which occurred – usually in the wee small hours of the night shift. We also had to keep shifting the operating frequencies up and down at the telephoned whims of the operators in Bombay as they sought to avoid interference. At dusk, each had to be re-tuned to night frequency, then back again at dawn. This not only involved doing complicated things inside the transmitters, but included swapping aerals by clambering on top of the signals cabin or the trailer. No joke at monsoon time.

One day the Signals officer and Sergeant decided to do some modification on a transmitter. Unknown to me, this included shorting out of a condenser which isolated the aerial from the power supply of some 2,500 volts. I came on duty just after this was done and a few minutes later the SO told me to disconnect the aerial. I duly switched off the key switch so the transmitter couldn't be operated and reached up and grabbed the aerial terminal. The aerial should have been safe to touch – it wasn't! There was a big flash, my hand snapped back off the terminal and screwed up against my chest. It was five minutes before it began to untwist again. I had been lucky, inasmuch as my forearm had been touching the case. The 2,000 volts had gone in my finger and out of my forearm. If it hadn't it would have ended my military career there and then. As it was, I had some nasty burns which took several weeks to heal.

Sometimes we would hire cycles and tour Bombay, visit the Malabar Gardens or ride out for a swim in the posh (and Europeans only) Breach Candy swimming pool. At other times, when less energetic we would patronize the less pretentious and much more sleazy, Bak Bay Baths. Then there was the Metro Cinema, a place where we finally turned the tables on Ian Todd, our stereotype, penny-pinching Scot. Ian *never* had change. Whenever the char wallah came round, Ian would always come up with, "You get 'em Jock, I've only got a ten rupee note. I'll pay ye later."

On reaching the railway station it was "Wull ye no get the tickets, mon? I've only got a ten chip note, I'll settle up later." "Later," like tomorrow, never came – until the night we caught Ian at the cinema. As we approached the pay desk, Ian began his spiel, "You got 'em Jock, I've only got



a ten rupee note.” Immediately he found himself shoved to the pay desk and a chorus of, “Just the place to get it changed then Ian.” Ian was shattered as he paid up, but even before we reached our seats, hew as dunning us for our money.

On emerging from the cinema late at night, it was a task to pick one’s way through the maze of sleeping bodies on the pavement. On reaching the station for the return trip home there was a new hazard in the shape of numerous begging children wailing, “No father, no mamma, no brother, no sister...” etc. No wonder it was sometimes called the Land of the Ever Waving Palms.

Incidentally, Ian was a drum addict. Given a couple of sticks he would batter out drum rolls, riffs, and what not as if he were Gene Krupa (a famous film star of the era). So keen was he on this pastime that on one occasion, lacking a cymbal to bash, he punched a hole in his tin dinner plate and suspended it on a string. The row he created was worse than ever, but we got our laughs in the end. Came lunch time, Ian retrieved his plate, joined the mess queue, where he collected a plate of meat, potatoes ... and gravy. He was half-way to a table that he found sticky brown gravy running all down his shorts.

The pleasant life at Juhu couldn’t last forever. One day we received a couple extra men to help, run the transmitting station. This reduced our shift times very nicely, but then the Air

Force, in it s infinite idiocy, heaved a spanner in the works by posting away every mechanic save myself and an inexperienced chap called Budd. Whilst the Signals Officer ran around in small circles to get the postings cancelled, Budd and I had to work 12 hours on, 12 hours off to keep the station running. In that twelve off, we had to eat, sleep, and relieve each other for meals! Happily the postings were canceled and our lives settled back to what passes for normal in the RAF. A situation which lasted two weeks before we were moved into the new purpose-built station in the centre of Bombay.



At first things seemed an improvement. We were billeted in two luxury blocks of flats (Astoria and Mayfair) just opposite Churchgate Station. Inevitably, there was a catch. Everything, but *everything*, in the Astoria had been removed. We lived in totally bare rooms, the only furniture being the standard wood-frame charpoys. We got plenty of exercise on the stairs as there were no lifts. One semi-perk was the fact that there was no cookhouse, so we got an extra three rupees a day (about 22p) to pay for eating in cafes. That could vanish in a single meal if you ate in the places which were not “Out of Bounds.” We had to add some of our own money for food, but it made for a flexible lifestyle – while it lasted. Our stay in the Astoria was short-lived. Just as soon as the big white chiefs could arrange it we were transferred into tents on Marine Drive.

After the relative comfort of Juhu and the relative privacy of the Astoria, the tents were a nightmare. Instead of being set out in lines, they had been planted haphazardly here and there. Tent ropes intertwined so that getting back to your tent after dark was like running an assault course. The move took

place unexpectedly whilst I was up at Juhu. A kind friend moved my gear in my absence, but on my return at night, I not only had to negotiate the maze, but discover which blacked-out tent was my new home.

Naturally the RAF had not considered any form of lighting for the tents, oil lamps and paraffin were unavailable; we were left to use candles, which, as usual, we had to buy ourselves. One quiet afternoon, we set about solving the problem. Our tent backed on to the rear of a brick-built storehouse. I made a quick shin up the wall and lo!, as expected, in true Indian building-style an insulated power line ran along the top of the wall beneath the thatched roof. A few minutes work with pliers, wire, and insulating tape and a connection was made. We had our own private power line. I ran it down the wall and scooped a shallow trench in the bone dry ground and let the line into our tent. From then on we had a nice bright light to read by.

The occupants of the adjoining tent were envious of our beacon and they too wanted to see the light. Being generous types, we extended our power line to their tent – then they in turn ran a lead to the next tent, and gradually the thing expanded. By the time I left Bombay, no less than ten tents were lit by my illicit power line, which by now was getting rather warm when all were turned on. I shudder to think of what happened to that power line buried under an inch of soil when the monsoon rains came along.

Officers being more delicate, had exclusive dwellings, full facilities, and exclusive use of such secret places as Green’s Harbour Bar or the prestigious Taj Mahal Hotel. I was once taken to once posh place by a friendly Indian for safekeeping his wife on a train, but such places were “Officers Only” and my presence upset the Colonel Blimps. By contrast, we lived four to a tent with toilet and washing facilities, several hundred yards away. Very soon, the eating out Ration Allowance was withdrawn when a central “mess” (very aptly named) was built. The food was atrocious and we still ate out, but now we had to foot the entire costs. Civilian clothes could only be worn when on leave – and then we had to be back in uniform after sunset, thus preventing any ranker from sneaking into officers only bars, restaurants, or dances. This was so the officers had exclusive company of the ladies. A crafty variation on the “closed shop” system.

Our newly built transmitting station was in the military car park directly behind Churchgate Station and had been greatly expanded as Bombay’s main radio link with the rest of India. We now boasted a dozen T-1190s, the venerable 1087, and the ex-aircraft 1155 with all the pretty coloured knobs. This was powered by lead-acid accumulators which had to be recharged at regular intervals. I nearly creased myself when doing this chore. It so happened that I was smoking a large, rather vile Manilla cheroot, eight inches long, a square inch in cross section, black as hell, and twice as strong. It was sticking out of my mouth when I went to pick up a rather hefty 12 volt battery. Without thinking, I took a deep breath as I heaved up the battery. I got a lungful of thick black smoke. I dropped the battery and sat gasping like crazy for the next ten minutes before normal breathing service was resumed.

INTERLOCUTIONS

Jeffrey Allan Boman
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Dear Henry and crew:

As I write this, my PC troubles have been worse than I spoke of in 117. About a month after that LOC, Windows stopped functioning at all. Re-installs didn't ultimately help. Worse: my data drive lists files when I use an emergency boot diskette, but then says the drive registers as unformatted. So: all of my data on both drives is unreachable.

To access the Web (at least to use Webmail) I've been using several Linux live CDs. I liked Kanotix, Ubuntu and finally Simply Mepis, which will be the one I'll dual boot my PC with when it's working again.

I'm currently writing this using the Open Office word processor. I'll have to remember to back it up to my Gmail account regularly; when I shut my PC down, I lose everything I've done otherwise.

Enough griping. Time to get to the issue:

117

Cover: I'm too new to this to get the joke (if any), or I'm just think: what's the prancing character saying "No" to?

Editorial: Working past when you plan to. I resemble that... most of my APAzines I've started about a week and a half before deadline.

Re: "Untold Misery"... I don't recall if I ever tried one-size-fits-all clothing, but I'll know better now!

Re: "Sue's Sites"... I never thought of plants having birthdays. That's a cool idea! If I have the funds to visit Indiana, I may take you up on the invite. :) / 16 for a dog is indeed a momentous thing. Mind you I celebrated my cats' 13th (Squeaky) and 17th (Boots) birthdays as well.

Re: "Carry on Jeeves"... India sounded awful to me, what with all the bugs. I hope it's grown better over 60+ years.

InterLOCutions:

Todd Bushlow: Kids always bring enormous changes to our lives. Starting her off with Bela Fleck is great to me (he's a regular at the Montreal International Jazz Festival) Which line-up of Van Halen did you expose her to (David Lee Roth / Sammy Hagar / other guy)?

