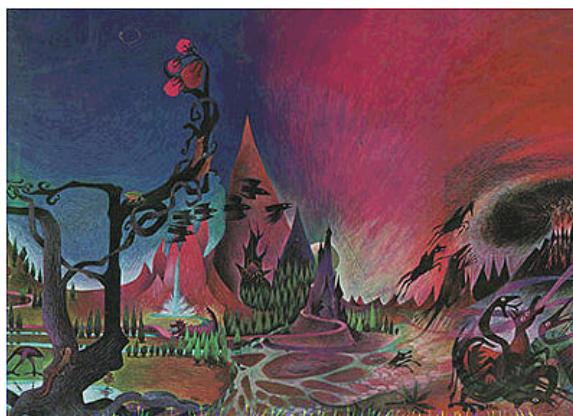


# **No Time, No Energy & Not Much To Say #9**

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(Please Put "No Time" in the  
header so I don't delete.)  
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## **This Issue's Editorial:**

### **Tolkien and A Thirty Mile Walk**



This issue is late I'm afraid (well "late" in my mind at least). What have I been doing with my "spare" time if I'm not pubbing? Walking! That's the simple answer, the longer answer is exercising, more exercising and yet more exercising. Not that I'm claiming any virtue here (shades of Bill Bennett), it's all under doctors orders.

Like most science fiction fans the vast majority of my exercising over the last

thirty or forty years has been typing, thinking, conventions, thinking of conventions, and thinking about thinking of what I need to write to make whatever current deadline I'm about to miss. None of which is overly healthy, to say the least. Stressful maybe, healthy? (Not!)

Of course you would see this zine more often (I suppose)...but I would rather not spend **all** my spare time at the computer.

No, that's not true...I probably would like to spend all my spare time at a computer...the problem would be that my time remaining wouldn't be long enough to amount to anything.

I've had a few physical jobs, 12 years and over 10,000 service plumbing jobs certainly helped keep me alive and outside of some eye damage (splashing draino in my eyes twice didn't do anything for my vision)....but then other jobs, PR work, running Democratic headquarters, have mainly required a rump of iron. Even running campaign walking programs were fairly short term and required more supervising than walking the campaign packs myself. I've often volunteered to do precinct walking for one Democratic candidate or another, but that's short term, a day or two of sidewalk pounding.

Which explains why I fit right in at any SF convention I might be attending. Overweight, balding, bearded and wearing a black T-shirt (overly stuffed). The "perfect" male SF fan.

There are exceptions to the above stereotypes (once in awhile another color than black, even a fan in good physical shape), but too often we display our sedentary lifestyles. Which is fine if you're healthy and young, not

so fine for aging babyboomers. And, it's certainly true, not fine for this fanned.

So, after years of prodding by different doctors, several long stays in the hospital, and more health "adventures" than I'm willing to go into here (see past issues for gory details if you're truly interested), I've set off on yet another fine adventure. And that adventure? Walking! Walking to help my heart, to try lowering my blood pressure, and lose weight.

Interesting enough once I worked myself up to a reasonable walking regimen I discovered I rather enjoy it. Well, maybe "enjoy" might be too strong a term, but I don't have to be dragged out of the house to do it, and in its own way it's rather, strangely enough, relaxing.

I started by pounding out a few blocks, out and back...after a week up to a half mile, out and back, and currently (after about three weeks) a circle around the upper part of Claremont, about 2.5 miles. After I've had my morning tea, checked a few e-mail messages, I set off.

To keep myself amused I listen to audio tapes. The first one being the Mind's Eye version (12 hours) of *The Lord of the Rings*. (Which, even having read it three or four times before is still enchanting and entertaining enough to enjoy listening.) While it's an edited version (not nearly as badly as the movie) they did a fine job. As it was broken up into 24 segments it's been perfect for walking allowing me to pace myself out. As I'm generally still walking by the time the hour is up it still allows me a little introspective thinking time in silence.

I also walk in the evening, but generally not as far and in silence.

As the LoTR's had 24 segments I managed a little over a mile a segment (about 1.2 per half an hour, but then half the distance is uphill). Thanks to Tolkien thirty plus miles completed. The bonus being able to listen to that fantasy classic once again (I'm not a fantasy fan but that is the exception).

Has it been healthy? I suppose so, I have lost some weight, I'm feeling better, and I'm certainly seeing a lot of Claremont I would have missed otherwise. Today I discovered two metal worked dinosaurs in a front yard a mile or so above my house. I'll have to ask the owner about them sometime.

My belief that money and taste are too often mutually antagonistic has been reinforced. Old Claremont is lovely, New Claremont (money) has been mentally burned into my brain as tasteless, ugly, overbuilt mansions. I'm seeing a lot of those being built a mile or two above our house. Someone out there sure loves Overbuilt Ugly. Is there some hidden sexual message involved in adding huge pillars in front of an otherwise fairly ordinary tacky largish house? English renaissance was never the high point in world architecture.

And why am I writing this? Besides filling space and being able to paste in a nice jpeg file from the pb edition of the LofTR? Hmm, by putting it into print it forces me (at least a little more) to continue. All the pressure I can apply is to the good, this sitting at the computer is too addicting for my own good.

Another advantage to walking? I don't eat breakfast until I get back from my walk, and boy does it taste good by

that time. And anything that adds taste to my usual salt free, low fat, breakfast is all for the good.

