

Feline Newsings

#8

May 2002

Feline Mewsings is a personalzine / newsletter published more or less quarterly by R-Lauraine 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). Kattesmint Press #337. ©2002 R-Lauraine 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-Lauraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Feline Mewsings* #8, <http://members.aol.com/ltutihasi>."

* Editorial / Introduction

In late February, we went down to San Diego for Con-Dor. We missed the last one in 2000 due to a schedule conflict, and there wasn't one last year. The report of our trip is below.

The therapeutic riding isn't going as well as I'd hoped, mostly because too many lessons have been cancelled for various reasons. The weather has been a factor. Other times, it is because there are not enough volunteers. Twice it was because the instructor couldn't make it for one reason or another. I'm thinking I need to do something else, but I don't know what yet.

* * *

* Mike

Due to a miscalculation on the part of the American Springer-Verlag office, copies of his book, *Using the Meade ETX*, were not generally been available in the US until recently. A number of people purchased it by going to the Amazon.uk site. There has been good response to his book, and it will be going into a second printing.

Mike is also working on scheduling a second ETX star party. It is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in October in a state park near Springfield, IL.

It's been almost two years since Paul, the younger of Mike's two older brothers, died. At that time, his widow arranged for people to make charitable donations rather than send flowers. Though two years have passed, donations to Paul's favourite charity are still encouraged. If you are looking for a deserving charity, please consider the following.

The American Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome - AACFS
c/o Harborview Medical Center
325 Ninth Avenue
Box 359780
Seattle, WA 98104
United States of America
URL: <http://www.aacfs.org>
EMAIL: aacfs@aacfs.org
TEL VOICE: (206) 521-1932
TEL FAX: +1 Fax: 206-521-1930

The American Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (AACFS) is a non-profit organization of research scientists, physicians, licensed medical healthcare professionals, and other individuals and institutions interested in promoting the stimulation, coordination, and exchange of ideas for CFS research and patient care as well as periodic reviews of current clinical, research and treatment ideas on CFS for the benefit of CFS patients and others.

Paul suffered numerous years from this illness, and it was probably a factor in his death.

* * *

* Con-Dor

I did my packing the morning of 22 February for our trip down to San Diego. We left the house about 12h30. We had an easy drive, especially because of the GPS navigation system in our Prius, to Del Mar, where the convention was held this year in a small Doubletree hotel. The weather became quite warm on our drive down, but San Diego was cooler.

After we unpacked in our room on the fifth floor, I ate my complementary Doubletree cookie with a cup of tea. Our room was opposite the con suite. Parties were located on this floor. After we had rested a bit, we registered for the con, did some shopping in the dealers room, and did a turn around the art show. The con tables and such were located in the corridors, making them rather narrow. There is a new San Diego convention being planned for fall.

At 17h30, we had dinner in the hotel restaurant. After dinner, I stopped by the con suite for the Whine and Cheez party featuring the guests of honour. I talked to special guest Robert Trebor for a while. He used to act on *Xena and Hercules*. Will Shetterly and Emma Bull were the Guests of Honour. When I saw them, I remembered Emma from Minicon, where she used to do the "Shockwave" show for the opening ceremonies. They now live in LA but don't attend the LASFS meetings, partly because they have Tai Chi lessons that conflict.

The Regency dancing started about 20h00. We got down there about 20h30. The turnout was small but enthusiastic. We stayed there until about 23h00.

After we returned to the fifth floor, we stopped by the LA party for a while. I also stopped by the con suite before retiring.

Saturday morning, I went down to breakfast by myself. Afterward, I looked for Chaz Boston-Baden and spoke to Tadao Tomomatsu. Tadao's parents live in Escondido. Just as I was about the return to the room, Mike came down. We spoke with Ed Green for a while. Tadao is chairing this year's Loscon, and Ed is doing programming.

The first programme items we were interested in started at noon. Mike attended "Early SF TV and Its Influences" with panellists Jeff Berkwits, Jean Graham, Jane Mailander, Lynn Maudlin, and Drew Sanders. I went to "An Hour with the Guests of Honor: Q and A with Emma Bull and Will Shetterly." They talked a lot about the various projects in their past, present, and future. Emma Bull has a book about Tombstone coming up that interests me.