Sheryl Birkhead: I wish "Dubya" could understand your definition of cloning...

Joseph T. Major: I've tried several ways to GAIN weight myself, but none have succeeded. What are the four weight loss methods you tried and didn't like? I'm guessing one of them is Atkins. / Is that *Playboy* article you speak of by Larry Niven? / Thanks for clearing up the mystery on **Elizabeth**.

E.B. Frohvet: All those fanzines... every time I'm tempted to try more, I look at how little floor space I have already. / I think most fen dread the idea of retirement homes and having to get rid of so many possessions to fit.

Dale Spiers: In *FAPA*, I think you have the APA Mailing Comments premiered in. I recently checked it on Wikipedia to be sure. / Hard to believe Alberta had such poverty a mere 20 years ago based on the impressive city Calgary was when I visited last June.

Bill Legate: Those experimental zine styles you mentioned made me think of the 1970s New Wave approaches some SF authors took, albeit years earlier.

Terry Jeeves: That government oxymoron is similar to the one of efficient civil service and (apologies to your old 'job') military intelligence.

Brad W. Foster: I'm also surprised at the Australia link for the *Power Puff Girls*. I always thought they were American!

Dave Szurek: At 5' 7.5", I definitely fall into the category of too skinny. Last time I was over 120 lbs was over 4 years ago.

Eric Lindsay: I try to grow my SF DVD collection whenever I can. I bought *Serenity* soon as it came out (earning my Browncoat cred by owning it and the complete series).

Lloyd Penney: Even though Tamu often assists with cons outside Montreal, I hope she wouldn't be involved in one with the Primedia folks! BTW, I saw on the Web that it now lists itself as a sponsor for other events.

Julie Wall: My sole remaining grandparent died in 1988, and it still hurts in my memory. You have my deepest sympathies.

Me: Ah, those days when my PC seemed fixed. So long ago...

Now to read 118 and get to that LOC!

Sincerely,
JAB

☐**TKK:** *There is a reason I've referred to Windows as Microsoft Virus. Unfortunately we've switched to providing our students with linux using a virtual machine rather than a dual boot. It makes it easier to switch between the two, but...* ☐

Trinlay Khadro
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11 Jul 2006

Sorry that I've fallen so far behind in LOCing. If we didn't see you and your family semi-regularly, you'd probably think I'd dropped off the planet or something. I haven't yet recovered from all the work of clearing Uncle's house out and the estate sale. The sale went well, and what art (that Uncle had made) that hadn't been claimed by family, was quickly snapped up by dealers. So posthumously Uncle may be somewhat famous, even if just locally. He taught art for nearly 30 years in various Milwaukee High Schools. I don't think he appreciated his own work very much at all... like many artists, we look at our own work, and see where it's not quite right... and look at the work of others and see mostly what's good about it. (For example, I'm still really tickled to see some of my drawings in print, or when I sell a piece, or get strongly positive feedback on it.)

Eventually I'll be putting some of the left over stuff from the estate up on Ebay. If anyone is interested in Depression Glass or porcelain from Occupied Japan email me or drop me a line. I haven't even photographed any of it yet.

KT is learning how to drive, she should be taking the road test in October, provided she gets signed up in time. I'm looking forward to having her driving **me** around.

If anyone out there knows Lisa Mason, Milwaukee fan and librarian, she is currently fighting breast cancer. This week was her last round of chemo, and depending on her tests this week, they'll soon be starting radiation therapy on her. Any prayers or well-wishings in her direction would surely be appreciated.

Hopefully it will inspire folks to get their annual tests and exams, even if they think it doesn't really matter for them.

Locally I have a bunch of friends with major health problems, a major factor being putting concerns for family and work, and others, ahead of our own health. (the "I don't have time to go see the doctor syndrome")

I'm having (on top of the usual fibromyalgia) a year of abnormal test results, (re-testing and more coming soon.) Tests that came up normal 2 years ago (Mammogram and pap) are coming out abnormal/messed up this year. Currently, waiting for the chance to see the specialist and get further tests to see if any of it is something to worry about or not.

It's scary how quickly these things can sneak up on a person. I really didn't realize how important these "stupid annual tests" are until mine came up abnormal. I thought because I didn't have a family history for cancer it didn't really matter....

Anyway, I thought that maybe we all need a heads up health wise, and a reminder to get ourselves checked out at least annually:

http://www.thehpytest.com/30plus/choose_to_know_bracelet.aspx
https://www.maketheconnection.org/order_beadkit/
http://www.komen.org/intradoc-cgi/idc.cgi_isapi.dll?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&nodeId=298

(The second link has a free bracelet kit, each order gets a \$1 donation from MERCK to support cervical cancer research. They've promised to donate to match the number of bracelet kits given out. So even if you won't use the bracelet kit, order one, and pass it along to someone who will.)

Now back to the regularly scheduled LOC. (Thursday this week I'm going for further tests to find out if I need to worry or not. I'm also waiting to see if I can get coverage through the state's GAMP.)

☐**TKK:** *These further tests came back negative. Good news!* ☐

I have my disability hearing coming up later in July, hopefully that would go well.

Jim Sullivan: As usual an interesting humor piece. I recently had my first experience with a funeral involving an open coffin and "viewing". My family, and I think this is an ethnic thing, **never** does the open coffin/viewing thing. I found it very strange, but I was surprised and tickled that the human practice of grave goods apparently survives. My friend's father was put to rest with bingo cards and his dauber.

I don't know what to make of **Garth Spencer's** article. Maybe I just don't know enough about SF & fandom? I felt some irony there, but I'm not sure what the allusion is.

"Sue's Sites": I grew up in Northern Indiana (Michigan City), and in my late teens I went to school in Vincennes and later in Muncie. I think Ramen noodles were one of the first items KT was able to prepare for herself. One of the quirky things about Vincennes, was that the early buildings and streets were laid out by the French, parallel and perpendicular to the river... the later ones on a NSEW grid by the British & Anglo-Americans. It made for some really weird intersections and navigation where the two systems tried to mesh.

Milt S: I think that when people lack medical insurance, particularly the "working poor" it sometimes does become society's problem. Maybe not so much in regard to illegal aliens. I both know and have been people who worked and plugged away despite illness, saying to themselves "I can't

afford to be sick” (not having insurance) and end up on the state’s tab when they collapse and end up in the ER.

Joseph N: I think the shock mainly revolves around not only did they not stop to render aid – probably not educated to be able to do so... but also the idea that they didn’t stop at the next farm or gas station to call for help. That seems just bizarre to me and probably most of the people who responded to your account.

In contrast, when I was 11 or 12, a car full of intoxicated teens hit a tree about 3 houses down from my parent’s house. My dad sent me in to the house to call for help, and he and the neighbor ran over to render what aid they could. I remember dad returning home distressed and covered in blood having been assisting in putting pressure on a gushing wound. **That’s** the reaction, most of the rest of us expect of ourselves, and probably what we would have seen our own parents do in the same situation.

Maybe, the culture gap is more between semi-rural where we all relied on our neighbors, and the city where the idea seems to be “mind your own business.” Even though the wreck was “city kids” I don’t think my father, or the neighbor even thought that the injured parties were not their responsibility/problem.

In accidents, here in the states, even though the reality varies, the expectation is that witnesses to the accident should stick around to give a report to the police when they show up. In addition to someone taking a minute to find a way to call the police and report the accident.

Occasionally, one hears stories of an accident where witnesses just drove around the bodies on the road, leaving someone to die without any assistance or calling for help. The survivors are often very angry. If the passers-by are known they can find themselves shunned in the community if it’s a small enough one that word gets around. (I don’t know if there is any opening for legal action for negligence or not... maybe that’s a question for Henry.)

Ned: My dad needs to have his shoes special ordered. He wears 5EEE, his feet are almost square :) He’s a short stocky guy though so the feet suit him, and aren’t out of proportion.

Todd Bushlow: Look for *Goodnight Moon*, *Runaway Bunny*, and *I Love You Forever*. All excellent for reading to small children. (You might want to make your own judgement on Pratchett’s *Where’s My Cow*.)

EB: re cmt **Garth:** Sometimes, in arranged marriages it’s: families negotiate, parties meet, marry (sometimes in the same day), have sex, have kids, and eventually realize they love each other.

re: Herr Doktor Professor Welch: In some Milwaukee circles, to differentiate between fannish Henrys, he’s just “professor” to avoid confusion. Especially if there is a multi-Henry conversation.



Brad F: I live in an apartment, but long for a small yard: of no lawn and full of wild flowers.

Dave S: re cmt **Sheryl:** Sometimes the number of accidents is more bad luck than bad driving. (I’ve had 3, 2 the other drivers’ fault, and one which was hitting a patch of black ice spinning out and hitting the curb....) That’s in over 20 years of driving though...

Sheryl: I suspect that despite the window incident the snake plant wasn’t dead yet. I’ve seen them cut off at the soil line and just send up new shoots. I’m not even sure if sending the whole thing through a food processor would even kill them.

Joseph M: Re cats drinking from the commode. We got a sort of water fountain for Megumi and she loves it, the water stays cold and fresh and runs all day. I fill it maybe every other day, and once a month pop in a new filter.

