



The Knarley Knews -- Issue 135
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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.
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PC: Virtually any format
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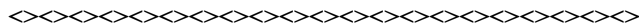


Next Issue Deadline: October 20, 2009

Editorial

(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

Life plods along with its endless succession of successes, failures, crises, and drama. I have seen my share of this over the past few years and the past few months have certainly been no exception. As readers of *The Knarley Knews*, you have the option of pushing forward and reading my somewhat fragmented narrative of these interesting times or punting and moving on to the articles and LOCs. Such is the nature of fanzine editorials and the vagaries of their readers. So read on, or not ... at your own peril.

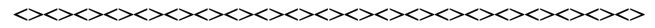


The difficulty in one of these narratives is deciding where to start. There have been so many overlapping life threads these past two months that it is often hard to sort them all out. I'll start with the big one first. We put an offer in on a house. We simply could not pass up the depressed market conditions and the very low interest rates. Both Letha and I had been looking at houses in the Santa Cruz Mountains since before we moved to California last year. We see it as a good balance between the school district (very good – at least for the high school), the commute (tolerable), and living with elbow room. The problem with the Santa Cruz mountains is that they are a complicated maze of ridges and valleys with significant changes in road conditions, distance, and water availability that complicate the search and the purchase. We finally settled on a very well-maintained house (this is often not the norm in the mountains or in our price range as we have seen houses that are little more than tear-downs). It is on a private road – which means there is a gate and neighborhood road association to maintain the road. It is only about five minutes further out than where we live now, but the perception is that it is much farther based on the roads and gate. It has been on the market for quite some time, due to the remoteness perception. The home was built in stages by its only owner and sits on the top of the ridge with quite a bit of usable land (at least half of the 9+ acres) and has views of Monterey Bay.

After crunching all the numbers and adding up the accessible assets we determined that we could manage the 3.5% FHA down payment, the closing costs, and the escrow so we put in an offer. The seller deferred for 10 days because he was on vacation. He then countered at essentially his asking price and we deferred for a week because we were on vacation. It then became apparent that he wants to buy his next house entirely with cash – he's 80 and on fixed income. He is terrified of accepting our offer and then not being to find a place to buy and move to. My read on the market is that he won't have a better time than now. All the signs indicate that prices in the range he is looking are rebounding and the longer he delays, the harder it will be to sell for enough to cover what he wants to buy. As things stand today, all negotiations are on

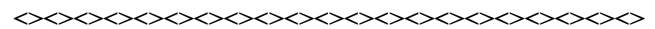
hold. His agent is working hard to find him a new place and, if he can find one in the right range, then it looks like we will have a deal. Only time will tell and in the meantime we are continuing to look at other homes and consider switching to a different rental because rent prices have gone done significantly in the past year. We are currently on month-to-month, which is the best option should we be purchasing.

Hopefully, by next issue, there will be a change of address.



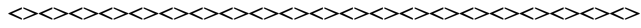
We still have the house in Wisconsin as well. We had hoped to sell it earlier this year, but following some complications with the lease, the tenants were able to extend until the end of February. This postpones a sale until March and complicates both the financing of the new home purchase in terms of down payment and income to debt ratio.

To further exacerbate matters, the tenants decided to do a radon test in the basement. I don't know why they waited a year to do it, but they are a bit paranoid about their health due to family histories. At this point you already know where this is going – the test came back with a significantly elevated level. It is well above the EPA recommended limit, but below the “mandatory” level for mitigation. This revelation effectively backs me into a corner. Radon is a required disclosure in Wisconsin and the only way to “deal” with it is a mitigation system. This essentially consists of sealing the sump pump crock and installing a vacuum system through the basement floor into the drain tile system that exhausts near the roofline of the house. Nothing particularly complicated, but the approximately \$1k cost is less than welcome. Surprisingly, I was able to find a contractor and get the system installed in less than four days. This should improve the tenants' happiness.



Speaking of rentals, the place we are renting has been fun as well. On July 4th, we noticed water pouring out of the water tank about six feet above ground. The steel tank had finally rusted through to form a pencil-sized hole that spent the next few days pouring over 5,000 gallons of water onto the ground. I shut off the well pump and informed the landlord. He had a well contractor look at it and decide that repairing the leak was not a great option as there were a number of other places – including one at ground level – that was facing imminent failure. The contractor finally came out earlier this week to replace the tank. This is no simple task. The old tank was at least 10,000 gallons in size with fairly heavy gauge steel. They drained it, disconnected it, and then pushed it over. It will take a crane to have it fully removed. They then installed a tank just under 5,000 gallons in size. (The building code requires a cement pad for any tank above 5,000 gal-

lons.) That evening – we had little or no water. I investigated and determined that all the pumps appeared to be turned on, but the tank was essentially empty. I don't know what the final verdict was, but they had it fixed the next day. Good thing we filled our camping water jug and several milk bottles so that we could cook and flush the toilets. Ahh, the joys of remote mountain living.



California school districts often defy logic. They are typically laid out in cookie-cutter fashion with little resemblance to municipal or county lines and it is common for the elementary/middle school districts to be separate from the high school districts. It is also not uncommon for the boundaries of an elementary school district to overlap one or more high school district boundaries. We live in such an area. At the base of the ridge we live on is Lakeside Elementary school, which has its own school district. The middle school kids, including Kira, are bussed to a neighboring district (that otherwise feeds no children to the local high school). This used to be a great deal for the school, not so much for the students. The middle school was funded using an aid model where the state aid is based entirely on head count. This means that the state funding follows the students and thus state aid effectively funds the school on a per pupil basis. Due to California's budget crisis, this middle school got re-designated so that its funding is now a fixed value and that local tax revenue is more closely related to the funding it receives. This means that the Lakeside district is now expected to pay a hefty per-child fee for all the middle school students. This happened about five years ago and is why the present middle school was chosen – i.e. it was "free." The Lakeside district has no idea how it is going to pay for all of this.

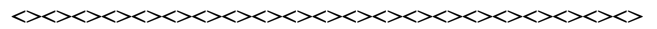
But wait, it gets better. The Lakeside district, as part of the middle school change, decided to provide a bus between the elementary and middle schools due to the distance to the middle school. At some point the service was changed to pick some children up in the mountains and take others home after school. This is no easy task given the narrow winding roads and lack of good places for the bus to pull over or turn around. As part of the budget crisis the state grant for bus service was in jeopardy, so the school board started looking into alternatives. The first revelation was that the current bus route serves one-third of the students very well (i.e. pick-up in the morning and drop-off in the afternoon) and the other two-thirds get afternoon drop-off service only with extremely late drop off times. As a result, many families do not use the bus service. About one week before school, as we were heading out the door for a vacation, a list of seven bus options was distributed to families and noted a price tag as high as \$144/month/student for bus service. Talk about sticker shock – last year the bus was without fee. A board meeting was held and a plan (not from among the seven) was adopted and then was promptly changed three times over the next few days to where we are today: last year's schedule with a \$1/day charge. (Most of the bus grant was retained.) The problem is, this still pro-

vides great service to a few and lousy to unusable service to many others. I attended a recent transportation meeting and it was like armed camps with those at opposite ends of the ridge taking up sides – against each other at times – with the school district representatives not being very effective to help reach a compromise.

After the meeting, I sent the board an e-mail suggesting a way to solicit input, reach a compromise, and provide greater equity in service. I even volunteered to spearhead or work on the effort referencing my background of successes with university faculty on even more contentious issues. So far the jury is out on my gesture. I'm guessing things will muddle around for a while and get uglier before they get better.



I was supposed to be doing jury duty this week. Like many Californians I received the dreaded jury summons. California has a one day or one trial rule – you come in one day and are done unless you get selected for a trial, which you have to complete. (Can't you just imagine getting selected for the OJ trial?). To facilitate this my county selects a prospective jury pool and divides them into 20 groups. The Friday evening before your week you call the number and are told which groups need to report to which court house on Monday. Those groups not selected are told to call back on Monday evening; and so it goes. I was in group six and they took the first five groups between Monday and Tuesday. It is now Thursday and I have been deferred all week and am now exempt from service for two years. This is a bit frustrating, I'd actually like to try it once. I'm guessing, though, as an attorney and someone with a Ph.D. in engineering that the likelihood of my selection is small to non-existent; even if I were to get called in.



