



Come ride with us to the TOP!!

The Knarley Knews -- Issue 142
Published in March, 2012

Item	Page
Table of Contents/Colophon	2
Editorial	3
Sue's Sites: Carnival Splendor Sue Welch	4
InterLOCutions (alphabetically)	5
Sheryl Birkhead	5
Cuyler Warnell Brooks, Jr.	6
Brad Foster	9
Alexis Gilliland	9
Bob Jennings	16
Joseph T. Major	15
Murray Moore	16
Joseph Nicholas	11
Lloyd Penney	13
John Purcell	7
Milt Stevens	8
Jim Stumm	13
Dave Szurek	14
WAHF List	17
Fanzines Received in Trade	17
Conventions/Back Cover	18

Art Credits

Artist	Page(s)
Sheryl Birkhead	Cover
Brad Foster	11
Alexis Gilliland	5, 18
Terry Jeeves	15
Joe Mayhew	10, 17
William Rotsler	17

All uncredited textual material is the responsibility of Knarley.

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.

The Knarley Knews is published bi-monthly by Parody Publishers. The entire issue is ©2012 by Parody Publishers as Freeware (reproduction allowed with proper citation) unless otherwise copyrighted. Contributors please take note.

The editorial board is:
Henry L. "Knarley" Welch -- Editor
Letha R. "Mom" Welch -- Layout Editor

All comments/requests should be sent to:

The Knarley Knews
15290 Upper Ellen Rd.
Los Gatos, CA 95033 USA
(408)335-3632
knarley@welchcastle.com OR
<http://tkk.welchcastle.com/>



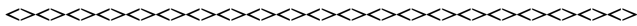
Next Issue Deadline: May 10, 2012

Editorial

(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

Welcome to another issue of *The Knarley Knews*. This issue is about a month later than I had initially intended and could easily have been postponed until mid-April. I seem to have tailed off from the very regular publishing pace that I managed for about 24 years. A small part of me is distressed by this, but I'm mostly over that. I still have every intention of getting an issue out every two months, but quarterly may be a more realistic prediction.

One key factor in this has to be the longer commute I now face relative to the one I had four years ago in Milwaukee. I am finding that I am less motivated to jump on the computer to put an issue together late during the evening and also seem to have less motivation to banish myself to the office on a weekend. I also chalk this up to shifting priorities as the fanzine community does not have the same importance to my social life that it once had. Perhaps if I was attending more conventions and meeting folks more often, the priority might shift. Don't get me wrong, I had a great run that isn't ending, but I guess I may just be resting more often between issues. Only time will tell the real story.



I can't say that I have been overly busy since the last issue in December, but I have been busy at less opportune times with respect to my desired publishing schedule. A few weeks ago I attended a training program in Dallas on how to work with experts in gathering evidence and testimony. (This is a big part of being a patent litigator as the report and testimony of the expert is an integral part of the infringement and validity analyses.) This training came at a time when the big case I have been working on for a year had a major deadline. Rather than postpone the training (for what could have been two years) I front loaded work on the case as well as for one of the patents I had been drafting. The week up to the training involved several very late nights in the office and work over the weekend. All of it is interesting work and I felt it was a worthy sacrifice in order to make the training program.

While in Dallas I had the opportunity to meet with several lawyers at other firms whom I have been working with over the past year on a common project. Despite all the phone calls and e-mail, we had never met face to face. This is an important element of any job and I glad I had that opportunity.

I also made arrangements to meet with Brad Foster and Todd Bushlow, two long-time contributors to *The Knarley Knews*. Brad has been more active of late and Todd was a college roommate back in the early 1980s and may be the only person who has received every issue ever published. (I don't recall that I've ever had to cut him off for non-communication.) Unfortunately, Brad got swamped by work and we had to cancel. Todd and I, on the other hand, had the chance to get together. I also got the chance to meet his young daughter

of seven or eight (I should know better, but this now gives Todd an extra excuse to write a LOC and educate me). This reminded the two of us exactly how long it had been since we last met as that was before his daughter was born. We have vowed not to repeat such a lengthy interval in the future. It was great catching up with Todd and his family.



I also managed to find two geocaches during a lull in the training program, adding a third state (Texas) to my list of states with finds. One of the interesting side aspects of geocaching is that you can create and log trackable items (they have a special tracking code) and you can record where you find them, which caches you take them to, and where you eventually drop them off. I have temporarily possessed one trackable that has been back and forth between North America and Europe twice and was part of a set that were initially placed at the same time and location and were part of a distance race. We helped that one along by moving it from Virginia to California. As a result of the trip to Texas, I was able to add some considerable travel to the current trackable I have. I now need to find it a good cache where someone else is likely to find it and take it on a different journey.



Believe it or not, Kyle is preparing to graduate from high school later this year. Some of you may remember his fannish debut a week after his birth at Conadian in Winipeg. As I recall, he spent a lot of time in the fanzine lounge at that convention. The pediatrician felt that might have been an excessive exposure to germs, but we always felt that some exposure was healthy for our kids (we also let our kids eat dirt - certainly gross, but not really that unhealthy; there is nothing quite like watching your kid have black foam oozing out of the corners of his mouth). Kyle appears to be postponing his plans for the military and looking to work at the Mammoth Lakes resort where we went on vacation last August.



Connor has been working his first job since December and it is somewhat funny listening to him complain about working 30 hours a week. As well as helping him pay his bills and learn responsibility it has also remotivated him for getting a college degree.



Kira is surviving her freshman year in college. She has a very diverse group of friends and works hard at her studies. She is determined to do well in high school and move on to college.

Until next issue...

Sue's Sites: Carnival Splendor - 7-Day Mexican Riviera Cruise

By Sue Welch



“Hey Mom”, said Henry’s brother John, “Aimee and I have booked you on this cruise for the week of January 29, 2012. Hope you want to come with us and Liam plus Aimee’s parents and her sister’s family. You can bring a roommate if you want but I have to approve.” Having never been on a cruise before or ever even thought about going on a cruise, there was silence. “Ok”, I finally answered thinking it is now June and January is a long way off.

January arrived shortly after the cruise ship ran aground in the Mediterranean but nonetheless Sunday, the 29th found me parking my car in Long Beach and walking toward the huge white object attached to pier 10. There were people and suitcases, kids and strollers, noise and lines everywhere. We showed our passports, collected our room keys (plastic cards), had our pictures taken and then proceeded across the walkway entering the ship on deck 0. Our rooms were on deck 6.

This Carnival ship has a 3006 passenger capacity and an 1150 onboard crew, is 9521 feet long (30 football fields) and features 24/7 hours of fun. It has 11 decks for passengers’ rooms and fun plus quarters below the water line for the crew members. What to do first? Lunch/stuffing as much food in our mouths as possible—there were buffets all over plus sit down restaurants with menus and servers who brought whatever you thought you could eat as many servings as you wanted. We boarded at noon and the ship sailed at 4:30 which meant we still had use of our cell phones for 4.5 hours, after that staying in touch with the world, friends and family became grossly expensive.

About 3 pm we were told to go to our muster stations on deck 4 opposite the life boats. Crew members demonstrated how to put on life jackets, children were fitted with a plastic id bracelet (similar to those worn by patients in hospitals). Later on in my room I found two life jackets – one in the closet and one under the bed – it seemed a good idea to practice putting it on and putting one on the bed for easy reach. In bed that night clutching the life jacket as I drifted to sleep, I tried to remember the path to the lifeboats.

Each night we got a newsletter on our beds with the fun options for the following day plus two delicious chocolate mints next to an animal created by bath towels. Your room card served as credit card for whatever you wanted to buy; this in turn was linked to your real credit card – very easy way for people to buy without thinking about the cost. And there was much to tempt one: jewelry, watches, gambling, alcohol, spa appointments, photos of your fun, teeth whitening treatments, art auctions, fancy restaurants and my favorite, surgery desserts.

This cruise offered two days in Cabo San Lucas and one in Puerto Vallarta: the two places still safe for tourists. Cabo, at the southern end of the Baja Peninsula, fits around a beautiful bay with sand beaches – glass bottom boat excursions to

view fish and chase whales are quite popular pastimes as well as enjoying the beaches/jet skis or just gazing at the beautiful blue water of the bay. Cabo sports many beautiful hotels and time shares. The downtown area has usual shops for buying junk. Further south is Puerto Vallarta, a city of 256,000, built around another beautiful bay. It is hot here with an average daily temperature of 86 degrees, winter being the best time to tolerate the heat. Fifty percent of the town’s revenue is related to tourists with several cruise ships anchoring daily, many hotels and time shares. There is some agriculture and cattle activity as well. Parish Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the most well-known building in the downtown area, besides the usual allotment of junk shops.

