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Issue 98 February 2003



The Knarley Knews -- Issue 98

Published in February, 2003

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Editorial and Subscription Policy

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

1. All contributions may include a pseudonym (e.g. Knarley, Sydrus, Shit-for-Brains) at the contributor's whim.
2. To get this fanzine you are required semi-yearly to initiate contact with the editors. This could be a postcard, phone call, your fanzine, or contribution of your choice. The editors, of course, prefer a contribution so they don't have to write so much. This notwithstanding, you may purchase copies for \$1.50 each.
3. Advertising is free provided that the ads are of interest to the editors and that it is for a non-profit organization.
4. It is the editors' policy not to unduly censor or restrict the ideals of free speech. (We like a good argument as much as the next guy.) However, we reserve the right to make minor content and format changes to fit your piece in or to add appropriately denoted editorial comments.
5. Contributions are currently acceptable using the following computer formats.
IBM: Virtually any format
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6. The editors are open to bribes of any size and have never turned down a financial contribution.

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Next Issue Deadline: April 10, 2003

Editorial

(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

Thanks everyone for your suggestions for potential honorary degree recipients. There seems to have been some confusion over the options, but MSOE is more than just engineering and we do give honorary doctorates for Arts and Letters. Based on feedback in both the LOCcol and elsewhere the following names have been suggested: Hal Clement, Fred Pohl, Vernor Vinge, Robert Silverberg, Kelly Freas, Lois McMaster Bujold, A.C. Clarke, Ray Bradbury, Geoffrey Landis, David Weber, China Mieville, Bruce Sterling, and Larry Niven. From this short list I'm inclined to lean toward Fred Pohl and Hal Clement as my first choices. I'll be taking this list to the meeting of the Honorary Degree Committee next week, but they may not make the agenda since I'm certain we'll be discussing the main candidate for this spring's graduation in honor of MSOE's 100th year. Feel free to keep making suggestions.

It doesn't take a genius to realize that *TKK* is rapidly approaching its 100th issue. In fact, it is slated for June. For whatever reason the zine community places great emphasis on nice round numbers. **Sheryl Birkhead** did a nice cover for the 50th eight years ago. There are all kinds of precedents for this issue such as **Arthur Hlavaty** deciding to discontinue the *Derogatory Reference* last year. Personally I'm not planning on much for the 100th issue. My focus is a bit further ahead to the 120th which will mark the 20th anniversary. With the 60th issue I did a special feature on fandom over the last decade, but I haven't given much thought to a theme for the 120th which won't occur for over three years.

The saga of Letha's printer continues to grow. The upshot of it is that the printer was oversold to her by not her local copy representative, but the factory representative directly. Apparently the Savin's are generally targeted at the Japanese market and in that market 15 lb bond is the standard weight of paper. This is 75% of the standard 20 lb bond used in the US and less than the 28 lb bond that Letha likes to use for the body of the cross stitch charts she produces. The doesn't even begin to address the 65 lb cover stock used for the covers. So finally after months of swapping out components and units and recriminations about the power quality in the house the factory has agreed to buy back her machine. Apparently the fuser is simply incapable of routinely heating the heavier bond papers sufficiently to get the toner to stick. The exact details of the buyout haven't been worked out and we're hoping that the timing will allow Letha to find a suitable replacement. So in the meantime *TKK* will be printed in proof only at home (sorry no color for a while) and then carried to work for duplication on the high-speed machine.

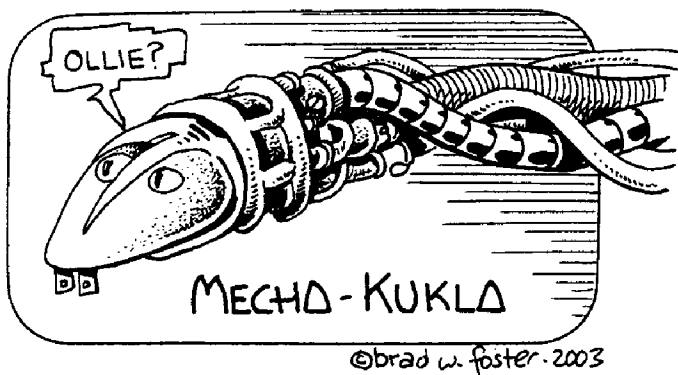
Since it has been a bit grumpy of late and tends to make the copies too dark (as it did with Issue 97).

Stumpy's barfing problem seems to be under marginal control. We're pretty certain that it is hair ball related since he is either hacking up a hair ball or mostly just liquid. He'll often go a few days or up to two weeks without losing his lunch and then do it a day or two in a row until he gets the hairball up. He seems to get worse if we are out of town since he is slightly neurotic. Further he doesn't get brushed when we are gone since this is something he insists on every night after I climb into bed. He is almost pathetic as he will jump up on the bed and can be enticed right up next to me by simply holding up the grooming brush. He'll even go so far as to let me hold him by the tail as I give him a very thorough brushing. I can manage to get quite a handful of hair every day and I honestly have no idea how he manages to grow it that quickly. His brother, Cheetah, wants little or nothing to do with brushing, yet doesn't seem to have much of a hair ball problem. I suspect barfing is something we are going to have to put up with for the long-term.

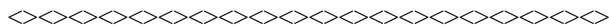
As far as food and medication goes there doesn't seem to be much relief in that arena. We still have them on the expensive food and the use of petromalt seems to have little effect one way or the other. Things are better now that the vacuum cleaner cord is fixed so that we can actually clean up after the barf dries.

The cats may also be going through a bit a personality switch again. Stumpy is now beginning act a bit more dominant and Cheetah is showing slightly more interest in the adults in the household. He even let me brush him the other night without protest; even when I turned him over. He'll even come when called even though he won't stay long.

A number of you complained about the "snow" excuse on the back of the last issue and the reality is that we've had



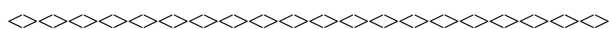
essentially no snow this year. All of the storms seems to be tracking either to our north or worse to the south. I can only read in wonder as Virginia, Maryland, and the New England states get hammered time after time and I get to look out on brown grass with barely a touch of white. The only time I've had the snow blower fired up this year was when I made sure it could start when I unburied it from the remodeling debris in December. I still haven't raked the yard yet due to an early snow that froze many of the leaves down, but other than that mostly dry. It actually kind of sucks since one of the reasons I continue to live in the Midwest is so that winter can be winter.



The household itself is managing to hold together despite minor set backs here and there. The new counter top in the kitchen started to delaminate along the corner seam and will be replaced real soon now by the general contractor. I have no idea how the plumbing and dish washer are going to work out on this since I can never get the guy in charge to talk to me. I suspect they are going to want me to redo all that and I think they should since it was their material that was defective. I'm also going to try to get them to properly level the cabinets once the counter top is up.

The washing machine crapped out the other day. It has no problem filling and draining but is incapable of spinning and agitating. It seems this isn't all that uncommon in a GE washer and while most web sites pointed me to the transmission all the evidence (leaking and sprayed oil) point to the clutch. Since this mechanism has about 60 parts in it and the oil has leaked into the motor the only sane alternative is to replace the entire motor and clutch assembly. If I do all the work myself it will cost me about \$200 and who knows how many 4-letter expletive. Since a decent new unit can be had for about double that I'm now in the market for a new machine. In the meantime I've already made two trips to the laundromat (one to dry to clothes that never got spun out) and the second for a routine laundry run as I attempted to trouble-shoot the now defunct unit.

The water softener has also been a source of annoyance for entirely too long. It basically stopped using salt despite running recharge cycles. This is usually indicative of a saline dam so I bailed out all the water and most of the salt a while back and couldn't find any such beast. The salt is designed so that it doesn't dissolve easily and my arms aren't long enough to bail to the bottom of the unit. I finally broke down and took the unit fully apart and discovered a very small, but extremely effective saline dam around the intake pipe. It quite clogged up the works and I think it has solved the problem, but I'm still wary since I haven't seen the unit do a recharge cycle yet. If the computer has gone bad or I damaged one of the sensors then that will have to get replaced as well. No one can say I'm not doing my part to bolster the economy.



Other than hockey we haven't done much since New Years. About the time I mailed out the last TKK we spent a very boring week in a time share in the middle of no where Illinois. Given that there was little or no snow there was very little to do. We did manage to take in *The Two Towers* at the theatre 20 miles away and spent one day at the Field Museum in Chicago. We also discovered the Ikea store and it solved our baking cart problem (they have a wheeled kitchen cabinet/drawer unit which was an incredible deal) and we also found lighting for the first floor bathroom. Between that and the gridwall hooks I discovered today that room is completely done. There is nothing more to install, paint, or put away. It makes for one of the few rooms we've actually completed.

After the week in the time share we went to a hockey tournament for Connor in the western part of Wisconsin. The team did OK and played very tough despite going 1 and 2. Since then they've gotten much better and should do well in the state tournament in the first part of March. More on that next issue.

The real big trip was to cousin Steve's wedding in Vail, CO earlier this month. This is roughly the same time frame as the annual ski trip we attended this year, but the schedule was during the academic term rather than my break week. I can't blame Steve for not consulting me on the schedule. I managed to get only one course with a final exam during the winter term and the students were very amenable to taking the final exam during the last week of classes rather than during the exam week (the exam was only half as long as it could have been). I also managed a real good deal on airfare from Chicago to Denver at about half the rate of any other option. The annoyance was that we had to connect through Cincinnati (somewhat out of the way) rather than taking a non-stop flight. Sounds kind of silly until you multiply the airfare by five.

