

Fornax #21

Commemorating the Korean War

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. This is issue No. 21, published March 2018

If you want to write for Fornax, please send email submissions to crectorATgmxDOTcom, with a maximum length of 20,000 words. For now, the same length requirement applies to fiction submissions as well. No poetry or artwork please. Any text format is fine. The same goes if you want to submit your work in the form of text in the email or as an attachment. There is no payment other than the exposure that you will get as a writer. Of course, Letters of Comment are always welcome. Material not written or produced by the Editor/Publisher is printed by permission of the various writers and artists and is copyright by them and remains their sole property and reverts to them after publication. If you want to read more by the editor/publisher, then point your browser to: <http://omgn.com/blog/cjrector>

Change of E-Mail Address

As of October 1st, the email address that is used for Fornax and other fandom related purposes will change to crectorATgmxDOTcom. I would prefer to stay with the MyWay service, since it did give you the option of converting your emails to the RTF format that other free web-based email lack, and it was a fast service, however that service's email program is shutting down, so from that day on, GMX will have to do.

“Gun control is the idea that it’s better to see a woman dead in an alley, strangled with her own pantyhose, than to see her with a gun in her hand.”—T.D. Melrose

Source: The front page of L. Neil Smith’s *The Libertarian Enterprise* At <http://www.ncc-1776.org>

Why the Delay

You may have noticed that this is the first issue of Fornax in quite some time. There are several reasons for this. First, I’ve been spending a lot of time lately reading escapist literature. From July of last year to January of this year, I read all of the Mars books by Edgar Rice Burroughs. I’ve also spent a lot more time watching DVD’s than what I normally do. Part of the reason for this is due to the fact that in December, I was diagnosed with MRSA. MRSA is a virus for which there are only two known antibiotics that are effective against it. Both of these have been prescribed so often that they are increasingly becoming less effective against the virus. Fully one out of every seven people who contract MRSA die from it. Some of the survivors wind up having a leg amputated because of it. According to my Consulting Nurse Practitioner, of the three previous patients that she has had, none of them wound up either passing away or enduring amputation because of it. Still, MRSA is a depressing thing to have that has led to my using more time for escape rather than other activities such as putting this fanzine together.

Second, following the publication of the Halloween 2017 issue, I did not receive even so much as a single Letter of Comment about it. Considering the fact that I put more work into that issue than any previous issue of this fanzine, that was a somewhat demoralizing experience. That sort of thing can really crimp your enthusiasm for putting in the long hours necessary for creating a fanzine such as this.

Third, starting in June 2014 I began playing the browser-based online game GoodGame Empire (GGE) that is the creation of GoodGame Studios. This is a game that is run on Shockwave Flash, a program that is required to run the game’s graphics. As online games go, GGE is a pretty time consuming affair, taking up a lot of time that might otherwise be used in creating this fanzine. One drawback to it and other Shockwave Flash games is that program updates need to be periodically downloaded to keep the game running. Over time, downloading Shockwave Flash came to be increasingly difficult and by mid-February I simply gave up on downloading it and in that way quit playing GGE. Needless to say I will be wary of playing any games that need Shockwave Flash. Now that I’m no longer playing the game, I have a lot more free time to spend on the fanzine.

You might be wondering just why with all the above going on, why I did not decided to quit doing this fanzine altogether. First of all, I had a number of submissions on hand from both Robin Bright and Gerd Maximovic that were very good and which deserved publication. I had also done quite a bit of writing for this issue and did not want to throw it away. Finally, if you look at <http://ftldesign.com/logs/efanzines/> you will find that even without any issues of Fornax published since October, this fanzine still gets more traffic than the great majority of fanzines. For instance, as of March 16th, the Fornax index page had more traffic than the index pages of such other fanzines as *Big Sky*, *Focal Point*, *Forbidden Worlds*, *Journey Planet*, *The Reluctant Famulus*, *Vibrator* as well as the index page for the John Purcell fanzine empire. The fact that so many people have shown interest in this fanzine is really the best reason to keep going on with it.

Hopefully, the medical situation willing, Issue #22 will be out by the end of April.

Road Rage Redux

I had a repeat incident trying to get out of the Walgreen's in Woodstock on Wednesday March 7th. You can only exit there by taking a right turn. Problem was that I could not exit the parking lot since there was too much traffic on the street adjoining it.

Well, the guy who was behind me didn't like it, so he got out of his car, walked to my window and then said nothing while staring at me as if I was an alien hermaphrodite from another planet. I thought of rolling down the window and ask him what his problem was and then thought better of it. After all, did he not see how much traffic there was? Eventually, some kind soul stopped in the street and made hand gestures for me to make the right turn out of the parking lot, which is something that I took advantage of.

This incident was reminiscent of all the times that I've been behind a red light and there people behind me honking like crazy, apparently because I didn't charge ahead through the red light and risk a serious accident. Or for that matter, people who start honking the moment the light turns green.

I've noticed that some people just love honking their horn. I haven't honked in well over a year. In my mind, honking is something that you do whenever somebody drives like a maniac, putting others at risk, not something that you do just for the fun of it.

Official Bullying

When I was in the Platteville WI public schools, during the 1970's and until my high school graduation in 1983, I was always the only handicapped kid who was in my gym classes. All too often the teachers would have me just sit and watch everyone else have fun on the grounds that I just held things up with my slowness. When I was actually allowed to do anything with the other kids, it was almost always as the referee as in volleyball (the favorite athletic activity of the gym teachers). It got so bad that when I was in the 7th and 8th grades, my parents made arrangements that instead of attending gym class, I could just simply go to the middle school library. However, when I reached high school, I was once again forced to be in gym classes that I was hardly ever allowed to actively participate in. In high school, the teachers added the wrinkle of allowing me to be either the umpire or referee in more activities than volleyball. However, this was due to the fact that unlike elementary and middle school, the high school gym classes had a variety of athletic activities, so it was not just volleyball all the time.

If it were possible for you to reconstruct just how much playing time I actually got in public school gym class, it would not be surprising if over that 12 year stretch, it added up to less than one year of actually playing with the other kids.

What all this adds up to is basically official bullying. Not allowing every student to participate in regular gym class basically amounts to treating the affected students like second class citizens. What it does is that it sends a message to the other students that you are inferior and as such it is an encouragement to bullies. It surely is no coincidence that I was subjected to bullying throughout my entire time as a public school student all the way to the end of my senior year in high school.

I've always wondered just how my experience compared with other handicapped kids, that's why I'm posting this. That was my experience in the public schools. That was not, however, my experience in college since they did not appear to know that I had cerebral palsy or if they did know, did not act on that knowledge.

I've also wondered just what kind of experience that today's handicapped kids have to go through in public school gym classes today. This may seem strange give all the rhetoric being spouted by public school officials about how committed they are to fairness and equality for handicapped students. However, back when I was in the public schools, the big shots who ran the Platteville Public School also engaged in the exact same rhetoric and yet I can tell you from my personal experience that the reality did not come close to what the big shots had people believe. So the question is what's really going on in the public schools as far as the handicapped are concerned?

The New Censorship

In the past censorship was mainly practiced by the government. However, in recent years, the private sector, notably the Silicon Valley Robber Barons (SVRB's) have taken the lead in censoring ideas and opinions that they, for whatever reason, do not like.

For instance, when the *New York Times* hired the redoubtable tech journalist Quinn Norton, it appeared that that paper's reporting on the tech scene would be seeing a real improvement over its current lackluster state. However, once it turned out that Norton had a history of Politically Incorrect ideas, opinions and friendships, she was fired by the *Times* without even being allowed to write a single piece for the paper to prove her worthiness. Her firing leaves a gap in the paper's tech coverage that has yet to be filled.

This case hit particularly close to home for this writer as I was once the News Editor at MPOGD.com during 2001-2002 and then at OMGN.com during 2002-2010, specializing in covering online games, particularly those of the browser-based variety. As such, I was one of the single most prominent writers on the online gaming scene. Unfortunately, both MPOGD and OMGN, along with another website that I wrote a great deal for, FlickZone.net, are now shuttered with the result that the only way that you can now access those writings of mine is by accessing the Internet Wayback Machine (IWM). As everyone who's used the IWM in the past knows, an awful lot of what the websites of the past published, has completely evaporated into cyberspace never to be read again.

One unavoidable aspect of covering online gaming, or for that matter anything tech-related, is that you have to deal with an awful lot of people who are icky in one way or another. This includes neo-Nazis. Of course the problem with the Internet where famously "nobody knows if you're a dog," is that you really don't know if the person you're dealing with really is a neo-Nazi or someone who, for whatever reason, wants people to think that he is.

As one who often reads up on tech matters, even if I don't write about tech much anymore, I knew about and sometimes communicated with, Quinn Norton, who she is, her opinions and her friendships long before these matters got spread all over the Internet in the wake of the *New York Times*'s disgraceful treatment of her. It just seems inconceivable that the paper did not know anything about her before it hired her. The most likely scenario is that the paper hired her under the delusion that it others would not write about her. When they did write about her, the paper's bosses panicked and fired her. You can read her side of this story at <https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/02/the-new-york-times-fired-my-doppelganger/554402/>

The SVRB's, most notably in the realms of social media, have also been aggressive in attacking the free speech of folks who dissent from the political mainstream. For instance, if you point your browser to <https://pjmedia.com/video/blogger-r-s-mccain-says-tech-giants-deplatforming-conservatives-every-day/> you will find conservative blogger Robert Stacy McCain talking about this particular kind of censorship.

Specifically, McCain related about being banned from such platforms as Medium and Twitter. McCain says that this amounts to “deplatforming” conservatives. .

Conservatives are not the only ones who are facing censorship by the SVRB’s. For instance, the socialist magazine *In These Times* recently ran article that you can access here: <http://inthesetimes.com/article/20596/fake-news-left-facebook-twitter-tech-companies> Basically, the gist of this article is that the SVRB’s have been exploiting the “Fake News” controversy as an excuse to censor socialist websites by such methods as causing traffic from the Google search engine to collapse.

The threat of the Silicon Valley Robber Barons to freedom of speech comes at a time when it is becoming clearer than ever just how important the Internet is to informed discussion of the issues. As a recent article by Douglas Murray in the British *Spectator* at <https://life.spectator.co.uk/2018/02/the-intellectual-dark-web/> makes clear, before the Internet, it was possible for Establishment gatekeepers who dominated editorial offices to prevent viewpoints that they deemed out of the mainstream to be circulated.

According to Murray, the Internet constitutes an “intellectual dark web” where ideas formerly deemed out of the mainstream can flourish and gain widespread attention. This leads to a more informed public discussion of the issues of the day. In Murray’s telling, YouTube has been one of the most important websites for the spread of previously taboo ideas. However, recently the owner of YouTube, Google, has increasingly aggressively been moving to stifle ideas that it does not approve of. The main way that this has been done is to demonetize certain channels and videos. What this means is that folks who provide the videos to YouTube are denied a cut from the paid advertising that runs on those videos. Not receiving revenue from the advertising makes it that much more difficult for producers to create and post new video. There have also been cases of people who have their own YouTube channels being threatened by management to have them shut down.

There is another threat to free speech that has been pushed by the Establishment in this country as Matt Taibbi reports in *Rolling Stone* at <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/taibbi-russiagate-trump-putin-mueller-and-targeting-dissent-w517486> the key part is as follows:

From Trump to Bernie Sanders to Brexit to Catalonia, voter repudiation of the status quo was the story of the day. The sense of panic among political elites was palpable. The possibility that voters might decide to break up the EU, or put a Trump, Corbyn, or Sanders into power, led to a spate of "Do we have too much democracy?" essays by prominent think tankers and national press figures.

Two years later, the narrative has completely shifted. By an extraordinary coincidence, virtually all the "anti-system" movements and candidates that so terrified the political establishment two years ago have since been identified as covert or overt Russian destabilization initiatives, puppeteered from afar by the diabolical anti-Western dictator, Vladimir von Putin-Evil.

Since Trump's election, we've been told Putin was all or partly behind the lot of it: the **Catalan independence** movement, the Sanders campaign, **Brexit**, Jill Stein's **Green Party run**, **Black Lives Matter**, the resignations of intra-party Trump critics Bob Corker and Jeff Flake, Sean Hannity's broadcasts, and, of course, the election of Trump himself.

We've jumped straight past debating the efficacy of democracy to just reflexively identifying most anti-establishment sentiment as illegitimate, treasonous, and foreign in nature.

Forget for a moment what Robert Mueller's investigation might or might not ultimately reveal about Donald Trump and his staff. It's been impossible not to notice how effective the Russiagate affair has already been as a hammer against all other political outsiders, even those with opposite values to Trump. In fact, unless you're a Hillary Clinton Democrat, you've probably been portrayed as having somehow been in on it, at one time or another.

The previously cited threats to freedom of speech are every bit as serious as McCarthyism was during the 1950;s. Back then, the censorship movement of the day was defeated and civil liberties in what is supposed to be the Land of the Free were saved. Do we Americans have what it takes anymore to stand up for our rights? Our survival as a free country depends on it.

Of Guy H. Lillian III and Daniel Greenfield

One thing that has always seemed particularly interesting about people is how much they can get all self-righteous about things without being able to see the big picture. This results in all sorts of double standards and extremist opinions.

For instance, point your browser to <https://efanzines.com/Challenger/Spartacus-23.pdf> where you will find Guy H. Lillian III on the subject of former Senator Al Franken. Lillian is one of those persons who pushes what might be called the Bill Clinton Fallacy, after the man who was the biggest sexual predator to ever hold the office of president of the United States. That is the idea because someone publically purports to support the cause of women and equality between genders that gives him the right to prey on women to his heart's content. This fallacy was a constant factor in U.S. public life during the era before the revelations about Harvey Weinstein and other Hollywood scumbags. Perhaps the most notable example of this fallacy in action is that Senator Edward Kennedy was able to rebound from Chappaquiddick despite the fact that he was clearly guilty of the second degree murder of Mary Jo Kopechne. Even more significant is the fact that Kennedy was consistently praised by alleged women's leaders despite a clearly unsavory life that included wholesale adultery and general mistreatment of women.

Closer to home, we have the strange case of Isaac Asimov. Asimov was a misogynist who delighted in, among other things, engaging in wholesale adultery and going around at science fiction conventions pinching women in the posterior. During his lifetime, however, he was hardly ever called out for his poor behavior due to the fact that he aggressively pushed the idea that he was totally on the side of women and that he stood up for women generally in such venues as his editorial essays in *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*. Even today, more than 20 years after his death, it is exceedingly rare for there to be any published criticism of Asimov and his hypocrisy concerning women. When it does appear, it is in generally in outlets, such as blogs, that are generally seen as being on the fringes of fandom. For instance, there has been little, if any, coverage of Asimov and his perversions in any of the fanzines that are posted here at E-Fanzines.com.