Early SF on TV

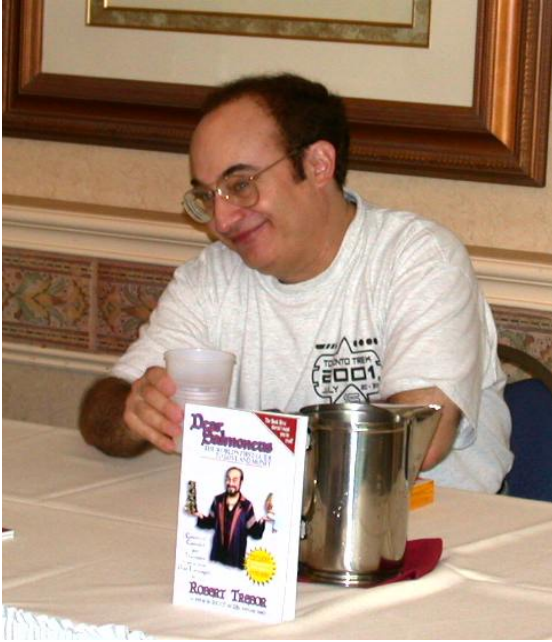


Electronic Publishing

I joined Mike after that for the "Future of Electronic Books" panel with Rick Loomis, Val Ontell, Matthew Pallamary, Vernor Vinge, and William F. Wu. Val, who is a librarian, thought that electronic books would be more successful for non-fiction than fiction. The panellists agreed that the preferences of upcoming generations will determine the success or failure of electronic books. Some young people will not read anything that does not appear on their computer.

Our next programme item was "Meet Salmoneus." Robert Trebor fielded questions from the audience. I must say that he is very entertaining to listen to. Questions varied from his opinion about the recent SAG election brouhaha to his history as an actor. He recently published a book that he was selling at the con. I picked up a copy later.

We took a break before our next programme item, which was a reading by David Brin. This took place in a small room that became too warm. I barely managed to stay awake. He read from several works, including his recently published *The Kiln People*.



Robert Trebor



David Brin

When the hotel restaurant began serving dinner, we went down to eat. I tried the grapefruit martini that had recently been in the news. I had the Caesar salad and Mike had cheeseburger. Robert Trebor sat down at a table adjacent to ours, so I got up to ask him a couple of questions. My suspicions about his name were confirmed; it's not the one he was born with.

After we returned to our room, I took a nap. I didn't manage to get up in time to attend the brief masquerade, though I later found out that it had started late. I did manage to attend all the parties. A couple of them featured very photogenic gimmicks, so I fetched my camera from our room. About 23h00, I began to fade and returned to the room.

On Sunday I went down to breakfast by myself again and returned to our room to pack.



Lauraine with Carolyn Thompson

We checked out about 11h00 and drove to Escondido to visit Carolyn Thompson. Carolyn was married to Don. A few years after his passing, she left Colorado. She lived in the northeast for a year or two and then moved to Southern California. I got slightly confused about her address, but we managed to connect. She had prepared a nice luncheon for us. We talked quite a bit about all sorts of topics. She is keeping quite busy with her grandchildren, who live nearby.

We left her place in mid-afternoon and drove home. We reached home just about 17h00. I managed to unpack and sort the mail before settling down to watch TV. I was so tired that I didn't get anything else done. I just went straight to bed.

* * *

* Local Activities

Theatre

Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me!: The NPR news quiz show taped one of its segments at Caltech. This is a programme I listen to regularly. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys trivia type quiz shows. The programmes are usually based on the previous week's news reported on NPR. If you listen regularly, you have a good chance of being able to answer the questions. The players on the programme include a panel of three, plus listeners who call in, and a celebrity guest. The panellists vary each week. For the show we went to, the panellists were author Roy Blount, Jr., British expatriate Sue Ellicott, and writer Charles Pierce. The host of the programme is Peter Sagal. Carl Kasell keeps score and also records answering machine messages for callers who win. The special guest was Randy Newman. He complained about being nominated for the Oscars many times without winning. I guess he will have to stop complaining now that he won for Best Song this year. It was great to see the faces behind some of the voices I'd been listening to. Peter Sagal was a very entertaining host and the panellists did their share of producing humorous lines.

