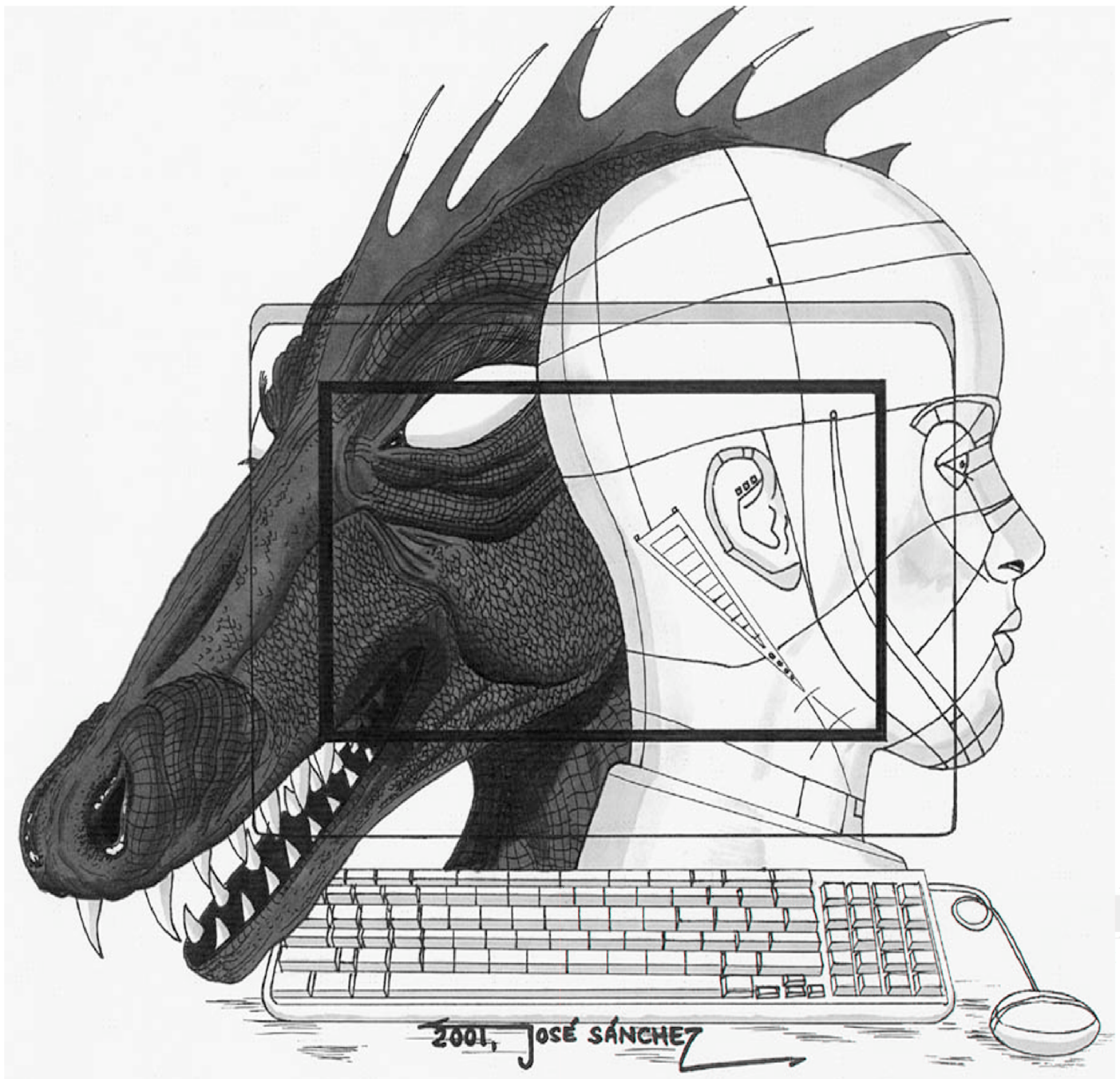


The Knarley Knews

Issue 104 – February 2004



The Knarley Knews -- Issue 104
Published in February, 2004

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Editorial insertions are denoted: ☐TKK:...☐ or
Ms. TKK:

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1. All contributions may include a pseudonym (e.g. Knarley, Sydrous, Shit-for-Brains) at the contributor's whim.
2. To get this fanzine you are required semi-yearly to initiate contact with the editors (black-holish behavior is not rewarded). This could be a postcard, phone call, your fanzine, or contribution of your choice. The editors, of course, prefer a contribution so they don't have to write so much. This notwithstanding, you may purchase copies for \$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, although their efficacy is highly suspect, and have never turned down a financial contribution.

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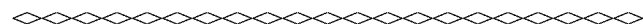


Next Issue Deadline: April 10, 2004

Editorial

(In which Knarley gets to spume!)

What a glorious winter. For the first time in years it actually snowed a fair amount and it hung around. It then got way too cold (-10 F) for a couple of days and then the groundhogs did their thing and ruined it all. Through most of February it just kept getting warmer and what little precipitation fell was rain. I live in the upper Midwest for a number of reasons and real winter is one of them. It just seems like there hasn't been a real one in about 10 years. Take today, mid to high 40s and to top it off there was a brief thunderstorm. Go figure...



The ice hockey season is almost over. It has seemed longer than usual. Perhaps it has something to do with juggling four hockey schedules and being on the bench in a coaching capacity for two teams. Only two weeks of practice remain and Connor's team has the state tournament coming up.

I don't expect his team will do all that well. They have all the talent in the world, but most of them are first-year Pee Wee players who are adjusting to the changes that checking brings to the game. Take a recent tournament. Their first game was on Friday night. They spotted the other team a three goal lead by playing terrible and not challenging the other team at the point. They then woke up and dominated the next period and a half only to run out of gas near the end and settle for a 4-3 loss. The next day was a somewhat better game, but then the team they played was clearly less talented. They started off playing fine, but by the third period they stopped playing as a team as they all thought they could score and almost let the other team back into the game. On Sunday they were in the Consolation Championship game (actually 5th place) and from the first drop of the puck it was clear their heads and hearts weren't in the game. I stopped paying too much attention in the third period and the score was at least 7-0. As to which team will show up for the state tournament I hope it's the team from the middle part of the first game. That will make it fun and exciting; otherwise it could just get painful.

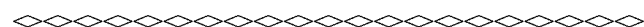
Kyle's team has been struggling. In its infinite wisdom our hockey club decided to field three house teams rather than a B-level team and two C-level teams. The talent was split evenly and through whatever quirk of fate we inherited a B-schedule so we spent most of the year getting hammered. This delayed the development of some of the weaker players and fueled a mindset of "we can't catch up". In fact we only came from behind to win in one game and lost a few others right at the end. We also had the worst luck in tournament games with poor officiating in final games. In one tournament file we were down one goal late and it appeared that we scored. The fans thought so, the players thought so, and the scorer even stopped the clock and rang up the goal. I'm certain I heard a whistle, but one referee and a single player

from the other team thought otherwise and they scored a goal while our goalie was celebrating. (There were other very poor calls earlier in that game as well.) In two other tournaments we went to overtime and in both questionable penalties were called and we lost short-handed. It is OK when the kids lose, but when they lose due to poor officiating it is very frustrating.

In the qualifying tournament for the state tournament we won our first game by dominating a team we'd dominated twice earlier in the season. We then lost two close games and didn't qualify, yet our first opponent got in because of the back door through a poorly designed loser's bracket. Despite all of this Kyle has shown quite a bit of talent and it even appears that he may have some athletic ability; something rather lacking in my side of the family.

Kira has been rather frustrating. She has a tendency of deciding that something minor is not right and refuses to skate. It could be one of her pads or because she thinks she doesn't know where she's supposed to skate to. I know she's only six, but this all seems rather excessive.