Lillian's posturing brings to mind a tweet by Wikileaks founder Julian Assange that you can read here: <https://twitter.com/julianassange/status/921760921931927552?lang=en> Specifically, Assange noted that **"Men know that constantly self-proclaiming male 'feminists' are often predatory sleaze bags. They are intensely disliked by other men because of their manipulative qualities."** In other words, the self-proclaimed "feminized males" are nothing more than a bunch of predatory con artists. Assange's point has been sharpened in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal since a great many of the exposed predators were guys claiming to be "male feminists" who were on the side of women. This is quite clearly the type of person that Al Franken is. Question: Does Lillian call himself a "male feminist" and how does he treat the women in his life?

In *Spartacus* #23, Lillian claims that because Franken "owned up to his past misbehavior and apologized, sincerely and profusely," as if mere verbiage alone could erase Franken's transgressions. Or that Franken's poor behavior was somehow trivial. Lillian falsely claimed that Franken had but one accuser. In fact, there were many women making allegations against Franken. Too many for him to be completely in the clear, unless you believe in conspiracy theories. If Franken really was innocent, then he would have fought tooth and nail to stay in the Senate. The fact that he resigned and has left public life was a tacit admission of guilt on his part.

As far as most of the readers of this fanzine are concerned, Daniel Greenfield is far more obscure than Lillian. However in the realm of conservative politics, Greenfield is a very important figure. In 2009, Greenfield was one of the prime architects and leaders of the Tea Party (TP). The TP, you might recall, was a movement that was totally opposed to everything that Obama wanted to do. No matter what Obama proposed or what the merits of the proposal were, the TP was totally opposed to the entire Obama agenda as well as every single Obama nominee.

Back in 2009, when I was working at a dog kennel, my politically Independent boss lady, found the whole TP thing to be completely inexplicable. She could not understand how in a democracy you could have a movement that was totally opposed to the agenda of a democratically elected president, regardless of the merits of his proposals.

She also could not understand why the TP could not try to use the energy that it had harnessed to try to work with Obama and the Democrats for some common goals, such as turning the economy around. Her reasoning was that by doing so, the TP could get Obama could to at least modify his program and perhaps even persuade him to go along with ideas that he did not like such as cutting taxes for the purpose of generating economic growth. I can remember her predicting that the day would come when there would be a president that the TP would like and that the opposition would emulate the TP and its tactics and do everything it could to frustrate the new president. She wondered how the TP would like it if someone else were to use the tactics that it used against Obama against the new president.

If that sounds familiar, that is essentially the same playbook followed by the anti-Donald Trump faction known as “The Resistance” (TR). TR is totally opposed to the entire Trump agenda and every Trump nominee regardless of the actual merits. It’s clear that the founders of TR deliberately formed their movement in conscious imitation of TP right down to the exact same strategy and tactics.

That being the case, point your browser to <http://sultanknish.blogspot.com/2018/01/this-civil-war-my-south-carolina-tea.html> where you get Greenfield’s take on TR in the post entitled, “**This Civil War—My South Carolina Tea Party Convention Speech.**” Now, you might expect Greenfield to have an interesting perspective on the TR given his role in the TP. You might even expect him to have advice for the leaders of TR based on his experience with the TP. You might even expect him to have some second thoughts about the TP’s strategy and tactics now that the TP has faded away into the sunset just like what General of the Army Douglas MacArthur famously said about old soldiers. While engaging in total opposition to everything that an administration stands for and every single one of its nominees, while emotionally satisfying, actually work for a political movement? Does it make the cause too extreme for the vast majority of potential supporters leading to its eventual decline and fall? If so, then how does the movement leadership go about crafting and implementing strategy and tactics that appeal to others who are not of that particular ideology without alienating the hardliners? Or are movements such as the TP and TR inherently extremist in nature? Also, what does Greenfield think about the founders and leaders of TR basically mimicking the TP?

Quite disappointingly, Greenfield did not take that tack. Instead, he revealed himself in his speech to be a completely self-righteous jerk who is totally full of himself, not to mention a certifiable drama queen.

Greenfield’s take on contemporary political discourse is that it ‘**is a civil war.**’ Specifically, he says that:

But it’s not guns that make a civil war. It’s politics.

Guns are how a civil war ends. Politics is how it begins.

Basically, Greenfield says that because The Resistance is treating both the Trump Administration and the Trump agenda the exact same way that he and his compatriots in the Tea Party treated Obama and his agenda, that makes The Resistance evil and a blot against American democracy.

It's not just The Resistance that he hates since Greenfield also claimed that, "**Democrats have rejected our system of government.**" He is cross with The Resistance for waging a scorched earth campaign against both Trump and the Trump legitimacy despite the fact that Greenfield and his Tea Party allies did the exact same thing to Obama and his legitimacy with the "birther" stuff and the like. It's as if Greenfield is too close to the source of the Tea Party experience to be able to recognize that what The Resistance is doing is fundamentally no different from what the Tea Party did.

However, Greenfield was only getting warmed up. He went on to claim that the Democrats were attempting to create a "**moving dictatorship**" and a "**leftist**" one at that. He also claims that there is a "**Shadow Government**" consisting of circuit courts, corporations, nonprofit groups and other entities that are allegedly controlled by the "**left.**" Specifically, Greenfield claims that, "**The Mueller investigation is about removing President Trump from office and overturning the results of an election.**" This is a most interesting assertion given that the Attorney General who recused himself from the investigation was one of Donald Trump's first major supporters, the Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein who appointed Robert Mueller is also a Republican who was appointed by Trump and Mueller himself is a lifetime Republican. This would seem to be a most unlikely conspiracy that is allegedly aimed at overthrowing a Republican president. Also, if "Shadow Government" is the right term to describe partisans who are engaged in total opposition to the party that controls the White House, then there was clearly a Shadow Government consisting of the Tea Party and its Republican allies during the Obama years. Greenfield also claims that what he and his Tea Party allies want is a "volunteer" government while their adversaries want a "professional" government.

Basically, Greenfield revealed himself as an ideologue who casts himself and his friends as being the good guys and all those who disagree with them as being the bad guys. He just simply cannot understand that there is not a dime's worth of difference between the Tea Party of the Obama years and The Resistance of the Trump period. The same goes for his commenters, particularly the ones who openly identify themselves as being willing to engage in violence against those who disagree with them.

Putting everything into perspective, what we have here are two gifted and talented writers, Daniel Greenfield and Guy H. Lillian III who suffer from serious flaws. Greenfield is so blinded to reality that he cannot recognize that there is no difference between what he and his Tea Party compatriots did to Obama and what The Resistance are doing to Trump. For Greenfield, it is all a matter of traitors and patriots with no middle ground. On the other hand, Lillian is so devoted to supporting politicians of a certain stripe that he is willing to excuse and even defend public officials who engage in shameful conduct towards women just as long as they say pleasing rhetoric about the rights of women. One can only wonder just what contortions Lillian would be engaged in if Roy Moore was both a Democrat and a self-proclaimed "**male feminist**" even though the rest of his behavior remained the same.

Basically, what both of these individuals need to do is get some perspective in life and stop letting their political passions get the best of them.

The Solar Empire Story

Note: Back in the year 2000 when Solar Empire (SE) was still a viable commercial browser-based space strategy game, the game creator took the unusual step of making individual servers available to players and clans that had made themselves prominent in the game. One such clan was the multi-game clan Trex Mercenaries of which this writer was the leader of the SE division. I wrote the following introduction to the game for what was officially known as the Trex Mercs Game. SE has since died out, but at least this introduction still makes pretty interesting reading.

In the year 2092, nearly one hundred and twenty five years after the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, the four-member crew of the Starship *Excelsior* became the first the first humans to travel to another star system. The celebrations and excitement on Earth were intense, to say the least. The media was caught up in a frenzied coverage of the event, politicians praised their own efforts and Jonathon Browning, a nondescript technician at the sprawling SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute in Arizona received the first verified communication from an alien species.

The United States was shocked by the message. Humanity shared a collective sense of rage and indignation. Far from the over-popularized request of "Take me to your leader", the message was a polite but threatening warning, advising mankind never to leave the Solar System again or risk war with a technologically advanced alien species. After months of heated debate and political gamesmanship, the reply was broadcast into deep space, a challenging request that the aliens mind their own business and steer clear of humanity's expansion into the galaxy.

The response of the aliens was swift and horrific. A fleet of streamlined starships entered Earth's orbit a few weeks later and without provocation or a hint of warning, proceeded to inflict death and destruction upon both the capital city of the United States, Washington, D.C., and the home of the United Nations, New York City, were destroyed. The United States temporarily broke apart into 50 different countries,

At first, this was a setback for humanity. However, the now that the bureaucracies of Washington and the United Nations were now no more, they were not able to stifle scientific and technological progress as they had before. Eventually, every state that had formed the United States, save for Alaska, California, Hawaii and Texas, reunited to create a new, more dynamic Union.

Gradually order returned to the world under the leadership of the Corporations. However, shortages of food and raw resources were the only stumbling block to their domination of the planet. Research and Development into space travel was resurrected. In the New Age economies, private companies and entrepreneurs invested funds into the research and a gradual process of integration and alliances gave birth to the first Clans, great organizations that encompassed Corporations, their allies and entire populations.

The dawning of the first Warp Engine Drive, combining old Ion Propulsion Engines with experimental Wormhole technology, acted as a catalyst to speed up the development of spaceships capable of instantaneous interstellar travel.

Earth's orbit became cluttered with dozens of orbiting Manufacturing Stations churning out advanced spacecraft to serve the needs of the Clans. Freighters, Battleships, Harvester ships for mining, Colony ships and single-pilot Fighters were built as well as a host of exotic starships. Rivalry and competition resulted in spates of sabotage and industrial espionage as the Clans fought for supremacy of the new technologies that were being developed day by day.

In 2123, the first interstellar starships left the Solar System and expanded the reach of the Clans to other star systems. These early exploratory missions were to act as the platform from which to launch an assault on the galaxy. Star Systems were mapped and explored for signs of fuel or metals, whether from meteorites or planets. Aliens were encountered but humanity's fleets of advanced spacecraft were able to repel many of the attacks. The alien species were many. New alliances and peace treaties were signed but the aggressiveness and savagery of other extraterrestrial species led to many attacks and raids. Eventually, the aliens fled the galaxy for their lives and the Milky Way became the exclusive province of humanity.

As mankind continued the expansion, rivalry and competition took a further step and caused disputes and even wars between the Clans. Soon war was to ready erupt, Clans allied themselves with others and in time not even the Solar System was safe from attacks and raids by rival Clan members.

The year is now 2126. The Clans and individuals have agreed that this will be the year that humanity will at long last colonize the galaxy. A new age has dawned for mankind, an age of interstellar travel, Clan wars, extraterrestrial races and alien raids, an age of colonization and exploration, an age of Solar Empire.

Solar Empire Admin Info

A Blast from the past courtesy of the Internet Archive:

http://web.archive.org/web/20000418043608/http://www.solarempire.com/hosting_info.php3

If you run a decent web site then you can host your own game of Solar Empire, which will give you your own universe for your web site which you will have control over.

When a game is hosted the actual web pages are still served from the Solar Empire servers, so there is nothing to install and set up on your own web server except for the login form html code. If you'd like the game will not be listed on the main Solar Empire site, which will give your web site the exclusive point of login.

Requirements

Form

HTML codes

If you run a clan or game page you can use the following html or something similar to it to put a login form on your site. Eventually I am looking to be able to have your own universe running for your sites which you will be able to configure and manage in a variety of ways.

```
<form action='http://www.solarempire.com/login.php3' method='post'>
Login Name:
<br><input type='text' name='l_name' size=10>
<br>Password:
<br><input type='password' name='passwd' size=10>
<input type='hidden' name='db' value='se'>
<input type='submit' value='Login'>
</form>
```

If you want to sign up members then the following could be added as well.

```
No account? <a href='http://www.solarempire.com/signup_form.php3'>Sign
up here.</a>
```

Here are the variables in which you will have control over in the game to change the way the game is played. (as of 12-28-99)

(*) means not yet implemented

clan_member_limit - max number of players able to join a single clan (*)
game_wipe - when this is set to 1 all players and such will be removed when the next hourly maintenance is run
hourly_shields - number of shield points regenerated each hour
hourly_turns - number of turns gained each hour
hours_after_death - hours a player is out of the game after being killed
hours_befor_attack - hours that have to pass before a new account can attack
max_turns - max number of turns
new_logins - determines weather new players can sign up (*)
planet_attack_turn_cost - (*)
space_attack_turn_cost - number of turns it takes to attack another ship
start_cash - (*)
start_turns - (*)

sudden_death - when this is set, players can't ever regenerate
uv_check_unlinked - (*)
uv_fuel_max - max amount of fuel in a star system when universe is generated
uv_fuel_min - min amount of fuel in a star system when universe is generated
uv_fuel_percent - percent of star systems that will have fuel when universe is generated
uv_metal_max - max amount of metal in a star system when universe is generated
uv_metal_min - min amount of metal in a star system when universe is generated
uv_metal_percent - percent of star systems that will have metal when universe is generated
uv_min_star_dist - min distance between star systems, best to leave it alone for right now
uv_needs_gen - when this is set to 1 the universe will be (re)created when next nightly maint is run
uv_num_ports - number of star ports when universe is generated
uv_num_stars - number of stars in the universe
uv_port_variance - amount of variance in prices at star ports
uv_show_warp_numbers - (*)
uv_universe_size - size in pixels of the universe

Baseball

The Decline and (Possibly) Impending Death of Sports Talk Radio

The following was originally posted in October 2004. There are now 3 sports talk radio stations in Chicago now even though the ratings situation is little changed during the past 13 years.

When Sports Talk Radio dies, at least here in Chicago, it's Death Will Be Earned. That's the most likely result of several ongoing trends during the past several years. These trends include shoddy programming, arrogant hosts, an emphasis On Being All Negative All The Time and resulting collapsing ratings.

According to Chicago Sun-Times radio columnist Robert Feder , the ratings for both of Chicago's 2 50,000 watt sports talk stations, WMVP 1000 AM & WSCR 670 AM have been downright horrible. The summer ratings compiled by Arbitron show that WMVP was tied for 25th out of 30 AM stations with an average 1.4 rating. The ratings for WSCR were at #27 with an average 1.3 rating.

There is something terribly wrong with this picture. Chicagoland is a sports crazy area that has teams in most of the pro major leagues as well as minor league teams, semiprofessional teams and leagues, both college and high school athletics, as well as an extremely active amateur sports scene. Despite that, the combined ratings for sports talk radio would combine to only 2.7 or tied for 15th place. When you consider that those numbers were compiled during the NFL preseason and that the Cubs were in the middle of a stretch drive and similar things going on elsewhere on the sporting landscape in Chicago, those ratings are simply awful. The personnel for those 2 stations might as well be on strike.