Most of the 24/7 fun things to do are not fun to me. Unfortunately, my favorite, swimming was closed to me due to the fact that I just had cataract surgery – the water slide was amazing. The gym had some amazing equipment. There were some interesting things to amuse me:

- 1) Watching people consume a 4” high plate of French fries loaded with salt for their midafternoon snack.
- 2) Conversing with those holding alcoholic drinks mid-morning – how is your day going? Great we started about 7:30 am.
- 3) Talking with multinational crew members: basic requirement for employment is a firm grasp of English, a nice smile, and the ability to work for 6-10 months 12-16 hours per day and in your off hours doing your laundry, sleeping and eating. On Sunday morning the ship disembarks passengers in California and takes on a new set. Because crew members are not US citizens they are limited to their access to the US.
- 4) Watching people put money via their room cards into the slots – did you know slots now have a button to push instead of pulling a handle – used to be that your arm got sore from pulling the handle, the pain causing you to cease.
- 5) The evening Vegas type musical shows in the “Spectacular Theatre” were entertaining.

But the most amazing thing was the efficiency of the crew in terms of producing enormous quantities of food 24/7, keeping a heads up on dirty dish removal, constant vacuuming and floor scrubbing plus twice a day cleaning of passengers’ rooms. And also the fact that this enormous white floating object keeps moving through the ocean, arriving in Cabo and Puerto Vallarta as advertised and returning us safely to Long Beach pier 10, not once but week after week. This truly offers a carefree vacation with edible food, a variety of constant activities/napping in the sun and enjoying stress free time with your friends and family.

INTERLOCUTIONS

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
December 2011

Dear Knarl,

Well, despite getting the used Macbook, I seem to have hit more computer nags than before. With Apple's Lion I will no longer be able to use the software and access files/records for over 20 years so I am trying (so far in vain) to locate a drawing program that is compatible and deciding on what format to save all the records for the past umpteen years. Unfortunately I tried saving some of my art on letterheads, then converted them to pdf and they lost a lot in the translation. You may appreciate that an online group of FreeHand users are suing Adobe in an attempt to get them to either support the application or release it. I doubt this is going to happen, but I keep hoping!

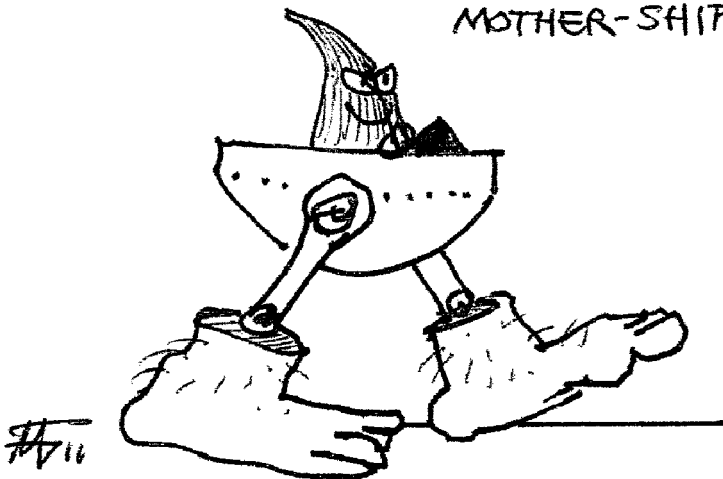
Brad's cover on #139 reminds me of Celtic design. I have tried a few simple ones, years ago, and had to continuously follow the ribbons to make sure pieces went where they were supposed to. Nicceeeee.

Ah, you say your laptop is old and decrepit – this new-to-me-old-Macbook is from late 2007, so it is going on 4 years. You know you have a problem when you want RAM for Christmas.

Um- for a double play does the military have any offerings for architects? Yeah, time does manage to do its thing.

I think the ground wasps that took umbrage at my running the lawnmower over their nest were actually yellow jackets. We had a Mexican standoff – I was just outside of whatever

EARTHLINGS WILL CONCENTRATE
ON "BIG FOOT" AND MISS OUR
MOTHER-SHIP!



radius it was they had established and that was as far as I could/would go. My sister-in-law suggested mothballs and a quick bit of research said yup that might work – and yup, that did work. As in your case I did not get stung, but that was just dumb luck.

Condolences on the passing of Kira's rat. Hope the "kitten" has learned proper climbing technique.

Ah- and I turn the page to see a piece by Hugo winner **Chris Garcia!** I refuse to jump ahead to #140 and see if there is a follow-up explaining where he managed to land. Yeah, that mold is nasty stuff.

My niece moved to Sydney for work. My brother and his wife did a world cruise last year and passed by and took time away from the ship to visit with their daughter. In a month or so they and their younger daughter will head back down under and visit with daughter #1 for a few weeks. At that point both daughters will spend some time in Sydney while the parents keep on traveling. I know New Zealand is on the itinerary again! Your mother's recap of the land evokes nice images.

Yeah **Brad** we all muddle along-or at least try to. Right now I am going month to month-hoping that what I have spent (and it is all going on credit cards!) will be covered by what I can get into my checking account in time. The interval has shortened to month by month--and that worries me. But, so far, even if it is a scramble, I pay everything off each month and even found Care Credit to cover the dental work (which has been a nightmare), which offers no interest as long as you make the minimum payment monthly and pay the whole thing off within the agreed interval. Yes, I already figured out that the minimum payment would not pay off the whole thing, but apparently a lot of people ignore the part about paying the whole amount off within the specified time. So far, so good – or at least marginally okay!

I had a foul up with taxes last year too – and am trying my darndest to make sure that does not happen again. Crossing my fingers that my calculations will actually net me a refund, but I'll take just not owing.

I just got a distribution (right term?) from a class action suit with a stock I owned years ago. This is the second one this year. The first one specifically stated that the proceeds were not required to be sent to the IRS and, hence, there was no tax to me. This second one says to ask my financial (right!) consultant. Wanted to be safe, so I called and asked the IRS – they said both were taxable and went under the other income category. The last time I tried to tell TurboTax I had other income it wanted documentation as to what this money actually was. Finally I overrode it and forced it to accept is

as “simple” income. These two checks are very small, but I want to be scrupulously honest about this.

Not being very fiscally knowledgeable, I listened to part of an interview with the “new” (first female) IMF president (Lagarde). It was interesting to listen to and hear the mention of gossip about rumors of her being considered for the French presidency. I could follow everything discussed – pretty much a first where such things are concerned for me. Ah yes, and the financial repercussions just keep right on coming....

(Agh, this software has to be my fallback, but refuses to work with text the way I usually do stretching out spacing and not splitting words – yeech – but I see no affordable way around it and I must come up with some functional way to keep records with the new system. I have that system on a thumb drive – bought and paid for – but will **not** install it until I have this figured out. It could be a long wait!)

Nov 26th is the second annual buy small business Saturday and this is the first I have heard of it. I need to look around and see what small businesses still exist close-by. I am guessing that the bigger chains of grocery stores don’t count and I don’t know of any small non-chain stores within a reasonable driving distance. I will try.

Ah, I see you made the summer vacation. I, once again, will go where I have gone since 1991 – nowhere! My first plane trip was to an LACon. While I was out there (many years ago now) I rented a car and did the tourist thing; including the Hearst castle. Quite interesting.

Yes, the veterinary ER bills are eye openers! Kamere just visited the veterinary cardiologist after . I heard a heart murmur on his regular exam. The regular price for exam and echo is \$565. this is the first time my DVM actually helped (the cardiologist was school a year ahead of me but we never ran into each other) – they gave me a 50% discount – then I had to pay for the first diagnosis of the illness and had been told by Kam’s insurance company that, as both his owner and veterinarian, they would not accept my findings. Then, the insurance has a \$200 deductible per diagnosis. After that they pay 90% no annual or lifetime cap. So, while this time they only paid me about \$15 each time he goes back the deductible has been paid. I figure that at about \$20 a month, I could handle his insurance and I could **not** handle any large bills. I also have to say that his insurance has been more forthcoming and rapid in payment than my own insurance. Once again I called **my** insurance to be sure they would cover the flu shot – long story. They said yes. I filed all the papers they requested. They said no. I called and they said how silly of us, of course it is covered- I’ll send it back upstairs. I have not heard the response yet. Please note that the last time this happened it took over 5 months and a lot of calls to get them to cough up the money (but that was a shingles vaccination and cost \$214 so I was more willing to dig in and fight!). Last time I checked the website (phone calls take a minimum of a half an hour) it still says they are refusing to pay, despite this being one of the 100% covered procedures. Sigh. The

neighbors felt getting insurance for their new puppy was an unnecessary expense. Cost to one ER and then a specialist for surgery over \$8000.