Re: cmt **Ned:** The Passover rules get somewhat strange at this point, corn is not kosher for Passover because it is a grain, rather than it can be fermented. Grapes, wine and some carefully handled wheat flour goods are perfectly fine for Passover. Just not non-crunchy bread goods. (There is also some variance between Northern-Eastern European Jewish rules, and Southern <Sephardic> Jewish rules. I don’t know enough about the Ethiopian version to comment on their rules.) I like the sugar soda better, corn gives me trouble sometimes any

way. I also hear the Coca cola with sugar in glass bottles is available at some Hispanic bodega type shops.

Dave R: Franklin Indiana! I've been there, but for the life of me, I can't remember who it was I knew there....

There are also divorces that occur when the honeymoon ends and they realize their mate misrepresented themselves, is a psycho, or has issues they can't handle and kept covered up til after the courtship and honeymoon were over. (Money issues and differences over kids lead to probably more divorces than anything else.)

Lloyd P: "Salvador Dalek"! Thank you I needed that. I actually grinned and ran to tell my daughter.

I think the Democratic candidate for president will be a fairly fresh face that we haven't seen much of yet... and that may be a real boon to the campaign.

□**TKK:** *Cultural norms seem to vary hugely even over short distances. As a general rule the common law provided no affirmative duty to render aid. Many states now have statutes that provide this either to all persons in a limited way (e.g. you aren't required to put yourself at risk) or that certain classes of persons (e.g. off-duty peace officers) are always required to render aid. I've tried the so-called Mexican coke. It wasn't much of an improvement. I suspect that bottle had become a bit aged and may have biased my experiment.*□

Terry Jeeves
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11 Jul 2006

Dear Henry,

Once again, good old *TKK* has thundered through my mail box, How on earth do you keep up with such a frequent schedule? I hope it doesn't prevent you getting that A grading you hope for. I recall in my teaching days we had that old bugaboo of awarding some many As so many Bs and so on. It annoyed me that it was applied on mathematical basis of so many of each letter to each class, irrespective of actual ability.

I hope that Stumpy is now full recovered and agree that giving tablets to a cat is no easy task. When we had to give them to our dog we would mould them inside chocolate drops which she loved. No problem. **Sullivan's** experience with old lady in the mortuary, all made up to kill and being used as a beautician's come on. Heck it amounts to using her as a publicity hoarding.

"Sue's Sites" should qualify her as a hero for taking all those youngsters on a camping trip. It was a good report and a brilliant way of getting them to co-operate on the chores.

A real hefty load of LOCs and of course, lest I forget, a striking cover.

I have not been on the PC for a while, mainly because of being a bit slow on my legs and not wanting to fall downstairs after going up to the PC. I saw the Specialist on Wednesday and after putting me through sundry tests, he put me on a new series of tablets which I have to ring the doctor and order.

I am also having a hassle with the DVLA, I wrote on June 7th. to say I had Parkinson's Disease and getting no reply, wrote again on June 2nd. I gave them another week and then rang them up. After much waffle, they promised to send a form. I got it and had a hectic time filling it in – "List all your hospital attendances for the last three years" and so on. I have not been keeping such records, so I had to guess and made a real pig's ear of the form. Time will tell what they make of it.

Otherwise we continue with wall to wall sunshine and no rain although they had some about a mile away. Our garden is dry even though Val waters every night.

All the best,
Terry

□**TKK:** *The only thing that interferes with potential A grades are the mandatory curve and my long-standing habit of putting in only so much time. I am a big fan of the law of diminishing returns and will not invest huge amounts of time into a marginal grade increase. That is simply good time management. Hence, **TKK** does not interfere with this. The **DVLA** gets what they deserve. They could simply check your medical records for a list of the hospital visits.*□

Joseph T Major
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July 11, 2006

And now the knews ... but how much do you bill for mediation? I am reminded of the firm that held a huge meeting that ran for several hours with all the partners, many of the associates, clusters of paralegals, secretaries, flunkies, and no doubt the mailroom staff, all billed to the client. The topic: What font to use in some papers related to the case.

So I suppose that billing for mediation is very important.

As for the yard work, have you thought of bringing in the bulldozers and after the ground is leveled, having it concreted over? It would cost less in the long run, and you could put potted plants out on your new patio.

Actually, six pills a day is about twelve more than any person (saying "sane" is too restrictive) wants to try and stuff down the throat of a cat ("uncooperative" is redundant in this context). When Sulla, my big old marmalade tabby, was dying of

kidney failure, I tried many different stratagems to get pills into him. One I called the “Marquise de Brinvilliers” method, which involved grinding up the pills, adding water, and then using a funnel ...

Lisa thinks “The Viewing” was very very weird.

“Sue’s Sites”: There’s also a race that takes place near Indianapolis on Memorial Day. However, I understand it is dying.

“The Ethics of Government”: “Clarence Thomas had been quoted as stating that there was a law higher than that of the US Constitution.” If he had said it had been court decisions in other countries, it seems that many of the people who had opposed him would have become his supporters.

“Carry On Jeeves”: “[Our] cables ... were not colour coded or numbered in any way,” before the truck hit them. I presume they were afterwards.

As someone who once stuck a finger into a hole in a doghouse which turned out to be the entrance to a hornet’s nest, I admire the solution given by Jeeves to theirs. Acid’s too good for them!

InterLOCutions: **Milt Stevens**: “If [illegal aliens] lack medical insurance, it is their problem.” But hospitals are required to treat all admissions regardless of insurance or lack thereof. Somebody has to pay for it.

Ned Brooks: *Mad* had an article on one-size-fits-all, showing two sisters wearing the same set of tights. One was six, the other was twenty. You can guess that the effect was rather different.

Alex Slate: If *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World* was satire, why is there so much comment about contemporary English politicians in it? For example, Swift attacks the Master of the Royal Mint over the coinage issue in Ireland. You haven’t recognized this because it’s in the Third Voyage, where Descartes, raised from the dead by Gulliver’s friend in Glubdubdribb, confidently predicts that “attraction, whereof the present learned are such zealous asserters” will soon be exploded. By “attraction” he means Universal Gravitation.

Similarly, the Academy in Lagado is the Royal Society, as seen through an unfriendly eye.

The neighbor is suing to get the cow. “[If] my neighbour has a mind to my cow, he hires a lawyer to prove he ought to have my cow from me.” Deborah Lipstadt naively believed that her opponent David Irving wouldn’t have had a case in the U.S. He would have had an easier time suing her here for racketeering than he did in Britain suing her for libel, where he lost. Such a precedent-setting prospect would have drawn lawyers like flies.

Terry Jeeves: Why did your daughter have to wear a tight skin suit to fly? Was she afraid of decompression?

Robert Lichtman: There may be thousands of new readers because of e-pubbing, but where are the new **locers**? It seems to be the same old bunch, at least freed from the physical problems of printing and the fiscal ones of mailing, and rejoicing in their new abundance, but ...

Joy V. Smith: As for the Benchleys – Robert, Nathaniel, Peter – the other cases of trigenerational writing I know of seem to be British; the Churchills and the Waughes.

E. B. Frohvet: The *Playboy* where “Clark Ghent” used his X-ray vision to peer into the girls’ locker room was in the seventies. Also, it mentioned that everyone at the school knew his secret identity. I think this was even before Niven’s “Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex”, at least it addressed one issue Niven did.

Brad W. Foster: Will you come tend our yard? There are junk trees towering over the place. I use a weed-eater to cut the little strip between the sidewalk and the street, and what’s uncovered in the back yard (most of it is covered with black plastic).

Milt Stevens: Remember, in *Julius Caesar*, Caesar is ordering Antony and Calpurnia around in order to have her whipped by him. Antony is enacting the role of a satyr and Calpurnia is so far barren ... if she has a child, maybe this will shut up all those people talking about the queen of Egypt.

There was a SCA barony on board an American aircraft carrier for a while.

Sheryl Birkhead: Are you and **Brad Foster** in secret psychic communion? Tapping into the same volume of the Akashic records?

Lloyd Penney: We saw Tom Feller recently and he explained he hasn’t been able to do fan writing because he’s been doing paid writing. As for Tom Sadler, he did an issue of *The Reluctant Famulus* recently and I hope he does another soon. Tom co-mingling ...

Namarie,
Joseph T Major

☐**TKK**: *There is too much of a slope for the backyard parking lot, plus I couldn’t do most of the work myself.*☐

Ned Brooks
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13 Jul 2006

Hi Knarl - Thanks for the zine. Great cover by **Schrim!**

I remember reading once that open-casket funerals were found mostly in the southern US, and I have been to a couple of them here. I don’t know where Sullivan is – that account is hard to believe! Aside from the desires of the family, I would have thought most funeral homes too stuffy and conservative

to allow it. Or is this just a test to see what bizarre account you can get people to believe?

As to **Slate** on Bork, it's been too long for me to remember the details, but I thought there was a bit more against his nomination than being a "strict constructionist" – though few of that crowd seem very strict when it comes to the 1st Amendment. Just from the Wikipedia page on Bork I would guess that besides his views on abortion, he was done in by his support of Nixon's "privacy rights" to the White House tapes.