Actually, given the poor quality of the programming on both stations, strike breaking replacement hosts would likely be an improvement. Despite the fact that both stations are owned by different companies, the programming is virtually identical. Both stations run so many ads, that they could be fairly described as being as much Ad Radio as Sports Radio. The quality of the local hosts/shows is far worse than those on the talk radio stations that don't specialize in sports. These shows emphasize the negative and woe to the caller who disagrees with the hosts. And that's even if the screeners allow dissenting callers to get through in the first place. Even worse, these stations cover only a small part of the area sports landscape focusing on MLB, NBA, NFL and college men's basketball and football. The NHL gets a little coverage as does high school football and boy's basketball. Everything else is completely ignored. Last year, when the Chicago Fire advanced all the way to the Major League Soccer championship game, it was completely ignored by the 2 stations. This year when the debut of the Chicago Storm pro indoor soccer team is only days away, neither station has yet to utter a word about it.

The management decisions by both stations have been quite questionable over the years. For instance, the most popular programming at WMVP has been by far and away the Chicago Bulls and the Chicago White Sox. Yet, station management has been doing all it can to alienate the Bulls/White Sox, both of which are owned by partnerships headed by Jerry Reinsdorf. For example, earlier this year WMVP brought on Sun-Times columnist Jay Mariotti on board as a morning talk show host despite the fact that Mariotti has a proven animosity towards Reinsdorf that has resulted in several columns that can be fairly described as being at least borderline anti-semitic. Mariotti has also repeatedly bragged about how his number one goal in life is to run Reinsdorf out of town. Yet despite awful ratings, WMVP recently rewarded the Reinsdorf-obsessed Mariotti by adding an extra hour to his show. The apparent reason for this is that WMVP management believes that a more profitable use for the hours occupied by the Bulls & White Sox is more shows run by poorly paid hosts. If Reinsdorf can be goaded to pull his teams off the station and move them somewhere else, then the profit margins for WMVP would go even higher. In other words, station management is killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

In light of all this, it appears that sports talk radio, at least here in Chicagoland, is not too far away from kicking the bucket. When it finally croaks, the death will not be mourned by the legions of sports fans who have been changing their AM Radio dials for quite some time now.

Essay

The Nothing Exploding?

By Gerd Maximovic

In some SF stories there is mentioned the „God particle“. That's interesting, somehow. Is God of interest in Science Fiction or in science at all, or can we leave him out totally? Well now, for instance look at our universe, which is very, very big. We are used to ask: where is something coming from? There is a reason for everything, or a cause. Children are „created“ by their parents, the parents by their grand-parents and so on. Our planet Earth developpend together with our sun. So you can ask back: where does a thing or a man or planet come from?

Now, ask the universe: where do you come from? What do they (the scientists) tell us today? Funny, they say, about 14 billion years ago the nothing (the voidness, the emptiness) exploded (Big Bang), and, voilà: there it was, the universe! Well, beg your pardon, when I was 17 years old, I already asked: how can „nothing“ explode? I thought and think today as well: nothing is nothing. Nothing has no contents, nothing cannot move, nothing cannot do anything. Nothing is nothing. So „nothing“ even cannot fart, because it not even is in possession of an ass. Okay? And now they tell us, this „nothing“ (unable to fart) will let go a whole gigantic universe? Is this possible? No, it is not possible! It is impossible!

But, on the other hand, you see, the universe (so much matter, radiation, and so on) exists. Where does it come from? It cannot stem from nothing, so it always must be. It is changing, it is altering, but which process it ever develops, there is something being. The only thing which never could have been is the „nothing“. Because the being is (matter, radiation), there is no „nothing“. There never was a nothing, because always there was and is a being.

Could this being universe of today disappear? How? Can it dissolve itself? No, it cannot! There is being (matter, radiation). You cannot delete this being. You can alter it, but you cannot extinguish it. There where being is, there always being will be. Okay?

Last question in this respect: now, there is no beginning, because this being always exists. So, has this total being created itself? Has it created time and space, and everything? No, it has not. But we can imagine there is something behind this kind of being to keep it together and to watch its ways. And this all outclassing being we call God. So, if there was a creation, the creation is due to God, okay? In this case the world (the universe) does not come from the nothing (exploding), but it comes from God, and God is a being, being everywhere in the universe, and within us. God's being within us today we call the „subconscious“ (in former times the called it Soul or Genius, but all of them knew: there is God everywhere, and within us). But in modern times they have forgotten God, and therefore, ridiculously, the nothing „explodes“.

Considering this, the whole world (universe) is God's particle, and we - mankind – are part of him, and HE (or SHE or whatever) is within us, and we call „him“ our best friend and helper, because he obeys us in many a way.

Fiction

The Vampires of St. Louis

The Unsuitable Day

By Charles Rector

Once upon a time, it was a dark and stormy night over St. Louis. Lawrence Lilly delighted in watching the atmospheric chaos from indoors. Flying through lightning was a dangerous activity even for one of the undead. Plus, he hated getting wet.

In order to get a better view, he went to Rusty's loft. The view was wonderful, but the loft itself was a mess. There was all kinds of junk littering the floor. There was even some underwear with cartoon character prints on them. How had his buddy Rusty get to be such a slob?

Suddenly, there was the sound of the elevator operating. Lilly sniffed the air. He picked up a distinctly human scent. However, there was another scent....garlic.

Yuck. Somebody with bad taste whose blood no doubt tasted bad as well.

The door to the apartment opened. A voice called out, "Hey Rusty buddy, you there?"

Lilly groaned. First Libby had asked that he seek lodging other than the Black Swan Hotel, then he narrowly avoided flying through a thunderstorm, and now this. It was going to be a very long night indeed.

Stephen Gideon stepped into the room with a suitcase and a box full of belongings. "Emma Keigh's gone nuts again. You'd think that she'd gotten used to the idea of a graduate student using pornographic documentaries for research, especially since my Ph.D. research subject is the history of prostitution in St. Louis. I bet Libby Singleton would be more understanding."

Lilly interrupted, "Libby's worse than you think."

Stephen spun around to see where that voice came from. "You're Rusty's wild and crazy pal!"

"I've been called worse," Lilly said.

"What a pigsty! I didn't know that Rusty was such a slob. I know that Dick's been in a funk lately, but this is bizarre, even by his standards. I mean, look at the cartoon characters on that underwear! What kind of man wears stuff like that?" Wagner was mortified by the sight before him.

Lilly grimaced saying, "We are in full agreement on this."

Gideon went on, "I don't know what's come over him. You'd think that he's gotten it all, looks, girlfriends, classic car and yet he seems all screwed up. What's going on? Have you ever tried talking to him? When I try to do it, I just can't seem to get through to him. Aren't you one of his big buddies?"

"That's the cause of my problem with Libby," Lilly said, adding "I tried to tell Libby that Rusty's allergic to garlic as I am, so please stop cooking and eating garlic if she sincerely wants a relationship with him. That's when she ordered me out of the Black Swan."

"Susan is an odd one all right," Gideon agreed adding, "Speaking of odd, can you explain to me why Rusty insists that he's got this weird allergy to the sun? If you ask me, I think he'd looked good with a tan. My wife, Susan, was telling me that she read a magazine article about how sun deprivation and how it can make you depressed."

Lilly scowled and said, "Perhaps. The annoying way that Rusty acts, I sometimes want to give him more sun."

Gideon added, "Did you know that Rusty complains vociferously if one of his required classes is scheduled for daytime? And that during the day, he goes around campus with an open umbrella and talks about the sun as if it's going to be the death of him?"

"Yes," Larry Lilly replied, "I have no doubt he's trying his best to avoid the sun even as we speak."

"Weird guy, I'll say that about him."

Lawrence Lilly declined to reply, walked to Rusty's favorite recliner. He swept a stack of horror movie magazines and a stuffed giant panda off the chair and onto the floor. He sat down, brooding.

Stephen Gideon tried to make conversation with the undead old man, "So what about those Cardinals?" Lilly rebuffed him saying, "Unlike you foolish young people, I do not waste my time watching birds."

"Uh, yeah, sure" Gideon muttered.

"Here's an idea for cheering Rusty up, we can make this place spic and span. I mean look at this place! It looks more like a pigsty than an apartment. My dorm room in college was cleaner than this."

Lilly hesitated. He wanted to tell this garlic-smelling human off for bossing him around, but glancing around the room, he decided that it was not a bad idea.

A little bit later, Gideon found Rusty's stash of cleaning supplies, some garbage bags and some root beer. He put the latter in the refrigerator.

Lilly gathered up the laundry. In the past, Libby always did his for him, but he thought he knew how to do the laundry. Fortunately, Rusty's washing machine had the instructions attached inside the lid. He sorted out the lighter and darker items and put the first batch into the machine with a carefully measured dose of detergent. He set the controls for permanent press and pressed the start button. Nothing happened. He reset the controls. It still failed to start. He looked at the instructions again and could not find anything that he did wrong.

Lilly was upset and kicked the machine, resulting in a dent in the metal.

"Having trouble?" Gideon asked.

Lilly turned his head, glaring.

"You okay? Your eyes look yellow or something."

"I am fine. This accursed machine is failing to work properly."

"Let me take a look and see what the problem is. I'm a master with mechanical things. I can repair just about anything."

Raising an eyebrow, Lilly stepped back, gesturing for Gideon to prove his worth. Gideon knelt down, examining the machine. Then he said, "Here's the problem," holding up the power cord, "It isn't plugged in! Shouldn't have taken a genius to figure that out."

The graduate student did not realize just how fortunate he was that the smell of garlic still hovered around him combined with the fact that Lilly's digestive system was unsettled that night.

"If you take care of the dishes in the sink, I'll handle the laundry," Gideon suggested.

Lilly agreed since it would mean that he would be able to move away from this annoying human. He was partly familiar with the dishwasher, having lived at the Black Swan, although it was true that Libby had done the dish washing for him. He loaded the dishwasher quickly and then searched for dish washing soap. He could not find any. He then saw the laundry detergent. Was that not also soap? Noticing that Gideon was using the bathroom, Lilly quickly took the box of detergent and filled the soap holder in the dishwasher. When Lilly pressed the start button, the dishwasher went on just like it was supposed to. Problem solved.

Lilly then took up a garbage bag and began picking up stuff. He picked up the stuffed panda and after feeling revulsion at Rusty's childishness, threw it into the fireplace. There, it burst into flames. Rusty would undoubtedly feel loss, but he had to act like a grown-up, even if he was one of the undead.

Almost immediately, Gideon gave a cry of horror. This puzzled Lilly since Stephen could not see what he had done with the stuffed panda. He walked to the utility room where Gideon was and saw the problem. Suds were flowing out of the dishwasher like crazy. Gideon had opened the dishwasher to see what the problem was and was shocked by what he saw.

"Please don't tell me that you put laundry detergent into the dishwasher."

"Isn't that a form of soap?"

"Are you stupid or something? No wonder Libby kicked you out."

Lilly snapped and picked Gideon up by the shirt collar. "And you are here voluntarily?"

"I see your point," Gideon choked out. "Why don't you put me down now and we'll get back to work. You know, helping Rusty. We're both in the same boat, so let's not go at each other's throats. Okay?"

Since the smell of garlic surrounding Gideon was too strong for sucking his blood, Lilly agreed to Gideon's proposition. The rest of the day was spent cleaning up the apartment, throwing away many of Rusty's most valued possessions on the grounds that it was just so much "crap."

Once they were done, Lawrence Lilly want to do nothing more than to rest his weary undead bones.

Stephen Gideon had other ideas saying, "According to Rusty, you've been his friend for ages. Could you tell me some more about him? I really like him and he's been generous with me, but I'd like to know more about him so I can relate to him better."

"I am in no mood to speak with someone who eats garlic like you, and I'm tired as well," Lilly said.

That did it. Gideon lost all interest in talking with Lilly and so he spent the next hour or so reading the newspaper while waiting for Rusty Hedges to come home.

Finally, at long last, Rusty came home. "What are you two doing here?" he inquired.

"Why, Rusty, we merely decided to surprise you by cleaning up your apartment," Lilly said, smoothly.

Rusty smiled. "This is great, I've been meaning to do some cleaning, but just never got around to it. Wow, you guys even did my laundry!"

Rusty looked around some more eventually saying, " What happened to my kids stuff? Where's my panda bear?"

"They have been taken care of, my dear Rusty," Lilly said adding, "They are gone forever."

"You killed my panda bear?" he complained. "That was murder!"

Doom Laden

By Robin Bright

Sofa Cleese wasn't the couch potato everyone assumed. She'd written a play, while sitting on the sofa in front of the TV, which wasn't largely symbolic of her potato status. Shocked by what'd transpired on September 11th, 2001, Sofa had determined that the world was blind to what was really going on, which was that Osama, whose name meant `lion`, and who'd been the leader of the terrorist group that had hijacked civil airliners to crash into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York city, represented the continuing theme of `the riddle of the sphinx`, who'd been a creature, according to the ancient Greeks, that'd lain in wait outside the Egyptian city of Thebes to demand an answer to her question, `What goes on four legs in the morning, two in the afternoon and three in the evening?`¹ In the late 20th century, rock group Led Zeppelin made an attempt to answer her with the track,

`In The Evening` from the album *In Through The Out Door* (1979), `I hear you crying in the darkness.`² Sofa`s antecedent in drama had been Greece`s Sophocles, who`d written *Oedipus Rex* (c. 429 B.C.), a play in which the protagonist, Oedipus, answered the sphinx, `Man`. After unknowingly killing his father, Oedipus unknowingly married his mother, Jocasta, queen of Thebes, because the sphinx said he`d answered her riddle correctly, although he was metaphorically blind, that is, as Led Zeppelin observed, Oedipus was `Man`, who was `crying in the darkness`. As a self-punishment, he blinded himself, because he was `Man`, crying in the darkness.

Led Zeppelin`s `In The Evening` lamentingly agreed that men were blind, because answering the sphinx correctly was doom laden. The sphinx had the body of a lion, and the wings of an eagle, but the face and breasts of a woman. Osama bin Laden was the child of her doom, because man was doom laden, and that was the meaning of the sphinx`s riddle. Men preferred what they were to anything. Consequently, the sphinx was woman, because men preferred each other, that is, she was what men made of her. The hijacked planes were the eagle`s wings of the Saudia Arabian `lion`, Osama, which were the product of women`s hijacked wombs. Oedipus` name meant `lame`, because blinding himself was a lame excuse. As women sexually reproduced with each other as futanarian, they were `foot`. If men prevented women from reproducing, `Man` was a brain damaged incest product limping blindly forward, because it preferred itself to women. Osama`s eagle`s wings were those of the woman hijacked before they were crashed into the WTC on 9/11, 2001. As `rough trade` was what men preferred, that is, that `brutality and violence` associated with homosexuality in pederasty for war against `woman`s seed`, incest producing brain damage was what their virus was for.

