

Feline Mewsings

#7

February 2002

Feline Mewsings is a personalzine / newsletter published more or less quarterly by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 29217 Stonecrest Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90275-4936, 310-265-0766, ltutihasi@aol.com, <http://members.aol.com/ltutihasi>. It is distributed through FAPA and to other friends and family. It is available for the usual (a response of any kind, including letters, e-mail, and phone calls of comment; trade; contributions of illos, fiction, or articles; or even money: \$1.50 per issue or \$5 per year). A slightly modified version will be placed on the web shortly after paper publication; please let me know if you prefer just to read the web version. Kattesminte Press #336. ©2002 R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Permission is granted to reprint or forward any part or all of this newsletter provided that it carries the following statement: "Copyright 2002 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Feline Mewsings* #7, <http://members.aol.com/ltutihasi>."

* Editorial / Introduction

Last time, I expressed my intention of adding photographs before putting the previous issue up on the web. I changed my mind and will be redirecting people to elsewhere on my web site where they may see pictures. As of the beginning of February, they have not yet been posted.

I also decided later that rather than run into the problem of not having enough space for photos in future that I would expand my page count. I already pay for two ounces to send it to foreign countries, since I put it in an envelope for them. I will allow myself to have as many as eleven sheets of paper. Since I cut back on the hard copies I'm sending out, it shouldn't be that difficult. Besides, I probably won't have as many as eleven sheets most of the time.

I thought I would change to WordPerfect, but the copy of WordPerfect that I have, the one that was released for free just before it was expected that the product would die, does not have many features I have become accustomed to in Word. I will check sometime to see whether a newer version has those features.

I recently started therapeutic riding lessons. I'm hoping they will help ease me back to more physical activities.

* * *

* Mike

Mike's book, titled *Using the Meade ETX*, was originally scheduled to come out in January. However, we have been given a new date of 15 February. It is an expanded version of the chapter he had in the earlier book, *Astronomy with Small Telescopes*. Both books are published by Springer-Verlag and are available from amazon.com.

Mike also has a new car. He decided back in early summer that he no longer wanted to drive his gas-guzzling luxury car that used premium gas. He wanted to buy a Toyota Prius, which is a hybrid gas-electric car. He ordered one in July and was told it would take three to four months. We just picked it up in mid-January. He sold his old car, an Oldsmobile Aurora, at the beginning of November; because the Toyota dealer told us that his new car would be delivered that month. The buyer had intended to wait until he had his new car, but her car got totalled in early October. Mike used my car to go to work until his new car arrived.

* * *

* Local Activities

OPERA

Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*: We had the opportunity to see Placido Domingo in the lead role at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. For those of you unfamiliar with the story, it is about a soldier who falls in love with a princess and also falls prey to gambling fever. It is rumoured that the grandmother of the princess has the

secret to winning. He becomes so obsessed by his desire to learn the secret that he ignores the princess, who commits suicide. Because he also ignores part of the secret, he loses in gambling as well.

With Placido Domingo in the lead role, the performance was obviously good. The stage was on the simple side, more suggestive than a traditional set. The opera was conducted by Valery Gergiev.

#

Wagner's *Lohengrin*: I believe this was the first time I've seen this opera. I think I've seen his other operas, but somehow I'd missed seeing this one. The story involves sorcery and magic. This opera was conducted by Kent Nagano, our new opera conductor.

Briefly, the story is about a girl, Elsa, who is betrayed by people she trusts. One of them is Ortrud, played by Eva Marton, the only singer whose name I recognized. Elsa is accused of killing her brother. She can defend herself if someone will act as her champion. A young man appears mysteriously in a boat pulled by a swan. He asks, though, that no one ask his name. Prodded by Ortrud and her husband, Elsa starts having doubts about her champion and finally forces him to reveal his identity. He does, but he must leave, and Elsa dies of grief.

The sets for this opera were elaborate but rather more modern than my taste. Still, it was overall an enjoyable performance.

#

Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*: A friend of mine has a small opera company and performed this seasonal favourite in a church basement in Westwood. The story is about a poor woman and her son who put up the three wise men for a night. My friend played the part of the mother. Being in a church basement, the production values were not great, but the performance was still enjoyable. The boy who played Amahl was miked, but everyone else sang in the usual operatic tradition. My one criticism was the make-up used by one of the performers. He was made up for a much bigger venue. I have seen this sort of mistake before with small theatre companies. It was a bit distracting but did not really mar the performance. It still left me in tears at the end.

