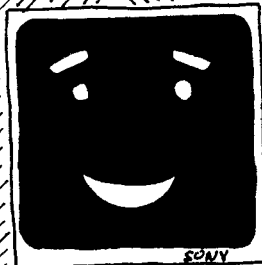


KNARLY KNEWS WORLD

SCOTT "HONCHO" PATRI



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RODNEY LEIGHTON AND TEDDY
HARVIA MORE THAN ANYTHING
ELSE, BUT I GUESS IT WILL KEEP
ME ON THE TKK MAILING LIST UNTIL
I START PUBLISHING AGAIN."

Issue 133

April 2009

The Knarley Knews -- Issue 133
Published in April, 2009

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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 \$3.00 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.
PC: 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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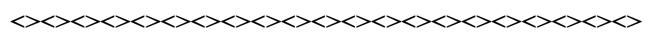
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Editorial

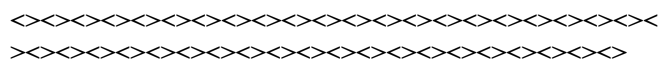
(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

Once again it is tax season in the United States and that is a not so subtle reminder to me that it is time for another issue of *TKK*. My tax preparation this year was just the nicer side of painful. Not only did I have to file in two states (Wisconsin and California), but I also had to convert our former house into a rental property. It took the better part of a day to track down and enter all the relevant data. I got a fairly large federal refund (due largely to excess social security tax from having two jobs) a decent California refund (fairly good given the reading of tea leaves I used to determine my California withholding in August), and owed Wisconsin a somewhat smaller amount. Along the way I learned that they changed the capital gains exclusion rules for former residences and now I have to pay capital gains tax on a prorated portion of the gain when we sell the house. This can be a fairly hefty disincentive to converting a property held long-term to a rental property and is probably the opposite intent of the change, which was to close a loophole to those who did this kind of thing regularly. The former 2 years out of 5 rule was nice in that it would have given me 3 years to sell without capital gains issues beyond depreciation recapture (this later simply postpones taxes and gets them in at a lower rate whereas capital gains is tax I could otherwise avoid entirely). We have discussed this with our realtor and the Wisconsin realty market is apparently in sufficient recovery that we should do OK if we sell this year. Does anyone need a house in Grafton, Wisconsin? I'd be more than happy to cut you a deal if we can avoid the real estate commission.

We are also beginning to look at houses in the area. The market out here is finally near the bottom and with interest rates where they are this may be our best time to buy for years. We are generally looking at the low end of three bedroom homes, but are looking at other creative options with smaller homes. This is the luxury of buying some acreage in the mountains. It is, though, important to make certain the house being purchased was properly permitted and has access to a decent water supply. The property we are renting now has huge water tank and we don't have any water issues. Now if they could just improve the land-line phone service and the PG&E energy rates.



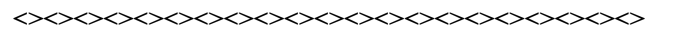
My OPT-IN plan is off to a slow start. Only four people opted-in, but one is foreign, which is a big help when it comes to postage. Please let me know if you're interested in opting-in to an electronic only copy. Thanks.



We have come to the end of an era in many ways in that I believe I have finally published the last installment of "Carry on

Jeeves." This is, of course, not the first time these have been published in a fanzine so I'm only going from the original manuscripts that Terry sent me a few years ago. I recall seeing them in one or more fanzines in my collection, but that is one of the few things that have not been unpacked and I have no practical way of looking through them at this time. If anyone is aware of any further installments and where they were published, I'd very much like to print the full run.

This leaves me with a further question regarding where to go from here. As I put together each installment I duplicated a copy into a full compendium document thinking that some day the full collection might get published as a single volume. I'd still like to give some consideration to that, but the ultimate decision is up to Terry. However, if anyone has any suggestions as to what might be a suitable option, please let me know.



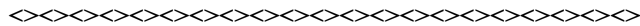
Work is still coming in fits and spurts, which is apparently the nature of litigation. I've been using the downtime to begin the study process for the Patent Bar Exam. Hopefully, this will be the last regulatory exam I ever have to take. The Patent Bar Exam is required to prosecute patents, on behalf of others, before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). It is the only specialized bar and even admits non-attorneys as patent agents. The requirement is a hard sciences (or engineering) bachelor's degree or submission of sufficient course work. My B.S. in electrical engineering more than qualifies me to take the exam.

The exam itself is based upon the Manual of Patent Examination Procedure (MPEP). This is a 3000+ page document will all the myriad and arcane rules required to practice before the patent office. Most of the triviality should be taken care of by decent docketing software, but that doesn't stop the PTO with torturing everyone with a 100-question multiple-choice exam. The good news is that it is administered electronically and an admission certificate gives you a 90-day window in which to take the exam. The exam is even open-book based on an electronic copy of the MPEP, but you can only search one chapter at a time. (There are 25 chapters plus appendices.)

I ordered, at firm expense (as a taxable fringe), the review course for the patent bar from the Practising Law Institute (PLI). From what I've been able to read, they seem to have the best review materials. So far I've waded through about 36 hours of audio-CDs and done numerous exercises and one practice test. So far I'm doing well enough that passing is unlikely to be an issue, but I need to keep at it regularly so that I don't forget the basic materials. I find that I have plenty of time to complete a 50-question, 3-hour segment despite

looking up a fair number of the answers, which are less than easy to find. A passing score of 70% is required and 10 of the 100 questions are experimental and do not count. The fun part is that the exam is based on an old version of the rules, which do not reflect any recent changes made by the PTO or court cases. Nothing like learning some law and rules that are already no longer applicable. The PTO also seems to be inordinately fond of testing on materials that are based on changes to the rules from the early and mid-1990s, caused by such things as NAFTA. The study guide recommends that I spend another 100+ hours on study, but I'm guessing I probably won't.

In the end, I will survive it all, but that isn't much of a comfort while I expend time and energy on it now. Like anything else, it is just another damn test



Spring has mostly sprung for us. The wild turkeys just ended their mating season which involves the toms strutting around the yard as early as 5am and trying to impress the babes. This involves lots of gobbling and can be quite a distraction. The web sites say they will avoid yards with a dog, but that hasn't stopped them. At least Skippy no longer freaks out when he hears them so I'm not jarred awake at 5am by a growling dog. We don't see the deer much in the yard, but do see them regularly in the neighbors' yards when we drive by in the early evening. There are about four or five of them regularly. I occasionally see a fox or two and one day there were three very healthy-looking coyotes instead of the deer. There is at least one mountain lion in the area, but a news report from earlier today indicates that it got loose on the freeway during rush hour and was run over. There was some evidence of cubs from last year so there are probably others in the area.

Skippy brought home what appears to be a wild turkey egg the other day. About the size of a chicken egg and speckled,

he managed not to crack it and it had only two small nicks in the shell from his teeth. This is rather amazing, because I've seen Skippy thoroughly destroy sticks and bones with little effort. We put it in a fish tank with a light bulb to keep it warm and should be taking it to an animal rescue shelter in the next day or two. My guess it isn't viable given the somewhat violent shaking it has had, but I'll leave that determination to the professionals.



The hockey season came to an end. In our final game we only had 8 skaters, but played one of our better games of the season and dominated a team we'd struggled with all season long. I think that having a very short bench makes people more deliberate and thus make better passing and play options. As in past years, I have decided not to play over the summer.



Kira has been undergoing a lot of medical testing lately. She has complained of a running nose and inability to smell so we started with the general practitioner and migrated to an allergist. She is allergic to dust mites and cats (both mildly), but we done the CT and MRI of the brain and so far haven't figured out why she doesn't smell very well. There have been some suggestions that it might be hereditary, but I'm not generally aware of these issues in my family. I know that my father couldn't smell very well, but that developed later in life after years of smoking and all his activity in the chemistry lab as a student. We just got a referral to neurological specialists at Stanford. More as this develops.



Don't forget to let me know if you want to OPT-IN to electronic delivery.

Sue's Sites: The San Diego Wild Animal Park

by Sue Welch

"I want to go to the Wild Animal Park for my birthday," I said to John, one of Henry's brothers.

"Mom," came the answer, "your birthday is on Wednesday. It is a workday and besides I just spent a week at your house. Furthermore, we are going to Vail early Friday morning."

"But none of this has anything to do with my birthday. How can you ignore what maybe my very last birthday?" I explained. "I have ordered a picture perfect day – 80 degrees and sunshine."

Early morning January 14th found John and I speeding down I-15 to the San Diego Wild Animal Park 100 miles away. My love for this place began 20 years ago, shortly after moving

to California, when my Uncle Dick took me to the Park for the afternoon to meet all of his animal friends. He knew the animals by name and I was at once totally enthralled with the whole set up including the huge ice cream cone he insisted I enjoy during our tour. Dick lived 10 minutes from the Park and spent many afternoons wandering the grounds. Like me he had an innate love for animals and was happiest when among them.

The Park is located in the San Pasqual Valley, north and east of San Diego. It is in a semi-arid environment, similar to the Serengeti of East Africa and the Kalahari Desert of southern Africa. It includes 1,800 acres, half of which has been set-aside as protected native species habitat. There are approximately 3,500 animals representing 400 different spe-

cies plus approximately 3,500 species of plants living in the Park. A 45-minute tram tour takes visitors to view various open-range enclosures representing the Asian, East Africa, North Africa, and Southern Africa Plains. There are also smaller enclosures as well as typical zoo exhibits.

In 1964 the San Diego Zoological Society conceived the idea of developing this park as a supplementary breeding facility for the zoo, which had and still has very limited space. The animals would be exhibited in a natural environment rather than in cages. The Park, designed by Charles Faust, opened May 10, 1972. The Park was threatened by the October 2007 wildfires but thanks to preplanning and dedicated efforts by many, the animals were moved to safety (conjure up the picture of moving 3,500 animals to safety as a raging wildfire approaches). Ultimately the fires fell short of the Park and the animals were returned.

The Paul Harter Veterinary Medical Center, just outside the Park, opened in October of 2001. Considered to be the largest and most sophisticated zoo animal hospital in the world, it has 64,000 square feet with 5 treatment rooms, 1 sterile surgery room, 1 radiology room, 2 ICUs as well as 3 mammal recovery rooms and various waiting rooms. Fifty to one hundred animals can be cared for at one time, depending upon the size of the animals needing care. Not big enough though for giraffes, elephants and rhinos, which still have to be treated in their exhibit areas. Beginning in 2003, the Zoological Society has worked in partnership with the University of California, Davis in a three-year veterinarian residency program. This facility is closed to the public.

CRES (Conservation and Research for Endangered Species), the largest zoo-based multidisciplinary research team, is housed in the state-of-the-art Beckman center, just inside the Park. This building, a 2-story, 50,000 square foot facility, was completed in 2004. Here scientists generate, share and apply scientific knowledge for animals, plants and habitats, both locally and internationally. All research projects fall within these six major areas: sustainable populations, bio-resource banking, wildlife health, habitat conservation, restoration biology and conservation education. On occasion tours of this facility are open to the public with advance reservations and extra fees.