After Tolkien I listened to James Lee Burke's *Cadillac Jukebox*. These are Southern mysteries starring Detective Dave Robicheaux read by Will Patton (of The Agency fame) . I listened to forty-five minutes, one side, per day. Burke is a hell of a author, atmospheric and quirky. Extremely colorful, Robicheaux is a Cajun cop just outside The Big Sleazy. The book is stocked with colorful personalities, Mookie Zerrang, Mingo Bloomberg, Jerry Joe Plumb, among many. Wonderfully read by Will Patten the tape sucked me right in. I was looking forward to walking the next day so I could listen to another chapter.

A little mind gaming here, but after fifty-five years I should know what pushes my buttons.

I won't do a spoiler here on the novel...there's murder, racism, and a tight finally polished, colorful, storyline. And a skillfully written mystery plot, these days that's fairly unusual in any genre.

This was suggested to me by Lady Jane and jb (John Welsh).... I "owe" them one for suggesting this.

I'm half way through *A Prayer for the Dying* by Jack Higgins currently. Good but so far not quite as interesting as the Burke. We'll see...

Further reports about my walking later...**keep me honest folks.**

I ran out of room (and time) in this issue for several articles I had planned on publishing. A funny piece by Mark Weber next issue, I promise.

-dK

## **Washington Post's Style Invitational**

Each year the Washington Post's Style Invitational asks readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing only one letter and supply a new definition.

Here are the 2002 winners:

**Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

**Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

**Foreploy:** Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.

**Giraffiti:** Vandalism painted very, very high.

**Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

**Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

**Hipatitis:** Terminal coolness.

**Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit).

**Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.

**Glibido:** All talk and no action.

**Dopeer Effect:** The tendency of stupid

ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

And, the winner of the Washington Post's Style Invitational:

**Ignoramus:** A person who's both stupid and an asshole.

## What Can I Say? How Can I Say It? Goodbye My Friend!

A lot of hard work went into writing the obit on Harry Warner Jr. that follows. Harry's "fan" existence wasn't something he talked about with his "mundane" friends and fellow workers it seems. The reporter needed to dig a little deeper than usual, and that he did. I found it quite interesting.

It would be safe to say that Harry liked to keep his hobby private, certainly a worry because of how long he'd been in fandom...I know it's hard to comprehend but at one time we didn't enjoy the stellar rep we now bask in. (Hah) That Silly Buck Roger's Crap wasn't always the term of endearment it is now.

Also you walked a proud and lonely path to be a SF fan. You didn't give out copies of your zines to everyone you knew. You kept your hobby to yourself and maybe a few select friends. (Sometimes. **Me?** I've *always* had a big mouth so everyone within mouth reach knew what my "way of life" was.)

Lonely in the regular world but there was always enough friendship to be found inside of fandom to make up for that. Those friends you could talk to without worrying about what you're saying, truly and freely expressing yourself. An author such as Harry

could make almost any topic interesting, and Harry was truly gifted with words. That's what made his zines and LoCs such a joy to receive.

In his lifetime of writing there must be his lifetime story. Hopefully it'll be done one day by a fellow & complete the circle of his three books (all fan history, '40's, 50's and fanzines.)

Damn. I find it hard to talk about Harry's death. Like most faneds I knew him from his LoCs more than anything else. Of course his later histories amused and delighted me. I am, after all, a fairly diehard fan history buff. Our universe must truly be one of the most fascinating, warped, gathering/tribe/fellowships of semi/advanced/and?/humans on this globe. I know I damn well have enjoyed every minute I've spent around here (well, maybe not the minutes, and now that I think about it some of the hours sucked, but the years sure were interesting).

Harry? Sigh. Harry was a cornerstone of my fan universe (as he was for so many fans). His LoCs were my touchstone, never harsh, sometimes (in my case certainly) extremely forgiving. He expanded all of our pleasure in pubbing. His LoCs were probably the only things that the world of SF zines had in common. From sercon to faaanish, from four page apazines to 120 page genzines, somewhere within there would, more often than not, be a LoC from Harry.

I sent him my genzines, *Astron*, *GR*, *Nimrod's*, *Nonstop Fun Is Hard on the Heart*, and back came those wonderful two page LoCs of his. I sent him my apazines like *Death and the BNF*, *House of Games*, and all too many more. Published for APA L, or APA45, or InterAPA, N'APA, TAPS, ValAPA, and so

many others...envelopes stuffed with them...and back came the LoCs. Chatty, funny, insightful, tasteful, delightful.

More than forty years ago I published my first genzine and for this entire time I've been sending him my zines. Way too many some years, a small handful other years. Then hearing back from him. That truly meant a lot to me. Harry truly meant a lot to me. And that was only one of the areas we touched...he was a hell of a fanned himself, a fine author\*, an insightful historian, a hell of a correspondent. And now he's gone. And the saddest thing of all is that I cannot do justice to his life, even those small parts I was connect to, in these comments.

Others who knew him better than I will be doing his obits. I expect that *Locus* will cover his life in depth. Me, I just don't have the words to do him justice. Damn, Harry would have, and everything would have been made clear in just a couple of pages.

\* There will a unpublished article from Harry in the next issue of my paper genzine, *Nonstop Fun Is Hard on The Heart*.

dK

## Concerning Harry Warner Jr's Life & Times

Hagerstown Herald-Mail  
Monday March 31, 2003

Harry Warner's parallel  
universe  
By ARNOLD S. PLATOU

Herald-Mail newsman Harry Warner spent 40 years reporting on our community, but it was not until he died last month at age 80 that his significance to an entirely different world came to light.

