

FORNAX #12:

The WOW! Signal Issue

On August 15 1977, a mysterious signal that lasted 72 seconds was picked up by one of the 2 “horns” of the Big Ear Radio Telescope run by Ohio State University. Was this an alien broadcast or something that occurs naturally?

Introduction

Fornax is a fanzine devoted to history, science fiction & gaming as well as other areas where the editor's curiosity goes. It is edited/published by Charles Rector. In the grand tradition of fanzines, it is mostly written by the editor.

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W-O-W-! E-S-S-A-Y-S

Are we alone in this vast universe?

Humankind's search for other life on other planets.

by

T. D. Sadler

Did our earliest ancient ancestors huddled together at night gaze at the pinpoints of light in the sky and wonder what they were. Did they also wonder if there were other worlds like theirs, populated by people like them? We may never know for certain. More likely they were too busy keeping themselves safe and alive. Still, they must have had some amount of curiosity about the world around them. Where else would we have gotten ours?

Our curiosity has led us to uncovering a myriad display of knowledge of the world around us and the universe in which it exists. It may even have led us to an answer about life on other worlds.

This coming August 15 will mark the 39th anniversary of an event which has received little wide attention. Some 7 years before the founding of SETI on November 24, 1984 as a legal entity and 8 years prior to its official start on February 1, 1985, many organizations were engaged in their own searches and observatories were scanning deep space for signals that might come from some interstellar source and collecting data on the possibility of other habitable worlds. On August 15, 1977, something unusual occurred.

An astronomer named Jerry Ehman was sifting through data gathered by the radio telescope belonging to Ohio State University. It was scouring the sky, listening for signals from deep space in the hope of detecting anything of intelligent origin.

In a moment that has become famous in astronomy, Ehman saw six characters on the printout that got his attention. They were 6EQUJ5. He was so captured that he put a circle around the sequence of symbols and wrote "Wow!" in the margin. It was thought to be some sort of signal from space, coming from the direction of Sagittarius. Its signal strength was spread over 72 seconds.

The discovery of the signal caused quite a sensation and attracted much attention raised the hopes among those searching for such a communication from beings living on another world anywhere. But . . .

But when you look at a star map where the Wow! signal originate there isn't much of interest, just wide open space. Astronomers have occasionally pointed their telescopes in the hope of hearing it again but none have heard even a slight blip. No matter how hard astronomers tried in more than 100 attempts they've never managed to find it again.

In the meantime, Jerry Ehmon's printout with his handwritten Wow! resides in the archives of the Ohio Historical Society. In the end, Wow is the genuine and true mystery. It's possibly an exciting unsolved mystery we have. It's a treasure hunt worth waiting for.

And so Wow has been up unto this day. Or has it? A new question has arisen. "Has the Wow! signal been solved?" Astronomers now surmise comets passing our planet caused that freakish radio blast in 1977. Some astronomers have traced two comets to the same region in the sky as the Wow! signal. They contend hydrogen clouds around the comets might have emitted the radio waves. According to Professor Antonio Paris, astronomer at St. Petersburg College in Florida thinks the comets produced a cloud of hydrogen gas in their wake which released radiation.

Here are facts about the comets in question. Comet 266P/Christensen was first discovered in 2006. **It orbits the sun every 6.79 years. The closest it passes to Earth is 125 million miles.** P/2008 Y2 (Gibbs) was first discovered in 2008. It passes much closer to Earth, at a distance of 61 million miles and orbits the sun every 6.8 years.

Professor Paris contends comets 266P/Christensen and P/2008 Y2 (Gibbs) would have been in the right part of the sky at the time.

It turns out that the clouds of hydrogen that surrounds the comets as sunlight breaks up the frozen water on their surface extends millions of miles around the comets. The clouds could produce a powerful signal.

Investigations into the 'Wow' signal ruled out the source as terrestrial in origin or other objects such as satellites, planets and asteroids,' said Professor Paris.

'From 1977 July 27 to 1977 August 15, comets 266P/Christensen and P/2008 Y2 (Gibbs) were transiting in the neighborhood of the Chi Sagittarii star group.

'Ephemerides for both comets during this orbital period placed them at the vicinity of the 'Wow!' signal.

While the ramifications of broadcasting to aliens may be up in the air, so to speak, H. Paul Shuch, an engineer, radio astronomer and executive director emeritus of the SETI League, and much of the scientific community believe the mystery surrounding the Wow! signal boils down to two possibilities: It was an actual alien communication, or Ehman stumbled across a previously undiscovered natural astrophysical phenomenon.

“Either one would be worthy of a Nobel Prize,” quips Shuch . “If only we knew which.

There you have it. An unexplained enigma or a solved one? Should we accept it as true or continue to look for solid confirmation to refute the comets theory? Or should we forget all about the WoW! and look for some sort of even more enigmatic and sensational transmission? There’s bound to be some such actual attempted communications as exciting if not more so waiting to be discovered—accidentally or otherwise. Or should we take our chances and send out signals of our own and invite disaster?

Ehman, the discoverer of the WoW! signal has an opinion on that. He thinks Steven Hawking has been watching too much science fiction. Ehrman says, “assuming that aliens couldn’t travel faster than the speed of light it could take millions of years for an alien race to receive our signal and then travel to Earth.” That’s something to think about. We might not even be around by the time they reached Earth; self-destructed or because some worldwide catastrophe took care of us. Not a nice thought at all.

You Will Cease To Exist If You Don’t Accept Woman’s Seed

By

Dr. Robin A. Bright

In the US television series, Star Trek (1966-69), which featured the exploration voyages of the starship Enterprise (c. 2260-), in The Changeling episode the crew encounter an entity describing itself as `Nomad`. The `perfect intelligent thinking machine` had been launched in 2002 to reach out to other life forms. Although the signal picked up by the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) on August 15, 1977, at the Big Ear Radio Observatory at Ohio State University and known as `WOW!`, precipitated a degree of interest in the possibilities of `life out there`, reaching out to other life forms was what the 1960s starship Enterprise was designed to achieve with its crew and, more importantly, suggested how Earthmen expected to react to what they’d already decided would be there: `When the signal was first seen in the data, it was so pronounced that SETI scientist Jerry Ehman circled it on the computer printouts in red ink and wrote `Wow!` next to it. It appeared to fit the criteria for an extraterrestrial radio signal, but because it wasn’t heard again, the follow-up studies required to either confirm or deny this were not possible.`¹ The premise of the Star Trek episode is that the `entity`, Nomad, was a peaceful research probe similar to the Pioneer missions responding of the early 70s which may’ve provoked the WOW! signal from extraterrestrial intelligences.