My big interest of late are six lions, three males and three females, born in October of 2003 into two different prides at the Farm Inn Zoo, a nature reserve in Pretoria, South Africa. They traveled by jet to the Park when they were six months old. Females are Etosha, Mina and Oshana; males are M'bari, Izu and Tomo. Lion camp (a four acre enclosure) was designed and built for these six cubs. How little and cute, looking so sweet and cuddly like my house cat, they quickly grew to adolescent size. At about a year, when reproduction

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was imminent (earlier than lions in the wild, due to their food and medical care), they were separated. Tomo went to another zoo; M'bari and Etosha went to Park's old lion quarters. Both Mina and Oshana were kept at Lion Camp with Izu. Mina and Oshana each quickly gave birth to two liters. The six babies from their first liters have been moved to other zoos including St. Louis, Missouri; Lansing, Michigan; Jacksonville, Florida; and Tucson, Arizona.

The most recent two liters, (totaling seven cubs) celebrated their first birthday in November of 2008. Mina and Oshana have now been implanted with contraceptive devices to prevent any further pregnancies until these seven cubs are grown; this also allows Izu to remain with his pride. How proud he looks dozing in the midday sun overseeing his family of 10. The successful births and survival of these cubs is exciting as lion survival in Africa is uncertain. Ninety percent of the cat population in southern Africa died in the 1990s from diseases. Conditions for lions are good in east Africa; here survival rates are around 50%.

At one end of Lion Camp is a group of rocks and boulders; these can be heated/cooled depending on weather conditions for lion comfort in enticing the cats to this area. Here you are separated from the lions only by large glass panels. I will never forget the day I stood eye to eye with one lion, his paw on the glass and my hand covering his. Another section of this enclosure, also enclosed only by glass panels, has an old range rover. As in the film, "Born Free", the lions like to sit on the car's roof as well as in the hatch.

Recently there have been four elephant births-what fun to watch them play. In the wild babies are always in the inside of the adult group for safety but here they have more leeway to roam and entertain us. There are also many opportunities to see other species react with their group as well as with different species.

Peak your interest? If so and you come this way, I offer an invitation to escort you to the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Patriotic Lyrics

(c) by Jim Sullivan

By 1814, Francis Scott Key, 35, lawyer, and poet, had been drafting legal briefs and writing poetry for years. The War of 1812, then raging, had hardly deterred Francis from his usual activities. And that despite the British attack and burning of Washington, D.C., where Francis resided with his wife, Polly, and their children. Luckily, they and their home in Georgetown went unscathed and unsinged.

However, following that attack, a dear, elderly at 65, friend of Francis's, one Tobias O'Shea, had been taken prisoner. The man was an early-day librarian. The British accused O'Shea of lending American militiamen military how-to books. Because of the seriousness of the charge, this prisoner ended up being held aboard a British man-of-war in waters off Chesapeake Bay, where the enemy fleet lay at anchor.

Francis managed to get the highly peeved President Madison to sign a letter addressed to the British commander demanding O'Shea's immediate release. The chief executive was ticked off not only about the innocent American prisoner, but also about damage the British had inflicted upon the President's Home (now called the Whitehouse) and to the nation's Capitol Building, among other structures.

John S. Skinner, a burley tobacco grower and local prisoner-of-war exchange agent, was assigned to accompany Francis on this mission. They obtained a small, unnamed sloop, hoisted a white flag of truce, and sailed forth into the bay to visit the British Admiral in charge.

He released the prisoner after listening to Francis and John's case for O'Shea. No doubt President Madison's letter influenced the admiral, too. However, as the British had been making preparations to attack Fort McHenry, guarding approaches to Baltimore, the military commander told Francis, John, and O'Shea that they couldn't leave just yet because they'd seen too much.

A few days later, on September 13th, the British naval bombardment of the American fort began. The three non-combatants were restricted to their sloop tied up to a British ship anchored eight miles from the scene of battle.

With a powerful spyglass, though, Francis could see the action. More importantly, he could make out the huge 30' by 42' American flag, especially made for the fort, waving. But as night descended, viewing was obscured. And all three men worried about how long the fort could withstand such brutal punishment from the British long-range naval guns before falling, leaving Baltimore defenseless as was the British plan.

Francis, John, and O'Shea didn't sleep that night. During those terrible dark hours, the lawyer resorted to his favorite

pastime writing poetry, to fill the hours. His subject, naturally, was the thing most prominent in his mind, the ongoing British attack on Fort McHenry.

By early morning, tired and not a little frustrated, for he'd been unable to come up with a decent opening line for his poem, he set it aside and took up his spyglass again. It was 5:30 am, and the sun was just coming up. Francis could see, hanging from the fort's flagpole, a drooping flag. But was it British or American? He couldn't tell.

Just then, a breeze came off the water, fluttering the distant flag. Stronger and stronger the wind blew, and higher and higher the flag flew. Suddenly, Francis shouted: "Our U.S. flag still waves over Fort McHenry!"

O'Shea begged for a look. Francis handed the old man the glass. But he dropped it on the deck. "I just can't see where it is," cried O'Shea. "My eyes aren't what they used to be."

"Wait a minute," John said, "let me light up one of my burley tobacco matches."

Quickly, with the illumination, they found the glass. And the old man put it to his eye. Soon, he was smiling, but said nothing.

Francis couldn't keep still any longer. "Well, O'Shea, can you see?"

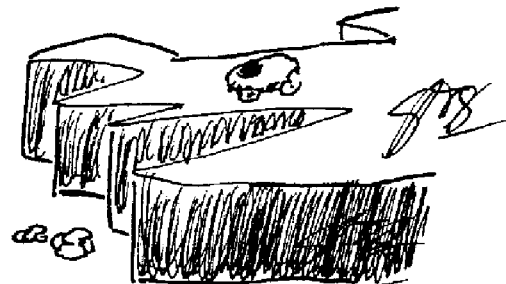
"Yes, thanks to John's burley light," he replied.

"Eureka!" shouted Francis. "You've just given me the opening line for my poem."

Later, Francis's poem was set to an existing British beer-drinking tune. And thus the song was created.

Initially named *The Defense of Ft. McHenry*, the title was soon change to *The Star-Spangled Banner*. President Wilson proclaimed it the U.S. Military's national anthem in 1916. Then, in 1931, the U.S. Congress made the song the entire nation's national anthem.

And so it still goes: "O'Shea can you see, by John's burley light?" and so forth.



Words to That Effect

By Gene Stewart

You know when something stops you and you have to think about it for awhile before moving on? Finding words to affect that effect is not easy. And yes, I'm talking to you even if you're dead. You don't have to answer. Just listen, okay?

When I write, I hope to knock readers down. Bowl them over, as the phrase goes. I want them to read my story and have to stop to think before moving on.

Emotion is easier to convey than thought. It's so easy there are cheats, like torturing the innocent or threatening puppies and kittens. Cheap tricks that kick in knee-jerk responses are Hollywood level emotional cues any shameless writer can use.

If you have any pride in your work, or any concern about your reputation as a person, though, you don't do those crappy things to readers. It's counterproductive. You'll attract the lowest type of reader, simpering with skin-deep feelings that never escaped the cradle. You'll be held in contempt, and rightfully so, by any intelligent, discerning reader, rare though such be.

So I write stories loaded with hints at bigger truths, or I write stories that lead to conclusions most people do not wish to face, and I hope the good readers out there will be prompted to think far enough past the story to realize some deeper insights.

This means my stories do not hold reader's hands. They do not lead readers step by careful step with plenty of reminders through their plot or their thesis's logic. They do not spell things out or emphasize; doing so only restricts readers from making their own guesses about what a story means.

What a story means to each reader is all that counts for that reader, in the end. So a reader must make that leap alone. Anything less is manipulative.

Guiding readers to a given notion is persuasion. Fiction should remain above such pressures. It should offer, instead of gang planks, cattle chutes, or well-worn paths from one point to another, an overview of a vista, a landscape from which the reader can choose a destination.

One way to do this is to acknowledge that most reading is escapist in nature. Creating a story the reader wants to escape into is a good way to capture their thinking. How many of us have thought ourselves off the beaten path in Middle Earth?

Using such enticement as a chance to preach to a captive audience, as C. S. Lewis did in his *Narnia* series, is authorial betrayal of a reader's trust. It is lecture and lesson embedded in a promise that school's out. It's a trap to be resented and avoided.

Instead of preaching, a writer who wants to affect an effect should give the reader all the things needed to construct, independently, a new idea, a better thought, or a sharper view.

It's a delicate process. It's made up of equal parts restraint, balance, and boldness. One slip and lecture is revealed. One misstep and the guided tour becomes the ambush.

A good formula for ending a story intended to have an effect is: If that, then this. Offer the reader all the clues necessary to realize something, but do not state what it is. Let them figure that out.

If you've done your job well, the reader will not only be able to figure out the next, unwritten logical inference, but will want to take that next step, and maybe several beyond that. Kicking off a train of thought means never quite knowing where it might end up. There are no inevitable tracks, there are no billiard-table angles to constrain thoughts. They can connect in any and all directions and go to entirely new places.

Most stories, no matter the length, are offered in three acts. There is a setup in which the scene is set and the people are introduced. Next comes the complication, in which we see those people moving in those scenes become entangled in interesting dilemmas and meet compelling challenges. Finally we reach the conclusion, in which conflicts are resolved and at least a temporary poise is established. It is that third act that leaves readers with either the most to think about, or the feeling that it's all been arranged and they have been suckered.

Yes, too pat an ending, employing too many coincidences, leads to dissatisfaction based on having been fooled. Such an ending feels fake. Such an ending makes a fool of the reader.

Happy endings risk this. So do falsely tragic endings. If a third act cannot be inferred logically from what a reader finds in the first and second acts, then it is *non sequitur* and will leave a bad taste, lingering doubts, and a resentment known well to anyone who has ever been hoodwinked.

Worse, however, is to have no third act at all. Insufficient endings plague fiction. I say this from my experience as an editor. By far the single most common flaw I saw in slush pile submissions was a lack of a third act, or a lame third act. Rather than build to an ending, it seems many writers had simply tacked a hasty ending on. Sometimes they offered none and let the story trail off in the middle of complications, as if the point was to show how much trouble can befall a person.

We all know that, though. What we want to see is how to get out of it again, once it's been dumped on us. Do we prefer stories of how soldiers fell into capture, or how prisoners of war escaped? Which is the more daring? Is it heroic to be shot down, or heroic to survive a shoot-down, defy capture, then evade and escape the enemy?

Imagine if the *Illiad* ended just as they reached Troy, or the *Odyssey* ended just as they set out from Troy. Who'd care?

If Icarus and Daedalus had stopped their tale just before they'd jumped, would it be remembered?

Add to this unanswered questions. Did Butch and Sundance live on? Who killed Edwin Drood? Will King Arthur return?

Such questions inspire thought to fly.

Words can have profound effects, if we arrange them properly to inspire further thinking.

The Best Non-Career Move of My Life

© by John A. Purcell

Anybody who grew up during the 1950s and 1960s is a child of rock and roll. After that, all rock music was simply derivative of what had come before. It can be effectively argued that rock and roll was the bastard child of blues and jazz, and that is perfectly understandable. No matter how you define the terms, there is no doubt that I am a child of rock and roll.

Many, many years ago, while buffalo still roamed the reservations, I always listened to the radio. In fact, I dutifully followed the top 40 radio hits; even kept lists, of these, too. If I still had those lists, they would be an interesting time capsule of popular musical tastes. Even so, I had my favorites: I wanted to be the next Ricky Nelson, Roy Orbison, or Gene Pitney. Didn't care for Elvis then. That came much later when I was in high school and Elvis began recording more "serious" music like "Suspicious Minds" and "In the Ghetto."