We took our first leisurely family summer vacation in a few years in mid-August. Having suffered through the inconvenience of summer school, everyone was ready to get away from things for a while. So, we packed up the car and headed north to the Smith River National Recreation Area (SRNRA), just south of the Oregon border along the coast. My mother came along. Our destination was somewhat controlled by a need to find a campground that would take the two dogs. Using the government's reservation system, we found the Panther Flat campground in the SRNRA. It turned out to be a fortuitous choice. The Smith River is actually a three-forked river that is known for its late fall and early spring kayaking. Despite the wonderful scenery, it isn't as busy in the summer.

To reach the area from the Bay Area requires a 425 mile drive up the coast and near-coast along US Highway 101. This is a fairly picturesque drive that begins at the Golden Gate Bridge as you leave the Bay Area and then winds through the hills and some very remote parts of California, but avoids the really tortuous Hwy 1 along the coast. If you take the time to follow the parallel side roads, e.g. The Avenue of the Giants,

you can see some wonderful scenery. The northern California coast contains a number of state and national parks that include about 40% of the native (i.e. non-logged) red woods. Large groves of massive trees are a site to behold. (We also have large groves of them in the Santa Cruz Mountains.)

The SRNRA is located just east of Crescent City – the northernmost city along the California coast. Crescent City is fairly touristy, and we spent one day making the rounds. We stopped at Ocean World where you can touch starfish, sea anemones, and even sharks. They also have a sea lion show. We then spent time picking through rocks at the agate beach (I've had much better success along Lake Superior) before heading to the local lighthouse. The lighthouse is on an island that can only be accessed at low tide. It was automated years ago, but the local historical society mans it with volunteers and they offer tours that include many original and period furnishings. One of the more interesting stories is the accounts by the lighthouse keeper of the tidal wave that destroyed

much of Crescent City after the 1964 Alaska earth quake. It was, by far, the best deal in town and, if you are up that way, it should be first on your visit list – tide permitting.

The Smith River is located in a fairly mountainous region, which is common for most of coastal California. Somewhat unique to the area are the large serpentine deposits in the rock. This makes for areas of extremely poor growing conditions (this is very localized) due to the unusual mineral levels in the water due to nickel, asbestos, and others. What is nice is that it makes for crystal-clear river waters with a slightly greenish tinge to them. There are also pockets where bogs have formed and large colonies of insect eating darlingtonia plants are found.

The area also saw a bit of activity during one of the many California gold rushes. For a while they were pulling over \$3000 in gold and platinum per ton of sand processed. One of

Continued on page 16

Periodicals Then, Now, And Then Again

by Gene Stewart

A much wider range of much better and more varied content is, essentially, what we want from periodicals as they move into the new electronic world.

To be avoided is the way too many genre publications homogenize into a single tone, with narrow parameters of taste and style, due to single editors dominating for decades.

Quality becomes harder to sift from chaff as quantity and other factors change established methods and filters. Used to suffice if the ms looked pro. Now it is within everyone's grasp to format properly, check spelling, and so on. Used to be prior publication in semipro zines meant a lot more than it does now, when so many pub their own ish.

Editors now must be all the more alert to the cutting edge while knowing in detail most if not all the history of the genre.

Doing all that on top of editing and sifting slush is a murderous burden. To lighten it, we may turn to rotating or guest editors, even though this solution prompts the problem of producing a consistent product to keep readers' interests.

Seems an impossible mix, doesn't it? Maybe each issue will have to stand alone, more like an anthology. Or maybe subscribers will be able to choose content for themselves rather than rely on an editor's tastes. Perhaps picking among sample openings and allowing subscribers, say, ten choices per month from the loosely categorized pools of content will solve this problem.

Television is an alternative model, with readers choosing one story here, another there, from an array of publications.

No matter what model shakes out as a new industry standard on Kindle or Online, definitely look for more series characters like Sherlock Holmes and more continuing serials like Dickens published. These are how reader loyalty will be encouraged. It only makes sense, once you get past value-added gimmicks. Remember hypertext? Links are taken for granted now and no big draw. Gimmicks will come and go, but a good story well told, and a familiar character that pulls you back, are perennials.

The goal for new periodicals, then, is to become a sole source for something with continued popularity. Think: *Dresden Files* Emag and so on. This requires editors to develop the skill set not seen since Victorian days. They will want to cultivate a wide variety of writers so they can spot new enthusiasms and trends, new favorites and new popularities. They will also need to keep an eye out for great longer works that can easily be offered in exciting chunks that will guarantee continued interest between installments. Each segment will have to be exciting itself, too. And they'll have to find appealing characters, as in the Pulp era. New versions of *The Shadow*, *Doc Savage*, and *Tarzan*.

That's why I mentioned *The Dresden Files*, one of today's hottest repeat characters in genre fiction. And yes, Harry Potter comes to mind, too, as the perfect kind of book to have formed the foundation of a new kind of periodical, although it would have been doled out in smaller dollops and stretched over a longer period.

Any thoughts about what you'd want to see as the next phase for periodicals?

Remnants of the World's Columbian Exposition 3

By Steven Silver

□**CKK**: *Yet another remnant from the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago.*□

Pabst Pavilion

2000 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

In 1892, Frederick Pabst's family moved into a mansion the brewing magnate built in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In addition to serving Pabst beer to people on the Midway, the pavilion also hosted an orchestra. When the World's Columbian Exposition ended, Pabst arranged to have the Pabst Pavilion, which was an ornate, glass-domed basilica decorated in -cotta hop vines, beer steins, and statues of the mythical gods of brew-making, moved to his new home, where it formed the conservatory.

The family did not remain in the mansion for long, however, and following Pabst's death in 1904 and his wife's in 1906, the family sold their estate to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, who converted it into the home for the Archbishop. The first Archbishop to live in the mansion was Sebastian Gebhard Messmer (1903-30). Now home to the Archbishop and numerous priests and nuns, the building underwent renovation.

The Pabst Pavilion, which had been used to sell beer at the World's Columbian Exposition was converted into a chapel for use by the Archbishop and his support clergy.

By the time Archbishop William Edward Cousins resided in the building, the neighborhood around it had significantly declined and the Archdiocese decided it was time to get rid of the building. Originally slated for demolition, the property was purchased by John Conlin in 1975, who held it until 1978 when he donated it to Wisconsin Heritages, a preservation society which has since been working to restore the mansion, including the Pabst Pavilion, to its original state.

The Norway Pavilion **Mount Horeb, WI**

Norway had a small pavilion located near Lake Michigan and was designed to appear like a twelfth-century stave church with dragon heads at the peak of the gables. The building was originally built in Trondheim, Norway and designed by Albert Aldemar Hansteen.

The pavilion was encircled by canvas on panels on which were painted scenes of Norwegian life, particularly hunting, while inside the pavilion handicrafts and arts from Norway were on display. After over a hundred years, this building serves a similar purpose, although it now stands in its third location.

After the fair, the building was moved up to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where it was reassembled on the property of C.K.G. Billings, who later sold his property to William Wrigley. The building was moved again in 1935 to Blue Mounds, Wisconsin (a location I wrote about a few years ago when discussing a caving expedition). Although now called Little Norway, the owner also refers to it by the Norwegian name *Nissedahle*, or Valley of the Elves.

The building itself is now a museum dedicated to things Norwegian. Its collection includes hand-carved Norwegian skis, jewelry that dates back to the time of the Vikings, a variety of other Norwegian handicrafts, and the original manuscript of a composition by Edvard Grieg, dated to 1873. In 1993, the building underwent a restoration to return it to the height of its glory during the World's Columbian Exposition.

Surrounding the pavilion are other buildings designed to recreate a portion of a Norse village, including a sod-roofed cabin, a *stabbur*, or food warehouse, and the home originally used by the first European settlers in the area. The land was settled in the mid-1800s by Osten Olson Haugen, who came to Wisconsin from Telemark, Norway, which has a climate similar to Wisconsin's. The Haugens sold the land to Isak Dahle in 1927, and it is his great-grandnephew who currently manages the museum.