The electric company certainly is involved in creative financing! An increase I understand, but a tripling?

My father was an agricultural economist with the federal government. I get lost when the dollar value has more than several zeroes-and I knew a little about GNP, but as I understand it, even that terminology has been replaced. I admit to my ignorance. I struggled through explanations about what went so very wrong with the financial institutions, but struggling doesn’t necessarily mean understood! I have resigned myself to simply living without much in the way of loans. So far so good.

For **Ned**’s discolored wall, my first insanely simple response was that someone had simply painted around the bookcase. No, not buying that theory?

Interestingly, our cattle seemed to gravitate to poison ivy as tasty treats. I always wondered why their milk never had any problems (I am now guessing the culprit compounds got digested), but when they gorged on wild onions -yeech- the milk tasted awful!



☐**TKK**: *Do you know if the moth balls killed the yellow jackets or just encouraged them to change residences so that they are now another trap for your lawn mower to find?*☐

Cuyler Warnell Brooks Jr
4817 Dean Lane
Lilburn Georgia 30047
January 7,2012

Dear Knarl,

Good to hear from you, thanks for the *TKK* 141. It was sad to hear about Bob Sabella, a very busy fellow. The first fan I ever met, Phil Harrell back in 1961, also died of a brain tumor, about 20 years after we met.

I avoided the grip of the holiday season for the most part – very low-key Christmas and didn’t even stay up for New Year’s Eve. I was probably up, but not partying or even watching the TV nonsense.

Are the new solar panels to be on the roof? This house would be ideal for that, as it faces SE and has no shade. But it is a silly roof and I would hesitate to put anything up there for fear of having leaks again. What sort of square footage of panels does your system use? I agree about storage – I would have no place to put a battery bank. For all I care the panels could go in the front yard, but I suppose the neighbors would

complain. I have had only one bad power outage here – 5 days in the ice storm of 2000. There have been plenty of others, but they were only annoyances.

I am disappointed in the Obama and the Republican candidates all seem to be villains or lunatics. Probably matters little how I vote anyway, Georgia will probably go for the Tea Party candidate.

Cute idea from **Gene Stewart** that my odd wall discoloration in Virginia was caused by “plot seepage” – alas, I can’t recall now just what books were in that bookcase. The same room had two very large bookcases (10-11 feet long) with open backs – no discoloration there – and my only made-to-order bookcase that held illustrated books – no discoloration behind it either. And a short one below the window air-conditioner – no discoloration there. I never repainted in that room – the walls were plaster on lath painted nubbly pink and I just put the bookcase there in the late 60s and removed it in 1998 – to find that the wall behind it had turned nubbly black. I suspect formaldehyde outgassing from the plywood back.

As to **Murray Moore**’s question about the use of Lysol on book mildew – mildew occurs on books in two forms, a whitish bloom and the black stain of dead mildew. The stain cannot always be removed from paper, of course, but there will be no further spread or odor once the Lysol has killed the mold. Lysol is a spray – some 60-70% ethanol and the rest mostly the propellant. The nice thing about ethanol is that it is no harm to the user or to the book. It evaporates and is gone. It can be sprayed on a paper towel and used to wipe the book - in general it has no effect on ink or dyes, though I do have one BC edition in boards covered with black paper where the Lysol did dissolve the dye and left white streaks.



☐**CKK**: *The solar panel will be on two separate areas of the roof with very good southern exposure. The installation contract warrants against leaks. The biggest harm from Lysol is the gawd-awful smell.*☐

John Purcell
3744 Marielene Circle
College Station, TX 77845
j_purcell54@yahoo.com
8-Jan-2012

Good late afternoon, Henry!

It is a slightly dreary Sunday here in College Station, Texas, but at least we are getting some much needed rain again. Officially, Texas is still in a drought despite receiving about two inches of rain in the last month. The People Who Keep Track Of These Things tell us that the region needs to average something like three inches a month until next summer to

catch up. Well, so long as the rain is not non-stop so we can have some nice sunny days mixed in, I won’t mind.

Like you and so many other folks, I was stunned by the news of Robert Sabella’s sudden death. Sure wish I had met him, and the true tragedy is how he had just retired last year and never had the chance to enjoy it. In his fanzine *Visions of Paradise*, Bob wrote a lot about travel plans he and his wife had made for their retirement years. So sad to see those plans not come to fruition. Like you and other fan editors, I will miss getting his articles and locs.

And just a couple weeks ago fandom lost another legendary figure, Rusty Hevelin at the age of 89. I had the pleasure to meet Rusty back in the mid-1970s at Minicons and many other Midwestern conventions. A very nice but brief tribute zine is now at efanazines.com in **Chris Garcia**’s *Drink Tank* #302. Goodbye, Rusty. We miss you.

On to some happier subjects. First of all, thank you for letting me know this issue was posted online. One of my goals in 2012 is to be more proactive in getting letters of comment written to folks and actually mail out paper copies of my fanzine, *Askance*. I know, I know; I have said this before, but this year I really do Have A Plan that can really make this become reality. Even so, don’t hold your breath.

Installing your own solar panels at home is a great idea, and frankly I don’t see why this isn’t a feature on homes built nowadays. Here in Texas – and throughout all the Southwestern United States, for that matter – such an approach would make great sense to not only “go green” but could create more jobs in pursuing alternative energy sources. I most certainly would install solar panels on our house if we could afford to; it certainly wouldn’t take long to recoup the investment in terms of powering air conditioning. The problem is energy storage. Once that bugaboo is solved, then hopefully having solar cell roof tiles (they have been created) as a standard new home feature will become more likely. It would definitely be a step in the right direction.

Your comments about “business as usual in Washington” are sadly true. As a fellow political cynic, I understand your sentiment; unfortunately, there’s still this little optimist hiding inside me, occasionally peering out and hoping to spot that proverbial silver lining in the cloudy gloom hanging over the land. Oh, well. We can always hope that things will work out, but I foresee at least another three years of America slowly pulling itself out of the economic morass it threw itself into during the Bush II administration. It is going to take a long, long time before things really do start looking better.

Wow! **Sue** took her family to Germany! That is a country I would love to visit, especially Bavaria. The castles built by Crazy Ludwig would be a definite item on my itinerary, as would visiting Munich and Berlin, of course. Too bad you couldn’t have included some cool photos of a castle or another nifty place with **Sue**’s article. Then again, that probably would have made me even more jealous.

I liked the angle of **Gene Stewart**'s "Welcome Aboard." Not much substance to it, but I think that's only because I agree with him. This brief article would be a good item to publish in a convention program book as a means of introducing first-time con goers to the attraction of Science Fiction as a genre.

And you have a lot of locs, which *TKK* has always enjoyed. In **Gene Stewart**'s loc the topic of the on-going popularity of vampire novels is raised, and yeah, it's true. Perhaps there is something inherently romantic and seductive about vampires; after all, look how romanticized Hollywood has portrayed them in the last 70 some years, and the popularity of the *Twilight* franchise (books, movies, and merchandise) definitely reinforces that. To a certain extent Gail Carriger's *Parasol Protectorate* series plays upon this as well: vampires have a key role – in more ways than one - in these novels, and they are a lot of fun to read. Like **Gene** said in his "Welcome Aboard" piece, a story told well is all it takes to hook a reader. That always works for me.

One final thing of note from the loccol, and that is in response to **Brad Foster**'s comment about the dying out of fan art. It certainly appears that fewer fan artists are sending their work to fanzine editors, who in turn are snagging art from web sites like Deviant Art or simply image googling "SF cartoons" or "spaceships" or "sexy aliens." Heck, I've done that myself. The age of the random fillo seems to be a thing of the past, sad to say, and that makes me sad. On the other hand, my wife Valerie is starting to get her work into convention art shows and some fanzines: besides mine, you will find filloes by her in *Drink Tank* #300. In any event, we shall see how this aspect of fanzine production progresses. Things do have a way of repeating themselves, so whatever. I know I love it when artwork arrives unbidden.

So with that, done with the loc. Many thanks for pubbing, and I look forward to seeing another one Real Soon Now.

All the best,
John Purcell

☐*TKK*: *There are a lot of flexible financing and lease options for solar systems. Even under those you could probably reduce your monthly electricity costs. Valerie can feel free to send me some illos as well.*☐

Milt Stevens
-
-
miltstevens@earthlink.net
January 9, 2012

Dear Henry and Letha,

In *Knarley Knews* #141, the letter column has nearly gobbled up the rest of the issue. That isn't really a bad thing. *Knarley Knews* has always had a large letter column. That shows you are getting people's attention. I've enjoyed letterzines in the

past, but there haven't been any recent examples. I suspect that the internet is filling the place letterzines once occupied. Elists are more like letterzines than anything else.