Nomad had encountered an alien space probe, Tan Ru, and merged to produce a being that was intolerant of anything it perceived as imperfect and destroyed it, which is what, according to parasitologists, parasites do when they become parasitoid after emerging from the host. Nomad's creator was Dr. Jackson Roykirk and so Nomad mistook Captain James T. Kirk of the starship Enterprise for Roykirk and was dissuaded from continuing its attack on the `imperfect` Enterprise after Kirk introduced himself: `My function is to probe for biological infestations, to destroy that which is not perfect.` Because `kirk` is the word for `church` in Scotland, the British Isles, the encounter between the creature created by Roykirk and Captain Kirk is religiously symbolic, because Roy derives from `roi`, the French word for `king`, and so the `captain` of the `church`, which is the starship Enterprise, is encountering a church `king` who, insofar as Nomad represents God's desire for perfection, corresponds to Jesus, mocked by the Roman Empire in occupied Palestine as the `king of the Jews` when they were torturing the Messiah to death as a political `dissident`. Born uncontaminated by male semen from his mother, the Virgin Mary, Jesus was the `perfect man` and `the first of woman's seed`, which God said would have `perpetual enmity` with the `serpent's seed` before, leaving Earth for a `new heaven and Earth`, her `seed`: `... will crush the head of the serpent with her foot.` (Gen: 3. 15) Because futanarian woman has her own penis `seed`, she's the `foot` which will leave the Earth; despite men's desire to keep humanity's `futrace` program from being `run` by God. Based on the 1972 and 1973 Pioneer space probe missions to send pictures of Saturn and Jupiter to Earth before leaving the solar system with a plaque containing a picture of a naked man and a woman for other intelligences to understand were the people of Earth, Nomad's perception on meeting the black female communications officer, Lt. Uhuru, is that her brain is imperfect. Nomad erases her mind: `That unit is defective. Its thinking is chaotic. Absorbing it unsettled me.` Psychologically, the meaning is that her brain contains a false picture of reality, because men aren't her race: `A mass of conflicting impulses.` In the developmental psychology of Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961), the `collective unconscious` of humankind contain images to be found in dreams, art and the imagination, which are the `impulse engines` of the species. If men aren't futanarian women's `seed`, their starships correspond to the `red dragon` of Revelation, waiting in vain to devour Jesus, in his `Second Coming`, as the `New Redeemer`, while Uhuru's brain is contaminated by the `seed` of a race not hers.

The futanarian woman wants to self-reproduce with her own penis` semen and have daughters with their own brains` power. Her `woman's seed` seeks to create advanced technologies to escape from men's alien parasitism upon her host womb, which has enslaved her to produce the civilization, culture and art her spirit from God is able to. In its ceaseless wars of `perpetual enmity` men are the `serpent's seed` that, if women have a self-reproductive system of her own, men can no longer pretend to be defending her. The rising of the futanarian, from the floor of the Earth to the planets and stars, is analogous to the `foot` being raised from the ground so that the `futrace` can `run`, but the `serpent's seed` of men don't want her to escape. Delayed by men's killing of her futanarian penis` `seed`, and supplanting her own archetypally developmental self-image, in her conscious and unconscious mind, with a picture of `the false hero` who has killed her, men seek to maintain the enslavement of women for their worship of the devouring god of war in pederasty.

Hollywood, Los Angeles, which is the center of the United States` film industry, is sometimes called `Babylon`, because it produces `propaganda` for the `serpent`s seed` in its depiction of `woman`s seed` as an enslaved species being killed by an alien parasite for entertainment in `action` movies: `Mystery, Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of the abominations of the Earth.` (Rev: 17. 5) Actresses like black Nichelle Nicholls, who had the role of Lieutenant Uhuru, and Susan Oliver, who had the role of the green-skinned alien woman, Veena, in the original Star Trek episode, The Cage, represent the brainless woman because she can`t self-fertilize her own species` host womb with her own futanarian penis` `seed`, which is what her evil parasite has done to her. In The Cage Veena is a green-skinned `alien` metamorph, who can alter her appearance so she doesn`t appear undesirable, which is what men have made woman to herself. In other words, she is the `classic` schizophrenic multiple personality` alienated from herself by men`s lies: `I contain no parasitical beings. I am Nomad.` Without knowledge of her own penis` `seed`, woman perceives herself as physically and psychologically disgusting, if she has what men have taught her are `lesbian` aberrant tendencies, while in fact she is `normal` if desirous of reproducing her own race`s brainpower through sexual fertilization as a futanarian woman with her own penis` semen. When Nomad erases Uhuru`s `imperfect` mind, symbolically it`s because she`s been `maled` by her alien devourer, and the starship Enterprise, armed with its photon torpedoes and phaser weapons, represents her as the `serpent`s seed`.

Nomad is depicted as having killed billions in the Malurians `star system` on a recent imperfection purge, but that`s Hollywood Babylon propaganda, whereas men`s seeking to explore the cosmos in starships armed to the teeth of its devouring `red dragon` is what Revelation describes as `war in heaven` against `woman`s seed`, that is, futanarian woman with her own penis` `seed` living in socio-economic independence away from the parasites. As Jesus Christ indicated, as the host at the `Last Supper` before his crucifixion, death, Resurrection and Ascension to heaven, when he gave the disciples `bread and wine` as tokens of his `body and blood`, betraying the host womb of the species of woman`s `seed` of futanarian humanity with its own penis` semen is what men have done: `Men cursed the God of heaven for their pains and their sores but refused to repent of what they had done.` (Rev: 16. 11) In ancient Greece men enslaved the host wombs of women to spread their contagion of pederasty and war, and nothing has changed. By the late twentieth century men had developed the `blood plague` of Revelation by mixing blood, shit and their own semen in each others` anuses to produce HIV/AIDS as a `biological weapon` to keep her in fearful faithfulness to the enslaving and devouring `serpent`s seed`, while God`s Bible promised perdition, that is, eternal unendurable pain, to those who `refused to repent`. `Greek` is a euphemism for pederasty and so the Greco-Roman civilization, culture and art of Jesus` era was devoid of `woman`s seed` because she`d been murdered. Jesus` teachings are of her Resurrection as an extended single human family where marriage will be only a memory of her period of enslavement: `At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.` (Rev: 22. 30) The host womb of woman will produce and be the host of the angels of God in Resurrection as futanarian woman with her own penis` `seed` in heaven and she shall have `the pearl of great price` too, which is the `kingdom of God` upon the Earth. The `New Redeemer` is to be born from `the woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet` and `he will rule the nations with an iron scepter`.

The statue of `Liberty` in New York harbor with the moon of the flag of Al Qaeda, `the base`, at her feet after the assassination of Osama Ben Laden, on May 2nd 2011, represents the woman of Revelation, because the United States` defeat of the red sun of the flag of Japan after the `sneak` attack upon the US Pacific fleet on 7 December, 1941, is `the pearl of great price`, `the kingdom of God`, which is what the US fights for.

The Gulf war (2001-11) to depose President Saddam Hussein, who had offered bases in Iraq to Al Qaeda, `the base`, makes `Liberty`, the mother of the `New Redeemer`, looking at the moon reflected in her birth waters at New York harbor, after the Al Qaeda terrorist hijacking of civil airliners to crash them into the World Trade Centre of New York. Al Qaeda, `the base`, at the feet of `Liberty` after September 11, 2001, had reestablished global `rough trade`, that is, homosexual `brutality and violence`, and Hollywood Babylon made the terrorist `action` movie World Trade Centre (2006) to continue the propaganda of the `serpent`s seed` and maintain `perpetual enmity` for `woman`s seed`, which the United States` movie industry had been doing since its `foot on the floor` rule in `bedroom scenes`³ prevented the futanarian penis of woman`s `futrace` from being seen to take itself off the Earth in Star Trek or other `science fiction` television and movie vehicles, like Babylon 5 (1994-98) for example, which focused on hiding the male pogrom against `woman`s seed` inside a plot with alien males in control of ethnocentricities differing from those under which women were enslaved on Earth and so seemed interestingly exotic but acceptably the same to the human race of futanarian woman with her own penis` `seed` kept in censored blindness and ignorance of her pogromers by Hollywood Babylon. Battlestar Galactica (1978) was another US space opera television series facing cybernetic aliens, the Cylons, where the humans became nomadic to find a new home after the Cylons had destroyed Earth. A nomad is a wanderer, and the term is applied to desert tent dwellers, such as the Tuareg of Arabia, or the North American Plains` Indians, who followed the paths of the animals, that is, the food, which they hunted. The futanarian is the `foot` which men have hunted almost to extinction because she`s the human species` host womb and the `serpent`s seed` don`t want the `futrace` to `run` so they propagate misinformation. In the later version of the TV series, Battlestar Galactica (2004-9), the Cylons are revealed to have been humanoid and, reconciled, live together with humans. Tricia Helfer, the actress who has the role of `Cylon Number Six`, admits: `All of this has happened before. But the question remains, does all of this have to happen again?`⁴ Not if `woman`s seed` can overcome her `false picture makers`, Hollywood Babylon, which wants to plague; games of virality with the alien `serpent`s seed` of men`s against hers in wars of `perpetual enmity` because it refuses to leave the stage. In Sophocles` Oedipus Rex (c. 429 BC) Oedipus is `slow foot`, because he won`t leave the stage after blinding himself. He`s married his mother and can`t deal with the strength of men`s incest taboo, which is designed to prohibit `woman`s seed` from breeding with herself as futanarian woman with her own penis` `seed`. Guided away by his daughter, Antigone, at the end of the play Oedipus is still the central `lame` figure, because Antigone can`t penetrate her own censored blindness to prefer her own species. Before becoming king of Thebes by marriage, Oedipus had to solve the `riddle of the Sphinx`: `What goes on all fours in the morning, two legs in the afternoon, and three in the evening?`⁵ Oedipus gives the answer `Man`, because he`s a baby who`ll be blind and walking with a cane in old age, but the third `foot` of `Man` is the futanarian woman with her own penis` `seed` who`s the `futrace` being slowed by men.