The Dutch House **20 Netherlands Road, Brookline, MA**

Holland only decided to have a presence at the fair in late 1892. They built their pavilion and filled it with an enormous collection of paintings by a wide variety of Dutch painters. The country was also represented by an exhibition on the Amsterdam diamond trade and confectionary manufacturing, although it was the German chocolate display that intrigued Milton Hershey enough to buy their equipment to turn the Lancaster Caramel Company into the Hershey Chocolate Company.

The building they created is a reproduction of the Franeker town hall built in 1591 in Friesland, Holland. After the fair, it was purchased by Charles Brooks Appleton, a mechanical engineer, who moved the house to its current location and altered it to make it fit for a residence.

Part of his alterations was to re-face the building in concrete, designed to imitate the brick and stone originally used in its construction. The building, on Netherlands Road, was placed to overlook a new park designed by Frederick Law Olmstead overlooking the Muddy River. Olmstead was also responsible for laying out the World's Columbian Exposition.

Maine State Building
543 Maine St, Poland, ME

Each state in the union was represented at the fair, but few claimed their buildings when the fair ended. The state of Maine donated all the materials for their building (plus \$20,000 in construction costs). The building was designed by Charles Sumner Frost, a native of Lewiston, ME who was residing in Chicago at the time.

The building is a three-storey octagonal structure that stood eighty-six feet tall. The first story was built of granite extending around the building. The base used darker stone and at intervals it lightened, shading gradually to a lighter gray. The second story exterior contained four balconies divided by round bay-windows projecting over the granite with panel finish, topped by a large expanse of deep slanting roof.

The entrance to the building was arched over with granite and people could enter through three arcades between polished columns of red and black granite. Beyond the entrance, an three-storey octagonal rotunda opened up to the roof line where the ceiling tapered to a heavy ornamental skylight of leaded glass. "The rotunda formed a large general reception room and from it opened the ladies' parlor, gentlemen's reception and smoking room, the library, commissioner's office and toilet rooms. The building's interiors were appointed in Maine oak. As with the other state buildings, the Maine building's purpose was to show exhibits focusing on Maine's manufacturing and cultural heritage.

During the fair, Hiram Ricker, who bottled water from Poland Springs, traveled to Chicago to receive an award for the quality of their water. They visited the building and learned that it was scheduled for demolition following the fair.

When the fair was over, the Ricker family purchased the building for \$30,000 and arranged to dismantle it and have it shipped back to Maine on 16 freight cars at an additional cost of \$3,000. The freight cars were unloaded at Danville Junction and loaded onto horse-drawn wagons for the final 8 miles of the journey. On August 14, 1894, the cornerstone was re-laid at the Poland Springs spa and the building was dedicated in its new location on July 1, 1895.

On its new site, the first floor was set up as a library and the second floor had bedrooms for overnight guests at the spa. The third storey was used as a gallery for American art and a fourth storey was also added.

In 1968, many of the artifacts house in the Maine State Building were sold off during a four-day auction. After the building was turned over to the Poland Springs Preservation Society in 1977, however, efforts began to refurbish the building and once again turn it into a library and museum.

Currently, the top two floors of the building are used to maintain an art gallery focusing on the work of local artists. The PSPS currently provides docents to give guided tours of the

building, although visitors are also allowed to walk through the house unaccompanied.

Chinese Pavilion Cupola
1650 Waukegan Road, Glenview, IL

For several years, my family dined at a small locally owned Chinese restaurant in Glenview before I realized the truth about the small cupola on top of the building. While the rest of the building was nothing special, the cupola on the top of the building was all that survived of the China pavilion from the World's Columbian Exposition. In fact, there is some debate whether the cupola did originate at the World's Columbian Exposition or if it was simply modeled on the original. Based on pictures taken of the original building, the dimensions appear to be a little off. One of the people who claims it is merely a reproduction is the current owner of the building, so there is a good chance that it is not the original. If it is, it has been extensively reconstructed since it was damaged in a massive restaurant fire about four years ago.

Located on the Midway Plaisance was a small Chinese village, which required an additional fee to enter. The Village, along with exhibits of Chinese art and pottery in the Manufactures Building and boats in the Transportation Building, were not sanctioned by the Chinese government of Emperor Guangxu and the Empress Dowager Cixi.

While visiting the cupola from the Chinese pavilion may not allow one the full grandeur of the Dutch House or the Maine State Building, or the educational and cultural experience of the Norway House, the Palace of Fine Arts, or the World Congress Auxiliary Building, it does serve a much better shrimp in garlic sauce than any of those places, and, from my point of view, at only nine miles from my house, it is the most convenient.



INTERLOCUTIONS

Dave Szurek
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July 13, 2009

Henry,

My wife forwarded *The Knarley Knaws* #133 to me in the hospital. At the time, I was in no shape to compose a letter, LOC or otherwise. I have now graduated to temporary resident of a nursing home (physical therapy being the purpose). Both places are bummers, but at least nursing homes offer activities like physical therapy to help kill time. Needless to say, I don't attend the religious services also being offered. The debilitating situation was a massive case of pancreatitis. I used to experience pancreatitis on a chronic basis. I thought a surgery I had received five or six years ago had made that a thing of the past, and the truth is that it **did** work for a while, but I learned differently the day I was out grocery shopping and was taken away by an ambulance. I thereafter learned it was my worst case yet, capable of affecting my ability to walk (too few people appreciate that ability) and also capable of inducing a temporary form of dementia. I experienced both. Lay on-lookers might have mistaken if for a stroke, although not just one side of my body was affected. I'm on the mend now, still under medical care, but ambulatory via a cane rather than the walker had had to use last week. I seriously predict that I will be going home soon. Then again, we all know the best laid plans of mice and men. My wife is sure to forward any mail I receive in the meantime. The "Invisible Hand" principle also has a definite dark side to it, but I'm just the variety of person to point that out.

I've long felt that music is the purest form of creativity in existence. Of course, maybe that's because I've a decided lack of talent in that area and believe me, I've tried to venture in the opposite direction. I guess it's just not in me. You either have it or you don't, and I don't.

Short one this time
Dave

☐**TKK:** *I hope your next letter describes you at home and feeling better. I have no musical talent either, I can't even duplicate most drum beats that are beyond the simplest.*☐

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24 Jul 2009

Greetings Henry and Letha ~

Latest issue of *TKK* in the mailbox today, along with a number of other cool items. Only getting to the post office box once a week these days, but while that makes it a little risky at time to get bills, it does mean usually a fun pile of things to pick up as well.

Cover turned out nicely, though surprised you ran it with the large spaces. But detail held up well, and I'm pleased to have that one in print.

I liked your comment in the editorial about being in the "brown" season in California. Seasons denoted by the color, I like that. What other seasons are there in California? Or is it simply "brown" and "green"?

Sorry to hear of the loss of Cheetah. We lost our lovely little 18 year old Sable, about a month ago. She's the black and white cat that has been in my hands in most of the photos I've sent to conventions and such over the years, listed as "my mews." Always a tiny thing, she was losing weight rapidly, and turned out her kidneys were just shutting down on her. Miss her a lot, as she showed up at the same time Cindy and I first got together, so she was always a part of the relationship. Love the little guys, but always have to know when we get a dog or cat for a pet that we will, in all likelihood, outlive them. Still, wouldn't want to live my life without that companionship, and the memories will still be with us for the rest of our own lives.

Back to the drawing board!
Brad

☐**TKK:** *Don't know the seasons well enough except to know that the "brown" season is exceptionally long. It may not rain again until October, which just doesn't feel right. Sorry to hear about Sable.*☐

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25 Jul 2009

In **Joseph Major's** LoC on the first part of my article, he stated, "small error: U-505 was not the only German submarine captured during the war. The British captured U-570 on August 27, 1941." He is correct. The U-570 was then recommissioned as a British ship and used against the Axis. One difference between the two incidents is that the Germans believed the U-505 had been sunk. The British also captured the U-110 and the U-559. The U-744 and U-1024 were captured by the British, but sank as it was being towed to port. So correctly, my article should have stated the only U-Boat captured by the United States.