I'd already heard about the death of Bob Sabella. I'd been reading *Visions of Paradise* in *FAPA* for a number of years. Bob Sabella was also the official editor of *FAPA*. From reading his fanzine, I knew a lot about his day to day life. I have to think about it to realize I never actually met him. He had only retired within the last year. It seems unfair when someone dies shortly after retirement. Of course, I've also known people who died just short of retirement. That seems even less fair.

Charities are major businesses. If you raise money for charity, you can legally keep fifty percent of it for yourself. Naturally, charities are going to be after you all year long. They push so hard that some people don't contribute at all because of the pushing. Years ago, I was warned never to donate to KCET, the local public television station, or they would be on my case every week forever. I watched KCET at the time and might have given them some money. In later years, they became heavily political and of a political stripe I do not endorse. I don't even have KCET selected on my TV set anymore.

My father donated \$100 to Ronald Reagan's second presidential campaign. He then received requests for money from politicians he'd never heard of in places he never heard of. He never donated to any other politicians and advised me never to give money to a politician. I never have.

I donate to fan charities any time of the year. Fandom is where I live. I actually care whether things happen or not in fandom. There is one non-fan charity I donate to once a year. I make the donation in December. I don't do it in December because of Christmas or even because of the end of the tax year. I do it then because it's my habit to do it then. Every December, I send them a check for \$1000. Within a week, I receive a request from them for more money. That's the sort of thing that can piss people off.

Brad Foster's cartoon on page 13 brings us to the subject of donations to religious organizations. That might be worth a diatribe on another day.

Yours truly,
Milt Stevens

☐*TKK*: *It is not my intention to be a letter zine, but I haven't been very aggressive in soliciting articles, I'm not particularly long-winded in the article-writing department myself, and I have a somewhat limited budget that is related to the page count and I don't like to overly edit the letters. I once got a call from a very conservative candidate, when I asked why they'd called me they said I'd donated before. I told them I'd never been in his district until he ran for state-wide office and that I'd never donate to his campaign.*☐

Brad W Foster
PO Box 165246
Irving, TX 75016
bwfoster@juno.com
10 Jan 2012

Alexis Gilliland
4030 8th Street South
Arlington, VA 22204
January 12, 2011

Greetings Henry and Letha ~

New issue in a nicely-packed po box this past week. (I'd not gotten by the post office for over a week, so was a nice "after Christmas" surprise to find a number of fanzines waiting for me, several folks getting things out at the end of the year. Ezine good, printzine filling mailbox – even better!

I was quite shocked when first got the news of Bob Sabella passing. It struck me that he had led a very good life as a teacher and helping others, and I was really curious to see what he would do creatively with his time once he had so much of it to himself. Now we'll never see that, and it makes me sad.

Think it's pretty gosh darn futuristic that you're now getting ready to have your own solar power system installed on your home, especially after reading about how you were out of power for almost a full week. Then read the part about how, because of the design, if the outside power source goes out, you won't be able to use the solar power. That's insane! I agree with you, must be a way to disconnect from the main power line if that goes out, and use the system only in your home. (If nothing else, I'd have the installer show me where it finally "plugs in" to the main system, and ask them to put a kill switch there so I could throw that to go off the grid whenever I wanted.)

To make his point about how he doesn't really care for most fan trip reports, **Bob Jennings** then did a parody of the sort of thing he doesn't like – and that parody was hilarious! He should write up an entire fake trip report like that, I for one would love to read it. (And travel reports are a hard thing to write to make it interesting to everyone I'm a huge fan of Bill Bryson because he -does- make it interesting.)

Loved the idea of a store like Snakes and Lattes (both what the store is, as well as the uber-clever name), as mentioned by **Murray Moore**. Try before you buy when it comes to games is a concept I've never seen before. Very cool.

Oh, and shouldn't the full credit for the funny cover be **Gilliland** and Rotsler? Looks like one of the wonderful collaborations they put together- in this case with **Alex** doing the hard work of coming in second and making it into an actual gag. Still, credit where credit is due, right?

stay happy~
Brad

☐**TKK**: *I've never been a huge fan of the serial trip report, which is why I try to skip over all but the high points and then intersperse things that me of more general interest.*☐

Dear Henry and Letha,

Thank you for *TKK* #141 with its usual collection of interesting stuff. About my cover, I should have mentioned that the cartoon was a collaboration with Bill Rotsler. About **Schirmeister**'s cover on #140, his caption began: "Ab, Osama's arrived ..." prompting **Gene Stewart**'s comment: "Nice cover, **Schirm**, yes, the virgins flock to Barak," seeing b for s, and dropping the c before k in our President's name. I correct **Gene** who goes on to correct me: "Ub, the mindless hate attack and specious impeachment of Clinton stopped his presidency in its tracks, as designed." This may be a slight revision of history. After Newt Gingrich became Speaker of the newly Republican House in 1995, the House aggressively investigated the Clinton's involvement in Whitewater, eventually leading to the appointment of an independent counsel, Ken Starr, whose ongoing investigation came to include such unrelated matters as Monica Lewinsky. By making the House Republican for the first time in 40 years Gingrich had shown that attacking the Democrats paid off big time, and the GOP piled on to Clinton for all it was worth. Which proved to be a poor strategy, because in the 1998 election, the GOP unexpectedly lost five House seats, when the opposition party had always picked up seats in the sixth year of an incumbent presidency. On December 19, 1998 Gingrich got the House to impeach the President while he was still Speaker (after the election he chose not to stand for Speaker in the new Congress), and on January 3, 1999, the freshly reelected Gingrich resigned from Congress. Was the impeachment specious? Maybe, maybe not, but it was ill considered and was surely seen to be partisan. In the Senate, impeachment needed all the Republicans plus six Democrats to convict. No Democratic senator voted for either article of impeachment while ten Republicans voted against perjury and five voted against obstruction of justice. Was the Clinton presidency stopped in its tracks as **Gene** suggests? Given that the GOP held both House and Senate, Lame Duck Bill wouldn't have been going anywhere, even though his post impeachment popularity was at an all time high. Which suggests that his impeachment was also a frivolous waste of the taxpayers' money.

About the shrinking middle class, manufacturing no longer provides a lot of well paying jobs that unskilled labor can aspire to, and this sea change is likely to continue. Currently unskilled labor starts at \$13/hour (~\$26,000/year) for putting part A in slot A and part B in slot B and clearing the finished part AB after the machine assembles it in a series of deft and precise moves that used to require a skilled machinist. These are dead end jobs in which there is nothing to learn and no place to go. Yes, the manufacturer could replace the human with a machine to do that boring and repetitious work, only humans are cheaper. As the price of those machines comes down, as such prices tend to do, either the worker's wages

must decrease, or the workers themselves will be replaced by machines. The bright side of all these ongoing technological advances is that material abundance is becoming a lot easier to come by; the dark side is that human productivity is being made increasingly irrelevant, despite the biblical injunction that man should earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Such a loss might trouble the religious conservatives but might not be all that bad. Socrates was asked why there had to be slaves, and his answer was that until the looms wove the cloth by themselves, they (the free citizens of Athens) needed slaves to do the work. Well, more and more the looms are weaving the cloth with less and less human intervention, and maybe losing the middle class is a small price to pay for not needing slaves. Or, if the middle class should turn out to be necessary for the stability of the social system, then perhaps the middle class needs to be redefined and reconstituted.

Do we need a middle class? Yes, although I don't know how big it ought to be. Why do we need it? For stability, since access to a middle class channels the energies of talented individuals towards improving their station in life, and away from smashing the state that stops them from doing so. This stability does not mean change never happens, but it tends to ensure that such change as does take place will be evolutionary rather than violent. The conservatives to the contrary notwithstanding, if we want things to stay the same, changes must be made.

What is the middle class? In the military hierarchy, the officers are the aristocracy who give the orders, the enlisted ranks are the peasants who do the work, while the middle class are the non-commissioned officers who see to it that those orders are properly executed. In non-hierarchical civilian life, the aristocracy tends to be the rich, (in 2007, 1.0 percent of our nation's population owned 34.6 percent of our nation's wealth) the middle class would be the college-educated professionals such as doctors and lawyers, property owners, such as farmers, business men and shopkeepers, and tenured civil servants, while the peasants would be the working class, including the temporarily unemployed whose temporary unemployment serves to keep wages permanently low.