My team has been suffering as well. We lost one of our better skaters to a suspension (he definitely earned it) and then the top goal scorer from the league last year was killed in an auto accident. We then had another skater go down with a severe shoulder separation. I've also been rather beat up. Last week I separated my shoulder (not as bad as my team mate since mine popped right back into the socket and I only missed one shift). It has, however made me a bit tentative and then I got checked by someone who says he didn't mean it (oh really, he lowered his shoulder) and I bruised my hip. I'm surviving, but things could be better. We head into the playoffs in two weeks and despite all the set-backs we are playing some of our best hockey of the season. This was the same as last year where we saved our three best games for the tournament. I'm not as hopeful this year, but you never know.



I've also decided to go to law school part time to study intellectual property. This is something I've been mulling over for years and frankly I should have done it two or three years ago. It is a natural outgrowth of my own consulting and non-teaching activities and I think there is a lot of sanity that could be applied to the area of software and intellectual property.

The annoying thing about this decision is the law school application process. It is the most rigidly controlled activity on the planet (or so it seems). You **must** take the LSATs. You **must** use the centralized data collection service for LSAT

Continued on page 14

Reflection On ...*FOSFAX*, Jr. Er, ah...that is...*Alexiad*

by Rodney Leighton

Joseph T. Major has been many things to *FOSFAX*: primary contributor; principal reviewer; financial backer and even editor. Lisa Major has had a strong association with that fanzine. They started *Alexiad* because *FOSFAX* was on hiatus. There should be no surprise that they are somewhat similar. *ALEXIAD* is a lot smaller...so far.

I did not see issue #1 although I understand it was fairly similar to #2; the difference being that Lisa described her fannish herstory in #1 and Joe described his fannish history in #2. The first few issues were more perzine; they were sort of like what the Majors would have contributed to *FOSFAX* except that Lisa had a larger presence and Joe discarded a few book reviews. The first issue of volume 2 bears a great many similarities to a slimmer *FOSFAX*.

There is no cover and very little art; I suspect this is due to financial considerations. *FOSFAX* starts with a cover; a table of contents; some commentary by Elizabeth Garrott and a longish editorial by Tim Lane. *Alexiad* starts off with some short comments by Lisa Major followed by a table of contents and commentary by Joe. The next number of pages in *FOSFAX* are normally book reviews with a few con reports thrown in. It should not surprise anyone that the bulk of this section consists of review essays of a few of the books Joseph has read. Followed by some personal stuff and various material. Lisa is doing what she calls commentaries on books featuring horses which I am doubtful Tim would allow in *FOSFAX* but, hey, that's the beauty of doing your own zine. Technological maniac Rodford Edmiston appears for the first time in vol.2, #1, although he reviews books instead of writing about scientific topics. E.B. Frohvet contributed a book review. Al du Pisini took a trip to watch an eclipse. Johnny Carruthers and Joe make Hugo recommendations. And there is some news about cons. With the possible exception of Lisa's book commentary, all of this would have appeared in *FOSFAX*, were that fanzine still being published on a regular basis.

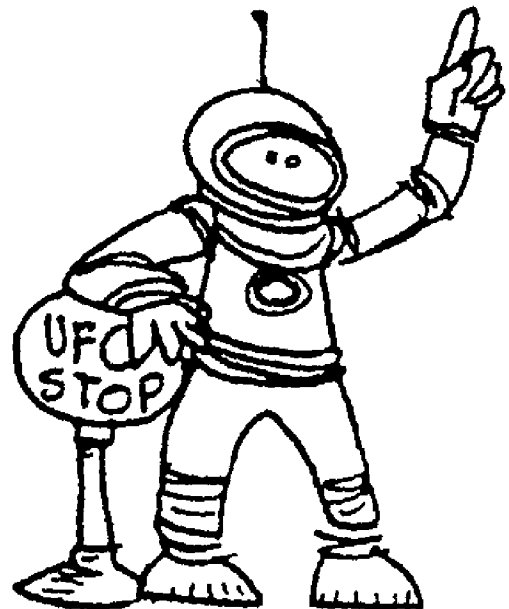
Tim usually just lists fanzines received, although he has taken to inserting a few comments about some zines, of late. This habit seems to run in the *FOSFAX* family: Joe merely lists the fanzines they received with ordering info.

And then, just like in *FOSFAX*, comes a letter section. There are a few differences; no politics to speak of and Joe's comments are usually shorter than Tim's. The letter column reflects the contents of the previous issue, as all loccols should. Strong emphasis on books read and reviewed. I bet that surprises the hell out of people. They seem to be trying to maintain a sense of decorum and avoid controversy. One issue contained a bitty 'toon by Alexis Gilliland that kind of dissed the Catholic church; following issue had a fairly

long response from Marty Helgensen after which Joe said: "Alexis can respond and that's it." Gilliland responded in the next issue, which was the one in front of me. I'm interested in seeing if Joe actually does cut this discussion off. If this were *FOSFAX*, these two gentlemen would debate the value and meaning of that 'toon for the next twenty eight issues, sometimes using the same words they used previously. Tim always allowed Trinlay Khadro to ramble on incoherently forever; Joe seems to be following this practice. As mentioned, there is little if any politics. I imagine this reflects the differing interests of the editors. So far, the previously mentioned debate has been the only thing that was the least controversial. No animosity so far; no sneering at people or demonizing loccers. Then again, Joe has a job. More and more of the old *FOSFAX* regulars are showing up in the letters section, although some that I expected to appear have yet to do so. And some folks who do not appear in *FOSFAX* show up. Lloyd Penney's quest to read every sf fanzine published except *FOSFAX* seems to be successful. One thing find interesting is that although Grant McCormick has long been listed as co-publisher of *FOSFAX*, I began to wonder if the guy even existed. I can't remember the last time something he wrote appeared in its pages. However, he locs every issue of *Alexiad*.

FOSFAX always concludes with some silliness and some announcements; *Alexiad* is no exception.

If you do not receive *Alexiad* you can obtain a sample copy by writing to: Lisa & Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY USA 40204-2040 or emailing Joe at jmajor@iglou.com and requesting one.



“An Echo After the Boom”

by Gene Stewart

Yesterday at 9:30 AM the janitor at my son's middle school found something odd on the sidewalk outside the front of the building and, being a dufus, took it into the school Turns out it was a pipe bomb.

The bomb squad came in, found it lacked a fuse or catalyst, then took it to a local park and detonated it. It was in fact filled with explosives, it seems.

No threats had been received and no other explosives have been sniffed out by the dogs. No schoolrooms or backpacks were searched, however. No students were detained or questioned.

The parents found out at 3:45 when they picked up kids and got handed a letter about the whole thing. Six hours plus had elapsed and some were miffed at this delay. Others realized there was no reason to draw a panicked crowd to the place, where the situation would have been complicated enough already.

When I showed up there were news vans and reporters there so I wondered what was up. Of course the news tried to spin it that parents were terrified and outraged at not being notified but the truth is most of the 700 students showed up this next morning and no one seemed very worried.

I know this because my wife made me take a lunch in to my son and I just walked right in, carrying a bag. No one challenged me and I could easily have planted something and left. Further, the secretary at the counter behind the glass was ignoring everything but the few students in front of her, who were getting their hall passes stamped. I could have wandered anywhere or I might have been an armed lunatic and started shooting or taking hostages.

Not a cop to be seen, not a teacher, nothing.

Odd, hm? Especially the day after making the news for a pipe bomb.

My son's reaction? “They should interview the pyro. He was busted for starting fires just last week.” There is apparently a kid who likes the shiny warm glow of flame. I thought my son's reaction was rational. The flame-enthralled often also get off on kabooms. Talking to a known pyro is a good first step. It's what I'd do, were I a cop.

Of course, I'd also put on a bit more of a show of security the day after and maybe for a week or so.

The school officials consolidated their position before bringing in the media. They then bragged about their camera system. My son says he's been in the office and has seen the

coverage those cameras afford. “It's more to make sure the vending machines aren't raided,” he tells me, “and the pictures are really grainy.”

Something I wonder is, who called the media? And why?

Was this staged?

Please note, I would never have thought to ask this prior to 9/11. Now such sad paranoia arises as naturally as smoke or the scent of rotting flesh – whether in Denmark or elsewhere.

