

# OPUNTIA

## 55.3

ISSN 1183-2703

October 2004

**OPUNTIA** is published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. It is available for \$3 cash for a one-time sample copy, trade for your zine, or letter of comment. Americans: please don't send cheques for small amounts to Canada as the bank fee to cash them is usually more than the amount. US\$ banknotes are acceptable in Canada at par value; what we gain on the exchange rate we lose on the higher postage rate to USA. Do not send mint USA stamps as they are not valid for postage outside USA and I don't collect them.

Whole-numbered OPUNTIA's are sercon, x.1 issues are reviewzines, x.2 issues are indexes, x.3 issues are apazines, and x.5 issues are perzines.

### WHAT IS FAPA?

This issue is for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. (Details from Robert Lichtman, Box 30, Glen Ellen, California 95442) For those of you receiving this issue who do not know what an apa is, please read on.

Modern zine publishing as we know it today began in the middle 1800s as cheap, home-use printing presses became available to the general public. Zinesters developed a distro method called the amateur press association (apa) where members sent x number of copies of their zine to a central mailer (also known as the official editor). The zines are collated into bundles, and each member gets back one bundle of everyone's zines. There is an annual fee to cover postage. Apas have a minimum level of activity required, such as publishing 8 pages a year. It must be emphasized that apas are not for passive subscribers; you must commit to the minimum activity level or you will be booted out. FAPA has been going for more than 65 years; the oldest still-existing apa is the National A.P.A., founded 1876.

x.3 OPUNTIA's are for FAPA. In addition to articles, there will be mailing comments on other apazines in the last FAPA bundle. I usually quote the remark I am commenting on, so hopefully an outsider can still read the comments with interest.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[Editor's remarks in square brackets]

FROM: Sue Jones

Flat 5, 32/33 Castle Street

Shrewsbury SY1 2BQ, England

[Re: 1901 New Zealand postcard with secret message] I can't say I have fully solved it, because I think it is inherently unsolvable. You were stumped because you expected consistency and a single solution. I got a few bits, decided it was the work of a boy amusing his cousin, or some such, and continued from there. Barney [the sender of the postcard] simply used the first and last letters of each word. It is not a true cipher or code; it can only be guessed from context. He's not entirely consistent either, even allowing for his bad handwriting. I read this:

*Dear N-e (Nellie at a guess) Please don't read the blue writing  
I didn't do that only the red  
I love red ink don't you  
Nice and warm looking. I put in  
one of (?the(se) ?Secret? B-b) It said  
(Blue? B-g(scribble)) If you do  
not understand this bring it  
to Aunty and say (well I can find  
the find?) out for you. Love to all from* Barney

You don't mention the colour of the inks, and you don't tell us what is on the other side of the card. These things could help unravel the last bits of the message, but I do have enough to get the general idea. -2-

[I'm impressed. I didn't mention the colour of the ink or the scene on the other side of the postcard because I didn't think it was relevant. You correctly guessed the message was written in red ink. No blue ink, all the writing is in red. The scene on the reverse of the postcard is an unnamed seashore, presumably from somewhere in New Zealand. I suspected the message was some type of speed writing, and you have demonstrated it is. Well done! All knowledge is indeed contained in zinedom. The postcard is shown on page 5.]

FROM: Robert Lichtman

Box 30

Glen Ellen, California 95442

2004-06-17

I appreciated your front-page plug for FAPA. For the wider audience of your fanzine, mailings are quarterly, dues are US\$12 per year, zines can be in any format (except Really Big unless the producer wishes to pay for the cost of special packaging and distribution), and minimum activity is eight pages a year.

[Re: my statement] "*The oldest apa is the National A.P.A., which was also the first apa, founded 1876.*" The middle portion of that is not true. The first national organization to succeed was NAPA, but there were regional apas formed early in the 1870s. One of them was called NAPA, but was not the same organization and had died by 1874. When the present NAPA was formed it was conceived of as an umbrella organization to encompass all the local, state, and regional groups already in existence. I commend to attention Truman J. Spencer's wonderful HISTORY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM, published in 1957 in an edition of 500 hardcover copies by The Fossils.