As I have written elsewhere, I received my first guitar for Christmas of 1963. Watching the Beatles live on Ed Sullivan (Feb, 8th, 15th, and 29th, 1964) with my brother on our "portable" Motorola black-and-white television, we wished the girls would stop screaming so we could hear the music! What we could hear we liked, and I determined to learn their songs. So I started picking out the tunes on that nylon string Kingston. My versions didn't sound as good as the originals, but hey, I was learning.

Much later after I got the guitar – probably my 11th birthday – my folks gave me a record and music book, *Play Guitar with the Ventures*. To this day, I still remember how to play "Raunchy" from that LP. Other than that, I pretty much taught myself by playing along with the radio, our stash of 45's, and LP's. I didn't take formal guitar lessons until junior high (from a guy who played saxophone in jazz bands), but that was okay. A person learns what you can when you can. And I wanted to learn how to *play* the guitar, if you know what I mean.

This all led to being in a neighborhood garage band – every street seemed to have one since everybody wanted to be the next Beatles or Stones – then jazz band in high school, besides the regular school band since 4th grade. By the time I hit high school, I could play cornet, trumpet, French horn, baritone, tuba, and taught myself rudimentary piano, drums, and

So, to entice and encourage thought beyond the story itself, it makes much more sense to lead readers up, ask them questions with answers just beyond the story's words, give the readers wings, and stop just short of pushing them off the cliff. Let them stand gazing over the widest possible view, squinting for the answers to their questions. Let them decide for themselves whether to jump and soar, or simply to climb back down over the points made along the way. No matter which they choose, they'll be thinking further, and the story's words will have had an effect.

synthesizer. There was no doubt in any of my band teachers' minds what I was going to be in college: a music major.

Which is exactly what I majored while attending Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. During my freshman year, I joined up with Marshall and the Doo-Wops. We played Fifties music (big surprise, since Sha-Na-Na was huge at the time). Marshall Weiss was the lead singer; he and a couple other guys were in the College Concert Choir. Most of the gigs we played were on campus, but it was fun. While at Concordia, I took a year's worth of piano lessons as part of my music major, which got changed to an English major when I learned they had no music composition courses.

So in the fall of 1974, I transferred to the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. My best friend from high school, Steve Glennon, was going there as an engineering major, and Steve had introduced me to Lee Pelton the year before, which was how I learned of Minicon and made that fateful first encounter with science fiction fandom. But I have written that story before.

In my Russian class at Minnesota, there was this bespectacled guy with dark brown hair cut in a John Denver hairstyle, Bill Fischer. We hit it off immediately; his strange sense of humor matched mine, and we began creating Figby cartoons, originally notebook doodles of Bill's, which wound up in the Minnesota *Technolog*, the U of M's Institute of Technology student magazine. That little strip became a hit, and we even won an award for "Best Recurring Feature" in the national IT student publication organization. Go figure. The latest incarnation of Figby has been running in my fanzines *In a Prior Lifetime* and now *Askance* for almost three years now.

Not long after meeting him, I learned that Bill also played guitar. In fact, he and his buddy Michael Johnson – there's a dime-a-dozen Minnesota name for you – had been doing the folk duo thing for a few years. They called themselves Johnson and Fish, and after Bill and I had jammed a couple times, he invited me to play with him and Michael, which eventually led to my joining them as a group member. Thus the folk duo became a folk trio, Johnson, Fish, and Company (I was Company). And this was just when the disco craze in popular music was taking off.

Well, we played coffee houses around the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, mostly open stage nights in hopes of landing weekend gigs, but to no avail. The audiences usually liked our stuff since we played mostly originals, but none of the management types seemed to share that impression. *grumph* Bill and I were the main songwriters, but Mike added lyrics from time to time. Once Mike gave me a set of lyrics to put to music, and out came this 7-minute opus “Lady Anne”, which shifted tempo and styles (folk to progressive rock and back again), and included this middle section where the chording looked – as Mike described it – like Linear B. It was a rather complicated song. Needless to say, that song was never performed nor recorded. I still have it in my files, though.

Johnson, Fish and Company even booked an afternoon at Sound 80 studios in Minneapolis to record a proper demo. That was cool. I loved it, and the recording engineer commented that I looked like the real musician in the group, that Bill and Mike looked like a couple normal looking guys who had just walked in off the street. Yeah, right. Bill still has a copy of the three songs we recorded that day.

Playing with Bill and Mike was a lot of fun, but nothing really came of our efforts. I suppose if we wrote and performed disco-folk that might have made a difference. Who knows?

We did this for a couple years, and after Bill graduated, the group ended and that was that. I still remember some of the songs Bill and Mike wrote: “Nobody” (a really nice ballad with 3-part harmony), “Lumberjack Stomp,” “Knock-a-

knockin’”, and I have the original lyric sheets with chords to the ones I wrote for the group: “Bushdog,” “In the Forest, In the Rain,” and “Jamaica Bay.” Besides “Lady Anne,” another Mike Johnson lyric I set to music was “Legacy,” which I still feel is one of the best things Mike ever wrote and the music matched the message and tone very well. Bill and I penned some good songs, too, like “Cumberland Country”, but the best one was “Progression in Green Major,” which I started playing at Minn-stf and Minicon music parties in the late 70s. That dang song was a *hit* there! Methinks we missed our true audience by a few years.

So that, my friends, is the brief tale of my time in a folk group. It was fun, but definitely not a very commercial venture. Such is life: a time of side-trips and detours hobbled by assorted breakdowns along the way. They do, however, give you something to eventually natter about.

For my birthday in 2005, my wife gave me a 4-track cassette recorder. I have plenty of microphones and tapes to use, plus more guitars and a keyboard, but have yet to really play around with the 4-track. I do plan on using it to make a proper over-dubbed demo of the songs I have written over the years. For that matter, I may dust off some of those old Johnson, Fish and Company songs and lay down those tracks. Heck, they were good songs. They may not have been disco, but a good song is timeless.

I wonder what they would sound like with a programmed drum beat?

Remnants of the World's Columbian Exposition

By Steven Silver

Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble and logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone will be a living thing, asserting itself with growing intensity. Remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us. Let your watchword be “order” and your beacon “beauty.”

- Daniel H. Burnham

Fair Remnants

From May 1 to October 30, 1893, Chicago hosted the World's Columbian Exposition, a world's fair which had a lasting effect on both the city and the world, introducing the Ferris wheel, numerous food products, ragtime, and the term Midway, because the rides and games were located in an area known as the Midway Plaisance, a mile-long park that still borders the University of Chicago.

If you ask most Chicagoans with some knowledge of local history what buildings survive from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, most will tell you that the only survivor

is the building that houses the Museum of Science and Industry, known during the fair as the Palace of Fine Arts. In a way, they might be correct, since it is the only building located *in situ* on the one-time fairgrounds. However, it is not the only survivor, not even in Chicago, where one other building built for the fair still stands on its original site, although it was not actually built on the fairgrounds, the World's Congress Auxiliary Building.

Four other buildings exist, although they have been relocated, two to Wisconsin, one to Massachusetts, and one to Maine. And remnants exist in a variety of places.

The Palace of Fine Arts

57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

One of the nicknames for the fair was the White City, because the exhibition halls, most of which were enormous, were made of white stucco under the oversight of Chicago Plan architect Daniel Burnham. One of the buildings, the Palace of Fine Arts, designed by Charles Atwood, was built with brick under its stucco façade. Just south of the building was a large lagoon and fairgoers could either enter through the doors on the north side or arrive via gondola at the steps leading down to the lagoon.

Following the close of the fair, the Palace of Fine Arts was converted into the Field Columbian Museum. This museum, which eventually became the Field Museum of Natural History remained in the building until 1920, when it moved into its present building several miles north of the fairgrounds.

Loredo Taft, a professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, looked at the vacant building and proposed turning it into a museum dedicated to sculpture. He helped the city win approval to issue a bond for the work that would be necessary, but in the end it was decided to use the building to house a new science museum and in 1926, Julius Rosenwald created an organization to achieve that end.

The building sat vacant for several years until 1929, when its exterior was reconstructed in the same *beaux-arts* style that was used by Atwood, although the interior of the museum was redesigned under the direction of Alfred Shaw in an *art moderne* style. The reconstruction took four years.

In 1933, the world's attention again returned to Chicago with the opening of Chicago's second World's Fair, the Century of Progress, which lasted two years and was located on the lake front, near the Field Museum's new facility. Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck and Company endowed the creation of the Museum of Science and Industry in what was once the Palace of Fine Arts. One of Rosenwald's stipulations was that his name not appear on the building, and it didn't. In fact, when I was visiting New Salem, Illinois, the reconstructed town where Abraham Lincoln first made a name for himself, I was very surprised to see a reference to the Rosenwald Industrial Museum, which was apparently considered as a possible name for the museum from 1926-1928. (Rosenwald also founded several schools throughout the Southern United States that were geared to educating African Americans. His grave, in Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery, which I discussed in one of last year's *Platas*, is marked by a simple headstone, surrounded by bushes.)

I've been going to the Museum of Science and Industry for my entire life. When I was young, my great-grandmother lived in an apartment across 57th street from the museum. Whenever we would visit her, we would spend some time with her and then my mother would walk us across the parking lot (since replaced with a grassy knoll and underground parking) and we'd walk up the steps to the museum.

As a kid, it was a wonderful place, full of things to explore. Sure, there were exhibits I found particularly boring, like the various farming exhibits, but other things were amazing. Over the years, exhibits were updated, others were dropped.

The museum is home to the U-505 submarine, the only German U-boat captured during World War II. From 1954 until 2004, the submarine was on display outside the museum, with access through a hole cut into its hull that attached to the inside of the museum. However, fifty years of being exposed to the heat of Chicago summers and the cold of Chicago, the amount of damage couldn't be ignored and the submarine was moved into an inside bunker. Seen inside in a room, as

opposed to outside against the bulk of the museum, you get a much better feel for the size of the submarine.

Silent film actress Colleen Moore used the money she made as a major star of films such as *The Sky Pilot* (with King Vidor) and *Flaming Youth* (in which she introduced the world to flapper fashion), to build an enormous doll house, Colleen Moore's Fairy Castle. In the 1950s, she donated the doll house to the museum, although she continued to work on it until her death in 1988.

Towards the south end of the building, just inside the doors that lead to the lagoon, is one of the museum's oldest, but still very cool, exhibits. They reconstructed a coal mine and give tours, although the wait is usually half an hour, which is equal to the length of the tour. Beginning above ground, a hoist drops the tour fifty feet below the museum's floor, where a mine has been laid out and techniques for mining coal through the ages are shown.

Hanging over a large model train that moves from a model of Chicago to a model of Seattle is the fuselage of a Boeing 727. From the second floor, you can wander through the plane, which they've done up nicely, considering that plan travel is not exactly new anymore. Every now and then, lights dim in the hall, and the plane's wheels drop as it makes a simulated landing over the Chicago in the train exhibit.