So how is the middle class doing? Not well. The average family farm has tended to get bigger and bigger as the smaller farmers retire or go bankrupt, ensuring that the few remaining farmers are drifting towards the 1.0 percent. The big box stores such as Target and WalMart have pretty much displaced the independent shopkeepers, who must now franchise a Starbucks or a Seven Eleven. Teachers and their unions are under attack to get rid of tenure, which would essentially kick them out of the middle class. The politicians blame the civil servants for enforcing the laws the politicians pass, but have not yet figured out how to dispense with the civil service. Nor is a college education the ticket of admission to the middle class that it once was. Student debt is now bigger than credit card debt, and what the students have to show for all that debt is a degree that is the minimum requirement to seek middle class employment rather than any sort

of guarantee. For instance, how can a law degree give access to the middle class when we have a million lawyers running around? How do we redefine the middle class? Pay attention, it is in the process of redefining itself, and maybe we'll recognize it when we see it.

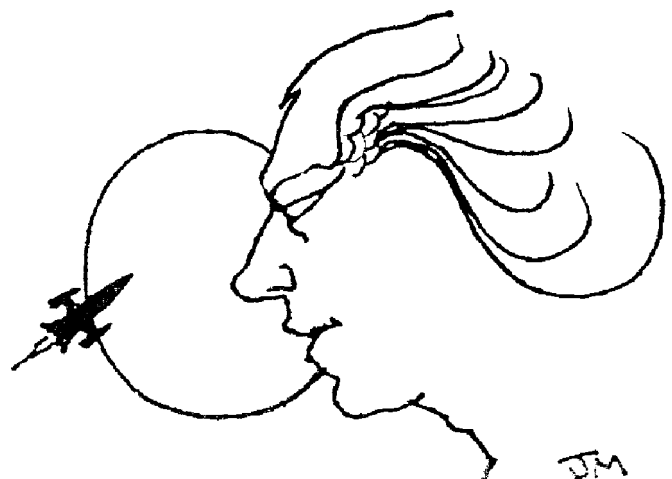
How could the middle class be reconstituted? If it doesn't manage to reconstitute itself, the best way might be by a partial redistribution of wealth, taking the minimum necessary from the rich (reducing the top 1.0 percent from 34.6 percent of the nation's wealth to a far from impecunious 24.6 percent) to sustain some arbitrary number (say 24.6 percent of the population) of middle class positions. The conservatives will focus on the money which the rich would be giving up, and ignore the value which they receive in return, which would be a more lawful and orderly state, the better to secure all that wealth they still own. Note that the failure to reconstitute the middle class would not be cost free, because a less lawful, less orderly state would require the rich to make other expenditures. What sort of expenditures? The triumvir, Marcus Licinius Crassus said: "Count no man as rich who does not have an army." And as we all know, armies are not cheap, but if you are rich, in a state without a middle class you simply must have one. Why? When the state is smashed (or impotent) power does not go away, it simply manifests itself differently. Think of Japan before the Tokogawa shogunate.

What else? For a change I agree with **Jim Stumm** that the purpose of business is to make a profit for its stockholders. I also assume that most businessmen want to be good citizens, so that one purpose of government regulation is to prevent them from being undercut by their swinish competitors who care only about maximizing profits.

Best wishes,



☐CKK: I think this is compounded when you factor in that the 1 percent typically pay a lower effective tax rate than many in the other 99 percent and often even pay fewer taxes. This



shifts even more of the wealth to the 1 percent and away from government that could use it to help effect a more stable and lawful society. The problem with "profit for the stockholders" as any business that is a good corporate citizen is not maximizing its profits (at least in the short-term on paper) and then finds itself under intense pressure to shore up the balance sheet.□

Joseph Nicholas
15 Jansons Road
London N15 4JU
United Kingdom
josephn@globalnet.co.uk
17 Jan 2012

Dear Henry and Letha

Thanks for the latest issue of *The Knarley Knews* (no 141).

I probably shouldn't intervene in the argument between **Alexis Gilliland** and **Jim Stumm** about American capitalism but I can't help noticing that the latter's position, in this issue as well as the previous, is little more than a repetition of the claims that business itself habitually makes about the alleged evils of regulation – governments just get in the way, all controls on business activity are bad, the free market is the best economic system ever invented, competition drives efficiency, and so forth – all without a single piece of empirical evidence put forward in their support. Indeed, we know from repeated experience that most of these claims are fraudulent: for example, businesses *say* that they welcome competition, but their practice is to do everything they can to destroy their competitors in order to leave themselves with a monopoly which will allow them to charge whatever they wish. The "ideal" situation **Stumm** outlines in his final paragraph, in which competition works to the benefit of the customer, is just as fanciful as **Alexander Slate's** asking for business to be satisfied with less.

Gilliland, for his part, is quite right that it's not the alleged administrative burdens "imposed" by government that are preventing businesses from expanding, but the lack of demand in the economy. This is being exacerbated, here in the UK, by a government approach which assumes as fact that public expenditure and private expenditure are in direct competition with one another, so that as one falls the other must rise. (No evidence is required to support this proposition; it is pure ideology, and thus beyond proof.) In the name of reducing national indebtedness, therefore, public spending (on public sector employment, on social security benefits and healthcare, even on infrastructure projects which are delivered not by government but by corporations) is being hacked back, in the name of "progressive austerity" (whatever that means) and the expectation that the private sector will magically pick up the slack. The Conservative governments of the 1980s pursued a very similar line; the hole this left in the national finances was then filled by the revenue from North Sea oil and the remnants of a manufacturing sector, but nei-

ther now obtains: oil revenue is in irreversible decline and UK manufacturing has been hollowed out by globalisation and the migration of jobs to the Far East. This time, the only sector which continues to thrive is finance: the people who caused the crash and continue to make money from speculation on derivatives and other virtual instruments, insulated from the rest of the economy and paying themselves huge bonuses as though nothing had happened. The idea that the economy can be revived by these few thousand people – a feral elite which produces nothing of any social utility and whose primary allegiance is to the tax havens in which their profits are offshored through networks of front companies and fake transfer pricing schemes – is simply laughable.

Austerity politics can never work, of course (in the UK, Spain, Greece or anywhere else). Reductions in public spending lead to increased unemployment, in both public and private sectors; increased unemployment means reduced spending by citizens and reduced tax revenues for government; further reductions in spending are then required to keep the resulting deficit under control; and so on round and round, until everyone runs out of money and the economy seizes up. But I suspect that the present government doesn't care overmuch: they peddle a fine line about "being all in it together" but their ideological project is to dramatically and permanently shrink the state to a fraction of its current size, thereby completing the project initiated by Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s (although in the eyes of some Conservatives even she was too much of a wimp to take her arguments to their logical conclusion); from that perspective, it doesn't matter what damage is



caused or how many people are immiserated as long as the goal is achieved. Indeed, in an unguarded moment early last year, Cameron remarked that he looked forward to being able to outsource all the functions of the state bar policing and the justice system; in other words, that he was well aware of the massive social dislocation his policies would cause, and therefore the need to retain control of police and the courts to keep the lid on dissent and, where that failed, visit heavy punishment on those who step out of line.

Personally, I'm waiting for Greece to default on its debts and crash out of the euro (the Greeks say they don't want to return to the drachma, but doing so would allow them to set their own interest and exchange rates and so regain control of their economy), thus dragging down a few overexposed European banks (**Stumm's** "creative destruction") and breaking the neoliberal consensus that has had European politicians in its grip for the past twenty years or so. Demonstrate conclusively that unregulated finance is inimical to social, political and economic health, and we might start to reign in the feral elite. Possibly. (You have perhaps heard of recent research which indicates that many successful – or apparently successful – CEOs and company directors share many of the same personality traits as psychopaths: they are very charismatic, well-educated, intelligent, highly motivated, but care only for what they personally can get and have absolutely zero interest in or empathy for the thoughts or concerns of others. In the light of which, a programme of targeted assassinations might perhaps be required to get them under control.)

Lloyd Penney remarks in passing on the USA's "toxic politics," which reminds me that the presidential primaries have begun and that reporting of them seems to be taking up a disproportionate amount of our news right now. Sure, it's important to Americans; but the relevance to the rest of the world of this shadow competition between a bunch of swivel-eyed weirdos rather eludes me. One of them is obsessed with sex, another wants to destroy the government, a third is a member of a religious cult ... they may be scary, but we shouldn't have to worry about them until the primaries are over and one of them has been formally adopted as a candidate. And even then we might not have to worry unless one of them wins in November, and promptly invades Iran (assuming they can find it on the map, and don't confuse it with Indiana or Idaho). Still, for the present that's a page of news in *The Guardian* that I can skip every day....

