

# THE KNARLEY KNEWS # 137

Hey! I think I'll publish a fanzine!...  
...Win a Hugo!

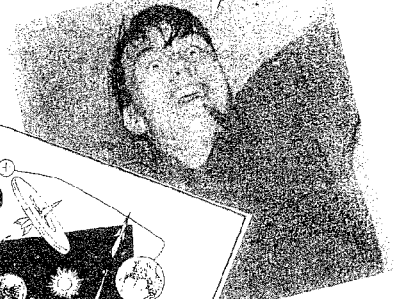


JK

HE'LL DO IT, MAN!  
HE'S CRAZY!



MY FONDEST DREAM COME TRUE!



JK

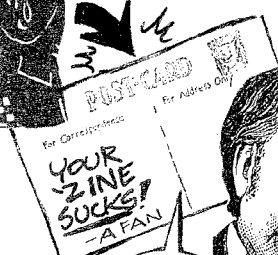


I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...



OX!!ZAX!  
WHY YOU ADDLE-PATED, FEEBLE-BRAINED--

SOS  
SOS



YEAH, YOU SUCK!



JK  
40

Why so many neofans used to gaffiate early.

*The Knarley Knews* -- Issue 137  
Published in December, 2010

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Editorial insertions are denoted: TKK:...

**Editorial and Subscription Policy**

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

1. All contributions may include a pseudonym (e.g. Knarley, Sydrous, Shit-for-Brains) at the contributor's whim.
2. To get this fanzine you are required semi-yearly to initiate contact with the editors (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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**Next Issue Deadline:** February 10, 2011

# Editorial

(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

It has been about two months since the last issue of *TKK*, and I'm being more proactive about getting at least the current issue together. I now try to process the LOCs and articles as they come in so that they do not pile up at the end. This makes for only a very long evening to put the final issue together as that involves a lot of copy and paste with tweaks to format before identifying and scanning the art work.

I am even leveraging the technology that is available to me to improve the process. My least favorite activity has always been transcribing LOCs that arrive via something other than e-mail. (The e-mail ones are simply pasted in using no formatting. I then use my editorial comments as a basis for a reply to the e-mail.) For years I've experimented with optical character recognition (OCR) technology that has varied from the atrocious to the mostly painless. And now that the version of Acrobat at work has built-in OCR, I can now take the type-written LOCs, scan them, and get the text almost error free in minutes. I still have to format it, but what a small price to pay. The final ready availability of OCR is one of those technical oddities. When I was a senior in college (early 1980s) I received a scholarship from the OCR Society and work was already very much underway in this field, yet it has taken 25 years for this technology to mature. Compare this to digital music which started around 1990 and was readily available within 15 years, and in many ways is much more complex. Digital photography happened even faster. I guess OCR just isn't as sexy as these other fields, nor does it have quite the same built-in market base.

This leaves as my final penance the handwritten LOC. Considering that I get only one, maybe two, of these each issue, it isn't much of a chore. It is probably more work deciphering the handwriting than the actual "touch-typing" which is what I really don't care for. (Isn't it funny how I am not bothered by composing at the keyboard, but find transcribing frustrating.) This is not to say that I am complaining about the deciphering (my handwriting is horrible and is probably harder for others to decipher) or the transcribing, but rather just some commentary on the zine editor's process. This should **not** be taken as to discourage non e-mail or non type-written LOCs. I'd rather receive the LOC than to receive the silence of a black hole.

The publishing of articles is usually quite straight forward. Most of the articles sent my way are in Microsoft Word files. I start by opening them in Word and make minor formatting changes as needed. This includes only using one space after a period, tweaking bold/italics/quotation marks for consistency. There are also some very infrequent editorial changes to correct for misspellings, etc. I then convert the text to single-spaced, Times Roman, with 6 point inter-paragraph spacing. The result is then simply copied and pasted into Adobe InDe-

sign, which I use to layout each issue. (The process is similar for LOCs.)

The editorial is typed in Word with the regular formatting. I hopefully remember to proofread it later so it isn't so dreadful.

The fanzine listing page is accomplished using a lot of copy and paste. I maintain a separate InDesign document that contains the entries for every fanzine I've ever listed. New ones get added and ones with changes get updated. I then either start with the previous issue's entry (for regularly received fanzines) or copy the entry from the listing file. I then update the issue numbers and the one line or so description to fit what I've received.

The next to last step is the artwork. Before I start work on the art, I adjust the blank space for each fillo based on my pagination and the location of LOC addresses. I then make a list of the existing blanks that include their approximate size and the textual content around them. I then use a large table to layout my fillos, by artist, and then try to mix and match based on size, content, and an interest in balancing the number of pieces between artists. As Alexis Gilliland points out in his LOC later, much of my art is still being taken from deceased or retired artists. This means that quantities are limited. I also like to spread the wealth.

The hardest piece of art is typically the cover. When I was publishing more actively I tried to solicit two or three cover pieces ahead of time from the very generous active artists on my mailing list. Sometimes I realize that I haven't managed to do that and have to select something out of my archive. This isn't always very successful as most of the archive contains fillo pieces. What this really underscores is that I need to recruit more artists; something I'm certain that would be easier if 1) I wasn't so damn timid about it, and 2) I was more convinced that I would be continuing to publish regularly. I haven't yet looked over the art available for this issue, but this may prove challenging once again.

□*TKK: Two days after I wrote this, the current cover appears in my mailbox. Thanks Marc.*□

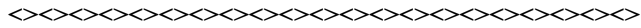
Finally, once everything has been placed and edited, this leaves the table of contents. This is only a challenge when the number of entries expands or contracts to the point where I have to tweak the formatting to fill the available space.

Thus, fanzine editing 101.

There is also the mailing list and address label steps. I have been spending years trying to tweak the placement on the labels and simply cannot get this to ever quite work out.

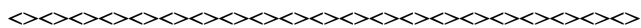
(Something some of you may have noticed if your address appears on “two” labels.) The database program I use is supposed to have templates based on the Avery label system and I’ll have to see if resetting the layout to match the Avery number will clear up this problem.

Oh, then there is the most distasteful task; licking all those envelopes. You’d think they could improve the flavor of the glue.



Moving to the Bay Area includes its interesting foibles. One that I find particularly striking is dealing with weather. About two weeks ago, I was driving Kira to school and noticed a family walking their two daughters to school. Both children were in their winter parkas with the “fur” lined hoods up and the mother had on gloves. There was a bit of drizzle, but the thermometer in the car said the temperature was above 50 F. I wonder what this family does to stay warm when they go skiing. Last week the temperature was forecast to be just below freezing. The news programs lead their teaser segments with how cold it would be and that everyone should be extra careful and make certain their pets were inside. They showed a picture of what were probably ducks or geese. I guess the local news editor had never seen ducks and geese walk around in snow or swim in a pond that was partially frozen over. Get a grip. Maybe you need to take some precautions to keep your citrus trees healthy, but wait you should already have cold hardy varieties in the Bay Area. I put some sheets over our smaller trees and added a strand of old Christmas lights to the two avocados, although they should easily be good down to about 25 F. I didn’t do much for the chickens as they have a Little Tykes house they roost in. It was all wasted effort as they frost did not get down to the ground level.

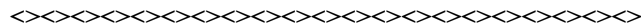
I always hear a small amount of complaining when it rains, but not as much as I always heard farther south in Los Angeles area. I just shake my head and point out that on the west side of the mountains (where we live) it will often rain for days on end with heavy winds. It is surprising how many people don’t know how much the weather differs just a few miles from where they live. Perhaps having grown up around the Great Lakes I know there can be a 20 degree or more swing in temperature on any given day depending on your proximity to the lake. As you might expect, the Pacific Ocean and some 2000 foot mountains can have their effect as well. This doesn’t even account for the 30 degree swing between San Francisco and San Jose that is common in the summer.