#

A ... My Name Is Alice: This musical revue was presented as a bonus production at the Colony Theatre. The material was written by twenty-eight different people. It had an all-female cast of five, one of whom played the piano as well as performing a few of the skits. The numbers varied from light to risqué. Some of the numbers were hilarious and others less so. Overall it was enjoyable but not great.

#

Side Show: The Colony's last play of the 2001-2002 season was a musical based on the lives of Siamese twins born in 1908. The Hilton sisters were joined at the hip, buttocks, and the base of their spines. They had considerable flexibility, enabling them to master dance routines. Until 1931, they were kept as virtual slaves. At age twenty-three, they became independent performers. They played in vaudeville for many years and were featured in a film titled *Freaks*. The play covers their vaudeville years. There is a lot of humour in the play, but it ends on a bittersweet note. The Colony company did a great job, as usual, and received a standing ovation at the end.

#

Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute): This Mozart opera is one of my favourites. However, we were informed during the pre-opera lecture that it is actually a singspiel, not technically an opera. This is because there are spoken lines in it. The production we saw, by Sir Peter Hall, was the same as one we saw a few years ago. If my recollection can be relied upon, there were minor changes in the scenery and costumes. The most noticeable change was the use of a lot more colour than before. The entire stage was painted in psychedelic colours with the effect of a bright carpet. The programme noted that there was some use of microphones. I would guess they were used for the three boys, since they don't usually have very strong voices. It wasn't noticeable, though. One of the animal characters had to be guided off the stage by another one. I imagine he couldn't see in the same way that I couldn't really see when I played the part of Roger Rabbit during the Nolacon masquerade. The music, which is the main reason to see an opera, was as wonderful as ever. Sumi Jo, who sang the part of the Queen of the Night, was quite magnificent.

#

Cavalleria Rusticana, I Pagliacci, and the Fireman's Wife: These three operas were presented on one bill by the Intimate Opera Company, which is co-owned by a friend. They were all presented in English. We went to see our friend as Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*. The production was professionally presented with a live orchestra. The set was very nice and traditional, which is the way I prefer. *I Pagliacci* was done with a modern

set, but this did not affect the opera. The man who performed the title role was quite good. *The Fireman's Wife* is a new production still in progress. The music is by Conrad Pope and the lyrics by Clifford J. Tasner. We were given a sampling of it. It is about the 11 September attack on the New York City towers. The title character is the pregnant wife of a fireman who has been sent to the site of the attack to help in the rescue efforts. It was very touching. This was its premiere performance.

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Visitors



Jan and Laurraine

Thousand Oaks. It is a relatively small place into which has been packed six differently-themed gardens. It only opened in December, so many of the plants have not yet matured. It was ideal for us since Jan is unable to do a lot of walking. We also stopped at Oxnard, where Paul and Jan lived in the 1950s. The house they lived in was still there. In Santa Barbara, we toured the mission. Then we had a lovely lunch at a great seafood restaurant. On the drive back, we stopped at the Mission San Buenaventura and Mugu Rock.

Locally, I drove Jan around the Peninsula on three different occasions. Among other things, we stopped to see the Wayfarers Chapel, also known as the Glass Church. The place was designed by Lloyd Wright, Frank Lloyd Wright's son. It is a small place with the outside walls of glass. I understand some celebrities have been married there. We also took her to the two plays described above.

#

Jean Weber: This Australian fanne visited right after Jan went home. This was Jean's last stop before returning home. As she was here only four days, we didn't do a whole lot. She needed to catch up on some writing, and she was somewhat tired after several weeks of travelling. We took her to a LASFS meeting and aftermeeting. On Saturday, Jean and I went to a party. I did take Jean for a drive around the Peninsula and stopped at many of the same places I had taken Jan. We also went for a walk around the neighbourhood.

* * *

* Language

English Is [Tough Stuff], author unknown

Dearest creature in creation,
Study English pronunciation.
I will teach you in my verse
Sounds like corpse, corps, horse, and worse.

I will keep you, Suzy, busy,
Make your head with heat grow dizzy.
Tear in eye, your dress will tear.
So shall I! Oh hear my prayer.

Just compare heart, beard, and heard,
Dies and diet, lord and word,
Sword and sward, retain and Britain.
(Mind the latter, how it's written.)

Now I surely will not plague you
With such words as plaque and ague.
But be careful how you speak:

Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;
Cloven, oven, how and low,
Script, receipt, show, poem, and toe.