She can't `run` in a three-legged race. The word `futanar` comes from the words `fut` and `tanar`, which is Hungarian for `run` and `teacher`, so Jesus is the futanarian teacher. Although the psychological term `Oedipal` is used to denote Oedipus` killing of his father, Laius, so he can marry his mother, that is, a more than usually perceived desire on the part of the son, who seeks sexual access to the wife, Jocasta hangs herself in Sophocles` drama, which makes her `choke a star`, because the symbol of Jesus` Advent was the mysterious `star` over Bethlehem heralding his birth.

Because Jesus is `futanar` in Hungarian, Jocasta is `choke a star`, that is, Jesus` future futanarian message is choked in Sophocles` Oedipus Rex, because Christ`s `archetypal star` won't be seen there. In Hungarian `sok` means `plenty` and `asztal` means `table`, so if we can accept that others` languages can be as illuminative as our own, the psychological term `Oedipal` is a misnomer, because `Jocastal` should be the term for the psychological complex representing the desire of `woman`s seed` to be born from the teachings of the `futanar` Jesus` table at the `Last Supper`, rather than be food upon it. Sophocles` drama, Oedipus Rex, is like the teachings of Jesus because the message is there but needs a `futanar` to teach it, whereas classical scholarship, and schools of psychology, particularly `the father` of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), who argued that women are the `victims of penis envy`, obfuscate. Bible preachers arrogate Jesus` spiritual authority as a futanarian teacher of `woman`s seed` without being able to teach and so the human race remains ineducable and possessed by demons. In the Bible Cain killed his brother, Abel, because he wasn't able and wouldn't `cook`, which is a metaphor for blindman`s Cain`s refusal to develop, which is the story of `Man` and the futanarian woman of the human species` `seed` with her own penis. Enslaving and devouring her, in its wars of `perpetual enmity` for developing `woman`s seed`, the `serpent`s seed` has put woman`s `fut` on the table, and its feet under it, because rather than `Man` becoming `able`, women can always be made to have a `bun in the oven`, that is, a slave child for devouring in pederasty, and so Cain can continue to walk alongside a three-legged handicapped race with the human `slow foot` he`s censoring, blinding, and keeping in unconscious ignorance of his murdering of it.

Captain James T. Kirk (church) of the starship Enterprise manages to disable Nomad by logical reasoning, because he reveals himself to be James Kirk, rather than Roykirk (king, church), which means Nomad`s made a mistake and is `imperfect` itself. Ironically, the Christian church`s inability to perceive that it isn't perfect, because it doesn't teach Jesus` message, makes it more `illogical` than Nomad, because the machine seeks the perfection of God: `... your creator, is dead. You have mistaken me for him. You are in error! You did not discover your mistake; you have made two errors. You are flawed and imperfect, and you have not corrected by sterilization; you've made three errors!` Nomad self-destructs and so fulfils its program of sterilizing the `imperfect`.

Ironically, the Moslem `church` made up of `nomad` desert dwellers, in their acceptance of the Prophet Mohamed and the holy book dictated to him by the angels, the Koran (610-30 CE), with a `fourfold marriage` of wives with someone at its center, is closer to the teachings of Jesus` breeding of `woman`s seed` so that she can live in socio-economic independence from her own brains` power as a species of futanarian woman with her own penis` `semen hidden publically from prying eyes beneath her one-piece traditional covering of the burka, which disguises everything of her, and men`s eyes are required to be publically averted from hers to prevent them from discovering the secret: `The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.` (Rev: 12. 14) The black flag of the Prophet Mohamed with an eagle at its center was `Al Uqab` and the symbol upon the `Great Seal` of the United States of America is the eagle. Assisted by the Moslem peoples from the heart of Islam, Saudi Arabia, where Mecca contains the tomb of Abraham, patriarch of Judaism and Islam, `Liberty` deposed Iraq`s President, Saddam Hussein, supporter of `the base`, Al Qaeda, which had attacked the USA on September 11, 2001, by means of terrorist hijackers crashing civil airliners into the Twin Towers of New York`s World Trade Centre in an attempt to re-implement the `rough trade` of pederasty and war. Although the hymen of `woman`s seed` was theoretically protected by the `Great Seal` of the eagle of the United States, and the black flag of the eagle of the Prophet Mohamed, while the Seals of Navy Team Six killed Al Qaeda leader, Osama Ben Laden, on May 2nd 2011, the Earth`s response to WOW! after August 15, 1977, was to transmit pictures of a man and a woman into space aboard Pioneer `72 and `73, and they`re not the species` pair. Incapacitating the human futanarian race of `woman`s seed`, the alien parasite having emerged from the host womb of the native species after eons ago inveigling itself into a position to steal her penis` semen and, in parasitological terms, devour her as her parasitoid, may be calling to its parent; food is here!

1 Anderson, Paul Scott, *Universe Today: Space And Astronomy News*, `35 Years Later, The `WOW!` Signal Still Tantalizes`, February 24, 2012, <http://www.universetoday.com/93754/35-years-later-the-wow-signal-still-tantalizes/> .

2 Star Trek, `The Changeling`, Season 2, Episode 3, September 29, 1967.

3 The Production Code of the Motion Picture Industry (1930-1967), Part II Sex (2b), `Scenes of passion`; `Excessive and lustful kissing, lustful embraces, suggestive postures and gestures are not to be shown.`

4 Helfer, Tricia Battlestar Galactica, `Daybreak`, Season 4, Episode 22, March 20, 2009.

5 Frazer, Sir James George (ed.) Apollodorus Library, Apollod, 3.5.8.

The WOW! Signal: The Editor's Take

If December 7, 1941, and September 11, 2001, are dates that will live in infamy, then August 15, 1977, is a date that should live as a more positive time, at least among science fiction fans. This is because that was the day that the Big Ear radio observatory at Ohio State University picked up what has become known as the "WOW!" signal. Of all the signals picked up by radio telescopes, this is the one that was most likely to have been broadcast by extraterrestrial alien intelligence.