FIGURE SKATING EVENTS

Hallmark's Salute to Gold: This show featured Kristi Yamaguchi and was taped in October for airing in January. Other featured skaters were Brian Boitano, Todd Eldridge, Midori Ito, Steven Cousins, Irina Slutskaya, Jenni Meno & Todd Sand, and Isabelle Brasseur & Lloyd Eisler. All the performers have won a gold medal at some level or other.

Because it was being taped, routines where mistakes happened were reshot. Both Kristi and Brian, two of the skating world's best performers, found themselves having to redo parts of their routine along with Steven Cousins and Jenni Meno & Todd Sand.

Unfortunately, I didn't write down the date of the telecast and it was not advertised in *TV Guide* or the Sunday TV supplement; so I missed the airing. I had really wanted to see it to find out whether they had used the reshot sequences.

#

U. S. Figure Skating Championships -- Exhibition: The competition was held in Los Angeles this year. After briefly considering buying tickets to all the events, I settled for just seeing the exhibition skating after the competition. I really enjoy that more than I enjoy watching the competitions. The show was excellent. The top winners in all three categories – novice, junior, and senior – skated. In the senior category, the top four in each of men, women, pairs, and dance skated. There were also a couple of synchronized skating routines done by two local clubs. In addition, winners of the Special Olympics also skated. The event lasted a solid two and a half hours or more. A highly edited version was telecast as the Chevy Skating Spectacular on 3 February.

#

Stars on Ice: This is the first year that Scott Hamilton has not been part of the tour. In fact, he was in the audience at the performance we attended in Anaheim. And poor Kurt Browning had an unusual fall right front of Scott's seat! Kurt fell as he was getting into a spin. That's the sort of thing I might do. It was a fluke. Other featured skaters were Tara Lipinski, Kristi Yamaguchi, Katarina Witt, Anjelika Krylova & Oleg Ovsiannikov (ice dancers), Jenni Meno & Todd Sand, Steven Cousins, Denis Petrov, Lucinda Ruh, and Ilia Kulik. Denis's former partner, Elena Bechke has retired from the tour circuit, so Denis did a duet with Kristi Yamaguchi. The general theme this year seemed to be boys vs. girls. There was a telecast of the show back in December, but it only touched on some of the highlights. The telecast was only an hour long with commercials. The performance was almost two and a half hours long. While I enjoyed the entire show, the highlight for me was seeing Lucinda Ruh spin in person. Her spins are awesome.

LIVE THEATRE

Incorruptible: This was a bonus production by Michael Hollinger at the Colony. It is about a French monastery in 1250 A. D. They are poor, so they come up with a scheme to sell bones from their cemetery as relics of saints. Although the play is fiction, it is based on actual events. It was done as a comedy and was quite entertaining.

#

The Notebook of Trigorin: This play by Tennessee Williams presents Chekhov's *The Seagull* from a different perspective. It was presented at Caltech by students, faculty, and others. Many of the actors were from foreign countries, and that proved to be strangely appropriate. It was staged partially outdoors. The first part of the play takes place outside. The disadvantages of that were that it was hard to hear all the dialogue and the day was a bit nippy. When we moved inside, it wasn't much warmer; but at least there was no wind. Without even taking into consideration that it was an amateur production, it was very well done otherwise.

#

Mark Russell – Patriotic Comedy: After an absence of a couple of years, Mark Russell returned to Caltech. This presentation had a patriotic overtone, since it took place after the 11 September tragedy. For readers unfamiliar with his work, it is political satire. This evening, we were joined in the audience by Mort Sahl, who inspired Mark Russell. I used to enjoy Sahl years ago, but then he disappeared, at least from TV. When I discovered Mark Russell, it was like getting Mort Sahl back. I never knew that Sahl had inspired Russell. No wonder I like them both.

#

The Clearing: This play by Helen Edmundson was directed by Robert O'Reilly, who played the Klingon emperor on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. It was a moving story about seventeenth century Ireland. England occupied Ireland and treated the natives as subhuman. No wonder the Irish have such bitter feelings about the English. It was excellently done and left me in tears at the end. After the play, I thanked Mr. O'Reilly for a job well done.