To squeeze in all my classes I had to attend my 8 am class and then drive down to Chicago. On the way we were called by Delta (they got the cell phone from the home voice mail) and told that we had to make an earlier flight through Dallas since our scheduled flight had been canceled due to faulty equipment. This made the schedule very tight and I was forced to park in the expensive rather than the close lot. In the end the flight was delayed half an hour, if I'd only known. The new security arrangements are much more business-like than the recent past. Each bag was given the thorough x-ray and a number of them were also swabbed for explosive residue. We had been blessed with the random full screening which is pretty thorough. They go through each bag (after it is x-rayed) and wand everyone down. They also checked my laptop for explosive residue which is much more practical test than just seeing it turn on.

We managed to arrive in Denver just fine, but Kyle's bag missed the flight in Dallas. They said they couldn't get the

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Sue's Sites – The Nile River

by Sue Welch

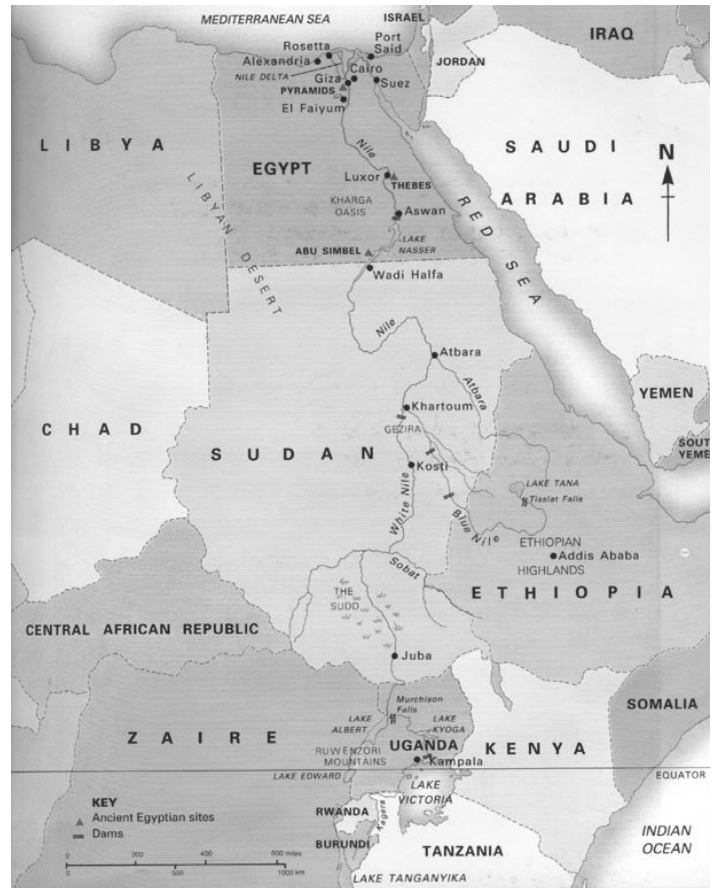
In 1856, just 147 years ago, a mere 80 years before my birth, Richard Burton and John Speke left England for the island of Zanzibar in the Indian Ocean, 20 miles off the coast of present day Tanzania in East Africa. The purpose of their trip was to find the source of the White Nile. The beginnings of this river had remained an unsolved mystery to the known world for at least the past 2,000 years.

The Nile River, the longest river in the world, stretches 4,132 miles through the present day countries of Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda. It actually consists of two rivers: the Blue Nile and the White Nile. Almost certainly the ancient Egyptians knew the Nile valley from the Mediterranean as far south as today's city of Khartoum, capitol of Sudan. The Blue Nile, a large tributary, joins the main river from high in the mountains of Ethiopia, in Khartoum. Over the centuries, expeditions to discover the source of the great Nile south of Khartoum had always proved unsuccessful due to the many series of waterfalls (cataracts), vast forest of papyrus reeds, malarial fever, fierce tropical heat and fierce opposition from local tribes.

Noting these failures Burton and Speke decided to look for the source of the Nile using a different approach: by traveling overland from the East African coast. For this expedition Speke had obtained a grant of £1,000 from the British Foreign Office plus the patronage of the Royal Geographical Society. Zanzibar with its population of 100,000, the hub of East African overseas commerce, was a regular port of call for sailing ships in the Indian Ocean when the two explorers arrived. Even though the British Empire abolished slavery in the 1830's and the Sultan of Zanzibar had declared the export of slaves forbidden in 1845, slavery within the Sultan's dominions continued to be legal. Illegal or not the African east coast Arabs had no intention of abandoning their 2000 year old profitable trade in slaves and in 1856 the island of Zanzibar was the center of this trade.

Speke made two trips into the interior of East Africa in his quest to find the beginnings of the Nile. The first was from 1857-1859 with Burton. On August 3, 1858, Speke stood on the southern shore of Lake Victoria near Mwanza (in present day Tanzania) declaring, "I no longer felt any doubt that the lake at my feet gave birth to that interesting river, the source of which has been the subject of so much speculation and the object of so many explorers." Speke stayed but three days on the shore of the lake not even attempting to back up his conclusions by discovering the source of the Nile.

Again in 1860-1863 Speke penetrated into the interior of East Africa, this time approaching Lake Victoria on its western side in the present day country of Uganda. There are no written records in Uganda before the arrival of Speke. However, it seems certain that at some point in the unrecorded past a superior race of cattle-owning men came south from



the Ethiopian highlands and these people set themselves up as a ruling aristocracy among the negroes on the northern and western borders of Lake Victoria. By 1860 three separate kingdoms were established, Bunyoro in the north, Buganda in the center and Karagwe to the south, on the western shore of the lake. These three states formed a tiny capsule of semi-civilization in the center of Africa.

No white man had ever been there, no notion of other worlds and other ways of life penetrated here. While other villages existed at stone level, these three kingdoms were well advanced in some areas. Their houses were large beautifully made conical structures of tightly woven canes and reeds that often soared fifty feet into the air; these dwellings were dry and comfortable in the rain and cool in the hot seasons. Their musical instruments were equally remarkable. Their basket ware was so finely woven it would hold water; they were dressed in soft and durable clothing from the bark of trees and skins of animals pieced together to rival the finest European seamstress. Their bodies were not disfigured; they washed their hands before eating and slaves treated as part of the household served food that was distinctly civilized.

The power of the king was absolute but a group of counselors formed a kind of cabinet to give him advice. Yet there was no method of writing or counting or measuring the pas-

sage of time. There were no mechanical tools such as the wheel or plough, and no religion. Drunken stupors were common. These tribes were unbelievably cruel. In 1861, Mutesa, the young king of Buganda, put to death some sixty of his brothers by burning them alive, a practice regarded as a perfectly normal precaution against rebellion. These tribes were well insulated from communication with the outside world: no syphilis or smallpox or diseases to kill their cattle; they had plenty to eat and drink.

Before the end of Speke’s visit, the king Mutesa, managed to acquire all objects of value from Speke in exchange for allowing him to see the source of the White Nile. On July 28, 1862, Speke was escorted to the lake “where a great stream poured itself like a breaking tidal wave over a waterfall...the roar of the waters, the thousands of passenger-fish leaping at the falls with all their might...fishermen coming out in boats and taking post on all the rocks with rod and hook, hippopotami and crocodiles lying sleepily on the water...” Speke named this place, the beginnings of the great Nile River, Ripon Falls after the nobleman who presided over the British Royal Geographical Society. This extraordinary sight can be seen today in Uganda’s second largest city of Jinja.



Editorial continued from page 4

bag to us in Vail until at least 10 the next morning which presented a problem since his ski clothes were in the bag and he had reservations for snow board school the next day. We ended up stopping at a local sporting goods store to replace the clothing (Delta offered a voucher) only to have the bag show up at 5:30 am. The annoying part is that they should have known this in the first place and then we wouldn’t have had to find and buy new clothing.

Vail has got to be one of the most expensive places to visit in the US. Hotel rooms start at around \$250/night and we managed to rent a two-bedroom condo for that which we shared with some relatives. Most of the meals were covered by the rehearsal dinner (it is custom in my family for the rehearsal dinner to be for all out of town guests) and the reception. Baby sitting was provided by the wedding and the sitters even picked the kids up from the ski school so they got an extra day of skiing.

The wedding went off without a hitch and the children enjoyed their skiing and snow boarding. I was the only casualty of the trip when I fell and jammed the crap out of my left thumb. It is still bruised and bit sore if I bang it the wrong way. Years from now when I’m asked about skiing injuries I can say I broke my leg when I was 12 and tried to break my thumb as an adult.

We had decided to spend an extra day in Denver to site see. My intent was to tour the Denver mint, but that now has to be arranged at least two weeks in advance by a congressional staffer (you can’t tour the Philadelphia mint yet) and tours are limited to 6 citizens. Since I hadn’t bothered to check until it was too late we ended up at the Nature and Science museum and spent about 6 hours there. We would have been kicked out sooner, but a science fair was in progress so they didn’t bother clearing the building.

The trip back to Milwaukee was rather uneventful, but the children can’t wait to go back to Vail.

One last thing before we get on to the rest of the issue. Here is a bit of doggerel that Letha and I wrote as **Teddy Harvia** and Alexis Gilliland inspired us during their doodle off panel at Con Jose.

Hey Diddle Diddle
the cat drew the fillo
and the cow inked over the moon.
The little dog locced
when he read the con report
and the ish was dittoed by noon.

Reflecting On...Something Old and Some Things New

by Rodney Leighton

That chick from Chicago mentioned in *TKK* #96 is named Eloise Beltz-Decker. Fanzine is entitled: *Rain on Cherry-Blossoms*. Issue #2 came out in March, 2002. Slim zine at 10 pages, some of which are mostly fillos, which she kindly defines. Editorial about sex and AIDS which is quite good; article on how she cooks complete with a recipe for meatloaf which would likely be of interest to people who cook but was of no interest to me who basically just throws some meat on the stove or in the oven and hopes it's edible when I take it out; a variety of personal stuff and some humorous bits. And a loc section with letters from Arthur Hlavaty; Don Fitch; Jerry Kaufman and 3 people I've never heard of. Eric Lindsay and Lloyd Penney get WAHFed. Fairly neat little zine; read everything except the recipe. The woman has almost as many electronic addresses as she has hair, which means nothing to anyone who hasn't seen her photo. I have no idea if she has done another issue. Write and ask: 1519 West Taylor St. #2, Chicago, IL, 60607-4015; eloise@ripco.com. I wonder if I can print this monstrous web thing? <http://www.efanzines.com/Rain/index.html>. And some people claim computers are not complicated.