Nothing further has been heard. Yet. I'm not even sure we're waiting for another shoe to drop, either. Most of us are becoming numb. We're inured to such commonplace threats and dire possibilities as bombs in schools. After awhile the fear response wears out and cries of wolf bring shrugs and yawns.

It gratifies me, though, that Homeland Security panic was not sparked. That's something to take along as I do what all of us must and keep going. Small blessings are easier to carry.

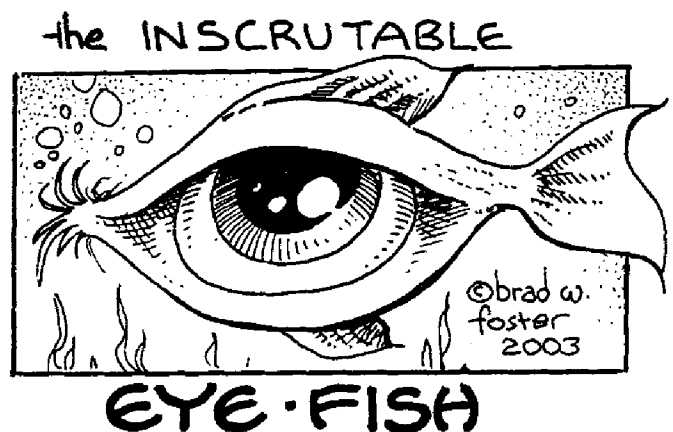
Are my kids safe? No, but they never were. Safety is a delusion. Are my kids threatened? No, but they could be. Threats are concrete and must be dealt with as they come along.

If you have kids, they're bound to live through something like this soon, if they haven't already. I hope it goes as smoothly as this has gone for us.

Until it's not, all is well.

And the echo from the boom of the cops blowing up the unfused, unprimed pipe bomb? That's the muffled screams you hear at night from next door, or from next to you, or from your own throat as nightmares stalk us into an uncertain, darkening future.

Be brave, or at least defiant.



INTERLOCUTIONS

Joseph T Major
1409 Christy Avenue
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jtmajor@iglou.com
January 9, 2004

And now the knews ... housing and automotive maintenance can really eat you alive. I wonder how in all those post-disaster movies the people keep all those junky old cars going. The Ciera had to have its fuel pump replaced last year.

A cute little girl who lives down the street cuts the little strip of grass in front of the house and rakes the leaves. She is quite aggressive about soliciting business. Since she uses a push mower I wanted to get our air-quality people on her case – gasoline lawnmowers have a very high air-pollution rate – but apparently not.

The Kalahari water park. Do these people even know what the Kalahari is?

I suppose objecting to a neighbor playing his stereo so loudly that it makes my bed vibrate is an unconstitutional restriction on free speech, too....

Writing endless repetitive series is easy for the writers, reassuring for the readers, and makes for a predictable bottom line. This was true in Classical Athens, too; the bulk of plays were about stock situations from legend, only slightly tweaked.

Actually going back to check the Golden Age of exciting innovative writing reveals ... complaints about unimaginative, stereotyped, writing, the incursion of undesirable types of writing ("This Campbell fellow is getting away from honest sensawunda writing to bring in stinking lit'ry values ..."), and the like. Whenever said Golden Age was.

"If this is such a big shot, where were his security people/bodyguards?" **Trinlay**, quit asking those questions. You might make movie people think, and they don't want that.

There are two reasons I rarely sleep past seven, even on weekends. Make that one and six – the window by the bed gets the rising sun early, and then the six cats start knocking on the bedroom door asking for food, water, companionship, and the like.

The altitude record for a jet aircraft, according to a website that discusses Soviet airplanes, is 36,650 meters (123,524 feet), achieved by a modified MiG-25 (NATO designation "Foxbat") on August 31, 1977 (about a year after another Foxbat was flown to Japan by its pilot). Perhaps. Most of the sources claim the record is eighty-five thousand feet, achieved by a SR-71 (three different websites gave three dif-

ferent figures, with a maximum of 85,135 so I just included the ones on which they agreed). The NASA Helios UAV has flown higher.

Who showed up for the "Nice Faneds" panel? Well, **Frohvet**, for one. That was where I met him for the first time. Oh, on the panel itself ... I believe **Mike Glyer** was also there.

Sure, evening and night should be dark, but when afternoon is ... in Henderson and Hopkinsville, sunset comes about 4:30 in the afternoon. This does not encourage running errands before going home from work.

The story was that a man put an ad in a British newspaper "Get an income of thousands of pounds for an investment of a few shillings. Send 2s to..." "People who sent in their shillings got a postal card that said, "Do as I have done."

The ISFDB only lists three stories for Howard Schoenfeld: "Built Up Logically" (1949), "Built Down Logically" (1951), and "All of God's Children Got Shoes". (1953). No biographical information. A Howard Schoenfeld wrote a detective novel titled *Let Them Eat Bullets* in 1954, and appeared at the 2003 NYC Collectable Paperback and Pulp Fiction Expo. Same one?

If you want to hear about a self-referential work, when "George Burns" (played by George Burns ne Nathan Birn-



baum) wanted to find out what the other characters on *The Burns and Allen Show* were doing, he would go up to his den, turn on the television, and tune in *The Burns and Allen Show*. They were a little more experimental in the fifties.

Namarie,
Joseph T Major

□**TKK**: *This is the United States. The Kalahari is whatever the marketing people want it to be. It is my recollection that Mike Glycer was the brainchild responsible for the panel.*□

Cuyler W. "Ned" Brooks
4817 Dean Lane
Lilburn, GA 30047-4720
nedbrooks@sprynet.com
10 Jan 2004

Hi Knarl – Thanks for the zine. A 55-lb hanging lamp?! You are a glutton for punishment. At that weight it should contain a CPU and laser cannon. When I bought this place the previous owners had started to "finish" the basement - they had paneling up and two chandeliers, but no drop ceiling, so most of the 400 watts of light from the chandeliers vanished into the rafters. I replaced the things with hanging shop fluorescents that draw 160 watts altogether and provide a lot more light.

I must say that I think **Gene Stewart** is a bit too cavalier about the telepest problem. Choosing to not answer the phone is not really an option for me – my sister and mother (who is 95) live in the next county and might need me.

I agree with **Gene** about the SF Book Club promotions - but those ads are aimed at the modern semi-literate, not old duffers like **Gene** and I. But I don't think Tolkien invented "orcs" – like most of his words, it's much older. Whether Salvatore's "1000 orcs" resemble the ones described in *LotR* is another question.

I noticed the TV series title *Joan of Arcadia* that **Frohvet** mentions, and having a long-time interest in Joan of Arc I had to try it. But I couldn't get into it at all. As to the bats in the belfry, it hadn't occurred to me that they might inhabit only unused belfries. I'm not sure the bells would bother them that much though – their hearing is tuned to frequencies mostly above those we can hear. Not that I'm any expert in the matter – perhaps to a bat the bells would be like frequencies below 60 hertz to us, something you feel rather than hear.

Brad Foster may well be right that the Nigerian spam persists mostly because there are Nigerians who believe it will bring them money. But I have read that the take from the US economy, as determined by people prosecuting the fraud, is in the \$100s of millions. Of course you never know - they may just be trying to keep their corner of the criminal justice industry running!

Can't help but wonder if Joe Mayhew's p.14 "tiny galaxy tweaked my nose" didn't originate in an unwanted ink blot on a picture of Hans Christian Andersen.

Best,
Ned

□**TKK**: *I would imagine the bells rattle the belfry in a very annoying way. Most bats do not tolerate being awakened from hibernation well so I think active belfries might be undesirable.*□

Joy V. Smith
8925 Sleph Road
Lakeland, FL 33810
Pagadan@aol.com
11 Jan 2004

Dear Knarley,

Neat cover. It reminds me of a pulp cover or Buzz Lightyear? That island light installation was quite a grueling project! I know how frustrating it is when you find your kit is incomplete or broken; that can put you so far behind. I'm glad to hear that your remodeling and painting is about done. And Kira's pink castle bed must be enchanting. (Btw, on an AOL board a while back, a mother was searching high and low for something like that for her little girl for Christmas; she got lots of advice and came up with something or other, but it sounds like Kira got the real deal.) Sounds like you got a lot done while resting up from all your traveling. Sorry your Christmas Mountain Village stay wasn't more fun. (I haven't been to Wisconsin Dells in years, btw. I didn't even know they had a Christmas Mountain Village.) I like Calamari Water Park; it could have such a cute logo. Do you have any idea why they call it the Kalahari?!