As long as we're making corrections, **Joe** also said, "We'd already been to the Museum of History and Science, before the con." There is no such creature in Chicago. As I noted in my article, the museum's correct name is the Museum of Science and Industry. The Chicago History Museum is located several miles north of the former World's Fair grounds and is at North Avenue, in Lincoln Park.

Steven

□**TKK**: *Verily, all knowledge is contained in fanzines.*□

Alexis Gilliland
4030 8th St. South
Arlington, VA 22204
July 26, 2009

Dear Henry and Letha,

Thank you for *TKK* #134 featuring a nice cover by **Brad Foster**, and **Jim Sullivan**'s "All My Uncles" piece was a nice tall tale. It is also good to see posthumous work by my old friends Rotsler and Mayhew.

Lee and I planned to attend Fiestacon over the July 4th weekend, in part to see some of Lee's friends in the Phoenix/Tempe area, when we were drafted (Lee having previously signed up with the Raleigh NASFIC bid to run the Con Suite) to throw a party for the Raleigh NASFIC bid at Westercon, which turned out to be Fiestacon wearing a different hat, surprise, surprise. So we threw the party with a little help from our friends, distributing tickets, and posting flyers with the same graphic as the tickets. [[INSERT TICKET FILLO]] There was some annoyance at the "sponsored by:" statement until it was pointed out that we had paid for the party, at which point annoyance shifted to a shrug of resignation. Was the party successful? I'd say so, maybe a little more successful than we had anticipated, in that it reminded the team of SMOFs putting on the 2010 Westercon (in Pasadena, CA, after they won their bid Friday afternoon) that hey, there was a NASFIC coming up! So after a few beers Saturday night they floated a hoax bid on Facebook, combining their Westercon hotel and guests of honor with a NASFIC write-in bid. Lee heard about it the next day, and asked the 2010 Westercon chair what **that** was all about, and he said it was a joke. Well, yes. It wasn't serious, but it was a Three Stooges sort of humor, giving the Raleigh NASFIC committee a hotfoot via the internet, which had Lee responding to panicky emails for the next several days. She was not amused. A highlight of the con was sitting in air-conditioned comfort watching the 40 minute display of fireworks out the window. A lowlight was that six or seven easterners (including me and Lee) in attendance came down with colds, serious colds, and at least one of them went to the doctor when it persisted, to be informed that he had a mild version of swine flu. A nasty, persistent bug, it is still hanging in there after three weeks.

Jim Stumm is correct about the escalation of events after one's refusal to pay one's water bill, but in most cases things

never get that far. The one time I did let it slip, what we got was the next quarter's water bill with the previous bill plus penalty included, which of course I paid. In general, most states take a pretty relaxed view of their taxpayers, and when said taxpayers have serious problems making their payments some assistance is an offer, at least according to my semi-annual real estate bill. **Stumm** also approves of user fees, nothing that multiple suppliers are better than a monopoly, though for a bridge this might translate as alternate but less convenient routes. Competition is better in theory, certainly, but in practice? When Virginia and Maryland tried to apply it to electricity, by letting competing power companies have access to customers via the lines owned and maintained by the old monopolistic company, what happened was that prices went way up in Virginia and more than doubled in Maryland. The state controlled monopoly guaranteed a return, but the introduction of competition meant that the state could no longer keep costs down, nor could it regulate any number of inter-company charges, such as where they were buying their excess electricity and for how much. Virginia at least is working to go back to the old way. **Stumm**'s complaint that there is inefficiency in the way taxes are translated into services reflects the second law of thermodynamics, which says that frictional losses are inevitable. (The first law: You can't win. The second law: You can't break even. The third law: Death will not release you.)

Alex Slate says that what I describe are not taxes but service fees. Well, actually they are both. As the percent of the money collected applied to the service becomes smaller, the payment becomes more tax-like. He discusses roads and vehicles. It is presently possible to fit all cars with an electronic card that lets you zoom through tollbooths so that you can be billed once a month for your travel on toll roads. In principle, such a card could be made mandatory, and the car would be taxed for the distance driven (which would take care of congestion at awkwardly placed tollbooths), and all the monies so collected could be applied to road maintenance. Of course, with your car's travel on record, your privacy would be impaired because the state would be able to find out where and when your car had been. Part of the problem with taxes is that people want more services that they are willing to pay for.

What else? I recommend *Bailout Nation* by Barry Ritholtz for an excellent and readable account of our current economic crisis. That should do it for now.

Best wishes,
Alexis

□**TKK**: *I miss Rotsler and Mayhew, among many others. Most states take a lax view on property taxes because they'd much rather have a tax paying resident than seizing the property and having the hassle of trying to sell it for back taxes.*□

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
July 31, 2009

Dear *TKK*ers,

I really need to get cracking on this zine pile!

Lovely light purple background for **Brad Foster**'s detailed cover!!

Wow, has it really been a year already? Time continues to fly by faster and faster each year – wish there was a way to put on the brakes, but that doesn't seem possible. I am sure that things will at least feel more comfortable when a home buy becomes a reality. How large have the financial differences been and does a salary increase make those hits easier to absorb (or just something to live with?).

My condolences on the loss of Cheetah. I have a small collection of little wooden boxes in my basement – because I am not certain this is where I will stay and want those ashes to go with me if I move.

Is the Patent Bar Exam available at any time, or only given on specific dates/times? If you are already locked into particular dates, then it would be reasonable to study to fit that frame. On the other hand, once the Patent Office approves your application, if you are at liberty to select any time you wish ... that could be a procrastinator's nightmare (or dream – depending on how you view it).

I appreciate the opt-in choice rather than an opt-out (I feel the same way about the SF Book Club, but they still adhere to the opt-out choice). This way I can stay with the status quo arrangement because it already works.

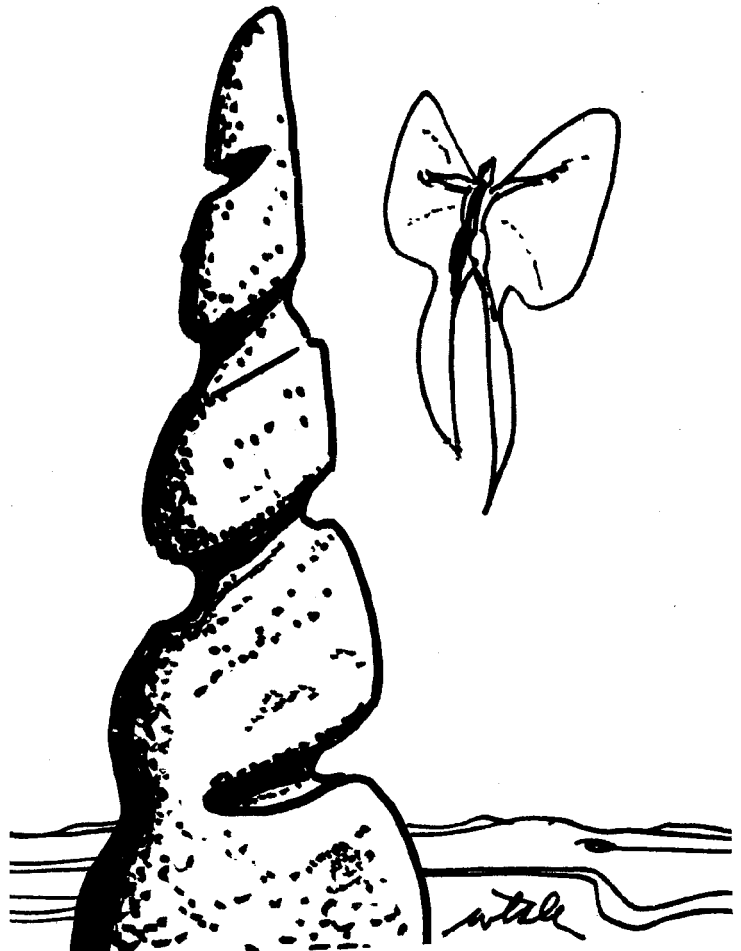
Ah yes – **Jim Sullivan** – remember that most family trees bare (sic) fruit!