#

Copenhagen: This play is based on an actual meeting between Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg during World War II. Denmark was occupied by the Germans. Before the war, Heisenberg had been a student of Bohr. Heisenberg had the opportunity to go to Copenhagen during the war to attend a conference. As long as he was there, he decided to visit Bohr and his wife at his home. Heisenberg was questioned unrelentingly after the war about this visit. In Germany, Heisenberg was on the team to develop the atomic bomb. Secretly, he hoped to fail. He purposefully neglected to explore some avenues of research. The entire play is a conversation between Bohr and Heisenberg, sometimes joined in by Mrs. Bohr. Bohr was ably played by Len Cariou and Heisenberg by Mark Stratton. When you consider that they did most of the talking and that a lot of the dialogue was about scientific matters, they did an outstanding job. Mrs. Bohr was played by Mariette Hartley, who fortunately did not have to memorize a lot of technical terms. Some of the conversation was repeated over and over from different points of view. When Heisenberg was questioned after the war, his story began to change each time. It is not thought that he was prevaricating. It is the very nature of memory that it becomes fuzzy with time, and sometimes we "remember" things that didn't really happen. We found it very interesting, but a small number of the audience did not and disappeared after the intermission. The sparse set was interesting in that some of the audience members sat on the stage.

#

Shirley Jones: Besides starring in *The Partridge Family*, Shirley Jones appeared in many musicals on stage and in the movies. I have enjoyed her cinematic performances in *Carousel*, *The Music Man*, and *Oklahoma*. When I learned that she would be giving a concert at Caltech, I decided to go. I hadn't even known that she was still performing. As I had been slightly disappointed by the singing of people I'd heard in the movies before, I was prepared for less than a stellar performance. So I was very pleasantly surprised when I heard her sing. She sounds as good now as she ever did. She also looks great. She sang a mixture of show music and Christmas songs, since it was December. Between the songs, she talked about her experiences on Broadway and the movies as well as bits about her family life. She was very entertaining all around. One of her sons was in the audience that evening; he was in town performing in a play. During intermission, a woman moved up to the empty seat beside me. She turned out to be a music reviewer for the Irish press, so we had an interesting conversation. Shirley Jones had a CD to sell at the concert, so I took the opportunity to pick up a copy. After the performance, she offered to autograph it; so I got in line. She was very gracious.

CINEMA

Monsters, Inc.: We hadn't planned on seeing this movie. But we got free passes at the grocery store. It was definitely well worth the price. The premise is that children's nightmares come from a different dimension inhabited by monsters. The screams of children reacting to seeing monsters come out of their closets provide energy for this other dimension. The catch is that the monsters are afraid of children. One day, a child manages to cross the dimensional divide. Two monsters shelter the child and try to return her to her home. The animation is unbelievably good and the story is funny and entertaining. The only thing that marred our enjoyment was a problem in the audio system.

#

Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring: Based on the results of the adaptations made previously, I was afraid to hope for too much; so I was pleasantly surprised. The acting, photography, and direction all exceeded my expectations. Most of the characters looked pretty much the way I saw them in my head when I read the books many years ago. The scenery was not exactly as I had imagined, but it was more than satisfactory. Much of the scenery was beautiful, probably because it was filmed in New Zealand. The only thing that bothered me was that I thought it was way too violent.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Halloween Party: The Niven Halloween party was attended by many people in really neat costumes. I present a few here along with some of Larry's awards.



Alan Frisbie as a World Trade Center tower



Barbara Hamby in a medieval costume



Costume variously interpreted as Eve or woodland sprite



Larry Niven's Hugo Awards



Larry Niven's Nebula Award



Mary Jane Jewell in colonial costume

OTHER

Science Fiction Round Table Discussion: We had less than a week's notice about this event at UCLA. I

received a notice from the Harlan Ellison Record Collection, which I've been a member of since before I moved out West. Most of the attendees appeared to be students. I saw only a few people in the audience that I recognized. I overheard one LASFSian saying that it had not been announced at the club. The person he was talking to said she had received an e-mail from the moderator of the discussion.

We were told that this event was being taped for a DVD of *Dune*, the miniseries. As this has already been released, I presume that a different edition is being prepared. It's also possible that they were talking about a video of *Children of Dune*, which is apparently being developed for the Sci-Fi Channel.



Kurzweil, Cassut, Ellison, Cover, Harrison, Butler

Anyway, the discussion panel consisted of Octavia Butler, John Harrison (who directed the *Dune* miniseries), Arthur Byron Cover (moderator), Harlan Ellison, Michael Cassut, and Ray Kurzweil, who participated via video hook-up. It started with a collage of film clips from well-known science fiction films. Then there was discussion of the influence of science fiction on science and vice versa. Specifically, the fact that many people were inspired to become scientists or engineers by the science fiction they read was discussed. After that, more clips were shown. Clips were shown between the discussion topics. Topics covered included changes we might expect in the next few decades, the pace of progress, the need to be prepared for unexpected developments, mankind's short memory for historical events, and the challenge of changing the nature of humanity. The audience were given the chance to ask questions afterward. There were some very probing points brought up. I'm guessing that some of the attendees had been assigned by their professors to attend this panel discussion. Topics covered by the questions included technology vs. humanity, fear of technology, and the future of science fiction.