The logistics for the 3-Day walk that **Sue** participated in were amazing! What a worthwhile and productive endeavor. Good *FOSFAX* background that **Rodney Leighton** dug up. I hope this data is filed somewhere.

Re: the Science Fiction Book Club. I enjoy the mailings and get lots of SF info for the SF Authors board on AOL; each mailing does include assorted flyers, most of which are interesting too. I like seeing what art books, videos, etc. are available.

Re: InterLOCutions: **Trinlay** – the postcard with the fur-covered Wisconsin fish sounds so imaginative! I wonder if they have anything like that available today? Thanks to **E.B. Frohvet** for the *Joan of Arcadia* recommendation. I've heard of it, but never seen it. **Lloyd Penney** – The Gathering of the Fellowship (Tolkien con) organized by websites around the continent sounds interesting. Just how do they do that? **Bill Legate** & **TKK** – Interesting info on self-referential stories. I think I've read/seen some, but they have to be really good.

Thanks also for the illos (especially **Scott Patri**'s frog –I love cute frogs – and Joe Mayhew's nose-treking galaxy, which needs a story) and zine reviews.

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

□**TKK**: *The castle bed stuff was all from JC Penney. As far as I know it is all still available. There also lots of higher-end stuff available through e-bay and web searches.*□

E.B. Frohvet
4716 Dorsey Hall Dr. #506
Ellicott City, MD 21042
January 12, 2004

Dear Henry,

Really enjoyed the theological note on which the editorial begins, "In the beginning there was only darkness." The account of installing the kitchen lamp is technically interesting, but one is left wondering, what did you need 250 Watts for? Just how bid is this kitchen, anyway? I see nothing wrong with a little girl wanting a pink canopy bed with matching sheets – it may not be your taste, but you don't have to sleep there. (Reminds me of the old *Northern Exposure* episode where Shelley re-arranged her and Holling's bedroom on similar lines; Holling, to much the gentleman to disappoint his wife, sucked it up, ignored the pain in his gut, and said he loved it.)

Rodney Leighton, "Reflections on *FOSFAX*": I fear part of the blame over the notion of **Joseph T. Major** as a "house name" falls on me. I did offer such an observation. It was intended as a joke, I am still I intimidated by the amount that **Joseph** speed-reads. In general, I agree with **Rodney**'s observations, I have mainly seen *FOSFAX* as the **Tim** and **Joseph** Show. Similarly, despite differences I have had with **Tim**, I remain grateful to *FOSFAX* for publishing some of my material. Any fanzine that gets out over 200 issues is deserving of respect; back in the day, when I was doing such things, I nominated *FOSFAX* for the Hugo.

Gene Stewart seems offended by the fact that the Science Fiction Book Club is in business to make a profit, and therefore sells what the market will buy. It's the same reason that the grocery store sells potato chips. Sure, I would like to see the SFBC use some of that profit to promote better books, and bring back into print deserving classics; but that's not the line of work they're in. As to whether **Stewart**'s disinterest is due to a genuine decline in what's available, or burnout in his ability to connect with what's published now, six of one ... (But: Sturgeon's Law was written back in the 1960s. There was any quantity of crap published then. That did not devalue Zelazny or Delany.)

Trinlay Khadro: I lost interest in the "Rain Song" project somewhere around 400 titles. The rough draft of the article is still in file somewhere, I don't imagine anyone would be in-

terested. The big shot who is kidnapped in TV shows always stupidly goes out of his way to avoid his own security, otherwise you wouldn't have a show. The term you're looking for is "plot device"....

I don't generally do conventions any more, but if you guys get together and bid Milwaukee successfully for Ditto, okay, I'm in. In the interim, there are three regular cons in the Maryland area (Balticon in May, Darkover Grand Council in November, Capclave which is irregularly in the fall). I don't regularly attend any of them, but if someone were planning to attend on of these and wanted to get together for a lunch or something, I could probably arrange to drop by for the day.

Joseph Major: Toronto has "amphibious bus rides"? Baltimore harbor has "water taxi" service in the summer, small boats that shuffle people around to various attractions... Would a Bond bimbo not be "Lavendar Peahen"? Pimlico Race Course has bought out numerous houses adjacent to the track, presumably for the purpose of converting the land to parking lots...

Eric Lindsay: My impression, both with Kinko's and Downtown Printing, which did the last fifteen or so issues of *Twink*, was that you paid a slight premium for colored papers, but it was the same regardless of colors. Doing a color cover cost me, on average, maybe 5% over what doing the cover on white paper would cost. Of course, doing a full-color cover, as Henry has done from time to time, would be more expensive.

Lloyd Penney: I think the extent to which politicians affect the life of a country is greatly exaggerated. The United States survived having Reagan as President, it survived having Clinton, it will survive Bush, and it will survive whatever jackass they elect next. No one is there long enough, and there are (still) too many restraining factors, for anyone to re-write the whole society. Beyond that, I don't care to get into politics.

Useless Facts Department: I sent the last two years of my fanzine out of the US at letter rates because I was repeatedly and authoritatively told the "printed matter" rate had been repealed. Went into the Post Office the other day to send a book to Lyn McConchie in New Zealand, and the clerk cheerfully said I could save money by using the "printed matter" rate. Does anyone have a clue?

Best regards,
E.B. Frohvet

□**TKK**: *This is the main light for the kitchen. In most you'd have at least four 40 Watt fluorescents, so 250 Watts isn't that big. When they switched the rates it made "printed matter" more expensive in the 2-4 ounce zone of the typical fanzine than the air mail rate. What was nice was you no longer had to fill out a custom's declaration for each one.*□

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15 Jan 2004

Brad W Foster
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18 Jan 2004

Dear Knarley & Letha

Ain't home ownership fun? I had a somewhat similar experience to yours trying to install a ceiling fan/light combination in my son's room. The ceiling box had to be replaced. Fortunately, I did not have to work entirely from below the dry wall like you did, I got to climb up into the attic to do that, which made life somewhat easier. Here's a hint for you regarding the hollow bolt and the wires. Attach a string to a very heavy needle and run that through the bolt. Tie off the other end of the string to the wires that need to pass through and pull them through by the string. It is much easier that way.

Given the lack of snow here, I just got the leaves up off the ground over the last three weekends. Instead of a rake, we have a leaf blower/vacuum. Frankly I think leaf blowers are one of the most pointless creations of the modern age (so I never use that part), but the vacuum function is very helpful. We also got the back yard somewhat winterized (chopping back those plants that need to be chopped back like the banana trees and the candlestick tree). Funny thing is that some of the plants still have flowers, even though we've had a couple of light freezes. We've also still got some butterflies and bees buzzing around. The tomato plants are also still producing. There are still a dozen tomatoes ripening on the vine as I write.

EB Frohvet: The altitude record for jet aircraft was set only within the past 10 years by a Russian. I believe that prior to that it was held by Chuck Yeager. I'm not sure of the actual altitude, but it's essentially out at the edges of space. The inability to go any higher is caused by oxygen starvation in the engines.

The nice faneds panel in LA, ahh yes. I remember that, I think. Yes, you and I and Benoit and **Tom** were there. I think I also remember **Marty Cantor** and **Art Widener**. There were a couple of furry zine faneds whose names I don't recall as well. Pam Wells from the UK was there as well, I believe. Wasn't she the TAFF delegate that year?

Anyway, here it is, another new year. To all I wish a happy, healthy and prosperous year to come. Who knows, maybe I'll even get to a convention this year.