By the late 20th century, the mutated simian virus, HIV/AIDS, had been discovered by DR Congo in Africa; spread by men`s mixing of blood, shit and semen anally rejecting women`s mode of human sexual reproduction. The human immune deficiency virus (HIV) was an `incurable killer disease` resulting in acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) derived from apes` simian immune deficiency virus (SIV), a sexually transmitted disease (STD) keeping women in fearful faithfulness to men`s ring slaving of her futanarian species of `woman`s seed`. As the virus entered the anus at the base of the spine, so Osama`s terrorist organization, Al Qaeda, meant `the base` in Arabic. Manhattan was chosen by the terrorists for its correspondence with the Anahata chakra in the Hindu religion, that is, the heart, while `the base` chakra was Muladhara in Hinduism, which posited a `chakra ladder` in terms of human developing consciousness that reached its height at the crown of the head, that is, the Sahasrara chakra. The United States of America, which was sympathetic to the yoga of the Hindus of India, was perceived by Islam as unsympathetic to the Moslems of neighboring Pakistan. That provoking the USA to `rough trade` would restore men to each other`s arms as brothers was the lame brained excuse for Al Qaeda, `the base`, operating under the auspices of the notoriously misogynist Taliban regime of Afghanistan on 9/11. Publicly concealed, the tradition of the Moslem women of the Middle East beneath the one-piece coverall of their burkas was comprehensible from the perspective of `woman`s seed` bombarded by images from US TV shows of `gay` people without human sexual reproduction.

When the US` army invaded Afghanistan to depose its notoriously misogynist Taliban regime by December, 2001, it was a `gay scene`, which was what war was. Consequently, Osama, `the lion`, had achieved his objective. He was `Man` from the sphinx`s point of view, because he was a product of incest. Manufactured as a single male brained creature wearing each other`s clothes, men and women were a transvestite `TV` without `woman`s seed`, that is, a product of incest. When the planes were seen crashing `live` into the WTC on 9/11, it was `TV`, because that`s what lame brains are for.

Sofa Cleese`s play was devised as a necessary corrective to traditional perceptions about the role of women in western society, where the secrets of the Moslem women concealed publicly beneath their burkas remained unhung, which was the method deployed by Middle Eastern misogyny frowning reprovingly upon any kind of figural art representative of the charms of human women. It was a paradox too, because Moslem women were the daughters of Islam, which was based on the Koran (610-30 C.E.) given to Mohamed, according to Moslem tradition, permitting four wives to its believers in accordance with the principle that human brainpower would be liberated if futanarian sexual reproduction was encouraged. As a consequence, Sofa Cleese`s central protagonist was Sleaze, because it was difficult to reach a receptive audience if blindness was a requirement in education: `And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?` W. B. Yeats` 1919 poem, `The Second Coming`, wasn`t about Jesus, because Jesus Christ, `the chosen`, was described by his disciple, John, as antithetical to `the beast` of John`s prophetic and visionary Revelation of the future: **“The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth in order to devour her child the moment it was born.”** (Rev: 12. 4) Born of his mother, the Virgin Mary, during a journey to fulfil a Roman census requirement, Jesus` birth in a manger among stabled beasts in ethlehem prefigured `woman`s seed`, who would come again thereafter.

Occupied by the Roman Empire during the period of Jesus` teaching, the Palestine of the Jewish `chosen people` was calmed by Jesus` preaching, `Love your neighbor as you love yourself.` (Mk: 12. 31) However, the meaning of Jesus` birth to the Jewish religious police, the Pharisees, caused them to demand of the Romans that Jesus be taken to the hill of Calvary outside the city of Jerusalem. There he was nailed to a cross of wood and died. However, Jesus experienced resurrection and ascension to heaven in prefiguration of that of `woman`s seed` liberated to reach the planets among the stars to colonize through her species` mode of sexually reproduced brainpower. Yeats` disturbed vision in `The Second Coming` had been the birth of pederasty. In ancient Greece women`s host wombs were institutionally enslaved for homosexuality in pederasty for war, so Yeats` `rough beast` was `rough trade`, which was symbolically `the lion`, Osama, hijacking `woman`s seed` to crash planes into New York city`s World Trade Center:

`Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,

The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere

The ceremony of innocence is drowned;

The best lack all conviction, while the worst

Are full of passionate intensity.

9/11 was the laden doom of Osama, `the lion`, because he was a product of incest, whereas `woman`s seed` wasn`t: `At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.` (Matt: 22. 30) To Jesus, women were a single unmarried race unguarded by host womb slavers in parasitism. The parasite that emerged from the host to kill it was termed `parasitoid` by the parasitologists, and parasitoid was what men were. Women were a single species and `woman`s seed` didn`t marry unless incest was factored in through men`s host womb slavery, whereby daughters were discouraged from wanting species reproduction by the alien that invaded them. In fact, men were a product of incest, because they male brained the host to kill her in their wars upon the Earth, that is, they reproduced with their brain virus, which had developed into the `biological weapon`, HIV/AIDS, by the late 20th century: `The dragon was wroth with the woman and went to wage war upon the remnant of her seed.` (Rev: 12. 17) To do so it`d have to get out of its wheelchair, which was what cars were. When `the beast` was ready to roughhouse some more, it got the homosexuals out of their chairs with the promise of some male eons. As their tanks rumbled across the Levantine deserts, waving their guns like a penis, `woman`s seed` hid beneath their burkas as the undeclared enemy of the barrels seeking oil for their wheelchairs.

Sofa Cleese *Sleaze* (2017) was a modern play recognizing that the ancient dramatists wrote plagues, because that`s what men were. The most celebrated of English playwrights was William Shakespeare, who`d produced for the stage of London`s Globe Theater during the reign of queen Elizabeth I, and all of the parts had been played by men: `She is beautiful, and therefore to be wooed; she is woman, and therefore to be won.`⁴ (1 Henry VI, v, ii) France`s Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake as a witch, because men and women were `TV war`, although witches` brooms were symbolic of woman`s seed`, which might have carried the human race much farther than Shakespeare`s transvestism. By the early 21st century, men so preferred each other that they`d plagued the women to let them hog all of the camera action until the human futanarian species of `woman`s seed` was all but extinguished. Among her dramatis personae Sofa Cleese`s sphinx posed a different riddle, `What goes on all fours in the morning?` Sleaze answered, `Man, and she won`t need a wheelchair in the evening. I`ve synthesized an immortality drug to keep her body eternally youthful and her memory permanent. She`ll get up later and walk about. We all can. Now that it`s we, the pornographers, that`re hogging the film making process, the `snuff` movie moguls can`t have the canned delight.`

1 Apollodorus, Library Apollod, 3. 5. 8.

2 Jones, John Paul, Jimmy Page, and Robert Plant `In The Evening`,
In Through The
Out Door
, Swan Song, 1979.

3 Yeats, W. B. `The Second Coming`,
The Dial
, London, 1919.

4 Shakespeare, William
1 Henry VI
, V, ii, 1592.

Poetry

By Denny E. Marshall

Science Fiction Haiku

lunar footprint lost
covered by size twenty-six
creatures on way here

martians seen future
move all to the new planet
unoccupied Earth

aliens don't kill
reduce us too thumbnail size
insects take revenge

in wide long orbit
starting from the Kuiper Belt
earth killer arrives

reincarnation
choice
asteroid

aliens arrive
with the aid of time machine
crushed by dinosaurs

"you can have rover"
martian parents said to son
when battery dies

time machine finished
go far into the future
surprised Earth is gone

aliens waiting
after we kill each other
then will take over

The Deep

As the spacecraft flew
Over the earth's oceans
Sounds of humpback whales
Jammed their unique radar
Direction and altitude gauges
Did not register correctly
Soon the ship unresponsive
Crashed into the seas
Crushed by the pressure
Before the planned attack starts
Craft and crew doomed
By the sounds of the deep
War plans foiled by calls
Of graceful, gentle giants

Space Songs

Listen and you will hear the Milky Way
The sounds of universe call from deep space
A tune that all the constellations play

Each string plays distant notes with no delay
The quiet melody calls you to this place.
Listen and you will hear the Milky Way

The music travels back from yesterday
Keys of dark energy increase the pace
A tune that all the constellations play

Mysterious lyrics what do they say
The chorus moves and cosmic vocals race.
Listen and you will hear the Milky Way

Songs conducted by a phantom deejay
The galaxies orchestra has no face
A tune that all the constellations play

The chords of gravity will not decay
Harmonies you can follow but not trace
Listen and you will hear the Milky Way
A tune that all the constellations play

Book Reviews

The Attack on the *Liberty*: The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship

By James Scott

New York: Simon & Schuster 2009 374

pp.

The attack by the state of Israel upon the National Security Agency (NSA) spy ship USS *Liberty* is one of the greatest mysteries of modern times. To this day, nobody really knows just why the Israelis decided to attack a ship belonging to the navy of its greatest ally, the United States of America.

The administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson failed to press Israel on finding out why the attack occurred. This was due to the fact that the majority of Jews living in America at the time were Democrats and Jewish financial contributions made up a large part of the Democratic Party's fundraising.

It is however, a known fact that nobody in the state of Israel was ever punished or disciplined for the attack that killed 34 Americans and caused more than 170 crew members to be wounded. To this day, all that Israel has produced about this attack have been lies and whitewashes.

According to George Ball who was in the State Department in the Johnson Administration, the American government committed a colossal blunder for not coming down hard on Israel for its murderous conduct. Ball wrote in a 1992 book about U.S. foreign policy regarding Israel that “[i]f America's leaders did not have the courage to punish Israel for the blatant murder of American citizens, It seemed clear that their American friends would let them get away with almost anything.”

If Ball sounded angry about the attack, the same is true for the survivors of the attack on the *Liberty*. They believe that they were treated like dirt by the Navy. For instance, the Navy ordered that as long as they remained in the service, none of them were to ever speak publically about the attack. Also, the survivors found that their careers were ruined as they were generally passed over for promotions and they were assigned to the least desirable postings. It was as if the Navy decided that everybody on board the *Liberty* on that fateful day was to blame or something.

The attack on the *USS Liberty* combined with the 1968 North Korean attack on the NSA spy ship *USS Pueblo* resulted in the NSA and the U.S. Navy shutting down a remarkably successful intelligence operation, the NSA/Navy fleet of spy ships. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union was able to run its own spy ship program right up until the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

The Attack on the Liberty, is a very well done book by a son of one of the surviving crewmembers of that ill-fated ship and as such is very well recommended.

The Battle for Pusan: A Korean War Memoir By Addison Terry Novato, CA: Presidio Press 2000 233 pp.

The Korean War appears to be America's forgotten conflict. About the only time it is ever mentioned in the nation's press is whenever North Korea acts up. Mention Pusan or for that matter the Pusan Perimeter, to Americans and hardly any of them will have any idea as to what you are talking about.

This lack of interest has been manifested in many ways. There have been few movies ever made about the Korean War. Not too many books have been published about it either. The typical average public library has but few books about that particular conflict. Unlike the Civil War, the Vietnam War and World War II, there has never been a magazine published specializing in covering the Korean War. The only aspect of American popular culture that concerns the Korean War that is of any importance is the TV show *M*A*S*H** that was about Rear Echelon Military Forces (REMF's) who were generally considered as slackers by the troops on the front lines. *M*A*S*H** was a show that, at best, gave viewers a really distorted picture about what the Korean War was like or what it was all about.

One aspect of the Korean War that been particularly forgotten is the opening stages of the conflict during the run up to the decisive Inchon Operation that resulted in the disintegration of the North Korean People's Army (NKPA). In early 1950, the U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson made a speech in which he specifically excluded South Korea from the United States' zone of defense against potential Communist aggression in Asia. Meanwhile, the Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson presided over what amounted to unilateral disarmament. The end result of these actions by the chief underlings of President Harry S. Truman was the emboldening of Soviet Dictator Joseph Stalin to have the North Koreans invade South Korea.

When North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25th 1950, the United States was totally unprepared for war. Secretary Johnson's policies had resulted in the U.S. Army being no stronger in 1950 than it was just prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The U.S. troops that were nearest South Korea were occupation troops of the U.S. Eighth Army.

All of the units in the Eighth Army were seriously under full strength with the units lacking heavy equipment and weaponry. More ominously, most of the troops were not World War II veterans, but green kids who had never seen combat. Truly this was the optimal situation for Communist aggression.

However, the NKPA messed things up. Instead of launching a concentrated coordinated attack aimed at the port city of Pusan, the Communists instead committed their forces piecemeal. On the Korean east coast the NKPA only made a modest effort. What this did was to enable the South Korean troops a chance to rally and organize stronger resistance. It also gave the U.S. forces that were sent to South Korea an opportunity to build up strength. On top of that, the NKPA failed to understand that the Eighth Army troops were underequipped and undermanned and that the troops were mostly green kids who had never seen any combat. The NKPA leadership believed that they were facing strong, well equipped veteran troops and this helped make the Communists even more cautious.

One of the nonveteran soldiers who were sent to South Korea was young Addison Terry who was originally assigned to the 8th Field Artillery Regiment. As part of his duties, Terry was posted to the 27th Regimental Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division. Most of Terry's service in Korea was spent as a forward observer for the field artillery. Time and time again, Terry and other observers were able to direct artillery fire at NKPA concentrations that disrupted the Communist's offensive operations. It was during what turned out to be the final NKPA major offensive that Terry was shot in the hand and would up being taken out of the Korean War altogether.

The Battle for Pusan is an excellent account of the desperate first few months of the Korean War that were spent on the Pusan Perimeter holding the line until the Eighth Army was able to mount the Inchon Operation that resulted in the destruction of the NKPA. Although the United States ultimately proved incapable of liberating all of Korea due to Chinese intervention, it was able to restore South Korea to more or less its original boundaries. The only drawback to this book is the lack of an index at the back of the volume.

Colder than HELL: A Marine Rifle Company at Chosin Reservoir

By Joseph R. Owen

Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press 1996 237 pp.

Had the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir occurred in any other American war other than the Korean War, it would have been immortalized in the movies. The massive sacrifice and heroism shown by the 1st Marine Division despite overwhelming odds would have been an example for the youth of America to follow. Instead, it has been almost completely forgotten.

Joseph R. Owen was a platoon leader in that battle. When the invasion of North Korea by the United States Eighth Army began following the finish of the Inchon Campaign in which the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) was almost completely destroyed, his platoon had 42 men. By the time the campaign was over and the Eighth Army was in retreat from the Red Chinese hordes, there were only two of the original 42 men who had been neither killed nor wounded. That is a casualty rate of 95%.