I enjoyed the **Terry Jeeves** memoir as usual – he has a lot better memory than I do of things that far back!

I tried **Joseph Major**'s recommendation on Passover Cokes, but although the huge new Krogers here has aisles for Kosher and ethnic foods, there was no CocaCola to seen.

Best,
Ned

☐**CKK**: *Practically every visitation I've been to in Wisconsin has been open-casket. So your regional observation may not be correct.*☐

Joy V. Smith
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15 Jul 2006

Henry,

That's an intriguing cover. I had to look up peche. Hmm. Peach, sin, fish? Sin, I'm guessing. Now I want to know more about the plot.

Congratulations on finishing your summer session of law school. You've certainly been busy and done well, though I see you're fretting about not having done even better. You've also been busy outside (I use Round-Up too, but not a chain saw) and inside caves. I imagine it's pretty cool in the caves? But hot working on the cave doors?

Jim Sullivan certainly runs into interesting situations and people. I wonder how often you come across naked bodies in funeral homes on display?

Re: "Sue's Sites: Indiana". What a wonderful vacation **Sue** and the grandkids had! I was really impressed by the way the kids pitched in, so to speak. It sounds like they all had a wonderful time. My kind of vacation, btw, especially with all that help.

Thanks to **Terry Jeeves** and to you for reprinting his reminiscences. I'm enjoying learning more about history and what people did while living it.

LOCs: **Terry Jeeves**, I admire your daughter for wearing that skin tight suit on such a long journey. I'd have worn my Deva



freedom pants and a tee shirt, and maybe bunny slippers. **Joseph Major**, Thanks for the background on Kosher for Passover Coca-Cola and for mentioning the "Fruct-'s" in *Fox Trot*"; I missed that. It's fun learning things in LOCs.

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

☐**CKK**: *The caves are a consistent mid-40s all year round. Nice in both the summer and winter.*☐

Jim Stumm
PO Box 29
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July 15, 2006

Dear Knarley,

The Supreme Court giving itself sole authority to officially interpret the Constitution is logically exactly the same as the President giving himself the authority to decide what laws he will enforce. Actually, both should rely on a higher authority, the Constitution itself, and if the text is unclear, they should consult other writing of the Founders to find out what they meant by that text.

Long before John Marshall was appointed Chief Justice, Alexander Hamilton, writing about the proposed Federal courts in *The Federalist* #78, mentioned: "... the courts of justice; whose duty it must be to declare all acts contrary to the manifest tenor of the Constitution void. Without this, all the reservations of particular rights or privileges would amount to nothing..."

So it was understood that the Supreme Court would have the power of judicial review even before the Constitution was ratified. As for this being the Court's **sole** authority, nothing in the Constitution says that. That came about from the Executive and Legislature abdicating their responsibility to Constitutional limitations, which they did, and continue to do, because they are always seeking to aggrandize their power, always trying to slip one past the goalie (the Supreme Court), which they often succeed in doing, especially since

about 1940, when FDR appointed his rubber stamp Supreme Court.

Restricting the Federal Government to the enumerate powers, which is **mandated** by the 10th Amendment, not optional, would hardly bring us back to the weakness of the Articles of Confederation. The Federal Government functioned well enough mostly within these limitations up to the Civil War. In those days, the only cabinet departments were those exercising powers authorized by the Constitution: State, Treasury, War (i.e. army), Navy, Attorney General, and Interior. Only later did the government venture into unauthorized activities leading to departments such as Agriculture, Education, Housing, Energy, etc. concerning which there is not one word in the Constitution giving the Federal Government any legitimate powers.

The general plan of the Constitution as it was written was to give the national government authority over interstate and international affairs, including national defense, while domestic affairs were to be left largely to the state governments. I think this is a good plan. We should try it. This isn't anarchy; it's federalism.

Alexander Slate: If I were in a position to confirm or deny a Supreme Court nominee, I would look for a high standard of personal ethics (in public affairs, not so much private vices), and I would look for a sharp mind, able to reason logically and grasp subtle distinctions. Beyond that, the nominee should understand that the proper role of the Supreme Court is to uphold the Constitution, which mainly means overturning the actions of the Executive or Legislature when they go beyond their Constitutional authority. The nominee should accept that a Justice is not a super-legislator, and thus should not base decisions on whether a public policy is good or bad (as Justice O'Connor so often did), but mainly on whether it is allowed or forbidden by the Constitution. I would also want the nominee to be an "originalist," which means interpreting the Constitution according to the original meaning of the words. Bonus points if the nominee expresses a willingness to abandon precedent in appropriate cases and re-visit and overturn erroneous past decisions such as those that allowed Congress to get away with laws that go far beyond the few dozen enumerated powers granted to the Federal Government by the Constitution.

Jim Stumm

□**CKK:** *The problem with your approach is the Founders often disagreed about what they meant. FDR threatened to get a rubber stamp Supreme Court by changing the number of justices and then appointing justices to the new positions that would give him a majority. This didn't happen as the Court began to adjust its Commerce Clause and other decisions so that they started making consistent sense. There is a reason this is referred to the Lochner era reflecting one of the most confusing decisions ever handed down by the Court.*□

E.B. Frohvet
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July 15, 2006

Dear Henry,

US Highway 40 runs about three miles north of me; I drive on or across it several times a week. Curiously, US40 also runs in the immediate vicinity of Smallville, Kansas. Truth is Stranger than Fiction Department: yes, US40 does run through Kansas. However, four-fifths of the way across Kansas, from Lawrence to a place called Oakley, it is also I-70. Certainly not the two-lane country road shown on the TV program. Probably the producers just bought, or made up their own, US40 sign; propped it up on some convenient back road, and used it to film a few exterior shots. (As far as I can make out from the current Rand-McNally Road Atlas, the eastern terminus of US40 is at McKee City, NJ, and the western end at Park City, UT, passing through eleven states.)

I have done babysitting and catsitting, but never dogsitting. Witty articles are not my strong suit. I have seen other fanzines use the "landscape" format, but the standard two-column format is fine by me.

Off the top of my head I would be curious to know how the "Commerce Clause" applies to carrying a gun in a school zone; the two seem largely unrelated to me. However, the convolutions of the argument would probably exceed my layman's grasp of the law.

I rather like honeysuckle, but there can be too much of a good thing. Thinning them out will probably open up the garden to more species. This in turn may attract more deer. Venison for Thanksgiving? Yum.

Sorry to hear about Ditto. I had expressed the view that if it was within reasonable driving distance I might consider it. I still think Columbia/Ellicott City would be a splendid place for a small convention; however I am **not** willing to undertake that kind of responsibility.

"Indiana is known for ... Purdue and Notre Dame [Universities]." Um, for us hoops fans, there's the U. of Indiana; and the famous film *Hoosiers*. I believe there's also a motor race of some note!

Alex Slate asks, congresscritters, how should they conduct themselves? Well, anything that would pound them over the head with a little shame and humility ought to be welcome. Unhappily, that's not likely to happen. Honest, decent people don't go into politics. They do journalism, or work for philanthropies, or teach like Henry. Everyone in politics is a self-serving liar, starting with the President and working down: and you can quote me on that.

"Carry on Jeeves": **Terry** will probably recognize this true anecdote. Once, one of my officers, quite drunk, insisted on taking me into the Officer's Club; whereupon he promptly

left me standing at the bar while he retired to the latrine. A major walked over and calmly asked, did I know where I was? I explained about my lieutenant. The major nodded and said, "Well, get him out of here as quickly as you can." We had one beer – being on duty I only had a few sips of mine – and I took my officer back to the BOQ. ("Bachelor Officer's Quarters")

Robert Lichtman: I keep notes on the arrival dates of fanzines so that I have some idea when to expect them; and secondly, so that when I do complain about failure to publish/deliver, I have exact references to support my arguments. Henry, and **Joseph & Lisa Major** of *Alexiad*, have established such regularity that a difference of a week or two in arrival is noteworthy.

Joy Smith: My dwarf orange tree in a pot, had only a smattering of flowers last year, and produced only one orange. This year I put it on the patio and it burst into dozens of little white flowers all over. I anticipate a good crop.

Is there some reason that my LOC always winds up next to the "Silly Kitty" ad? No objection, just curious.

Dave Szurek: Many might agree with you about life imprisonment being crueler in practice than execution, but we're talking about law here, not reality; specifically the part of the Constitution that forbids "cruel and unusual punishment." What at the time was intended to prevent outright torture, flogging, etc., which were still common at the time. Execution by hanging, or firing squad, was normal, and was not seen as "cruel or unusual" until about the 1940s. Henry says retyping LOC's is his least favorite part of doing a fanzine. I always rather enjoyed it, though my favorite part was always writing the zine review column.

Sheryl Birkhead: This year, the Columbia Festival of the Arts ran a promotion of painted doors. Apparently they found a stack of old wooden doors somewhere, and some artist thought it a good idea to let others decorate them. Artists get into these sorts of fads.