Hear me say, devoid of trickery,
Daughter, laughter, and Terpsichore,
Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles,
Exiles, similes, and reviles;
Scholar, vicar, and cigar,
Solar, mica, war, and far;

One, anemone, Balmoral,
Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel;
Gertrude, German, wind, and mind,
Scene, Melpomene, mankind.

Billet does not rhyme with ballet,
Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet.
Blood and flood are not like food,
Nor is mould like should and would.

Viscous, viscount, load, and broad,
Toward, to forward, to reward.
And your pronunciation's OK
When you correctly say croquet,
Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve,
Friend and fiend, alive and live.

Ivy, privy, famous; clamour
And enamour rhyme with hammer.
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,
Doll and roll and some and home.
Stranger does not rhyme with anger,
Neither does devour with clangour.

Souls but foul, haunt but aunt,
Font, front, wont, want, grand, and grant,
Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger,
And then singer, ginger, linger,
Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and gauge,
Marriage, foliage, mirage, and age.

Query does not rhyme with very,
Nor does fury sound like bury.
Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth.
Job, nob, bosom, transom, oath.

Though the differences seem little,
We say actual but victual.
Refer does not rhyme with deafer.
Foeffer does, and zephyr, heifer.

Mint, pint, senate and sedate;
Dull, bull, and George ate late.
Scenic, Arabic, Pacific,
Science, conscience, scientific.

Liberty, library, heave, and heaven,
Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven.
We say hallowed, but allowed,
People, leopard, towed, but vowed.

Mark the differences, moreover,
Between mover, cover, clover;
Leeches, breeches, wise, precise,
Chalice, but police and lice;

Camel, constable, unstable,
Principle, disciple, label.
Petal, panel, and canal,
Wait, surprise, plait, promise, pal.

Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair,
Senator, spectator, mayor.
Tour, but our and succour, four.
Gas, alas, and Arkansas.

Sea, idea, Korea, area,
Psalm, Maria, but malaria.
Youth, south, southern, cleanse, and clean.
Doctrine, turpentine, marine.

Compare alien with Italian,
Dandelion and battalion.
Sally with ally, yea, ye,
Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, and key.

Say aver, but ever, fever,
Neither, leisure, skein, deceiver.
Heron, granary, canary.
Crevice and device and aerie.

Face, but preface, not efface.
Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass.
Large, but target, gin, give, verging,
Ought, out, joust and scour, scouring.

Ear, but earn and wear and tear
Do not rhyme with here but ere.
Seven is right, but so is even,
Hyphen, roughen, nephew Stephen,
Monkey, donkey, Turk, and jerk,
Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and work.

Pronunciation -- think of Psyche!
Is a paling stout and spiky?
Won't it make you lose your wits,
Writing groats and saying grits?

It's a dark abyss or tunnel:
Strewn with stones, stowed, solace, gunwale,
Islington and Isle of Wight,

Housewife, verdict, and indict.

Finally, which rhymes with enough --

Though, through, plough, or dough, or cough?

Hiccough has the sound of cup.

My advice is to give up!!!

* * *

*** Mailing Comments on FAPA #258:** 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.

General comment and opinion poll: I've forgotten now who wrote the Ditto report that mentioned this, but he mentioned the fact that Ditto provided a roommate matching service. In the past, there were cons where I wished such a service existed. I was thinking about providing such a service independent on any cons. A convention could refer people looking for such a service to me through links on its site and mentions in the progress reports. If I did this, would people use it? Would people have an interest? I'd like your input.

Gegenschein 91 (Eric Lindsay): I just wanted to note here that I sent you an e-mail about the "Lost E-mail Addresses."

Alphabet Soup #33 (Milt Stevens): *Crytonomicon* was probably nominated by someone who, like me, thinks it is science fiction. I consider cryptography to be a branch of mathematics and therefore a science. Since it plays a crucial role in the novel, I consider the book to be science fiction.

King Biscuit Time #29 (Robert Lichtman): I sent you e-mail about the FAPA web site.

One mail order company I buy from apparently collected California sales tax. However, I guess whatever agreement they thought they would have to sign onto didn't work out; they sent me a refund for the amount of tax that I had paid. Because of my size and because I am allergic to wool, it's hard enough for me to find clothing I like so that I rarely pay any attention to the sales tax issue. I do pay attention when I buy other things, but it's not the only consideration I make when shopping.