Warner had told few local people, if anyone, that for most of his life his fascination with science fiction and science fiction fans had led him to write volumes of magazine articles and books on the subject, and that he was known to thousands of sci-fi aficionados throughout the world.

Warner "has been one of the primary founders and mainstays of the science fiction field since the 1930s," said Charles N. Brown, editor and publisher of Locus, the nation's primary trade magazine for science fiction and fantasy publishing. "His contributions have been enormous and his two books, 'All Our Yesterdays' and 'A Wealth of Fable,' are the standard historical chronology of science fiction fandom.

His tireless correspondence and feedback over the last 65 years have been amazing. He will be missed," Brown said.

Harry Warner, born in 1922 in Chambersburg, Pa., started working at The Herald-Mail Co. in Hagerstown on May 17, 1943, as a reporter. He covered several governmental agencies and the farming community, and he wrote obituaries and general news.

During World War II, he translated letters from Dutch and German families who wrote parents of American soldiers they'd met overseas. Warner had taught himself seven foreign languages - an accomplishment all the more amazing because health problems had forced

him to drop out of Hagerstown High School by the 10th grade.

As a youngster, he grew to love the emerging world of science fiction. "Harry was like a number of other teenagers in the 1930s," said Joe Siclari, a New York teacher who chronicles science fiction history as a publisher and through his Web site, fanac.org. "A lot of these youngsters were very interested in our future and looked at science fiction as a way to speculate and see possibilities," Siclari said.

In 1938, before his 16th birthday, Warner began writing and, using an old mimeograph machine, publishing Spaceways, a magazine for science fiction fans. In its four years of publication, Spaceways became "one of the most important fanzines of its period and had articles from some of the most important names in the field," Siclari said. Less than a year after launching Spaceways, Warner began producing Horizons, a personal opinion fanzine - a word meaning fan magazines in science fiction circles.

"Race relations, dangers of the atomic bomb, the speculation about whether atomic power could be used for good - there were discussions in Horizons about many, many of these things," Siclari said.

Like Spaceways, Horizons had only small circulation at first, reaching a few friends in addition to the 75 copies Warner circulated through the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Warner continued to write Horizons every three months until he died, and it is still being published, Siclari said.

In 1969, Warner's first book, "All Our Yesterdays," was published in hardcover. It was an informal history of

science fiction fandom (essentially, conventions, publications and other activities involving fans) during the 1940s. It was reprinted in 1971 in both hardcover and paperback editions.

In all, about 4,000 copies were printed, Siclari said. Warner's second book, "A Wealth of Fable," which covers fandom in the 1950s, first appeared as a three-volume mimeographed edition in the late 1970s. Siclari, who was the publisher, was working with Warner on an illustrated edition that's to come out soon.

Warner also wrote science fiction stories, but most fans knew him for the "interesting and extensive" letters of comment he wrote to fanzines throughout the world, Siclari said. "It was a fan maxim that your fanzine was not complete without a letter from Harry Warner, Jr."

For his work, Warner won several top science fiction awards, said Tim Pratt, an editor at Locus headquarters in Oakland, Calif. In addition to a Locus award for best fan writer in 1971, Warner was nominated repeatedly for the World Science Fiction Society's Hugo awards - "one of the biggest awards in science fiction given annually by fans," Pratt said.

Warner won the Hugo in 1969 and 1972 as a fan writer, and a third time in 1993 for Best Non-Fiction Book, "A Wealth of Fable," which had been published in hardcover in 1992.

In 1995, he won a First Fandom award, a lifetime achievement honor for service to science fiction.

Until he retired in 1983, Warner continued working at The Herald-Mail, seldom, if ever, mentioning these achievements.

Longtime Women's section editor Gloria Dahlhamer, who started on The Morning Herald in 1947 and retired in 1991, said she was surprised when she learned from her brother-in-law, a science fiction fan in California, about Warner's fame.

"He never talked about any of that," she said of Warner. Dahlhamer, who lives near Hagerstown, said Warner was accomplished in the newsroom, too. A rapid-fire typist and writer, Warner would take the call from a local weather observer "and be writing the weather story as he took down the information. He was amazing."

She also remembers him having a "really dry sense of humor. Harry was a lot of fun," a quality that often emerged on the one night of the week the boss was away and he was in charge. On those nights, she said, Warner excelled, doing page layouts and writing "some really great headlines."

Like others, Dahlhamer recalled that Warner loved classical music. He played the piano and oboe at home, in the community and in recitals on radio. And so, he became a regular reviewer for the newspaper of local groups' performances.

He also wrote a frequent column that became an authority on local history and happenstance. Topics included the passing of the porch stoop, the coming of neighborhood yard sales, and, 40 years after World War II, the number of primary airplane trainers built at Fairchild's Hagerstown plant that still existed.

So, it followed that Warner became the media representative on the county government's Historical Advisory Committee. For 10 years, he keenly

followed local historical discoveries and events, and promptly wrote about them in the newspaper, said John Frye, who chaired the committee.

For his work, Warner received the county's Historical Preservation Award for 1982. But Warner never told Frye about his other awards in science fiction.

Indeed, after hearing that the newsman might have written a book, Frye recalled, "I had an awful time getting him to admit it, and then getting him to give me a copy."

Now, "All Our Yesterdays" is at the Washington County Free Library as part of the special collection in the Western Maryland Room, where Frye is curator.