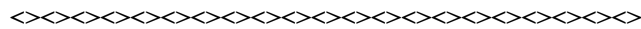
November is the season for politics. California has this crazy ballot proposition process. (E.g., many of you have probably heard of Proposition 13 that reformed California property taxes so that you and your neighbor can pay property taxes, on similar properties, which can vary by a factor of two or more depending upon who has owned their property the longest.) Each election includes one or more propositions that

are often even barely understandable by experts. (E.g. the recent Proposition 8, which defined marriage, was so poorly written it wasn’t clear to many whether a yes vote was to limit the definition to a heterosexual couple or took the opposite stance.) This time around there was two propositions that were incompatible and required the additional statement that if both passed then the one with the most yes votes would prevail. The topics often deal with taxation, but we see things on marijuana, energy initiatives and redistricting. About six weeks before the election, each voter gets a multi-page brochure with a supposed neutral analysis from the state and pro and con statements for each proposition. The booklet also includes candidate statements for those who agree to certain spending limits and other restrictions. It took me about three hours to get through the brochure so that I might be reasonably informed as a voter. I think this system is completely insane as many voters aren’t spending even this amount of effort to truly understand what each proposition will change.

The swing in Congress toward the Republican camp was no surprise. I am troubled, however, by the sudden dominance of the Tea Party. Not so much because they have a smaller government/libertarian agenda, but because of their very conservative social agenda. This country has a long history of protecting rights and attempts to reduce rights via legislation and government is terrible (and mean-spirited) policy. (Can you say Prohibition? This is the only constitutional amendment that ever restricted rights, and also the only one to ever get repealed.) This is no more prevalent than on the issue of same sex marriage. Passing laws and amendments to embrace an outdated view of marriage, in the legal sense, is simply not the way to address this. (Can you say laws that prohibit inter-racial marriages? These were once generally held to be immoral and illegal. Grow up, join the 21st century.) Some of the most egregious elections were those where long standing judges were removed based on a single ruling that found restrictive marriage laws were unconstitutional. The judiciary is supposed to be the least political branch of government – in part because it is the least understood – but I wonder if this will continue to be the case. There are still strong policy reasons why federal judges are appointed for life. Good, bad, or otherwise, you don’t want the Supreme Court swinging with the political wind.



I’m currently on the worst team in our four-team league. Yet, we all manage to have fun every Tuesday night. Rec leagues should not always be about winning and I’m glad to know that I’m not on a team with a bunch of people who think otherwise. Now if we could just do something about the more annoying players on the other teams that turn into jerks when things are not going their way. Serve your penalty with dignity, don’t retaliate because you got beat on a play, and lose with dignity. Simple rules, yet so hard to master.



Until next issue...

# It Wasn't Mars We Colonized

by Gene Stewart

SF used to be small enough to be one thing. No longer. SF has spread so wide and has diversified so much it is now a set of smaller sub-genres, each bigger than the original Scientific Fiction of Hugo Gernsback.

Many lament this explosion. Keeping control of what is meant by the term "SF" is a goal for some. The late Charles Brown and his zine-made-good, *Locus*, offer prime examples of this autocratic approach. For years, positive mention in *Locus* was key to a career in SF. Being featured on the cover and interviewed inside was how one became a new star in SF.

Damon Knight's definition of SF as, "What I point at when I say SF," remains contentious to this day. The August-September 2009 issue of the *SFWA Bulletin* poses Knight's *Orbit* anthologies opposite Harry Harrison's *Nova* anthologies to contrast Knight's New Wave literary tastes against Harrison's pulpier traditional choices.

Harlan Ellison and others, balking even then at the clunky baggage brought with the old term Science Fiction, sought to revamp things by shortening it to SF, then claiming it meant Speculative Fiction.

If the 1970s New Wave SF still grinds the cranks of old guard pulp curmudgeons like Marty Cantor, imagine what today's influx of romance, erotica, and other topos and trope must do to them.

A Girl Cooties Theory of SF has even developed to pit grim-faced hard SF defenders, emotionless and boldly male, against the emo-laden touchy-feely SF written by many, but not all, women SF writers. Ursula K. Le Guin and James Tiptree, Jr. carry no cooties, it seems, despite Love being the Plan, the Plan being Death when one gets anywhere near Earthsea. See: (<http://www.sff.net/Paradise/girlcooties.htm>)

We've witnessed the idiocy of the Sci-Fi Channel, its original name already calculated to piss off SF purists, rechristen itself SYFY, thinking to enhance its trademark branding. Idiocy because it turns out to be a slang term in Poland or Czechoslovakia for syphilis. Of course, this may work out fine if the goal is to go viral.

Why did they spend millions for this bad advice, then go ahead and make the change anyway? To acknowledge the wide array of types, styles, and references today's SF embraces.

Far from being ghettoized, as many still insist, in their eagerness to maintain the chip on the shoulder that makes them feel great, SF is global and viral already. Having slipped its pulp collar, SF now roams everywhere in the literary and

entertainment landscapes. The most lucrative movies are SF-based, many SF writers are following PKD into academic respectability, and the prejudice against SF is melting away from award committees, even the ones whose trophies do not resemble phallic rockets.

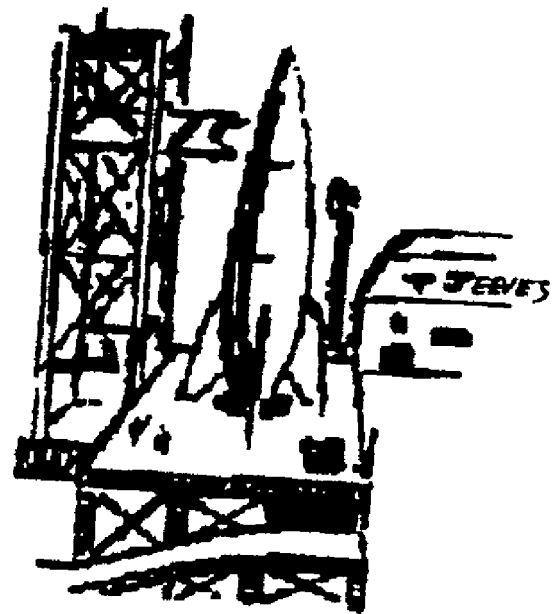
In the early days of the Hugo awards, it was possible to have read all the SF published in a year in order to decide the best. These days one cannot even read all the SF published in one small subcategory.

Grousing about whether this or that new mix is "real" SF shows only a refusal to acknowledge the reality of change, not to mention a stubborn attempt to deny SF's success. Gone are the days when most offspring work in their father's trade; SF has grown up and has moved on to conquer many new fields of storytelling.

We should be proud, not threatened, by SF's wide-ranging success. Adapt or die is evolution's motto. Creatures limited to niche ecologies go extinct very easily, while those that thrive across a wide array of climates, environments, and ecologies can last for millions of years.

SF thrives as it spreads ever further beyond its original confines. If we can no longer mean one thing when we say SF, we can as compensation stake an SF claim for validity beyond a single list of genre attributes.

What we lose in clubbishness we gain in the maintenance of relevance. SF is now too big to be contained by a single definition. Rejoice: We have colonized the world outside Gernsback's grasp at last.



# Sue's Sites: New Zealand or Aotearoa

## The Land of the Long White Cloud

By Sue Welch

New Zealand, two small islands (referred to as The North Island and The South Island), between the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The last major land area to be discovered by our species. Obviously these first immigrants knew big secrets about ocean survival in small canoes. Pushing eastward from the Samoa-Fiji-Tonga area they are thought to have arrived in Easter Island by AD 500, Hawaii by AD 600, and the Cook Islands and New Zealand by AD 900 – the area today known as Polynesia. This was the final leg of an eastward migration, originating in Southeast Asia.