The session lasted over two hours. It was very interesting. Some audience shots may be included in the final video. I know I was taped. Maybe we'll get to see me on the DVD.

#

Naples Island Holiday Lights Walk: At the east end of Long Beach is an area called Naples Island. It's not really an island. The area was formed when the harbour was dredged to make it deeper. Developers thought it would be chic to have canals in the area, similar to Venice. The island, therefore, is surrounded by a canal and has other canals crisscrossing it. The original houses were bungalows or summerhouses. Today, the real estate there is quite dear even though the lots are no larger than usual. Most of the homes have been enlarged to cover most of the lots. The homeowners compete during the holidays in decorating their homes. Since we had never been there before, I thought it would be nice to join the Neighborhood Place Project for an evening walk. The walk was conducted by one of the founders of the group. I have been on a number of walks with him before, and he is always very well informed. It took about two and a half hours for a leisurely walk around the island. Below are a few samples of the decorations. This year, some of the houses were decorated with a patriotic theme, and I include one of those.

In the middle of the island is a fountain. As we approached, we saw something that looked a bit like snow. While it was cool that night, it wasn't that cold. As we got nearer, we saw that the water in the fountain was covered with white stuff. It turned out to be detergent foam. Someone must have poured detergent in the fountain!

After our walk, many of us had a late supper at a Greek restaurant. We sat across the table from a man who works on *ER* and had an interesting conversation.



Lights in bay



Santa and reindeer



Mickey and His Friends



Lights and Reflections in Water



Christmas Lights



Teddy Bears



Snowmen



Patriotic Lights

* * *

*** Mailing Comments on FAPA #257:** Note to non-FAPA members: FAPA is an APA of people in science fiction and fantasy fandom. It has a large membership, currently about fifty. There are openings right now. If you are interested in joining, let me know and I can send you the relevant information.

Fantasy Amateur: I e-mailed in my election ballot, but it seems it was not received. I wonder what happened wrong?

Eric Lindsay (For FAPA): When we were away for three weeks for Philcon and related sightseeing and visiting trip, we returned home to three boxes of mail plus packages. The boxes we use are a little smaller than the archival boxes that are available for storing papers. I would say fully half of the mail was catalogues and junk mail. Some of the catalogues fit in the category of junk mail, but others are places that I shop at. It's too much to go through all in one day, so I spread it out over a week. I separate out anything that looks urgent and take care of them first.

Ben Indick (Ben's Beat #64): I very much enjoyed reading "A Life in Pharmacy." I never thought about pharmacy as a profession until I met a pharmacist at a convention in the 1970s. I was attending a librarian's conference, and she was attending a pharmacist's convention. We were both alone, so we had lunch together.

Marty Cantor (The Fish Wrap Gazette): In Britain, the collective plural is used, as opposed to the collective singular. As a confessed anglophile, you should know this. Or were you just being curmudgeonly?

I haven't used the feature yet, but Word now offers the option of connecting text boxes.

Mike tested high in triglycerides, though his cholesterol is normal. His doctor told him to cut back on sugar, namely the Mountain Dew. He has cut back. He tried diet Mountain Dew, but he didn't like it, even when he mixed it with regular Mountain Dew. He also tried Diet Riet, but he didn't like that. I had him try Tropicana Lite, which uses sucralose, and he likes that okay. He also drinks more water than he used to.

If only I lived closer to the LASFS. Then I could also make use of the Gestetner copier there. As we hardly ever make it to club meetings, it's really not feasible for me to do that. The mileage alone would probably negate any savings. Our colour printer is nearly defunct, as it is no longer being manufactured or supported. It was difficult and to get the printer cartridges. I am researching new printers. I was hoping to get one to replace both the laser printer and the colour printer, but this is probably not going to happen.

Dale Speirs (Sansevieria 45): Is there anything you can do for your high blood pressure besides taking drugs, such as changing your diet or doing exercise?