Ben's Beat 65 (Ben Indick): When I was in England, I noticed that people pronounced *iron* as "eye-ron."

Marty Cantor (The Fish Wrap Quarterly): Are you admitting that you've tasted cat turnover?

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The events through me into a funk ... Marty Cantor

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Visions of Paradise #90: Ride the Lightning (Robert Michael Sabella): *Crusade* was a sequel to *Babylon 5*. It told a story that took place a few years after the main storyline of *Babylon 5* when an alien enemy dropped a plague on Earth. *Crusade* was the story of the search for the cure. Unfortunately, the series was dropped. There was a lot of politicking involved. Straczynski made a second attempt at a sequel with *Legend of the Rangers*, which takes place after *Crusade*. Again, circumstances acted against him; and this series did not get picked up. He currently has a series on Showtime called *Jeremiah*, based on a French comic of that name. The wonderful thing about his series is that each one tells a story. Each episode is like a chapter of a book.

I watched one episode of *The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne* and found it silly and juvenile.

I watched *Gormenghast*. I have not read the book, so I can't compare it. I found the mini-series somewhat entertaining but not great. I managed to miss the mini-series *Merlin*. I had a schedule conflict when it was aired. I assumed it would be re-run, but it appears I was wrong.

As you read last time, I had a positive reaction to seeing *Copenhagen*. I heard that it was revised since it ran in London.

Voice of the Habu, Vol. V, No. 1 (Roger S. Wells): Possibly the opt out programme for sales calls is not available everywhere in Washington state. It is available in Federal Way where my sister lives. Anyone not in her database of numbers gets a message warning that the caller must hang up if he is a solicitor or face legal action.

Feline Mewsings #7 (moi): Unfortunately, our local grocery stores have stopped carrying Tropicana Lite juice.

This happens to Mike a lot. You can almost bet that any product he likes will be pulled.

We bought an Epson C80 colour printer. My research indicated that a printer from any other company would cost more and have lower quality results. This printer is a great improvement over our old one. The old printer took anywhere from ten to thirty minutes to print one page with colour. This one spits pages out in less than a minute. And the quality is better.

I've had to get up earlier in the morning to prevent problems getting to sleep at night. Now I'm on less than seven hours of sleep a night, closer to my old habits.

Terminal Eyes 5 (Timothy C. Marion): The *Highlander* character spells his name the standard Scottish way -- MacLeod.

"Baud rate" is a somewhat outdated phrase that is equivalent to modem speed. Anyway, it is the speed of transmission for electronic communication.

You've probably noticed by now that Eric Lindsay isn't the only FAPAn that occasionally responds by e-mail. A response is a response is a response.

The following table shows my current TV viewing habits. In addition, I watch the *Nightly Business Report* on PBS on weekdays when I'm otherwise unoccupied. The shows in parens are ones I watch only when I'm not busy doing other things, such as watching other shows. Other shows I will tape if I'm not able to watch. I am taping *Jeremiah* to keep. Other readers, please keep in mind that most weeks not all the series have new episodes. I don't watch repeats unless I have managed to miss the first go-round. Some weeks there are no or very few new episodes. In addition, I watch the occasional movie and many skating and equestrian, but not racing, events. In addition, I watch selected documentaries about certain topics that interest me, such as penguins, Hawaii, Australia, cats, pandas, and some historical topics. When you said you watched between four and six hours of TV each day, it sounded like a lot. But your graph doesn't look all that different from mine in terms of numbers of shows.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Tracker (Syn) Futurama (Fox) Justice League (Car) (Simpsons (Fox)) Education of Max Bickford	Masterpiece Theatre (PBS)	Smallville (WB) Roswell (UPN) (Total Zoo (AP))	Enterprise (UPN)	Family Guy (Fox)	Wall Street Week (PBS) Farscape (Sci- Fi) Stargate (Sho) Jeremiah (Sho)	Earth: Final Conflict (Syn) Andromeda (Syn)

Synapse (Jack Speer): Lynchi as plural for Lynch, at least referring to Rich and Nicki, has been tradition for a number of years. Since Rich signs his e-mails that way, I presume it is his preference.

We have anonymous caller blocking. Anyone who isn't trying to hide his identity can call us.

Harlan Ellison not only doesn't use a computer but he doesn't even use an electric typewriter.