The other new item which came in this package from my new friend is John Teehan's *Sleight of Hand* #1. This one illustrates the benefits of technology with photos, fancy layouts and the ability to create a loccol for a first issue. 26 pages. For the loc section, he put some comments on those web things I know nothing about and printed portions of the conversations, if that is the correct term, he had with Joyce Katz, Geri Sullivan and Ted White. This issue is full of gung-ho enthusiasm; #2 should be out about now (mid November) if he followed his schedule. This guy is a disciple of Mike Resnick; got a lot of help from him and it is no surprise that the longest article is by Resnick. About prozines. He departed from his "Gee, look how rich I am" normal mode enough to make the article entertaining, it was interesting seeing the covers of the dozen or more magazines he wrote about and the article is quite informative. Rich Brown, who prefers to use smaller case letters, provides an essay about looking up Diana Rigg's skirt; article is accompanied by a couple of photos. Fans would love this article; being I only watched one episode of *The Avengers*, I was only intrigued. Of course, anything about beautiful women... There is a reprint of Dave Langford's fan GOH speech from 1999 at Exeter University, wherever that is. Although I rejected the offered copies of *Ansible* since that zine does not interest me, I always find Langford's longer pieces interesting and amusing; quite hilarious in parts. And folk singer Janis Ian who has managed to parlay one hit record into a career and fame

happens to be a reader of SF and got herself hooked up with Mike Resnick; attended worldcon and told all the details on her website which John reprints. Portions are incomprehensible but most of it is entertaining; she is a gushing fan of SF authors and there are a bunch of photos of her with various people. Guy Lillian apparently disliked me writing about him as though he was important: should I mention that there is a photo of Janis Ian meeting Guy in here? Quite a good fanzine; I read about 96% of it and even pondered submitting a fanzine review column to him. Queries are welcome; zine is \$2 in the U.S and \$3 for us outsiders. John Teehan, 499 Douglas Ave., Providence, RI 02980. e-mail istumble@ids.net (mention *Sleight of Hand* in the subject header). I confess that I have no idea what that means but presumably computer addicts will understand it.

Trap Door has been around since 1983 which is quite a long time. It is a digest styled fanzine, which is rather rare in SF fanzines, in my experience. Except *Opuntia*, of course. Nice sexy nun on the cover, by Dan Steffan. I find it interesting that even after 10 years I still look at lists of contributors and find people I've never heard of. I know who Stef is and D. West who has the back cover and everyone has heard of Bill Rotsler and if I were not hoping that Sheryl Birkhead would soon have the opportunity to faint in front of thousands of her fans as she is presented a Best Fan Artist Hugo, I would be hoping that Steve Stiles, a true gentleman and fine artist, would win one of the things. I have no idea who Harry Bell Grant Canfield and Craig Smith might be. Pages are sporadically numbered; the loc section starts on page 40 and there are no numbers thereafter; roughly 60 pages in all. 3page editorial which is very personal and interesting. There are 9 personal anecdotal type articles. Ted White's tale of being his own artist lost me about one third of the way in but all the rest are great reading. Chris Priest writes about getting a computer and hooking up with Dave Langford to get rich and then go out of business. Joel Nydahl explains what really happened to him. Gordon Eklund explains the hoax known as Arnie Katz. Ron Bennett contributes a highly amusing tale of teaching in Singapore. Calvin Demmon pays homage to his dog. What??? I thought all SF fans hated dogs!!! Steve Stiles provides an intriguing look at life as a comic artist. And that guy named Brown who eschews capital letters used to sneak cigarettes when he was a teen. All of these articles are good. Oh yeah, there are a couple of pages by Lucy Huntzinger. The locs start with Ron Bennett and ends with the late Ken Cheslin. About 36 folks in between; about 7 of

Continued on page 18

INTERLOCUTIONS

Trinlay Khadro
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6 Jan 2003

Seems like there has been a rash of computer problems-in september **Bob Sabella** was fixing glitches, in November & December it was my turn.

Joseph Major – Yep-no one really wants to go back to the 1600s either in Japan or anywhere else. RPG-wise is a whole other story. I've had great fun tossing a 17th century character from a restrictive society into the mid-21st in a very loose one. "why are those tiny men in the box fighting over that oblong object" & later deciding that football is a **REAL** sport-it involves armor...and knocking each other over. (almost as good as Sumo...)

I work in the PDPS order center in Mequon, WI. CVS pharmacy in the Toronto burbs sends the orders to the clients by registered mail. I take the orders & get the doctor's forms & fax them to Pam & co at the end of the day.

IMHO Banquo's ghost is a symptom of MacBeth's guilt, and doesn't need to be an actual ghost.

Trin'

☐**CKK:** *I've never had much luck finding myself in games with real role-players. They are usually too hack-n-slash or simply forget their idiosyncrasies or limitations as it suits them.*☐

Joy V. Smith
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6 Jan 2003

Dear Knarley,

Intriguing cover. Is she the pleasure drone, or is there something more subtle at work here?

I see that grading takes a lot of time! 60 pp per student per week?! I hope that some of those pages are easy to go through. Do the students get critiqued as well as graded? Maybe next term you can use that data as an object lesson at the beginning in hopes that someone will learn from it.

Re: remodeling. So near and yet so far, but then the fun part will be putting things where they belong. Really-I enjoy doing that. I am curious about what light choices you'll make. Did I ever mention that we switched out almost every spotlight set we bought; the light's not good enough and the sockets were faulty. We installed cannister lights in Mom's house, and when removing the light bulb to change it (the first one),

only the bulb came out. We called the builder, and he said to first use a needle-nosed pliers, and if that didn't work, use a potato. (He said he'd come if we couldn't do it.) Fortunately, the needle-nosed pliers did work--eventually. (I was on my way for a potato and while trying to decide on an appropriate shape, someone else succeeded.)

Your hockey coaching and playing seems fine; and your trips sounded like fun. I'm sorry about the continuing cat barfing. **Sue's** tea plantation visit was fascinating. That was a great opportunity--worth talking about to social studies/history classes.

I find it hard to believe that I'm the only one to read fanzines from front to back--the way I read the paper (unless someone else has a section). I enjoy *Challenger* a lot more than **Rodney Leighton**, I see.

The Anne Perry book, *Tathea*, sounds really pompous and boring. Re: the LOCs: There are glow in the dark light switches, **Ned**; I saw one in a catalog recently. I loved **E.B. Frohvet's** line re: Nigerian spam: Send me the princess first, then we'll talk about money. I enjoyed the assorted anecdotes about flooding, learning to edit, etc. Btw, birds are extremely sensitive to fumes (**Harry Warner**). I agree with **Owen Thomas** about continuing articles. Don't if you can help it! Good fanzine round-up. I like that in a fanzine because I pass them on in hopes that someone might send for one or two.

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

☐**CKK:** *What is graded on depends on the particular assignment. Each assignment is returned with a grading checklist with a summary of the comments. I also summarize the key items in my grading spreadsheet. The grading time varies from about 15 minutes to 30 minutes per student. If I'm lucky each can be done in 10 minutes, but that is only for shorter assignments.*☐

Joseph T Major
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January 6, 2003

And now the knews ... "Dr. Jekyll taught one section and Mr. Hyde the other". That's what happens when you don't take your medicine on a regular basis. The original Dr. Jekyll in fact tried to let it all hang out as a form of auto-therapy and found out that his baser impulses, having their own expression, ended up taking over. I always wondered if James II's first father-in-law used to do his requisite Restoration roistering under the name of "Dr. Henry Jekyll". (He is usually

known by his title of Earl of Clarendon, but his name was Edward Hyde.)

SF Luminaries who deserve an honorary degree? How about Frederik Pohl? The Grand Old Man of Fandom & SF, writer on history, science, and politics – and a high-school dropout.

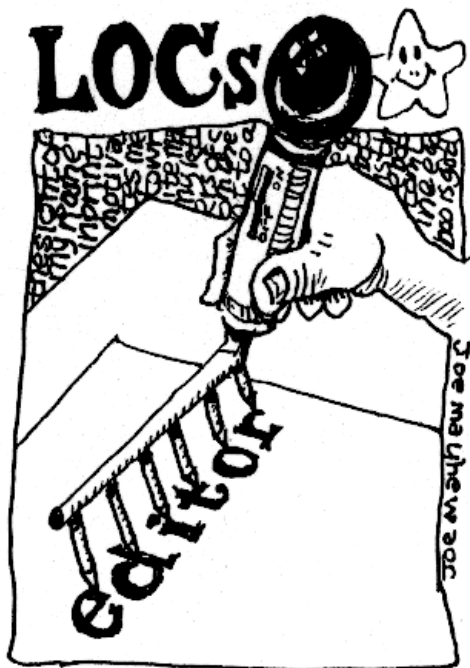
You know, reading the review of *Tathea* (or “Ta-Thea”?) I get the impression that Anne Perry heard about The Legend of Rah and the Muggles and wanted to see if she could do any worse. I’ve actually read a review of Nancy Stouffer’s *The Legend of Rah and the Muggles*. I think that J. K. Rowling could sue her for defamation on the grounds that saying that she stole anything from a book so lousy is damaging to her reputation.

You think I exaggerate. In one scene, Rah’s evil brother, whose name I have mercifully forgotten, is building a boat with some Muggles. (Short gray people – are the ordinary people Stouffer meets short and gray and live in darkness?) They are caulking its seams with rubber. They are doing so very ineptly, and are getting badly burned in the process. The job done, they throw themselves into the sea, and its salty waters soothe their burns. Yes.