There is also a street in the museum that is a mock-up of a turn-of-the-twentieth century. The east end of the street is anchored by a nickelodeon which shows silent films: Keaton, Lloyd, Chaplin, Arbuckle, Krazy Kat & Ignatz Mouse, and so on. Until recently, the west end of the street was anchored by Finnegan's Ice Cream Shop, which from 1973 until January 4, 2009, served ice cream concoctions the way they were meant to be eaten...in glass. We were at the museum on January 4, the last day Finnegan's was open, although they are planning to reopen it elsewhere in the museum. All the storefronts between are just displays, but represent real Chicago businesses from the period.

For much of his life, Henry Crown supported the museum, helping to fund the coal mine in the 30s, and bring the U-505 to the museum in the 50s. Near the end of his life, he decided that the celebrate his leadership of General Dynamics, he would fund a permanent space exhibit at the museum. The result is the Henry Crown Center, which includes Jim Lovell's spacesuit and the Apollo 8 capsule that took Lovell, Frank Borman, and William Anders around the moon in December 1968, Scott Carpenter's *Aurora 7* capsule, a life size mockup of a space shuttle and a Lunar Lander, and more.

At the same time you can visit all of these exhibits and more, many of the exhibits have become worn down, and there are frequently large halls completely devoid of exhibits. The Museum is in the beginning of a five year renovation, which, it is hoped, will breath new life into the more staid exhibits, and return the museum to the level which it had when I was a kid, a spot that has currently been taken by the Field Museum that was once housed in the same building.

☐CKK: *To be continued...*☐

INTERLOCUTIONS

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2 Mar 2009

Well, that will do it.

Until next time, be well...
Alex

☐CKK: *There are a number of good corporations. I'd add the Clif Bar company to the list. Congratulations on the certification.*☐

Knarley,

At long last, the loc I said I was going to get to...

Issue 130:

Gene Stewart: While I agree that there are problems with many corporations, I don't believe this is universally so. There are some very responsible corporations. I believe Ben and Jerry's to be one. There is a sporting goods company called Patagonia which also fits the bill. That said, I am trying to work on an article about a new model for corporate philosophy and behavior. But I almost believed that **Gene** was blaming the sociopathic behavior of ex-convicts on corporatism as well. It took me 3 or 4 reads to figure out otherwise.

Joy V. Smith, thanks for your comments on my article.

Joseph T. Major: **Joseph,** you misunderstand Maslow's hierarchy. Those who insist on imposing their will on others are not the self-actualization level, they are in the esteem level. And do-gooders of all stripes (liberal, conservative, anarchist, religious, atheist) – a better term would be fanatics, though – are guilty.

Dave Szurek: You are right, pretty much, about Maslow's hierarchy not being in chronological order. In the sense that what Maslow says you build from one to the other, and cannot have the higher levels without having the lower ones satisfied first. But, if one isn't in danger of starving, or in physical fear of their lives, the lowest one or tier tiers can be satisfied immediately, therefore appearing that someone goes straight to the upper levels. Similarly, one may be self-actualized and perhaps lose their job, placing them in abject poverty and in danger of starving. That person would drop straight to the base level. However, say that person gets a job again, and thus food, the next two tiers may instantly be satisfied, propelling them all the way back up. It's not a matter of chronology; it's a matter of satisfaction.

Issue 131:

Congrats on passing the bar exam. I just took and passed the Project Management Institute's Project Management Professional Certification exam and am therefore certifiable.... Err, I mean I am now a certified project management professional. It was a 4 hour exam, that I studied for (on-and-off) for about a year. Best wishes for the Patent Bar exam.

Sheryl Birkhead
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February 27-March 3, 2009

Dear tK²,

It was a pleasant surprise to find two issues in the envelope – nothing like forcing the vehicle back on schedule!

Interesting collage on #130 and I would never have guessed the source. Very nice.

It would seem that your new employment is more recession-proof than a lot of others right now. A toast to that continuing for a long time to come!

Thanks to **Alexander** for the 10% clarification. As far as charitable donations, in the end, I give more than 10%, but I get to choose the recipient. The past two years have posed and problem (and with postal rates going up again in May it will be even worse). I give to various organizations (and schools) throughout the year, but earmark a portion to be sent out by the end of the calendar. By that time I find I have pleas form about 50 groups and I go for \$5 to a portion of them, then the amount I spend in postage could be better spent as a donation...so do I grit my teeth and select, say five organizations and minimize the postage component? Ah well, with the loss of income expected, this may all be moot, but it is nice to plan ahead.

And apropos of nothing – the first class mailing rates (I haven't heard if that is all) go up some time in May. I think it is from 42¢ to 44¢.

When I was teaching, this county required credentials, but if you didn't have them you had, usually, a year to get them. I never quite figured out how the arrived at what courses you would teach if you were not already certified, but suspect it would have had something to do with how many courses you had taken in a specific area. I was certified (and beyond the basics with master certification) in all secondary math and sciences and since all the schools were in need of staff in those areas.... Now, which course I taught was a different matter.

I hope **Terry Jeeves** is getting enough reading material.

It seems ludicrous to have the newscasters referring to today's snowfall (of a mere 4") as a big storm. Granted, the storm itself is large, just what is happening here is not all that (to me at least) significant. We had to make it into March to really get any measurable snowfall at all. True, we had some pretty cold days, but no precipitation.

Eric Mayer mentions a photographic memory. I got my first B.S. from Dickinson College. One of the larger girls' dorms was an alley away from their law school. I recall one law student who was nicknamed (at least I hope it was a nickname) Animal. Rumor was that he routinely went through closet doors to shut off his alarm clock. He most certainly looked as if he could. I do know that a lot of his classmates were envious/frustrated because Animal did have a photographic memory.

When we lived in Europe for a year, the people who rented the house pretty much destroyed it and trashed the furniture we left behind. My mother was always wondering how they managed to break the cast iron frame of the pull out couch. There was a lot of other more serious damage to the house itself, but no one ever got around to repairing the damage.

Lloyd, I'll did out **Terry's** address. His daughter said he tends to go bonkers from not having anything to read, so any printed matter (letters/zines/etc.) would be greatly appreciated. Although it is a bit more complicated, **Terry's** daughter can print out a zine if a file is sent to her, but it requires taking the file to work to get it printed there. I queried *Anticipation* about fillos, but the last time I checked email, no one was quite sure who knew the answer and my request was making the rounds. **Tom Sadler** is now working on the finishing touches to issue 69.

Interesting point about levels of education and there being some point at which no more is necessary (presumably to be able to do your "job"). Looking at a specific job, a lot of what goes into a higher level degree is, essentially, wasted and yet "mere" on-the-job training is not acceptable while the advanced degree is required. I suppose one might say learning as you go (i.e. on-the-job training) would only be effective for one specific position while the advanced degree provides a wider preparation.

When to you intend/hope to take the Patent Bar Exam?

The *Insider* published a listing of movies to be released in 2009. I forgot it they were grouped as actual SF of merely SF-ish. I took the list and sat down with my Netflix queue and just added them all in. I felt even more out of it when all of them were already in the system enough to be added to my list for those movies not yet released. I, long ago, gave up on trying to appear that I have any idea about what movies are floating around (or soon will be).

I have not had the opportunity to try fresh Key Lime Pie. I did take the chance to poke around several grocery stores

and see what they were advertising as Key Limes – small little buggers aren't they!?! So far I seriously doubt I'd try to bake my own, but if I see any of the delis selling individual slices...naw, that won't work – I need a real delicatessen. I need to see some for sale first and then decide.

As always, **Brad Foster's** cover is a pleasure to look at! Reminds me, hopefully any of the readers who have Worldcon memberships went ahead and did their fannish duty, and submitted a Hugo nomination list. I kept waiting for a progress report to show up with the nominating ballot enclosed, but it never did. I finally noticed an email with a PIN and so on, but this was only close to the deadline. I'm not sure why no PR came out and can only hope that no fan was disenfranchised by not having the nominating information in time. We shall see.

I hope things continue to go well in California. It sounds as if everyone is acclimating pretty well. I believe I forgot to ask – I know that in Kentucky, where my brother lives, they do to school year round – what about California?

Thanks and 'bye,
Sheryl

☐**CKK**: *The legal profession has not been very recession-proof, but it appears that the partnership of many firms is protecting their extensive profits by laying off staff and associates. Not a very smart long-term approach in my estimation as it will destroy morale. School is not a year-round proposition here in California; unless you're like Connor and Kyle who have to take summer school for about half their summer vacation.*☐

John Purcell
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16 Mar 2009

Well, Henry, it's the day after Corflu Zed and once again I have a bit of a warm glow from partaking of the fun in the virtual con suite. For the last two years that's been the way I have had to attend, and it's a blast. Next year I will have to do so again since Corflu Cobalt (as it is named) will be in Winchester, England, just down the road from that famous cathedral. And no, it's not bringing me down since my baby has not left town. In fact, she's still in bed as I type this loc.

Anyway, I enjoyed the zine once again. Since you ask in your editorial, go ahead and put me on the electronic recipient list. I can always print out a hard copy – which I do with a lot of zines – for myself and you can save money on postage. It's the sign of the fan-pubbing times, so don't feel bad; this is why so many of us are doing our zines this way.

A few items tweaked my interest herein, the first tweak coming from **Gene Stewart's** article. Writing for genre is probably the easiest to do since there is usually a basic formula to follow, but the best genre writers do variations on the theme

and come up with some pretty novel approaches (pun intended). Those are the genre stories I enjoy reading the most. At the same time, genre writing could be extremely tough to break into since the editors and publishers in any particular genre are very familiar with what they are producing. Either way, it ain't easy making it as a writer. I will still try, but I am not quitting my day job.

Jim Sullivan's article about the ramifications of modern pregnancy is a bit interesting, too. Not surprisingly, there are a lot of SF story ideas in this medical technology, especially since the social and psychological implications are profound. It strikes me as quite selfish that some women would not want to give up their lifestyles while still desiring to "bear" a child. That is like saying to someone who wants to exercise and stay fit that it is alright to smoke cigarettes while exercising on a treadmill. Somehow these pregnancy options seem self-defeating, but **Jim** does raise some good points. As you are probably well aware, Henry, the legal side of this issue can get nasty sometimes. I, for one, can understand medical reasoning for surrogate motherhood, but not doing so for selfish reasons. That, to me, just isn't right.

Chris and **Lloyd** contributed fun items for this ish, and **Chris** reminds me that I have to sort and file fanzines again. I have a bit of a backlog to take care of, and it always ends up taking much longer than it should since I start flipping through the fanzines. A fun task, natcherly. As for **Lloyd's** impromptu masquerade tale, that was fun. Personally, I'd like to see **Lloyd** in Egyptian garb. An entertaining story with an altruistic ending: get involved in a con to get the most out of it. So true.

And as always, the loccol was fun to read. I have no real comments to make about it, but my loc reminds me to take care of an idea that may just fit the style of your zine. With luck, I can get that done in the next couple weeks. Don't hold your breath, though, since schoolwork can suddenly swamp and wash away any free time.

Thank you for sending this my way, sir, and I look forward to the next one.

All the best,
John Purcell

☐**CKK**: Glad you enjoyed the virtual con suite. If I ever run another con, I'll have to keep this idea in mind.☐

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March 16, 2009

Dear Knarley & Letha:

And now the knews ... I'm thinking that the shift to electronic is creating primarily a shift in the distribution amid the same audience. That is to say, where are the new efaneds? The new

elochacks? Even the ones who support us in email? Except now, it's twitter, and as soon as something more ephemeral and reduced comes along, we'll see a shift to that.