Because of its long isolation and its island geography, New Zealand had its own unique environment when the first settlers arrived. The place was overrun with birds, many of them flightless; who needs to be in a hurry when there were no land mammals. The birds were immediately in big trouble from humans and the hitchhikers arriving with them. High extinction rates quickly occurred. Today various programs are in place to rid the country of the worst of the lot: possums and rodents. There has been great success with the reintroduction of many endangered species.

New Zealand was found again by the Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman, in 1642 and yet again in 1768 by James Cook who mapped the entire coastline. And thus began the numerous visits of European and North American whaling, sealing and trading ships. Muskets, potatoes and Christian missionaries transformed the indigenous Maori culture. The British rushed to claim sovereignty. The famous Treaty of Waitangi, making the Maori British subjects and guaranteeing them the rights to their land which could now, in turn, be sold to the British, was signed in 1840. New Zealand then became a British colony with its capital at Auckland, New Zealand's largest city then and today.

New Zealand is isolated; it sits half way between the equator and the South Pole (34 to 47° S). Its nearest neighbor, Australia, is a five-hour plane ride from Auckland to Sydney. The length of the two islands is 1,000 miles; no land is ever more than 75 miles from the ocean. The total land area is similar to that of Colorado or Italy. It has a temperate maritime climate which ranges from subtropical to cold, the general rule being travel south and put on another jacket. The Southern Alps of the South Island have permanent snowfields and 18 peaks over 9,843 feet, the highest being Mt. Cook at 12,320 feet. The North Island has volcanoes, the largest being Mt. Ruapehu (9176 feet). Many tectonic plates crisscross the country. Earthquakes are common. The dynamic and varied landscapes offer the perfect settings for movies. The well-known *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy was filmed here. The movie's famous ring prototype was crafted by New Zealander Jens Jansen and can be seen in the town of Nelson's Wearable Art



Image courtesy of World Atlas

Museum. To fit everyone who wore it in the film, forty rings had to be made.

Population is approximately 4,315,000: today 78% of European descent and 15% of Maori descent. Average life expectancy is 80; birth rate is 2.02. English and Maori are both official languages. Adult literacy rate is 99% and 14% have a college degree or higher. 55% claim the Christian religion. To immigrate to New Zealand requires either lots of money to invest into the economy or a special skill. The country seems so very British. The accent is, however, unique. The e in yes and other similar words is a long e, not the short e of the US. Pay close attention if you want to know what is being said.

Hear the word Kiwi and your nickname for your New Zealand friend may come to mind or you may picture the delicious green fruit from Trader Joe's. Both true enough but the Kiwi Bird is New Zealand's indigenous flightless national bird. It is a semi-nocturnal, secretive bird and few have ever seen one in the wild. It is about the size of a chicken: 3-9 pounds. It looks awkward but can out run a human and in case that doesn't work it has sharp, three-toed feet which kick and slash. Kiwi Shoe Polish introduced internationally in 1906 gave birth to the bird's worldwide fame.

Continued on page 16

# INTERLOCUTIONS

Joseph T. Major  
1409 Christy Avenue  
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October 22, 2010

Alexis Gilliland  
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October 22, 2010

Dear Knarley & Letha:

And now the knews ... I've driven a Prius. It was handy enough, and had some nice techno bits (the outside temperature reading was nice) but it was just a bit cramped for me. This was why I bought a Ford Taurus, which had a more commodious front seat. We do a fair number of long drives and I would like the extra leg room.

InterLOCutions: **Alexis Gilliland:** It wasn't so much Clement VII as it was his underling in Germany who aggravated Fr. Martin. Since Clement's parents were betrothed when his father Giuliano de' Medici was killed, he was legitimated. Also, Clement had to survive the Sack of Rome. So he had an excuse for wanting money. He also seems to have been favorable to the Copernican explanation of the solar system.

**Lloyd Penney:** It's not so much the rise and fall of various forms of social media, but it's that you can't go back. Thanks to Facebook, you know people around the world, but the people living next door are total strangers. And once the social-networking site becomes passé, the face-to-face (or as they derisively call it, "meatspace") ways of connecting no longer have any places in which to work.

**R-Laurraine Tutihasi:** I've been told I should get the flu shot, so have been doing so for the past few years. I haven't got the flu, although I got the shot one Saturday and spent Sunday afternoon napping rather heavily. I don't know if they were connected.

Work goes in fits and starts. I've spent several weeks doing massive inputs of information and writing reports based on this. We have a new system for managing the sites we regulate and the permits we write for their owners. Actually it's an old system, written for the sewer district. I imagined it as an elaborate network of piping and control devices, well buried (that's them) over which an improvised contrivance of boards are flimsily nailed together leaving vast gaps and no particular coverage (that's us). Now I'm waiting for the word from Higher Sources.

Namarie,  
Joseph T Major

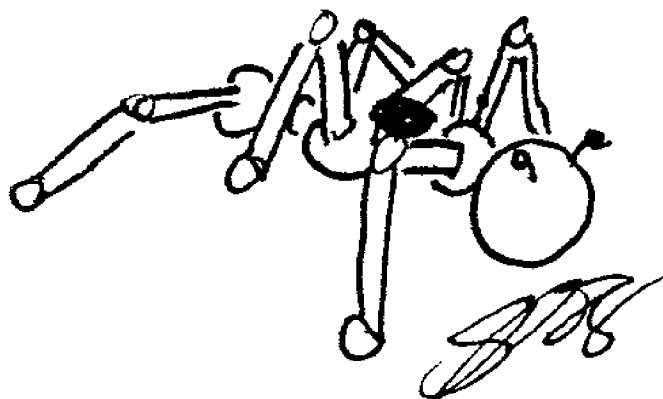
☐CKK: *I've seen students occupying the same cubicle in the lab send each other instant messages rather than spin around on their chair and have an audible conversation.*☐

Dear Henry and Letha,

Thank you for *Knarley Knews* #136 a late if not exactly re-entrant fanzine. Your editorial reminds us that even the best faneds are mortal, and buying a new house, a new care, and coping with computer problems should individually be sufficient excuses for not pubbing yer ish on schedule, while making an overwhelming case when taken together. Perhaps you should seek out some new artists, however, since **Sheryl Birkhead**, **Brad Foster**, and I are old hands, Terry Jeeves is retired, while Mayhew and Rotsler are dead, and only **Jose Sanchez** is new to me. The latter's cover looked like it might have been illustrating something, but seems a little busy, a little cluttered.

**Alexander Slate's** essay on economics is mostly a tip of the hat to Adam Smith. Historically, markets have always tended to seek monopolistic advantage, usually working hand in glove with the state to get such an advantage enforce, while in return given the state a share of the profits. The medieval guilds were a variation on the theme, restricting the entry of competition into each given field within their geographical area. It may be that the escaping tendency of money is such that the formation of monopolies or oligopolies is inevitable, so that Adam Smith's free market, which maximizes the benefit to the consumer, is only a transient phase en route to the climax market in which the producer's profits are maximized. The "greed, for want of a better word" of the capitalist is a powerful force, like fire, and like fire is dangerous if uncontrolled.

The American experience suggests that in the long run the animal spirits of capitalism can't be controlled. It is neces-



sary for greed to be tempered with fear, but when government regulations make the market place safer, an outcome devoutly desired by every capitalist, fear goes away and greed comes to rule with the expectation that the government will kiss any boo-boo and make it well. An example is the housing market in which you have just recently participated. Historically houses had always appreciated, and so our financial entrepreneurs went and turned mortgages, that had traditionally been held by banks, into commodities-asset backed bonds, which could be sold to anyone seeking a high return on a piece of paper rated AAA. The demand for high yields was such that due diligence went by the board across the board, including the due diligence of the institutions issuing the mortgages, the due diligence of their accountants, the due diligence of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac which bought tons of the stuff, and the due diligence of the rating agencies that stamped all those pieces of paper AAA. In 2008 the housing bubble burst, and several trillions of dollars vanished into thin air. Historically, such a fiscal fiasco takes about seven years to recover to normal, and while we are currently in year two, there remains a long, hard slog ahead. Do the American people want to hear anything of the sort? No, no, no, they want the government to kiss the boo-boo and make it well. Alas, that such a solution is not available. The mid-term elections will give them a change of politicians (not necessarily a bad thing) but the situation will remain unchanged. Eventually taxes will be raised, debts will be paid down (credit card debt is already shrinking,) and the American people will get used to the pain of less expansive living.