With all the various expositions, fairs, and Olympics that have taken place worldwide, I wonder how much (continually/still) functional architecture still abounds. With all the huge gobs (very specific term) of money being thrown at such construction, I would hope that at least a healthy percentage of it remains in use after the original purpose has hit the history books.

Hmm – paperback books being cheap – right about now I'd say **used** paperbacks are cheap. I actually have two paperbacks I bought based on what I'd read on the Internet and have sat in their bookstore bag for about two years. The two are in a series. I tried to read the first one and got only a few pages in (both are analogies) and quit. Maybe someday when I have enough time to wade further in.... At about \$15 each, I had to really decide I wanted them and now I wish I had not spent the money.

Voting for the Hugos, etc. is over and the Worldcon will be taking place soon. I had serious intentions of reading the nominations – available (free) online – but, predictably, I was not able to open/download the files – so reading all the nice stuff from last year (as opined by the membership at least) did not happen. As in the past few years I confined my voting to the fannish categories. Now I get to wait and see what happens. It appears that, in Worldcons outside the US, that the country of origin effects are not as apparent as I would think they would be. Heck, take the opportunity to promote the local talent! We'll see.

About water ... on the farm, city water was going in (not sewage, only water) so the group that handled this (around here WSSC) "wanted" (read that as forced) as many subscribers as it could get. They informed my mother that our well was condemned. They should not have done that (at least not without having checked the water!). She called around and then "gently" (threatened) said that if they did not change their minds she would start with independent evaluation of the well and water – and go from there. They changed their minds and we stayed with the well. I have never had to pay for water – even my mobile home (out on the mountains) at Virginia Tech for vet school was well water!



Some TV show compared the return percentage of Facebook and Twitter. Facebook had more than double the “retainees.” Me? I don’t know about either one!

My philosophy (in re fanzine quality being related to superior means of reproduction) is that no matter, you can still end up with a really pretty crudzine – period. I have not seen any zines by new faneds in a while (as opposed to simply zines I have not seen but which have been in publication for some time now) – so as soon as I get a “representative sampling,” maybe I will modify that idea. Perhaps we will see (or not).

I have not been to the local county fair in, well, years. Growing up I raised and showed Brown Swiss cattle and spent a lot of time at both the county and state fairs. I have not felt the urge to go back again. Maybe some day I will feel the urge to walk the midway – but not yet.

For your convention schedule – uh, what is local to you? I am working up to this ... if there isn’t anything all that close, maybe you should run your own little relaxacon. Just a thought – I don’t know enough about the area near you to know if there would be enough draw – whether it be touristy stuff or merely to relax in ghood company. As I say, just a thought.

Once again – thanks for thish!
Sheryl

☐**CKK**: *The salary increase was substantial (70%), but most of that has been eaten by increased housing costs. The numbers are such that a home purchase is possible in the current market of depressed prices and low interest rates. You get a 3-month window in which to take the Patent Bar Exam once approved. It is the procrastinator's blessing and curse. I have until September 18th. I changed my SF Book Club status years ago so that I only have to respond when I want to order. They allow that once you meet your membership ordering requirements. I think the last con I went to was the Ditto in Milwaukee that I chaired. I was effectively a relaxacon. I thought about hosting one out here, but Corflu is going to be here in the near future so have postponed the idea.*☐

R-Laurraine Tutihasi
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03 Aug 2009

I realize this is late, as I’ve already received the next issue. I have quite a bit of catching up to do because of our move a little over a month ago. We’re still unpacking, though most of it is done. The big task facing us right now is sorting and shelving our books.

I think publishing a compendium of the **Terry Jeeves’** articles is a great idea.

Good luck on the patents test.

You certainly live in a rural area. We’re pretty rural where we are too. Our little town doesn’t even have a traffic light, though there is a blinking red and amber light at the intersection where you enter the town from the state highway. There is apparently a mountain lion in these parts that some of our neighbours have seen, but we haven’t. There was the bobcat Mike photographed a couple of years ago; I don’t know if it’s still around. Certainly our building activities discouraged many animals from coming around, I’m sure. Now that most of that is finished, maybe things will get back to normal. Mostly we see rabbits, squirrels, quails, and roadrunners. One of our neighbours has three golden retrievers, so I’m sure that discourages some animals. We hear the coyotes but have not seen them, but you don’t have to be in a rural area to see those.

A bird built its nest on one of our exterior light fixtures and had three chicks. Unfortunately two of the chicks died of exposure after falling out of the nest. We think the third one was okay; it was gone when we returned from our brief Westercon trip.

Hey, don’t you edit your writers? In **Sue Welch’s** article about the San Diego Wild Animal Park, it said, “Peak your interest?” Unless you were trying to make a pun, it should be pique.

I’ve driven through Kansas, and it’s flatter than a pancake but less interesting. It’s the kind of scenery you want to sleep through, though not if you happen to be driving. At least Arizona has its share of mountainous terrain and unique features such as the Grand Canyon.

I checked our dry wall, and it didn’t come from China.

Yes, some pollution blocks the sun and decreases global warming. Unfortunately much of the pollution is very unhealthy. Would **Jim Stumm** jeopardize people’s lives in order to mitigate global warming?

Although **Milt** is correct that individuals who ran the death camps did not necessarily benefit financially directly, the extermination of the Jews did have a financial cause. After World War I, Germany was punished severely financially. The country went into a deep depression with skyrocketing inflation the likes of which most of the rest of the world has never seen. Many Germans saw that many Jews were prospering. The Jews became the scapegoats. In one of my high school history classes, I discovered that just about anything that happens has an economic cause at its root.

Sorry to have disappointed **Jeffrey Allan Boman** and anyone else who expected to see me at Anticipation. Although it was originally our intention to attend, we had to change our plans because of the expense of building our house and moving. We’re also too tired to take on such a lengthy trip, at least I find travelling by air to be quite tiring, and it’s really too far to drive. Also although we’ve moved in, the house is not

quite finished; and we wouldn't want to be gone for so long; if we'd gone, I'd have wanted to do quite a bit of sightseeing as well as attend the convention.

Laurraine Tutihasi

□**TKK**: *A mountain lion is a rare site. You can see coyotes just about anywhere. I've seen them in Pasadena, CA and in the street in front of our old home in Grafton, WJ. Envy of the money others have seems to motivate a lot of things as well.*□

Rodney Leighton
11 Branch Rd. RR#3
Tatamagouche, NS B0K 1V0
Canada
Aug. 3, 2009

Dear Henry:

I don't usually pay much attention to the covers, to be honest. I read the LOC section, the editorial, and whatever else interests me. I'm not much of a fan of art. I did note the cover on 133 for some reason, after I had read it I happened to see my name. A decade or so ago when **Patri** and I were annoying each other ... I really like his fanzine; he wasn't happy with my 7 page LOCs. I would have found it annoying or amusing. Given that neither of the people named are very active and the artist has vanished completely as far as I know, I didn't quite see the point of using it. But, hell, it's your fanzine.

Of course, back in the day when **Scott** was doing *The Zero-G Lavatory* I confess to getting involved in lots of controversy and actually enjoying some of it. My debates with him were fun. Now, well, I note that people are still sparring. **Gene Stewart** elicits snarls and hurt feelings like I used to and the two **Josephs** continue their decades-long feud. **Nicholas** will likely write in and explain that there is no feud, and snarl at me while he is at it.

I couldn't understand what **Lloyd Penney** was writing about. You can't file your income tax return too early. If you send it in in March, as I always do, it sits there until they start processing the things in early April. I send my paper return in, but perhaps **Lloyd** files electronically and that might make a difference in early March. Early May brings the refund. Not always what I want, but usually within \$100 and I am not fighting with those bastards over \$100 here or there. The last fight I had with them cost \$11,000.

Of course, I have never understood why **Lloyd** begins every LOC he writes with complaints about how many zines he has to LOC, how little time he has, frequently followed by complaints about lack of work, and he is going to get this LOC done now, by damn. Makes it sound like a tedious chore that he feels he has to do.

Another feud!

Well, a compatriot of **Joseph Nicholas** came up with the idea of taking fanzines off the internet, putting them on DVD and sending me the disc to see if my DVD player would read it and I could read the zines off my television. I told him he was crazy! But then I thought it might be cool to play with. Haven't seen it yet. If it does work it might make for an interesting article.