FROM: Lloyd Penney  
1706 - 24 Eva Road  
Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 2B2

2004-08-11

Tell me more about your index of Canadian zines. Is this available in some kind of zine format, or could you e-mail me the file, or is this a work in progress? I remember some years ago that Michael Hall and Taral Wayne were working on a similar project, but as do many fannish projects, the novelty gave way to the drudgery of having to maintain it, and it was forgotten.

[My project is an actual subject index. Most so-called zine indexes are only checklists of titles published and editors, without indexing the contents themselves. I index my Canadian zines on six WordPerfect 8 files, each of which averages about 300 kilobytes or about 60 pages of 8-point text between them. I send occasional updates to the National Library of Canada, although I had trouble convincing their Legal Deposit Office that it was a finding aid, not a periodical, and is a work-in-progress. A sample of the index is shown on page 4.]

**I ALSO HEARD FROM:** Owen Thomas, E.B. Frohvet, Jose Roberto Sechi, Chester Cuthbert, Terry Jeeves, Kris Mininger, Ficus, Ned Brooks

**TECHIES PLEASE ADVISE:** Something I've noticed since I bought my computer in 1998 is that every month or so I have to re-set the clock and move it back a few minutes to keep the correct time. Is it the electrical frequency making it run fast or what?

**FAPA CLEARCUT AWARD** (for most pages published in a mailing) goes to Robert Sabella for 99 pages in FAPA #268.

**FAPA #268** received in Calgary on September 3.

**-3-**

Apas, general

, Australia

, Canada, general

, Canadapa

, Casperapa

, Maritimes

, Quill

, Toronto

, conventions

, death of

, distribution of

, history

, mailing comments

, Edith Minitier

, rubber stamp

, SCAPA

, USA, Fantasy A.P.A., general

, Clearcut Award

, Spectator Amateur Press Society

NEOLOGY V6#1:6

OPUNTIA 23:4 24:4 24.1:9 26.1:15-16 29.1:12 37.1:8 41.1C:4-5 41.1D:3

OPUNTIA 47.1A:4

ZERO-G LAVATORY 3:23-24

CANADIAN FANDOM 10:12

BCSFAZINE 345:1-2

BRIC-A-BRAC V1#2:3-4

OPUNTIA 19:11-16 21:2-4 22:5-6 24.1:9 26.1:16 27:3-5

THE MAPLE LEAF RAG 7:7 8:1,3 9:6

NEOLOGY V9#6:13

NEW CANADIAN FANDOM 7:3-4

MLR 2:2

MLR 3:4

THE MAPLE LEAF RAG 7:3 8:1

NEW CANADIAN FANDOM 7:4

MLR 2:4

OPUNTIA 38:10

BCSFAZINE 346:5

SANSEVIERIA 28:11 38:11

OPUNTIA 35:6

OPUNTIA 28:7-15 29:5-7 42:3

SANSEVIERIA 31:6-7

TORUS 3:11-14 4:26

OPUNTIA 42:3

OPUNTIA 50.1A:2-3

OPUNTIA 35:3 44.1B:12-13

NEOLOGY V9#1:5-6

CANADIAN FANDOM 31:10-13,15-16

DINOSAUR SPIT 3:3-4

see under Awards, Clearcut, FAPA

DINOSAUR SPIT 1:1,5 3:3-4

Handwritten notes in various languages, including "Postkarte", "Carte postale", and "Union postale universelle".

Postkarte — Carte postale

Weltpostverein — Union postale universelle

Korespondenckarte — Dopisnice — Dopisnica — Karta Korespondenzy

Levelező-Lap — Korespondenčni listek — Briefkaart — Cartolina Postale

Brefkort — Tarjeta Postal — Postcard

Почтовая карта  
ПОЧТОВОЕ ПИСЬМО



Handwritten address in Cyrillic script, including "D. n. P. R. y. B. e. h." and "D. a. d. o. t. t. o. y. y. e. p. a."