What else? California is voting on the legalization of marijuana. A foreign policy case could be made for legalization in that our drug laws are subsidizing the criminal element in Mexico, Columbia and elsewhere. Adam Smith's invisible hand is at work supplying US domestic demand, and the efforts of the DEA serve mainly to support prices for the drug dealers. A domestic case exists as well, since legal guns and illegal drugs are clearly a troublesome combination.

Best wishes,  
Alexis

□**CKK:** *Your litany against the mortgage industry left out the just plain criminal element. It was not an common practice for the developers and the mortgage brokers to essentially bribe the appraiser, the original gate-keeper in the mortgage pyramid. Once a sufficient number of houses were being bought, with approved mortgages, even if the prices were inflated, this led to a domino effect where others felt the prices were the right prices. As soon as your adjustable-rate mortgage ratcheted up its rates and you found out your house was not worth less than what you currently owed, many found it easier to walk away than to continue. If you can't refinance to make your balloon payment nor can you afford the increased interest rate, what are your reasonable options? The mid-term elections are now history and the most disappointing aspects are the incumbent judges voted out simply because they found marriage laws un-*

*constitutional. We won't even get into the silliness of the whole California ballot proposition mechanism. And no, the populace did not legalize marijuana under state law.*□

Brad W Foster  
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25 Oct 2010

Greetings Henry ~

He's Back!

Sure, it's been a day or three between recent issues, but "m going to think of it as you taking a well-earned sabbatical break after producing so much material so regularly for so long. A moment to refresh and re... well, all those positive "re" things that people say they feel when they take a break from something and then returned to work.

Your list of activities and problems that filled in the time between issues was getting me worn out just from only reading it, and you had to actually deal with it! Have had our own computer problems off and on for last few years. Have my "computer friend" help out quite a bit to get things in better shape. Came up with a CD I can insert whenever the whole system just shuts down, and it allows me to reboot using the settings from a day or two previous, which usually brings it all back okay. Said early on this was a feature that was built into the computers, but now it's not, so you either have to know someone who can help, or pay a tech every time. Can you say job security?

Also feel for you on being unable to access files when there are problems. Kind of makes me feel better about the fact that I still print out and file hard copies of much of my emails and other computer work every week or so. If I can't get a program to open, or the entire computer, it's a good chance all the material contained there in might be lost forever. If a drawer on the filing cabinet should not open, I still know the material it contains is safe within, and I can still, as a last resort, rip it open to get to it. Give me print anytime as the safest computer backup around. (Had a friend who had all sorts of notes on how to fix problems on his computer, but he kept all that info in a file on the computer. When he couldn't get it to open, he had no print version to tell him what to do.)

In LOCs, **Lloyd Penney** mentions that the jury system he is in has the prospective jurors having to hang around for a full week when called. We got lucky in Dallas a number of years ago when they switched from that system to one where you are called in for one day, and if you are not actually selected to serve on a jury, that is the end of it. They have to rotate more people through the system that way, but it takes that pressure of a huge time-grab away, and easier for many people to get a one-day off pass from work and such. Like **Lloyd**, I usually take something with me to help pass the time, usually a sketch pad and a book. One time I was sitting in the



hall outside of a jury room as we were waiting to be called in for interviews, and a court bailiff was just walking by, when he reached over and with a grin, tapped my book and said “You know, if they see you reading they’ll never pick you.” We all laughed at that, but I am hoping the old joke about if you show any intelligence at all you’ll be struck immediately doesn’t hold true. I **have** noticed, though, that anytime I have asked questions during the jury selection process, I’ve never been selected. Guess I show my trouble-making skills early.

stay happy~  
Brad

□**TKK**: *It is rather annoying that a rebuild CD is no longer standard with a computer. I rely a lot on google to find fixes to computer problems. No amount of pre-kept notes has ever been very effective except when I was doing software development and used my log book so I didn't have to reinvent fixes. This worked better, though, because the software was typically for another system so that failure of the target system was separate from failure of the system used to do the development.*□

Milt Stevens  
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October 31, 2010

Dear Henry and Letha,

In *Knarley Knews* #136, Henry expresses surprise that there was a lapse in his publishing schedule. I suspect he is the only one who feels that way. The rest of us get tired thinking about all the things Henry does. He is a veritable whirling dervish of activity. It seems like he almost has to run down every now and then. He just has far too many vitamins and minerals.

Towards a New Theory of Capitalism is certainly an ambitious topic. **Alexander Slate** should be able to fill quite a few pages with that topic. I’d like to be in favor of capitalism. Or at least, I think I’d like to be in favor of capitalism. Thinking back to my public school education, I remember there was a lot of what might be considered brain washing in favor of capitalism. It’s not that capitalism is all that good. It was just that all other alternatives were the work of Satan and totally evil.

For the moment, let’s accept that I really would like to be in favor of capitalism. It would certainly be nice if the capitalists helped occasionally. The history of recent American capitalism seems like a fuck-up following a screw-up following a disaster. The guys in charge of the economy seem to have nothing going for them except good hair. OK, maybe they also have good tailors. They do seem to make money for themselves, so you can’t exactly say they are stupid. However, they seem to be short sighted, and they are not terribly nice guys.

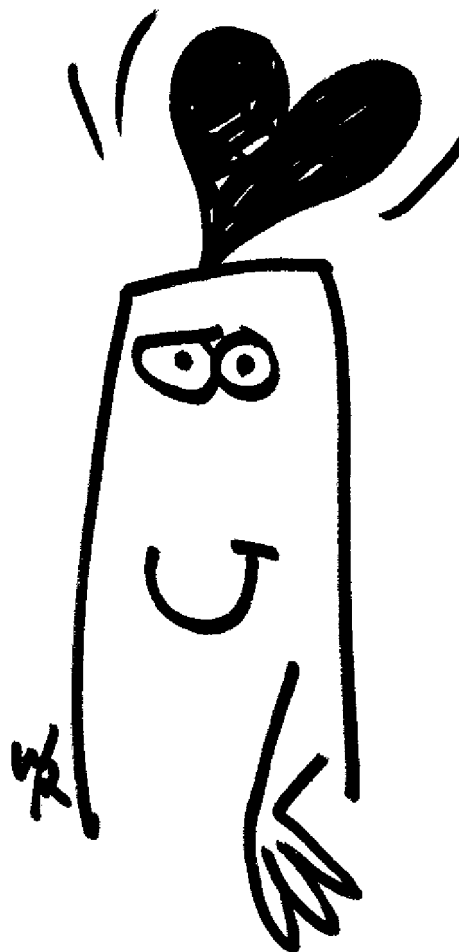
**Alexander** mentions the topic of “natural” price. When you talk about a natural environment you usually mean an environment without people. You can’t have an economy without people, and people will screw up any economic theory. They can be counted upon to cheat. There will be crime. There will be price fixing.

In the ultra disgustingly pure capitalist theory, all economic problems are caused by government interference. If you get rid of the government, you probably will get something worse. War lords aren’t notably nice guys. Neither are drug lords or other crime bosses. Theory never does well in an argument with a loaded gun.

It will be interesting to see where **Alexander** goes with this topic.