Joseph Nicholas wrote a very good letter, I liked reading it, but he could have left out the gratuitous dig at **Joseph Major**, but that is them. No doubt **Joe** will have something to say next issue and on it goes until death do they part. I did a little bit of work this spring for a guy, his wife is a superb gardener and they have all these beds of flowers, fruit, vegetables, bushes and a pond full of noisy bull frogs.

And, well, what one person finds interesting, another does not. You use what appeals to you. **Joseph** liked **Al Bouchard's** film making thing. I thought it was a terrible waste of paper. **Ned Brooks** and probably others like exceptionally boring **Steve Silver** articles.

I see you are printing **Patri's** name in bold, which must mean you are still sending him copies. I wonder if he reads them.

I was just reading **Robert Lichtman's** comments. All my feelings about good fanzines like *Habakkuk* and *Stet* and older issues of *FOSFAX* and **Joseph Nicholas's** old fanzine, whose name I cannot remember. This is not to say that the fanzines of today are not good, but rarely is there a really good article. I love *TKK*, but the LOCs are what drives this zine, in my view, as at least half the articles are not worth reading. Including most of mine. There is a lot more visual aspects these days. And it is true that I like the fanzines being published that fall into my definition of a really good fanzine. Is there anything being published today that is comparable to *Stet* or *Habakkuk*?

Best
Rodney

□**TKK**: *I doubt the DVD plan will work. A DVD encoded with a movie is formatted much differently than one formatted for data for use in a computer. I expect your DVD player will simply say the disc is unreadable. You could, though, take the disc to the library and use their computer. Have you considered Challenger as an answer to your fanzine needs?*□

Jim Stumm
PO Box 29
Buffalo, NY 14223
Aug 3, 2009

Alexander Slate: If we don't have free will, and we are all slaves to processes out of our control, you ask why we should bother (trying to do good). I'd say, if we don't have free will, we can't help doing whatever we do. In that case, those of us who bother, are compelled to bother.

You mention three general rules of conduct, those of Aristotle, Kant, and the Utilitarians. But simply asserting some such rule is only the first step in solving the meta-ethical problem. If you want this rule to be more than the rule-giver's own personal preference, you have to provide some compelling reason why other people should adopt this rule as their own. That's where the attempt to legislate some universal ethical imperative fails. No one provides any sufficient logical reason why others should adopt the ethical rule they prefer. You conclude with: "Should we not be as the angels?" I say you need to give us some convincing reason why we should be as the angels. Your question also reminds me of another common aspect of ethical discourse. You use a clever rhetorical device to appeal to emotion. I suppose this might actually work with many people since many are a lot more emotional than I am. But what I look for, and don't find, is a logical argument.

No, punishment is not about reforming the behavior of the felon. It's about restoring some kind of imaginary balance by inflicting on the felon pain equal to what he inflicted on his victim. If there were some kind of kind and gentle program that was effective in reforming felons so that most of them would not reoffend, I would support that program. But there are many people who would oppose it on the grounds that the felon is not made to suffer enough. Those are the people who prefer punishment.

Alexis Gilliland: You say that Libertarianism regards children to be in competition with their parents for the parental resources. In all my extensive reading of Libertarian publications over 40 years I have never come across any such proposition. How people treat their children is dominated by a biological imperative that operates in other species like primates and birds as well. There's nothing distinctive about Libertarians in this respect as far as I know.

Evolutionary Ethics: You say that an ethical group that supports its members and discourages freeloading will outcompete less ethical groups. If that were true, we should by now be living in a society consisting almost entirely of such ethical groups. But on the contrary, we still seem to be plagued by quite a lot of unethical behavior. We also have the adage: nice guys finish last.

And the discouragement of freeloading doesn't seem to have gotten anywhere, as our present society seems to be dominated by people who want government to give them all kinds of stuff and tax somebody else for it. The latest rage is all the people who are demanding: give me all the health care I want, but don't expect me to pay for it.

Libertarianism, which asks for very little from government, and is in fact the political movement that most opposes freeloading, would be far more successful than it is if there were really any significant anti-freeloading constituency.

Trinlay Khadro: I wonder what would happen if artisans making one-of-a-kind items sold them only to adults, and advertised them as being for adults only.

No, I don't think there is any level of income that is obscene. What's important is not how much income, but how the person comes to have so much income. I despise a swindler like Bernie Madoff, but Sam Walton got rich by devising a better marketing idea.

What a person with such an immense amount of money can do is undertake big projects. If I were super-rich, I might bankroll some kind of outer space endeavor, as several other rich men are now doing. I'd like to see a manned space station on the Moon ASAP. And it would be great if that could be done with private money instead of government financing.

Or one who is inclined toward philanthropy could follow the lead of Bill Gates. Beyond a certain level, spending more money on personal consumption becomes ridiculous. But the amount someone can spend on big projects is unlimited.

By "personal ethics" I mean the way of behaving that one person thinks is the right thing for him to do in most situations. It might not be ethical according to your or my way of thinking. The gangbanger might think that shooting people at the slightest provocation is the right thing for him to do (else he wouldn't do it). The psychopath may take pride in thinking of himself as a skilled predator. If we want to maintain that his behavior is wrong or evil in some cosmic sense, beyond our merely personal preference, then we have to come up with some valid meta-ethical argument to that effect, which I have never been able to find.

TKK: You say that since everyone needs an education, that makes it a necessary government function. I think a necessary government function is one that only government can provide. And we don't need government to provide education.

At cato.org, Andrew J. Coulson says that DC K-12 public schools spend \$26,555/pupil/year, while DC voucher schools spend an average of \$6620/pupil/year. We don't need inner-city government schools that provide abysmal quality education, in a dangerous environment, from which about 50% drop out before graduating, when private schools can provide better quality education at 1/4 the price.

The claim that there are inner city voucher schools that are merely a sham to take voucher money sounds like a slander put out by public school teachers' unions. But if it's true, such schools won't last long. Parents would soon find out about them by their students' poor results on standard tests. And they will pull their kids out of such schools and enroll them in better ones. With competition among schools, instead of a public school monopoly, good schools will drive out bad.

An Education Department report said that kids who joined the DC voucher program in 2004 are now more than two years

ahead of their public school peers in reading, per cato.org. Parents of voucher school kids are happy with the results. But the NEA (teachers' union) told Democrats to kill the DC voucher program, and they did. When unions say "jump," Democrats say "how high."

Underperforming schools can no more hide bad results than groceries can hide rotten food.

The NY State Thruway needs constant spending on maintenance and repairs. It was built fifty years ago and such a heavily trafficked road needs to be rebuilt every twenty or thirty years. It's best if this needed money comes from those who use the highway, and tolls accomplish that. The Thruway is immune to NY State's present financial crisis since it is self-financing and gets no money from taxes. Efforts to convert it to a freeway are just we can expect from freeloaders who want the benefit but want somebody else to pay for it.

Jim Stumm

□CKK: *Walton may have come by his riches more honestly than Madoff, but some measure of Walmart's success is based upon running the local mom and pop operations out of town by competitive pricing (that Walmart can absorb) and poorer wage and benefits packages for the Walmart employees. Is there a distinction between "only government can provide" and "only government can fund"? I think government is best positioned to fund education, especially for those economically disadvantaged. That does not mean that I think the govern-*

ment can be the only provider or that we should continue to support a system that is inefficient and unsuccessful. I am not opposed to a voucher program, with proper oversight. I saw more than a few voucher schools in the Milwaukee area that were little more than money grabs and did nothing to further the education of the students. (As you note they were ferreted out rather quickly, but for some students that may be too late.) Similar things could be said for some of the Milwaukee Public School programs. The first step is that the various teachers' unions must stop protecting the incompetent at the expense of the students. California is the poster-child for a flawed public school phenomena. Through Prop. 13 and a state funding model that moves property tax money from affluent local districts to distant less-affluent districts has resulted in nearly universally poor public schools. Our local district thrives by using private endowment to bypass the broken model, but many other areas have simply given up. One of the largest opponents to conversion of the Thruway to a Freeway in the late 1980s was the toll collectors' union. This is not a great argument for keeping a toll road around. Illinois deliberately targets out-of-state users of their Tollway by charging half for the JPass tolls, which out-of-state visitors don't tend to have. Couple this with merging two toll plazas into one, with the placement where predominantly out-of-state drivers are the traffic, and doubling the toll on that plaza do not warm my heart to the idea of a toll road. It isn't necessarily charging for the actual use, but rather subsidizing local use by out-of-state use. I smell a dormant Commerce Clause argument in here somewhere, but don't have the energy to go there now.□

Milt Stevens

miltstevens@earthlink.net
August 4, 2009

Dear Henry and Letha,

If I'm going to write an LoC to *Knarley Knews* #134 before the deadline, I have to do it today. I'm leaving for Montreal tomorrow, and I won't be back until August 11. I'm getting to dislike air travel. I think my dislike is increasing every time I do it. This is the third time I've travelled by air this year. On the first two trips, I had flights which were late by two or three hours. This sort of service doesn't amuse me. I'm not going to Australia next year, and the 2011 worldcon will be in Reno. I have no idea what I will be doing by 2012.