"He is the Harry Warner that none of us knew," Frye said. Historian Siclari has a theory to help explain why Warner kept it a mystery. He thinks part of the reason is that back in the early years of science fiction, much of the public equated it to Buck Rogers stuff. But Warner was "into more serious discussions than about Buck Rogers," Siclari said. "So maybe, it was that he never lost that feeling about bias." Regardless, it is remarkable that Warner achieved success in so many areas, and that he bridged them all through writing.

"Always liked writing, monkeying around with words," he wrote in 1962. "You meet a lot of people you'd never know otherwise. It's given me a chance to express my talents."

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**Arnold S. Platou is a copy editor for The Herald-Mail. Starting here in 1970, he knew Warner as a fellow newsman but only a little about his connection to science fiction. Now, he wishes he'd done what journalists are**

**trained to do and spent a lot more time with Warner, asking questions. ©2003 The Herald-Mail Company**

## The Golden Age

by  
Jim Schumacher

OK check this out:

There's been a lot of talk about what a great time the late 60's were for most of us. Now, I've discovered that it wasn't just our youth and the drugs and the rock&roll and the free love. All that great stuff aside, it really was a 'golden age' from that most empirical of all measures: pure economics.

You see, I've been researching the reason things "seem" to cost more, even though if you start making comparisons on individual items, like paperbacks or a gallon of gas, it looks like most things cost pretty much same as they always did, figuring in inflation.

I think I've identified the psychological key -- the DNA of our economic discord, if you will. I found a chart of the value of the minimum wage in "constant dollar" buying power over the last 60 years. It tells a striking story, and I'll describe it below. But, if you want to take a look at it yourself, it can be found at

The story is pretty simple. The chart is an obvious 'mountain' with a steep upslope, a peak, and a steep downslope. Basically, starting in the mid-50's the "buying power" of the hourly wage went up steeply from \$3 to a peak of \$7.50 in 1968. After that, it started dropping and fell almost all the way back down to \$4.50 in 1989. It

crept back to around \$5.00 in the nineties, where it seems stuck.

Essentially, all through the sixties, peaking in 1968, everyone's buying power increased \*every\* year. It didn't matter if you were making the minimum wage or 6 figures -- your dollar was buying more and more every year. During the same period, the post-WWI industrial boom of the 1950's was bearing big time fruit, and modern factories (and cheap resources and energy) were turning out more and more products at ever-lower price points. Plus, international importing was really starting to kick in, and we were seeing the first big waves of low-cost product from overseas.

This was the time most of us entered the economic world of working for a living and buying things with our wages -- and it colored our initial "economic imprint" -- it provided a yardstick by which we have come to measure things as time went on.

And, basically, since our "buying power" has been declining ever since 1968, things \*feel\* like they cost more, simply because our buying power has been shrinking, instead of increasing as it did during our first few years of economic experience. Yes, the paperback book "costs the same as it did 30 years ago" -- but we can afford to buy fewer paperbacks than we once could.

So, let the snotty yuppies and dull-eyed youth of today laugh at our rosy reminiscences of the halcyon days of old -- I have undeniable proof -- it \*really was\* the best of times!

### **(Comments: Barry Gold):**

The problem with that chart is that it measures the buying power of the

"minimum" wage. I use quotes because businesses use various methods to pay people less than the nominal minimum wage (working off the clock, etc.) and because there are various exceptions (tips, agricultural workers, etc.) To know how well off we are, you have to know how we are doing compared to the minimum wage. What multiple of the minimum wage are you making now vs. then? If you're looking for how well off "we the people" are, you need to chart the buying power of the median wage, not the "minimum" wage.

**(Comments: dwain Kaiser):**

The Labor Laws are much, much tougher now than they were in the '60's, and a lot of businesses which were not under the Minimum Wage Act back then are now, plus a number of businesses that didn't have any fringes back then do now (like unemployment, or SSI, when I was being paid min I didn't receive any SSI coverage for example, I was a "hospital" worker, nonprofits weren't covered. That certainly isn't true these days.)

Are tips allowed to be added up to make a min. wage these days? I thought that was made illegal a few years ago?

**(Schumacher: Comments to Barry):**

Barry: Me thinks you missed my main point: Although the chart doesn't make the claim, what it shows, in effect, is the "purchasing power" of the dollar over the years -- any dollar, for any given year. It just happens to be using the hourly minimum wage as the base factor in the calculation.

It could just have easily used the average hourly wage of a new union worker on the Ford assembly line or the average starting pay for a first-year

MBA graduate throughout the same time period -- the chart would have a similar "mountain" profile.

To be sure, the profile would vary in the steepness of the slopes, depending on what average wage one might choose to use in the calculation, but I'll bet you a dollar to a donut hole that the chart would peak in 1968, no matter what. And more importantly, I'm sure whatever wage you used, you would see the same steady increase, year after year, in "purchasing power" throughout the decade of the sixties. That's what I called the psychological key -- that's when we were all 'imprinted' with our initial idea of how things work economically -- during a time when every year, year after year, your dollar bought more than it had the year before.

For the last 30 years, the reverse has been true -- the dollar has been worth less every year (no matter how many of them you made per hour). I maintain \*that\* is the reason we all feel that everything is more expensive, even though an inflation-adjusted, item-by-item comparison seems to indicate otherwise.