Yours truly,  
Milt Stevens

□**TKK**: *I've always been accused of having a higher than normal capacity. But I feel like I had the time to do some issues and just never got around to doing it. I don't think that there is a completely free market, which I suppose is the ultimate embodiment of capitalism. If the government doesn't exercise sufficient oversight then things will eventually break down. Left alone they will eventually recover, but the length of time*



*before recovery is probably the greater evil in comparison to bailouts. If there was only some way to make the really greedy bastards who caused all the problems pay in proportion to the pain they've caused everyone else.*□

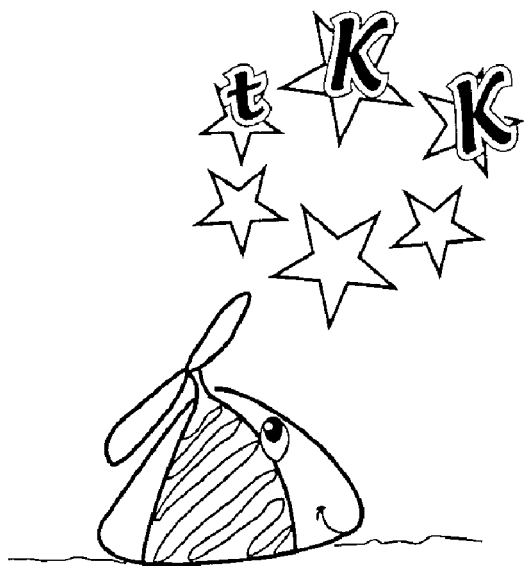
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November 3, 2010

Dear Knarley:

Hello! It's great to see *The Knarley Knews* return to print, even if it is a .pdf. A year or more? Better late than never published again. Here come some comments on issue 136.

New house, and the final stages of settling into the new life in California...that's the cause for delay for other projects. Computer problems do it, too. We need to buy a new computer, because the one we have now has three drives in it, an external back-up drive, and as much memory as it can take. Yvonne had to buy a new laptop for her law studies, so I am left with her old Compaq Armada, a big, clunky laptop that allowed me to keep writing while the desktop computer was in the shop getting all the afore-mentioned bells and whistles. We need a new desktop, and while we are saving for various projects, we will have to add that to the list.

(Yes, Yvonne's taking law studies. She is a part-time student, one class a week, at Humber College, just north of us, where she is going for her law clerk certificate. From November 2009 to April 2010, I worked at the Law Society of Upper Canada, working as an editorial assistant in the Professional Development & Competency Department, and if things work out, I may be returning to that position in a couple of weeks, fingers crossed. Also, we had to buy a new car, too. Better transportation, but no money to go anywhere.)



I get **Mark Strickert's** fanzine, so he's gone from bachelor to happy husband and dad very quickly. Also, *World Fantasy* just took place in Columbus, Ohio, and it will be taking place in the Toronto area in 2012.

**Eric Lindsay** says that electronic zine LOCs got popular? For the longest time, faneds have complained that e-zines got next to no response, which paper zines got plenty of response. Zines that are available in both formats...I wonder which format gets the better response?

I see you don't like Wal-Mart, and while there are plenty of them in the Toronto area, they employ predatory pricing in their department store merchandise, and also in their super-market department. I've read too much about their practices to want to shop there, and I can't tell you when I last went in there. I will not participate in their practices, and there are many other stores I can shop in.

My loc...we've had Thanksgiving and Hallowe'en, so now preps are ongoing for the fall conventions, plus Christmas shopping will start soon. And I am job hunting...some things just don't change. C'mon, Law Society, don't let me down...

Again, welcome back, Henry, and I hope there'll be another issue soon, or at least sooner. Take care, and see you again soon.

Yours,  
Lloyd Penney.

□**CKK:** *Life will always provide us with excuses. I try not to let them define me. Good luck to Yvonne on her studies. Going back to school consumes time and adds stress.*□

Dave Szurek  
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11-10-10

Mr. Welch,

Damn – did finding *Knarley Knews* #136 in my mailbox ever (pleasantly) discombobulate me! By now, I figured your zine had folded or something. I planned to write you to ask if my suspicions were correct, but I never got around to it. Guess I kept procrastinating. So when it came I wondered if I was dreaming. If I was, it's been an awful long dream. It's still here waiting to be LOCed.

Id' though I'd LOCed #135, but it looks like I was wrong. Granted, I had no memory of what had been written, but I thought **something** had been written, stuffed into an envelope, and shoved down the mailbox. Of course, it's always possible that it was lost in transit, but such is unlikely enough that I'm not even going to consider it.

**Alexander Slate** and **Lloyd Penney:** Thanks for the well wishes. Tonight I'm doing fine, but as a chronic medical con-

dition, I really don't know whether it's going to strike again one of these days and if it's in my future, I don't know when. The last time, symptoms did not start to materialize even in a small way until about five minutes before full force struck. I really have no practical option other than to live in the moment, but we've never had a guarantee of anything beyond that have we? Following doctor's orders, regularly taking meds, and observing the proper diet increase the chances in my favor, of course, but still there's not guarantee and I'm sure my doctor's would say no different. In fact, using different syntax, they've already agreed. I've been told by medical personnel that my last case was unusually severe and it's thus unlikely that that particular level will repeat itself in the same individual, but hey, let's not tempt fate by speaking too confidently, okay?

I do not share **Slate's** apparently optimistic attitude toward Capitalism. I don't hesitate to admit that I am basically a socialist at heart, to opine that there are too many built-in temptations to corruption. It's not always that the already corrupt simply spoil the broth. Sometimes that applies, but often the system itself is responsible for the corruption. It's victims are myriad from the more visible, more direct victims to those whose souls have been chipped away. I often feel that the latter are the most unfortunate victims of all, and no, I'm not under the illusion that the joker hasn't laughed at me. I'm not going to write a book or even an essay on the subject, nothing fuller than I already have, but as Bill Maher says, that's my story and I'm sticking to it. In the meanwhile, there are too many who call themselves anarcho-Capitalists (or words to that effect) and since Capitalism is, for good, bad, or indifferent, a ruling force in an of itself, isn't that an oxymoron?

Hopefully, I'll live to see #137.

Dave

☐**TKK:** *Mail forwarding has been a bit sketchy in our area. We routinely received letters for the prior tenants at our old place and the prior owners at our current place. I don't know of any mail that has specifically not survived the process, but you never know.*☐

Rodney Leighton  
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Canada  
Nov. 7, 2010

Dear Henry,

Thanks for *TKK* #136 which appeared in my mailbox a few days ago and I exclaimed with joy when I saw it. Not so much that I missed reading *TKK* every couple of months, although I did, as I figured I would learn what had happened to you and yours which was hopefully nothing tragic. **John Hertz** told me he believed that *TKK* was still alive and that its absence was due to pressures of real life.

Lots has happened with your life. I was actually much more interested in the first category on the list of reasons I got the zine than any of the others.

I noted you are considered going electronic or mostly so. Being non-computerized, I don't have the option of getting zines that way. I would like to continue receiving issues, but if it is necessary for you to go completely electronic, so be it. And, you will not be receiving much from me in return, certainly not any articles. If it is better for you to drop me off your mailing list, feel free to do so.

Here's something that might amuse you: I bought a new truck awhile ago. The dealership had no interest in the old one. I used it for awhile, tried selling it locally. My computerized sister was here for a few days and she told me about some site on the internet; ads are apparently free; it's called Kegiji (I have no idea how it is spelled). Anyway, after awhile I decided I should try to sell the thing. So I typed out some info and mailed it to my sister in Prince Edward Island; she put it on the internet and after awhile I got a call from a guy in Stellarton, NS, about 50 minutes from here, who told me his brother had called him about the truck. He bought it. So a guy with no computer/internet bought a truck from a guy with no computer/internet via the internet.

Best  
Rodney

☐**TKK:** *So far no definitive plans to go all electronic. One reason not to do so is the loss of dedicated subscribers/readers such as yourself who would no longer get issues. Even if I go electronic, if someone sent me an article and preferred a paper copy, I'd print and mail one.*☐

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13 Nov 2010

Hi Henry and Letha,

I was delighted and astonished to get another *TKK* in the mail. Good timing, as I have moved and mail will only be forwarded until 4-20-11.