The Marines were heavily outnumbered by the Chinese right from the time that the Chinese leadership decided to enter the Korean War on the behalf of its luckless North Korean allies to prevent that country from being totally overrun by the Americans and their Republic of Korea (ROK) allies. The last thing that the likes of Chairman Mao wanted to see was a unified Korea on the banks of the Yalu River that was allied with the United States.

Despite the massive numbers of the soldiers that the Chinese were able to bring to bear on the Eighth Army, the American side had some advantages that partly offset the imbalance and allowed the Marines to break out of the Chosin Reservoir encirclement by attacking in a different direction. The Marine Corps had superior training and equipment and were mostly World War II veterans. The Chinese troops were poorly equipped with shoes and clothing that was poorly suited for winter combat. All too many Chinese troops suffered unnecessarily from frostbite and perished from the harsh winter conditions. Another drawback for the Chinese was the fact that their commanders insisted on communicating with their troops by using bugles to signal whenever they were going to attack the Americans. Our troops were able to pick up the sounds of the bugles and, forewarned, were able to make the Chinese pay dearly whenever they made an attack. In every engagement fought between the Marines and the Chinese, Chinese casualties were far greater than the Marines. There were cases where the ground was literally covered by hundreds of dead Chinese soldiers.

Colder than HELL: A Marine Rifle Company at Chosin Reservoir is a great book about an undeservedly little known battle in American history. The only drawback to it is the lack of an index at the end of the book.

Movie Reviews

Hercules the Terminator

By

Robin Bright

Arnold Schwarzenegger's first major role in Hollywood was as Hercules, but he's most famous for the Terminator series of movies. This is because the films effectively represent the development of a single character with mythic but not heroic qualities. The figure of Hercules is important because of the Twelve Labours, which in Greek mythology includes the task of cutting off the heads of the Lernaean Hydra that guards the Danaids, who're women that have killed their husbands because they didn't want to marry and are being forced to endlessly fill a bowl with water.

The filling of the bowl is a continuing exercise in futility because the Danaids only have sieves with which to carry water to the bowl, and the water disappears through the holes in the sieve bottoms before the Danaids are able to pour water into the bowl. The allusion is to the idea that women need men, because they're barren without them, whereas the truth is that men are sterile because they can't reproduce without women, whereas women have a penis of their own and so are a species while men aren't. Consequently, Hercules appears as a hero to the Greeks, who preferred pederasty and homosexuality to women, which were kept only for producing men as the parasite that perpetuated itself by preying upon them as host wombs.

Hercules is an early type of the devouring imago, which is found in Christianity in Revelation as the red dragon waiting to devour the New Redeemer, and that is represented in the first Terminator movie as Arnold Schwarzenegger's evil mission as a robot Terminator to travel through time to murder the son of Sarah Connor who'll be the one to redeem mankind from defeat against the machines. Interestingly, `Messiah` is the word used to describe those who believe in Christ, which suggests a link between Christ and the `Age of the Machine`, which is depicted negatively in *Terminator*, because Woman is a better machine as a species and men don't want her.

The Lernaean Hydra is what the developmental psychologist Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) calls the `Terrible Mother`, which is an aspect of God's omniscience, in psychological terms, because 20th century knowledge of archetypes is necessary to understand its meaning, which is that of growth nurturing imagery recurring throughout history in terms of the improving of the functionality of the human psyche.

The figure of the `Terrible Mother`, as the Lemaeon Hydra, is the archetype of the woman who's protecting her species' future. Each time Hercules cuts off a head, two more grow, which is an allusion to woman's duplex role as a species with her own penis.

In Revelation the woman `hidden` upon the Earth, and protected by the New Redeemer, is described as having her own `seed` which, after war in heaven against the serpent's `seed`, that is, men's devouring imago of the red dragon, receives a new heaven and Earth from God. The woman is `hidden` upon the Earth because her penis is, and God's Bible says that her `seed` shall be victorious.

The importance of the Hercules myth, as depicted in the *Terminator* movies, is that the archetypal material contradicts the image of the hero, which is detectable as that of the imago that devours woman. Hercules feels successful when he's released the Danaïans to their future slavery with their husbands, whereas that's a defeat for the Lemaeon Hydra who, as the `Terrible Mother`, is the archetypal signpost of Woman's future as a species. Because the Lemaeon Hydra is depicted as a `monster`, Hercules' defeat of her is a picture of success that constellates the imago of the devourer of women within the psyches of those who identify with the successful image of the hero.

In *Terminator* Schwarzenegger is again the anti-hero who's identified with by the devouring imago worshippers, and he's in the role of the red dragon of Revelation, who's waited to devour John Connor, the son of Sarah Connor and, effectively, the New Redeemer of the movie. The imagery is designed to prevent the archetype of the New Redeemer from being born in the minds of the cinema-goers. In *The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, the TV version of the *Terminator* series of movies, the robots appear as beautifully constructed women, which are `Meshiahn`, that is, they represent woman as the perfect machine because she's self-protecting. The dilution is that she doesn't have a penis, because the usual antagonism between males is designed to fill our attention, that is, the focus is meant to be upon the heroes, who represent the devouring imago, because that's the imago that men want to constellate.

In order to penetrate the imago of the devourer, which isn't the image of a hero, simple pictures reveal the truth. The more common pornography depicts a woman sitting on a penis with another holding it, while the male form remains invisible. The imagery is archetypal and says that the penis belongs to the woman holding it, which relates to the notion of the `hidden` woman's `seed` in Revelation, and signposts the woman with a penis as God's species, for whom a new heaven and Earth is being prepared, after Jesus' slaying of the evil, and God's giving of perdition to the evil as their punishment.

The simplest imagery is the most educative, which is why Jesus exhorts acceptance of the Holy Spirit, the `tutelary spirit` that, effectively, emerged from the side of Jesus when pierced by the spear of Longinus after Jesus' death at the crucifixion.

The Paraclete is the `Second Eve` which emerged from the side of Adam in Eden, and remained with mankind throughout history, until 2000 years ago when the Holy Spirit came from the side of Jesus to complement the wisdom of mankind`s soul that`d been obtained from the `tree of the knowledge of good and evil`, by means of the fruit that God had forbidden, and which the serpent gave to Eve, who gave it to Adam to eat of also. Thereafter they were required to leave Paradise by God, who told Adam he was to live `by the sweat of his brow`, while Eve would have pain in childbirth, which is important because the bearing of children is the single most important concept in the Bible.

In Revelation the red dragon waits to devour the child of the woman `clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet`, which is a symbol of psycho-physical hermaphroditism. The New Redeemer is the protector with the scepter upon the Earth before she, as the `hidden` woman with a penis that contains her `seed`, is ready to leave and sow her `seed` amongst the stars, fight the `seed` of the evil `serpent` in a victorious war in heaven, according to Revelation, and live forever in God`s heaven, and new Earth that God has prepared for her and her `seed`. In other words, the pain of childbirth is the knowledge that men aren`t woman`s species, but a parasitical virus perpetuating itself by preying upon her womb as an enslaver and devourer, of her and her Earth, in wars and plagues, which amount to the same thing because that`s what men are – the plague that makes war:

`I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.` God tells Abraham that his `seed` shall be like the stars of the heavens (Gen: 15.5), although his wife Sarah gave to him her handmaid Hagar, because she was barren and didn`t have a child until she was very old. The story is interesting because it indicates that the penis is important and not the marriage, that is, the fertilized are more important than the fertilizer, which retains its significance if woman has her own penis. As the fertilizer of her own species, men would be redundant. God`s development seems to be that mankind has to work for Redemption and woman`s birth is to be painful, but her species shall be born. Redemption consists in mankind`s recognition and refusal to worship the devouring imago that enslaves and devours her and her Earth as a plague and by means of war. If mankind accepts woman as a species there`s the possibility of Redemption but the species as `numberless as the dust of the Earth` would be woman`s.

In the age of Queen Victoria, the glimpse of a woman`s ankle was deemed to be sufficient for a man to be aroused. Belsen and Auschwitz suggests that, if women show more than their ankle, they`ll find themselves stacked in heaps and consumed in the ovens of the fire breathing dragon that was Nazism. However, for men who lie in wait to consume women in fire, as the red dragon of Revelation waits to devour the child of the woman of Revelation, who gives birth to the New Redeemer, God`s promise is that she shall crush their heads. As God says, it`s the heel of the woman they lie in wait for, `hidden` upon the Earth before leaving for the stars. Omnisciently, God says men will attack her, but succeed only in bruising her escaping heel.

The crushing of the men's heads is important, because psychological complementarity of male and female aspects is essential if a man is to have Redemption, which is why the woman of Revelation is depicted as clothed with the sun, which is the male principle, and the moon, that is, the female principle. In the psychology of Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961) a man's ego is associated with the sun and the moon with the anima or soul image, which is represented as being among the archetypes of the collective unconscious that, emerging in dreams or imagination, constitute the creative engine of humankind. Jung's concept of the psyche posits four functions of consciousness, that is, male functions of `Thinking` and `Sensation`, and female functions of `Feeling` and `Intuition`, which are associated with ear, eye, mouth, and nose, when undifferentiated or unconscious. In other words, self-actualization requires conscious awareness or differentiation of the four functions, which Jung calls the individuation process.

If the individuating ego identifies with the devouring imago then individuation, that is, Redemption, isn't possible, because the acceptance or constellation of devouring imago figures, such as Hercules or the Terminator, results in scenarios like Belsen and Auschwitz where the `Feeling` function, which is associated with the mouth, is inverted and has become a function of the devourer. Because individuation requires male-female complementarity, `Thinking` and `Sensation` (male), and `Feeling` and `Intuition` (female) must function as an individuated totality, which is symbolized by the `woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet` and the New Redeemer. Men who don't have the functional totality of a differentiated `Feeling` function in association with the other differentiated functions of `Thinking`, `Sensation`, and `Intuition` have `crushed heads` because they haven't accepted the female principle of Redemption, which is `God's love` as Jesus says in the New Testament of the Bible.

Because the archetypes of mankind are developmentally female, male archetypes are delusions, that is, they are imagos of the devourer masquerading as heroic leaders - as Hercules, the Terminator, Hussein, Gaddafi, and many others. In other words, women don't have archetypes, because they're for the developmental functioning of Redemption. What they do have is the devouring imago if it's constellated, and that's why Jung's understanding of female psychology is flawed. According to Jungian psychology, the animus is woman's contrasexual component, which appears in dreams and imagination to make her the cynosure of men's eyes. However, these are effectively the eyes of her devourers and so have no individuational functionality save to encourage her into the arms of what is effectively her demon lovers.

The archetype of Redemption is the image of Jesus Christ, because God's Paraclete or Holy Spirit is the `tutelary guide` of the soul or anima in man, that is, Jesus specifically exorcises men he encounters because they have accepted the devouring imago, which is demonic:

`Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.`

Jesus gave them permission, and the evil spirits went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. The demons don't care what body they inhabit, which is a metaphor for men because the anima or soul, and the Paraclete or Holy Spirit, are female, which is why Christianity advocates acceptance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Jesus isn't going to sleep with you, but men who want to sleep with men are demons, and so the possessed have the spirits of men who want to sleep with them because they're demonic, and that's how they sleep with men:

`Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.`

Revelation describes AIDS` victims who`ve had sex with men with HIV. Because homosexuality is sterility, it`s worship of the devouring imago, that is, the parasitical enslavement of woman`s host womb. God`s anti-virus is the Virgin Mary, and Jesus, because it`s an archetypal pairing that, in accordance with the tutelary guidance of the Paraclete, teaches virus avoidance. As Jesus says to his `tempter` in the wilderness:

`Avoid me.`

He doesn't want the virus, and he knows that the `tempter` is trying to give it to him, that is, the desire to encompass the Earth as its devourer. The imagery and language is significantly simpler than mythological depictions of heroic endeavour, because older mythologems, and indeed fictions based on old material, place the devouring imago at the centre of the pseudo-heroism, which confuses the reader or viewer into identifying with the devouring action.

War Of The Worlds is a favourite movie for remakes because it`s a simple story of devourers chasing young women, like Dakota Fanning, along the street and zapping her family and friends with blasters, while a heroic figure protects her. The rest of civilization and culture is destroyed, and the audience is expected to view Tom Cruise`s survival as her `protector` as successful. But the futility programme says destruction is what civilization, art and culture is for.

Dakota Fanning is chased by the devourer in *War Of The Worlds*, because that`s the programmer`s aim, to programme everyone with the devouring imago, and in *Scream* And *Scream II* the audience cheer as Anna Faris and Sarah Michelle Gellar are stalked and killed by the murderer, because that`s the programmer`s intention for mankind`s development.

In *Silence Of The Lambs* the viewer is asked to accept, as a psychopathology fictionally monitored by `Jodie Foster of the FBI`, the cannibal activities of Hannibal Lecter, who`s a typical devouring imago figure. In *Spiral* Amber Tamblyn is painted nude, and discovers many more nude paintings of different young women in the flat of the artist. When she asks about them, he murders her. She`s jealous of the women in his past, which is ironic if a woman has her own penis.

The movie's programme is for acceptance of the devouring imago, whereas Jesus' advice is:

`Avoid me.`

Effectively, the devouring imago and the hero play complementary roles within the programmer's vision. The hero figure is the anti-Paraclete who, masquerading as an artist or other male guardian, guides the woman into her role as devourable, which is why Dakota Fanning appears in *Man On Fire* with Denzil Washington as a girl too young to be sexual. The bodyguard figure of Washington is a false hero imago framing Dakota's asexual young girl's body as undesirable for anything but devourment, and so the movie's programme is for the kidnappers' terrorist activity rather than Dakota Fanning, who's the heroine. There isn't a real hero because heroes function as plot devices for the devouring imago, while the endangered heroine is injected into scenes for heroine addicts. Those who want the woman to live dwindle in proportion to the extent to which the devouring imago is constellated, and the result is 9/11 on CNN.

Those who've contracted the disease of the devouring imago aren't supposed to distinguish between MBC Action and the terrorist attack on New York's Twin Towers. That's the programme of the anti-Christian 'pictures', which is why Hollywood's called 'Babylon', and why Babylon (c. 4000 B.C.) is the ancient Persian seat of the rulers of Iraq and Iran. The heroic imagos of Hollywood's 'Babylon' are merely a cover for the devouring imago of Iraq and Iran's 'Babylon' of Saddam Hussein and Ahmadinejad, while the 'Great Whore, Babylon, Mother of the Abominations of the Earth' remains 'Woman', and her abominations are her sons' enslaving of her for her own devouring.