The "WOW!" signal derived its name from the notation written by graduate student Jerry Ehman who came across the signal on the computer printouts of the Big Ear's scanning of the heavens on August 15, 1977. The signal lasted 72 seconds which was the maximum amount of time that it could be scanned by the radio telescope. The frequency of this signal almost precisely matched the frequency wavelength given off by hydrogen radiation. Since this radiation is so prevalent in space, the consensus among radio astronomers is that aliens may very well use it for radio transmissions. The printouts showed that the signal in question was 30 times stronger than the background noise and was tightly focused just like commercial broadcasts are. It neatly fit almost every criteria set by radio astronomers for what a broadcast sent by extraterrestrial intelligence aka aliens would be like. That being the case, Ehman was so startled by the printout, he wrote "WOW!" on it. Hence the name of the "WOW!" signal.

Of all the signals picked up by radio astronomers, the "WOW!" signal is the only one that has withstood all challenges. You would think that the astronomers at Ohio State University would have held a press conference to announce their discovery. Instead, they opted to publish their findings in 1979 in *Cosmic Search*, a magazine with such a low circulation, that today there are very few complete sets in existence. Very little has been written about the "WOW!" signal so much so that this writer first learned about it from the March 2015 issue of *Astronomy* where it ranked 361st out of the 500 Coolest Things About Space.

One might wonder why so little has been made about this discovery. For one thing, the only criteria for determining a signal is from cosmic intelligence that the "WOW!" signal does not meet is that it has never been observed again. This is interesting given how that when we humans on rare occasions deliberately send signals to outer space, we ourselves rarely send the same signal on multiple times to the same area of space. If beings of alien intelligence were to use the same criteria that we humans do, then they would have no reason to believe that there is any intelligent life on Earth.

Another reason why the lack of coverage of the "WOW!" signal in scientific publications is the fact that when you trace out the "WOW!" signal, there are no known stars or planets in the vicinity. This is interesting because science fiction writers as well as leading scientists have long proposed that mankind construct space stations and perhaps space cities. These stations/cities could be placed in interstellar space far away from any planet or even any solar system. If we humans can talk about such ideas, then why could an alien intelligence not have the same ideas? Surely, aliens with technology far more advanced than our own could take a staple of today's science fiction and turn it into reality.

Additionally, just because a radio telescope here on Earth picked up a signal does not necessarily mean that signal was deliberately sent to Earth in the first place. The "WOW!" signal could have been a SOS signal from an alien ship or it could have been originally sent by one alien ship to another and reached planet Earth long after the original broadcast was sent.

There are about 80 radio telescopes surveying the heavens located throughout the world. There are numerous uses for radio telescopes, so much so that the search for extraterrestrial intelligence is one that utilizes a surprisingly low amount of telescope time. Of necessity, their searches are limited to certain frequencies that are protected by international agreements. These are frequencies that are reserved for astronomers.

The fact that only certain frequencies are available to radio astronomers is a hindrance to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. If an alien civilization attempted to contact us via AM or FM radio, the end result would simply be an increase in static. There would be no way to determine that the static originated in outer space and that's assuming that there would even be an attempt to discover where that static came from in the first place. Apparently, nobody in official positions have realized that if we humans find certain frequencies such as AM/FM to be conducive to communication, then surely other sentient life forms would find them useful as well. What is needed is to have satellites in orbit that would pick up transmissions from outer space of frequencies that are in commercial use here on Earth.

What all those goes to show is that the business of making contact with aliens is far more complicated than what science fiction writers have lead us to believe.

Book Review

Krafft Ehrlicke's Extraterrestrial Imperative

by Marsha Freeman Apogee Books 2008 287 pp.

<http://www.apogeebooks.com>

Krafft Ehrlicke was one of the younger scientists who worked in the German rocket program during World War II. After the war he was brought to the US as part of Operation Paperclip. He helped Americans come up to speed on rocket technology and then do great things. Following his time working for the U.S. Government, he went on to General Dynamics where he led the team that invented the Atlas Centaur rocket that more than anything else got the U.S. space program off the ground. Ehrlicke was one of the most creative and imaginative of all the rocket scientists. As such, he became one of the greatest space visionaries of our times.

The title of this book is derived from the title of an article by Ehrlicke entitled "Extraterrestrial Imperative." In that article Ehrlicke wrote, "Man is at the cutting edge of terrestrial life, and has no rational alternative but to expand the environmental and resource base beyond Earth." Ehrlicke firmly believed that the ultimate purpose of a strong space program was the "preservation of civilization."

This is the book Krafft Ehrlicke never got around to writing. It is most refreshing to read about a real futuristic visionary, especially since there are so few such individuals around in public life lately. This book is a collection of Ehrlicke's most wonderful writings along with an extensive biographical profile. These writings range from a 1930's science fiction story about a 1991 manned expedition to Venus to essays on such futuristic notions as space hospitals and space tourism.

The author, Marsha Freeman, has done a service to humanity by presenting a significant portion of the writings of one of the greatest intellects of 20th Century science. Although Ehrlicke was a brilliant and prolific writer, his work is hard to find because only a little bit of it was preserved in books. The bulk of Ehrlicke's writings came in the form of conference papers, articles in scientific journals, magazines, speeches and even testimony to congressional committees. What this book does is give 21st Century readers the opportunity to experience Ehrlicke's genius.

Editorial Briefs

Something Interesting in *Alexiad* #87

<http://efanzines.com/Alexiad/Alexiad087L.pdf>

Every once in a while another fanzine publishes something worth your reading time. In the 87th issue of *Alexiad*, a fanzine most noted for its accounts of the adventures of Mr. Chunk, there is an article by Robin Usher about the Middle East, Islam, the U.S. problems with Saddam Hussein and the idea that the starship *Enterprise* in the original *Star Trek* TV series looks like an old-fashioned oil lamp.

However, there is a serious factual problem with this article. In it Usher alludes to the movie *Jarhead* and claims that it was named after a nickname for U.S. troops that came about from the fact that the helmets worn by U.S. troops in recent times have a distinct resemblance to the helmets worn by the German Army during World War II. Actually, U.S. troops, particularly members of the Marine Corps, have been called “jarheads” for decades going all the way back to World War II. For instance when I was in my senior year (1982-1983) at Platteville High School, I can remember we had a senior class assembly to hear a Marine Corps recruiter talk about how we should join the USMC after graduation and there was a kid who asked where the “jarhead” nick name came from and why he never heard it applied to anyone in the Army.

The Resurgence of Arkansas Fandom

<http://arkansasgeekcentral.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/447158672140844/>

<http://www.glitchcon.com/>

<http://kosplosion.com/kosplosionwp/>

One of the most significant aspects of science fiction fandom today is the resurgence of fandom and fan-related activity in Arkansas. Back when I lived in Little Rock, Arkansas during 1997-2000, the Little Rock Science Fiction Society (LRSFS) and its Roc*Kon convention was the only game in town so to speak. There just simply was nothing else relating to either fandom or to stuff that fans are interested in other than a few amateur astronomy and computer clubs.

After I moved from Little Rock to Northern Illinois, the LRSFS went into what turned out to be a permanent state of decline. It held its last convention in 2004 and the group dissolved a few years later. In the years since 2004, the membership scattered to the winds with only a few individuals remaining in Arkansas. Judging from Facebook and other sources on the Internet, it appears of the former LRSFS members remaining in Arkansas, hardly any of them have any real involvement in fandom.