Best,
Alex

☐**CKK:** *Your needle trick is a good idea if there is enough room for the "knot" or other mechanism of attachment. In this case there was almost no spare room in the hole. Marty Cantor may have been at the panel, but I don't think he was on it. I didn't meet him until the spring of 2002 at a LASTS meeting.*☐

Greetings Henry and Letha ~

We keep having to put off the home improvements to just keep up with repairing the stuff that is falling apart. Toilets started flooding over three days ago. Got that stopped, but an exam of the sewer pipes using one of those cool like camera's that run down the pipe show huge pieces have simply worn away, and sections are starting to squash down flat! Cool watching the pic on the little b&w monitor, though when you realize it's **your** system that has all the roots sticking in (and even a worm at one point!) kind of dampers the fun. Ah, yes. Home is closing in on being 60 years old, and WE were the ones who decided to buy it ten years ago!

At least the regular maintenance I can keep up with. You mentioned waiting to rake up all your leaves at once. Couple of years ago Dallas decreed they would only pick up trash that was in these huge wheeled plastic containers with lids. Since they can hold four or five big yard bags, and we only generate a bag or two of trash a week inside, when leafs start falling, I just take an hour or so twice a week before pickup day to top off that container with leafs. No bags to use, and doing it a bit at a time is less wear and tear on all concerned.

We just lost a very good friend, Lori Wolf, to ovarian cancer this month. She was diagnosed slightly less than a year ago, and she fought it every way she could, never giving up. Didn't help that in the middle of that her husband lost his job and they had to completely pack up and move cities to be able to keep some insurance coverage. It's never fair, but she was in her early 40's, an extra kick in the rear. I always tried to give blood now and then, but when she started chemo and I found out more info, I've tried to also donate platelets when I can. Gave some whole red cells last week. I can't afford to give anyone money to help, but I can let 'em tap an artery now and then.

I loved **Gene's** "24 Reasons" article. I can agree with much of what he said, though probably wouldn't have ever been so blatant about it, I'm such a nice guy. I've flipped through the catalogues they send me now and then, and have much



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the same feelings. If someone is looking for a book club that will offer new, interesting, and off-beat reading that you might not come across on your own, I recommend the Quality Paperback Book Club. Great write-ups on the offerings in each monthly catalogue, a good back list, and always a couple of things that grab my interest. Last time I was in, a couple of years back, when money starting getting tight I kept my membership, but didn't buy any books – but kept a list of titles and authors to look for in the used bookstores based on their recommendations, and have found **many** good books through them.

By the by, also on **Gene's** article, I was thrown by the opening sentence, then realized what he was talking about. I'm not sure I really see this as unconstitutional. I mean, I bet there are pages and pages of documents on this, but all I saw was an offer to, at my choice, put my name on a list that says "please don't call, I don't want your information. If I ask for it, send it. Otherwise, leave me alone." It was my choice not to receive material, but I'm not stopping anyone else getting it, or doing it, or whatever. Unconstitutional? Tell me more.

On **Frohvet's** theory that putting up any road sign will cause a traffic jam, since drivers will slow down to look at it... well, I think I've had the opposite experience. I mean, every day I see people cutting across three lanes of traffic for the exit ramp, clearly not having seen the previous four signs over the previous six miles telling them it was coming up. Or blowing up behind me at 80 when I'm doing 70 in the right lane (in a 60 zone), and hanging on my ass, obviously upset I won't speed up, though they also don't want to go around in the left lane. No, I must say, my experience is no one looks at signs anyway. However, have a cop pull over a car on the other side of the highway, and even be standing talking to them, and everyone on my side of the road will suddenly drop down to ten miles below the speed limit. Often the same idiots who just blew by at 30 miles over it.

Lloyd's comments on the Bush regime and how the rest of the world looks at the US kind of mirrors my own regrets. The cold war ends, the US is the only real super power. We've got a great opportunity to help lead the world, live up to the noble ideals we have always professed as a nation. But nope, and how long will it take to get that respect back. Don't sign anything that holds us to the same standard as anyone else, be the bully instead of the big helpful brother. Don't lead by example, but do the "just do what I say, I'm the biggest guy around" attitude I see my government doing now. It's kind of like when, within the US, the government passes some law that every citizen must obey: except, interestingly enough, the lawmakers themselves are so often exempt. I didn't vote for Shrub... interestingly, the majority of us didn't do that either.

On your own response to **Lloyd** regarding getting "the full and real news" without an "agenda". Just reminds me of the studies done again and again, where it is shown that many people see an "agenda" when they don't feel their own interpretation of events is shown. Not picking on you, I do that

too...most folks do. the best are when a newspaper report is done, and they get letters from both sides of the issue raking them over the coals for the obvious bias the writer had for the other side, and why couldn't they just have been fair and factual. It's a wacky world full of wacky people, now ain't it?

Hey, good issue, lots of fun reading.

stay happy~

☐**TKK:** *They make those cameras now for prostate exams. You swallow the horse pill and were a telemetry belt until you pass the camera at the other end. It's supposed to be a much better diagnostic tool than shoving a scope up the other way. And a lot more comfortable. In Wisconsin it is illegal to put yard wasted in the trash (you can rake/stack it at the curb). Besides I'd never have enough room for the 20x20x4 foot pile.*☐

Eric Lindsay
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19 Jan 2004

Dear Henry,

Thanks for **TKK** #103.

My big news is that I'll be visiting the USA again, in February and March. Jean had to schedule a trip to assist her mother move from her house into a nearby apartment (quarts into pints don't go). She held off booking because United these days run "two for one" fare deals at this time of year. Sure enough, she got a two for one offer last Monday. This time I accepted (I'd rejected a previous one). We are planning Potlatch and Corflu, and I'm using a cheap fare to Florida, and almost certainly San Francisco, plus I'll doubtless manage to catch up with people in Seattle. We had already, in anticipation, bought \$100 fares to Sydney (mine was a return, but I was able to change the return date for \$25) when Virgin Blue had them at silly prices just after the school holidays. We do rather well out of these "instant decision" fares, since we are often able to just take off.

On the home renovation front, we moved the garden cupboard on our balcony so that it provided a hiding place for our flying saucer (a luggage pod for Jean's Subaru Forester). This wasn't entirely a good idea, as one gusty morning while we were out swimming the cupboard blew over.

I looked once again at where I could hide wiring, and again decided it was just too hard. As a consequence, I bought a matched pair of WiFi cards as an alternative. They promptly refused to exist in my Toshiba laptop, although they are at least detected in the (newish but broken IBM laptop). I had a feeling there would be some problem, but didn't expect it to be with the normally well behaved Toshiba.

I'm with you about not shopping on the Internet. Let me recount my recent experience.

6 a.m. after my swim. Boot my desktop PC. It unaccountably demands a Windows 98 install CD, perhaps because I'd put a Compact Flash card in its PCMCIA slot. Installs drivers for IDE drives (which seems really silly because it booted off an IDE drive). Conspicuously fails to read Compact Flash. Reboot for the first time. Still no Compact Flash.

6:06 Note that desktop can't see the Toshiba notebook on the network. Inspect Toshiba and decide it has gone to sleep (despite settings saying not to do them when running off the mains power). Push wakeup button on Toshiba. 90 seconds later the Toshiba staggers upright. Claims it can't see the desktop. Desktop claims it can't see Toshiba. Prod at cables, and look at little blinking lights that are not blinking any more.

6:15 Reboot both computers. Success, they can now see each other! However the desktop still can't see the Compact Flash card from my camera. Consider merits of getting a printer with compact flash reader built in. Consider merits of getting a hard drive with Compact Flash reader built in.

6:25 Finally login to ISP to collect email. Two spams on my "hidden" mailboxes, caught by filters. 33 spams on my old University account, and my filters got all except two. One of these could plausibly be considered relevant to university email holders, as it was for a hangover cure. 185 spams in 12 hours on my (totally unused) ISP address, of which my filters took out 175. I clicked the delete all email on what remained, leaving me with a total of 220 spams and no actual emails downloaded. I did have to download 775kb and waste about 10 minutes to get the headers for filtering.

Note *TKK* mentions Home Depot, check their (nearly unreadably small) web site. Discover they are on a list of world's worst web sites.