I've been reworking issues into landscape format. Portrait to print out, landscape to read on screen. Since the portrait is the original, you can suppose where my opinion is. When they develop a Kindle with a screen bright enough to read on the beach and a battery that will last for three days away from an outlet, then ... Though I should check if Ben Bova's works are available for Kindle. It would seem appropriate.

Somehow all the negotiation and maneuvers you describe seem more inclined to thwart any clear resolution than to bring one. In Jules Verne's *The Begum's Millions* he specifically refers to *Bleak House*, but I fancy that the litigation would go on longer in the real world. Just because the legal fees have reached the total amount of the estate, that doesn't mean that they should stop. They shouldn't stop until the legal fees for each of the parties have exceeded the total amount of the estate.

The Ethics of Money – One More Time: I wish Ben & Jerry's had been as businesslike as **Alexander Slate** makes them out to be. However, the Bobo economy is one that has its own ways of being pretentious. One operates in a business that pays lip service to bohemian values, while keeping a bourgeois life style.

The bit about finding money degrading and corrupting is from those who have never been short of it. (The way when Gandhi stayed in the Untouchable district of an Indian city – in the mansion of the richest one there, a quite comfortable place.) The mentality that there will be provision against catastrophes, by whatever cause, sounds very idealistic and romantic, with the feelings of those who have had little need to fend for themselves.



"BÊTE NOIRE"

Money is only a measurement of wealth. This was the point of Robinson Crusoe's "vile dross" comment – the gold on the ship was of almost no value to him in comparison with, say, the tools. Nevertheless, he took it because he thought that someday he would be rescued, and be able to use it; planning for the unexpected future as well as the expected one.

Parsing the Genre-Bound: **Gene Stewart** should realize that "competing for beer money" was one of the trigger statements in the infamous Lem Affair. Stanislaw Lem cited that quote as an example of the fundamental trashiness of the American science fiction field. Which irritated a number of people in SFWA

Looking Through Those Boxes in the Corner: There is a distinction between content and presentation. Mimeo has its limits. I have given up scanning and OCR-ing some old family newsletters, because the spread of mimeo ink in twiltone has rendered letters beyond the capacity of the program to interpret. And yet, *Who Killed Science Fiction?* is an image of a connected group. The contributors knew each other, they were willing to put their arguments down on paper.

Now we are so connected that nobody cares to deal with anything different any longer. As I found out when I pointed out Heinlein's contribution to *WKSJ* to the guy who produced the bibliography of his works, and he didn't even bother looking at it, preferring to make an assumption and respond to that.

Carry On Jeeves: Who notes that "They have queer Customs in Ostend" and you get plenty of Excise ... exercise!

InterLOCutions: **Trinlay Khadro**: So Megumi-hime has Irritable Bowel Disease. It's everywhere! It's everywhere!

The overlawyered.com site has been discussing CPSIA law on a daily basis. I'd be interested to see your takes on it.

Milt Stevens: I suggested to Lisa that she employ some Byzantine Greek on the speaking-in-tongues crowd. She didn't think it was blasphemous, which indicates to me that I may be on to something. As for the speaking-in-tongues jerk, having had to put up with people who call me "Majors," or "Giuseppe" (and that they mispronounce), I can understand why **Milt** might be upset with being called "Milty."

Laurraine Tutihasi: The furnace in our house is on the first floor. I suppose that has its advantages, since it meant the furnace was not also wiped out when the cellar flooded and we had to get a new water heater, but it means that all the vents on the first floor are in the ceiling. Which means that all the hot air stays up there, and we lack the ability to levitate. While the vents are also inadequate, which means that though we have central air, the main bedroom still gets hot, which is why there is a separate air conditioner in there.

Lloyd Penney: The financial underpinning for paying for the technology for putting a man on the moon is what has gone; "No bucks, no Buck Rogers!" And the system, the organiza-

tion that did it was run by people who were so certain that the worth of doing that and the other things was so obvious that there was no need to put forth any effort to justify it.

Bacover: "I cannot, for the life of me, figure out why people choose to live in central Arizona. Nothing but scrub land." They got overwhelmed by the complex and diverse environment of Kansas?

Namarie,
Joseph T Major

☐**CKK**: *I can't find enough interest to start scanning my paper life. I can't even put in a sustained effort to scan the slides and negatives. I have only seen Kansas in the dark and during the winter so I cannot compare it to Arizona.*☐

Alexis Gilliland
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March 16, 2009

Dear Henry and Letha,

Thank you for *The Knarley Knews* #132, which the post office duly delivered. Nice cover by **Sheryl Birkhead**.

Alex Slate's article on the ethics of money seems to take the position that a corporation has a choice about whether or not it should make money. In the capitalist system, people and corporations, are free (within limits) to provide goods and services, and they compete with each other on quality and price. However, if they do not make a profit at what they are doing, they will go out of business. Thus, capitalism has a built-in pricing mechanism for the goods and services it provides, something which socialism (in which bureaucrats attempt to act as the market) lacks. **Eric Mayer**'s comment that capitalism concerns itself solely with money is only partly true. Money is the bottom line, yes, which says whether or not the corporation will live or die, but the corporation's product must also be competitive. My first computer was a Kaypro II, which was a great product in its day, but currently I'm writing on an Apple OS X Tiger, I don't know how many generations more advanced. Kaypro went out of business because it didn't upgrade its product line fast enough, and people – the market, wouldn't buy Kaypros any more. Thus, in the capitalist system, you need to make what people want but you also need to make money doing it. Henry Ford famously said that you could buy a Model T in any color you wanted so long as it was black. When the competition began to bite, he closed down the whole plant for a couple of months and produced the Model A, which came in all sorts of colors, just like the competition. The *Bible*, and indeed the more recent prophet Karl Marx (who hated having to work on "the economic shit"), was not enamored with material wealth, though the quote "sooner shall a camel pass through the eye of a needle than a rich man get to Heaven" is the (divinely inspired?) mistranslation of rope to camel. The current economic crisis does indeed have many causes, one of which is surely the fact

that it has been 80 years since the last one. While the feat of the Great Depression remained in living memory, it served to keep in check the greed that leveraged the not extinct investment banks to an extravagant 30 to 1.

“Parsing the Genre-Bound” by **Gene Stewart** was interesting; the first two paragraphs offer a take on a small subset of fandom that, if expanded, might put some noses seriously out of joint. However, he then moves on to being a genre writer. Been there, done that. I have beside me a copy of Frank Robinson’s *The Incredible Pulps*, which displays the art created in the service of the genre back in the days when reading was necessary to access it. Genre music, at one time made its money by selling sheet music; to access genre music required being able to play an instrument. Modern technology made it possible to listen to music without having to learn to play anything, while other modern technology made it possible to enjoy genre adventure without having to bother to read. Thus the market for the genre novel is seriously reduced, being largely displaced by the novelizations (usually work for hire) of popular movies and TV shows. Not to mention the DVDs, complete with gossip, outtakes, and commentary. Story telling is probably hard wired in the human brain, but it may take awhile to sort out a new way to pay those story tellers for their trouble. Posting the novel on the web and printing on demand, might possibly work, but the mass-market paperback is as dead as the old pulp magazines – or, alas, the paper fanzine.

In InterLOCutions we see that **Jim Stumm**, a libertarian, considers taxation to be theft, a position that is insufficiently nuanced to be of much use in the real world. In Arlington, I pay a “Utilities Tax,” which is my bill for the metered water I use, plus the sewage charge for removing my wastewater, and trash removal. Is this really a tax or is it merely a charge for services rendered? The utilities billing is handled by the County Treasurer just as if it were a tax, but the penalty for non-payment is not the confiscation of my property but the denial of the services for which I have failed to pay, exactly as if I were dealing with a small, friendly corporation like Microsoft. IN the more general case, where taxes are paid to the Feds, the benefits are more diffuse, though of course the Feds do pay my pension, so I remain a net feeder to the Federal trough. Still, a case could be made for charging for the services one uses, such as toll roads rather than freeways, a widely-used expedient made necessary by the government’s reluctance (or inability) to spend money for maintenance in the face of a host of competing claims. That money, which is emphatically tax money, is taken out of the stream of general revenue and earmarked for the maintenance of the road (or bridge) where it was collected. And some areas of government out of control? Absolutely yes, the Defense Department comes to mind as a conspicuous example, but there are others. However, the difference between our government and kleptocracies such as Zimbabwe or anarchies such as Somalia is sufficiently tilted in favor of our systematic and law-bound “theft” so that no sane person would find our system a more evil choice. We did mention nuance. Proud-

hon, an anarchist, famously said that Property was Theft. His initial polemic framed this as a rhetorical comparison, as in: What is slavery? Slavery is murder. What is property? Property is theft. His contemporaries objected on the grounds that Proudhon himself amended that great one-liner in his “System of Economic Contradictions” when he said that Property is Freedom, a position existing in a state of tension with his earlier claim that Property was Theft, so that neither disproved the other. Thus, to the Libertarian assertion that Taxation is Theft, we may also note that Taxation is Freedom in the sense that we are free from despots, as in Zimbabwe, and from anarchy (dueling warlords) as in Somalia. Or, more cynically, that you should be glad you don’t get all the government you pay for.

Best wishes,
Alexis

□**CKK**: *Taxation and government are a necessary evil to avoid anarchy. The problem is who decides what services government should provide. No two people will ever completely agree and the best that we can hope for is that representative democracy will result in a decent compromise. Libertarians generally believe that government provides too many services and thus over-taxes for things we don't "need." Socialists will tend to be at the other end of the spectrum. You feel the DoD has gone over the line. This basic tension is why the courts do not allow general taxpayer suits regarding how tax money is spent, with one exception, the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, that does not allow excessive government involvement with religion.*□

Alexander Slate
See Address Above
17 Mar 2009

Knarley,

I’m going to get this out early for once...

Jim Stumm is correct – there is no fundamentalist Christian/libertarian/ultra-conservative community. His characterization of the x-y graphing of authoritarian vs libertarian and conservative vs liberal is essentially correct (and I have seen it elsewhere). What I probably should have said was “the philosophical intersection between the fundamentalist Christian/ultra-conservative and libertarian communities.”

Correct, I do not agree that taxation is theft. Yes, there is a difference – and there is a “coercive element” to taxation. But this is part and parcel of the social contract – we live in a society, therefore we are part of that society, and abide by the rules. Part of the rules is we pay the taxes. For the wild and woolly libertarians, unfortunately there is no more “unclaimed space.” Paying taxes is not the same as contributing to charity.

It would be my fondest dream that governments would not have to provide aid. However, life is too complicated today.

And there are people whose charitable bends tend towards the trivial. So there it is.

Now, the complexity of the world combines with the point about greed in the world today. Yes, there has always been greed, and I have no philosophical problem with an unequal distribution of wealth – yes, it has always been and will always be. However, the world being what it is today the greedy can be much more efficient in their greed. They can touch and impact many more people today than they could have even in the world just after WWII. And almost infinitely greater than they could have in the 1400s.

Is the love of power worse than the love of money? I will need to think more about that and continue this later.

Meanwhile, thanks for the issue...

Best, Alex

☐**CKK**: *No, taxation is not theft. There are government services that make society a better place to live. Public education is one as is police and other emergency services.*☐

Joy V. Smith
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18 Mar 2009

Henry,

Great cover: “From the icy tundra of Wisconsin...” I loved that! Inside: Fantastic trip. I’m happy to see that you’re still traveling and visiting with the family and that you could go after weeks of hanging in limbo. And what a collection of fun places to visit!