I had no choice about the move, as my old building will be torn down sometime in the future. Phase 1, luckily, was 30 other buildings, or I'd have had to move twice. Oh the horror. This move was worse than my move from the Bronx to Toronto.

You had five people and I'm only one, so I'm not sure an article about my move would be welcome. Compared to yours, who knows. But I didn't do enough before it and lots of garbage was moved (stated and unstated). The good part is the landlord paid for the whole move, even though it went a

lot over the maximum of \$1500. People who were forced to move twice still got an allowance of \$1500 – not fair. From my window (if the blinds were open) I'd be able to see my old building, if there weren't another building in front of it. So I'll be able to see (and hear!) the eventual demolition. I thought it would start in a month or two but no, they are moving people into my old building so who knows. Maybe they ran out of money.

You don't mention an e-mail in your "to get this fanzine" section. I tried to find out the postage from Canada to US (was last 98¢ plus tax, ugh) but the website was a nightmare. When I put in all the (unnecessary) information (postal code?!) I was told it was \$63 and change to mail a letter to the US. Yes, I did click letter, did it stay clicked? Maybe not. I gave up and put 98¢ on the envelope to Andy Porter (he sold his membership to a new SF con in Toronto due to spending all that money for Aussiecon). I hope he goes next year, and I hope he gets the money!

Not many comment hooks for me in the latest *TKK*, except I hated the cover. Ugh! Have to put it face down so I don't have to look at it. I brought the zine with me to read while out but I just started *The Time Traveler's Wife* and I love it, so I lapsed on *TKK*. But I was confused by **Sue Welch**'s little contribution. New Zealand? Did she get there? Was she in good enough shape? Will I ever know?

Oh well, I have to get ready to go out to the AGO for a presentation by an artist and I don't even know if there will be any seats. That would pretty much make my trip all for nothing, and it will take me around 75 minutes to get there. We



shall see. My friend thinks they must have seats, but it is in the gallery with her art, so I'm thinking that would be awkward. Unless it is somewhere else. I can hope!

Fondly,  
–Hope (who is thinking of going to Corflu in Sunnyvale, but is running out of money rapidly and having even more trouble walking than when it all went bad, just before your Ditto in Milwaukee)

☐*TKK*: \$1500 for a move? You do not want to know what the bill was for our move from Wisconsin to California. I'm certain that *Time Traveler's Wife* was a much better read than *TKK*. Yes, my mother went to New Zealand. The first of three installments is elsewhere in this issue.☐

Jim Stumm  
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Nov 24, 2010

*TKK*: Yes, Catholic schools pay no property taxes, but neither do public schools. So that's no advantage. No non-profits pay property taxes, and that includes almost all schools, as well as many medical facilities, colleges, government agencies, etc.

In the 1950s, I believe parish schools, grades 1 to 8, were supported mostly by collection plate receipts. Also, the teachers were mostly nuns who had taken vows of poverty and were paid very little. And I have read that Catholic schools have only 1/3 as many administrators per student as public schools.

Catholic high schools, grades 9 to 12, charged tuition, though the teachers there were also usually members of some religious order. My high school was run by Franciscan Friars. These days, all Catholic religious orders are greatly reduced in numbers, and all surviving Catholic schools charge tuition, somewhat reduced by scholarships funded by donations.

You refer to proper history and science in schools. I don't know if you are referring to Catholic schools. The history and science I was taught was entirely the same as was being taught in public schools, as far as I know. In NY State most 12th grade students take State Regents exams in various subjects. Possibly all of my high school homeroom won Regents diplomas, and several of us were awarded Regents college scholarships, which were given to high scorers. These Regents exams are an example of the standard exams I referred to earlier, which confirm the competency of a school.

Catholics are not fundamentalists and they don't teach creationism or biblical inerrancy. Catholics are not big Bible readers, and the Catholic Church teaches that much in the

Bible should be understood as allegory or symbolism and need not be taken literally. BTW, the religion I was taught didn't stick and I am now an atheist.

**Alexis Gilliland:** Re the cost of \$25,000 a pound to ship mass to the Moon, that's what the government pays. Private entities could probably do it much cheaper, guided by profit and loss, and without the government's pandering to Congress and Unions, and inefficiency and corruption. Time will tell what private space ventures now underway can do.

Second, as time goes on, technological developments tend to make many ventures cheaper in constant dollars, though government inflation of money tends to conceal that.

Third, average incomes will probably continue to rise going forward as they have in the past. I have read about a UN report that estimates that, by 2100, average incomes in developed countries will increase 6-fold, and developing countries will see a 12-fold increase. Higher incomes mean that people then will be able to afford many projects that are now too costly. At the top end of the incomes range, we may see more, and more wealthy, super-rich, and some of them may want to finance space projects.

**Alexander Slate:** I'm trying to recall what we were discussing so long ago. I believe you were saying how much people should donate in charitable contributions. The main point I was trying to make in reply was that there are no universal moral principles that validly apply to everyone, involving charity or anything else. You could disprove my claim by presenting even one single counter-example, one moral principle that you could show does apply to everyone. I supposed that's what you were doing when you presented "some attempts at a general framework." I'm well aware that there are many such statements written in the **form** of allegedly universal moral principles. But form alone is not good enough to serve as a counter-example. For that, you need to demonstrate that at least one of these "attempts" does indeed validly apply to everyone. Failing that, my claim remains unrefuted.

But now you say "ethics is ultimately an individual choice as to how to act." Fine. I agree completely. However, below that you say "why then is it that people keep on looking for a one size fits all solution to every freaking situation?" That's what I've been trying to ask you. Why did you present a one size fits all solution to charity?

You refer to what you apparently regard as my position as "ethics being a totally situational set of affairs." No. "Situational" is the wrong word. I hold that ethics is a totally **individual** set of affairs, as opposed to universally binding on everyone. I disagree with the claim that everyone ought to be a situationist, as much as I disagree with: everyone ought to be an X-ist, regardless of what X may be. By now saying that ethics is ultimately an individual choice, you now seem to agree with my individualism.

This doesn't mean that I am utterly amoral myself. I have my own firmly held ethical preferences, and I do make some charitable contributions. I just don't see any way to prove that everyone ought to abide by my personal preferences, though I will continue to encourage them to do so.

I hold that the only valid universal ethical rule is that there are no valid universal ethical rules, except this one.

**LIBERTARIAN:** You say that your source for the claim that libertarianism regards children to be in competition for parental resources is a webcomic. Well, that explains it. I don't get my information about any political system from comics which often use irony, satire, or humorous exaggeration and so shouldn't be taken literally. My sources for what libertarianism holds are libertarian magazines, newsletters, books, and the publications of various libertarian think tanks, which I have been reading since the 1960s. Children are not extensively discussed in such sources, but when they are the usual concern is to what extent children should be accorded the same rights as adults.

**CAPITALISM,** I think, also requires a market for capital, which means corporations selling shares of ownership that are bought and sold on stock exchanges. I consider Free Enterprise to be a broader term that includes, in addition to corporations, businesses organized as individual proprietorships, partnerships, family businesses, and co-operatives.

Jim Stumm

□**TKK:** *I have a strong aversion to public funding for a school that teaches religion as science. More specifically I'm referring to "intelligent design."*□

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30 Nov 2010

Hi Henry and Letha,

Thanks for *TKK* #136. Reading your editorial, I noticed a typo, something I do not recall seeing from you previously. So even before reading your overwhelming list of activities, I concluded you were working hard. Moving house does that to you.

Our printers just do not like working in our humid surrounds. They die all the time. We have one that works for maybe 5-20 pages and then stops for the day. We took the identical HP laser printer to the dump earlier in the year, but we would really like to use up some of the toner before we dump the last working one.