Despite the dissolution of what was the core fandom group in Arkansas, there has been a resurgence of fandom in Arkansas. Whereas there was originally just one convention in Little Rock, there are now conventions in Fort Smith (Kosplosion) and Springdale (Glitch Con). There is also a news and information website devoted to fandom in Arkansas called Arkansas Geek Central (AGC). AGC currently lists a far greater variety of fandom related activities and organizations than ever existed when I lived in Arkansas.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of fandom developments in Arkansas is the fact that for the past few years, the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) aka the Little Rock public library has been sponsoring an annual CALs Con. While the programming for CALs Con is rudimentary and both smaller and less sophisticated than what the LRSFS offered at Roc*Kon, just the fact that it is even being held is pretty surprising given the previous history of CALs and fandom.

If you were to visit either the main public library or any of the branch libraries in Little Rock with the idea of checking out the CALs holdings in both science fiction and science fact, you would have found that it seemed that luddites ran CALs. There very likely were fewer books in the combined fields of both science fiction and science fact than there was books devoted to the subject of the Civil War. The same was also true of magazines. The closest that CALs came to having either a science fiction magazine or a science fact magazine was the *National Geographic* and the libertarian magazine *Reason*.

Back in the Spring of 2000, this writer and a few other LRSFS members went to see the director of CALS, Dr. Bobby K. Roberts to protest this sad state of affairs. He treated us with an almost unbelievable amount of condescension. He told us that we were engaged in mindless escape from reality with what he termed “this crazy Buck Rogers stuff.” He made it clear that as long as he remained in charge of CALS, there would be no change in policy regarding library system holdings.

Now, things have changed. Despite the fact that the luddite Roberts remained in charge of CALS until earlier this year, CALS has been holding an annual fandom convention for the last few years. While this does not necessarily mean that there has been any change in policy regarding procurement of science fiction/fact books and magazines, it’s still a pretty major change in official CALS policy anyways. If you had attended the meeting we had with Roberts back about 16 years ago, you would find this development pretty surprising if not incomprehensible. One sense that there is a pretty big story behind this change in CALS policy.

Hopefully, the CALS Con can grow and prosper and become at least as significant as what Roc*Kon was in its heyday.

The USA’s Political Situation in Perspective

By any honest objective standard Hillary Rodham Clinton is nothing but the absolute living breathing scum of the earth. Everywhere she and her worthless husband, Billy Boy, and their awful daughter Princess Chelsea go, scandal follows. Their greed and lust for illicit money knows no bounds. If you vote for Clinton for president, then you are saying that you are every bit as evil and corrupt as she is.

Fortunately, there are three contenders for the presidency that are worthy of your consideration. They are former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson (Libertarian Party), Dr. Jill Stein M.D. (Green Party) & the Orange Julius Caesar himself, Donald Trump. Vote for Trump so he can win outright or vote for either Johnson or Stein so you can help build their parties into becoming more important political forces down the road.

The Fraud of Organic Farming/Food Revealed

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/12/think-organic-food-is-better-for-you-animals-and-the-planet-thin/>

From a piece by environmental expert Bjorn Lomborg in the *London Telegraph*:

Organic farming is sold as good for the environment. This is correct for a single farm field: organic farming uses less energy, emits less greenhouse gasses, nitrous oxide and ammonia and causes less nitrogen leeching than a conventional field. But each organic field yields much, much less. So, to grow the same amount of wheat, spinach or strawberries, you need much more land. That means that average organic produce results in the emission of about as many greenhouse gasses as conventional produce; and about 10 per cent more nitrous oxide, ammonia and acidification. Worse, to produce equivalent quantities, organic farms need to occupy 84 per cent more land - land which can't be used for forests and genuine nature reserves. For example, to produce the amount of food America does today, but organically, would require increasing its farmland by the size of almost two United Kingdoms. That is the equivalent of eradicating all parklands and wild lands in the lower 48 states.

In other words, by either eating or farming organic, you are helping to kill Planet Earth.

Nobel Laureate Economist Calls Apple Computer's Tax Strategy a "Fraud"

http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2016/08/stiglitzapples-tax-strategy-is-a-fraud.html

Joseph Stiglitz, a winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics, recently called the tax strategy used by Apple Computer, the largest privately held corporation in the world, completely fraudulent. Under current U.S. tax law, it is perfectly legal for a hugely profitable corporation, such as Apple, to park huge amounts of money in a foreign country, a legal aspect that Stiglitz calls, "obviously deficient". According to Stiglitz, **"Our current tax system encourages companies to keep their money abroad, opens up a vast loophole through what is called the transfer-pricing system that allows them not only to keep their money abroad but, effectively, to escape taxation."**

Apple Computer has exploited deficiencies in U.S. tax law to park gigantic sums of money in low-tax countries, such as Ireland. According to Stiglitz, **"Here we have the largest corporation in capitalization not only in America, but in the world, bigger than GM was at its peak, and claiming that most of its profits originate from about a few hundred people working in Ireland -- that's a fraud."** Stiglitz also added, **"A tax law that encourages American firms to keep jobs abroad is wrong, and I think we can get a consensus in America to get that changed."**

When will this country's politicians ever stand up to the Silicon Valley Robber Barons?

Will Illinois Get Back on Track in Pursuing Clean Energy?

<http://www.nachicagonorth.com/CHI/August-2016/Illinois-Needs-Clean-Energy-Now/>

In the wake of the struggle over the budget between Governor Bruce Rauner and House Speaker Michael Madigan, official support for clean energy was curtailed for nearly a year. As Jessica Collingsworth put it in the August 2016 issue of the Chicago Edition of *Natural Awakenings* magazine:

The once-vibrant Illinois clean energy industry was left to idle, with millions of dollars that might have been invested in lighting, heating and air-conditioning upgrades at schools, libraries, fire stations and other municipal facilities suspended before the stopgap budget was passed. The far-reaching effects of the political impasse are clearly damaging to the state's long-term goals.

Illinois can get back on track by passing legislation that fixes and strengthens the state's clean energy policy as laid out in the proposed Clean Jobs Bill, introduced in February 2015, that could serve as a powerful driver for expanding clean energy investments, curbing carbon emissions and keeping electricity bills affordable for consumers. With a fixed and strengthened renewable energy and energy efficiency standard, ours can be competitive with other states, create economic opportunities for Illinois businesses, provide savings to consumers and cost-effectively renew its commitment to clean energy.

The only problem with the *Natural Awakenings* position is that it is a classic example of making the perfect the enemy of the good. This particular magazine equates clean energy only with wind and solar power. Apparently, other forms of renewable energy such as biodiesel, ethanol and hydroelectric don't pass their standards. Also, the best way of selling clean energy to the public is as part of a larger strategy to achieve energy independence. This strategy entails use of more conventional forms of energy, including some such as coal and nuclear that the green crowd just abhors.

The Perfect Website for Hillary Rodham Clinton

<http://iwilllookintoit.com/>

This website is the work of an utterly unrepentant stalwart Bernard Sanders supporter. According to both the February 19th *Topeka Capital-Journal* and a Salon webzine article by Ben Norton, the website creator is one Jed McChesney of Olathe, KS. McChesney is 40 years old and a professional web developer is attracted to Sanders because he finds the Vermonter to be both “genuine” and “the real deal.” The website is, of course, a reference to Hillary Rodham Clinton’s promises to “look into” releasing the transcripts to the speeches that she gave before such infamous Wall Street firms such as Goldman Sachs. As McChesney put it, “[t]o me, it was the equivalent of her saying, ‘Let them eat cake,’” McChesney is also the nephew of Robert McChesney of Citizen Uprising (CU) at <http://citizenuprising.com/>. The CU is the activist group responsible for this wonderfully useful chart of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s known activities that constitute her reign of corruption during the years 2013-2015:

<http://citizenuprising.com/hillary-clintons-speaking-fees-2013-2015/>

As Jed McChesney put it in an article on the muckraking website TruthDig at:

http://www.truthdig.com/report/page2/keeping_wall_street_speeches_secret_speaks_volumes_2_0160501

“If she can’t show her real constituents simply what she said ... she will never get my vote. Ever.”