I thought **Alexander Slate**’s “The Ethics of Money” was a balanced and thorough round-up of the issues. And I agree with him on the bailout(s), while I understand the fear and confusion that affected the decision(s). **Jim Sullivan**’s article on contemporary pregnancy opportunities reminded me of *Podkayne of Mars*.

Lloyd Penney sure had fun at that Ad Astra convention. (Yep, that girl should have dumped the boy who left her in the wings.) And I always enjoy **Jeeves**’ reminisces.

LOCs: I enjoyed the employee stories. I like seeing how people cope in these situations. And I love reading about people’s experiences in building homes, so I checked out **Laurraine Tutihasi**’s blog. Those dry wall photos, etc. made me all nostalgic. (Uh, you’ve checked the country of origin, I presume.)

Is **Jim Sullivan** the same person that used to appear in *Nut-house*?

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

Btw, I didn’t think that #131 felt desperate... I was impressed that you did such a good job on both issues.

☐**CKK**: *Issue 131 was a great opportunity to run the full Bouchard piece. I suspect that it simply looked odd without the normally dominant LOC column.*☐

Jerry Kaufman
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25 Mar 2009

I get **Chris Garcia**’s main point, though I think it gets a little buried by Top Chef and a little lost as he shifts back and forth across the page. The look of fanzines today, over all, is better. The writing, on average, is better. But good writing is always good, and I think in each fannish era, right to the present, there have been people whose work stands out and stands up to new times, new contexts, and new readers.

I’ve got to contradict **Ned Brooks** about that “benign corporation – the WSFC.” I thought I remembered that it’s never become incorporated, so I visited www.worldcon.org, and sure enough, it remains “an unincorporated non-profit organization.” However, I agree that it’s benign, and has no permanent officers. I believe it does have some semi-permanent, volunteer committees that do things like protect the Worldcon marks like the name Worldcon itself, and the name and nickname of the awards.

Overall, an interesting issue.

Yours,
Jerry Kaufman

☐**CKK**: *I don’t really bow in the direction of any high art. I’ve never really appreciated anything that has been held out to me as high art by others. Perhaps that is due to my “head” which seems to thoroughly dominate my “heart” in most matters.*☐

R-Laurraine Tutihasi
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26 Mar 2009

Dear Henry and Letha,

I enjoyed reading about your driving vacation. You went to a couple of places on the California coast that I’ll have to check out if we go back there.

As you say Joshua Tree is a nifty place. I was there one spring (other visits were in other seasons). My friend and I had actually been headed elsewhere, but the other place was closed due to wildfires and we ended up going to Joshua Tree. Another place I’d like to see in spring is Borrego Springs, outside of San Diego. Of course we have easy access to desert plants where we live now.

You passed within a mile of our current house if you drove up Oracle Road (AZ route 77) to get to Biosphere 2. The new house is about four miles north of Biosphere 2. We toured it when no research was being done there; basically it was between owners. It's probably more interesting now. The guide we had then was not at all touchy about talking about the old experiment.

When **Joseph Major** mentioned the rattlesnake at the petting zoo, I hope he wasn't implying that the snake was part of the petting zoo. I presume it was just an interloper, like the one we met at the Tolono Chul botanical gardens here in Tucson.

My sympathies for **Trinlay Khadro**. I was lucky to discover that my fibromyalgia was caused by the consumption of glutes. Less than a year after I started my gluten-free diet, all my symptoms were gone. Of course I had to rebuild my stamina, since I'd been largely inactive for so long (about seven years). Being seven years older, I was, of course, unable to regain some function just because of age.

We also have a cat with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Unfortunately he has lately also developed kidney problems, so he was forced to go off his novel protein diet and go on a urinary diet. I had to increase his meds back up because of increasing problems with both vomiting and hard stool. I hope Megumi will be okay.

Rodney Leighton should be informed that there is snow at higher elevations all over California. In fact there are at least two well-known ski resorts in California. I believe Af-

SO THIS WEIRDO GETS
A FULL NELSON ON ME,
AND I BRING MY FORE
LEGS DOWN AND BREAK
ALL HIS FINGERS!



ghanistan is all mountainous. Deserts are not all hot. Some are quite cold. The term signifies the fact that there is less vegetation and animal life because of low rainfall; it says nothing about the temperatures. Even deserts that might be hot during the day can be very cold at night. Because of the lack of humidity, the temperature can plummet once the sun goes down.

We live in southern Arizona, not central Arizona. And it's not scrub land. It's desert. I love the vegetation in the desert and think it is beautiful. I also like the low humidity. Arizona was also a choice because of the lack of "daylight savings" time. Mike and I are also interested in astronomy, and the Tucson area observes "dark sky" regulations for outdoor lighting. Moreover the cost of living here is much more reasonable than we were used to in Southern California.

Lauraine Tutihasi

☐**CKK**: *I was aware of how close we got to your home, but we simply didn't have time to try and stop. I was commenting more on the area between Tucson and Phoenix, which may be desert, but seemed to have nothing to recommend it.*☐

Jim Stumm
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March 27, 2009

Alexander Slate, "Ethics of Money": To the degree that we have free will, that's also a matter of biology. We humans are what we are. We seem to have free will. I like to think so, but I realize it may be a delusion. Regardless, we should treat others as if they have free will, unless they are clearly not of sound mind.

Talking about ethics seems to be an outmoded, medieval approach to human behavior that would be better studied scientifically, as psychology. Ethical discourse seems to build castles in the air with no foundation, full of vague and dubious generalities and appeals to emotion with very little solid truth. You say that you're not trying to prove that charity is a universal moral imperative. What then? If you're only describing your personal preference, you seem to be too much concerned with how other people behave.

I have long wondered how one might determine what is the right thing to do, not in particular cases, but in general. What is the basis, the fundamental rule? Ethicists don't tackle this question, I suspect because they have no answer. Actually, I think most people believe something is right because that's what they were taught growing up. But this leads to individual ethics that differ from person to person. No one's views are any more correct than anyone else's.

Every person, even a criminal, has some kind of personal ethics, some settled way of behaving, which comes about thru some interplay between his genetics and experiences, nature and nurture. This person ethics is somewhat fluid in

childhood, but by adulthood it's mostly set and not likely to change much. As Knarley says, most people are not likely to change their behavior as a result of an ethical argument.

I have no interest in punishing someone for breaking a law. I leave punishment to whatever deity a person may believe in, if any. What I am mainly interested in is protecting society from predators. So if it is proved that someone has committed a real crime (coercive act), he should be locked up, or executed, so he can't prey on civilized society any longer. If someone commits a crime because he is insane, he should be locked up in an insane asylum instead of a prison, as long as he's locked up somewhere and kept off the streets.

The "reasons" people give for doing what they do are most often after-the-fact rationalizations. I'm convinced that the real reasons why people behave as they do are more often biological, some mixture of nature and nurture, as I said. Incentives are more effective at modifying behavior than ethical hectoring.

Eric Mayer doesn't quite get what Adam Smith said about the invisible hand, which BTW he mentions only once in 976 pages of *Wealth of Nations*, according to the index. Smith's point is that the intention of the seller may be entirely selfish, aimed at nothing but making a profit for himself. And yet his actions will inevitably benefit his community regardless of his intentions. There is no invisible hand in the marketplace that is a guiding force. Profit-seeking may be his only guiding force. The market is just a summation of the usually selfish actions of buyers and sellers, nothing more. And yet, all of these actions together produce an effect **as if** they were guided by an invisible hand, although, in fact, there is not such a guiding force.

That's what Adam Smith said. But in light of recent events, we might want to add that there is, in addition, a need for some government regulation of the right kind to suppress fraudulent activity in a modern economy.

Knarley: I know why Obama was elected. I mentioned him because **Gene Stewart** implied that successful politicians were tools of corporations. That's clearly not true of Obama who is more the tool of unions and the other special interests that the Democratic Party panders to.

Unions spent \$450 million to elect Democrats and they mean to get what they paid for with their Orwellian named Employee Free Choice Act, which would destroy workers' free choice by taking away their right to vote by secret ballot on union representation. Instead of secret ballots, unions want "card check." That's where they send out thugs to intimidate workers into signing union cards, or else something bad might happen to them, or their cars, or their families. Although the so-called Democratic Party seems eager to abolish democracy in the work-place, late news suggests that this abomination might fail to pass in the U.S. Senate.

Kyoto/pollution: Only recently have enviros begun calling CO₂ a pollutant. Actually, it occurs naturally in trace amounts in the atmosphere just like water vapor and argon, in amounts that have varied in past ages.

I have read that, were it not for real pollution, global warming would be even worse. The source says that aerosols block 75 percent of the warming effect. So continuing to reduce pollution, as first world countries have been doing, will make global warming worse. For more on this, google: pollution slows global warming. It seems to me that if the horror story we have been told about glaciers melting and seas rising is true, we should **increase** pollution, of the kind that will be most effective in stopping global warming.

Gregory Benford has made several proposals for this kind of geoeengineering. Google: gregory benford global warming. It would be a lot easier to persuade people to increase the right kind of "pollution" than to reduce CO₂ emissions. In fact, CO₂ emissions will be reduced worldwide when Al Gore sells his mansion and moves into a modest bungalow in other words, when pigs fly.

Lloyd Penney: I've read that the blueprints for the Saturn rocket cannot be found, and that any reverse engineering would have to be from the pieces of the rocket itself now on display in various museums. But that won't be done because there is so much progress in materials, electronics, control systems, etc. in the last 40 years that we can now greatly improve on the old Saturn. SO the plan is to build a new rocket, Ares, that will have some superficial resemblance to the Saturn, but will be a much-improved, entirely new design. One lesson we have learned from the Space Shuttle is that it's much safer to put the crew capsule on the top of the stack instead of on the side.

Jim Stumm

□**CKK**: *Formal ethical discourse is clearly full of generalities. There is no other way to frame the problem. As soon as you start looking at all the special cases and the potential exceptions it becomes impossible to articulate a clear rule. The special cases, of course, lead to a charge of situational ethics; but this is how it has to be. There are not absolute rules as no one can ever foresee every possible scenario. This is why we have a court system and a vast body of common law.*□

Milt Stevens

.
. miltstevens@earthlink.net
April 5, 2009

Dear Henry and Letha,

In *Knarley Knews* #132, Henry mentions visiting the La Brea Tar Pits. Strangely enough, I've never been there. In the Los Angeles area, elementary school children are usually sent to the La Brea Tar Pits on field trips. If the teacher doesn't dis-

like you too much, they even bring you back. The elementary school I attended didn't schedule that field trip, so I've never been there. I've heard they actually removed the tar years ago. I guess they still call it the La Brea Tar Pits, because the La Brea Hole in the Ground wouldn't sound like much of a tourist attraction (although it wouldn't be a bad name for a bar).

Alexander Slate's correction that the biblical phrase about money is really "...the love of money is the rood of all evil" leads to another discussion. It only takes a little thought to realize the corrected phrase isn't true. I don't think the people who ran the death camps did it for the money. It doesn't seem likely for torture murderers in general. In fact, all sorts of nasty stuff is done for reasons other than money.