Joseph T. Major: Mis-spellings in documents are covered under the doctrine of *idem sonans* – a mis-spelling does not itself invalidate a document or contract. Actually, some magazine, I forget which, did an article recently about people who do specialty private distilling. There were photos of the equipment, and several used basic galvanized zinc stills. The technology is pretty basic, and you can legally do a limited amount.

I received *The Reluctant Famulus* #60 in February 2006 (I have the exact date if anyone needs it) and sent Tom Sadler a LOC, and later, some book reviews.

Best gremflods,
E.B. Frohvet

☐**TKK:** *Carrying a gun is related to commerce in that the carrying of guns in aggregate is felt to have an impact on*

interstate commerce. Yes, this is a bit of a stretch, but if you factor in illegal trafficking in guns and how gun ownership can increase that trafficking then you get the general gist of the argument. Speaking of guns, it is illegal to hunt within the Village limits of Grafton. LOCs are printed in chronological order and the "Silly Kitty" add always appear the same relative distance from the start of the LOC column. You should write earlier or later than your peers.☐

Brad W. Foster
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July 17, 2006

Greetings Knarley ones! –

Excellent cover from **Schirm** on issue #118, the dark side tempting the fun side, as it were!

I have to wonder if the core of mediation is that when a third, uninterested party is brought into the equation, it's easier for the two sides involved to no longer have to over-analyze everything as somehow being done purely to "get" them, and thus that consensus is easier to reach. Whatever the reason, nice you are looking into things to help folks. (Unless your real plan is to get into corporate litigation, helping huge soulless companies to such the lifeblood out of the little person, lining your own pockets with morally stained dollars? Hey, you're still studying, you have so many options before you!)

Stay happy ~
Brad

☐**TKK:** *One of the jobs of the mediator is to tone down the rhetoric and to help the parties explore reality and their longer-term goals. I plan to be and intellectual property attorney; probably specializing in patent applications and related transactions.*☐

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23 Jul 2006

Hi Henry,

Thanks for *TKK* #117. You may be late in doing your fanzine, but it is far more regular than my fanzine. Or for that matter doing mailing comments on apas or LoCs from me.

The copying situation here remains terrible. The cheapest method of producing paper copies is to buy new laser printers when they appear on special, and throw them away when the toner runs out 5000 copies later. This irritates me so much that I am now loath to print anything at all. I am even thinking of dropping out of my three apas.

Is *Judge Judy* a TV show? I recall other mentions that make this appear the case.

Rainfall into dam catchment areas continues to be so low that much of Australia is drought declared. Several cities are on a trend to running out (partly due to under investment, partly anti-dam sentiment from Green groups when the dams needed to be started). I expect harsher and harsher water restrictions in capital cities. On the other hand, here the rainfall in June and July reached record levels. The tourists are noticing it (it is our main tourist season) and so it may affect tourism numbers. You can't win.

The Ohau tourism comments were discouraging, especially the notice of break-ins and theft. A van was burnt out in a parking lot near here, the first time that has happened. However police do regard it as suspicious. The resort management say there are increased problems, so we installed a security camera system with 8 cameras around the reception, pool and car park nearest reception. I suspect that if the police find the results of use, we will extend that to other car parks. We plan to put up signs, in the hope that discourages those contemplating anti-social acts.

I solved the untold misery of ill fitting socks in universal sizes by moving to a area so warm that I don't need socks most times. All my socks are ancient ones, dating from an era prior to universal sock sizes, and thus I have right sized socks.

Garth Spencer did a fine job blaming Eleanor of Aquitaine for both gay marriage and the divorce rate. Nice one.

I liked **Sheryl's** idea that deaf drivers be alerted by a light in their car when a siren sounds. In some countries, emergency vehicles already have traffic light override facilities (I think it is just a short range directional transmitter, with a receiver at each traffic light controller). No particular reason some similar receiver couldn't be fitted to the cars of deaf drivers.

I can assure **Ned Brooks** that Australian Coke (with cane sugar) does taste different to USA Coke.

Marc Schirmeister's Intelligent Design, trust or fact *Watchtower* cover was great fun.

Good to hear that your law studies continue to progress.

Your mention of working the mediation clinic reminds me of my own recent encounter with the small claims court. A long term tenant claimed damages to his sports car sump caused by a raised section of one of our parking lots when he did a three point turn. The body corporate insurance company had rejected the original claim of around \$300, so he ran it through small claims, by which time the claim had reached \$1200. Like most body corporate in resorts, we have very few resident owners. Luckily our secretary and treasury positions can be delegated to a company specialising in that work under Queensland law. However they are 1200 km away. As is the Chairman (who has to be one of the owners). So they organised a representative familiar with the events to front

mediation, and he arrived there three hours late (and didn't mention this to us). Mediation failed, and the magistrate was pissed off about our being late.

So a bit later the claim went into small claims court, and the Secretary/Treasurer emailed all the committee about the seven days hence date. Our previous representative emailed back to the Chairman to say he couldn't attend, and suggesting organising someone else. However the Chairman was away from home, and didn't receive the email until after the hearing. So, no defence, and the claim for \$1200 was granted.

We lodged an objection, and this time I was asked to represent the body corporate. The Secretary Treasurer sent me correspondence relating to the matter (by email) on Friday, with a Monday hearing. The Chairman gave me a history, and suggested a defence based on the claimant using the wrong parking lot, and in any case being familiar with the parking area and the need to take care with low slung cars. You can't actually take a Masarati out most of our driveways except backwards, or it will scrape trying to get onto the street. One driveway is so steep that you can't take a Ford tray table ute with radial tires into it.

Unfortunately almost everything I was sent was either irrelevant, or outright wrong. The Chairman said the events were in April 2005. The sworn court papers from the tenant said it happened 18 January 2005.

The Chairman said the tenant had lived in D block. He had actually lived in E block and parked in E block (with the offending parking lot) since about 2003 (I got that from the Hiram computer records of the resort). He moved to F block the day before his accident (but continues to park in E block, that being closer to the apartment he is in).

I found he had a history of dispute with the previous resort management. Two cases of flooding in the apartment, with claimant blaming entry by an unknown person, and demanding doors be improved for security (he leaves his balcony door open while away – as do we – I can see it from a spot



near the sailing club). Second flooding almost certainly followed a dispute with his then girlfriend, but after this length of time, I can't prove it.

Trouble is, I couldn't talk with the previous resort management people. I did have information (not in writing) that the accident happened straight after the tenant had an argument with resort management, and that he drove off from reception in his car at speed. The resort room records showed his lease expired on 17 January 2005, cleaning was on 22 January, and new tenant moved in on the 25. I think resort management refused to renew his lease, and informed him he would have to move.

Then it gets interesting. The owner of the apartment the tenant is presently in is renting the apartment privately. Normally he rents it out via resort management. The tenant asked him not to bother with resort management, and did this on 17 January. Now the owner is annoyed at the tenant for tricking him, and not revealing a dispute. Especially a dispute that cost owners money.

Australian design rules call for all cars (even Maseratis) to have 400 mm ground clearance (800 mm for off road vehicles). The slab of concrete where people park is surrounded by a spoon drain, with 330 mm drop at the worst point. I am convinced the tenant had a final thunderous argument with the former resort management, rushed off in his car, zoomed into the car park, and hit the brakes real hard when he realised he was about to go through the fence and over the side. Crunch with the sump on the edge of the slab when the nose dipped as he braked while over the spoon drain. But I can't prove it.

I managed to negotiate the claim down to half. Most of it was utter crap, like hiring a car to replace the broken vehicle (he runs a hire car service in town), legal advice (not allowed in small claims). I couldn't prove the receipt for a new sump many months later was a fake (the bit I believe was the welding repairs a few days after the original incident) but body corporate were never sent a copy. The sump looks to me like an old one, not a new one, but peering under a car at 6 a.m. isn't exactly evidence.

So the tenant goes off from court thinking either he has won, or thinking he was badly done by. I should add that the guy is very personable, and I personally thought he was a fairly nice guy (although the infrequent noisy disputes with women were distracting).

Meanwhile, outside the court, the resort managers will not rent a room to the tenant again. The apartment owner is turning control back to the resort management as soon as he gets back from overseas. The tenant gets booted out for breaking the bylaws (he parks the hire cars here, and business use of premises is forbidden, and has a pet – pets not allowed). The people renting him his business premises (without parking) are keeping an eye out for his hire cars parked on their premises (they have a 6 room motel with 6 spaces, and a few

shop areas). Plus he dropped some comments in court about his business affairs that seemed out of line with his lifestyle. I happened to have lunch a while later in Sydney with a tax office lawyer I've known for several decades (ok, I paid for the lunch and wine), so he is now scheduled for an audit. So he didn't win.

On the other side, doing a resurfacing of the car park will cost \$35 a square metre. We started doing this about four years ago. It is so hard to get construction workers here that although it has been in the budget, so far only blocks A and B are done (and both need repairs). So E now gets priority, if the concrete guy ever attends again. If you can't get people in for things you will pay them for, you know finding people is tight (we can't even find enough cleaners). So body corporate will eventually be out of pocket another \$15,000, and it sure didn't win. This whole thing has been a total waste of time for everyone. But in a small town, people who make waves tend to find they get drowned.