-- Sparrow



**Sparrow (Jim Schumacher) and Margaret Schumacher**

**by a canal in  
Strasbourg, France  
during their "grand tour"  
September, 1995**

**National Security Activities  
Authorized by Law  
by  
Jane Gallion**

This'll be of interest to all y'all elder fans who are gobbling all manner of pills & medications typical of the high maintenance decades:

I went to Eckerd's Drug today to fill a few zillion prescriptions, the kind us antique relics live on, & was required to sign a Notice of Privacy Practice agreement.

The first 2 or 3 pages were pretty innocuous; then I reached the one headed "National security and intelligence activities." It stipulates that "we may release PHI about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

This last covers just about \*anything\*, & I'll tell ya, folks, it's enuf to make my skin crawl. If I didn't already have high blood pressure, anxiety attacks, and clinical depression, this'd give me 'em all, plus sales tax. It's scary, it's all in the finest of print, & it gives the system carte blanche to look up pritnear everything about e, along with the stuff they've already got from the Austin Public Library and all the bookstores I frequent.

Is anyone else wondering what next?

**What's Next?  
by  
Jim Schumacher**

Ummm... I think what people are missing is that under the new laws they can and will release your personal consumer information to the various "national security" agencies whether you sign the paper or not.

They're showing you the paper is just a way of officially notifying you of the policy-as-required-by-law and your signature is simply your acknowledgment that you got the notice. If you don't sign, they still get your information. It's not like you get a choice.

Even if there were some attempt written into the law to say "the information provider must have a signed release on file before the information can be provided" that wouldn't stop them. The drug store or whatever is going to go ahead an comply with the request of the authorities and not worry about if they have a signed release on file. If it turns out they don't, and it ever becomes an issue (unlikely), they'll just claim that they had it, but it got lost in the files.

I do find all of this scary -- but as many others have pointed out, virtually all of this information has already been available to the banks and credit card companies (and the bigger retail operations) for a long time. After all, your drug store has always had it, and they are owned by other, larger companies and even if it technically wasn't "allowed" do you honestly believe the corporate types haven't been analyzing this data all along? All in the name of customer service, you understand... just making sure that the

most in-demand products were always on the shelf and such... blah..blah...

So, why is it necessarily more scary that now the government is also going to have this consumer information? I mean, it's only personal-use and personal preference stuff that the government didn't have before. They already had the important stuff, like name, address, age, income, marital status, number of kids, your mortgage information, your religious donations, etc. from your IRS filings and your Social Security records. And for those who cooperated with the census bureau over the years, they had even more

The Post Office always had a right to open and read your mail/packages if they suspected a violation of postal regulations (which meant they could do it anytime they wanted to, since they didn't have to prove a violation, only claim they had reason to suspect one).

So, what does it really matter if the government now knows what heart drugs or allergy medicine you're taking?

The brutal truth is that most aspects of Privacy Rights have been eviscerated since the national security panic of WWII and the Red Menace Scare that followed. The computerization and release of consumer information is just the latest wrinkle on a long dead corpse.

- Sparrow

**Yes & No...**  
**by**  
**dwain Kaiser**

**"And for those who cooperated with the census bureau over the years, they had even more." Jim Schumacher**

I'll have to disagree with the above (from personal experience as both JoAnn and I worked on several stages of the Census). It's one of those urban myths that the Census Bureau is collecting personal information on us and that this information is passed along to other "interested" gov't entities. The "Right" firmly refuses to sign or submit information to the census bureau for just that reason.

As a matter of fact the one piece of information that nobody really cared about during the Census are names. They could have care less. The information they want they truly do want, and it can be a pain getting a twelve page form (the long form) filled out.... It's just data that they're collecting, and it's been done that way for two hundred years.

Of course the information you provide is voluntary and is never checked on. You pick your race, list your salary, how many kids you have, etc. etc. etc. And that is how it is recorded (if it is a home visit, which is only done on those people who do not mail in the forms). Also, and I'm sure this will amaze people, but I honestly believe that the census people do not release, reveal, provide, or otherwise disseminate any personal information that they've collected. Over the last two hundred years this has always been true, otherwise, needless to say, the entire process wouldn't work.

Then, having said that, I have to agree with Jane that we have yet another major violation of the trust between the citizens and the gov't of the U.S. You can't protect our freedoms by destroying our freedom.

(Those of you with whole minds might not like them)



Artwork: Dian Crayne

## A Few Reviews

by

Neal Clark Reynolds

Warning: some plot elements are discussed in this review which could spoil a person's enjoyment of these books...hopefully they won't.



Well, Maxx Barry has drawn on his experience in marketing to write two slapdash cult novels with implausible plots that are full of holes, cardboard comic-strip characters, predictable plot twists and a bit of racism (*SYRUP*'s villain is Japanese). In other words, these are two great books which I quite loved and urge you to read, books to stimulate anyone with half a mind.

Barry had to have had a hilarious time writing these books. While ripping the commercial world of marketing to shreds, he employs a few marketing gimmicks. Of course, there's the deliberate spelling of his first name.

There are the short Robert B. Parker type chapters to keep you thinking you have time to read one more before laying the book down. Of course, there are hooks at the end of each chapter, and one ends in mid-sentence so you have to start the next one to get the punchline.

The characters include inept-but-honest hero Scat, his trusted house mate Sneaky Pete, and self-proclaimed lesbian executive 6 (who our hero falls for within 30 seconds of meeting her).

Scat has a million dollar idea for a new cola which doesn't taste much different than Coke or Pepsi but has a name that will automatically make it the coolest soft drink in the world. He bounces the idea off of Sneaky Pete, takes it to Coca Cola where he and 6 become allies, and discovers that Sneaky Pete's copyrighted the name and has become a high-ranking executive for the cola company.