All in all, it’s pretty depressing that the front runner for the highest office in the land is nothing but a cheap Wall Street housedog. Can’t we as a nation do better than that?

Dr. Jill Stein M.D. on the E-Mail Perfidy of Hillary Rodham Clinton

http://www.jill2016.com/stein_prosecute_clinton_for_reckless_abuses_of_national_security

The Green Party’s presidential candidate, Dr. Jill Stein M.D. has been making a mark for herself despite the fact that the news media has hardly covered her. She has already gained the endorsement of the nation’s leading feminist intellectual, Camille Paglia. Now, she has penned a very well thought out critique of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s infamous E-Mail server as well as FBI Director James Comey’s lame reasons for not going after the well-connected miscreant.

In her website posting, Stein noted that,

FBI Director James Comey described Hillary Clinton's email communications as Secretary of State as "extremely careless."

His statement undermined the defenses Clinton put forward, stating the FBI found 110 emails on Clinton's server that were classified at the time they were sent or received; eight contained information classified at the highest level, "top secret," at the time they were sent. That stands in direct contradiction to Clinton's repeated insistence she never sent or received any classified emails.

All the elements necessary to prove a felony violation were found by the FBI investigation, specifically of Title 18 Section 793(f) of the federal penal code, a law ensuring proper protection of highly classified information. Director Comey said that Clinton was "extremely careless" in handling such information. Contrary to the implications of the FBI statement, the law does not require showing that Clinton intended to harm the United States, but that she acted with gross negligence.

The recent State Department Inspector General (IG) report was clear that Clinton blithely disregarded safeguards to protect the most highly classified national security information and that she included on her unprotected email server the names of covert CIA officers. The disclosure of such information is a felony under the Intelligence Identities Protection Act.

Stein also pointed out another aspect of the Clinton E-Mail scandal, one that the news media has been amiss in reporting:

This is not the end of the Clinton email issues. Department of Justice officials filed a motion in federal court on June 29th requesting a 27-month delay in producing correspondence between former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's four top aides and officials with the Clinton Foundation and Teneo Holdings, a public relations firm that Bill Clinton helped launch.

Hillary Clinton deleted 30,000 emails claiming they were 'personal'. This is equal to the volume of her emails designated as department business. If half of an employee's email volume is for their personal business, they are not using their time for their job.

If Secretary Clinton was conducting personal business for her family Foundation through the Secretary of State's Office, this is a matter the American public deserves to know about. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton routinely granted lucrative special contracts, weapons deals and government partnerships to Clinton Foundation donors. The Secretary of State's office should not be a place to conduct private back room business deals.

Anyone who thinks that the Clinton E-Mail Scandal is over and done with because of the FBI whitewash is only kidding themselves. This is a story that is going to go on and on to the detriment of America's image abroad, not to mention the fundamental (mis)trust in government by ordinary Americans.

It's also interesting to note that in the wake of Stein's posting her take on Hillary Rodham Clinton's E-Mail hanky-panky, both Stein and the Green Party have come under increasing attack from such pro-Clinton media outlets as the *Boston Globe* & the *Slate* webzine. Clearly, the pro-HRC crowd is becoming worried about her electoral viability. Stein's chances have been strengthened by receiving the support of many folks who supported Bernard Sanders in the Democratic primaries. One of these is Cornel West who recently announced on a You Tube video that he is endorsing Stein for president: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6pN6x6pGwA> This is especially true in the wake of further Clinton E-Mail scandals such as the DNC hack that involves both E-Mail and Voice-Mail, not to mention the very real possibility that HRC's illegal E-Mail server was hacked by agents of hostile foreign nations such as Iran, North Korea & Russia and that those E-Mails will be used to blackmail President HRC. Not a pleasant thought is it?

The DNC/Wasserman Schultz Scandal

By now, it is common knowledge that the Democratic National Committee (DNC), under the leadership of U.S. Representative Deborah Wasserman Schultz of Florida, did everything it could to rig the 2016 Democratic presidential primaries in favor of Hillary Rodham Clinton. The DNC's had a decisive effect on boosting the corrupt candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton, despite the fact that the public opinion polls consistently showed that Bernard Sanders would do much better against Donald Trump. According to Election Justice USA, fraud and deceit in the Democratic presidential primaries may have made all the difference in the final outcome of the presidential nomination. This is the very same Wasserman Schultz who back in 2013 when President Obama considered removing her as chairman of the DNC due to her incompetence, reportedly threatened him that if he did so, she would publicly accuse him of sexism and antisemitism.

If you want to put an end to the reign this evil woman and her baleful influence on what is supposed to be your Federal Government, one solution lies in the website of her primary challenger, Tim Canova. Canova is a strong candidate who has reportedly raised over one million dollars and who has been endorsed by both Bernard Sanders and National Nurses United (NNU). <https://timcanova.com/>

The Hill, a Washington, D.C., publication, made an interesting report about Canova's surprising challenge to Wasserman Schultz:

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/272557-nurses-super-pac-backing-sanders-endorses-primary-challenger-to>

Canova is mounting the first intra-party challenge to Wasserman Schultz since she was first elected to the House in 2004.

“On issue after issue, Tim Canova lines up with the concerns of nurses and our patients while Debbie Wasserman Schultz has turned her back on these concerns,” said Deborah Burger, the NNU’s co-president, at a press conference Thursday.

“Tim and the NNU also are vocal supporters of Bernie Sanders for President because he also shares these same values. For all these reasons we are enthusiastically backing Tim Canova for Congress.”

In an interview with The Hill [last month](#), Canova suggested Wasserman Schultz has lost touch with her district, noting her vote in favor of trade promotion authority for President Obama.

"People here on the ground — I hear left and right, you name it — are just dissatisfied that she's not responsive, she takes people for granted, and it's becoming evident in the way she votes on an awful lot of issues," Canova said.

In the wake of Wasserman Schultz’s resignation as chairman of the DNC, Canova’s campaign has experienced a surge of support:

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2016/08/01/wasserman_schultzs_opponent_sees_gain_from_dnc_uproar_131375.html

Glenn Harlan Reynolds on the Larger Meaning of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s E-Mail Scandal

<https://pjmedia.com/instapundit/240092/#respond>

Instapundit founder Glenn Harlan Reynolds recently wrote the following about Hillary Rodham Clinton’s E-Mail scandal, the DNC hack, the hack on Clinton’s campaign and related events:

Cyber-security requires discipline and a willingness to inconvenience oneself for the greater good. Those qualities are not widespread within America’s ruling class.