I should tell you about the contract cleaning outfit sometime.

Regarding Gun Free School Zones, given your constitution, wouldn't it be easier to require schools to locate themselves in places where guns were not permitted. Flying the students out of the USA would really build up Boeing and the oil companies.

Congratulations on the speleological activity. Don't get buried in it all.

A real pity about Ditto. I enjoyed the one I attended some time ago. But given I am less likely to visit the USA again, I guess it doesn't make much difference to me.

Camping with grandkids doesn't sound like my idea of paradise. Sorry about that. But I am impressed by **Sue's** report on Indiana. I think her idea of bribing the kids is great. I would go with paying for results every time.

Some things never change. We have the sorts of jellyfish **Terry Jeeves** mentions. We sometimes even have the bathers sans bathers, if I may put it that way. Luckily we do not have bombers and fighters, but we do have a steady stream of light planes and helicopters overhead.

I didn't understand **Milt Steven's** comment that it is auto insurance that illegal aliens lack. Here third party auto insurance has to be paid before a car can be registered each year. It doesn't matter which insurance company you use, but your car can not be registered each year without having insurance to protect other drivers from property damage.

Luckily the enforcement of laws in Australia is so slack that I am probably not at risk from the sedition laws. Most laws seem to be on the books to ensure that we are all guilty of breaking some law. When even the lawyers don't know what the law says, what chance do the rest of us have?

However criminal sanctions against incitement to murder mentioned by **Joseph Nicholas** would presumably apply to me, as I have repeatedly stated that I favour assassination of spammers. Hell, if I met one of the top ten spammers, I would kill them myself, then and there. I consider it a moral act, given the cumulative time wasted by spammers is multiple lifetimes. Bumping off maybe 50 people would probably drop spam by 99%. Email users should all take up a collection for a Mafia contract.

Since I have a black thumb, the only plant species I keep need to be close to invulnerable. Devils Ivy tops my list. Spider plants are not bad.

I tend to agree with **Jim Stumm** that having Mickey Mouse amendments to copyright terms is both unconstitutional and brings the concept into disrepute. Given the way media publishers are pushing copy protection as an alternative to legal protection, I would not purchase anything with effective protection. When I buy something, I want to be able to keep using it. So, I will buy music on CDs, and rip them to my computer. I will not buy SACD or DVD-A or iTunes. I will buy DVDs (since I can break the protection and rip them to my computer). I will not buy HD-DVD or BluRay. However that is OK. Pretty soon there will be more content available from amateurs than from all the rust belt media corpora-



tions. Given most of their decisions over the past decade, it wouldn't worry me if Sony went bankrupt.

Regards,
Eric

□**TKK**: *Judge Judy is one of many TV shows that hear small-claims cases with a judge with an attitude. The first such show was The Peoples' Court. Some people are simply a magnet for disputes and trouble. You'd think after a while they'd notice what the common denominator was. I think fair use will really suffer under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.*□

Jeffrey Allan Boman
See address earlier
July 26, 2006

Thanks for **TKK** 118. I read it through fast so that I could get caught up on my LOC.

Firstly I want to pimp two wikis I've created for zines and other fanac. I entered the Website link for *The Knarley Knews* and a spam-blocked e-mail address for **Joseph** and *Alexiad*, but many of you have been involved in more of the zines of history and the present. You could provide history on these online communities that I can't.

First: <http://fanselfpub.wetpaint.com> . It encourages a free membership to contribute, but it does also accept anonymous posting if you don't want to give out your information.

The other one is <http://tiddlyspot.com/selfpubzine/> . For this one all you may wish to do is to change the name under Options, this only to ensure that your posts don't end up credited to me or Anonymous.

TiddlyWikis like this work a little differently than other styles as you need to navigate note by note to ensure that your posts are in the right place, but it's not really that difficult.

Yes, these sites earn me keener points as a ziner now! :)

Onto the zine:

Front Cover: *The Watchtower* existing on an intergalactic level would be a bit disturbing, since that's the name of the Jehovah's Witness magazine here in Canada...

Editorial: More law classes! Definitely my kind of studies. Mind you I'm an Arts grad, so these sound a bit dry to me. Being ambidextrous I'm both left AND right-brained – which justifies my computer skill. That you find such classes rewarding however is good for you. / Bs in courses? I got out of university with an overall C average. To my mind, you're still doing great! / I hope everything for Stumpy works out. / Con*Cept in Montreal took two non-consecutive years off (2000 and 2005). It came back well. I hope Ditto bounces back well also. The good conventions always do.

"The Viewing": Funerals are always a very sobering experience. Viewings are fortunately not a regular thing in Jewish traditions. A few folks do, but it's not a regular thing.

A viewing of a nude corpse would seem very weird to me, but it does seem like something that would cut the tension somewhat. Still, for an older person, even one who goes to a gym, this really seems macabre. Amusing, but macabre.

"Nor Dashed a Thousand Kim": I actually tried a Google search on this name. Is this meant to be a fictional character (Already in fiction... I meant is it one made up)?

"Sue's Sites": I'm fairly new to this zine, so I didn't realize you had a family link! I'm wondering how much longer until Letha has a column too! / One of my friends went to Indiana U; that's my only knowledge of the state.

"The Ethics of Government – Part II": Who was President when Clarence Thomas and other controversial Supreme Court appointees were given? I know they can only nominate people, and they are either sworn in or turned down by others. I'm just curious, and my memory has blipped out.

"Carry on Jeeves": You finally got to be on a plane, even though not as a pilot! / Jack Hazel's surfing approach definitely seemed outrageous. A real character. / Acid on hornets? That officer was rather cruel. Pesticides kill them granted, but that seems an even more painful way to go.

InterLOCutions

Murray Moore: Seems I'm not the only person here in too many accidents. I echo relief that Mary Ellen wasn't seriously hurt (not that whiplash is fun).

Milt Stevens: Re: **John Hertz** on the Hugo ballot... this gives me even more interest in his book. Us SMOF should support each other as best we can!

Joseph Nicolas: Re: your comment about mangled human bodies... even now on the east side of 40, I couldn't handle this. I didn't elect for biology in high school as the idea of dissecting frogs was too much for me. I won't even watch more gruesome horror films...

Ned Brooks: Re: Shoe sizes... on average I wear size 9 (I've never seen letter designations here in Canada)... but for a suit, the cut of the shoes has me at size 5s. I'm still amazed by that, almost 4 years later.

Alex Slate: I'm not at all a supporter of Bush. His veto on stem cell research to appease the Christian right, as well as his misunderstandings that made a veto on cloning ESCs, pretty much caused me to write him off. I was happy we didn't have such foolishness here in Canada, but with Bush parrot Steven Harper now our country leader, I'm not sure we'll still be.

Robert Lichtman: I've been running an e-zine with a very erratic publication schedule for more than 4 years myself

(it's not SF related). For that reason, I don't gripe about the schedule of others.

Brad W. Foster: Your letter was the first time I read a good explanation of 117's cover! Henry mentioned it recently in e-mail, but I hadn't read about anyone else solving it yet.

Milt Stevens: Fred Patten is a name I'm familiar with in comicbook circles. Is this the same one? / Re: Layouts... I haven't changed my APAzine layout in years, ever since I learned PageMaker. I've done things a bit differently while I can't use it, and the layout will change a little when I learn InDesign... but it hasn't changed much in over 5 years.

Jim Strumm: As an author, IP is fairly important to me. I'd hate the idea of someone else making money off my work who isn't my publisher or me. That said: DRM on music and the draconian RIAA stink to me.

Sheryl Birkhead: I don't trust online pharmacies, especially with all the junk e-mail I get for them.

Dave Rowe: Considering your comment to Henry: I know we won't start *Comicopia* 100 with any excuses, because I know our current Central Mailer. It's not his style...

Lloyd Penney: We seem to know lots of mutual friends: Rebeca Downey mentioned you helping to run Gaylaxicon on her Livejournal. I've known her for more than a decade now, even before our days on Con*Cept! / As someone of con committees for 6 years now, trust me: you enjoy the cons more. / Considering how Torcon also had an Internet room I wasn't aware of, a hidden fanzine lounge comes as no surprise to me either.

Murray Moore: Seeing more of the older part of the province sounds fantastic!

I'm now back up-to-date with my LOCs. Hope I don't fall behind again!

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Allan Boman

☐ **CKK:** *I'm happy to see that you are willing and able to be an active fanzine fan who cares about the future of the hobby. Keep up the wikis and your other projects.*

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July 26, 2006

Dear Knarley:

Yes, it's before the deadline, fret not, it's not one of the signs of the Apocalypse. What follows is a letter of comment on *The Knarley Knews* 118.

I rarely comment about the cover of most zines, and that is a failing of mine. I always enjoy **Marc Schirmeister**'s work, whenever it's visible, if it's fanzines or TV cartoons.