Milt Stevens (Alphabet Soup #32): I found Jean-Claude Van Dam to have a screen personality in *Time Cop*. I liked the movie enough to buy a copy. I also liked Mia Sara in it. I don't think I've seen him in any other

movies.

Are you sure you are a science fiction fan? Liking to exercise is not at all a fannish characteristic.

Harry Warner, Jr. (Horizons, Vol. 63, No. 4): The IEEE 1394 is commonly called firewire. I don't have it and don't miss it. It is almost a necessity for some applications, such as video editing of digital tape. However, not everyone does this. Many peripherals now come with firewire connections, but other types of connections are still used. Most new computers do come with firewire capability.

Which tenors, in your opinion, sound like goats? I never thought any tenor I've heard sounded like a goat. My favourite living tenor is Placido Domingo. I also like Neil Shicoff.

Moi (Feline Mewsings #6): First, I apologize for the many typos that slipped through our proofreading.

I am off thyroid supplements for the time being. My thyroid seems to be doing okay now. I have discovered that I sleep best if I get to bed by 23h30. I will usually wake up naturally about 7h30. If not, my alarm is set for 8h00. I have discovered that if I don't get out of bed by 9h00 at the latest, I have trouble sleeping at night. Recently, I have even had some nights when I do not wake up in the middle of the night.

Danaline McPhail Bryant (The Wizard's Grave #4): I really enjoyed Michael's article about "The Legacy of 2001." He seems to have done quite a bit of research. It was very well written.

Timothy C. Marion (Terminal Eyes #4): I really like the picture on the back cover. I hope I can do art like that on my computer some day. I have decided to learn to do art on the computer. It may make it easier on my hands, which are almost always in some degree of pain these days.

Tom Feller (The Road Warrior): *Third Rock from the Island?* You mean *Third Rock from the Sun*, don't you?

Eric Lindsay (For FAPA): I wish I could make it to your Relaxa.con.

S. J. Green (Slave Girls of FAPA): It certainly is a small world. At a New Year's Day party we go to every year, I bumped into a colleague from my days at Hughes Aircraft, back before 1993. He is not exactly a fan, but he does read some science fiction and has been to a few conventions. He prefers the smaller ones. It seems he met the hosts through friends of his wife.

Hughes Aircraft, of course, no longer exists. Hughes something exists, but I'm not certain of the new name. The company no longer has any relation to aircraft. I think the part that had to do with aircraft is now owned by Boeing.

Robert Michael Sabella (Ride the Lightning): I disagree that you are no good at mailing comments. I think you have some of the best mailing comments in FAPA.

I have found out that some of our toll roads apparently do allow for casual use. However, I have not used any of them.

Ambiance in a restaurant is important to me, though I think ambiance without good food is a waste of money. I never thought that Starbucks had any ambiance. The ones in this area have only a small space inside to consume your purchase. Most of the drinking and eating is done outside, so the restaurant has very little to do with whatever ambiance might be there.

Robert Michael Sabella (Visions of Paradise #89): Congratulations on receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award.

I thought it was standard practice for the contributors to an anthology to proofread their own galleys. When Mike contributed to the astronomy anthology, we received his chapter to look over. I believe he received the galleys from the editor of the book.

Last time I was at the Los Angeles Convention Center, the Pantry Restaurant was a couple of blocks from there. Has it disappeared? It's not a fancy place, but there's nothing wrong with the food.

When you look at the ethnic statistics resulting from the 2000 census, you should keep in mind that some people filled it out in ways you might not think of. I filled mine out the way you probably expect. However, when I asked Mike how he wanted to fill out that part, he asked me to check the "Other" box and write in "American." I have no idea how the census people interpreted that.

I don't think that a good literature course teaches a student a particular interpretation of a work of literature. It should teach how to interpret and prove your point whether or not your interpretation is the same as anyone else's.

Gordon Eklund (Sweet Jane 33): I don't have a comment on your zine, but I wanted to ask you if we could visit you. We are planning to be up your way before the Worldcon in San Jose. You don't list a phone number or an e-mail address. Are you in the book?

Fred Lerner (Lofgeornost #65): I have never had a surgical operation. I have never been in hospital except as a walk-in for lab tests and x-rays or to see a doctor who has an office in a hospital.

Art Widner (YHOS 58): You really got your money's worth at that fundraiser you attended. Back a few years ago, we had a French luncheon organized that was associated with a Regency dance event. I don't remember the exact cost any more, but I think it was in the neighbourhood of \$80. We even provided our own wine. Those chefs that donated to your event weren't making anything off their contributions.