From then on, he and 6 go through a series of escapades which eventually get them involved in Sneaky Pete's newest pet project, a three hour Coke commercial that people will pay to see. All this is hilariously narrated and I actually became quite involved with the characters, cheering Scat, booing Sneaky Pete, and wondering who's side 6 is on.

All in all, *SYRUP* is one of the greatest reading trips you're likely to take. Of

course, if you're sane you probably won't like it.

*Jennifer Government's* brave new world is largely run by U. S. corporations. The United States has just acquired Australia where most of the story takes place.

Individual's surnames are that of the corporation they work for. The term "hostile takeover" has taken on new meaning, and aggressive marketing campaigns have become truly aggressive.

Lowly employee Hack Nike has just been promoted. Unfortunately, he didn't read the fine print of his new contract which calls for him to shoot ten of the teenagers buying Nike's new \$2,500 shoes so that Nike can proclaim that people will kill to get hold of these new shoes.

Eventually, the police and the National Rifle Association (the two leading employers of hit men) become involved. Jennifer Government (a sharp looking government agent who has a bar code tattoo under her left eye) finds herself pitted against marketing Vice President John Nike and the NRA in this fast & easy reading roller coaster of a satire.

I urge you to read this book before George Clooney and Steve Soderbaugh make a movie out of it, because I don't think there's a chance in the world that the film version will have anywhere near the bite that the book does.

Finally, in the self-serving spirit of the two books, I invite one and all to look up these two books at amazon.com and also amazon.co.uk, read my reviews which are included on those pages, and click **yes** where the "Did you find this review helpful?" question is asked so

that I'll become one of the all-powerful top reviewers at each site.

**Come on Everyone!  
Go and Vote for  
NCR...  
- dK**



**Jack Harness**  
**Photo by Dik Daniels**

"You know the world is going crazy when the best rapper is a white guy, the best golfer is a black guy, the tallest player in the NBA is Chinese, the Swiss hold the America's Cup, France is accusing the US of arrogance, and Germany doesn't want to go to war."

source unknown



## LoCs Today Gone Tomorrow...

### Neal Clark Reynolds:

I read several Marcus Van Heller books, but never came across the *Adam and Eve* one. Ones I especially remember were about the Borgias and about Spartacus. (dK: I believe that was *Roman Orgy*...real hot stuff to the younger, teenage, dK. I'll have to try rereading one of his books, as we say, Real Soon Now. Somewhere in my garage there are several of his novels, sooner or later they'll turn up.

A side note to Earl Kemp: Didn't Greenleaf Classics publish one of his novels? Every had any dealings with him?)

### Fred Meyerriecks:

Scanned through your stuff on efanzines.com. Some nice stuff. Particularly liked your reminiscences of collecting and fulfilling the dream of opening a bookstore (I know, actually several). Also liked the Dubya jokes. Didn't quite get through some of the other articles but will when I get a little

time. Definitely brought back memories of the old days.

Love the prayer! Will need to share it with the missus. I've always been a collector, for as far back as I can remember. First comics, then sci fi, then pulps, the comics again and now (and for the last 25 years or so) vintage paperbacks.

I guess I always looked at them as a potential investment, certainly did when I started collecting the comics the second time around.

There were times when I skipped lunch so I could spend the lunch money on books, particularly when I was first married and working in downtown Brooklyn. Now I just spend what I need to get what I want, though I don't go crazy (at least not often) and spend more than I think a book is worth just to add it to the collection. With eBay I know the book will turn up again and I'll probably get it for less next time. (dK: At the moment eBay is a buyers market for books...I'm afraid the book trade is very underdeveloped at the moment. Looking at it with a dealer's eyes now...for a collector there are still some good deals out there.)

March 26, 2003

Dear dwain:

Man, it's been busy lately ...convention season has descended upon Toronto fandom. Ad Astra was last weekend, FilKONTario is this coming weekend, and Eeriecon in the Buffalo area is two weeks afterwards. All this means there hasn't been much time for responding to fanzines, until now, anyway, so here's some comments on No Time 7.

Death is also funny in Monty Python routines, especially if you are referring to recently deceased parrots... 'e's ceased to be, 'e's gone to join the choir invisible! 'E's fuckin' snuffed it!

Getting up at 5:30 or 6:00 to go to school? I'm up at 5:15 every morning, and I sympathize. Exhaustion is often a problem for me, seeing I keep fairly regular evenings, hitting the mattress at around 11 or so. I could use 7 to 8 hours of sleep, but I rarely get it.

In 1968, I was nine years old. I remember the assassinations of King and Kennedy, and I also remember the excitement of the preparations of the Apollo missions. Anything else that filled my time and thoughts during that time usually consisted of getting schoolwork done, and avoiding getting the shit beaten out of me. I was in grade 5, a year ahead of most, and I was much smaller than the average fiver, and therefore a perfect target for abuse.

Larry Parr is right about a lot of animation writing being done in Canada. Nelvana and Cinar both distribute tons of quality cartoons, and MainFrame, the producers of ReBoot, are trying out new efforts. Yet, costs in Canada are lower, and so's the dollar, so Canada is a sweatshop, much like Korea and Japan, when it comes to supplying animation for the enormous demand.