I'm not sure what my local housing market is doing. I still get a lot of junk mail trying to impress me with how much money I could get if I sold my house. They don't address the problem of where I would live if I sold my current house. There may be more houses for sale in my neighborhood than in the past, but there are lots of houses that might be starters for a young family, and there always have been a fair number of houses for sale. Judging by the bunny rabbits and teddy



bears on the wallpaper of my computer and fanzine file room. I presume there must have been a young family in this house in the past.

Alexis Gilliland's article on happiness reminded me of John Stuart Mill's thoughts on the subject. At one point in his career, Mill asked himself if he would be happy if he accomplished all the social reform projects he had been advocating. He realized accomplishing those goals wouldn't make him happy. This realization sent him into a black depression. He continued with his life, but he felt like a zombie. Time passed, and one day he realized he was reasonably happy again. He thought about that and concluded there were three things you needed in order to be happy.

1. Avoid tangible disaster
2. Stay busy
3. Don't think about happiness

I agree with Mill's thoughts on the subject.

Jim Sullivan describes an inverted couple. From descriptions, it would seem that Chopin and George Sand were such a couple. She quite openly wore men's clothing in the 19th century. I'd imagine some percentage of the population are inverted to some extent or other. Most aren't terribly obvious about it. I suppose we could go into a very long discussion of what are male characteristics and what are female characteristics. In police work, I've known a number of women who were big and could knock your block off. Some were lesbians but most weren't. They were just big tough women who had husbands and children same as anybody else.

Yours truly,
Milt Stevens

CKK: *Many realtors will say just about anything to get a listing. Once they get it, they can theoretically do nothing else and still collect 1.5% of the sales price. Most are more aggressive than that, but many are given explicit instruction in cold calling techniques. My wife considered the field for a while and was so put off by this that she quit. Mill has some interesting ideas, but item 1 isn't always practical.*

Dave Szurek
See address earlier
8/8/2009

Henry & Letha,

I was basically a prisoner of the bureaucracy during my final days at the nursing home. I was walking around without any artificial aides – essentially well and “normal,” but trouble over the discharge papers kept me there. I was very reluctant to check out A.M.A. as I'd been transferred from Aberdeen to Seattle. Seattle is a long way from Aberdeen, which is actually closer to Oregon and at present, we have no car. In order to get a ride home, I'd have to wait until discharge became

official. The place's social worker claimed his hands were tied on setting up the arrangement until then. I finally got out though and found *The Knarley Knews* 134 waiting for me.

How does **Lloyd Penney** know I haven't put my money where my mouth is on the obvious issue? I've both worked and done volunteer work with the homeless, most of whom count among the panhandling community, have donated to the relevant agencies when able, and have also helped out panhandlers when I've been able to do so. Correction – those who've come off more as con artists or who initially insist on ludicrous sums generally cause me to keep my money in my pocket and are frequently the recipients of verbal lessons on how their approach is self-sabotage. Well, extremely mild con artists might still qualify for a cash donation. No, I do not call for donations when one cannot afford it. Come to think of it, I do not even call for donations if one simply doesn't feel like it although the habit (which some people have) of verbally abusing the panhandler before he or she has given them reason is another matter altogether. Yes, there was a time many years ago when I, too was forced into such a livelihood. No, I shouldn't say **forced**. I could have smacked people upside their heads and taken their cash by force, but I preferred to opt for the lesser evil. I remember those days well, but without a sense of guilt or humiliation. In fact, I'm rather proud that I chose that rather than one of the more harmful means of survival. Believe not those claims made a while back by a supposed panhandler who allegedly made a couple hundred dollars a day. If there's **any** truth to his claims, he must have been doing something else and mislabeling it panhandling. Currently, I know a couple people who make their living bumming spare change and they've testified (and their lifestyles have testified) that his stories are light years from what they've experienced. And yes, **Lloyd**, a quarter or fifty cents **can** make a difference. Maybe not a difference if that were the **only** quarter they got all day, but another quarter on top of it and then another quarter and another quarter and ... Like they say, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Alexis Gilliland: I've heard before that religion is needed for ethics, but to that I have to say bullshit! There is something called empathy and empathy is not reliant on believing religion's cosmology. Some of the kindest, most generous people I've known are self-professed atheists, while some of the reverse are self-professed religionists. The latter especially applies to “The Christian Right.”

While I agree with **Alexander Slate** on the “pie” issue and on most of what he's said in the former “Ethics of Money” series, I must maintain that biology and, to a larger extent, certain environmental factors strongly influence or even control one's thought process or unfortunately, future thought process. Free will is capable of overcoming past training quite well, but I think a person's past can shape one's tendency to resort to free will so the issue winds back around itself.

Dave

☐**CKK:** *I can think of few reasons to verbally abuse a panhandler. Not only is it not a very smart move, some panhandlers I've met are clearly deranged, but it shows little class. Simply ignore the panhandler and do something more productive with your day.*☐

Lloyd Penney
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Canada
pennys@allstream.net
August 23, 2009

Dear Henry:

I really have let things pile up, so I will blame the Montréal Worldcon, and carry on regardless. Here's some comments on *The Knarley Knews* 134.

Again, hope life in California has been good for all the Welches so far. A shame about Cheetah, but furry folks like Cheetah provide valuable life lessons to children, and adults, too, about love, responsibility and grief.

I just lost my first aunt on my father's side, and I am finding out just how much I care, which is, unfortunately, not much. I have not seen any of my aunts and uncles in more than 20 years, and they have been largely incommunicado, but thanks to FaceBook, I am in touch with lots of cousins, and this allows me to bypass my father's generation and concentrate on my own.

The local...I will announce that **Jeff Boman** won this year's Aurora Award in the category of Fan Achievement (Fanzine)

for his fine fanzine *The Original Universe!* Well deserved, and to win it in Montréal is especially sweet.

I have no idea what the US domestic postage rate is these days...44 cents? It's 52 cents here. The various post offices are still competing with the internet, and the infrastructure still has to be repaired and maintained.

The Peace Bridge is indeed maintained by both the governments of New York and Ontario, and tolls are regularly paid to cross there. I can purchase toll tokens only on the US side duty free shop, and must throw the token in a large basket as I re-enter Canada. It used to be that tokens were used on both sides, but now only in going to Canada. Makes me wonder if most of the toll revenues stay in New York.

I would find it difficult to say that the fanwriting of today was superior or inferior to that of a different era. The eras are indeed different, and to be honest, not much fanwriting of those previous eras are readily available to read. Collections are fine, but so much fanwriting that's been collected never see the light of day again. I am talking about content, not repro methods.

Short, but sweet, I suppose. Many thanks, and we'll see you next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

☐**CKK:** *All of the major bridges in the San Francisco Bay Area have tolls going in only one direction. As a result of our typical travel patterns, we have only had to pay toll once since we moved here. We typically cross west to east (free) and then return home around the southern end of the bay, thus avoiding any bridges on the return trip.*☐

Editorial continued from page 5

the nature trails in the SRNRA follows the water ditch used to supply water to the placers (the big water canons used to wash material into the processing sluices) and has interpretative posts that explain about the serpentine, the mining, and the interesting plants.