"American improvements on English orthography" – that's a matter of opinion.

A natural born citizen, I don't think, has to be born in the United States. If your parents are American, you are an American regardless of where you were born.

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Why does Windows have to be "maintained"? Does it wear out? – Jack Speer  
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* * *

*** 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.

Jan Weasner, MouseView

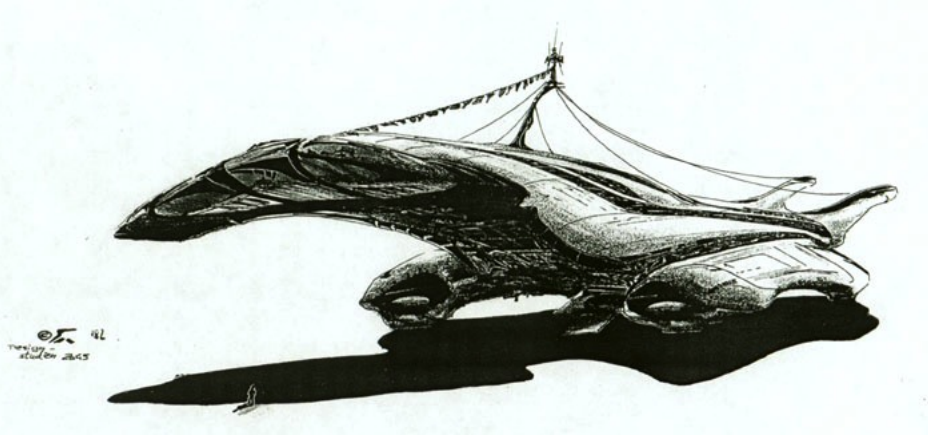
19 February 2002

Dear Mike & Laurraine,

...

Just finished reading *Feline Mewsings* concerning your fascinating East Coast trip prior to September 11th. Thank God you arrived home safely before that date. From your account, it doesn't look like you missed touring any place there! Thanks for allowing me a peek into your constant wanderings.

#



Illo by Franz Miklis

Leslie David, ldavid_@hotmail.com

20 February 2002

Hi Laurraine,

Thanks for sending me the rtf file. It downloaded very quickly and was easier to read than the column format in PDF. I didn't miss the pictures -- I'd already looked at them before I realized I couldn't get the file open.

Your trip report was interesting, you certainly did see a lot, but if you're going to fly that far you might as well see as much as you can. I will point out that I wasn't **exactly** lost in Old Town, but it is difficult to try to look for streets and drive in an area that you are not familiar with, never mind the fact that I've lived up here for seven going on eight years and never once went to where we did. It is much easier when the driver is not also trying to follow the map for navigation, as well as safer for the passengers.

I do apologize for the smallness of my guest space, but I don't normally have two people with a month's worth of luggage visiting. Last time Elizabeth was up (New Years), she left a pair of shoes in my closet that I didn't find until I was cleaning.

My dad called Sunday and said that he and my mom may be coming up in May and that they'd take me up on guest space this time and sleep in my spare bedroom. Not bloody likely -- I wouldn't put my parents on a fold-out bed, plus all my Craft books are in there, and it's easier for them to ignore what they don't see. My dad is light sensitive, and the room only has mini-blinds instead of drapes, where my room has the foam backed drapes to cut the light, so if they stay with me, that's where they'll stay.

The con sounded interesting, although not interesting enough for me to want to attend. I would have enjoyed David Brin and Connie Willis reading, since I enjoy their books very much, and I would have enjoyed meeting Hal Clement since I also like his books.

#

Neil Kaden, kaden@alum.mit.edu

20 February 2002

Laurraine,

Thanks for the e-mail about the posting of *Feline Mewsings* #6.

Glad your site was up -- last time I visited (to see *Mewsings* #5) it told me you were not an AOL member -- obviously AOL has learned better.

Good to read about all the programming I missed -- Cris skipped this year's WorldCon (to take a "palomo girls visit New York" weekend with a dozen cousins and her sister a few weeks later) and I only was there Friday & Saturday nights. Mostly hung with friends in the dealers room, fan lounge, and parties -- and bought a bunch of books to read next year.