The switch in the upstairs bathroom glows in the dark. However, we ended up installing a nightlight in the electric socket that is also a part of it.

Recall that *The Dungeon* was a franchised universe. That is, Farmer wrote an outline, tucked away his royalty check, and went on to write more *Riverworld* stories. It would have been interesting if he had included in each volume a story written under the pseudonym of one of the sub-contracting author’s characters ...

I arrived at fanediting from contributing to fanzines. And there from people having fanzines at the local club.



So **Lloyd Penney** is going to the RenFair as a real Goth?

No, the 100 abductions were in a period of about a year. Maybe it was “dating” (“Oh you sweet flat-eyed monster you, I long for your exotic colored skin ...”).

Conant’s *Tuxedo Park* mentions one astronomer who cleared cobwebs out of his equipment with a cat. Kitty went in one end, which was then closed off, leaving him with no alternative save to come out the other, covered with dust, dead flies, and so on, and proceeded to lick himself off with considerable disgust at the antics of humans. Now if he had coughed up a hairball in the scope ...

Namarie,
Joseph T Major

☐**CKK:** *Farmer and his royalty check not withstanding the editor(s) or The Dungeon should be crucified for allowing the abysmal continuity errors.*☐

Bill Legate
Box 3012
Sequim, WA 98382
Jan. 6, 2002

Thanks for #97. Say what does “Knarley” mean? Does it refer to Sprague de Camp’s Gnarly man?

Rodney Leighton’s entertaining column is designed to puncture some balloons. Myself, I’m obsessed with the remoteness of physics-itself from the sociology, or whatever it is, in the sparkle-glitter tales published in magazines now. Where’s the sci in my fi? Also with Lafferty’s distinctive representations of how folks perceive and tell. I enjoy projecting “flying saucers” back into the 19th century for that matter. So along comes this wrestling fan and sez “Bo-oring.” Take that!

Actually, I received *Challenger* 15 about a year ago and **Guy** never sent 16. This happened once before, and I just phoned him: okay. After I heard that 16 had gone out, I got only as far as his answering machine, and gradually forgot about it. Maybe it’s the lawyer jokes, or my offensive opinion that the punk Oswald was on the second floor for the duration of the murder; but more likely for no particular reason, that one copy wasn’t mailed, or a label fell off.

Thanks, **Joseph**, for 1854 01 06 (a Friday). Twelfth Night is from sundown Jan. 5 to sunrise Jan. 6, Twelfth Day then lasting until sundown – although what many **mean** by it is simply the same as Epiphany, Jan. 6. We should be ever ready to compound the confusion on such matters. If there were only one spatial dimension, but three dimensions of time, ah, what then? Or if there were or was nothing remotely like quantity of number, what was there (or were there) instead of singular and plural?

Harry Warner: I also like *Macbeth* for the third one. In 3.4, First Murderer comes to the door and says to Macbeth within, “My lord, his throat is cut. That I did for him.” If First M. cut his throat, then Third M. didn’t; but First M.

might be speaking for all three. As soon as he leaves, the ghost enters and sits in Macbeth's place at table, visible only to him. So did Shakespeare have that in mind?

☐**TKK:** *Knarley was simply the name of my feisty 2'-4" hobbit when I played AD&D. The nickname stuck and now I've immortalized it.*☐

Brad W. Foster
POB 165246
Irving, TX 75016
January 7, 2003

Greetings Henry & Letha ~

It looks like things might be moving closer to our own remodeling here...well, not so much remodeling, as fixing those things that are about to or already have fallen down. We are trying to renegotiate our mortgage to a lower rate. But having all kinds of problems with the appraisal of the property. I don't disagree that there is a section of carpet torn up in the front room, or that there are scraps of tile left in the laundry room. We are slowly getting rid of the bad stuff as time and money allows, to replace the later. It's the idea that somehow, until we put the new stuff in, the bank won't okay the loan. I mean, here we are already paying on a higher loan with an unbroken record of payments for seven years, and of the highest credit ratings you can hope for, and what we are asking is to get a better deal, which means we would have to pay *less* per month than the amount we are paying with no problem, and the amount of the loan is half what the house is valued at.... But some scraps of carpet and tile are nixing it? Problem, like most such things, seems to be you never actually get to the person/persons who are making the actual decisions, but constantly have to leave messages with intermediaries, wondering just how they are garbling that message on the way. Sigh...sorry, but had to get that off my chest. Probably will all fall through and we will have wasted a lot of time and money, but it has gotten us back on line toward fixing things like foundations, walls, roofs, etc.

On **Lloyd's** LOC asking about seeing me at a dealer table at Philcon but not ConJose. We've been able to attend World-Con the past decade or so only by getting that dealers table, and hoping to sell enough of my art and weird small press pubs to help cover the expenses of the con. This meant we spent a lot of time in the dealers room, but did get to see folks and such. This past year we had to make the decision

that, with so many large art festivals the same time as World-Con, we were probably going to take a break from that for several years. We had already gotten our memberships for ConJose, so decided if it would be our last we would try to do it for the fun of it. So saved up the pennies, and when we got there we had the freedom to go to programming, to tour the city, to just sleep late some mornings, and not have to worry about setting up, manning, and tearing down in the dealers room. A strange experience for us, and evidently for others as well, who were used to finding us easily by checking the dealers room. Indeed, we were often a second "message board" for folks who knew they could leave a message with us for others who might drop by. Anyway, I think we surprised more people who saw us simply walking about freely than anywhere else at ConJose.

Oh, and after my comments in this issue about having seen 4 of the 17 titles listed in the back of 96, I took a look at "Fanzines Received" here and find of these 23, I've gotten 10, a little better average. What does it mean? Who knows!

I'm outta here, looking forward to the big 100 page, hardbound issue of #100 in a few months!

stay happy ~
Brad



the loan conforming so they can easily sell it if necessary. This requires all the numbers to crunch up properly. Sanity and common sense never enter into the equation.☐

Guy H. Lillian
PO Box 53092
New Orleans, LA 70153
1-7-03

Dear Knarl:

Whenever I see either my name or that of my fanzine, *Challenger*, in the title of an article, my interest is understandably piqued, and thus was the case with **Rodney Leighton's** piece in **TKK** #97. Therein **Rodney** expounded at some length on the questions of whether he was within his rights in reading only selected portions of the various issues, whether this practice would cause him to be banished from my mailing list, and what back issues I have available, if any. I am delighted to respond, thusly: Sure...of course not...a few copies of some earlier issues like 6, and 9, a few more of 11, lots of 12-14, a few of 15 and 16. And yes, available I mean available for sale (\$6) or trade or bribe or whim.

I hope **Leighton** never gets the idea that I insist that he read every word in very *Challenger*. As he states *Challenger* is a larger-than-usual fanzine (usually close to 100 pages, if not over that) and there's only so much time people can devote to such writing. That's why I usually try for a variety of material and tones – the better to provide a choice for my readers. Of course it doesn't offend me if a reader exercises that choice. I find **everything** in *Challenger* interesting, of course, otherwise I won't print it – but I couldn't insist on the same from anyone else. Read what you will, I ask my audience; all I ask is that you respond.

I do indeed, as **Leighton** says, love to receive and trade with other zines, and to review said zines in "The Zine Dump". My reviews are seldom harshly critical and provide, I think, a fair idea of what the fanzine involved has to offer. I'm frankly delighted by the popularity of the Dump and invite any of your readers who publish a fanzine to trade – with a couple of caveats. First of all, I am receiving a lot of publications which do not have the genre of science fiction at their hearts. Some are superb, like one that **Rodney** mentions, Fred Argoff's *Brooklyn*, but many are anarchist or atheist pubs which don't interest me at all – which, indeed, I find pedantic and dull. *Challenger* is, as I said above, eclectic, and features writing on all kinds of topics, some far from the SF ken – my own chatter about legal issues, for instance, or the piece on horseracing Mike Resnick has written for issue #17. But science fiction is at its heart, and zines based elsewhere, in anarchy or poetry or whatever, can't be *guaranteed* a review. I just don't have the space.

Another caveat. *Challenger* only appears twice a year or so. Public defenders are the most penurious of attorneys, and a "monster" like *Challenger* costs quite a bit. Because of this schedule I've taken to running "The Zine Dump:" as a separate zine when enough pubs have come in – the better to keep responses fresh. Anyone who wants *this* zine, please contact me. It's small enough to e-mail.

Because of its length, and because I am a pinheaded troglodyte when it comes to computers I have stayed away from electronic media, but that is changing. My beloved lady, Rose Marie, has brought the 21st century into our house. Her stepmother, Patty Green, is building a new *Challenger* website even as we speak. Its address is challzine.com. I will even start reviewing e-zines from e-fanzines.com in my next issue. Next stop, rocket science!

So **Rodney**, you will stay on my mailing list, if only so I will keep the pleasure of writing "Tatamagouche" on the envelope. Read what you will of *Challenger*, I only ask that you keep me on *your* mailing list, and write a LOC if you're so moved. And this is supposed to be a LOC to *TKK*, a few notes...

If your school is going to give someone from the genre or its penumbra an honorary engineering degree, I would suggest someone from NASA, not Jimmy Doohan from *Star Trek*! What is DUKW ride? That's awful news about the **Penney's**

car wreck. Thank Christ they're okay! Toronto is indeed a lovely, lovely city. See you there!