No Ditto this year? This would be the first year without a Ditto since the first one in Toronto yonks ago. Any response from those who might like to see it continue? Even with only 26 people at Corflu, a bid still came forward from Pat Virzi to hold it in Texas.

I haven't been to many funerals, but there's only been one where part of the body was visible. The waxy sheen to the body, the tightness of the flesh, makes it all look like it's fresh from the wax museum. I am not sure I'd want any part of me visible at my funeral... the old line goes, that if I knew I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself.

I never had a grandmother with even a hint of athleticism in her, so I had no one to go hiking with. I'd strike out on my bicycle in some of the countryside on the west side of town, and cycle everywhere. I'd cycle out to Bass Lake, paddle around for a hour or so on the beach, and go back home. I live not far from the shore of Lake Ontario, so going for a picnic or a walk isn't out of the question, the way it was when growing up.

Greetings to **Terry Jeeves**...we hope you are getting better and enjoying life with less stress in it.

I shall be seeing **Milt Stevens** in less than a month. We're off to the Worldcon then, and **Milt** is running the LAcon IV fanzine lounge, which will be held in an open area, and not tucked away in a private room. I prefer the open area concept, with the only exception possibly being the fanzine cocktail lounge Yvonne and I ran at the Winnipeg Worldcon.

I would like to see commentary, from folks like **Joseph Nicholas** and **Alex Slate**, on Bush's veto on stem cell research. I am hearing more and more that religion and state have become too close for the comfort of the American people, and this veto may take people over the edge. Once the Democrats can stop fighting long enough to settle on a candidate, I would expect that candidate would be elected president.

Robert Lichtman is absolutely right (mainly because I've said it before in my own locs) that fanzines make up part of a milieu in which most of us do not want feedback to be close to instant. It is relaxing, and best for me, because I keep lots of conversations going in lots of fanzines. I spend a good bit of time with zines, and I have recently returned to the Trufen e-list; more than that would probably let me neglect other responsibilities.

Ah, cereal in the comics. My favorite is Calvin's Chocolate-Frosted Sugar Bombs. As Hobbes' friend said, "I get kinda wired after the third bowl." Fruct-O's made me smile, and tremble a little...

I have been in touch with Tom Sadler by e-mail, and he did say that he would get me a copy of the newest issues asap. Now, that was about a month ago, but given how quick the mail is these days, it could still be in transit. No matter, I hope Tom is well, and it sounds like his recovery from depression is fairly complete.

Witty articles? Me? Well, I think I might try. Another project is on the way. Gentle hint.

Not sure I've told you, but as soon as this loc is fired off to you, it will be archived on my LiveJournal account. It's located at lloydpenney.livejournal.com, and it hold all locs written since July 1. Give it a look, and you'll see how busy I've been.

Take care, and see you next issue. Maybe I'll have some Worldcon stories to relate.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

☐**CKK**: *Perhaps it is just me, but I find the bodies at open-casket funerals to be so surreal that they don't even feel real. This could simply be my intellectual nature over-ruling my much weaker emotional nature.*☐



Murray Moore
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30 Jul 2006

Dear Henry,

Is there a contest among fanartists to incorporate a Jehovah's Witness as a feature of fanzine covers? Earlier today I loosed *Chunga* 12. Its bacover by Steve Stiles has a *Watchtower* in the hands of a cyclops Jehovah's Witness. Shirm's JW has three eyes.

Below **Shirm's** art is the dialogue Raconter une histoire de peche. Drawing on my formidable education in French – five years in a rural high school in the 1960s – I translate as Tell me a story about fish.

Henry, I read your sentence that you are enrolled in a mediation clinic as meditation clinic. I have an excuse for misreading English words. I have a cataract in my right eye sufficiently developed that my optometrist is making an appointment for me with an ophthalmologist. I expect the ophthalmologist will agree with his learned colleague that I should have my cataract removed and my eye's lens replaced.

Ditto is not dead; it's just resting. **Alan Rosenthal** in May during MikeCon said he plans to run a West Coast Ditto, in California in 2007.

Nobody will line up to see my naked body when I am dead. Nobody would line up to see my naked body now.

Ned, when you find a pair of shoes that fits you, buy two pair. Or make an outline of your feet on a piece of paper and send the paper to India as the guide for the manufacture of custom made shoes for you.

Following up on my LoC in *TKK* 118, I report that we drove as far north in Ontario in Timmins, which is about as far north as you can drive in Ontario. You have two reasons as tourists to visit Timmins. If you are a Shania Twain fan, you visit the Shania Twain Centre. I however recommend, on the same site, the Timmins Gold Mine Tour. You descend through two levels of a real gold mine with a retired miner for a guide. He not only shows you the equipment, he makes the slusher slush and the mucker muck and the drill drill. The noise is impressive. You wear rubber boots, coveralls, a thick belt with a battery that powers your miner's light, and of course a hard hat.

I also enjoy Northern Ontario because it reminds me that the Greater Toronto Area is a tiny percentage of my country's land mass. You have to go three or four hours north but then the highway narrows to two lanes, or three lanes uphill (one of the two uphill lanes is a passing lane). Traffic is scattered. The roadway is going up or down or curving. I know driving on these highways would quickly become boring if done reg-

ularly and I was not on holiday. But for a married couple in July, on their own, driving in Northern Ontario is pleasure.

^^
Murray

□**TKK**: *Me in meditation class? Not very likely. A good set of custom shoes includes both the outline and some circumferences of the ankle and feet. I like visiting northern Ontario.*□

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03 Aug 2006

Another good issue. I don't have any comments on the columns per se. But I do have some loc responses. At the end is the latest update on the move situation, then a little something for issue 120. Getting close....

Milt Stevens: I very much agree with his comments as to why Supreme Court justices should be chosen. Of course, the next question is how we determine the quality of the nominee's thinking? There are only two ways to do this to my way of thinking; see how their thinking comes across in their writings to date, and question them as to situations during the hearing.

There are a couple of problems with the latter. First, a case's decision may rest on the specific particulars of the case and the findings of the lower courts as the case makes its way to the Supreme Court. So unless the committee members are going to come up with very specific cases they want commentary on the best responses are going to somewhat general and maybe not reflective of the nominee's best thinking. Second, decision's aren't generally made without quite a bit of legal researching and cross-talk between the justices. So it wouldn't be fair to come up with these ad hoc 'cases' and expect the best reasoned argument. Of course, we could change the format and have the committee send out specific case questions ahead of time.

In any case the nominee's writing may be a better indication of the impact of the justice anyway because it is the written decisions which provide the guidelines for the rest of the legal system on the law.

Ned Brooks: **Ned** writes that he wears SAS shoes. SAS is short for San Antonio Shoes. I recently visited the primary factory outlet store. One of the sales people there indicated that the owner had very recently died and that the heirs were trying to determine the future of the company. None of them had indicated a desire to head the company themselves. So it's possible that **Ned** may have to search for a new shoe company in the future. I myself am a 9 or 9-1/2 E, though I continually measure out as a C.

Question for **Terry Jeeves** – what is a tight skin suit?

E.B. Frohvet: You are right, saying “I believe the president ought to be shot” is free speech since it only indicates disgruntlement and not a conspiracy. However, saying, “I plan to shoot the president” is also sedition. Of course the early Sedition Acts of the Adams presidency days actually were an attempt to cut back on the rights of free speech. Apropos of which, I recently listened to the CD version of a book which talked about the election campaigns that elected Adams and Jefferson and about the politics of the day and the relationship between the two men. The other candidates are also discussed. It was a pretty interesting book and I believe fair to both Adams and Jefferson. I can’t remember the title, though. Will pass it along if I do.

Jim Stumm: A technical point. Until something is passed by Congress something isn’t a law, and therefore isn’t an unconstitutional law.

Also, it isn’t going to be quite as simple as simply repealing 90% of the laws and strict adherence to the 10th amendment. The 10th amendment would simply shift the responsibility to the states instead of the federal government, so we would have broke states instead of a broke federal government. Of course, we do in some cases anyway.

The relocation is somewhat complete. Laurel and Melissa are currently located in Dayton. The address in Dayton is 4308 Ridgepath Drive, Dayton OH 45424. Sarah is in San Antonio for the summer staying with friends. I see her about once a week. Josh is staying in SA as he is a senior at UTSA next year, so it would make no sense for him to move. Sarah and I will drive her up to Dayton beginning on 26 August. I will then take a Greyhound bus back to SA. I am now ensconced in my apartment; though I have actually been gone on trips for over half the time I have officially been living there. I am doing a lot of traveling to the DC area lately. This Sunday I will have internet turned on in the apartment. Will send new e-mail address when available.

Best
Alex

□**TKK:** *The research that can go into a good case decision is extensive. The hypotheticals are likely to raise more questions than answers as there may be details upon which the case hinges. The Supreme Court has also said that a case is not overruled unless the explicitly say it is. This can lead to all kinds of confusion.*□

Milt Stevens
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August 3, 2006

Dear Henry and Letha,

In **Jim Sullivan’s** article, I expected him to discover he was attending the funeral of a nudist. I presume nudists die pretty

much like the rest of us, and some of them probably have funerals. I never did think open casket funerals were a particularly good thing. In fact, I never thought funerals were a good thing. I used to joke that I wouldn’t even attend my own funeral if I could figure a way around it. Then I found a way to do it. Actually, I got the idea from Bruce Pelz. The Neptune Society. I’ve already paid the Neptune Society to get rid of my body when I get around to dying. My years in crime analysis convinced me of the importance of getting rid of the body. I’ve also specified in my will that I don’t want a funeral.