Beyond Hypothermia (1996)

There are some movies that are inherently bad. One way that they achieve this supreme level of badness is that they take an idea that can only be done well as either a comedy or a parody and try to do it as a serious flick. One such film is the 2002 Hong Kong effort **Beyond Hypothermia**.

Beyond Hypothermia is a movie that is about a killer whose body heat level is below that of the normal human. Get it? She's literally a cold blooded killer!

As either a comedy or as a parody of gangster movies, this idea has some real merit. This could be the basis for a really funny movie.

However, the filmmakers took this idea and made it into a deadly serious movie that does not have even so much as one iota of comedy relief. Making such an inherently ridiculous concept into a serious movie simply does not work.

This movie's main character is a female Cambodian assassin with an unusually chilly body temperature doesn't remember her past and wants to break free of her manipulative Chinese mafia aunt and find herself a normal life. The movie begins with her in a large freezer like building where she uses blunt instruments to smash large blocks of ice. Just why she does this is unclear as is the fact that the movie several times returns to the same setting complete with the ice smashing sequence all over again.

Eventually, the embittered hit-woman finds love with a noodle soup vendor who works for the Chinese mafia. You see, every time she kills one of her targets, she comes to him for warm, soothing noodle soup. This apparently makes her feel all warm inside.

Of course, she eventually falls in love with him despite her cold blooded disdain for others with romantic inclinations. This leads to an unintentionally hilarious scene where she considers the possibility that the noodle soup vendor had previous girlfriends. It is not clear just what he sees in her, but he falls in love with her anyway.

Of course, the Chinese mafia does not want to see their number one assassin develop warm blooded tendencies. After all, she might start loving life and refuse to kill again! The lovers must be stopped. The noodle vendor must die. As you can expect, this situation results in all sorts of murder and mayhem pitting the cold blooded killer against her erstwhile employers with numerous innocent persons caught in the crossfire.

All of the acting in this movie is of a hack nature as is the script and the general production quality. **Beyond Hypothermia** has no redeeming value whatsoever. Avoid it like the plague.

Brain Dead (1990)

Throughout the history of Hollywood, there have been movie projects that have been long delayed, some to the point where the project is ultimately abandoned. Others are eventually made, but the waiting process serves to ruin whatever good qualities that the original concept held. And there are others that were originally intended for TV that were modified for use as a feature film. One such resulting movie is 1990's **Brain Dead**.

Brain Dead was originally conceived by the late Charles Beaumont (1929-1967) as a script for the old *Twilight Zone* TV series (1959-1964) for which Beaumont had written 21 episodes. The show was cancelled before the producers had decided on whether to accept it or not. Subsequently, Beaumont sold the script to low budget film producer Roger Corman who was working at American International Pictures at the time.

Corman sat on the script for a half hour TV show episode for over a fifth of a century before deciding that he wanted to make it into a full length theatrical feature movie.

Now, you might be wondering why Corman would try to stretch out an idea fit for a half hour show into an hour and a half long movie instead of producing a TV show. The reason is that for some reason, outside of some projects for the Sci-Fi Channel, Corman has never really been interested in producing for television. Chances are it is because the standards of TV executives are generally higher than those that Corman is used to operating at. For the most part, Corman's pictures have generally been of a low grade and **Brain Dead** is no exception.

The movie centers around one Dr. Rex Martin (Bill Pullman) who is a researcher operating on the cutting edge of neurosurgery. Specifically, Martin's research centers around finding the specific place of the brain that harbors certain memories and then either causing them to become unrepressed or to be surgically excised altogether. This is definitely a creepy area of research, one that seems highly unlikely to be permitted by the federal government due to the "mind control" implications.

Martin's research attracts the attention of the Eunice Corporation that is headed by the sinister Jim Reston (Bill Paxton). Reston wants Martin to extract the memories of certain equations from the mind of one Dr. Halsey (Bud Cort) who is a patient at an Eunice Corporation mental institute. Martin refuses since he both has not done enough research to make him comfortable with doing actual operations on human patients quite yet and also because he does not believe in doing research for corporations. Eventually, Reston appeals to Martin's lusts for more greenbacks to the point that Martin agrees to perform the needed work.

It is at this point that the movie goes straight to Hell. Martin has a freak accident in the institution's parking lot when he is attacked by an insane homeless person screaming that Martin has his brain. The viewer is then subjected to about an hour worth of what amounts to padding of random scenes of Martin going through various and sundry experiences only to wake up in bed at the end of each scene. Eventually, the movie returns to its original narrative when the surgeons operate on Martin and it turns out that he's been brain damaged.

Brain Dead is a movie that could have explored the ethics of certain kinds of cutting edge medical research. It could have been an intelligent, thought provoking movie. But no, producer Corman opted for the easy way out, throwing in all sorts of padding in an effort to convince the viewer that what they are seeing are dreams in Martin's unconscious mind. This is a diabolically flawed movie that was produced as a quick way to make a buck. This is a shame since in the hands of a producer committed to quality, **Brain Dead** could have been a great flick.

Gunga Din (1939)

Gunga Din is an excellent example of 1930's cinema that exemplified the best that the studio system could produce. Back in those days, the big Hollywood studios were not only in the movie production and distribution businesses, but they also owned huge theater chains as well. This guaranteed that the productions of the big studios would get exposure to the American viewing public. Critics, including the lesser Hollywood studios and mom and pop theaters, assailed the studio system as being a violation of anti-trust laws and the Supreme Court eventually upheld that position in 1948. However, a great many Hollywood actors from the heyday of the studio system ranging from Shelley Winters on the left to Ronald Reagan on the right maintained that the studio system was good for everybody and it really screwed things up when it was voided. These critics also held the viewpoint that the decline and fall of the quality of movies really began when the Supreme Court made that ruling.

Like almost all other Hollywood movies made during the pre-World War II era, **Gunga Din** was made in Southern California. This was due not so much the expense, but the lack of reliable air transportation including cargo flights made it almost impossible to move the production units necessary for such an enterprise to far away overseas locations.

Gunga Din is based on a poem by Rudyard Kipling. It is about the British Army in 19th Century India and its role in suppressing the Thuggee Revolt of 1840. The Thuggee cult, that worshipped Kali the Hindu goddess of destruction, was the bane of Indian life for six centuries, ritualistically strangling up to 30,000 victims a year. It is from the word Thuggee that the modern word "thug" is derived.

The movie revolves around a trio of British Army sergeants: Archibald Cutter (Cary Grant), MacChesney (Victor McLagen) and Thomas Ballantine (Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.). Ballantine's great ambition in life is to leave the army when his enlistment expires, get married and become a tea merchant. The ambition of Cutter and MacChesney is to talk Ballantine out of such nonsense and get him to re-enlist and spend a full career in the British Army in India. Eventually, they trick Ballantine into a final mission where they face many of the rebels by themselves whilst the British Army is entering a trap.

The movie derives its name from the British Army water bearer, "Gunga Din" (Sam Jaffe). Gunga Din is both remarkably loyal and dependable. He also carries himself with a certain nobility. He is loyal to the British cause since he realizes that only under Western rule can folks like himself rise to a higher status in life than what would be possible in the pre-British feudal era of Indian life and civilization.

Gunga Din was made back when the actors themselves had to draw the audience into a movie without relying on fantastic special effects to carry a scene. This movie allows the audience laugh at and with the sergeants during their harrowing escapades. In short, it's a classic film that does not take itself too seriously. It is very well made overall with strong acting, script, direction and cinematography.

Hellcats, The (1967)

During the decades of the 1960's & 1970's, there were a number of sleazy characters on the B Movie scene who endeavored to lower costs to the point of the bare minimum so as to maximize their profits. Oftentimes, this approach resulted in movies of shockingly low quality. One example of such a strategy was to collect as many outtakes aka "deleted scenes" on DVD's as possible from other films and then attempt to construct a movie around them. Essentially, these flicks were not much more than a few scenes with some allegedly central characters and a lot of filler in between the scenes with the characters.

As a matter of course, these movies were advertised in a patently fraudulent way. Take for instance, the subject of this review, the 1967 flick **The Hellcats**. It was billed as being the first ever movie about a female biker gang. However, most of the movie has nothing to do with the Hellcats gang. It is just a bunch of filler drivel put together for maximum profit with complete disregard for the rights and feelings of the audience.

Now, you may be wondering just what went on in these irrelevant filler scenes that had nothing to do with the purported subject of the movie. Well, the most memorable of these scenes include a naked female having a portrait of her painted and then ordering that it be destroyed for no apparent reason. In another scene there is a party in which one guy licks another guy's chest. There is a chase in which the police hound some motorcyclists to death. There is also a blonde in the desert who just sits around, looks pretty and chews up time like a good filler subject ought to. In other words, just a lot of mindless drivel.

In the end, just how do you rate a production such as this? **The Hellcats** was originally advertised as being the first ever flick about a female biker gang. However, it is just a lot of filler and not very good filler at that. Any time you have a flick that is mostly made up of outtakes from other movies, you will have an awful movie on your hands. It is dreck such as **The Hellcats** that helped give drive in movies a bad name that later led to their disappearance altogether. As such this flick cannot be recommended at all, not even as a rental.

Jackson County Jail (1976)

There are some movies that are so poorly made, it defies belief that they ever made it to the silver screen. **Jackson County Jail**, produced by the prolific Roger Corman, is one such movie. If it were possible to gauge the IQ of the script writer from this movie, it would be pretty close to zero.

Jackson County Jail is a slapdash effort. It begins in Los Angeles when liberated career woman Dinah Hunter (Yvette Mimieux) quits her job as a commercial producer after a client pans one of her latest creations. She then goes home, and upon observing that her husband has been teaching their teenage daughter how to swim, talks down to him about how he is unworthy of being married to a great woman like her and how their daughter ought to be placed in a daycare center when Mom is at work as if men are automatically unfit to have any role in the raising of children. This scene sets a pattern that holds for the rest of the movie: white rich lady treats everyone around her like dirt or worse and then acts surprised when the other folks resent her poor behavior. Once done trashing her husband, she then leaves Los Angeles for a new job in New York, intending to drive herself there. She doesn't pack or do any of the other things one would normally expect someone to do when undertaking a long road trip. One aspect of long distance driving that she is quite clearly incapable of doing is navigation and map reading.

Driving from L.A. to N.Y. clearly means going northward, but she actually drives into the Deep South. On her trip, she humiliates a waitress and picks up a pair of hitch hiking punks who clearly have trouble written all over them. Once she makes it clear to them that she intends on driving north, they hijack the car and rob her.

Now, you would think that now that she is in peril, the California gal would start treating folks like fellow human beings at least long enough to get herself out of trouble. If so, you obviously are not familiar with Corman's work. In his cinematic world, all women who do not observe traditional values are overbearing, nasty scum who get their comeuppance by getting raped and worse. Likewise, all non-heterosexual characters in Corman movies get themselves killed. Another constant theme of Corman movies is that Southerners are all a bunch of ignorant yahoos with Southern law enforcement officers being the worst of the lot. As we will see, **Jackson County Jail** is a perfect example of these themes.

After the hijack, Dinah enlists the aid of a restaurant owner who calls the local law enforcement office on her behalf. However, she misjudges the kindness of the restaurateur as being a prelude to a rape attempt or something, and she launches into a physical assault upon the poor man right in time for the Deputy Sheriff to walk into the scene and arrest her on the spot. Once at the jail, she is then raped by a different deputy who is apparently the resident official rapist. In an unbelievably fake scene, she kills the pervert and frees both herself and another inmate even though the other guy is a braggart of a criminal. They steal a car, and on the way to the criminal hideout, they get into a goofy chase with the now-drunken sheriff. This chase ends when the sheriff gets into a head-on crash with another car.

Once at the hideout, where there is a pair of lesbians and other obviously undesirable elements, Dinah pulls her Mrs. Superior act until the cops show up, and a gunfight ensues. Both Dinah and the criminal escape, but not until after we get to see both lesbians die.

This is the point where the movie really gets bad -- as unbelievable as that may be. Dinah gets into a discussion of right and wrong with her hardened criminal buddy and all but calls him a piece of white trash. Apparently all those years in the California sun have made Dinah feel superior to everyone or something. Her accomplice responds only by saying that she must have lived a sheltered life. Eventually, Dinah is severely injured by gunshots and caught. Her buddy gets himself gunned down right in the middle of a bicentennial parade which continues on despite the fact that police are engaged in a running gunfight with a hardened criminal whose six-shooter never runs out of bullets and several paraders and onlookers get downed by stray bullets. Even by Corman standards, this is pretty unreal.

Jackson County Jail is garbage that is only effective as unintentional comedy. Even on those undemanding standards, it is pretty bad. If you want to get your intelligence insulted, then this is the movie for you.

Malibu High (1979)

Once upon a time, there were a great many low budget films that were able to get into movie theaters nationwide. In fact, there was a B Movie theatrical circuit consisting of theaters that showed nothing but low budget movies. This circuit consisted of some big city theaters of the sort that were often dubbed by critics as "exploitation houses." In the rural and suburban areas, the circuit consisted mainly of drive ins. Due to the fact that drive ins came to constitute the bulk of the B Movie theatrical circuit by the dawn of the 1970's, there arose a brand of low budget flick that was commonly known as "drive in movies."

Drive In movies were flicks that were specifically created for drive ins and their unique audience. By the dawn of the 1970's, drive in theaters had earned a reputation as being havens of iniquity. This was because local law enforcement was loath to disrupt a movie showing to do their duty. Thus drive ins became nighttime centers of such things as underage drinking, illegal drug use, youth violence and sexual perversion. Naturally, the low budget aka "grindhouse" filmmakers decided to make movies that catered to hedonistic youth. Just as naturally, these wayward high school & college kids gravitated to these flicks, making both the drive in operators and the filmmakers rich.

One such drive in movie is the subject of this review, the 1979 endeavor **Malibu High**. **Malibu High** is about the adventures in criminality of a young high school age girl named Kim (Jill Lansing). At the start of the movie, Kim's life is a mess as her father has recently committed suicide and her mother is a nag. Her boyfriend Kevin (Stuart Taylor) dumps her for a rich girl and she is in danger of not being able to graduate from high school. Her solution is to seduce her male teacher to earn top grades, induce her principal to have a heart attack, become a prostitute and ultimately become a mafia hit woman. Yes, you read that right. Truly, this movie is an exercise in improbability.

Jill Lansing's performance as Kim is so good that it makes her character's unlikely behavior more than halfway believable. This is especially noteworthy since Lansing looks more like 30 years old than a teenager. A viewer in 1979 would have concluded that Lansing had a good shot at stardom in the offing. Instead **Malibu High** proved to be her one and only movie and Lansing herself seems to have disappeared completely. There have been rumors over the years that Lansing was raped towards the end of production by director Irving Berwick. This may have resulted in her deciding not to have anything further to do with the movie scene. Lansing's failure to appear in any more movies is even more puzzling when you consider that **Malibu High** was a blockbuster by drive in movie standards.