The vast majority of people accept money as a reasonable reason for doing things. Most people have some desire for money, but very few have a desire to massacre large numbers of people. This is a good thing. Our desire for money comes from a more basic desire. In any society, Success (however you may define it) is sexy. Back in the stone age, Og, the Mighty Hunter of Bison, could provide for several mates and their children. This made Og a sexy dude. That was pretty much of a survival thing for over a hundred thousand years. We've advanced, but success is still sexy. You may note that rock stars and sports stars get laid a lot. In our society, money is a sign of success and is sexy. From my own experiences as a poverty stricken college student, I can tell you that lack of money is very unsexy. So money is linked to our sexual drives. This isn't a bad thing unless money becomes a fetish item. You no longer want money as a way of obtaining sex, you want money instead of sex. That's what leads to the excessive greed problems.

I agree with **Chris Garcia** that fanzines today are generally better than they were in the past. The printing technology has become better, and people become involved in fanzines at a later age. These days, people become involved in fanzines in their twenties or later. Decades ago, beginning fanzine fans were commonly teenagers. Their beginning efforts were often referred to as CRUDZINES. It should be noted that most of those teenagers improved rapidly when they knew their work was going to be subjected to criticism. One thing that is biasing the sample Chris is using is that people don't send a box of crudzines to be auctioned for TAFF. Not that I'm suggesting that they should.

On the last page, Henry asks why people would want to live in central Arizona. I would suspect a major reason is the lack of other people. When I was young I thought big cities had all the interesting things in the world. Later, I began appreciating the virtues of elbow room. It's nice not to have the rest of the world living in your hip pocket.

Yours truly,
Milt Stevens

☐**CKK:** *There is still tar in the pits and they are still removing it, or at least moving it around. A recent Dirty Jobs episode made this abundantly clear. Like others, I have a necessary desire for money. I'm just not willing to be very mercenary about it. An honest wage for honest activity; no need to make an obscene amount or to get it in questionable ways.*☐

Bill Legate
PO Box 3012
Sequim, WA 98382
Wed., April 1, 2009

Thank you, Henry for 130 and 131 and for 132.

The cynical Jaques who says "all the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" (in *As You Like It*, from 2.7.139), is one of the Lords attending on the banished (good) Duke (Senior) in the Forest of Arden (whether you think it's Ardennes, France next to Luxembourg, or Arden, Birmingham area, west of Stratford-upon-Avon). The *other* Jacques, who shows up only in the last scene of the last act, is the Middle Brother between the older Oliver and the younger Orlando, sons of Sir Rowland de Boys. So why those two with the same name? It seems apparent to many that the two started out as one character; that in the way Shakespeare then built up the melancholy Jacques, he finally came across better having no family ties; so the other Jacques, not involved in his two brothers' conflict, was merely said to be somewhere doing well in school – until the happy ending scene.

It's my understanding that the Flatiron Building, on one of those corners around 23rd St. and Fifth Ave. and Broadway, is some 300 feet tall, and was in fact the world's tallest building from 1902 to 1913. I haven't found much about it, and welcome anything you know about the Flatiron Building. (Also, does another building resemble it, also called the Flatiron Building, somewhere in San Mateo County, CA?)

There's a Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse Attack, chaired by Bill Graham, former deputy administrator for NASA and science advisor to President Reagan. The maximum threat, in simple, would be a large nuclear weapon exploded, by parties unknown, 25 miles above any portion of the United States, resulting in an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) of ions drawn through every power line, disabling all integrated circuits, transformers, power and phone lines, computers, and filling stations through many states, hospitals without electricity, with no information available about any neighborhood we might dare to visit. No, it's too much to think of. Just go around being a self-righteous busybody.

One thing Dick Feynman liked to say during a lecture was, "there's always another way to say the same thing that doesn't look at all like how you said it before." And sometimes he'd say, "maybe something is 'simple' if you can describe it fully in several ways without immediately recognizing that you are describing the same thing." And sometimes he'd say both

those things, and someone would ask if they were the same thing.

-Cthulhu Fthagn

□**CKK**: According to Wikipedia, the Flatiron Building was the third triangular building of its type with the two others being Gooderham Building in Toronto and another in Atlanta. The Columbus Tower or Sentinel Building in San Francisco has the same triangular shape and is called the Flat Iron Building.□

Dave Szurek
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April 4, 2009

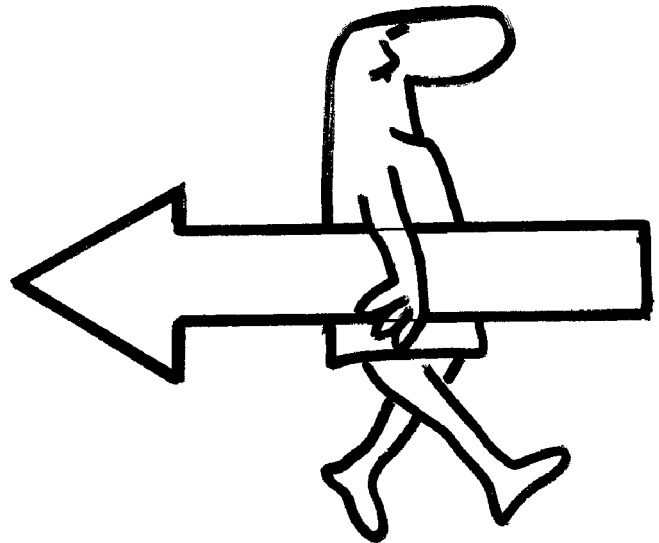
Lord Knarley,

First off, I must thank you for keeping me on the mailing list after I'd failed to LOC the previous two issues. Things have been a combination of crazy and just plain consuming around here of late leading to yet another period of FAFIA-tion. I know that you've read that before – and from the same person – but it's true. Stuff like that seems to run in cycles in my life. Abundance returns one month only for the reverse to come back anew later. My energy level does not always correspond, i.e. ironically the more time consumers come my way, the least I am able to, or at least desirous of coping with it. Some get more charged up under such circumstances. Not always but more often than not, I'm just the opposite and it's not the result of age. I've been that way for a good long time. Bipolar reality? Make of it what you will.

I will miss the "Ethics of Money" series and the comments it provoked, but I guess it, and they, could go only so far. Well, it could go even further, but only by treading into tangents that others might consider inappropriate and which **Slate**, himself, might feel uncomfortable crossing the line into. I can see some, even some in our circle, missing that it's even a related tangent and mistaking it for a wholesale changing of subject into something that doesn't even relate.

I'm of two minds on both the economic crisis and the stimulus package myself, but I don't feel like writing a full scale book – at least not right now.

Yes, **Lloyd Penney**, I certainly know what you mean about some forms of humanitarianism being labeled "socialism" and well, I guess a portion of them are but frankly, that makes me no less sick of it. Problem solving should, if you ask me, be eclectic, should come down to whatever works without undue fear of bugaboos and too many people have let themselves be twisted into undue fear of guess which bugaboo? Could you, **Penney**, spread the wealth around a little better if you gave only 20¢ or 25¢ to each beggar? I don't know as well as you do, but regardless of what they initially ask (and yes, many, more today than in the past, ask impractical amounts but that only shows they are untalented at the



panhandling game. Ask too high and you tend to alienate people.) every little bit adds up. Twenty eight quarters are better than one five dollar bill.

I'm afraid that a few of you, yourself, **Major**, and yes, **Penney**, confuse panhandling and con games – they aren't the same thing. The old "I need gas... (but pity the person who sincerely does need it. Has to happen at least once every decade.) hustle and begging spare change are two different activities.

I'm sorry, but isn't **Boman's** "one panhandler screwed me over, so I'm going to hate all of them" a bit reminiscent of "one black mugged me once upon a time so the whole race is to blame"?

I am very much into what some might call "entitlement," but only when it comes to biological necessities like food, medical attention, maybe lodging. I believe that these things are human birthrights and if one isn't getting them, his/her human rights are being violated. I am not an "entitlement" person when it comes to things like fancy cars, Xboxes, and I-pods.

As for the taxes being theft, maybe in the end result, yes, but I believe that in our society they are still a necessary evil. What about the withholding of biological necessities until one pays sometimes more than they should, for them? Does that qualify as theft? I think it does and is a more heinous form of theft – when it goes beyond the level of economic decency at least – than taxes.

On the matter of college degrees having lost value, there is an even darker flip side of the coin. When one grows desperate for anything in order to put food on the table; finds himself or herself locked out of his or her chose field; applies as say, a busboy; forgets to conceal his or her educational background; and it told they are overqualified. I've been there, man, it has been a portion of my experience and I think it's an even bigger problem in the long run.

Dave

☐TKK: *I categorically don't give to beggars ☐ con-style or otherwise. It is too hard to tell if the funds are going to food and necessities or to alcohol or worse. In larger cities there are plenty of shelters that can and do supply food. We used to have special cards to give to beggars with the various addresses and phone numbers where they could get help; none really seemed interested in them.*☐

Lloyd Penney
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April 10, 2009

Dear Knarley:

I keep leaving it until the last minute, but here's a loc on *The Knarley Knews* 132. It's been a pile to get through...

I do appreciate getting the paper version of the zine in the mail; I still enjoy getting mail the old-fashioned way. However, if you need to trim the paper mailing list, I will take electronic. A lot of zines can fit on a thumbdrive, after all. I get *Alexiad* by e-mail in a portrait orientation; if need be, I'd prefer *TKK* the same way.

My own work has been slow, too. I don't know how much it costs to purchase an appointment notice in the business section of the *Globe and Mail*, but all I know is that not many have been sold lately, so my evening workload is small. There's also a real estate ad that had to be rekeyed once a week, but I haven't done that since this past December. I should be drawing my first unemployment insurance cheque soon...I hope.

I see **Gene Stewart's** flipped out somewhat at those genre-bound infantiles that I might recognize as many of the fanzine fans I deal with via similar publications to this one. I'd love to find out who **Gene's** pissed off with at this time; looks like they really got under his skin. Based on my own researches, yes, I have complained at times that for such a liberal literature as science fiction, fans can be awfully conservative. They seem insecure, and deal with that insecurity by lashing out at others, and new fans present the perfect target. Saying that because of being desperate to belong and needing some validation from outside sources, they gather together, but that's the same of any interest. Fandom isn't nearly as unique as it likes to think it is. Any group has its internal vocabulary, so we talk about gafiation, or Carl Brandon, or who sawed Courtney's boat, and that's part of our lingo. Nothing new there, either. Wanting to take some centre stage, performing in front of part of your peer group is part of any interest, as well. Genre-bound? Perhaps, but I have found the literature I like, and that's where I've stayed. Yes, I could stand to lose some weight, and my Hawaiian shirts are very comfortable, thank you, but unsocialized? Talk to my friends, some of whom I can call friend for 30 years or more. Gene should use

a narrower brush. (Did I recognize myself in that first paragraph? Of course I did. Are we all like that? Of course not. Bitterness is unbecoming.)

Chris, you are very lucky in that you've gotten a look at those old zines. So many of them are tucked away in collections and may never see the light of day again unless they are brought out for scanning. I hope that more old zines will be similarly scanned, and placed on eFanzines.com or Fanac.org, or possibly on CD as Taral Wayne did with Mike Glicksohn's old zines.

Terry Jeeves's adventures with ATom and Eric Bentcliffe have a certain, how should I say it, Goonish atmosphere to it? And all of this happened even before the Worldcon started, too. I expect to see Neddy Seagoon at the registration desk.