Ken Forman (So You Say): The kind of cinema you were used to patronizing in Vegas would be hard to find even in LA.

Officially, the R in my name doesn't really stand for anything any more. It never really stood for "robot."

So, is the edge of nowhere better than the middle?

I think my cats may have watches, but theirs seem to run fast. They always start pestering me for their dinner about an hour before the time I feed them.

Michael M. Waite (Trial and Air #8): I use turn signals almost every time I change lanes or turn. Worse than forgetting, though, is getting confused and signalling the opposite of my intention.

As far as I know, there was no publication associated with "*The Outer Limits to Roswell: Writing the Fantastic for Television*," at least nothing was said about one.

* * *

*** Letters of Comment (For the uninitiated, these are letters commenting on previous issues of my fanzine [newsletter])**

My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and so forth.

Rita Prince Winston

22 June 2001

Dear Laurraine,

...

On to *Feline Mewsings*, congratulations to Mike on being published.

Tim and I saw *Chicken Run* and loved it and wondered whether the child-people-beings in the audience got the jokes, like henhouse Seventeen. I've only made it to the Autrey Museum twice, both for special shows; one was the Crossroads of Continents – a show of great prestige that had been at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and had nothing to do with cowboys, although it did touch on Russian whalers and Pacific Northwest Native Americans. The logo was that ivory carving of two polar bears who look like they're hugging or couple-dancing but are actually fighting.

Snicker on pro basketball players being stared at by people who don't even know they're celebrities. I think I saw Kareem Abdul Jabbar in Westwood a million years ago (in the 1970s) -- well, a back view of a very tall black man with ABDUL JABBAR written on the back of his warm-up jacket getting into a Rolls Royce as I was entering (I think its name was) Olde Worlde Health Food Restaurant.

Dogs have pack leaders (alphas), and cats have mommies (strong furless two-legged mommies that lick them with hands instead of tongues).

One of the men on my HP e-group (a recent graduate of Oxford University now working at a research institute in Ireland) mentioned on list on Wednesday that he thinks in pictures. He said he had planned out what to say in his head; but when he walked up to the guy and opened his mouth, he sputtered, suddenly realizing that he hadn't planned any words, just pictures of him talking to his friend, pictures of the situation he was talking about, pictures of two possible bad outcomes of that situation, pictures of his friend expressing agreement with his idea to avoid these bad outcomes, then a picture of the good outcome. I find this very strange, because I think almost entirely in words. When I was a child, my mother told me that my father and some of his colleagues (physicists at the Hughes Research Lab in Malibu) "think in math." I couldn't *imagine* what thinking in math could possibly be like, then or now!

Tim and I went to Outdoor Grill, where Gary Louie used to go, for lunch after the DMV rejected me. ...

Then we went home and ordered my birth certificate over the web. Anyone could order my birth certificate and it doesn't have a picture of me, so why is it believed to be ID?

#

Teddy Harvia

4 August 2001

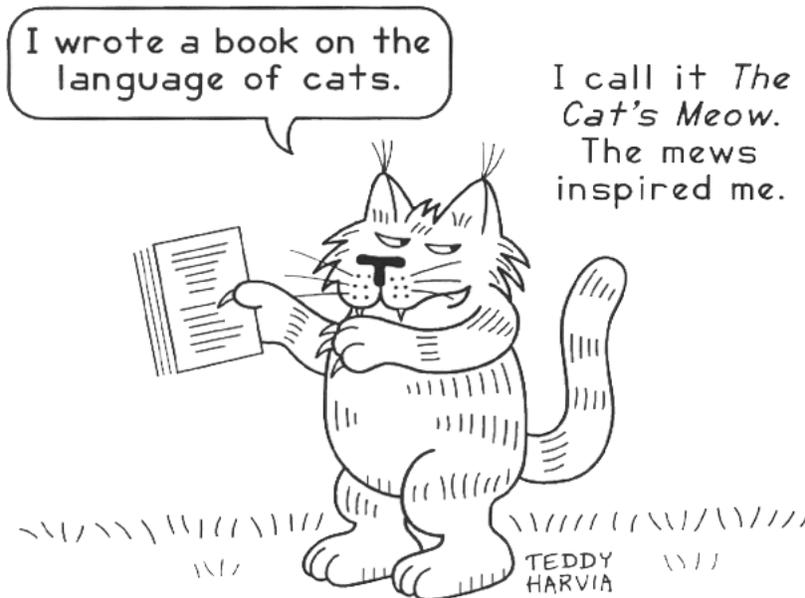
Dear Laurraine –

Enclosed for your consideration is a cartoon inspired by the amusing title of your fanzine. It is at 100% and 80% of the original for your convenience.