I understand the frustrations of Larry and Dean McMillan when the field you love changes so much so quickly, you are left behind in your lifetime, and you're made to feel obsolete. My father felt that way when he spent a good part of his lifetime learning to repair televisions, only to have electronics come along, change it all with transistors and integrated circuits, and

put him out of business. I suspect lots of faneds feel the same way with fanzines changing so much, from traditional paper to webzines, e-zines and .pdfs.

Keep them coming, and I'll keep responding. This is where I'm having my fanzinish fun. See you then.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

### **Greetings from Finland:**

My name is Jukka Halme and I'm a thirtysomething SF-fan from Helsinki, Finland and EU. I've been a fan of SF/F from an early age and more or less active in the Finndom from the late 80's.

I've been a writer and an illustrator, reviewer, cover-artist and done lay-out, chaired clubs, panels and meetings, all the usual stuff. Lately I've been writing reviews and articles for Helsinki SF Society's semiprozine Tähtivaeltaja (Star Rover) and Finnish Tolkien Society's Legolas-fanzine.

I have also been an avid fanzinefan for quite some time, but having only recently (well, from 2001 while I was living in Princeton, NJ with my wife for a year) discovered US-fanzines REALLY (I had seen and read some odd copies earlier) I have tried to correct my mistake.

I realised some time ago that I haven't been a very good LoCcer, but I've decided to try to keep trying.

I have been fortunate enough to have received some fanzines via mail, but mostly I've been reading zines from the efanzines.com website. Bill Burns is doing a magnificent job and I'm more than grateful to him for providing such

a fantastic way of reaching many of those almost elusive (to Finland anyway) fanzines that people produce.

I've been following NoX3 from the beginning of it. I have to admit that the early issues held little interest for me, though I enjoyed reading some of the pieces from them. I have especially been fond of your own musings about collecting books and selling them. And of course I have to mention the Rotslers.

The latest ish had some good stuff in it: your grumblings were entertaining but the real meat of the package was the Discussion/Commentary on SF. I'm not an old and established fan, but saw a bit of me in many comments, but luckily also the exact opposite. Interesting small talk as well as poignant opinions.

Now if someone would ask *my* opinion of good, new SF/F-writers, I might be forced to name for ex. Iain M. Banks, William Barton, James P. Blaylock, Lois McMaster Bujold, David Gemmell, Jack McDevitt, Susan R. Matthews, China Miéville, Richard Morgan, Garth Nix, Tim Powers, Alastair Reynolds, Melissa Scott, Sean Stewart and Jeff VanderMeer - and that would just be the beginning. Some of the aforementioned are more or less "important", but they're all very entertaining.

I'll be looking forward to reading NoX3 in the future.

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### **Jim Schumacher:**

**(dK: Concerning Barry Gold's LoC last issue on his article)** I haven't made a formal project of it, but I've kept my eye out. Things \*did\* accelerate a bit in 1967, leading to 1968, and continued on for a bit in 1969, before fading off to 'normal' levels (whatever that is). This was sort of the equivalent of 'pre quake tremors' and 'aftershocks' to '68.

It should be fairly easy to compile timelines for the other years, if one can find a library that still has almanacs (do they still print almanacs?). Perhaps there are almanacs somewhere on the web (although I have not come across any).

Please note, the idea is not just to list 'bad' events, but any event that would be considered fairly major in a 'normal' year. There were a few 'good' things in that 1968 timeline -- and there would have been a lot more if it had included more items that were non-political.

As I mentioned, it wasn't just the political stuff that happened, it was all the stuff that went down in all other areas of human endeavor as well, even geophysical events. As a capper, after thinking it over, I'm fairly certain The Great Spaghetti Incident also took place in late '68.

This talk of reading lists has popped up a question I've been seeking an answer to for a long time.

Mayhaps the *Nonstop* group-memory can answer this one for me: About 10 years ago I read a paperback sf novel whose name and author I cannot for the life of me remember. But I really enjoyed the book and the brain-gap irritates me no end.

The plot was basically plotted the development of civilization by this odd little alien creatures. It took you through several generations, showing how they made discoveries and built their civilization. The catch was, their planet belong to an unstable planetary or star system, and would go through massive geological upheavals fairly frequently (on a geological scale), wrecking their civilization and tossing them back into pre-history. Then they would start over again. The book went though at least two of the build-and-destroy cycles, maybe more. Does this ring a bell with anyone? Title and author, please?

April 15, 2003

### **Lloyd Penney:**

I've given myself a short vacation from letterwriting in order to recharge the creative batteries, and now, I'm ready to dive back in and do the butterfly. Here's some comments on No Time 8...I'm not sure we'll really know what Harry Warner's passing will do to fanzine fandom...too many are quite busy tearing him down online. As always, we tear down the successful amongst us.

The Dune sequels...I read the whole series of Dune novels by Frank Herbert, and quite enjoyed them. For some

reason, though, I really have no burning desire to read the prequel novels. Who knows, if the prequels come in an inexpensive box set...the words "book" and "inexpensive" rarely arrive together. Many of my books were found in used book stores and library sales...maybe I'll get the sequels the same way, eventually...

Jan Stinson may be coming up to Torcon III this year, and I will be looking for her there. How about you, dwain? The Canadian dollar rose to a three-year high of 69.07 cents American today, but it's still a bargain compared to the US dollar.

I read SF, but probably not as much as I used to. I think fanzines have supplanted some of that. I may not read many SF books, but I certainly read about them. I also used to read the books of an upcoming convention GoH, but usually, I've read at least one of their books, and I get by with that.