Miss M. Swears

The Park

Manurewa

Handwritten numbers and symbols: "y z o o n y o"

Small vertical text: "Carte 315"

**Visions Of Paradise #99** Re: your dislike of fiction set in today's world because you read to get away from it. I agree, saving that I don't mind some types of humourous fiction, such as Robertson Davies. For many decades, modern fiction has been grinding out stories about drug addicts spiraling into self-destruction or wimpy aesthetes who agonize about what career to chose. *Hard SF isn't so bad if the author was smart enough not to be specific about the equipment.* I recall reading a cyberpunk story set in 2050 in which the plugged-in character downloaded a gigantic, stupendous database. The author made the mistake of telling the reader that the file was a full 2 megabytes. *Some things are better left unsaid.*

Re: your comment on historical fiction "*And repetition tends to drain the sense of wonder.*" Fantasy and alternative history are mostly read by people who want wish fulfillment, not a sense of wonder. The story they want to read is the young farm boy/girl who discovers he/she is the rightful heir to the throne, goes on a quest for the Sacred Knickknack of Qwerty, and defeats the all-powerful usurper to become the new Fuhrer, pardon me, King. No one ever daydreams about establishing a democratic republic where someone else is elected President.

I find the best sense of wonder today is' -6-  
*in science fact, particularly palaeobiology, astronomy, and computers.* In palaeobiology, the current frontier is China, where astounding discoveries are being made now that the country can support sufficient palaeontologists and field expeditions.

Re: Steve Carper's rant against two SF authors writing bad novels from laziness or carelessness. No new thing; Robert Heinlein was just as bad (all his middle-aged male heros had no trouble attracting harems of sexy women interested in threesomes).

You mentioned your mother was having problems with swollen ankles. This may be a sign of congestive heart disease; my mother had the same thing. The weak heart can't get the blood back up the hill. Don't let the doctor brush it off.

**Ben's Beat #77** Re: the Creating Very Old People seminar. I note their advertisement quotes average life expectancy in 1900 as 49.2 years and in 2000 as 76.9 years, therefore after 2100 it could be 120 years. My understanding of life expectancy is that it is increasing because fewer people are dying young, not because people are living longer. The child mortality rate has declined over the last century, so once people make it past adolescence, they can expect a century or so if they look after themselves.

I had a good laugh in reading the programme of this event. Morning registration includes a continental breakfast, to be followed by a talk on caloric restriction as an aid to longevity!

The scenarios on what would happen if people lived to 120 to 140 years of age points up the problem that is now arising of people outliving their retirement income and becoming a burden to their descendants. As some of the scenarios postulate, many would not bother taking the medications that could let them live longer if they are not convinced they would have a good quality of life.

In Canada, the retirement age recently became a subject of discussion in federal politics. The law currently prohibits compulsory retirement on the basis of age, although most Canadians are happy enough to grab their pensions and run. (Including me; I'm eligible for a full pension in February 2011 when I will be only 55.) Prime Minister Paul Martin is one of those who opposes any restrictions on retirement, officially because Canada will still need workers to fund pensions and therefore people must work longer. Unofficially, the reason is that after a lifetime of politics, Martin was finally elected party leader when he was 65 and intends to keep going for another decade. What some commentators have pointed out is that because Canadians now wait until their 30s to have children, they must therefore work longer to pay off the mortgage or university education.

Re: your mailing comments. Please put the correct spelling of my name in your spellchecker. Thanks.

**Snickersnee VOy#vey** Congratulations on being named by the SFWA as a Grandmaster. Flowers are for the living and all that.

Re: your query about northern opuntias. Yes, they do grow in Canada. *Opuntia polyacantha* and *O. fragilis* are native to the Palliser Triangle area of the prairies, the Red Deer River badlands, and the arid interior of British Columbia. *O. fragilis* is also the northernmost naturally growing cactus in the world, being found in the Peace River valley of extreme northeastern Alberta. Interestingly, opuntias (other species) are also the southernmost species of cacti as well; several other species grow in Patagonia.

“ ... *some of the prickly things up north of the border cheerfully sitting out there all winter long enjoying the snow.*” They don't sit out there; they dehydrate and shrink into the ground to survive the winter. The other native cactus of western Canada, the pincushion *Coryphantha vivipara*, also shrivels up and hibernates below ground. Cacti are adapted not to deserts, as most people think, but to habitats where there is a moisture deficit caused by evaporation greater than precipitation. What this means is that cacti can tolerate heavy rain as long as the moisture is quickly evaporated, but rot away where there is high humidity or no drainage.