Please don't think this submission is a desperate last-minute attempt to stay on your mailing list. I drew the cartoon before I saw the red X in the box on the front page of your fanzine.

Over the last twelve months, I didn't stop drawing cartoons. I just stopped inking them in and sending them off. I have hundreds of ideas sketched out. More mundane things, house and family, have demanded my time.

I've started submitting again; because I need the outlet for my creativity and discovered that if I draw them one at a time, I can work my cartooning into my schedule.



#

Jeanne Mealy, jmealy@t-3.cc

10 August 2001

Hi, Mike and Laurraine.

I just read the 'mewsings #4, which was fun. I'm trying to clean up a lot of old e-mail, so I'll keep this short. Please make note of my new e-mail address. Weird, but that's it.

Marty Cantor tried to send me a trip report of Cathy's visit. Is that his portion that's included in your zine? ((Yes, slightly edited.))

We've been suffering through a heat wave that finally ended. WHEW. When the heat index is 100+ in Minnesota, that's TOO hot.

We won't be in Philadelphia, but we are planning on ConJose. I'm unemployed but still trying to put together a trip for us to Portland and Seattle to visit relatives and friends over Labor Day week. Wish me luck in finding a job I can stand (left the previous one in early July) and getting out to the northwest.

I hope you all are doing well. Our two cats (Callie, for Callahan from Spider's books, and Pixel, John's naming choice) are enjoying the fresh air now that the windows are finally open again.

Oh, I'm using Netscape 2.02, I think and was able to read the PDF version of your zine. The print was faint, though.

Thanks again for keeping in touch.

#

Nate Bucklin, Nathan.A.Bucklin@HealthPartners.Com

19 September 2001

Laurraine,

I just wanted to say Hi, with a general touching of base. I have most certainly read the last couple of fanzines you sent me, but for a variety of complex reasons have been doing a lot less e-mailing in the past six months or so

than in the previous year or so (when I first got e-mail). I hope and expect this will change around and in not too much time. I'm especially tickled that you're including FAPA mailing comments in the zines you mail to people; there are names there I haven't heard from in years, and I am quite tickled to know that they are still fanning! I'm also saddened that you of all people wound up becoming severely depressed, but the general *joie de vivre* implicit in your warm and cordial autobiographical ramblings hints to me that you're going to be getting past that and probably in not too much time! ((I don't remember mentioning any problems with depression. Perhaps you got that impression because I was taking some anti-depressants. I was taking them for sleep problems, not for depression. I stopped taking them, because they dehydrated me too much. I have been coping with my sleep problems in other ways, more or less successfully.))

I don't remember whether or not the last zine or two you sent me had my current address, or if they were forwarded, but it can't hurt me to make sure you have my current address. Please check this against your own files. I am now at: 3240 Fremont Ave. S. #104, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

Louie Trainor and I are still doing fine. She's using Louie Spooner in fandom, but the divorce hearing (which was supposed to be two hours ago, and was in fact held) did not end in a divorce -- even with Kevin and Louie agreeing on all the contents of the papers, the judge found some of them completely unacceptable and sent them back to change a few things. So everybody is feeling a bit cranky and irritable right now, and I'm going to leave work and go home and keep her company. Hang in there, and stay in touch; and note that I've got a mild preference for your snail-mailing me photocopied zines, but e-mail is not hateful to me or I wouldn't sometimes use it. Hang in there, and stay in touch.

#

Tom Feller

20 September 2001

Thanks for sending the zine (FM #5) through FAPA.

I saw *The Cocktail Hour* years ago at Jackson's New Stage Theater. We noticed that as the play progressed, the actors moved farther and farther away from the audience. ((I don't think that happened in the performance we saw.))

I will gladly nominate *A. I.* for the Hugo as well. Anita was disturbed by the scene in which the mother abandons the android. ((I think we were supposed to be disturbed by that scene.))

#

Tom Feller

27 November 2001

Thanks for sending the zine (FM #6) through FAPA.