The local, and **Joseph Major**...having spent some time in Windsor, Ontario with friends, they know that Detroit is on the other side of the St. Clair River, and they are thankful for that fact. Windsor isn't the cleanest place around, but they have a bad example to learn from just next door. From what I've seen and read recently about Detroit, it has actually shrunk in size, from more than two million inhabitants in the Metro Detroit area to about 800,000. Some neighbourhoods have actually disappeared, and wild animals, like beavers, have actually reappeared in the vicinity for the first time in decades.

Irregular fanzines can be frustrating, but then even regular fanzines can do the same, especially if you are a contributor with some expectation of being published. I submitted an article; why does it not appear in the next issue? This has happened from time to time, but I have to remember to be patient, and look for my article in the issue afterwards.

My loc...the jobhunt is on again. SGS laid me off because of a lack of work. I think they'd like to have me back, so I let them know that I am available from time to time. In the meantime, the resumes flood out again.

Time to fold it up and get it to you...if you're going to tighten up your publishing schedule, you might be a little stricter on the deadlines, and today is the deadline. Hope the family is enjoying the Easter weekend, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

☐TKK: *I keep meaning to convert old TKK's to PDF for view on-line. I'm not certain I can get the first 30 or so issues as they were on my old Amiga and may no longer be in readable form. Some of it may depend on when I started doing all the art electronically. I suppose I could then scan the old copy masters. Michigan is an economic disaster. The big-3 automakers never learned their lessons of the 1970s. This is a major reason I never took the Detroit offer.*☐

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April 10, 2009

Hi Henry and my fellow Knarleys:

Not surprising, I'm rushing to get a LOC ready (when have I not?). Once again I have a lot on my plate:

Thanks to printing headaches my own zine was **very** late. About 2 months, in fact. To attempt to catch up I'm producing an interim special for an interview I recorded ages ago.

Speaking of that zine, it earned me a nomination for (as **Lloyd** called it) a FAan award. The Aurora is the Canadian answer to the Hugo, and both will be awarded at Worldcon in Montreal this August.

I **do** want to win, but the nomination alone is a great ego boost. I cast my votes, but not for myself; I don't want to be part of the reason if I win. I just made sure to vote for **Lloyd** in his category though.

I purchased Web space and a domain for it. I gave the URL in *Alexiad* and hopefully putting it here will spur me on to complete it: <http://www.theoriginaluniverse.info>

Issue 130

Cover: 40 years since the moon landing? Seeing how little space travel has advanced since then is sad.

Editorial: Thanks to my printing woes I've joined you as far as late issues Henry.... / You mention meeting **Sheryl Birkhead**. I'm really looking forward to the zine folks I'll meet here this summer!

The Ethics of Money Pt. 4: With just that quote you know more of the Torah than I do. / The idea of tax money as stolen (after all, income tax was supposed to just be a wartime measure) feels right to me.

New Minute Men Needed Now: Corporations are bad for the environment period; we have an Esso station nearby, and too many have forgotten the Exxon Valdez. We need people to go against these companies to protect us.

Why I Quit Being an Office Manager: – and people wonder why I'm glad to stay away from such work.

Sue's Sites: Roar of the Lions: Another great memory! I'll be happy if I ever travel outside of North America...

Carry On Jeeves: I'm also a teacher without training, but only one-to-one. Your experiences fascinate me.

Interlocutions

Lloyd: Two winters ago we set a snowfall record. Last year was close, granted, but not quite.

Joy V. Smith: I'm hoping your eventual home sale will be a pleasant story.

Milt Stevens: I have a BfA in Cinema. I never went for the Masters degree as I didn't want to move away and I wasn't interested in teaching film. I'm still learning on my own now in other fields.

Joseph Nicolas: In the current social climate being non-Christian (and in some cases non-Caucasian) is definitely not a bad thing, as you say.

Sheryl Birkhead: Bell Canada (the Canadian equivalent to AT&T) keeps trying to get me back as a customer, including for their DSL. My brother-in-law worked for a call center for them and few of the employees used DSL. That spoke volumes to me.

Laurraine Tutihasi: I'll see you at Anticipation (I saw you on the member list).

Issue 131

A **Brad Foster** cover in time for the Hugos is a very apt thing!

Re: Editorial: Henry you've been publishing for over 20 years. In my book – and that of many – that makes you far from a dabbler. / Congratulations on passing the Bar. / If you were in Montreal now, the city gov would be trying to ban the use of your wood stove.

Re: A Cure For Style... you could never ban it. Without different writing "voices" the banality of everything sounding the same would kill books.

Re: No-Budget Filmmaking Primer: There's a TV channel here in Canada to celebrate such triumphs of minimalism called Moviola. More people should make such films. George Lucas has the money, but his films aren't better. / I'm an Animation screenwriter, so I'm used to packing more into a shorter time. What's here is more minimalist.

Re: Carry On Jeeves – Conventions: This had more charm to me than current cons.

JaB

☐**CKK**: *Congratulations on the nomination. I never had any trouble nominating or voting for myself. The conflict of interest is apparent and understandable. It is not as if you are on a corporation board and voting yourself a huge private deal that has not been disclosed.*☐

We also heard from:

Warren Buff, Brad W. Foster, Patti Hetherington, Julianne Hunter, Rodney Leighton, Hope Liebowitz, Eric Lindsay, (COA: 544 Carlyle Gardens Beck Drive North; Condon Qld 4815; Australia), Guy Lillian, Mark Proskye, Garth Spencer, Jim Sullivan, and Sue Welch



“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. 8 No. 2 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.

Banana Wings #37 by Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; 59 Shirley Road; Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES; UK; fishlifter@googlemail.com; irregular; the usual. A nice fanzine with lots of traditionally fannish content.

Challenger 29 by Guy H. Lillian, III; 8700 Millicent Way; Shreveport, LA 71115; <http://www.challzine.net/>; GHLLIII@yahoo.com; irregular; \$6 or the usual. This is a fine genzine with good articles, lots of photos and letters. Every bit worthy of its perennial Hugo nomination.

Ethel the Aardvark #141 by rotating editors; PO Box 212; World Trade Centre; Melbourne, VIC 8005; Australia; ethelaardvark@yahoo.com.au; bi-monthly; AU\$30/year or the usual. This is the official zine of the Melbourne Science Fiction Club and covers club news and SF related material in Australia.

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.

Feline Mewsings #15; 2173 East Rio Vistoso Lane; Oro Valley, AZ 85755-1912; <http://homepage.mac.com/laurraine/Felinemewsings/>; Laurraine@mac.com; irregular; \$3 or the usual. A nice personalzine normally distributed as part of FAPA.

FOSFAX 215 by Tim Lane & Elizabeth Garrot; %FOSFA; PO Box 37281; Louisville, KY 40233-7281; irregular; \$4 or the usual. A very large genzine with generous quantities of SF related material and lots of political discussion.

Lofgeornost 94 by Fred Lerner; 81 Worcester Ave; White River Junction, VT 05001; fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu; irregular; the usual. This is Fred’s FAPA zine.

Fanzines Received in Trade

MarkTime 91 by Mark Strickert; 9050 Carron Dr. #273; Pico Rivera, CA 90660; busnrail@yahoo.com; irregular; \$2 or the usual. The typical updates, plus announcements of marriage and an impending child.

Opuntia 67.1C & 67.1D by Dale Speirs; Box 6830; Calgary, Alberta; Canada T2P 2E7; irregular; \$3 or the usual. More on Sherlock Holmes and the Calgary Stampede.

Popular Reality #7; PO Box 66426; Albany, NY 12206; irregular; \$3 or the usual. An ever-changing zine with varied material.

The Reluctant Famulus 69 by Tom Sadler; 305 Gill Branch Road; Owenton, KY 40359; thomasdsad@copper.net; irregular; the usual. Another fine issue of this genzine. Retirement seems to have resurrected a more regular publication schedule.

Vanamonde No. 778-82 by John Hertz; 236 S Coronado St No 409; Los Angeles, CA 90057; This is John’s APA-L zine with interesting tidbits.



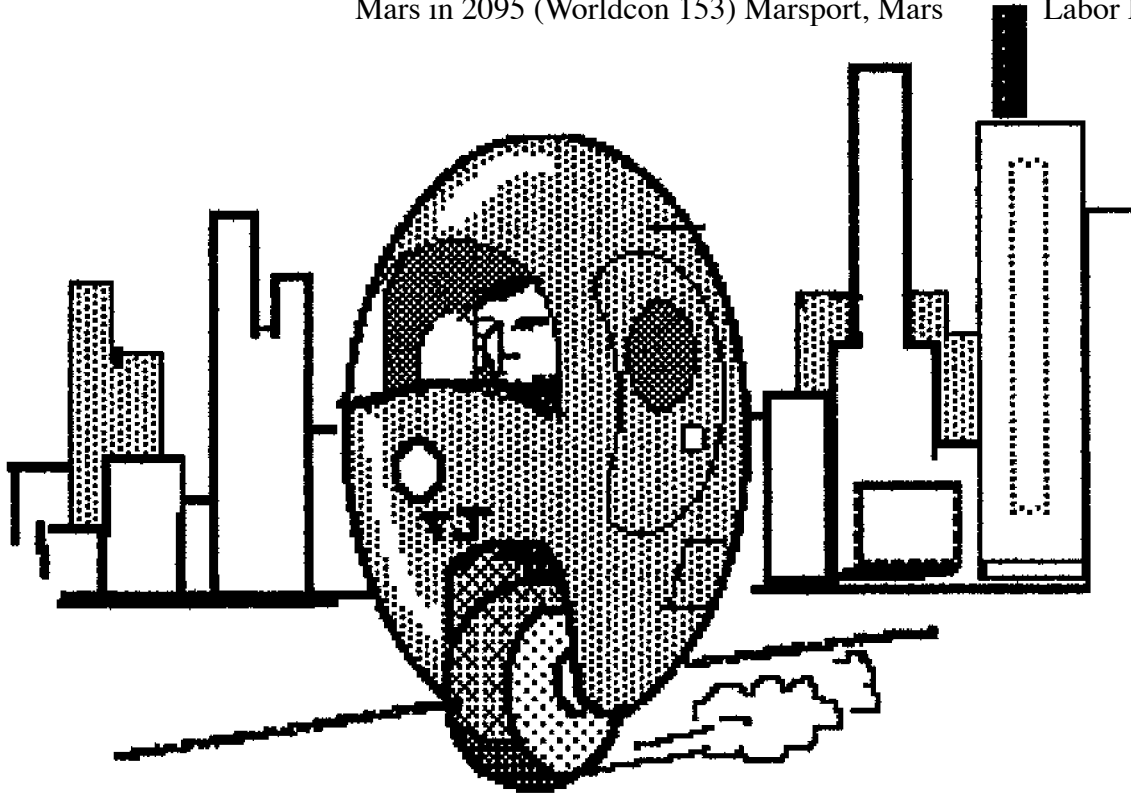
Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

Please inspire me here.

I wonder what there is in the Bay Area?

Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) Marsport, Mars

Labor Day, 2095



You Got this Issue Because ...

_____ There is nothing more mind-numbing than document review when most of the e-mails have subject lines "Re:" and "FW: Re:".

_____ Kira got two pet rats. That brings the animal count to five not counting the steady stream of unwanted mice in the traps under the stove.

_____ 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.