Alexander Slate continues on Supreme Court and other judicial nominees. Locally, one woman was not appointed to the bench because she had declared bankruptcy immediately after graduating from law school where she had incurred a quite large student loan. That was perfectly legal but highly unethical.

Alexander will continue with a consideration of the conduct of congresscritters. First off, I don’t care about their sex lives. For all I care, they can sow their wild oats with men, women, and goats. However, if they try to screw me, I will object. I also seem to vaguely recall something about elected officials representing their constituents, but that pretty much never happens.

There is a curious error in the letter column. Tom Feller doesn’t publish *Reluctant Famulus*. Tom Sadler does. Tom Feller used to publish the *Reasonable Freethinker* and still publishes *Road Warrior* for FAPA. I received a copy of *Reluctant Famulus* #60 in February 2006.

Yours truly,

□**TKK:** *Student loans cannot be discharged by bankruptcy. That is one of the terms of the loans they specifically want you to know. I suppose you might care if the sexual practices of congresscritters involved children (in the act, not as a result nine months later).*□

Dave Rowe
8288 W. Shelby State Road 44
Franklin, IN 46131-9211
August 19, 2006

Dear Henry,

With regard to *TKK* 118.

Jim Sullivan’s “The Viewing” was extraordinary. As he wrote, “Certainly the embalmer and his or her cosmetician had to be congratulated for those fine highlighted features” because older people’s corpses can normally be described with one word, “sexless.” The breasts lie flat against the torso looking more like indications of chest muscles and the male genitals hang limp and unseen between the legs.

Your mum’s piece about Indiana raises a question: How many fannish connections has Turkey Run State Park got? There’s

your family, Carolyn and I meet with Sam Long there and Jackie Cosgrove (whose illos used to be seen in nearly every U.S. fanzine in the '70s when she as Jackie Franke) used to regularly go there with her family every year.

As for Indiana having "mild winters" ... now, yes, but beyond 15 years ago no! During an extra bad winter the wind chill

We also heard from:

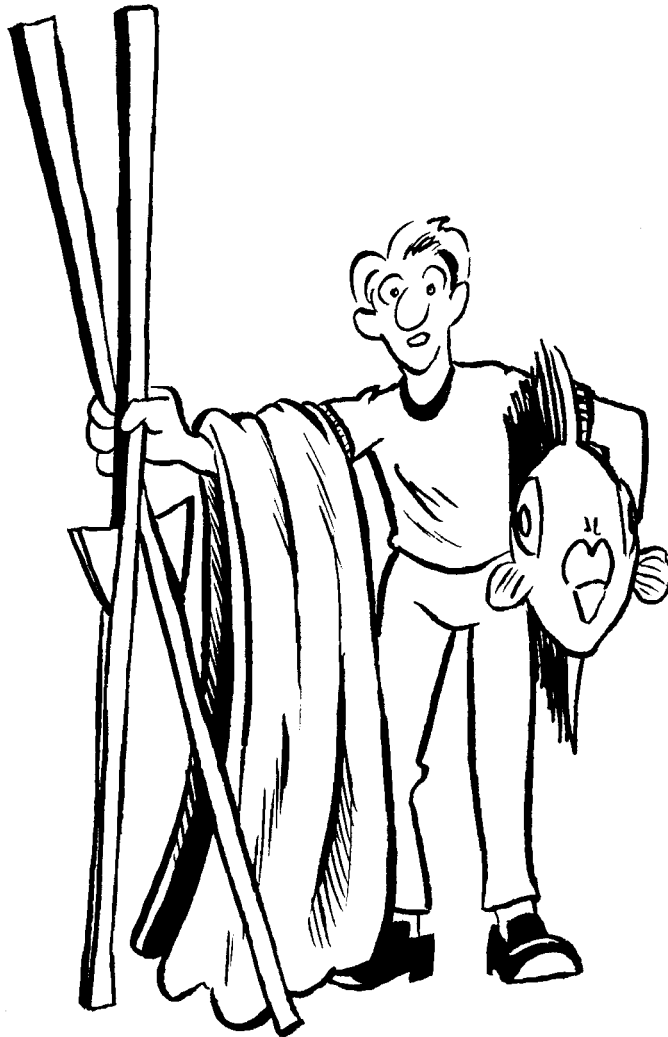
Al & Megan Bouchard, Patti Hetherington, Tony Keen, Bill Legate, Michael Pederson, Bob Sabella, Dick Smith, Gene Stewart, Jan Stinson, Sue Welch, and Leah Zeldes Smith

was known to go as low as 100 below on more than one occasion, but not any more. Not that any one around here believes in Global Warming, but that all vote Republican.

Note that "Carry on Jeeves" in *TKK* 188 was also the episode that appeared in the very last *Erg*. Thanks for reproducing the series. It's beautifully funny and often outrageously hilarious.

Dave

☐*TKK*: *Turkey Run State Park* is a great place to visit in the spring. My mother chose there based on distance and my recommendation; I having visited there about 12 years ago.☐



A pair of stilts, my grandmother's paisley comforter, and a large stuffed sea bass.



They're casting aliens for *Star Trek*.

Fanzines Received in Trade



Congratulations to this year's fan Hugo nominees. For more information see <http://www.laconiv.org/2006/hugos/nominees.htm>

Best Fanzine

- *Banana Wings* edited, Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer
- *Challenger* edited, Guy H. Lillian III
- *Chunga* edited, Andy Hooper, Randy Byers & Carl Juarez
- *File 770* edited by Mike Glyer
- *Plokta* edited, Alison Scott, Steve Davies & Mike Scott

Best Fan Writer

- Claire Brialey
- John Hertz
- Dave Langford
- Cheryl Morgan
- Steven H Silver

Best Fan Artist

- Brad Foster
- Teddy Harvia
- Sue Mason
- Steve Stiles
- Frank Wu

"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.

Alexiad Vol. 5 No. 3 & No. 4 by Lisa and Joseph T. Major; 1409 Christy Ave.; Louisville, KY 40204-2040; bi-monthly; \$2 or the usual. A nice fanzine with lots of book reviews and a solid letter column.

Chunga Issue 12 by Randy Byers, Andy Hooper, and Carl Juarez; 1013 North 36th St.; Seattle, WA 98103; rbyers@u.washington.edu, fanmailaph@aol.com, cjuarez@myrealbox.com; irregular; \$3.50 or the usual. An interesting genzine with a predominant TAFF theme this issue.

Ethel the Aardvark #124 & 125 by Damien Christie; PO Box 212; World Trade Centre; Melbourne, VIC 3005; Australia; ethelaardvark@yahoo.com.au; bi-monthly; AU\$30/year or the usual. This is the official zine of the Melbourne Science Fiction Club.

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.

Lofgeornost 84 by Fred Lerner; 81 Worcester Ave; White River Junction, VT 05001; fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu; irregular; the usual. This is Fred's FAPA zine. This issue focuses on some of Fred's reading.

Nice Distinctions 14 by Arthur Hlavaty; 206 Valentine St; Yonkers, NY 10704-1814; <http://www.maroney.org/hlavaty/>; hlavaty@panix.com; quarterly; \$1 or the usual. A small perzine with discussion of oppositional defiant disorder.

Opuntia 61.1, 61.3, 61.5, 62 & 62.1A by Dale Speirs; Box 6830; Calgary, Alberta; Canada T2P 2E7; irregular; \$3 or the usual. If there is one fan who may be more prolific than me over the past twenty years it would have to be Dale. Lots of great short pieces in these issues. Send for your copies today.

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Vol 8 No 10 by R.B. Cleary; 138 Bibb Dr.; Madison, AL 35758-1064; rbcleary@bellsouth.net; quarterly; \$10/yr or the usual. The official fanzine of the Southern Fandom Confederation with items primarily of southern interest.

Vanamonde No. 643-47 by John Hertz; 236 S Coronado St No 409; Los Angeles, CA 90057; This is John's APA-L zine with interesting tidbits.

Is it just me or does this column seem like there are fewer and fewer zines to list every issue. Do your part and remedy the problem.

Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) Marsport, Mars
Labor Day, 2095



You Got this Issue Because ...

- ☐ **You are going to respond to the 20th Anniversary theme.**
- ☐ **It is much less work and a lot more fun to do than a law review edit.**
- ☐ **Garden-fresh tomatoes are wonderful and in the ensuing sugar rush it seemed like the right thing to do.**
- ☐ **You are going to write me some interesting articles.**
- ☐ **We trade**
- ☐ **You sent me a contribution. Thanks.**
- ☐ **You sent me a letter of ~~complaint~~ comment.**

You have ☐ issues left before you are designated a black hole and dropped from the mailing list.