Best to Letha–
Guy

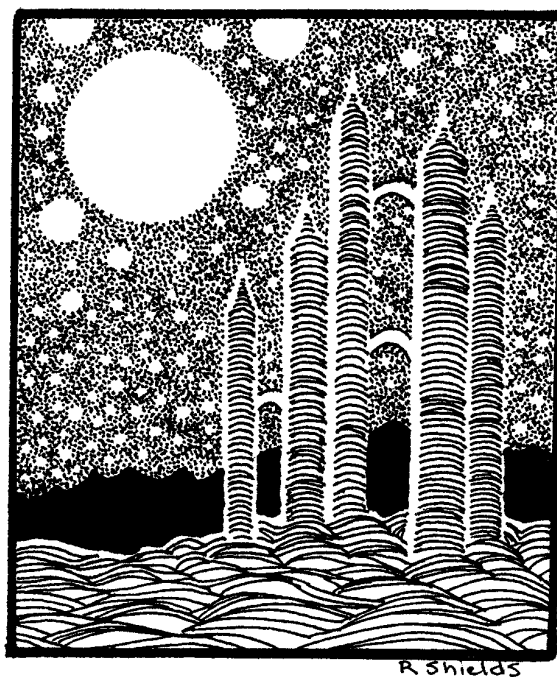
□**TKK**: I think your caveats are sensible. A *DUKW* or duck is a c. *WWII* amphibious vehicle. Try visiting the Wisconsin Dells or the Branson area for a commercial ride.□

Karen Johnson
35 Mariana Ave
Sth Croydon, Vic 3136
Australia
kaji@labyrinth.net.au
08 Jan 2003

Hi Knarley!

There are some students who are pro-active and into their education and take all opportunities to improve, and who enjoy learning for learning's sake...but for every one of them there are 99 who want you to tell them **exactly** what they need to know to pass the exam so they can move on to the next class without actually bothering to do anything. I think it's a flaw in the education system, because of how much emphasis it puts on the tests and the grades and the end-of-year ordeals known as Finals. By the time kids have had 12 years of that, they don't know how to do anything else! Not to mention the amount of time pressure they have put on them with jobs and sports and more-or-less obligatory extra-curricular activities etc. Anyway, I'll get off my hobbyhorse now and move on :)

Your home-renovations sound quite ambitious and make me shudder a little. We desperately need a new kitchen and new bathrooms and new paint and new window and door frames etc etc (come to think of it, we need a new house!) But it



seems that the jobs have to be done in a particular order (you can't get new flooring and carpets put in until the remodeling is done because they'll get messed up and you won't know how to fit them around the 'new' fittings, but before we get the new kitchen we want to get the bathrooms done, and we need to repaint the rest of the house before we do that, but before we repaint we have to patch a couple of walls and replace all the window-frames etc.) In the end we're sitting twiddling our thumbs and nothing is getting done at all!

One of my friends had a big cat barfing problem, and they spent a fortune in vet bills and tests before they figured out what was causing it. It turned out that the cats (beautiful Tonkinese boys) were greedyguts with eyes bigger than their tummies! They were gobbling down their kittykibble so fast that they couldn't begin to digest it, and it just came right back up again. The solution was changing their kibble to a much smaller-grained formula, and putting it into a special rotating kibble-holder so that the cats could only get it out a little bit at a time. If Stumpy is eating everything in sight, it might be something similar. Aren't pointsettia's poisonous to cats as well as to humans? I'd expect they'd make any cat barf...

Ditto sounds like it was fun. My commiserations to **Lloyd** and **Yvonne**. I hope her wrist mends quickly! We're thinking of including Canada on our American Odyssey, but we'd be on the wrong side of the country to go to Toronto. I had hoped to be able to attend Torcon this year, but alas that's not going to happen either...since I'll be getting married in August I may or may not be in North America. Quite possibly I'll still

be waiting for my visa to be processed), but we won't be able to afford any travelling because John will have already paid for his trip out to Australia for the wedding, and mine to the US. John's introduction to fandom will have to wait a bit longer. :) And speaking of fandom, Heather and I are planning to attend Minicon and Corflu while we're in the States. I'm rather intimidated at the thought of the possible size – sure they're relatively 'small' by US standards, but in Australia we only get one or two hundred people to the official Natcon! All those people I don't know. But if I chicken out then I'll miss out, and I don't want to do that because as well as being terrifying it sounds like fun (especially since Minicon has a Music GOH and I believe that filk is the order of the day (or night)...something else sadly lacking in Oz, and that I've missed like crazy since Aussiecon.)

Rodney Leighton asks whether it's wrong to take five months to read a fanzine. I must confess that since I got sick and lost the habit of reading on a regular basis I've been known to put them in my inbasket and leave them there for up to a year untouched! But I'm mending my ways now (or at least trying to) and any fanzines I receive this year will receive prompt attention, and hopefully equally prompt reply, which right now means yours and *Twink* 28 because that arrived a couple of days ago. That's my New Year's Res-

olution anyway, and we'll just have to see whether I can keep it up.

Re. Nigerian spam – isn't it astounding how many impoverished African widows of wealthy businessmen there are out there, and how they all desperately need our help to keep from being disinherited. Somebody obviously needs to start a Foundation to help them out!

I don't know that apas are a good place to learn writing/editing. They're a good place to get the habit of regular output yes, but most apazines are quite different from general fanzines. At least mine are. I've managed to maintain membership in *ANZAPA* and *BWA* despite my general slackness in writing, because I sit down and write a bi-monthly 4 or 6 letter of ramblings. I don't think editing comes into it!

We've never had a cellar flood because we don't have a cellar, but we had a laundry cascade last week after we bought a pair of new toilet mats/bathmats and put them into the washing machine. They had so much fluff in them that they totally blocked the laundry outlet, and the water had nowhere to go except down :(Fortunately, the washing still on the floor waiting to be done soaked up the water, and the cure was easy – mop up the floor and unblock the plughole, and then do the next three days worth of washing all in the same afternoon. It was still a menace, and my sympathies to anyone who's experienced the real thing!

Karen

☐**TKK**: *The problem with sewer backups in this country is that they are frequently from the sanitary sewer which typically requires that the affected areas be disinfected.*☐

E.B. Frohvet
4716 Dorsey Hall Dr. #506
Ellicott City, MD 21042
January 8, 2003

Dear Henry,

The golf champion Sam Snead, who died in 2002 at age 89, played the game to a respectable standard well into old age. Once when Snead was in his 70s, he was playing in a foursome with some younger men. "When I was younger," he told them, "I used to cut the angle on this hole by driving the ball over those trees." Naturally they assumed golf advice from the famous Snead was good as gold. So one of the men tee'd up his ball, took out his driver, and gave a mighty whack. The ball soared up, up, up – hit the trees and fell into the creek. Everyone turned and looked at Snead. "Of course, that was forty years ago," the old fellow said cheerfully. "Them trees were *shorter* then."

Actually I think that's a pretty good metaphor concerning fandom.

Another amazing cover by the amazing **Alan White**, who is due for a major award Real Soon Now... First issue of this year, last issue of last year: six of one, gremflood of the other... *TKK* arrived within a few days of **Bob Sabella's** lat-

est *Visions of Paradise*, and of course one is struck with the similarities, as **Bob** often talks about the joys and frustrations of teaching. My first reaction on your suggestion of SF writers to receive honorary degrees was that I could recommend several. But you know, I can't, as my taste doesn't run heavily to "engineering" SF, and it is after all a school of engineering. Hmm. C. J. Cherryh? James P. Hogan? Robert Silverberg?

Your account of the family trip to Toronto, particularly about going up the CN Tower with Andy Porter who is not fond of heights, suggested to me a picture of one of the children taking him encouragingly by the hand and saying, "Don't worry, Mr. Porter, I'll take care of you." I've tried all-night driving and though the traffic is less the percentage of big-rig trucks is higher.

I'm not aware of anyone imposing any rule that one must read every page of a fanzine. Much like **Rodney**, I usually skim over an incoming zine first, reading bits and pieces that take my notice. Then I read the whole issue more carefully. There are parts even of some of my favorite fanzines that I may find of limited interest and don't read the great attention. I'd hope that a zine has something to offer everyone.

I think all the switch and outlet covers in my place (about 13 years old) are stamped from a thin sheet metal, except the cable and phone jacks which are plastic. Don't basements have sump pumps any more to prevent flooding? I distinctly recall in the first house I lived in as a child there was an opening in the basement floor with a pump.

Joseph T. Major: I stand on my view of what pilots should do if hijackers take over the cabin and threaten attendants or passengers. The policy of the Federal Aviation Administration prior to September 11, 2001, was to yield immediately to hijackers, and we all saw the result of that – and the precedent should provide an obvious defense against lawsuits. (I'm still waiting to hear if the underwriters of the World Trade Center try an "act of God" defense: in civil law, an event which "no reasonable precaution could have foreseen or prevented". Speaking of bishops in strange places, there's a Russian Orthodox cathedral in Sitka, Alaska, which was the capitol of the territory when it was still under Russian rule.

Lloyd Penney: Somehow I can't picture you as a goth.

Trinlay Khadro: Perhaps the cat who guarded KT when she was small though of her as a strangely shaped kitten. Cats can be protective of their people, and vice versa. In medicine, a longitudinal study examines the same people over years, with regard to a specific factor. My aunt has been in such a study for more than twenty years, about osteoporosis (a condition of weakened bones, making fractures more common among the elderly). Once a year they send a car to pick her up and take her to a hospital to be examined. There is also a lengthy questionnaire.

Back cover says, "It hasn't really snowed yet..." I wince to imagine your definition of "really snowed". There has already been as much snow this winter as we got all last winter and it's only January. Twice now, the highway department had been blindsided as the weather forecasters predicted "rain" or "flurries" only to get several inches.

I have no plans to attend Toronto WorldCon. No decision on Boston but don't hold your breath (not that anyone would).

My upstairs neighbors have been renovating since before Thanksgiving. This has involved a great deal of thumping, banging, and dropping things on the floor. IN the interest of being a good neighbor, or a least an unobtrusive one, I have bitten my lip and refrained from comment. They seem to be moving their furniture back in, so hopefully the worst is over.