**Visions Of Paradise #100 (Part 1)** Re: Lord of the Rings. You mentioned you did not get past the first half of the book but “*I guess I should read them someday or watch the movies instead.*” Why? Life is too short to read books solely from a sense of obligation. I’ve never gotten past the first few pages of the LotR and never will, since those who have read it have no virtue beyond those who have not. Neither will I ever see the movies.

Re: your joke set in Calgary about the dumb blonde moving her car every time snow routes are declared. Next time you tell this joke, change the city to Edmonton (200 km north of Calgary). Edmonton has snow routes but Calgary does not. In fact, Calgary does not plough residential streets, only freeways, bus routes, and steep hills. Calgary doesn’t get much accumulated snowfall because we are in the chinook zone of the Rockies. Chinooks are hot winds that come down out of the mountains and sublimate all the snow into the air. I am not exaggerating by much when I say that the official City of Calgary snow removal policy is to kneel down facing to the west and pray for a chinook. The record snowfall since I moved here in 1978 was 43 cm a couple of years ago, which is laughable to those in eastern North America, where southern Ontario and the American seaboard get one or two metres at a time. Edmonton gets lots of snow because it is too far from the Rockies to get a chinook. The reason I moved to Calgary after graduating from university in Edmonton was that I couldn’t bear the thought of spending another winter there.

**Ouroborus #12** Re: moving house. Your move -8-  
confirmed my practice of never using moving companies. I bought my current house in 1982 and even if I do move, I’ll rent a cube truck rather than trust lowlife movers. When our mother died in 2002 in Red Deer (140 km north of Calgary), my brother and I never even considered a moving company. We emptied out the house on our own, even though it took three months of commuting. Mom was a palaeontologist and had a basement full of fossils, which are now in my basement.

Re: the contractor blowing himself up because he didn’t purge a fuel line of rocket fuel. This is like the welders who do spot welding on fuel tanks without filling them with water or ventilating with fans. Natural selection in action.

Re: the paranoid hospital staff who wanted to track down the cat that bit you for fear of rabies. Don’t be too harsh on them. They were probably required to make the effort under law, as I know medics in Canada certainly are. Rabies is not a pleasant disease. My father was a farm animal veterinarian in rural central Alberta and had to deal with the occasional rabies case. His description of a rabid farm dog biting through a truck tire and then taking two shotgun blasts at close range before it finally fell shook me when I was a young lad. Dad wanted to impress upon me never to be curious about a foaming animal, whether dog or skunk, and to run away as fast as possible.



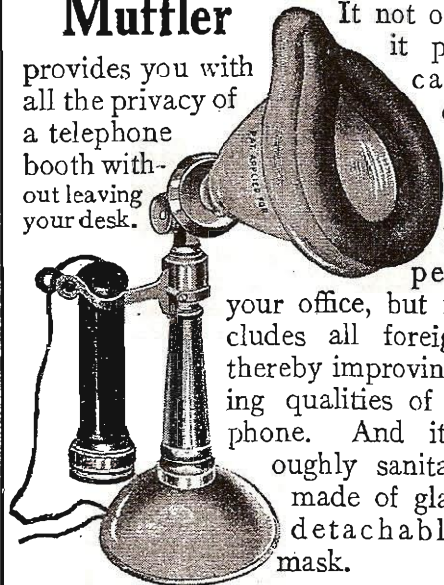
**Lofgeornost #76** Re: your trip report on Finland and Russia. My mother's family was Finnish, so I read your account with great interest. Most of her family came to Canada before WW1, but one branch was chased out by the War of Continuation during WW2. They always told people they were from "the wrong side of Karelia", meaning the area annexed by Russia. The older members of the family, including my mother and her oldest brother (but not her two younger siblings, who don't know Suomalais) toasted the memory of Karelia every March 16th, which is St. Urho's Day, a major event among the Finnish immigrants where I grew up. None of this St. Patrick's day stuff the following day; Irish need not apply.

**All other zines** Read but couldn't think of any comments.

**About those ads:** The 1890s and pre-WW1 years saw a revolution in office procedure as new and exciting inventions made their way into the business world. The telephone, the typewriter, duplicating machines, and filing cabinets were every bit as exciting then as laptops and cellphones are now. The high-technology ads in this issue of OPUNTIA come from the June 1910 issue of SYSTEM, which was the WIRED of its time.