I elected not to subscribe to the DSL at the Marriott for Millennium Philcon. I was just using my laptop to send and receive personal messages, so I elected to pay the local phone call each time I dialled in. It was cheaper. ((I don't know whether we paid more or less than if we had just dialled in. I think Mike downloaded or uploaded twice a day or more. I usually did it once a day. However, having the DSL allowed us to upload a lot more than would have been feasible at regular modem speeds. At home, Mike uploads quite a bit every day to his telescope site. By the time we got to the con, Mike was more than two weeks late with uploads. He had notified people that he would be travelling and possibly unable to do the regular uploads. I think he took advantage of the DSL to catch up.))

#

Leslie David, ldavid_@hotmail.com

10 January 2002

Hi Laurraine,

Of course the first place I went was to the cats' web page, so I could see what your latest kitty looks like. Shadow is a beautiful kitty. He has such pretty markings and gorgeous green eyes.

For New Years Eve, I invited Shawn, my neighbour across the hall, who is an sf fan who attended the Worldcon, pagan, and computer dweeb. He has a torty kitty named Lightning, because when she looked at him for the first time he knew she was supposed to be his cat. She of course has him wrapped around her little paws. Elizabeth was up visiting me since her ex ... gets the kids from the 26th through New Years Day. Sherry, who has two Persian kitties, also joined us for dinner, champagne, and videos. Most of the time when I have people in, Max [Leslie's cat] gets snippy with them, sort of the way he was with you; you get a Reow and hiss! Well, this time, much to Sherry's surprise, he proceeded to crawl into her lap and go to sleep during one of the movies. Not only that, but during Elizabeth's visit he jumped up on her shoulder like he does to me in the morning when I feed him and put in my contacts.

For some reason, IE does not want to open your file, and I do have Adobe Acrobat installed, so it may be that I need to try it later.

#

Jan Weasner

7 January 2002

Dear Laurraine & Mike,

Have been enjoying your latest publication of *Feline Mewsings* [#5]. That clever title always tickles my funny bone.

My comments are:

So Griffith Observatory is closed for remodelling? That ought to be some re-do. ((The exterior will remain the same, but the interior will be totally redone and expanded, including a cafeteria in the basement.))

A series of star parties for ETX users in Borrego Springs. Sounds like a far out idea. Chuckle. ((The star parties will be in a different location every year. This year's is being planned for the Midwest.))

So Robert O'Reilly, the Klingon emperor on *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, directed *The Cocktail Hour* by A. R. Is that the fate of the various Klingons?

Laurraine, what instrument did you play in your high school orchestra? ((I played the flute.))

In years past, I have also written book and music reviews; so I enjoyed your review of *Machine Dreams* by Joshua Mertz.

Alan Alda is one of my favourite actors, and your review of *QED* by Peter Parnell really interested me.

Did you know that Stanley Kubrick lived in the Seattle area during the latter part of his life? Loved your comment concerning *A. I.: Artificial Intelligence* being a seven-hanky movie. How are you in a position to vote on the Hugo awards? ((All members of the World Science Fiction Convention vote on the Hugos.))

During my lifetime, I also have discovered the advantages of writing the sweetly worded letter of complaint. Happy the Champions on Ice folk made it up to you for your discouragement. I have been a fan of Scott Hamilton over the years. Last I heard, he had overcome his bout with cancer.

Appreciated your comments on the exhibit at the Huntington Library.

The fireworks digital photo turned out really well, considering Mike had to press the button before he was ready to take the picture. Also appreciated the photo of Mount Hood.

Would like to have been a little mouse and enjoyed the skit parodying *In Search Of* with Leonard Nimoy, complete with commercials poking fun at Bill Gates, AOL, Al Gore, and others. That would have been a real "hoot."

If you hadn't identified your newsletter, I would have known who wrote it by your mentioning bottles of Mountain Dew and macadamia nuts. Chuckle, chuckle.

I need you to tell me how to set up my iMac's 2002 calendar, as today (7 January 2002) it reads 27 August 2001. Also, I don't know how to set the clock, which is also way out of whack. Help!!

Glad to hear that you drink water, too. I am also an H₂O user.

As a bookworm, I, too, have felt like tossing a book or two when the plot didn't go according to my expectations. Really appreciated your mailing me a copy of your newsy mewsings.

* * *



Illo by William Rotsler

* Closing Remarks

As you can see, this issue is longer than my zines have been up 'til now. I caught up with everything of a timely nature. I still have plenty of illos and filler materials, in case I need any or have the time to insert them. I am finishing this the night before the day I hope to mail the FAPA copies.

Since I am expanding the zine, I would be open to anyone interested in doing a cover. I could do them myself but doubt I'd find the time.

Next issue should have a report of ConDor, which is at the end of February.