Auf Wiedersehen
E.B. Frohvet

☐**CKK:** *I doubt the passengers in an airliner would stand for the automatically yield policy these days. We should, however, let them have all the airline "food" they want.*☐

Gene Stewart
1710 Dianne Ave.
Bellevue, NE 68005
stews9@cox.ne
16 Jan 2003

Knarley – **Alan White's** cover is excellent – programming the pleasuredome being prime among escapist dreams.

Editorial – People will do what is stupid. If you do your best, it's then in their hands. Their choice ought no affect what you've already done, nor how you view it.

Many never learn to ask, remember.

Scotty, the *Star Trek* character, may be a decent role model for engineers but James Doohan is only the actor who portrayed Scotty.

Stephen Baxter, Jack McDevitt, Neal Stephenson, and China Mieville are all good candidates for honorary degrees in engineering, I'd say. All use sharp science in their sf.



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Hockey coaching sounds parallel to soccer coaching and I suspect all one can do is show them basics and hope some absorb them.

Sorry to hear about **Lloyd & Yvonne Penney**. I hope they mend soon.

Hershey, PA, is a nice town.

Sue Welch's African tales are fascinating and bring home the challenges very clearly. Great stuff.

Rod Leighton's odd accusation that I lied when I quoted him shall pass as unworthy of any kind of response beyond acknowledging it, and his evident problem with me is equally useless as a comment hook or even as fodder for one of those trumped up fan feuds. Count me out and if I threaten him so, I'm sorry.

E.B. Frohvet's review of *Helm* by Steven Gould echoes my experience of many of Tor's books, which used to be consistently good.

His cynical rejection of positive messages in Anne Perry's *Tathea* reminds me why sf fen are so often, well, sf fen.

What's all this Jose Farmer bashing? It's obviously not an election year, so what gives?

Trinlay Khadro is right, people migrate year-round. I wish they'd sit down, don't you?

—Gene Stewart
OLD 815

☐**CKK**: *I would hope that the MSOE graduates and their families could make the distinction between James Doohan and Scotty.*☐

KRin Pender-Gunn
PO Box 567
Blackburn 3130
Australia
fiawol@ozramp.net.au
20 Jan 2003

I can share your problem with cats throwing up.

I have a brain damaged white cat called C'mell (yes, I know its not original to call a cat that). She is nothing like Cordwainer's C'mell. This morning I went to sit in my craft working chair and just missed sitting on cat sick containing bits of chewed up palm tree. For some reason she only eats the palm trees when they are in range of her teeth. She also throws up when she is frightened. As she is frightened of almost everything, except for Ian and he isn't her any more, I clean up a lot of cat sick. Mainly from under the bed. It got so bad I laid tiles in the bedroom. She throws up if she eats too fast, if she eats food that is different, if I use the vacuum cleaner, you name it, she throws up for it. She has now taken to sleeping under the bed all day. She also has fleas but won't let me near her to treat her as, you guessed it, she is frightened of me.

My other cat, Godzilla (so named by Ian as he wanted her to grow big enough to destroy Tokyo) has taken to sleeping in the middle of my craft table or in the middle of the dining table. She is now about 16 and has not done this before – maybe she is going senile?

KRin

☐**CKK**: *OK, you win. Stumpy isn't much of a problem in comparison.*☐

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740
January 22, 2003

Dear Henry:

Everyone I can think of as a natural for an honorary doctorate is dead, alas, or in too poor health to be a likely candidate. I assume your institution would prefer someone whose name is at least semi-familiar to students and the general public, in addition to being alive. Perhaps Ray Bradbury? or Tolkien's son who has done so much to keep his father's writing alive and in print? Fred Pohl?

Of course I was sorry to learn of the **Penney**'s auto accident, but it was a relief to know that no permanent damage was done to the people involved. Fandom has been mostly free of motor vehicle crashes in recent years, after a series of them involving prominent fans about four decades ago, including one fatality, Ron Ellik. **Robert Lichtman** is the only other fanzine fan I can think of who has suffered serious physical problems on a street or highway in the past few years.

After reading **Sue**'s account of how nice it is in Uganda, I've been afraid to read the newspaper for fear of finding that the United States is about to go to war with that nation. It's hard to keep up with the military prospects, but apparently there is no trouble Ugandawards.

Rodney Leighton made a mistake by not reading all about R.A. Lafferty in that fanzine. The article might have inspired him to try some of Lafferty's fiction and most people need to read only one or two of his books to be a lifelong enthusiast for his absolutely distinctive way of telling stories. It try to read everything in a fanzine with three major exceptions: material about computers, football, and rock. All three of which are equally far beneath my contempt. I won't try to finish an article or a story if midway in it, I find it is unintelligible to me, because I'm too stupid to comprehend the technical matters in it or hopelessly mixed up by inability to follow the plot. My main problem of late has been my inability to sit down and read for an hour or two without interrupting myself. My eyes will start to water so badly that the text becomes blurred or if the typeface is very small, I may develop too severe a headache to keep going or my back starts to hurt severely enough to distract my attention. That's why there are fanzines that arrived six months or more ago which I haven't responded to yet.

I am shocked that **E.B.** found the Anne Perry novel so unsatisfactory. She is superb when she writes mystery stories. But P.D. James' one venture into fantasy fiction wasn't too successful, either.

People who work on houses see to have always been inefficient. About ten years ago, I had some work done on my attic and the carpenter told me that the builders (around 1904) had never finished something called "boxing in" the top of the house. An electrician I called in to work on non-working electrical outlets discovered that one of them had absolutely no wiring anywhere in its vicinity. This socket had probably been installed about 30 years after the house was built, because there is evidence that some wiring had been added to the original circuitry at one time.

Louis Russell Chuvonet may have been the most talented tennis player in fandom. He continued to compete in senior citizen matches until perhaps a dozen years ago. He is the fan who invented the word "fanzine". Unfortunately, he seems to have suffered some kind of old age problems and dropped out of *FAPA* a couple of years ago and remains incommunicado.

Joseph Nicholas exaggerates the publishing pressure that apas impose on members. Some apas do encourage or demand activity frequently. But *FAPA* requires only eight pages of activity each year and it can be all in one apazine. *SAPS* requires six pages or more in any two consecutive quarterly mailings, so you don't get kicked out if you publish size pages twice a year.

Yrs., &c.,
Harry Warner, Jr.

☐**TKK:** *You sound like a good candidate for books on tape. See what your local library carries and stay away from anything that is abridged. There is a lot of good fiction and science fiction on tape.*☐

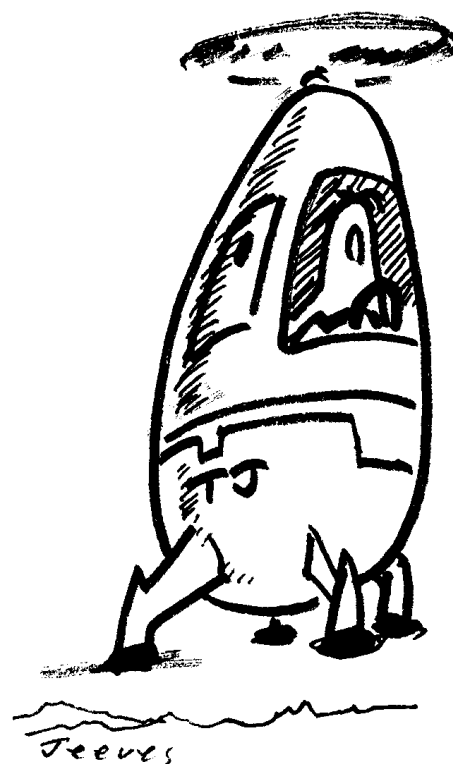
Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Rd.
Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2
Canada
January 24, 2003

Dear Knarley:

Thank you for issue 97 of *The Knarley Knews*. I see **Alan White** has been busy with another amazing cover; he got a Hugo nomination from me this year with all the amazing covers he's been doing for fanzines everywhere.

As I keep reading fanzines, I keep hearing about how fannish cats are doing poorly. They have hairball and barfing problems, they lose their fur in patches, they're incontinent...-some of their owners complain of the same thing. The *Plokta* Cabal's cat, George, may soon head for the great sandbox in the sky. I don't mean to be cruel, but it is a change from reading about fans passing away.

Some good words about Toronto, and they are true. The subway has determined which properties are most desirable. There are parking lots close to the convention centre, but they are expensive, and one by one, these lots are being built upon. There is a municipal parking lot literally under University Avenue between King and Front Sts., but it is expensive. If you drive



up, leave your car at your hotel, and do the walking you need to do. Downtown Toronto is quite safe. I work at King and University, and the convention centre is just a few blocks away. There are lots to explore in the PATH, about 10 kilometres of shopping one level underground.

When I respond to a fanzine, I send a letter of comment. In that term, nowhere does it state where the comment originates. It may come from the fanzine, or something in the fanzine sparked an outside comment, or the comment may be totally unrelated to the zine and its contents. I know I can't comment on everything inside; I give it a try, but my life is not so well rounded that I have something to add on every subject. As **Rodney Leighton** says, how you respond to each fanzine is up to you.

My letter...I have now finished nine weeks at DBRS, and everything is still great. I have high hopes for my three-month review in three weeks. I will ask a question: Does anyone know anything about fanzinish stuff at Torcon? Who is running the fanzine lounge? Who's doing any fanzine programming? I haven't heard anything; I was hoping someone reading this would know. Possibly, if this makes the local, we may all know by then.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

☐**TKK:** *I saw a decent portion of the underground Toronto during Ditto and I have no intention of having to scramble for a parking place during Torcon.*☐

Eric Lindsay
PO Box 640
Airlie Beach, Nth Qld, 4802
Australia
fiawol@ericlindsay.com
26 Jan 2003

Dear Henry,

Thanks for *TKK* #97. Interesting cover by **Alan White**, making me wonder what decided him on the subject.