You could of course respond to my remarks about the relevance of the US primaries by saying that the relevance of the UK government's economic policies eludes you too, and you'd be quite right – national politics is important to nationals of that country, but to no one else. For example, I am always amused at the pantomime of Foreign Office questions which occurs in the House of Commons once every month, in which MPs line up to ask the Foreign Secretary about the state of the UK's relationship with, or what representations it has made to, or what discussions have taken place with the ministers of this that or the other foreign government; and

the Foreign Secretary solemnly responds that we have raised serious concerns over X, or have been vigorously pursuing negotiations about Y, or have held constructive meetings with Z, and so on; and all parties to these exchanges – meaning all MPs – collude willingly in the post-imperial fantasy that any foreign government pays the slightest attention to or even notices what the UK says. Since the end of the Second World War, successive British governments have deluded themselves that the UK's alleged "special relationship" with the USA and latterly our membership of the EU allows us "to punch above our weight" on the world stage; but to everyone else it's been obvious for years that the special relationship is entirely one-sided (George Bush Jnr's overheard "Yo, Blair!" to the then Prime Minister at an international summit a few years ago was the true measure of their respective standing: master and servant), and our consistently fractious relations with the EU (compounded by Cameron's veto last December of treaty changes regarding the stabilisation of the euro, which surely marks the beginning of a long, lonely walk away) means that more attention is paid to France and Germany than to the UK.

Overall, the rest of the world probably regards the UK with amused contempt, at best. The Chinese remember the Opium Wars, the Indians remember the British responsibility for the famines of 1942-1945, the Arabs remember the Crusades, South America remembers European colonialism and (to a lesser extent) the genocide which accompanied their transformation into European colonies, sub-Saharan Africa regards lectures about corruption by Western politicians (most supplementing their incomes with dubious consultancies and company directorships) as rank hypocrisy, the Iranians hate the UK and the US for the coup that ousted Mossadegh and installed the Shah in 1953. Our time, of swaggering about globe telling others what to do, is over – and that applies to "the West" as a whole, including the USA. Apart from the visceral negative reactions we provoke amongst those we're attempting to lord it over, we're in terminal political and economic decline, the inevitable consequence of what historian Paul Kennedy described in the 1980s as the "imperial overstretch" that is visited in time upon all global powers – too much to do, but insufficient resources with which to do it – and should reconcile ourselves to that awkward fact. Quite apart from anything else, it will save us from becoming embroiled in yet more costly and unwinnable foreign military interventions....

Best wishes to you both,
Joseph

☐**TKK:** *The obsessive political reporting only lasts until there is a tragic murder-suicide or the death of a celebrity to salivate over and obsess-upon. I wish the end of western so-called imperialism could end with a simple declaration "we'll stay out of your politics and you promise not to harbor terrorists, plot terrorism, and threaten annihilation on your neighbors who support differing ideologies."*☐

Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Rd.
Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2
Canada
penneys@bell.net
January 20, 2012

Dear Knarley:

A little time presents itself for writing a quick loc, so here are some comments on issue 141 of *The Knarley News*.

Indeed, learning about the death of Robert Sabella was a terrible surprise. Like Mike Glicksohn, he passed away not long after retiring, and neither got the retirement they deserved. I can only imagine the grief of all those students who got a superior start in life because of his teaching and his care.

The Republican race is on the TV news here...all it says to me is that insanity is relative, and so much for the separation of church and state. Canadian politics is crazy enough, but US politics would leave a bad taste in the sourest of mouths. Hypocrisy, thy name is Newt, and Mitt, and Ron. Still, you all have to live with it. Some of the extreme things some Republican candidates are saying will simply force more votes to Barack Obama, but they don't seem able to see this. Fine with me...

The idea of putting solar cells on your roof is a great idea; this is something California can do, for the most part. There's so much we can't do here, mostly because of snow on the roof for a good part of the winter. Our winter here has been stellar, with temperatures a couple of degrees warmer on average, and we have less than one-quarter of our regular snowfall. Spring might be a little dry, though, and summer may be parched.

Comments on where you live having some value...the city with the largest number of condominium projects on the go in the world is Toronto. I can see two of them right outside my window, and several more in the distance. The populace here is convinced you **must** own, you **must** buy, and prices have skyrocketed, and they show no signs of dropping. We rent, and are told we're wasting our money, but we have no children, and will have no one to will our condo to. Renting is best for us at our age.

We never had family vacations, either. My parents said it was impossible, with five of us, to afford going anywhere, except for a ride in the car somewhere. Perhaps the closest we came to this was a trip up to near the top of Vancouver Island and back. My father is the type who would call this kind of thing a waste of money and gasoline.

Same old same old for the job hunt...Yvonne is working at Akzo-Nobel these days (yes, that Nobel), and may have a chance for a better job at a large building a short walk away. I hope she gets it...lots of money saved on not having to use the car.

Good to hear from **Jeff Boman** here. With so many health and tech problems, I now know why he's been so silent. Once he's recovered, I hope to see him at some conventions here. He's also saving for the London Worldcon, and I hope we all can do it.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

☐**CKK**: *And prices show no signs of dropping until the bottom falls out of the mortgage market and prices fall to half... Family vacations are important, your father was wrong.*☐

Jim Stumm
PO Box 29
Buffalo NY 14223
January 20, 2012

Gene Stewart: Yes, USA today is the victim of over-regulation and political cronyism. Why would bureaucrats bother writing new regulations if they were going to be ignored anyway? Why would the EPA be so keen to declare CO₂ a pollutant if this declaration was going to have no effect? Why bother to set higher fleet gas mileage standards if car companies will just ignore the rule anyway?

I see that Occupy protestors are issuing absurd demands: abolish all debts, free college education, guaranteed annual income, etc. It's wonderful how people who are so eager to denounce greed in others can be so greedy in what they demand for themselves.

Lloyd Penny: Outside USA, Britain also has a lot of cop shows. I have a complete set of *A Touch of Frost* on DVD, said to be the most popular cop show in Britain. I'm collecting *Midsomer Murders*, set in a fictitious county that has an incredibly high murder rate, with deaths by all conceivable means. *Inspector Morse* also depicted a very high crime rate in Oxford. There are many other British cop shows including *Law and Order: UK*, but not (yet) a *CSI: London*.

I know of only a few Canadian cop shows, though some years ago I did like to watch *DaVinci's Inquest*. That was when I could get several Canadian TV stations, which I can't anymore since Canadian TV went digital.

I wonder, does any other country have a show like *Cops*?

Ron Paul is the only US Presidential candidate who really would end the US role as world policeman. The reduced mission would allow slashing the US Defense budget by, on the order of, 50 percent. Paul also opposes war with Iran, mentioning that we defeated the Soviet Union without war, and they had 30,000 missiles pointed at us. So what's the big deal with Iran? Oh yeah, Israel. Let Israel fight its own battles. The US should stay out of it.

Alexis Gilliland: I agree with much of what you say, however: How many regulations does it take to ensure health, safety, and a clean environment? The more than 81 ,000

pages of regulations in the Federal Register are mostly about something else entirely. Excessive regulations are despised by libertarians for taking away our personal freedom for no good reason, only to empower petty tyrants (politicians and bureaucrats), and making the country less prosperous, and increasing unemployment.

Better esthetic design of private property is not a proper concern of government. Besides that, health, safety, and police powers are not among the enumerated powers granted to the Federal Government by the Constitution. They are the proper concern of state and local governments.

Houses, I said, should **not** be considered an investment, but rather places to live. But if someone does buy a house as an investment, he should realize that, like any investment, the value of a house may decline. Houses are like cars except the useful life differs: cars maybe 15 years, houses 50 to 100 years. The “proper maintenance” of a house is sufficient to keep its value from declining amounts to a continuous rebuilding. That same level of “maintenance” applied to a car can make it last forever as well, as in Cuba.

I’m not familiar with housing prices all over the country, but all the sob stories I hear about terrible declines in housing values seem to be coming from only about 6 States. So is the “rustic backwater” that escaped the housing boom and bust all the other 44 States?

TKK: The “race to the bottom” re wages seems to be a liberal myth. Whatever may have happened long ago, today most employers pay their workers much more than minimum wage, so how do Federal workplace regulations keep wages so high? It can’t be unions either since 80 percent or more of workers are not members of unions. What does account for such high wages, I think, is that employers compete with other employers for workers with the desired qualifications. This competition establishes a market wage for every kind of job and employers who offer less won’t get the qualified people they need applying for the job.

Bob Jennings: Banking was only half deregulated because they didn’t abolish deposit insurance at the same time. That meant people would deposit money in banks that were taking enormous risks because the government would cover their losses. Recent bank bailouts were more of the same. Real deregulation would cut the banks loose entirely and force them to bear their own losses. Lehman Brothers is the way all banks should have been treated. If a bank is too big to fail, it’s too big to exist. The kind of cronyism that exists between bankers and politicians is not my idea of capitalism.