Glad to hear you recovered your files, even if it did take a lot of work. I would be surprised these days to find any computer older than a few years is worth salvaging. Unless you happen

to have a good range of ancient spare parts on hand. I used to repair all sorts of old computers. Recently I realised that the last time I did a chip level repair of a computer was two decades ago!

It seems to me the entire Townsville (and Airlie Beach) taxi fleet consist of Prius. Not true, but it must be a large majority of the local taxis. The drivers seem happy enough with them, and two people to the airport usually do not push the luggage capacity. Three people with large bags might be an issue, but usually it is a matter of the shape of the bags, rather than having actually filled the Prius.

Very inspiring to read of Sue's walking efforts. Alas, around here everything within walking distance is flat. Airlie Beach had wonderful hills for exercise (not so great when staggering home with shopping).

I live in a country in which housing loan repayments are the responsibility of the purchaser, with the lender taking a mortgage over the home. The purchaser remains responsible for the loan, whatever the circumstances. Including having a negative equity. So it was a bit of a surprise to find so much being made of borrowers walking away from homes. Surely not all your states have no-recourse housing loans?

Now that there are simultaneous countrywide tests here of school students in three age ranges (despite widespread teacher's union protests), the next step is a unified country-side curriculum in the core subjects. I am frankly hoping that eventually we will not only know which schools are best (and which are worst), but also which teachers really make a difference. Seems to me far more important to identify the really good teachers, and attempt to bottle whatever it is they have. Taking advantage of the moment is certainly one of the things good teachers seem to spot.

However I suspect schools that score poorly will have more money thrown at them. I doubt that is a reasonable solution (although it may be a starting point). There is already plenty of attempted rorting of the tests. Stay home that day, you don't do well in tests. I am sure you know far more of what can be done to cheat.

The worst school problem is probably what you mention. If it degenerates into memorising a test, then it is pointless. That is one reason I like open book exams. Done right, you can make it real hard to score well just by memorising. However those setting the exams really have to work hard on what they are actually testing.

**Lloyd Penney** talks about reorganising bookshelves, and book prices, both of them proper fannish topics. Jean is having to reorganise the bookshelves, since we have both bought excessively. Seems hard to believe, when we brought over 40 bookcases with us, and many were not full. I just seemed to have my books far better organised in Airlie Beach.

Perhaps the problem is that books no longer offer value for money. When Jean and I were in Sydney we bought 25 pa-

perback books between us, at a cost of around A\$700 (a half dozen were computer books). The science fiction cost A\$376 for 19 paperback books. I would get far better value spending that money on gadgets at Apple, or 70 or so DVDs at JB HiFi. This month I visited Baen Books Webscriptions online, and as a trial, bought 47 eBooks for US\$110. Basically I bought their December 1999 and year 2000 output, minus a few. At around \$2.50 an eBook, I can afford to make a few mistakes in what I buy.

The book industry do not sell books to readers. They sell books to bookshops (or to distributors). There were 3250 independent booksellers in the USA in 1999. Less than 1400 remain. They are worth less than 10% of sales. The big book chains make 30% of the USA market. The supermarkets make 45%, although their range of books is tiny.

Publishers generally have no idea how to sell to readers. That is not their business model. The brand name for a book is the name of the author, not the publisher.

All the best,  
Eric Lindsay

☐CKK: Good god, a typo. I am so mortified. I'm glad this isn't the first time. :-) Many loans in the United States are recourse (i.e. the borrower can be held liable for the unrecovered difference), but filing for bankruptcy can take care of that. A lot of homeowners try to work out a deal with the lender where the house is sold for less than it is worth and the former homeowner takes a big credit hit as well as forgiveness of debt income. Generally a better outcome than a foreclosure.



*Standardized testing may be able to identify the best teachers, but they are more often used to penalize the teachers with students with socio-economic disadvantages. Schools in the United States are punished for having low test scores, not given the extra funding they need. This is contrary what a lot of the best research teaches about the use of standardized tests and how to implement continuous improvement, but it makes a good political sound bite to take money away from the schools with lower test scores. Open book exams are easy to write, once you learn. Ask the students to solve problems where they have to apply the materials in the book. Even better are tests where you give the students a "cheat" sheet. This actually encourages them to study □ so they can create their sheet.□*

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30 Nov 2010

Dear Henry and Letha

Thanks for *The Knarley News* 136 – good to hear from you again.

You say that an “interesting aspect of where we live is an electronic mailing list where free stuff is offered or requested.” What you’re referring to is freecycle, which (according to its Wikipedia entry) began in the state of Arizona and in the UK is formally registered as a charity (with its own internet domain name – <http://uk.freecycle.org/> “Changing the world one gift at a time”). There are similar organisations in other parts of the world – I’m a member of Haringey Freecycle, and we have disposed of various items by that route. But of course one doesn’t have to be a member of an electronic mailing list to exchange stuff for free; in our part of north London, one can dispose of stuff by simply putting it outside the front gate and waiting for someone else to take it away. (Lots of people do it.) Very occasionally, an item won’t shift and will have to be delivered to a charity shop for them to sell; but the converse is that there have been occasions where stuff has been taken almost at the very moment I was putting it out. A couple of months ago, for example, I decluttered some of my “historic” paper stocks, emptying several ring binders of cuttings and reports. As I was putting the binders out the following morning, a mother and her son walked past, he obviously being taken to school. Do school students need ring binders to organise their work? Answer in one word or less.... I’ve also acquired stuff myself by the same route – walking home from work a few years ago, I came across a two-bulb floor-standing reading lamp, without the bulbs but with its plug still on. I scooped it up without breaking my step, and it now sits next to my chair in our lounge area. It works perfectly; I assume that the only reason its original owners disposed of it was that it ceased to match their changed colour scheme(s).

A couple of your correspondents refer to the rise of Wal-Mart and their impact on “mom-and-pop” stores. Something similar has of course happened elsewhere in the world, and in the UK has led – particularly since retail planning laws were relaxed in the 1980s – to the rise of what’s called “clone town Britain,” where locally-owned shops have been driven out or bought out of the high streets and replaced by identikit branches of national clothing, grocery and other chains. The process has been exacerbated by what are known as “Section 106 agreements,” after the relevant section in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which allows developers to offer local authorities funds to offset or compensate for any environmental or other damage their development may cause – to refurbish a park, create new recreation facilities, provide social housing, build a school, fund new stretches of road, and the like. As you might imagine, developers traditionally have lots of money to throw around and local authorities don’t – so usually fall over themselves to grant planning permission to huge new malls and the like because of the Section 106 funds they’ll get in exchange, irrespective of the longer-term damage it might do. (Why make the effort to visit the old market town of Much Wuggling-in-the-Wold, with its lovely half-timbered buildings, when it has exactly the same retail outlets with the same stock as the post-WW2 new town of Bottoid-on-Concrete, where you live?) Some independent local shops will survive, if they have a specific local niche that would be too much bother for a mega-corporation to fill and they have a customer base which shops there because it knows it can’t get the same elsewhere – a knitting shop, say, or a retail outlet for a local ceramic studio – but anyone engaged in more general trade simply goes to the wall.

Regards  
Joseph

□**CKK:** *We have the freecycle as well. This is restricted in that you can only be a member of the list if you live in the zip code. If we put stuff out at our curb, no one would take it. We live too far off the beaten path.*□

Jeffrey Allan Boman  
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Dec. 9, 2010

Dear Henry:

It sounds as if you’ve had “interesting times” lately! A long GAFIA state for that is more than understandable. My own zine is a few months late, but for less hectic reasons than yours.

I have a lot to update since your last issue: I already spoke here about the Aurora award win for my zine at Anticipation, the Worldcon in Montreal in 2009, and how it was awarded in my absence due to injury. It was nominated again this year at Keycon in Winnipeg, but someone else won. I’m not upset

by that; I don't produce a zine for prizes. Still, it's good for the ego. :)

I have a pin now for the thirtieth anniversary of the Aurora, affixed to my key lanyard. It doesn't look strange/pathetic like carrying around my trophy would.