W-E-B-S-I-T-E R-E-V-I-E-W-S

<http://rlc.org/>

Republican Liberty Caucus

The Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) is a good example of how an ideological minority in a political party can maximize its influence through effective organization. Back in 1991, when it was founded, libertarian influence in the Republican Party may have been at its all-time low. The influence of decidedly anti-libertarian groups such as the censorious Moral Majority and the taxpayer subsidies loving U.S. Chamber of Commerce were very likely at an all-time high. At the time it was founded, the RLC drew little notice. However through hard work and dedication it has become both bigger and more important in Republican Party circles. The RLC website is not, however, the most user-friendly thingies around and the RLC has elected not to put too much information on it. The RLC has the nation divided up into eight different regions with each state having its own chapter. Basically, the state chapters elect Regional Directors who handle matters within their regions. The Regional Directors then elect members to the national RLC Board of Directors. It is known that there is a RLC National Convention that generates surprisingly little news media attention given the RLC's importance in today's Republican Party. Unfortunately, there is not a listing anywhere on the RLC website of what state chapters there are or how many local chapters there are in the states. For instance, on what is billed as the RLC's first ever newsletter, there is State News for Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma & Tennessee and no other states. There is news about a chapter in South Florida, but no mention of other local chapters. The RLC website is not exactly updated on a regular basis. It mentions that the group's board of directors had endorsed Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. However, it does not relate what the RLC has done relating to the presidential contest in the wake of the collapse of the Paul candidacy. Basically, the RLC has come a long way since its beginning, but it still needs a stronger structure, activist core and .better updated website to reach its full potential

<http://iowarfa.org/>

Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) is an organization that has succeeded in making ethanol and other forms of natural, non-fossil fuels, the center of both the economy and the political agenda in the state of Iowa. Both Democrats and Republicans in Iowa are solidly behind the IRFA's agenda. The IRFA was originally formed in 2002 as a trade group representing the biodiesel and ethanol industries.

It has since become one of the most important organizations involved in the fight to make the United States an energy independent country. There are two different kinds of members in the IRFA: Producers and Associates. Producer Members are the companies that are actually producing ethanol and other renewable fuels in the state of Iowa. These range from major national companies such as Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) to strictly local concerns such as Western Dubuque Biodiesel. Associate Members are outfits such as companies and organizations that have an interest in renewable fuels. Associate Members in the IRFA include such notable state and local concerns as the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Central Fuel Testing Laboratory, the Iowa Corn Promotion Board and the Iowa Soybean Association. Interestingly enough, there are a number of major national outfits that are also IRFA Associate Members, These include the likes of the American Coalition for Ethanol, the National Biodiesel Board, Renewable Products Marketing Group and John Deere. Surprisingly, the national organization, the Renewable Fuels Association is also an Associate Member of the IRFA. Also surprising is the fact that the IRFA is not an affiliate of the national RFA. What this does is show the prominence and success of the IRFA as an advocacy organization for renewable fuels in America. The IRFA website is also an invaluable resource for those who are interested in learning more about renewable fuels.

<http://ssi.org/>

Space Studies Institute

Dr. Gerard K. O'Neill was one of the greatest scientists of the 20th Century. He was an experimental physicist who was responsible for a number of scientific breakthroughs. He was an entrepreneur who founded several companies that brought technological breakthroughs out of the laboratory and into the marketplace. However, it was both as a teacher and as a writer that he made his mark in life. He was a member of the physics department at the University of Princeton during the years 1954-1985. While at Princeton, he attracted a number of unusually bright graduate students, and with them proceeded to make a number of significant scientific discoveries. Although he and his students made their mark in a number of areas, it is in the advocacy of the future of mankind in space where O'Neill attracted the most attention. Although it was first published way back in 1976, O'Neil's book *The High Frontier: Human Colonies in Space* is still the very best book about the future of mankind on the far frontier ever published. The *High Frontier* included a great many ideas such as asteroid mining, mass drivers used in lunar mining, space colonies located at Lagrangian points such as L-5 and solar power satellites that are still the basis for pro-space colonization efforts today. It was in furtherance of the ideas set forth in *The High Frontier*, that in 1977 O'Neill founded the Space Studies Institute (SSI) with the idea being to "open the energy and material resources of space for human benefit within our lifetime." Essentially, the SSI is a private sector nonprofit space research and development organization.

Originally, the SSI began operations at Princeton, but has since moved to Mojave, CA where it is closer to the private spaceflight companies that have sprung up since 1977. SSI has come to be at the center of the visionary advocacy of space-related commerce ever since it started hosting biannual conferences on space manufacturing.

<http://www.gp.org/>

Green Party U.S. (GPUS)

Ever since the various and sundry socialist third parties in the United States have bitten the dust, the Green Party U.S. (GPUS) has become the leading left wing 3rd party in America. Originally founded in 1984, in imitation of the successful West German Green Party, the GPUS has run a national ticket in every U.S. election starting in 1996. The GPUS is also active in state and local elections with 64 elected officials in just the state of California alone, many of whom won their positions in nonpartisan elections. The GPUS has also had success in mobilizing public support on non-political matters as well. For instance, Illinois Greens made a successful case to the public opposing holding the 2016 in Chicago, bucking the machine of Mayor Richard Daley in the process. While the name “Green” gives the impression of a political party that is focused on the environment, the GPUS is more than just that. The official ideology of the GPUS is built around “four pillars” and “ten key values.” The four pillars are Democracy, Ecology, Peace & Social Justice. The ten key values are Grassroots Democracy, Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, Ecological Wisdom, Non-Violence, Decentralization, Community Based Economics, Feminism and Gender Equity, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility and Future Focus and Sustainability. One of the GPUS’s favorite slogans is “Fix the Broken System.” Green presidential candidate Dr. Jill Stein M.D. calls Hillary Rodham Clinton a “Wall Street, war and Walmart” candidate. Cornel West has endorsed Jill Stein for president writing that, “Clinton policies of the 1990s generated inequality, mass incarceration, privatization of schools and Wall Street domination.” To find out more about Jill Stein’s candidacy for the presidency, you can find her campaign website at: <http://www.jill2016.com/>

<https://selinc.com/>

Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories

Over the years, it has become a staple in science fiction to portray the electric power grid in the United States as being insecure and vulnerable to attack and disruption. It has been theorized, based on the results of atmospheric nuclear weapons testing back during the 1960’s, that a nuclear warhead exploding in the atmosphere high above a targeted industrial area could disrupt that area enough to bring it to its knees.

Entire novels and nonfiction articles have been published in otherwise sane magazines such as *The American Legion* as well as mainstream websites such as Business Insider and Instapundit relating breathless apocalyptic scenarios of mass disaster and starvation right here in the Land of the Free. However, there are some who beg to differ from this apocalyptic scenario. One such is Edmund O. Schweitzer, III the founder and president of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories of Pullman, Washington. In a letter to the June 27th 2016 *Wall Street Journal*, Schweitzer took issue with the fear mongers, pointing out that, “[p]rofessionals across the electric-power industry disagree. As an industry, we are working together to ensure that the grid is secure.” Schweitzer maintained that his company, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories designs/builds its products to, “withstand harsh temperatures, lightning events, electric switching transients and more.” Schweitzer also pointed out that his company has tested its equipment and products to make sure they could withstand an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) event whether it be natural or man-made. Schweitzer also noted that proposed one-size-fits-all solutions, “may actually inhibit our ability to continue to implement cost-effective, efficient and innovative grid security solutions.” His company, Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, is different from most other scientific/technological corporations in that since 2009 it has been 100% owned by the employees. This is a breath of fresh air in an industry that from its central hub in Silicon Valley has been noted for its greed and focus on making company founders filthy rich at the expense of the employees.

L-E-T-T-E-R-S O-F C-O-M-M-E-N-T

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Hi Charles,

I have found a couple of pretty good items in the self publishing part of project gutenber. They weren't exactly the best proofread work I've ever seen but the stories were good enough to pass muster as good readings. I doubt that the business will manage to generate gigantic zaibatsu type publishing houses from their giant profits but they do return more of the take to the authors.

Lloyd is Canadian and unless he's a Democrat he won't be coming across the border to vote here. It is also quite possible that Clintons NAFTA is why he can't find work since it destroyed the economy of Mexico when passed. That explains all these pesky Mexicans who came here looking for work.