6:35 Find I have forgotten why I switched the computer on, and wander off to get breakfast, do laundry, collect (physical) mail.

Come back to computers to read Compact Flash card from camera. Discover Toshiba notebook (the one that could read the camera card) has gone back to sleep and no longer wants to be seen by the Desktop computer (the one with the CD burner for burning a copy of the photos).

Contemplate the heft and balance of the available hammers here (see, we are back to renovation themes) while glaring at computers.

FOSFAX always slowed me down a heap. The fine print, and the sheer heft of the magazine. I always felt my responses inadequate. I've enjoyed **Joseph's** *e-zine Alexiad*, although again responding is something I find hard.

Gene Stewart's comments on Science Fiction Book Club are very similar to my responses to the "science fiction" areas of bookshops. OK, if the sort of stuff I like isn't being published, I'll read in some other area, and it will most assuredly not be fantasy or horror. Or, I'll dump fiction pretty much entirely. At the moment, that seems to be what is happening.

Trinlay Khadro's LoC reminds me that one day I want to build myself a theramin. I have several designs, although these days it may be easier to build one as an optimin. This desire is held somewhat in check by realising that I don't actually like music, and would almost certainly not have the co-ordination to do a good job with a theramin.

All the best,
Eric Lindsay

□**TKK:** *The domestic US airlines run last minute fare deals all the time. They just aren't as good as your. Some days are like yours. I started at 9am this morning and after getting false alarms from my viral scanner (it found dirty e-mail attachments I had never opened) which resulted in a pattern update and two scans. In the meantime I processed a weekend's worth of e-mail (about 60% spam) and the next thing I know it's 12:30pm and I still haven't started on the fanzine stuff from 9am.*□

Milt Stevens
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January 22, 2004

Dear Henry,

In *Knarley Knews* #103, **Rodney Leighton** describes *FOSFAX* as a political fanzine. I think everyone would have to agree to that point. To my tastes, arguing politics raises the blood pressure and upsets the digestion without having any redeeming virtue. It doesn't accomplish anything, because nobody ever changes their mind in a political argument. Despite my opinion, people keep arguing about politics anyway. Of course, some people also seem to enjoy being chased down public streets by bulls.

Alternate history seems to be the secondary topic in *FOSFAX*. As a topic, it generates far less heat than politics, because you can't really prove or disprove most assertions about alternate history. If you don't know the original history in any great detail, the alternative may lose its impact. I recall one article in *FOSFAX* that dealt with the history of Southeast Asia in the 16th century. My knowledge of that period of history is minimal in the extreme. The alternate history was reasonably interesting to read, but I couldn't tell you which parts of it were alternate.

Like **Gene Stewart**, I sometimes receive those SFBC catalogues. I glance at them for ten or twenty seconds during the second cup of coffee in the morning and then pitch them. I've

never been a member of SFBC. I've thought of joining a few times over the years, but something always convinces me not to. In recent years, I've heard several long time SFBC members say they quit because it has become too expensive. That is a particularly damning criticism, because getting cheap books is the major virtue of a book club. However, if you are looking for really, really cheap books, used SFBC editions have always had extremely low resale prices. At LASFS, they have a whole bookshelf filled with mostly used SFBC editions which they will sell to you at a quarter apiece. If you like boilerplate fantasy, it's a heck of a deal.

Joseph Major thinks a worldcon chairman could have bikini wrestlers grappling in a pool of chocolate sauce if he really wanted to. Unfortunately, it doesn't really work that way. The choices a worldcon chairman can make are constrained on every side by a bewildering variety of factors. You can't possibly please everyone entirely, but you have to try to balance the interests of a great many factions. One faction wants more of A and less of B. Another faction wants more of B and less of A. If you displease both about equally, you're probably doing a pretty good job.

Henry's all time out of touch record was not knowing Breznev was dead until three weeks after the Soviets announced it. Breznev is dead?

Yours truly,
Milt Stevens

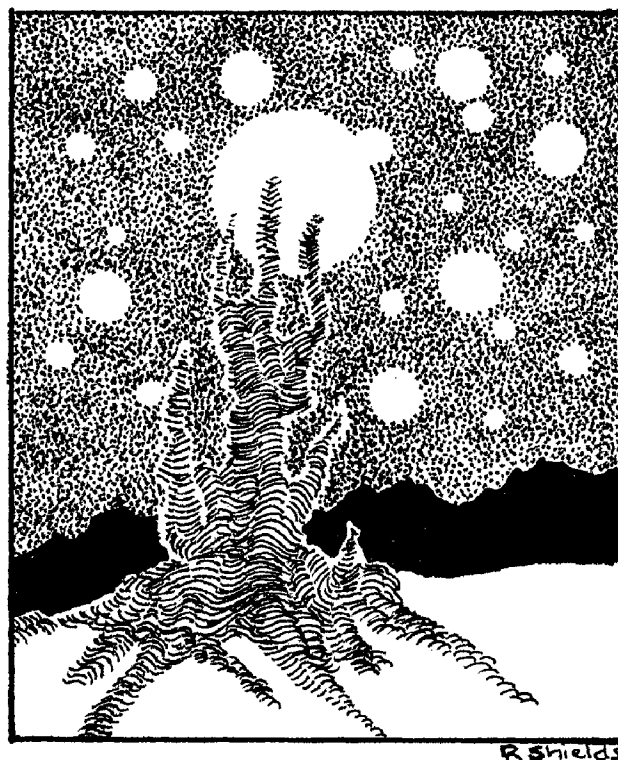
☐**TKK:** *Breznev is only dead in 4 out of 5 alternate realities. Wake up and get into the right time stream.*☐

Robert Lichtman
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6 Feb 2004

Hi, Henry –

Regarding your comment in *TKK* No. 103, "Both cars had to have a major gasket rebuilt," would that be the head gasket? It sounds like it from the number of labor hours. I had to do that back in the early '80s and it was nearly \$300 back then, mostly as you say for labor. I shudder to think of what it costs now.

Leighton states that "FOSFAX is a mostly political fanzine." That's the overweening impression one gets from it, but in fact most of the politics are in the editorial columns and scattered liberally throughout the letters. There's a strong element in the other pages of reviews and commentary on books and other media as well as numerous convention reports. These tend to be overshadowed by the politics, but I for one found them to be the only readable parts of *FOSFAX*. Now that **Joseph Major** has moved on to produce his own fanzine, *Alexiad*, I allowed myself to be dropped from *FOSFAX*'s mailing list and am enjoying perusing **Joseph's** own pages.



They contain the most enjoyable parts of *FOSFAX*, and I certainly don't miss the rest.

Gene Stewart's review of the current offerings of the Science Fiction Book Club demonstrated amply how the club has changed over the years. Their advertisement on the back cover of the October 1956 *Fantastic Universe* (which I have for the original publication of Robert Bloch's fannish shaggy dog story, "A Way of Life") has a very different batch of books. For only a buck (plus shipping) one can choose three books from this list: *Not This August* by C. M. Kornbluth, *World Out of Mind* by J. T. McIntosh, *Snow Fury* by Richard Holden (never heard of him myself), the *Astounding Science Fiction Anthology*, the *Treasury of Science Fiction Classics*, and Groff Conklin's *Omnibus of Science Fiction*. Moving on to their advertisement on the May 1969 *Galaxy*, for the same buck-plus-shipping you can get three books from another mostly stellar list: *Three Novels* by Damon Knight, *Prelude to Space* and *2001: A Space Odyssey* by Arthur C. Clarke, a one-volume set of Asimov's Foundation trilogy, *Last Starship from Earth* by John Boyd (each list has someone unfamiliar to me), *The Past Through Tomorrow* by Heinlein ("future history" collection), *Twice 22* by Ray Bradbury (44 short stories), *Chocky* by John Wyndham, *From the Twilight Zone* by Rod Serling, *Killer Thing* by Kate Wilhelm, the two-volume *Treasury of Great Science Fiction*, Asimov's *Mysteries* (13 short stories) and Harlan Ellison's *Dangerous Visions*. How the mighty have fallen!