We spent one of the days taking the scenic route along the back country forestry roads that included a stop at the manned fire tour. The forestry employee there was glad to have the company and provided water for the dogs while he explained his job, discussed forest fires, and showed us how to use his spotting equipment. Connor, my mother, and I spent another day taking the canoe down the river. This was quite the task as the water was a bit low and we had alternate intervals of calm river and small rapids. Most of the rapids required me to get out of the canoe and drag it over the gravel bottom. It was a lot of work, but provided a different perspective on the area. The kids also spent a lot of time wading and swimming in the river near the campground, but the water was a bit too cold for me.

We also took one day and drove up into Oregon to the Oregon Caves National Monument and Grants Pass. To get there you have to drive through a tunnel just south of the Oregon border. It has been quite a while since we'd been in a cave and it was a pleasant diversion for the day. The 90-minute tour goes by some wonderful formations in this, somewhat rare, marble cave. There are a number of places where scientific experiments are set-up and the guide explained a lot about how the conversion of the cave to a tour cave has had quite an impact on the cave – a large portion of which has since been greatly reduced. There is also an interesting lodge near the cave that may make for an interesting overnight some time in the future.

Other than the extremely hard ground in the campground, we had a great relaxing vacation. Even though I had to keep up with my e-mail, I spent little to no time thinking about the office or many of the other swirling concerns of our day to day lives. This is what a vacation should be.

Until next issue...



“The usual” generally refers to either a letter of comment (LOC), a contribution, or trading with your fanzine or generally any friendly means of communication.

Alexiad Vol. 8 No. 4 by Lisa and Joseph T. Major; 1409 Christy Ave.; Louisville, KY 40204-2040; bi-monthly; \$2 or the usual. A nice fanzine with lots of book reviews and a solid letter column. Joe and Lisa visit one of my favorite museums as a child, The Henry Ford Museum.

Call and Response 2, by Gianni Simone; 4-4-23 Nagatsuta, Midori-ku; Yokohama-shi; 226-0027 Kanagawa-ken, Japan; jb64jp@yahoo.co.jp; irregular; \$4 or trade. A collection of essays from various authors with a theme of home.

Challenger 30 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. This issue has a belief/religion theme. Every bit worthy of its Hugo nomination.

Ethel the Aardvark #143 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.

Feline Mewsings #37; [COA] 2081 W. Overlook St.; PO Box 5323; Oracle, AZ 85263; <http://homepage.mac.com/laurraine/Felinemewsings/>; Laurraine@mac.com; irregular; \$3 or the usual. A nice personalzine normally distributed as part of *FAPA*.

We also heard from:

Megan Bouchard, Jeffery Allan Boman (reporting his Aurora win at Anticipation), Warren Buff, Patti Hetherington, Rodney Leighton, Juan Maldonado, Jose Sanchez, Marc Schirmeister, Alexander Slate (COA: 4308 Ridgpath Dr.; Dayton, OH 45424; alxs18@yahoo.com), Joy V. Smith, Keith Walker, Julie Wall, Sue Welch

Fanzines Received in Trade

File 770:156 by Mike Glycer; 705 Valley View Ave.; Monrovia, CA 91016; MikeGlycer@cs.com; irregular; \$8/5 or the usual. This is a fine news zine with plenty of con reports and, unfortunately, too many obituaries.

Lofgeornost 96 by Fred Lerner; 81 Worcester Ave; White River Junction, VT 05001; fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu; irregular; the usual. This is Fred’s *FAPA* zine.

MarkTime 93 by Mark Strickert; PO Box 1051; Orange, CA 92856; busnrail@yahoo.com; irregular; \$2 or the usual. This issue announces the birth of Andrew Deonicio Strickert.

MaryMark Press by Mark Sonnenfeld; 45-08 Old Millstone Dr.; East Windsor, NJ 08520; irregular; the usual. Various strange publications with experimental writing styles.

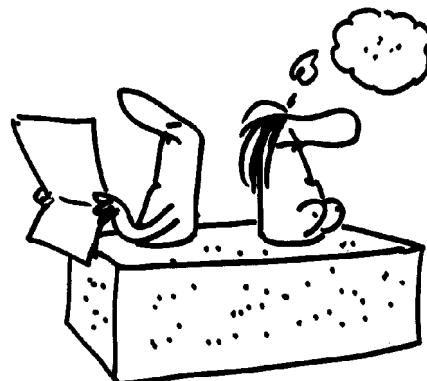
Nice Distinctions 8 by Arthur Hlavaty; 206 Valentine St; Yonkers, NY 10704-1814; <http://www.maroney.org/hlavaty/>; hlvaty@panix.com; annual; \$1 or the usual. A small perzine compiled primarily from livejournal entries.

Opuntia 67.3, 67.5 and 68 by Dale Speirs; Box 6830; Calgary, Alberta; Canada T2P 2E7; irregular; \$3 or the usual. Discussion of "random" death and near death events. Includes great pictures of the Rocky Mountains and a feature on simulated postage stamps that include bananas.

The Reluctant Famulus Summer 70 by Tom Sadler; 305 Gill Branch Road; Owenton, KY 40359; tomfamulus@hughes.net; irregular; the usual. This is a great genzine. Lots of SF and other interesting things along with a good letter column. Also an unfortunate account of Tom breaking his leg and needing surgical repair.

Sic Boi #3 by Randy Johnson F22545; PO Box 2500; Susanville, CA 96127; irregular; the usual. Production values have improved somewhat from earlier issues as has the content. Still a work in progress.

Vanamonde No. 788-92 by John Hertz; 236 S Coronado St No 409; Los Angeles, CA 90057; This is John’s *APA-L* zine with interesting tidbits.



MOST MARRIAGES

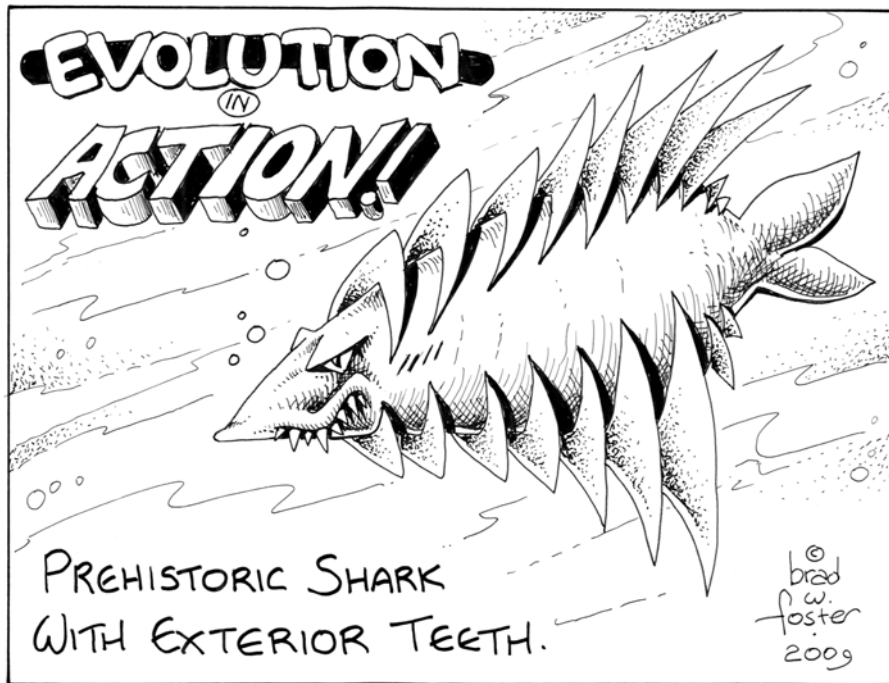
Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

World Fantasy San Jose, CA

Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 2009

Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) Marsport, Mars

Labor Day, 2095



You Got this Issue Because ...

_____ The sad-eyed dog on the dog bed looked even sadder when I threatened to delete your address book entry.

_____ The children went back to school very early this year (two weeks before Labor Day), which really puts a dent in summer vacation.

_____ 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.