Mention of Letha's printer problems reminds me that Jean appears to be having problems from time to time with her printer. My printer was in a less convenient position, being nicely out of the way in my closet, but when Jean wanted a printer for a while, she kidnapped it. I rather think its move to her printer trolley may be permanent, leaving me without any printer. While my printer has two parallel ports, an AppleTalk port, and an IrDA port, I'm undecided whether to get a very long parallel printer cable in the hope it would connect from my room when needed. My experience of ten metres of parallel cable hasn't been satisfactory. While in Townsville, I did get (very cheap too) a Macintosh Appletalk to serial printer cable. It occurs to me that if the printer Appletalk connection will work with a non differential line serial connection (at the wrong bit rate) then I may be able to use a serial port to connect to the printer. Or maybe I need to think of a network connection, a stand-alone print server box (I dislike using a PC as a print server, for security reasons), and printing individual pages from PDF files. Given that all my own material is written in Postscript, doing a PDF conversion using Ghostscript and GhostView is only one extra step away. Also, it produces very small file images, typically 35% smaller than the original markup for the 14 pages (64k vs 101k say). That may be the easier method, and it allows selection of individual pages for printing, which is not possi-



ble with my Postscript (because the printer does the page rendering).

Interesting comments on some students not asking when they fail to understand something. I keep having the feeling that such students end up working for Microsoft, doing some things wonderfully, and totally missing the point in other areas.

On worthy science fiction luminaries, I've been enjoying David Weber's Honor Harrington series, in which there is considerable emphasis on training, competence in technical fields, and many events where one side does better because of better schools providing better trained characters. In addition, the Manticore war effort succeeds in considerable part due to producing superior devices, including superior software.

On my closet reconstruction, I have my elaborate superstructure built, however the quantity of material that got crammed into it currently prevents proper use of the space. I did manage to build in two desk surfaces, each with an extra full width slide out desk surface underneath. Then I promptly covered both with junk.

I also got myself (very recently) a battery drill, when Tandy was selling them at under \$30 (US\$13). This should ensure I never need to drill another hole. After the 448 or so for my construction, I want to be prepared. Of course, I haven't found a space in which to store the drill.

These long car trips you take, such as to Toronto, are impressive. I'm sure I couldn't manage it with a car full of children. However I hate cars, and never want to own another one. Unfortunately, Jean is not of a like mind, and is getting rid of her perfectly good Ford Laser, replacing it with a Subaru Forester that has not yet arrived off the ship.

The various reports of border and security delays are making me less and less inclined to visit the USA. I also really dislike the idea of armed sky marshals on planes, as it increases the means by which guns get onboard. The inconvenience factor of security, especially those aspects I believe are ineffective, just make the likelihood of enjoying the trip more and more marginal.

I wonder why **E B Frohvet** is reviewing such old hardcovers. I was under the impression that books these days disappear from bookshops within a few months of publication.

Moving to the LoCs. I still haven't found any decent way to pull wiring through the concrete walls. Although the concrete blocks have a bit of a hollow core, these are not aligned, and are mostly full of yet more concrete anyway. I'd do replacement skirting boards for wiring, were the room not interrupted by so many door openings.

The other factor is that the potential number of wires keeps increasing, and their nature keeps changing. Power wires, yes please. Ethernet for the computer. Firewire maybe. Some serial lines. Some parallel printer lines. Some audio wiring

for the tuner and DVD. Lots of speaker wires. And of course, the starting point and destination continually change.

All the best,
Eric Lindsay

□**CKK:** *I have an AsanteTalk Ethernet to AppleTalk bridge. I recall it cost about \$85, but it put the old JJC printer on the Ethernet until the paper transport mechanism crapped out. I know you don't want to hear this, but your wiring problems are precisely the reason that wireless is becoming so popular. The firewall security is also getting pretty good.*□

Milt Stevens
6325 Keystone St.
Simi Valley, CA 93063
miltstevens@earthlink.net
February 1, 2003

Dear Henry,

The Knarley Knews #97 begins with an excellent **Alan White** cover. At first glance, it appears to be a pleasantly designed image meant to decorate the cover of a fanzine. When you notice the title and the detail work it becomes more interesting.

Science fiction people who might deserve an honorary degree in engineering? I'd recommend Bruce Sterling. He does absolutely the greatest gizmos in the SF field. I love his gizmos. I'd also would recommend Larry Niven. Someone did a name badge for Larry showing the Ring World with the text "Niven Macroengineering Company." Ring World really seemed to inspire a lot of Cal Tech and MIT types. Once they read the novel, they felt compelled to swarm in and start engineering it themselves. Many of the ideas they produced found their way into The Ringworld Engineers.

All this discussion of home flooding led me to consider the location of my own water heater. It is located on a three foot tall platform in the garage. It is in plain enough sight that I was able to notice moisture developing under it when a tiny leak developed in 2001. I replaced the water heater immediately. The floor of the garage is inclined slightly in the direction of the garage door. If the water heater had burst, the water would have drained through the slight space under the garage door and down the driveway. Any boxes I store in the garage are stored at the higher part of the floor away from any possible flow of water from the water heater or washer-drier.

My current house was built in 1976 and is generally pretty well engineered. Since it was built after the energy crunch of the early seventies, it is very well insulated. There is only one irritating detail which they missed. They didn't put a light switch next to the door coming from the garage. As a Californian, I enter the house from the garage 99 times out of a hundred. I almost feel guilty when I do use the front door, because I disturb the homes of so many spiders who may have lived there for generations. As the result of the lack of a light switch, I always leave at least one light on in the house

when I go out for the evening. This actually may not be a bad idea.

Rodney Leighton is not unusual in not reading every item in every fanzine. I doubt anybody does that. I certainly don't. LoCs ideally should indicate you have read some part of the fanzine or at least are still awake and paying attention. Sometimes, a polite thank you note will do. There is one well known fellow who seems to view fanzines as an opportunity to update the world on his medical and other problems. He's been doing it for decades now. His fanac is one large compendium of misery and despair. He isn't likely to appear on the Hugo ballot for best fan writer any time soon.

There are some things I generally will or will not read. I skip long accounts of disease and pain. With trip or con reports, I will read a page or two, and they either grab me or don't. I will always read book reviews of books I have read. I will usually read book reviews if they appear in groups of less than half a dozen. When twenty or thirty book reviews appear together I will skim and read some of them. In one particular fanzine, I skip all the political commentary. It makes a much faster read that way. I always read most of the letter column. I always read pieces where someone is writing about something that really interests them, even if it doesn't particularly interest me. It's a great opportunity to get a different perspective on things.

Bill Legate mentions the Elves, Gnomes, and Little Men's Science Fiction, Chowder, and Marching Society as a Berkeley club of the fifties. It was around for a lot longer than that. I was attending meetings of the Little Men whenever I was in the country between 1966 and 1969. The club was still around into the seventies.

I absolutely agree as to the advantages of not having hordes of people around. That's one of the reasons why I moved from Los Angeles County (population 9,000,000) to Ventura County (population 1,000,000) a little over ten years ago. In Ventura County, the population is almost all along the coast. The northern half of the county is largely uninhabited.

Yours truly,
Milt Stevens

□**CKK:** *I typically store boxes in the basement and the garage on pallets or 2-by-4s to reduce the mildew problem. This would inherently solve most minor flooding problems.*□

Alexander Slate
9223 Lasater
San Antonio, TX 78254
Undated

Dear Henry & Letha,

Back cover, Knarl, you checked off "You are promising that it you ever play on one of my hockey teams that you'll crash the net in the offensive zone." You're obviously seen me skate so you know that with my lack of control, especially in stopping that I certainly will guarantee that I'll crash into the

net in the offensive zone. In fact, it's likely that I'll crash the net in the defensive zone as well.

We had a problem with cat barfing as well. I was trying to save a little money and was buying one of the generic brands of cat food. We figured that one or more of the cats was "allergic" to that brand so I went back to buying the more expensive brands (though not the really expensive brands) and the problem went away.

Rodney Leighton you keep doing what you are doing. I generally read all of a fanzine, but not all of the time. If an article really doesn't interest me I will skip it.

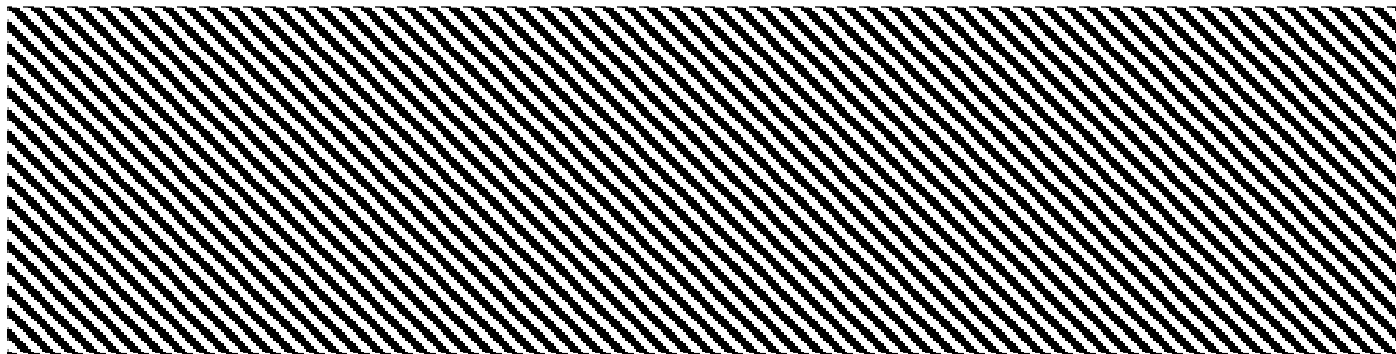
It's a shame you didn't like Anne Perry's *Tathea*, **E.B.**, because I really enjoy her two Victorian series. I may still give this book a try, but only if I did find it in the library.