In the letter column, **Lloyd Penney** writes that his "car insurance nearly tripled after our fender-bender last year," which leads me to wonder if he was at fault in the accident. If not,

then either Canada has different rules governing auto insurance or he's being victimized by an unscrupulous company. Following the June 1999 auto accident that sent me to the hospital for two weeks and was **not** my fault, my auto insurance went up – but all of the increase was due to collision coverage on a **much** newer car (1998, previously 1991) and raising various of my other coverage limits.

And you write "Our family is not big on flu shots." I might be misremembering, but aren't you all under fifty? If yes, then there's no need for any of you to have flu shots unless there's some medical reason (compromised immune system, etc.) to do so. I began having flu shots around age fifty-five and haven't missed a year yet. Haven't had the flu, either, though that might be at least partially luck (given the reports I've seen that this year's flu shots missed the mark in terms of coverage).

Best wishes,
Robert

□**TKK:** *The SFBC has generally been a good place for someone getting started to obtain some of the classics. I still think they have a flyer or two a year to major classics in SF. The rest of the time I only follow two series so that all my books match on the shelves. The prices themselves haven't changed much relative to the skyrocketing cost of paperbacks and other editions in the major bookstores.*□

Lloyd Penney
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February 19, 2004

Dear Knarley:

Issue 103 of *The Knarley Knews* has been sitting here long enough; it's time to get some comments made.

It's past deadline, but at least I have a good excuse...I am finally working now, at Somerset Entertainment, the company that makes lots of mellow CDs for sale at department and gift stores. However, it is a temp position, and I am spending lots of time looking for a position after this one. Agencies are good at finding you a job, but the job afterwards can be tough to find.

I'm sure I told you that when I lived in Orillia, north of Toronto, I lived in the same house for 13 years, and for 11 of those years, the house was under construction in some area...floor joists ripped up, walls missing, pipes freezing, cedar siding, new roof and shingles, etc. I grew up with gyproc dust in my lungs.

Some readers, writers and artists know of my opinions of *FOSFAX*. I'm not sure our politics were even on the same spectrum. However, you could always expect a spirited

discussion. If **Tim Lane** is having employment problems, I certainly sympathize with him. However, I like *Alexiad* much more than I ever did *FOSFAX*, and I think there's a lot of people who would say that.

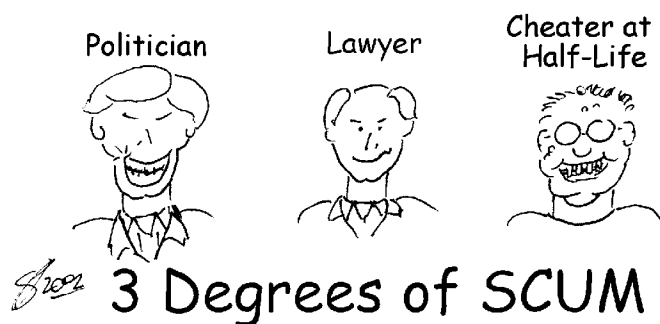
Yvonne was a member of the SFBC a long time ago, and it formed the backbone of her initial book collection. However, just like any other book club, it takes forever to get out of it, and it's quite expensive to stay in it. The cheap books at the beginning are but a prelude to just another regular bill at the end of the month. As **Gene** mentions, there's a lot more than just what the SFBC called science fiction, and beginning readers will probably take a selection of SFnal titles plus other fantasy titles they might recognize, like *Lord of the Rings*. It's just fine for the beginner, but is laughable for the veteran SF reader who knows there's much more to the literature than endless series and Star Trek novelizations. Those discriminating tastes had to begin somewhere. Also, I suspect the SFBC knows little about fandom, so they provide as broad a spectrum of titles as they can for the largest number of readers.

To **E.B. Frohvet**: In a month or so, the convention season will start in the Toronto area, and when they do start, that is when we will miss Hal Clement the most. He was to all of us our good friend and I will probably catch myself looking for him to walk down the hallway. We have read about a concon that needs help but won't ask for it too many times. As a reaction to the Torcon problems, a local fan, Andrew Gurudata (some may remember him from listservs), has set up what's called the first Canadian Conrunners Conference, or CCC1. It's being run along the line of a Smofcon, and is an opportunity for conrunners in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal to get together and talk about the problems they're having. Originally, we weren't going to go, because we just couldn't afford it, but with the help of some friends, we now expect to go and get together with friends and swap horror stories. Benoit Girard was at Torcon 3. Yvonne talked with him, but I never saw him. Indeed as **Joseph Major** says, the Torcon 3 programme was changed every day, or even every few hours. Terry Fong did his best, but the on-site programming team tried to straighten things about; their valiant efforts almost worked.

My own loc: I've never thought that news outlets like CBC or BBC are spin-free, but both news organizations are relatively hands-off when it comes to their relationships with their funding governments. The BBC regularly quizzes Tony Blair on the Iraq mess; if only there was a US news outlet that would do the same to Dubya.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

□**TKK:** *For now I think I've given up on Worldcons or cons in general. Part of it is cost, part of it is hockey season, and the rest is just lack of interest/resonance. I still like to go to Ditto, but beyond that I can't summon the energy.*□



We also heard from:

Sheryl Birkhead, Kurt Erichsen (web-COA: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/KErichsen/>), George Flynn, Judith Hanna, Patti Hetherington, John Hertz, Terry Jeeves (E-COA due to spam: terryjeeves@madasafish.com), dwain Kaiser (announcing Issue 11 of *No Time, No Energy & Not Much To Say* at efanzines.com), Bill Legate, Guy Lillian (web-COA: www.challzine.net), José Sánchez, Gene Stewart, Sue Welch, and David Wilson

Editorial continued from page 3

scores, transcript collection, and letters of recommendation. And, of course, all of these things have a lovely fee. (If you don't believe me see lsac.org.) If these were the only hoops I could deal with it better, but taking the LSATs is an experience unto itself.

It starts out innocently enough. You register for the LSATs and pay your fee. They provide you with an admission "ticket" (electronic is free, mailed out the old-fashioned way is rather expensive). The ticket includes a brief statement that you eventually sign where you swear you are who you say you are. Apparently the ID check at the door isn't good enough. To top it off they also have a place on the form where they take your thumb print. (I guess lots of dumb and shady people want to become lawyers.) The first thing you do after getting the test booklet is to transcribe another statement where you swear you are who you say you are and they also collect that. Then after they read the rules for each section of the test they remind you that any violations will be referred to the disciplinary committee. Through all of this only one person is allowed to take a restroom break at a time (you are obviously going to cheat in the bathroom, but since the test is more of a sprint than a marathon you're already doomed due to lost time). No electronics of any kind are allowed in the room and if you have a pen they might insist that you have to stab yourself with it. They then put us in a amphitheatre-style classroom with those silly fold up desk tops and tell you that if you lift the exam materials from the top of the work surface that could be a violation that could get referred to the disciplinary committee. You get the picture?

The test itself, other than being a sprint, is annoying for other reasons. My background is both a blessing and a curse in this regard. As an engineer and especially as one who has taught logic and artificial intelligence the analytical reasoning questions are quite easy (this is where most test-takers have all their stress and I found the problems straight-forward). On the other hand it is clear that lawyers and engineers use language differently and subscribe different meanings to many words. A good engineer uses language with precision to exactly describe what they mean whereas a lawyer may use some words in an unusual way or interpret qualifiers differently. Consequently when I took a few practice exam sections

I found myself disagreeing with some of the answers and in some cases in complete disagreement. Some of the lawyers I know think that I'm already beginning to think the right way.

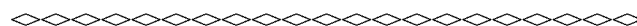
I did catch a minor break on the exam. The standard LSAT includes five multiple-choice sections and a short essay section. Of the five multiple-choice sections four are counted (two logical reasoning, one reading comprehension, and one analytical reasoning). The fifth section is experimental and fits one of the three types. On my exam (and I'm convinced everyone had different exams with the sections moved around and perhaps the questions in sections moved around) the experimental section was analytical reasoning so I had a slightly happier time than I might have otherwise.