GOLD: Its value is the flipside of the value of the dollar. When a loaf of bread costs \$1000 US, and it will come to that if the US Government doesn’t get its runaway debt under control, then gold will sell for so much more in \$ that \$2000 an ounce gold will look amazingly cheap. While precious metals are volatile in price, we will never see gold at \$32 an ounce again.

I don’t know anything about gold in outer space, but the book *Mining the Sky* estimates the value of the smallest known metallic asteroid, 3554 Amun, which it says contains platinum group metals worth \$6 trillion, plus iron and nickel worth \$8 trillion, cobalt worth \$6 trillion, and lesser amounts of non-metallic elements. There are millions of similar asteroids, some very much larger than Amun’s 2 kilometer diameter. 3554 Amun is a Near Earth Asteroid, which means getting to it requires the same amount of fuel as a trip to the Moon.

But in the near future, I believe space tourism is where the most money will be made. Sub-orbital tourist flights should be starting soon. And Space Adventures, the firm that has already sent some 8 or 10 rich guys to the ISS for a week each for about \$30 million a pop, says they now have a firm commitment from a customer willing to pay \$150 million for a flight to loop around the Moon, no landing, and they’re negotiating with a second would-be lunar tourist.

Quii Stromer

□TKK: *Why does any country have a show like Cops? The difference between the Soviet Union and Iran, is that you cannot expect Iran to use its missiles rationally.*□

Dave Szurek
505 North F #829
Aberdeen, WA 98520-2601
1/27/2012

Knarley Hank,

If you’re a scrooge, I’m one too. In addition to what you point out, not only do the Christmas holidays depress too many people, tradition demands that individuals be batshit happy just because “it’s that time of the year,” which even further alienates the above folk.

I don’t think either party is going to give us a Utopia. It’s a fool who believe that, but the Republihogs/Tea Party has the power to make it even worse than it is. Can you say “dystopia”?

It strikes me that “rational self-interest” would include an acute knowledge that stepping on too many toes and too hard would make too many enemies and that enemies are bad for business. But too often, those who like the label, “rational self-interest” see things differently than other rational human beings.

The cover of #141 left me laughing.

-Dave

□TKK: *Rational self-interest seems to be in conflict with the traditional Golden Rule, but not with the modern version □ he who has the gold, makes the rules.*□

Joseph T. Major
1409 Christy Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204-2040
jtmajor@iglou.com
February 8, 2012

Dear Knarley & Letha:

I have been buying laptops. The screen on Lisa's laptop went dead. There was a sale and I bought her a new Gateway; it cost about as much as a netbook would. But about a month after I got it, a key came off. The only way they could fix it was to replace the entire keyboard.

Then I put the cable box remote on the nightstand, it slid off, and hit the screen. Cracked it, too. So I had to get her another laptop. This one is a fairly good one and should last a while, provided the cable box remotes don't get frisky.

Sue's Sites: I did see a parody of the Disney Disney-castle logo. It said "Mordor" and had the Barad-dur from the Peter Jackson movies. Imagine if by some horrific sequence of events they did get the rights to do *LotR*.

Welcome to the family registry trade. I seem to have not only taken on the Major family (families; I do get enquiries about the descendants of the other Major of seventeenth-century Virginia, but at least I know the guy who does that, not to mention descendants of slaves owned by my ancestors) but the descendants of my wife's great-grandfather Thomas and great-grandfather Forrester, not to mention Elizabeth Garrott's great-grandfather (the brother of my great-great-grandmother). Families in Christian County and Trigg County intermarried a lot.

Welcome Aboard: Odd, I had understood that Margaret Atwood was quite careful to say that *The Handmaid's Tale* was not science fiction; science fiction was about talking squids



in space. At least she learned a little more and changed her opinion.

InterLOCutions: There was a good deal of "you can't write science fiction anymore" talk in 1945 and again in 1957.

YouTube videos are the favorite documentation for Moon Hoax enthusiasts. The kid posts a link to a video, it gets disproved in several long and intensely documented (instructive, too, for any who are willing to learn) posts, and then the kid posts a link to another video, and it goes on until everyone gives up at his impenetrable idiocy, at which point the kid says "LOL I PWND YOUZ!!!111!!!"

Joy V. Smith: In *Back Home*, his book about postwar America, Bill Mauldin describes the byplay between a California resident and a (white) officer of the 442nd Regimental Combat team. The officer commented, melancholically, that there were painfully few survivors of his original platoon. The resident said that it was too bad that they had not bought it as well. The officer's reaction was not complimentary, and he wished he could take care of the resident for life. The accompanying cartoon shows two new owners of a fruit stand gloating that the former Japanese-American owner will not return, since he was killed in Italy.

Alexis Gilliland. Russell Long's father knew a little something about taxing the fellow behind the tree.

Brad W. Foster: Posting art on your page on DeviantArt is all very well, but it means that the would-be viewer has to find it to begin with. It's like this wonderful new world of fiction that was going to spring up on the Net, there being no obstacles to getting it out. There ought to be such wonderful stuff out there. But who can find it?

Bob Jennings: The fact that would-be interviewees have to be warned not to take (or even, to make) personal calls during an interview is an even more striking example of the downside of modern technology. Increasingly, our society is more connected, and its people less connected, than ever before.

Alex Slate: And talking about connectivity and the lack thereof: the title character in *The Ugly American* was precisely not what the "Ugly American" syndrome was. He actually got out among the Sarkhanese, spoke their language, and lived with them. Which was one of the ideas that encouraged the Peace Corps. William Lederer was a language teacher, and it is hardly unsurprising that he thought that a lack of knowledge of languages was one of the problems facing American policy-makers and foreign travelers.

Murray Moore: Boston is coastal, Mississauga is inland, so there is that consideration. Our last visit to San Antonio was tolerable, but then we find 30% humidity to be quite bearable, unlike the fellow congoer from San Diego who was unable to bear it.

Namarie,
Joseph T Major

□**CKK**: *Those frisky remotes are a huge domestic problem, we should pass an ordinance that requires they be leashed at all times.*□

Murray Moore
1065 Henley Road
Mississauga, ONT L4Y 1CB
Canada
murraymoore@gmail.com
13 Feb 2012

Hello! Henry.

On the cover, the humanoid figure on the left: I am wondering, is it a Rotsler figure by Rotsler or is it a **Gilliland** Rotsler by **Gilliland**? A Rotsler-**Gilliland** two-hander is my guess.

You typed your editorial on your new laptop using Open Office. I am typing this LoC using the keyboard of my Asus Eee PC 901 netbook and StarOffice Writer Asus Edition. When I bought this netbook I chose Linux as the operating system. Now I want to update the OS but this netbook is a true black box. Asus support is unhelpful, telling me only that I can download the source code for this model. I don't even know my netbook's flavour of Linux.

Once you have solar panels, when you change cars, Henry, you could get a plugin electric car. What is the estimated number of years after installation that your electricity will be free?

"Space opera routinely dominates awards", says **Gene Stewart**: not the Hugo for Best Novel in the current century. My fellow Canadian **Rodney Leighton** says "the powers that be decreed that no one in Canada could watch tv unless we paid for it." I assume, **Rodney**, that you are talking about the disappearance of analog tv broadcast signals. We watch tv for free. We canceled our cable tv subscription and replaced it with a high definition free-over-the-air tv antenna attached to our chimney. We already had an early-model highdefinition tv.

Sheryl reports that a niece moved to Sydney for work and further words make clear the Sydney in question is in Australia. I am reminded of the tourist couple who flew to Sydney and exited the plane to find themselves in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Eight thousand dollars-plus for surgery for a puppy (not **Sheryl**'s) and a puppy who poops on the floor (Jeffrey): pet owners are crazy. For \$8,000 I could buy a great painting and look at it every day for the rest of my life and then the painting could be enjoyed by another owner.

^
Murray Moore

□**CKK**: *The electricity is never free. Eventually the system needs to be upgraded and the process repeated. The effective life time of the system, however, is at least 20 years.*□

Bob Jennings
29 Whiting Rd.
Oxford, MA 01540-2035
fabfcbks@aol.com
18 Feb 2012

Hi Henry,

My apologies for this late LOC for the most recent *KK* that arrived recently, and I'm afraid comments on this issue will probably be brief, due to the fact that I slipped and had a bad fall in the supermarket some weeks back and I'm healing up pretty slowly.