Great ValSFA conversation, but not much to comment on. I am finishing up the Kim Stanley Robinson Mars series, and plan to tackle the Harry Potter books as soon as I'm done. I still have a packed shelf of books to tackle, and I may see if I still want to read them, or cash them in at a local used book store, and get something different. I am considering liquidating a good portion of my SF collection, so I may get familiar with how to sell this stuff on eBay.

That's all...I am on the job hunt again, and right now, I'm just tired. Take care, and see you next issue.



**The two Terry Romine cartoons are reprinted from:  
The House of the Games #76**

(ValAPA #29, April 7, 1967)  
Editor Dwain Kaiser

Don Fitch:

Jerry asked for suggestions of s-f to read. I'm not at all sure of his tastes & interests in this field, and (like so many long-time fans) I'm not reading much in the genre any more, so various other people's suggestions are interesting to me, also... even though I'm not familiar with many of the names mentioned.

I do second the Bujold commendations, however... except possibly for her most recent (I think) paperback, which is not to everyone's taste (or representative of her others). She really enjoys being a writer, and seems to be playing with how close she can get to other genres while still writing what's undoubtedly science-fiction. (This most recent one is rather like ...ummm... a Regency Novel, with

considerable overtones of a Marx Brothers movie. I'm not a Regency fan, but found it a delightful piece of fun fluff. Not for hard s-f, or adventure, fans, definitely -- but some of her others are (and one is also a really good Mystery.) Mostly, she's complex enough to be interesting, but not so much so as to be difficult to

follow... and I think she has a Really Neat Sense of Humor.

Cherryh also likes to experiment a lot, though with her I suspect it's more a matter of trying to expand her audience. And there seems to be a variation in quality in her books that suggests that she sometimes signs too many contracts -- the hasty writing shows. But the Chanur series is generally good, and she does a chilling job depicting the interaction between a human and a not-all-that-alien culture, with the human ambassador gradually changing and becoming increasingly alien in his outlook, while at the same time the aliens come to seem increasingly human.

One work by a (comparatively) new writer that Jerry might easily like (or possibly detest utterly) is Ken Macleod's *The Cassini Division*. (The three others by him I've read are equally good, but I think not yet released (at least in pb) in the US.) In his youth (not all that many years ago) he was active in some of the British/Scottish Radical Socialist Revolutionary movements. He obviously understands these better than any sane person ought to, and (now) views them with a good perspective and sense of humor. He also understands that such Movements and lots of Conspiracies (on the Right & the Left) are going to be very much the same in a far-future highly cybernetic civilization. They're not the **kind** of sf stories I like, but he does them so well that I read them eagerly.

For more fluff, and a lot of fun, you might try Terry Pratchett's "Disc-world" series. The (25+) titles are a bit uneven, with some being a trifle formulaic, & are fantasy rather than science, but I agree with the critics who

say that Prachett's weird blend of satire, slapstick, eccentric characters, witty philosophy, & social parody make him a good candidate for "Best humorist of the 20th Century". One thing that astonishes me is that his books have consistently been best-sellers in the UK -- it's rare for anything I consider so good to be so popular.

### **Robert Gluckson:**

I just re-read *Time Enough For Love*, after re-reading *Revolt in 2100* and *Methusalah's Children*. Ghod, how could he write such drek (interesting drek, but I used to think the man was the greatest thinker on the planet). Revolt and MC were truly great, and reminded me of how influential they were on me as a teen -- I'm still a word manipulator and verbal creative with insights due to *Revolt*.

My housemate thinks those last Heinlein books were his greatest! @#\$ Anyone else? What worries me, is were his earlier books that bad too, but I was too enraptured by the ideas to see? I don't think so...

Anyway, my question is, he always said he was competing for Beer Money (has everyone read his address to the Annapolis Graduating Class? Extremely valuable insight into being an SF writer. It was anthologized...) So my question (or comment is) **I hope he got rich...** Anyone know?

-Robert Gluckson

## NOTHING IS FUNNIER THAN THE TRUTH.

1. Only in America.....can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

2. Only in America.....are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.

3. Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

4. Only in America.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke.

5. Only in America.....do banks leave both doors open and then chain the pens to the counters.

6. Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.

7. Only in America.....do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

8. Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

9. Only in America.....do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering.

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods:

1. On Sears hairdryer: "Do not use while sleeping". [Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair]

2. On a bag of Fritos: "You could be winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside". [Evidently, the shoplifter special]

3. On a bar of Dial soap: "Directions: Use like regular soap." [And that would be how...?]

4. On some Swanson frozen dinners: "Serving suggestions: Defrost." [But it's \*just\* a suggestion]

5. On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom of box): "Do not turn upside down". [Oops, too late!]

6. On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding: "Product will be hot after heating". [As sure as night follows the day .....

7. On packaging for a Rowenta iron: "Do not iron clothes on body" [But wouldn't this save even more time?]

8. On Boot's Children's Cough Medicine: "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication". [We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.]

9. On Nytol Sleep Aid: "Warning: May cause drowsiness". [One would hope]

10. On most brands of Christmas lights: "For indoor or outdoor use only". [As opposed to what?]

11. On a Japanese food processor: "Not to be used for the other use". [I gotta admit, I'm curious].

12. On Sainsbury's peanuts: "Warning: Contains nuts".

13. On an American Airlines packet of nuts: "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts." [Step 3: Fly Delta]

14. On a child's Superman costume: Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly".

15. On a Swedish chain saw: "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals". [Was there a chance of this happening somewhere?....Good grief!]

**(From the Web)**