## The Rochester Telephone Muffler

provides you with all the privacy of a telephone booth without leaving your desk.



It not only makes it possible to carry on a conversation without being overheard by other persons in your office, but it also excludes all foreign sound, thereby improving the talking qualities of your telephone. And it is thoroughly sanitary, being made of glass with a detachable rubber mask.

If you desire privacy in the many matters transacted over your telephone, ask about the Rochester Telephone Muffler at your stationer's or write to us for one.

Price, \$5.00, C. O. D.

**Rochester Telephone Muffler Co.,**  
Wilder Building, Rochester, N. Y.

## A VIGNETTE OF NORTH STAR, ALBERTA

by Dale Speirs

### A Homesteader's Life In His Own Words.

Among family papers I have inherited is a small envelope and enclosed letter that was mailed from North Star, Alberta, to my grandfather Harvey Speirs in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. North Star is way up in the forested boondocks of northeastern Alberta in the Peace River district, and Shaunavon is in the treeless boondocks of southwestern Saskatchewan. The letter is dated February 8, 1939, but the North Star postmark is February 16, indicative of how far from the post office the homesteader who sent it was. There is no return address, and the sender only signs his name Lawrence, so I can only assume this was a childhood friend of Harvey who had gone north to homestead. At this time my grandfather was a middle-aged dairy farmer with six kids, and it appears that Lawrence was about the same age. The letter reads as follows. My interpolations are in square brackets.

*"Our thermometer says it is 42 below today so I thought it would be a good time to do some writing. My fountain pen is frozen up so have to use a pencil. We have had a pretty fine winter until the last few days when this cold spell came. We don't do much but carry wood and keep the fire burning. Today we have to melt snow for the cattle as it is too cold to take them back to the creek*

*half a mile away. We have two cows and two calves and the horse and a flock of chickens. We are milking only one cow now."*

-10-

*"I made a one-horse sleigh to haul wood on and hauled in enough wood for the winter with one pony. Then I did some work picking roots off breaking [land], in the fall for the men who have a sawing outfit and they did our sawing. They charge a dollar an hour for the outfit and you have to supply the help. As a rule it needs five men, so the neighbours change work with each other. It took about three hours to saw our wood. Last winter I did all the sawing by hand but life is too short for that. I would rather go back to the prairie and burn lignite."*

[This suggests that Lawrence was from the Shaunavon area, as my grandfather once told me how they burned the local lignite coal because it was fifty miles to the nearest source of firewood in the Cypress Hills. Saskatchewan lignite is only one step up from peat and is a very smoky fuel. Grandfather hated lignite because its smoke got everywhere in the house. My father told me how he and his brothers would take a wagon out to an exposure and load it with a month's supply of lignite.]

*"There is a new store three miles south of here and there is going to be a post office across the road from it. It will be a lot handier for us. I don't know what the name of the post office will be yet."*

[The North Star post office was opened in 1929, so this was not the one that Lawrence was writing about. Since it took him eight days to get his letter to the post office, his homestead must have been some distance away from North Star. Lawrence then takes a full page on local church affairs, such as him feuding with not one but two preachers over the correct interpretation of prophecies in the Book of Daniel! He mentions the two preachers used schoolrooms at Simpson and Woodburn schools, each a few miles from Lawrence's homestead but in opposite directions.]

*"The man who owns the farm where we lived last year wants \$1000 for it. Half cash and the rest on time. As this letter is getting long I guess it is time to close.*

*P.S. I weigh 160 pounds now. My Sunday pants will not meet around me so I have to wear overalls to church. My wife thinks I should chop more wood."*

### **North Star And Area.**

According to the postal archives [1], the North Star post office was opened 1929-11-07. The first postmaster, Oscar Monrad, was gone before the end of the month. There was a brief gap over the winter, then John Eggenberger was postmaster from 1930-03-26 until 1934-01-19. There is another gap, and the next postmaster listed is Helen Simcoe, from 1949-04-19 to 1970-07-31.

I was unable to locate any post office near North Star that opened in 1939, and I wonder if the one that Lawrence mentions turned out to be a false start. The Robinson checklist of Alberta post offices [2] shows the towns near North Star did not have any date that matched 1939.