Best,
Alex

☐**TKK**: *I would be delighted to buy grocery store cat food, but they are of generally poor quality and we end up at the pet food or feed and seed store for the pricier scientific brands. No Friskies for our cats, ever.*☐

We Also Heard From...

Sheryl Birkhead (who loved the **Alan White** cover and wonders why I never mention the cover art in the fanzines received listings), Megan & Al BouchardNed Brooks (who once to read an Anne Perry mystery but couldn't get into it), Nora & Todd Bushlow, Lysa DeThomas, Judith Hanna, Patti Hetherington, Terry Jeeves (who complains that his keyboard lacks the "LOVE" and "SEX" keys), Jerry Kaufman, Leigh Kimmel, Mike McInerney, Murray Moore, Jim Rittenhouse, Joyce Scrivner (who reports being down-sized), Dick Smith, Bob Tucker (who reports the posting of more issues of *Le Zombie* at <http://www.kc-sciencefiction.org/lez10.htm>), Kate Yule (who thinks **Rodney's** article could be considerably less rambling)



Reflecting On continued from page 7

whom read *TKK*, as far as I know. And 25 folks in the WAHF section, starting with someone I've never heard of, followed by the wonderful Sheryl and concluding with the editor of this fine fanzine.

Super good fanzine, one I recommend to every fan with only one reservation: Robert asks for what seems to me to be a lot of money for an issue (\$5) and it only comes out about once a year. This is issue #21, published in March, 2002. Apparently there was no issue in 2001; he planned a second issue in 2002 to get back on track; probably he will tell us if he did so. Quote: "This fanzine is available by Editorial Whim in response to The Usual (letters, contributions both written and artistic, and accepted trades), or \$5.00 per issue (*REVIEWERS PLEASE NOTE*)". It's delightful to see some of my writing taking effect; thank you, Robert. Very limited mailing list, although I recommend the fanzine I also urge you to contact Robert first about obtaining a copy. I think he will answer. Robert Lichtman, P.O. Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA, 95442. You can send locs to locs2trapdoor@yahoo.com. Dunno if that works for letters of enquiry. How come there's no sign of Geri Sullivan anywhere?





TEMPLATE

Fanzine Title by editor(s)' name; address; e-mail (if known); web URL (if known); frequency of publication; acceptable "payment" to receive a copy. Some mostly useless commentary by me about the issue. "The usual" generally refers to either a letter of comment (LOC), a contribution, or trading with your fanzine or generally any friendly means of communication.

Alexiad Vol. 2 No. 1 by Lisa and Joseph T. Major; 1409 Christy Ave.; Louisville, KY 40204-2040; bi-monthly; \$1 or the usual. Lots of reviews as one would expect from Joseph.

Black Cat #0 by Alan White; vegasite@aol.com; <http://www.fansite1.com/>; irregular; the usual. A year-end letter of sorts from last issue's cover artist.

Erg 160 by Terry Jeeves; 56 Red Scar Dr; Scarborough, YO12 5RQ; United Kingdom; erg40@madasafish.com; quarterly; the usual. A smallish zine with this issue featuring Terry's fascination with aircraft.

Fanzine Fanatique Fall 2002 by Keith Walker; 6 Vine St.; Lancaster LA1 4UF; England; KWalker777@aol.com; quarterly; exchange or editorial whim. A short zine composed primarily of capsule reviews of other zines.

Guy & Rosy for DUFF by Guy & Rosy Lillian; PO Box 53092; New Orleans, LA 70153-3092; GHLLIII@yahoo.com; one-shot; the usual. As the title implies. Congrats on the win.

The Leighton Look by Rodney Leighton; RR #3; Tatamagouche, NS B0K 1V0; Canada; irregular; Leighton's usual. An eclectic compendium of commentary that strikes Rodney's fancy.

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

Mimosa 295 by Dick & Nicki Lynch; PO Box 3120; Germantown, MD 20885-3120; fiawol@cpcug.org; <http://www.jophan.org/mimosa>; irregular; \$4 or the usual. Fanthology part 2 as this zine finishes up its run.

Fanzines Received in Trade

Nth Degree 4 by Big Blind Productions; 1867 Ivystone Dr.; Richmond, VA 23233; editor@nthzine.com; <http://www.nthzine.com/>; irregular; distribution at cons only. A professional looking zine that contains a mix of fiction, articles, poetry, and humor.

Opuntia 52 1by Dale Speirs; Box 6830; Calgary, Alberta; Canada T2P 2E7; irregular; \$3 or the usual. Dale has gotten a bit behind as he settle his mother's estate. Let's hope things get more normal in the coming months.

Dr. Plokta and Presents his Original and Unequaled Steam-Driven Fanzine (28) by Steve Davies; 52 Westbourne Terrace; Reading Berks RG30 2RP; Alison Scott; 24 St Mary Rd; Walthamstow London E17 9RG; and Mike Scott; 9 Jagger House; Rosenau Rd; London SW11 4QY; Great Britain; locs@plokta.com; <http://www.plokta.com/>; irregular; the usual. A very humorous fanzine with this issue featuring a trip to a steam fair.

Quokka Quest #1 by Mike & Linda McInerney; 83 Shakespeare St.; Daly City, CA 94014-1053; elandem@worldnet.att.net; one-shot; the usual. A DUFF campaign zine. Regrets on the loss.

The Reluctant Famulus 59 by Tom Sadler; 422 W Maple Ave; Adrian, MI 49221-1627; tomfamulus@dmci.net; quarterly; \$2 or the usual. This is a great genzine. Tom continues his foray into genealogy along with features on lawn mowers and backyard wildlife.

The Squid Gazette by KRin Pender-Gunn; PO Box 567; Blackburn, Victoria 3130; Australia; fiawol@ozramp.net.au; one-shot; the usual. Everything you ever wanted to know about squid and octopi inspired by a documentary showing manual stimulation of a male squid.

Twink 28 by E.B. Frohvet; 4716 Dorsey Hall Dr. #506; Ellicott City, MD 21042; quarterly; the usual. A nice genzine with a definite SF focus. This issue highlights religion in SF, what is an artist, and the Frohvet Awards.

Vanamonde No.483-92 by John Hertz; 236 S Coronado St No 409; Los Angeles, CA 90057; This is John's APA-L zine with interesting tidbits on the side.

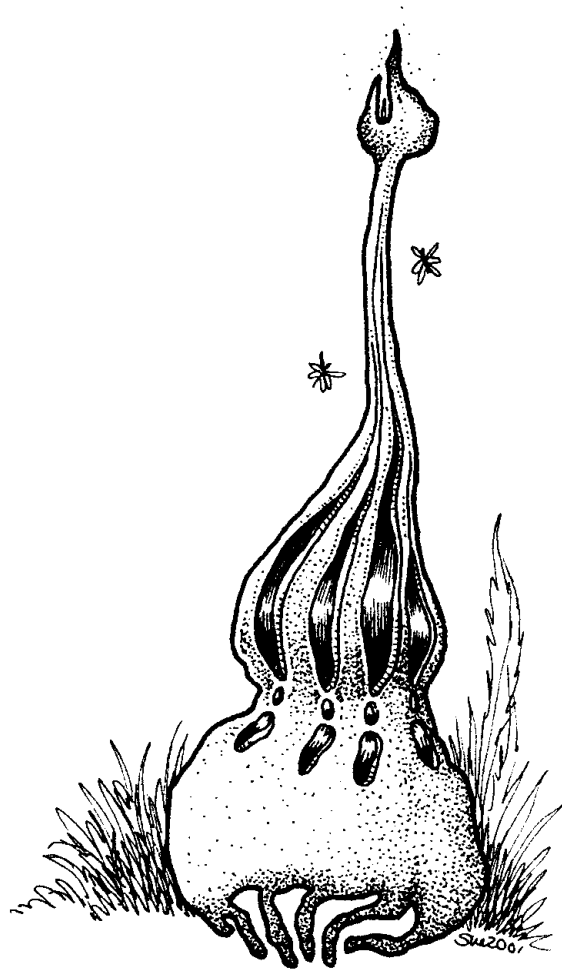
Visions of Paradise #93 by Bob Sabella; 24 Cedar Manor Ct; Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023; BSabella@optonline.net; quarterly; the usual. A three-part zine containing respectively a diary, reviews and commentary, and LOCs.

The Fellowship of the Wabe #6 by Tracy Benton; 108 Grand Canyon Dr.; Madison, WI 53705; benton@uwalumni.com; Bill Bodden; PO Box 762; Madison, WI 53701-0762; billzila@mailbag.com; and Jae Leslie Adams; 621 Spruce St; Madison, WI 53715; jaeleslie@aol.com; irregular; the usual. An interesting zine with numerous a focus this issue on food, TAFF, and DUFF.

Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

Corflu Badger (Madison, WI)
 Sunday April 27, 2003 only; maybe
Torcon 3 (Toronto, ON)
 August 28 - September 1, 2003
Noreastcon 4 (Boston, MA)
 September 2-6, 2004
Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) Marsport, Mars
 Labor Day, 2095

This list is still a bit sparse. Please continue to try
and inspire me.



You got this issue because ...

- _____ You didn't groan too loudly at the end of the editorial.
- _____ We can now park one car in the garage. This hasn't happened since last May.
- _____ The chattering of the cats as they watch birds on the feeder distracted me during mailing list update.
- _____ We Trade
- _____ You sent me a contribution
- _____ You sent me a letter of ~~complaint~~ comment

According to subscriber records, you have _____ more issues left in your subscription.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

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The Sydrian Perspective

or

Nora and Todd's Trip to the UK, part 2 of 3

MY REALITY CHECKS ARE BOUNCING

A somewhat regular column about whatever strikes my fancy

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Witchard's Armangnac

is a potent spirit that some say adds clarity to otherwise muddled thought. Let's hope.

by Gene Stewart