Given the fact that the makers of drive in flicks were usually interested in profit first and quality dead last, it comes as no surprise that this movie was also marketed under several different names. Among these were *Death in Denim*, *High School Hit Girl & Lovely But Deadly*. Too bad that the marketing was better conceived than the flick itself.

In the end, **Malibu High** is basically a trashy flick without much to recommend it. Its cinematography was better than most drive in flicks. Other than the performance of Jill Lansing as Kim, the level of the acting was bad even by drive in movie standards. The level of directing and script is pretty bad. The same goes for the general lack of logic guiding the character's actions, especially those of Kim. In the end, this particular production is lackluster unless you want to see an example of late 1970's youth culture or are nostalgic for drive in movies. If you must see it, do so only as a rental.

Quick Change (1990)

One of the most unfortunate aspects of Hollywood these days is the general lack of creativity. This is manifested in the sheer number of ripoffs of other, better, movies. One such ripoff is the failed Bill Murray flick **Quick Change**. Made in 1990, this was a ripoff of a French-Canadian production called *Hold-Up* with Jean Paul Belmondo. The original film is a classic while the Hollywood version is both cheap and poorly produced and is just plain awful. Moreover, **Quick Change** is completely over-acted and unrealistic.

Quick Change was Murray's directorial debut and it almost wrecked his career as a director even before it had a chance to get off the ground.

This debacle taught Murray an important lesson: If you want to make it big as a filmmaker, you have to come up with something that's at least halfway original. Since then, Bill Murray's productions have been generally at least halfway original.

Essentially, the plot revolves around the comic misadventures of a gang of robbers who pull off a heist and then attempt a getaway only to be foiled by the vastness of the metropolis that is New York City. Whilst evading the police the gang encounters all sorts of strange and bizarre characters who only get in their way.

The movie can be broken down into 3 distinct parts. The first part is that of the robbery itself. During the bank robbery, Bill Murray is at his dead-pan best, and is hilarious as he demands everything from a motorcycle, to a helicopter and monster truck as part of his hostage ransom and diversion. Murray's character is truly a world-class bank robber. Once Murray's character leaves the bank, the movie loses direction and slows down.

The second part is that of the attempted getaway from the scene of the crime. Here, Murray's character increasingly comes across as being arrogant and selfish, a complete jerk. This is despite the fact that the movie attempts to show him as a heroic figure, rebelling against the monotony of everyday life. Talk about failed execution.

It is in the getaway that the biggest difference between **Quick Change** and the original *Hold-Up* appears. The original movie handled the getaway much better and more realistically. The ripoff attempted to be both offbeat and quirky and only came off as being stupid as a result. For instance, there is a flimsy, melodramatic thread that ran between the characters of Murray and Geena Davis that made this part of the flick unfunny.

The third part is that of the arrest. The N.Y. Police Department, led by one Chief Rotzinger (Jason Robards Jr.), has an absurdly easy time tracking down and apprehending the perpetrators. This part is dull and poorly done.

Quick Change is a bad movie that you should avoid like the plague.

Website Reviews

<https://www.agriculturemorethanever.ca/>

Agriculture: More Than Ever

Agriculture: More Than Ever bills itself as being “A Positive Voice for Canadian Agriculture.” You may not realize it but there are a lot of folks who are involved in agriculture who feel that both their industry and their way of life are under attack. This is particularly true in Canada where there are animal rights activists, Greens and others who have been attacking Canadian agriculture. One particular criticism is that too many farms in Canada are owned by big corporations when in fact fully 98% of all Canadian farms are family farms. Pseudoscientists calling themselves “food activists” such as Vani Hari who call herself the “Food Babe” routinely make up wild claims about how farmers use unsafe practices that result in food that could be injurious to the health of consumers making it to households across North America. All this has harmed agriculture and family farmers in Canada and elsewhere. That being the case, a great many people who are involved in Canadian agriculture have decided to band together and fight back. Hence the creation of Agriculture: More Than Ever. The creators of this website have endeavored to empower advocates of Canadian agriculture that it calls “agvocates.” By arming agvocates with information and resources, the website creators hope to turn the tide against the enemies of Canadian agriculture. One of the most striking aspects of the Agriculture: More Than Ever website is its Resources section that it modestly bills as being an “agvocate toolbox” that is “filled with free, easy to use resources to tell ag’s story.” Among other things, this section has a great many information laden graphics that people can put on their websites. There are also graphics pages that are specifically designed for use on Facebook and Twitter. Another important part of the Agriculture: More Than Ever website is the “Webinar” section. Webinars are basically seminars that are done over the World Wide Web and preserved on the website for visitors to play at their leisure. As of now, there are over 3,500 agvocates and the number is likely to grow as more and more folks become aware of this remarkably well-designed and informative website.

<http://allianceforspacedevelopment.org/>

Alliance for Space Development

The slogan of the Alliance for Space Development (ASD) is “Not Just to Visit, But to Stay.” The ASD’s membership consists of several different organizations, most of which are focused on space. These groups are, the Lifeboat Foundation, the Mars Foundation, the Mars Society, the National Space Society (NSS), the Space Development Foundation, the Space Development Steering Committee, the Space Frontier Federation (SFF), the Space Tourism Society, Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, Students on Capitol Hill, the Tea Party in Space and finally the Texas Space Alliance. Of these, the NSS and the SFF constitute the “executive” members of the ASD. It is not clear what exactly separates the NSS and the SFF. One event that the ASD holds every year is the March Storm. This is supposed to be a “blitz” on Washington, D.C., with the aim of promoting space amongst the professional politicians. This does not appear to be a successful endeavor given that this writer did not even know about it until June of 2017. Whatever the case, ASD does not appear to be a particularly active organization given how it has not updated its website’s “ASD in the News” section in the past two years. In August of 2017, the ASD is planning on holding an “August Blitz” in the nation’s capital. It will be interesting to see if any good comes of it. A more promising event is the planned 2018 International Space Development Conference that is to be held May 24-27 at Los Angeles. The ASD has set forth some ambitious projects, but it needs a higher level of activity for it to work. For instance, the ASD website’s “Press Room” has not been updated since the February 25, 2015, founding of the ASD. Also, the ASD needs to be more careful of who its friends are since one of the two congressmen was present at its founding press conference was none other than former U.S. Representative Chaka Fattah D-PA who is currently serving a 10 year sentence for corruption. If the ASD hopes to make a difference, it clearly has to step up its level of activity.

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

The Mars Society

The purpose of The Mars Society (TMS) is to galvanize public support for getting a man to Mars. Actually, it's more than that. According to its website, the purpose of TMS is not just to get mankind to Mars but also to engage in the "exploration and settlement" of the red planet. What this does is to set up the fundamental problem for Mars advocates: what is the sense of going to Mars given the fact that after reaching the Moon we have done nothing with it for the past 45 years? This is something that TMS does not appear to have thought through. TMS was founded by Robert Zubrin in 1997 as a result of his highly successful books about space and why mankind should devote significant resources to it. To a great extent, TMS is Zubrin's ego trip and it limits its effectiveness. For instance, on the TMS blog entitled "New Mars Journal," Zubrin attacked a NASA proposal for a new space station that would orbit the Moon, calling it "NASA's Worst Plan Yet." This was a strange criticism given how in order to create the basis for a successful Mars mission, you would need to create a space infrastructure capable of building and supplying a major mission such as sending men to Mars. You would also need places where astronauts would get the necessary training for a mission that would likely take at least a few years to accomplish. While it would not be sufficient all by itself, a lunar space station would certainly be a step in the right direction. Apparently, the egomaniac Zubrin was against it because it went against his preconceived ideas on how a Mars mission could be done. This is an example of how it appears that neither Zubrin nor his cohorts at TMS have really thought through the reasons why we should go to Mars or how to get there. One of the most interesting efforts of TMS is its PDF magazine that it puts out every three months entitled *The Mars Quarterly (TMQ)*. *TMQ* features remarkably in-depth coverage of what TMS is doing to get man closer to setting foot on Mars. For instance, in the current issue of *TMQ* (Vol. 5 No. 3), there is a lengthy article about TMS's Polish chapter, Mars Society Polska (MSP). Both MSP and the Polish Academy of Sciences have worked on instruments for space missions done by the European Space Agency. However, *TMQ* has almost no coverage of private sector efforts towards by non-TMS organizations which is a shame. In addition to *TMQ*, TMS also runs a number of blogs, discussion forums, and internet radio program called Red Planet Radio, a Martian simulation project and an archive of over 500 Mars related scientific papers. There is also an annual TMS convention where leaders such as Zubrin make speeches about mankind's future in space. At its 20th convention that was held in 2017 convention speakers included science fiction writer Gregory Benford as well as Dr. Mohamed Nasser Al Ahbabi who is the Director General of the United Arab Emirates Space Agency. Although TMS does not appear to have really thought through the whole idea of going to Mars, it does have an exceptionally well designed website.

<https://pappysgoldenage.blogspot.com/>

Pappy's Golden Age Comics Blogzine

Pappy's Golden Age Comics Blogzine is the fancy name for what might be the single best blog that is mainly about comics from the so-called Golden Age. The Golden Age of Comics is generally considered to have run from the 1930's through the end of the 1940's. Its creator who goes by the handle "Pappy" says, "[b]logging is more work than the job I retired from." Since 2006, Pappy has been bringing his insights into this fascinating time and subject to his readers. Pappy has shown himself to be a stalwart writer. Since 2006, Pappy has written over 2,000 posts. As you can expect, Pappy's main interest is in comic books, but there have been a fair number of posts devoted to newspaper comic strips. For instance, one recent post was devoted to a sequence of an even dozen Sunday Flash Gordon strips from the Autumn of 1957 that were drawn by Emmanuel "Mac" Raboy. Although Pappy devotes a good deal of his comic book coverage to superheroes, he also covers some of the more offbeat aspects of comic book publishing. For instance, one of Pappy's posts is about how Plastic Man's costume originally had a missing shirtsleeve and a dreadful looking pair of boots. Pappy also covers some of the more offbeat superheroes. For instance, *Pep Comics* a title that is rarely even so much as mentioned let alone discussed on other comics oriented websites, was the comic book where the very first patriotic superhero was born. This was The Shield whose exploits against the Axis Powers began in January 1940 before World War II was more than a few months old. Another offbeat superhero that Pappy has written about is The Fat Fury whose secret identity is Herbie Popnecker who is considered by his parents to be a lazy worthless kid who is completely lacking in ambition. Pappy also features an unusually long list of comics blogs that he links to that includes such offbeat blogs as the Bizarro Blog, The Happy Undertaker, Parade of Horrorables, Seduction of the Indifferent and Screwball Comics. Pappy's also links to a few regular websites such as Seduction of the Innocent.org, Those American Girls and The Wonder Wart-Hog Bibliography Website. To be sure, there are some gaps in Pappy's coverage such as the fact that he does not write reviews of books that are about the comics. However, if you want to learn more about comics, then Pappy's Golden Age Comics Blogzine is a great place to start.

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

UNZ.org – Periodicals, Books, and Authors

If you ever have had a hankering to go to a major library, but live too far away from one to make it worth the bother, then UNZ.org is the website for you. UNZ.org collects the contents of a great many magazine issues and places them so folks like you can read them. As the website says on its front page it has “many millions of pages of readable, searchable content at your fingertips.” The topics covered by this website ranges from “Art/Sculpture/Design” to “Youth/Children.” UNZ.org is eminently searchable. On the top of website’s front page, there is a listing of clickable buttons for “Selected Prominent Writers.” These include such notables as Thomas N. Bethel, John Chamberlain, Thomas Fleming, Henry James, H.L. Mencken, Murray N. Rothbard and I.F. Stone. In the middle of the website’s front page, there is another listing of clickable buttons for “Authors – All Years.” These include such worthies as Isaac Asimov, Alexander Cockburn, Edward D. Hoch, William Dean Howells, Christopher Morley, John Simon and John Updike. On the bottom of the website, there is a listing of clickable buttons for “Periodicals – All Years.” These include *Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine*, *The American Spectator*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Collier’s Weekly*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *The Freeman*, *Munsey’s Magazine*, *The New Statesman*, *Reason*, *The Saturday Review and The Weekly Standard*. On the topmost part of the website, there are search fields that you can type into for “Author,” “Period,” and “Genre/Topic.” With the latter, there is a button you can click on to cause a list of genres and topics to drop down. The genres in this list include, Humor/Comedy, Mystery/Crime/Adventure, Romance, Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror and Western. The topics in this list include Drama/Theater/Dance, General Interest/Literary. History/Social Sciences, Libertarian/Free Market and Right/Conservative. This is a great website for readers of all sorts. Only problem is that it carries no advertising and that makes you wonder just how long Mr. Unz is going to be able to keep this website alive.

Websites of Interest

<https://www.aiaa.org/>

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)

<https://www.algemeiner.com/>

The Algemeiner

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

Americans for Transit

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

Antiwar.com

<https://filmschoolrejects.com/>

Film School Rejects

<http://thefinancialdiet.com/>

The Financial Diet

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

Food Democracy Now!

<https://cinematicdiversions.blogspot.com/>

Illustrated Cinematic Journal of Diversions

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

Kentucky Coal Association

<http://marsnews.com/>

MarsNews.com

<https://thenewstack.io>

The New Stack

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

Recalled Comics

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

Redskins Salute

http://spaceelevatorwiki.com/wiki/index.php/Main_Page

Space Elevator Wiki

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

Washington Times

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/>

Watts Up With That

Letters of Comment

opuntia57@hotmail.com

From: Dale Speirs
Calgary, Alberta

You mentioned a road rage incident where you were harassed by an Archetype Interiors van driver, but didn't say if you reported it to the company. A letter to them in unemotional language, detailing your side of the story in a straightforward manner, would very likely have brought results. No company wants that type of employee ruining its good name, and management would take action.

The anti-fan writers are seeking, and getting, free publicity by trash talking. I have learned to stay off the blogs, which are ephemeral and not worth the disputation. Joining in the argument doesn't change anyone's minds and just drives up the blood pressure for no good reason. If more people ignored them, they would give up and go someplace else.

It is better to avoid the opinionated blogs and Websites. Life is too short to be distracted by other people's feuds. Concentrate on what produces happiness in yourself.

[You might be right about Archetype Interiors, however I'd had too much experience with companies not willing to hold their employees accountable for their actions, so I let the matter slide. As for the blogs, you make a good point and I've been trying to ignore the science fiction related ones as best as I can.]

robika2001@yahoo.co.uk

From Robin Bright:

Hi, Fornax has been missed by its readers. Thanks for the latest issue.