I also checked the Alberta government index of schools [3] but did not find any current schools named Simpson or Woodburn. The location of Lawrence's homestead is still a mystery.

The North Star post office closed 1991-07-30, and the area is now serviced via the Manning post office (personal communication from Manning postmaster, 2004-09-14).

### **References.**

1] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2004-09-08) Post offices and postmasters. ARCHIVIA NET, [www.collectionscanada.ca](http://www.collectionscanada.ca)

2] Robinson, William G. (1985) POST OFFICES OF ALBERTA. Privately printed by the author.

3] Learning Alberta (downloaded 2004-09-08) untitled pdf document. [www.alberta.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alberta.gov.ab.ca)

Miele, A., T. Wang, and S. Mancuso (2004) **Fundamental issues of orbital transfers for Mars missions.** ACTA ASTRONAUTICA 55:79-94

A detailed study of energy and mass requirements for Mars missions. The conclusion is that manned spacecraft cannot get to Mars and return with existing technology due to mass and velocity requirements. Manned missions will have to await further improvements in spacecraft. The authors recommend that robot probes continue to be used. Robots can reach Mars on low fuel consumption but at a cost of time, several years to reach Mars, but the problem is that humans must have a faster transit time. They also have more mass to move than robots because of life support systems, food supply, and shuttle craft to land on Mars and return.

Speirs: Mars fanatics often babble about using off-the-shelf technology to get to Mars, but this study shows we need far better technology than presently exists. This study concentrates on orbital dynamics, but the recent crash of the Genesis satellite, not to mention all the missing robot probes at Mars, indicates that reliability in technology still has a long way to go. I think the only way for manned spacecraft to get to Mars is as a fleet of several spacecraft accompanied by robot freighters.

**Mercury's capture into the 3/2 spin-orbit resonance as a result of its chaotic dynamics.** NATURE 429:848-850

*"Mercury is locked into a 3/2 spin-orbit resonance where it rotates three times on its axis for every two orbits around the sun. The stability of this equilibrium state is well established, but our understanding of how this state initially arose remains unsatisfactory. Unless one uses an unrealistic tidal model with constant torques (which cannot account for the observed damping of the libration of the planet) the computed probability of capture into 3/2 resonance is very low (about 7 per cent). This led to the proposal that core-mantle friction may have increased the capture probability, but such a process requires very specific values of the core viscosity. Here we show that the chaotic evolution of Mercury's orbit can drive its eccentricity beyond 0.325 during the planet's history, which very efficiently leads to its capture into the 3/2 resonance. In our numerical integrations of 1,000 orbits of Mercury over 4 gigayears, capture into the 3/2 spin-orbit resonant state was the most probable final outcome of the planet's evolution, occurring 55.4 per cent of the time."*

Marufi, L.T. (2004) **The 2003 North American electrical blackout: An accidental experiment in atmospheric chemistry.** GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS 31:L13106

Observations after the blackout of eastern North America in August 2003 showed that 24 hours after the blackout began there was a 90% reduction in atmospheric sulphur dioxide, 50% reduction in ozone and 70% decline in airborne dust, relative to areas outside the blackout zone. Visual range increased by 40 km. The area affected was several hundred kilometres downwind of the downed power plants.

Ekdahl, E.J., et al (2004) **Prehistorical record of cultural eutrophication from Crawford Lake, Canada.** GEOLOGY 32:745-748

Iroquois lived by this Ontario lake from AD 1268 to 1486, and farmed along the shores. Their pollution triggered permanent changes in the lake ecosystem due to elevated nutrient input which caused deoxygenation of the lake bottom and algal blooms. After they abandoned the lake, there was no recovery. In 1867, the first European settlers arrived and triggered a second bout of eutrophication, this in the days before pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Speirs: There is a myth that aboriginal peoples lived in harmony with nature. It is well known that 50,000 years ago there was a mass die-off of large mammal species in the Americas and Australia which is correlated with the spread of humans into those continents. This study is one of many showing that North American lakes were permanently altered from pollution by aboriginal settlements.

Gauci, V., et al (2004) **Sulfur pollution suppression of the wetland methane source in the 20th and 21st centuries.** PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USA 101:12583-12587

Natural wetlands are the largest source of methane, a greenhouse gas. This study showed that sulphur pollution has suppressed 8% to 15% of methane that would otherwise be generated.