I received my scores this morning via e-mail (a standard mailed report costs extra) and I obtained a respectable 165/180. This is 17 points higher than last year's class at Marquette University which is my only option for part-time law school. Given my good GPA as both an undergraduate and as a graduate (much higher than the Marquette aggregate) and that I win most tie breakers (I have a Ph.D., I've consulted in the area of intellectual property, and have one patent with three pending) other than those related to race or other social demographics I'm not worried about getting in.

All three of my immediate bosses are behind me on this and I shouldn't have any problem getting at least half of the tuition paid by MSOE. I'll also get some flexibility in the work schedule so that I can either take my classes in the morning or in the early evening. I'm hoping for the former because even though I'm not really a morning person I'd much rather have the early evening time with my family.

Oh, by the way. The law school application requires you to disclose all of your municipal citations and moving violations. Are speeding tickets I received in the 80s really relevant to my suitability as an attorney?

I'll keep you informed as more develops.



Until next issue...



Fanzines Received in Trade

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. As a general rule I don't list internet-only fanzines.

Alexiad Vol. 3 No. 1 by Lisa and Joseph T. Major; 1409 Christy Ave.; Louisville, KY 40204-2040; bi-monthly; \$2 or the usual. Has it been over two years already? See the "Reflection On" column in this issue.

Covert Communications From Zeta Corvi #11 by Andrew C. Murdoch; 9211 Glendower Dr.; Richmond, BC V7A 2Y4; Canada; toreador@vcn.bc.ca; irregular; \$2 or the usual. Andrew claims a house purchase as reason for the long hiatus. This issue contains a tribute to Hal Clement and lists of awards from 2002.

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

Nice Distinctions 4 by Arthur Hlavaty; 206 Valentine St; Yonkers, NY 10704-1814; hlataty@panix.com; quarterly; \$1 or the usual. A small perzine with discussion on hurricanes and recent reading material.

Old Toys by Murray Moore; 1065 Henley Road; Mississauga, ON L4Y 1C8; Canada; mmoore@pathcom.com; one-shot; inquire. This is the Ditto 15 one-shot featuring art and articles over the years by Taral.

Opuntia 53.1A by Dale Speirs; Box 6830; Calgary, Alberta; Canada T2P 2E7; irregular; \$3 or the usual. A nice review-zine issue wherein Dale compiles a list of prophecies proved very wrong and fanzines received in trade.

Page 84 by Andy Floyd; 196 High Rd.; London N22 8HH; United Kingdom; irregular; the usual. Two issues of cut-and-paste artwork showcasing numerous poems. Not my cup of tea, but for the poetry lover it may prove otherwise.

Plokta of the Caribou (30) 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 featuring lots of pictures

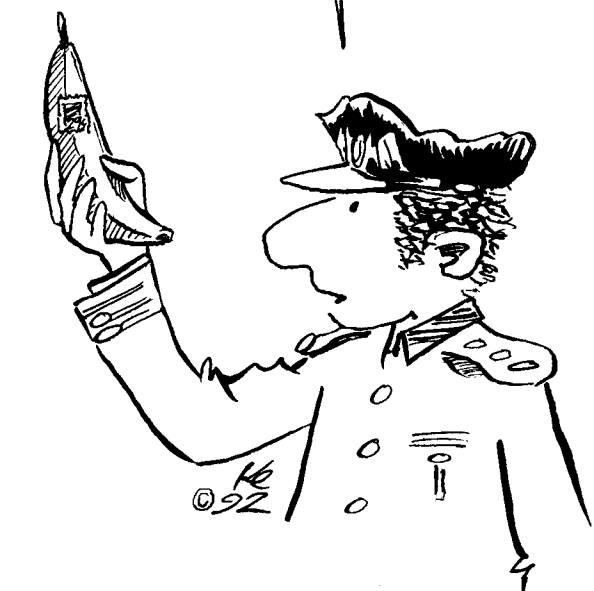
Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Vol 8 No 4 by R.B. Cleary; 138 Bibb Dr.; Madison, AL 35758-1064; rbcleary@bellsouth.net; quarterly; \$10/yr or the usual. Official fanzine of, you guessed it, the Southern Fandom Confederation. This issue is primarily con and book reviews as well as lists of southern conventions.

Vanamonde No. 523-32 by John Hertz; 236 S Coronado St No 409; Los Angeles, CA 90057; This is John's APA-L zine with interesting tidbits.

Visions of Paradise #97 by Bob Sabella; 24 Cedar Manor Ct; Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023; BSabella@optonline.net; quarterly; the usual. This is a fine example of a personal zine which includes considerable commentary. It is published in a three-part harmony (The Passing Scene - diary, Wondrous Stories - reviews and reading, and Halcyon Days - LOCs).

I also received a number of other fanzines in the past week or so that will appear in issue 105.

Bananagram!
Bananagram for
Henry Welch!



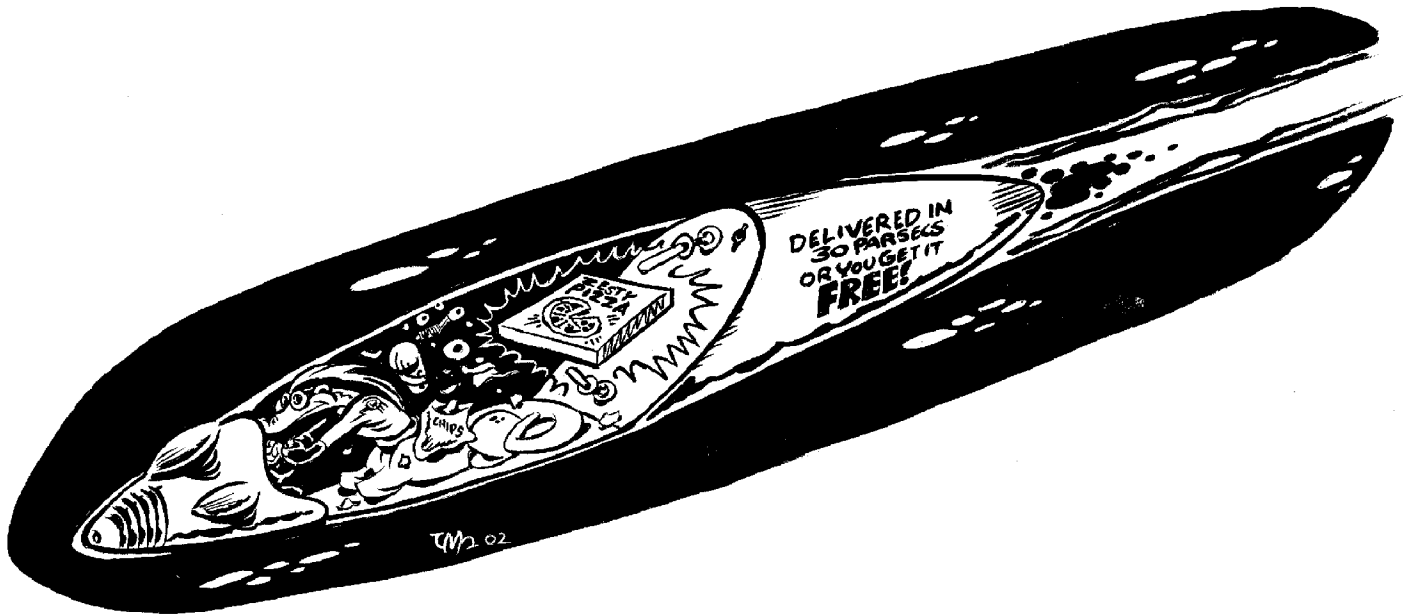
Knarley's Planned Con Attendance

Ditto 17 (Orlando, FL)

Fall, 2004

Mars in 2095 (Worldcon 153) Marsport, Mars

Labor Day, 2095



You Got this Issue Because ...

- _____ **The little round periods remind me of hockey pucks and a good player knows how to pass the puck.**
- _____ **The rules for doing fanzines are considerably less anal-retentive than applying for law school.**
- _____ **Spring is a time for renewal. Renew your interest in *TKK*.**
- _____ **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.