They have been going back in greater numbers than are coming in as well but facts don't sit well with when compared to political spin buzzings. Trump is just an unknown quantity, Clinton is already completely open because he is part of those who destroyed the USA with their crappy and dangerous policies. There is no reason to believe she will reverse any of them even when they have been so bad for the country.

to answer your questions:

[What makes you think that NATO is planning on invading Russia? Given just how many of the countries in the so-called Atlantic Alliance have failed to meet the official target of spending at least 2% of Gross National Product (GNP) on national defense, it seems that NATO is more of a paper tiger than anything else.

<http://www.defenseone.com/politics/2015/06/nato-members-defense-spending-two-charts/116008/>

NATO was created for the purpose of opposing Russia. When the Communists faded we promised NATO would not move east. Since then they have kept creeping further and further east. The useless saber rattlers in charge have kept trying to justify their existence by engaging in alarums about the imminent russian invasion charging through the Fulda Gap any minute now. It is the same BS peddled during the cold war years. Most of their talking heads (NATO) were raised as true believers of this garbage. The motivators behind it are the arms merchants who know they can sell more stuff if they whip up the frenzy. If they are not planning to invade why are they pushing closer every year ? Like China most haven't a clue about Russia except as the cold war boogeyman. There's a Canadian Game company Red Sash games who does period games and in them are the historical commentaries mostly taken from the records of the time. You can find out how the Crimea became Russian and get a sense of the area now known as Ukraine in the formative years. Ian Weir might even sell you a PDF package of these if you ask him nicely. You can also get the Games in PDF form quite reasonably priced.

During the heyday of giant gaming I bought 'Objective Moscow' which was the invasion of Russia in the modern era. The monster Rus armies feared by NATO turned out to be fairly modest responses to their neighbors (many neighbors) once you got them spread across the enormous expanse of Russia (11 time zones). If you piled them all into East Germany it made them into a monster who could juggernaut Europe. That assumes that you left the rest totally undefended. I later got GDWs 'Third World War' which included a substantial portion of the middle east as well. Basically the same once you looked at how the forces were deployed.

The only real game changer is the exposure of the northern flanks of both North Americans and Russians if the sea ice opens. While the grounders are squabbling the up above is becoming more crowded by various types who might realize that seizing the high ground gives you capabilities to dominate the planet. In the mean time the 20th century is trying to repeat itself as farce this time around.

As for China, how come they have not poised much of a threat until recently?

In 1400 they sent a naval expedition around the world looking for what was there. The report went to the emperor on their return. Basically it said there is nothing there worth trading with or engaging with. A bunch of flea picking barbarians living in wattle and daub huts with nothing to recommend them as trading partners. So the Chinese destroyed their fleet and stored away the reports and turned their attentions inward. When the barbarians showed up the Chinese were busy with internal affairs and the barbarians forced a bunch of ugly concessions on them at gunpoint. Few have bothered to pay attention to what happened in the area. It was so bad that FDRs China experts were a couple of college students who had bummed around asia in the 30s. They have been busy with internal affairs and fending off foreign invasions while rebuilding the damages inflicted by invaders, rebels, and civil wars. Now that period is over. They are looking outward with fresh eyes. There's one of their landers on the moon right now. So trying to equate their past with the rebuilt, rearmed, and outward looking China is not how to understand them.

As for Elizabeth Bathory, what proof is there that she was railroaded?

Since the victors in any dispute get to write the official history, the victim gets the shitty end of the stick. If you follow the money in the Bathory case it seems her accusers made a great profit by walling her up. Pandering to the fears of 'witchcraft' has proved to be financially motivated far too often for comfort. when the claims reach outrageous proportions then you should be able to detect the spin immediately. Humans are far too ready to believe horrible things about others with virtually no evidence except a bit of hearsay or third hand rumour.

I like Jill Steins plan to eliminate student debt completely. If they took the foot off the neck of young people it should immediately boost the rest of the economy with a kick in the pants from the bottom.

The institutions who have perpetuated the swindle will squall but if they had been doing what they were paid for we wouldn't be in the mess we're in anyway.

One thing is sure both the DNC and the RNC have exposed themselves as a bunch of criminals and idiots on both sides of the fence with the election primaries. We live in interesting times.

Great batch of links.

Good work !

Dave

[Quite a bit of interesting information/insight in your LOC, particularly as it relates to Lloyd Penney. I'm finding Jill Stein a lot more interesting/worthy of my vote this year than I did 4 years ago. Back in 2012, about the only thing going for her was the fact that Camille Paglia endorsed her. I didn't even find out about that until just before the election. This year, Paglia endorsed her well before the Democratic primaries wrapped up Stein has won far more support from normally Democratic voters than what she had in 2012. Not saying that I'm going to vote for her, since I need to know more about what Gary Johnson wants to do and also have to make my mind up about Trump. However, back in 2012 the idea of voting for Jill Stein seemed like a joke. This time around, she is anything but a joke despite the fact that the Green Party still has too many poorly thought out positions, such as abolishing nuclear power, for my taste. As for the rest of what I think about the present political situation, take a gander at my response to Milt Stevens.]

August 8, 2016

Dear Charles,

In Fornax #11, you mention your opinions on the 2016 presidential election. There are plenty of opinions going around these days. About six months to a year ago, the BBC commented that in countries that still had elections the voters were increasingly antagonistic towards the people who supposedly represented them. That seems to be true and has led to our current electoral situation. More recently, the BBC has observed "The election is going to be decided by the 20% of the electorate who hate both candidates." Ain't democracy wunnerful?

You ask if I pay attention to self-published books by established authors. I don't. It's part of my program to make my life simpler. I only pay attention to things I pay attention to. Most people have a similar program for making their lives simpler although they may not know it. Most people do their laundry on the same day of the week every week and go shopping for groceries on the same day every week. If they go to the same coffee shop regularly, they will sit

in the same seat at the counter every time. There are too many choices to make in modern life, so people make choices to reduce the number of choices.

Which is why I don't bother with self-published books. I don't bother with cookie cutter fantasy series, or any other series unless I hear something positive from a credible source. I don't read YA novels. I don't read any stories about vampires or werewolves. Someone will always comment "You don't know what you are missing." I do know what I am missing. I am missing the opportunity to dig through a mountain of horseshit in the off chance I might find a pony.

In answer to your question, fantasy is the older term and traditionally the more inclusive. Some people use the term science fantasy. The Fantasy Amateur Press Association was founded in 1937, and the idea was that fantasy included science fiction. Science fiction became the name for the genre in the thirties. Gernsback had called it scientifiction in the twenties. Before that stories we would now call science fiction would have been called scientific romances. Literary Fantasy does not include all things fantastic. Myth and folklore, allegory, and surrealism are fantastic in their way. However, they have different purposes.

Yours truly,

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[I'd say that the reason for our current political situation is that the Internet has made it possible for folks to have more information about what's going on than ever before. That being the case, it has become clearer than ever before that our political elite does not really care about the rest of us. All they care about is themselves and how to achieve even greater self-enrichment. If that improvement of their personal financial position comes at the expense of the common folk, then to Hell with the rest of us. How else do you account for the passage of such "free trade" treaties such as GATT & NAFTA that have manifestly led to the mass loss of jobs and the degrading of the salaries of the workers who still have jobs? From everything I've read, it's virtually a done deal that once the election is over, the infamous Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will pass through the U.S. Senate without any problems. No wonder people are angry. The only real question is why did it take so long for people in this formerly great country to figure out what the elite establishment in the country has been doing to them?]

Coming Next Issue:

It's going to be our **Unlucky #13 Halloween** issue focusing on Halloween and related subjects. Hopefully, it will be at least as good as last year's #66(6) issue.