Robin

From Chris Garcia:

cgarcia@computerhistory.org

Good issue, which I'm still reading, but I'm struck by the mention of there not being a traditional fanzine among the nominees.

Excepting, of course, *Journey Planet*, right?

I see the point, we're almost entirely internet-based (we sometimes print a few copies, but rarely these days) but I would say *Journey Planet* is certainly of the fanzine variety and 100% not a blog.

I do tend to agree that the administrators should do a bit more administrating, and I've known many of the recent Admins and know that they completely understand what fanzines are, what their history is, and they just see the category definitions differently than I (and Bill, it seems). These things happen.

Thanks

Chris

[I should have made things clear. My problem with *Journey Planet* is that it's been dominating the fanzine awards lately just like *Locus* did back in the day. There should be a greater diversity of award winning fanzines so while it may not be fully accurate to say that *Journey Planet* is a semi-prozine, quite yet, moving it to that category would free you up to make it a paying outlet, assuming you've ever considered that and it would make the fanzine category more competitive.]

September 11, 2017

Dear Charles,

In Fornax #20, you have a really complicated situation when you start considering getting jobs for the disabled. The term "disability" covers a whole constellation of physical and mental problems. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) includes alcoholism and drug addiction. I will accept that those two conditions are disabling, but they aren't what most people mean when they say "disabled." Also, by including those two terms, they probably doubled or tripled the number of people in the United States who might be considered disabled.

I've run into a situation because of the ADA. I don't drive anymore because of my eyesight. Since I'm over 65, I was eligible for Dial-a-ride at a quite reasonable rate. I used the service a few times a year. The last time I called them, they told me I was no longer eligible to use the service just because I was old. I had to be ADA certified disabled.

I had a vision of a process similar to the one the US Department of Agriculture used for classifying sides of beef. Somehow, the idea of having a government official put a big blue stamp on my arse just isn't appealing.

You may notice the government does not consider mere age to be a disability. It may not be a disability, but it sure don't help much of anything.

I hate to rely on salvation by government. However, I don't think advertising would help much in getting jobs for the disabled. If the government didn't require employers to pay workmen's comp insurance for disabled employees that might help some. It probably should be limited to 5% of the employees for any given enterprise to prevent people from sitting up sweat shops for the disabled.

Your perception of Hollywood is correct. There are whores all over the place. One of my father's first assignments on the LAPD was walking a footbeat on Sunset Boulevard in 1941. At that time, there had been whores in Hollywood for as long as anyone then on the department remembered. For most of my career, there were 18 geographic divisions in Los Angeles. Most geographic divisions had a vice unit that consisted of a sergeant and six police officers. By comparison, the vice unit in Hollywood Division consisted of a lieutenant, a sergeant, and 20 police officers.

Yours truly,

Milt Stevens
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Simi Valley, CA 93063
miltstevens@earthlink.net

[It was because of Letters Of Comment such as the one above that Milt Stevens became a legend in his own time. He will be missed.]

Gerd.Maximovic@t-online.de

Dear Charles,

Thank you for sending Fornax 20 which I did read with interest.

In there we find several points of great importance. You mention your slow driving. Well, I am mostly biking. I use my car only on Sunday to prevent it to get rotten. Else I am an enthusiastic biker. In July this year I have made 100 000 km (with two bikes), in 25 years and 2 months. I am also biking slowly. Why? Well, there are often problems with car-drivers or other bikers (or bike-couriers who also are racing through Bremen like hell), or just passengers who suddenly change their mind and their way.

Biking slowly, you always get time to react. And it's the same with the car, especially on the Autobahn (four-lane fast streets): always keep away from the others (keep your distance), else you will become victim of their mood.

Interesting is for instance „The Attack of the Anti-Fan-SF-Author“. There always seems to be quarrel in US-fandom. And so was in German fandom. Fandom is an area to prove one's „abilities“, to fight and to hurt. And, there is one problem more: the interaction of fan-interests and professionals. There are agencies just looking for money, and killing the author who tries different or better. It's very sad for you having a friend who was fan, and became a pro-agent, and, of course, this way, by fraud, destroyed the mutual friendship.

There are much more texts in Fornax 20 worth noticing. I just mention one of the book reviews. There was, due to Edwin P. Hoyt, even a submarine kamikaze. I didn't know this. And, it's interesting to see, many Japanese pilots „didn't volunteer“, but ended as kamikaze, anyway. Well, that's war, that's destiny.

I have just read Eric Frank Russell's „Sinister Barrier“ (it's original English version, hardcover Fantasy Press 1948). I noticed there having been already reading some (a few) pages on August 18, 1962, then stopped (lacking too much English words). The novel mostly is good entertainment, well written, good structure, well developed (except some pages suddenly referring to war and politics which do NOT belong into a well written SF action novel). It's contents: there are the „vitons“, evil balls or globes sucking energy-feeling out of us. They, the vitons, can read minds, and use man. This is of interest. Is this true? Is mind reading possible (outside the imaginary vitons). Here some quotations out of this book, please, look for yourself:

„Something peered into their minds, grinned and slunk away.“ (p. 17) – Is this possible: „something“ peering in your mind?

„... but some queer subconscious quirk, some subtle hint of warning... Feeling himself a fool to obey his inward impulses, he went on...“ (p. 25) – Subconscious impulses, warnings, is that possible? Do we have a subconscious watching over us?

„... but he could not force aside the strange, uncanny feeling... Were those psychic warnings somehow related to his investigatory insight? Was it intuition...? ... >Chief, ... but I've a notion that there are times when it's dangerous to talk about it<. ... >I believe there are times when it's dangerous even to THINK about it.< ... „... and there are no known mechanical means of tapping anyone's secret thoughts.< (p. 71 f) – Uncanny feeling, someone is tapping your feelings and, much worse, your thoughts?

What do you do if someone is spying invisibly on you? „... he forced his stubborn thoughts into an innocuous path. He drew a woman from his memory...“ (p. 76)

Are your thoughts your own, or is someone influencing them? „>... but are those opinions really his own, or are they notions which cunningly have been insinuated into his mind, notions which he has accepted as his own, believes to be his own??<“ (p. 122)

Well, good question. The answer (in the novel) is like in the fairy tales: „>Since all our data points to the fact that the Vitons sway opinions any way they want them...<“ (p. 76) – But, is this possible in reality: to influence your thoughts, you believing they are your own – and silently the enemy is satisfied („I have got him, the fool, har, har, har!“)

And finally we are back to the subconscious: „That warning voice within his mind...“ (p. 198) Well, this is just a „poor“ SF novel. But, of course, the author, Eric Frank Russell, knew what to write about. The solution (in his novel) are the Vitons. They will be defeated. But, in reality, there truly is a subconscious within us, in ALL of us, our best friend and helper. And sure, most of „Sinister Barrier“ is a good read, because there is more to it (like in so many SF).

*

Now, a quite different question (you see, I can't help it). Do you sleep sometimes? Please, do not laugh! Yes, you sleeping sometimes? Well, please recognize, you are sleeping normally eight hours each day. This means, one day counts 24 hours, so you normally sleep 8 hours, that's the third part of your life. All days. Hell, that's a lot. Imagine! One third of your life sleeping. And what does this mean? What are you doing, working all that time (one third of your life)? Be honest: NOTHING, you are doing NOTHING whilst you sleep. Why? Because your „I“ which you need for acting and working is turned off. The third part of your life: and your „I“ is gone. Now look at his: nature, doing this with us, is nature a fool, the biggest fool ever? Or, on the contrary, are WE the fools not thinking about it, not understanding it? Well, I tell you, nature is very clever, much more cleverer than we are. We always learn from nature maybe looking at animals and how they are doing this and that. In consequence we consider: spending one third of our lives in sleep must be of utmost importance, regarding the time (ONE THIRD OF OUR LIFE!). Okay? And, by the way, to emphasize this, if you would not sleep, within a few days you MUST DIE! Okay, you see the importance of sleep? I hope so.

Why do we sleep so much? If you are sick or ill, the doctor tells you, „best thing you can do is sleep, sleeping a lot of time, and you will be healthy and sound again“. This is true. So, you see, whilst you sleep there is a power working within you which is healing you. But, of course, it IS NOT YOUR „I“, because, sleeping, your „I“ is gone. We call this power within us, working for us, the personal subconscious (as even Russell mentioned above).

Okay, another point. You are a business man. You have problems. For instance with your competitors. What do you do? I tell you, what is best? Go into bed, have your sleep, and in the morning, awaking, the problems are solved or gone. Who did this? Your „I“? No, never. Whilst sleeping, I repeat, your I is gone. Your subconscious made this, working within you – and extracting informations from the outside world. So you, rising from bed, feel well and safe again.

You say, I'm getting tired, so I must sleep. Well, dear friend, this is WRONG! Correct is, like for instance German esoteric author Rudolf Steiner said, you must sleep to enter „another“ world, therefore you get tired. So it's quite the contrary, okay? You do not sleep „because“ you get tired, but you MUST sleep and therefore the feeling of getting tired arrives with you. Okay? Steiner says we must sleep to charge the accumulator within us.

Well, there is power within us, this power dwindles, and we sleep, and the accumulator or the battery are being charged again. So we rise from sleep vigorously, powerfully. Without sleep the accumulator or battery run down.

Others say, there is a Fountain of Youth out of which we scoop. Okay, you see, we are nearing the solution of this undisputed, but so important question.

Let's have a look at people who have saved the old knowledge and not forgotten it (like we have). The Huichol are a small isolated Indian tribe in the Sierra Madre, in Mexico. What do they say in this respect? They tell us: you are sleeping, your soul goes to God, and will be charged there. God for them is energy, power of life. And, of course, this is true.

You getting out of bed, having slept 8 hours (one third of your whole day), and you are dynamic, full of energy. Yes, you are! And the question hereby is: where does this NEW energy come from? From yourself? No, impossible! Else you need not sleep. This energy stems from elsewhere, and to name this fountain God is very adequate.

Others remark the same, their way, naturally. German author „Novalis“ says: „To solve the mysteries, look into yourself!“

And, they say, if God is your guest at night, than other information can be handed over, too. For instance way of dreams. Revelations of luck and bad luck to come, says Vergilius. Or Lactantius (250/260 – 317) truthfully claims, dreaming we are taught about things to come. And so many people pronounce this way, for instance passengers of the doomed ship „Titanic“, dreaming of the catastrophe, therefore not being willing to board that vessel – saving their lives this way. And so, many more: in dreams God speaks.

Well, again this question: is nature a total fool, robbing us of one third of our lifetime? Or is the contrary correct? So, we must see a lot of contents in dreams (that is healing, spying out competitors, even reading disastrous future, and much more). Of course, nature is superior. And therefore we must detect in our sleep a lot of importance. And, sincerely, what do we do in this respect? We never think about it. Even, in the morning, rising and having „solved“ a problem, we don't care the way how this problem was solved. By us? By our „I“? Please, don't laugh! Not by our poor „I“, but by an authority much bigger and more important than our poor „I“.

Well, last point. Have you ever thought about the fact that we are kind of an iceberg? Our „I“ is being seen at the surface, that is ten percent of the whole iceberg, but the SUBCONSCIOUS rest, that is 90 %, is floating down below in the water, normally never being considered. Or if considered, then in a negative poor way like Sigmund Freud did. He never understood that our personal subconscious (as part of God) is within us, our best friend and helper, always guiding and helping us.

One third of our lives wasted, whilst sleeping? No, no, no! On the contrary. It is our biggest present that God is in us, and on our side, not only at night, but all day over. But at night, when the turbulent noise of the day has ceased, he helps us and „talks“ to us.

Well, please think this over. Who is the fool? Nature or us, dismissing this point?

Kind regards,
Gerd

[Lots of interesting stuff in your LOC that perhaps you should develop further into essays for future publication]

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Congrats on issue 20 Charles!

I'd like to comment on Bill Burns' comment regarding the Fanzine Hugo and related fan awards.

Until SF Signal (now defunct website - is and shall be missed) took home the first "Fanzine Hugo", following the rules expansion to include electronic media/websites, there seemed, at least from an online & hotel lobby discussion point of view, a desire to keep the Fanzine award restricted to "Fanzines" (be they print, electronic, or both).

I have to confess that, if supplies were readily available, I'd probably be putting out some kind of stenciled and twill tone thing every few months, just for the sheer joy of exercising those skills - physical layout, inking, cranking, collating - accidentally stapling page 2 to page 7....

I write that also by way of illustrating that there are some things associated with Fanzine publishing that have not, for better or worse, crossed over to the electronic divide. Not for websites NOR for fanzines.

There are skills that are the equivalent of some of those activities - Pagemaker doesn't need 3Mspraymount or an xacto blade, but it does replicate the layout function. I suppose one can say that pressing the upload button is somehow the equivalent of cranking, collating and stapling....

At the time that the rules were changed to include "any media", I thought it was a good thing...but I also thought that within traditional fandom, fanzines would be able to hold their own against websites. I'd originally thought that a separate category for online work would be more appropriate, but was willing to accept the compromise.

I now see that the above was incorrect.

In the past, the semi prozine category was created to open the Fanzine category back up for "Fanzines" (how many years was Locus the perpetual winner?).

Perhaps it is time to do that once again. Though, considering the amount of award category creep there has been over the past several years, I expect it would require a good, solid effort for several years.

I'd like to see Hugo Awards going to fannish pursuits in the fannish categories, and I think that at this time websites have sufficiently separated themselves to be considered their own thing. Given how little reference there is online to fanzines,

I also think it is pretty clear that there are two separate audiences - one for "fanzines" and one for online fanac.

Steve Davidson
Amazing Stories

[Quite a bit of food for thought for future changes to the way that the fandom Hugo Awards need to be conducted in. Also, fiction fanzines and semi-prozines have never gotten their due from the fandom Hugo Awards. Given how the prozines have become largely irrelevant, that needs to change.]

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Hello,

I appreciate the shout out in your magazine, thanks for the signal boost. However a slight correction: "even though he was invited in 2018" -- I am not and have not ever been invited for 2018 by BayCon. This got spread on internet sites that I was "going to be invited in 2018" (of which there's no evidence) but it didn't happen. In the interest of accuracy, probably best to remove that.

I have a new novella out month Gravity Of The Game. Be sure to check it out.

Thank you!

Jon Del Arroz
The Leading Hispanic Voice In Science Fiction

[Once something is published on a fanzine that is posted here at E-Fanzines, it's basically etched in stone as there is no way to change or remove it. Due to the fact that you have been assiduously stoking all the controversy that you can, you can be rest assured that you will be covered in future issues of this fanzine. Whether you will be any happier about it is another matter. In any event it is interesting to see that you have an interest in fanzines since so many of the other members of your particular faction have shown little if any interest in fanzines.]