I don't want to be one of those people who bores everybody to tears with discussions of their medical problems, however a quick overview might be in order. While walking thru the bakery aisle I stepped on a blueberry on the floor, and mere microseconds later I had taken a really bad fall. This is the stuff of color cartoons, except when it happens in real life. The accident caused some other problems, so I got a high speed ambulance ride to the hospital emergency room with sirens wailing and medics worrying why my heart beat, normally 77, was now hovering at 58 and I was so nauseous and weak.

Long story short, no broken bones, but plenty of heavy bruising/tearing/crushing/ripping along my left hip and leg. The leg swelled up to about three times its normal size, and I have a nasty bone bruise on my left hip which in addition to the rest of it, makes it painful to sit down for very long, which is why this is probably going to be a short letter.

Clearly, it could have been a lot worse. I could have gotten myself killed, or really smashed a lot of bones and been hospitalized for a long time. I try to look on the bright side, I think what something like this really shows is how the hands of Fate are completely uncaring and capricious about what happens to us mere mortals. I'm alive and healing, but it's going to take some time before I'm back to normal.

I read the issue and enjoyed the issue. I will make one note concerning **Gene Stewart**'s letter and remarks. It is my opinion that **Mr. Stewart**'s grasp on reality has slipped away from him. I can't think of any other explanation for his bizarre outpouring of commentary filled with misinformation and false assertions. I think that beginning right now I'm going to ignore everything that **Mr. Stewart** has to say, either in print or otherwise, anywhere. Life is too short to have to deal with this kind of individual at any level.

I hope I can do a better LOC next time round.

---Bob Jennings

□**CKK**: *I'm sorry to hear that you are ailing. A LOC for every issue is not a necessity.*□



Fanzines Received in Trade

A Meara for Observers #10 by Mike Meara; meara810@virginmedia.com; irregular; the usual. A nice zine with many fine color pictures of Mike's DIY project in Parthenay France.

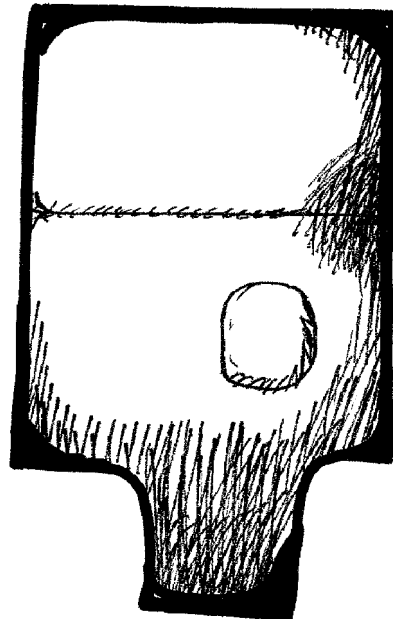
Nice Distinctions 22 by Arthur Hlavaty; 206 Valentine St; Yonkers, NY 10704-1814; <http://www.maroney.org/hlavaty/>; hlvaty@panix.com; annual; \$1 or the usual. A small perzine with various tidbits, and too damn many obituaries.

Opuntia 71.1D & 71.3 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. An issue on recent reading and another with mailing comments on FAPA.

The Reluctant Famulus 85 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.

Trap Door 28 by Robert Lichtman; 11037 Broadway Terrace; Oakland, CA 94611-1948; locs2trapdoor@yahoo.com; irregular; \$5 or the usual. An interesting fanzine dedicated to fannish anecdotes.

Who is the Star-Spangled Torquemada NOW? by Ned Brooks; 4817 Dean Lane; Lillburn, GA 30047; nedbrooks@sprynet.com. This is Ned's *Slanapa* 504 contribution.



IMPASSE *ROSLON*

We also heard from

Todd Bushlow, Nalini Haynes, Joy V. Smith (who enjoyed Sue's article on Germany), and Sue Welch

The "usual" generally refers to stock in trade within the fanzine community. It can generally be met by trading of a fanzine, sending in a letter of comment, or by providing a contribution in the form of an article or some artwork.

Argentus 11 by Steven Silver; 707 Sapling Ln.; Deerfield, IL 60015-3969; shsilver@sfsite.com; annual; \$4 or the usual. The inaugural issue of an interesting genzine with articles from a large number of contributors.

Banana Wings #48 by Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; 59 Shirley Road; Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES; UK; fishlifter@googlemail.com; irregular; the usual. A nice fanzine with lots of traditionally fannish content.

Challenger 34 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 was dedicated to sex and romance, but was not as racy as some other fanzines I've received.

Fadeaway #27 by Robert Jennings; 29 Whiting Rd.; Oxford, MA 01540-2035; fabfcbks@aol.com; bi-monthly; \$15/year or the usual. A fine general interest zine that is also distributed with SFPA.

A Leighton Year by Rodney Leighton; RR #3; Tatamagouche, NS B0K 1V0; Canada; irregular; editorial whim. Excerpts from letters written by Rodney. Somewhat like a letter substitute, but more substantial than that. Also received were several open letters. It will probably annoy Rodney that I've listed them here as a zine. He will get over it.

Living Free 148 by Jim Stumm; Hiler Branch, Box 29-KK; Buffalo, NY 14223; irregular; \$2. An interesting zine dedicated to living independently.

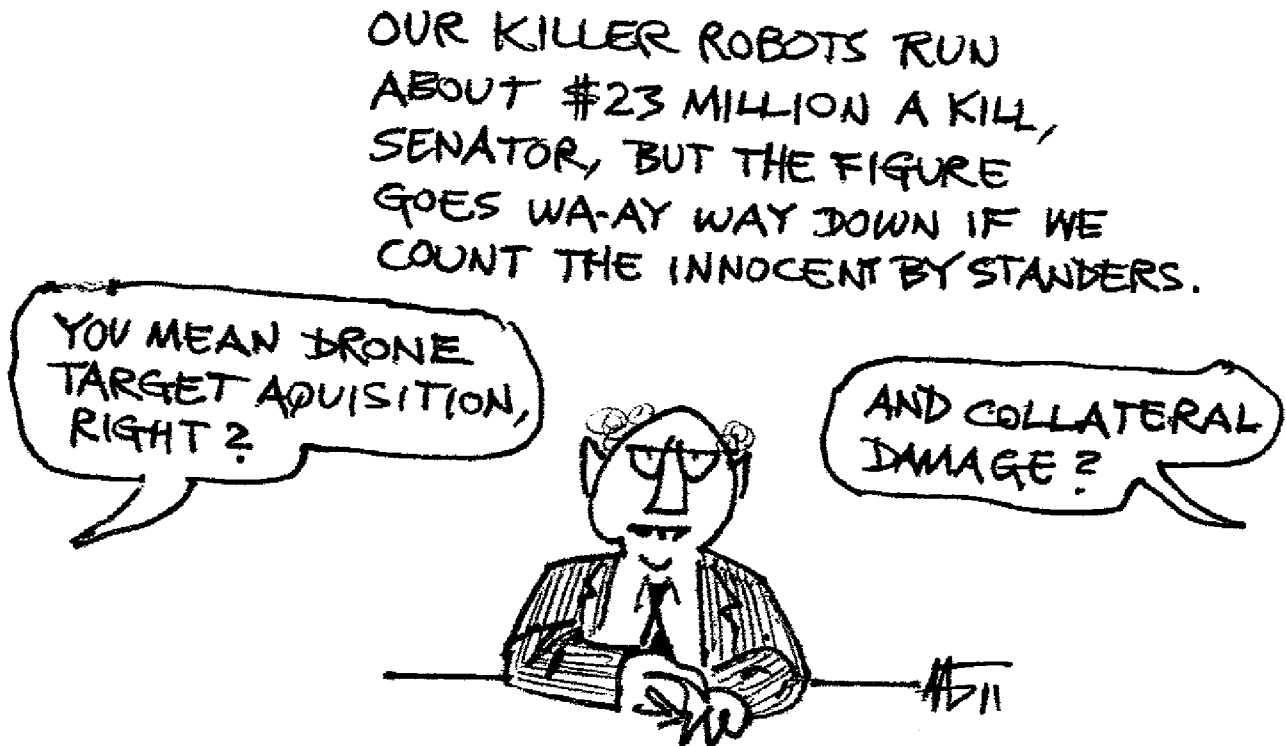
MarkTime 104 by Mark Strickert; PO Box 1051; Orange, CA 92856; busnrail@yahoo.com; irregular; \$2 or the usual. Travel updates on a recent trip to London and seeing many famous addresses.

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

Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) Marsport, Mars

Labor Day, 2095



You Got this Issue Because ...

_____ The same neighbor with the bobcat problem, saw two mountain lions a few days later.

_____ It is the rainy (and thus green) season around here; although we did manage some snow flurries last week.

_____ 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.