Speirs: This suggests we should be building sour gas extraction plants upwind of swamps, and allowing industries to pump out more sulphur dioxide. Sour gas is natural gas (methane) contaminated by hydrogen sulphide (extremely poisonous). The latter is extracted and converted to sulphur for use as fertilizer. Alberta, the centre of Canada's petroleum industry, has much of its gas as sour gas, which is why we are also a major sulphur exporter.

Smith, Graeme (2004-09-22) **Bloggers learn lesson: Don't trash your boss.** GLOBE AND MAIL, pages A1,A8

Penny Cholmondeley was a tourism marketing officer with Nunavut Tourism in the capital of Iqaluit. On her personal blog site, she had photos of junk dumped out on the tundra. She did not mention her connection with Nunavut Tourism when she commented on the garbage piles, but she was fired anyway. She is now living in Victoria, British Columbia.

Speirs: This is something that will happen more frequently to bloggers, discussion group users, and e-zine publishers, as bosses learn to use Google to check what people are saying about them. That's one advantage of the Papernet; no one can find your zine with a random search.

Anonymous (1909 July) **A coin-in-the-slot typewriter.** SYSTEM 16(1):111-112

A pay station typewriter is described which had a coin slot and time clock with mechanism that released the typewriter mechanism. A dime allowed 30 minutes use, after which the clock dropped down the lock. Used in New York City hotels.

## TO TELL THE TRUTH

-14-

I stop in at a bagel shop in northwest Calgary often enough that the shopgirl recognizes me and knows my regular order. I guess the familiarity gave her courage to ask me "Has anyone ever told you that you look like Rip Torn?". I was rather shocked. Of all the people in the world, he would not be an obvious comparison to me in my mind. I'm realistic enough to know that women will not think of me as another Brad Pitt, but Rip Torn? At an SF convention about 15 years ago, someone remarked that I looked like the SF author Terry Carr, which I was prepared to concede because we both had goatees.

But Rip Torn? I enjoy his movies; he is a reliable character actor. I saw him in such recent films as MOOSEPORT and DODGEBALL. Would it follow that Rip Torn also looks like Terry Carr? I must be getting old, but I'm only 48.

On the next page is a photograph which I hope will photocopy reasonably well. The man shown is:

- a) Dale Speirs
- b) Rip Torn
- c) Terry Carr

Answers on a postcard to the editor.



# Did You Read This In Your Newspaper?

Patented  
in United  
States and  
Abroad



Statistics show that  
180,000 died from Tu-  
berculosis in the United  
States last year."

There is a  
great move-  
ment now on foot  
for the prevention of this dread  
disease. You can both help  
this movement and profit  
by it, by distributing

## Saniphone Telephone Discs

bearing your advertise-  
ment, — among your  
prospective customers.  
Every man to whom

you offer one of these discs will gladly accept and use it, for the Saniphone is a little antiseptic shield that keeps the mouthpiece of a telephone clean, free from dust, free from germs, without interfering in the least with the use of the phone. And it keeps your advertisement always before him—he reads it, every time he turns to his telephone—a hundred times a day. Write today for free sample Saniphone Disc and prices on quantities—printing free.  
**For Your Own Phones.** Saniphones are put up in packages of 8 at 10c per package—12 packages (96 discs) for \$1.00. Send now for enough discs for your own office use.

**THE HYGIENIC TELEPHONE DISC CO.**

239-241 So. Front Street,

Philadelphia, Pa.

SEEN IN THE NEWSPAPER

-16-

One of my co-workers was recently in the market for a new car and spotted the following item in the CALGARY HERALD classifieds, 2004-08-04, page E8.

## Sport & High Performance Cars

# 794

"Either that Cobra goes or I go"  
(says wife)!!

For Sale: '97 SVT Cobra OR  
40-something spouse, both  
head-turners in exc. cond. Co-  
bra has 5 speeds, wife has 2.  
One has 305 horses, the other a  
little dog. Both items look great  
in red dress with black leather  
access. Both have great senti-  
mental value, but can only keep  
one...must sell! Open to reas.  
offers (on car only - decided to  
keep wife). 279-3991 to view.

142151