I mentioned before that it's very late. The reason is good for me: I landed a contract for an RPG product, and that comes first. As soon as I'm done I finish up my zine.

NaNoWriMo 2010 was this past November. This was my smallest output yet at 24036 words, but that's still amazing for a month's work. I'll do better next year.

Another thing I hope to do better on in future attempts: I tried out for DUFF to attend Aussiecon 4. I was disappointed – not as much because **John Hertz** won (I am not upset with that. He was an excellent delegate), but because (due to me being an unknown fan so far) I was the first person eliminated with only 7 votes. Hopefully I'll do better next try.

Regardless of the results I 'met' most of the other delegate attempters (I've known Terry Fong since 1993), and some joined my zine. That I see as a success!

I had some sad things just this year alone: on May 4, I had to have my beloved cat Squeaky put to sleep. She was about 18 ½ years old – for a cat that's a long life; for a human it's a blink.

Jeanne Robinson died of a rare bile cancer this year. I knew her and her husband Spider; at a con in Toronto in 1995 she gave a blessing to my singing voice.

A good friend in Toronto, Marg Kasman (Comerford) also died of cancer at the end of August. I don't know which kind, but it was 7 months after her first chemo, so it was aggressive.

I couldn't attend her memorial, but I shared some memories that made a strong image that was used to open that service. I'm honored.

I'll stop my LOC now, albeit on sad stuff. I want to make deadline.

Read you soon,  
Jeffrey Allan Boman

☐**CKK**: *Congratulations on the awards and nominations. My popularity with the Hugo nominators peaked over a decade ago and I don't suspect I'll ever make the ballot. Not a huge deal. I considered running for DUFF years ago, but my academic schedule was inconvenient and now I have little exposure in Australia. One of my daughter's friends participated in NaNoWriMo this year. I have no idea what her word count came to. Sorry to hear about Squeaky and your other friends. An unfortunate and inevitable byproduct of age.*☐

We also heard from ...

Megan Bouchard, Wesley Brockway, Todd Bushlow, Kirk Cockerill, Nic Farey, Patti Hetherington, Reginald Lewis, Guy Lillian, Randy Robbins, Jose Sanchez, Marc Schirmeister, Joy V. Smith, Gene Stewart, Mark Strickert, Sue Welch

New Zealand continued from page 6



Image courtesy of World Atlas

Meals are an occasion. Food does not sit on a plate; it comes like an art exhibit. In a restaurant sit in your seat and order your food. This is the point where it becomes a good idea to order a drink: water, wine or alcohol – whichever one will be a comfort during the hour while waiting for the food. Each meal is individually prepared. Such things as appetizers, salad or bread are not routinely served. When your plate appears it is pretty as a picture. You want to photograph it and savor its presence as a true work of art. But by this time you are so hungry that you cannot help yourself from immediately eating it. Desserts are many and varied and contain sugar in its many forms. Delicious might be the adjective here.

New Zealand is a country where everything works. During my twenty-two days here, nothing did not work. Unscheduled water taxis appeared following a cell phone call from the middle of the woods; clean, non smelling outhouses with toilet paper dotted the trails during hikes; there is no tipping and people seem to enjoy doing their job because they like doing it. Vehicle drivers give continuous lectures about your environment. The beauty of the landscape is awesome. The 2011 World Rugby Cup is being hosted by New Zealand. This is really a big deal in New Zealand and may offer you an additional incentive to visit these two fantastic islands in the middle of nowhere. You will not be disappointed.



## Fanzines Received in Trade



“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. 9 No. 3 through Vol. 9 No. 5* 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.

*Ethel the Aardvark #150-151* 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. A new spiffier format.

*Fadeaway #19* by Robert Jennings; 29 Whiting Rd.; Oxford, MA 01540-2035; fabfichks@aol.com; bi-monthly; \$15/year or the usual. Normally distributed through the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, this is never-the-less a fine stand-alone zine.

*Fanzine Fanatique* (Autumn 2010) 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 #41*; 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.

*Lofgeornost 101* 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 98-99* by Mark Strickert; PO Box 1051; Orange, CA 92856; busnrail@yahoo.com; irregular; \$2 or the usual. A fanzine tracking Mark's life and interests.

*Nacrolepsy Press Review #6* by Randy Robbins; P.O. Box 171311; Anaheim, CA 92817-7131; irregular; \$2 or the usual. A collection of capsule fanzine reviews interspersed with art, pictures, and other clippings.

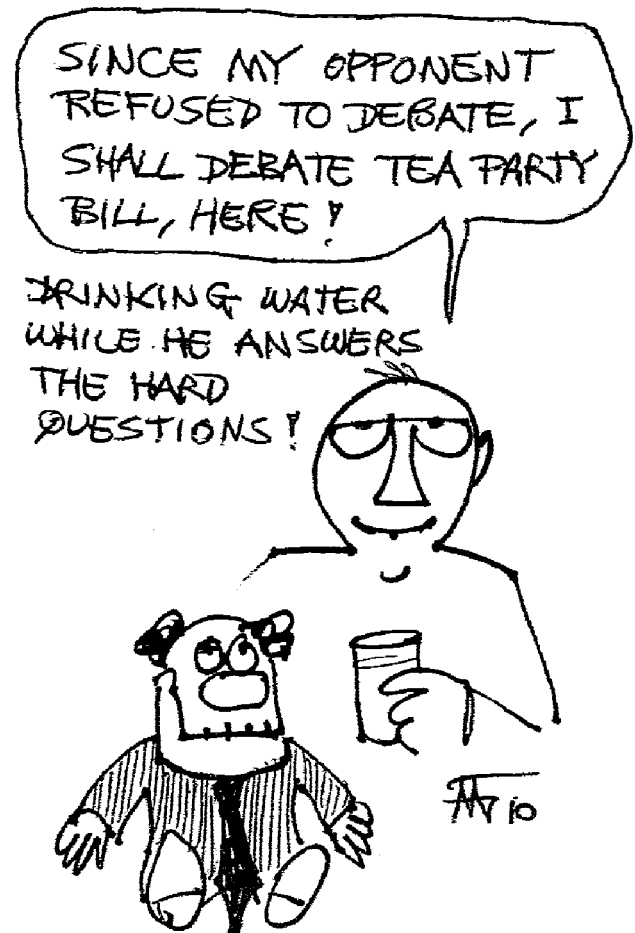
*MaryMark Press* by Mark Sonnenfeld; 45-08 Old Millstone Dr.; East Windsor, NJ 08520; irregular; the usual. Various strange publications with experimental writing styles.

*Opuntia 69.1E, 69.3, 69.5, 70, 70.1A, and 70.1B* by Dale Speirs; Box 6830; Calgary, Alberta; Canada T2P 2E7; irregular; \$3 or the usual. One of the most prolific zines with lots of interesting content.

*The Reluctant Famulus 77-78* 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.

*Vanamonde No. 843-857* by John Hertz; 236 S Coronado St No 409; Los Angeles, CA 90057; This is John's APA-L zine with interesting tidbits.

*Visions of Paradise #155-157* by Bob Sabella; 24 Cedar Manor Ct; Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023; BSabella@optonline.net; monthly; the usual. A nice collection of issues with Bob's diary, reviews, and LOCs.



## Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

E Corflu Vitas Sunnyvale, CA

February 11-13, 2011

Fogcon 1 (maybe) San Francisco, CA

March 11-13, 2011

Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) Marsport, Mars

Labor Day, 2095



### You Got this Issue Because ...

\_\_\_ Two of the six chickens are laying medium-sized blue and brown eggs respectively.

\_\_\_ Wow, look at this, two issues at the proper interval.

\_\_\_ 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.