Back in October Nortel and I parted ways, and I've since been slowly trying to build up a small consulting practice during -- or in spite of -- these tough times. Dallas being the home of the "telecom corridor" it's particularly hard finding work in the telecom or IT space, there being so many experienced managers and engineers pounding the street and so few companies hiring (while hundreds a week are still getting laid off).

I'm really trying to leverage the personal network I've built up working as a volunteer at the MIT Enterprise

Forum these past fifteen years, as well as the professional contacts I made in the call centre industry in the late 90s. I'm currently recruiting "partners" to create a virtual team of people who can do more than just I as a lone mercenary can.

I thought that being unemployed (or with the eight hours a month of "steady" business I've captured so far, "underemployed") I'd really catch up on trade magazines, fanzines and letter writing and reading -- but in fact I've instead felt overworked and with little time for these activities. But I think as I start to generate proposals and win bits my energy level will go up, and I'll catch up then.

Give my regards to Mike.... Best, --Neil

#

Ron Salomon, Ron.Salomon@state.ma.us

8 March 2002

Hi R-Laurraine,

Although I haven't seen you at a con in ages and ages, I did see *Feline Mewsings* 6 on the web, so I thought I'd e-mail you back and attach my latest rambling and run-on sentences / perszine. I would have probably run across you at some point during Philcon last year except that I couldn't afford to go. Years ago when the WorldCon could be gotten into for a \$25 membership; now that I could afford, but nowadays the membership can run as much or more than the airfare or the hotel tab. It definitely was the case for me in '01. But boy, when you travel you really travel around, dontcha? I do enough driving work-commuting so I try to avoid renting a car if at all possible.

Have you ever been to a Corflu or Ditto? I don't remember seeing you at one of those. This October in Toronto and next April in Madison, if you want to reconnect with fandom's roots / fanzine eds, and you can do it, I think it would be worth the expense and time to go to the next Ditto this October and the next Corflu next year.

Just a suggestion. Anyways, nice reading you! You can either do the paper mailing bit or just notify me via e-mail, your choice, when you next Pub Your Ish.

Regards,

#

Leslie David, ldavid_@hotmail.com

20 March 2002

Hi Laurraine,

I got your e-mail and was able to view *Feline Mewsings* #7 without any of the trouble I had on the earlier issue. Maybe it was the size? I don't know. I didn't know that Barbara Hambly lived in the LA area -- I loved her book *Bride of the Rat God*. The way she portrayed Hollywood in the 20s was so cool! I forget who it was in the picture wearing Colonial costume -- that's pretty easy to get around here with all the Colonial stuff and all the people who do English Country dancing. My friend Elizabeth had a dress that she wore when she went to the balls. I thought the WTC costume was a bit tacky -- maybe it would have been more realistic if the guy had dressed as a pile of rubble.

So now that you have your new Toyota, how do you like it? I think I told you I saw one or two of them around here.

We're getting ready to go to the MTMC Training Symposium next week in Dallas, so we're configuring the laptops and loading everything we think we'll need short of the kitchen sink. I hope we'll have better connectivity than we did last year in Atlanta. If we hadn't had really good backup slides to fall back on, we would have been using sock puppets. Come to think of it, that might be a really interesting way to do a stand-up presentation some time....

...

I recently went to Classmates.com, and got in touch with some of the people I went to high school with. It's been kinda fun corresponding with them. E-mail is such a wonderful tool. I don't mind sitting down and typing a long e-mail, but I doubt I'd be as enthusiastic about writing a paper letter anymore. OK, I promise I won't get into the paper vs. electronic communications thing again. Last time I did that I ended up with over forty e-mails, because some people don't know how not to broadcast.

#

Jackie Viego, Bellingham, WA

20 March 2002

Dear Mike and Laurraine,

Just a quick note to ask Laurraine if you have considered acupuncture for the symptoms you are still experiencing. A reputable acupuncturist may be able to re-establish the energy patterns in your body to pre-illness stage. The reason I believe this is that there have been so many people who have been helped by this very old discipline when nothing else had any effect. ... ((In fact, I am planning to ask my doctor to recommend an acupuncturist. I'm hoping it will help with the pain in my fingers. If it helps in other ways, it will be a bonus.))

Have you had a compression of some sort at the top of your spinal column and back of your head / neck? I thought you or Mike had mentioned an automobile accident at one time. Is this correct? That kind of compression

can be the cause of many neurological conditions, as well as specifically what doctors have named fibromyalgia. ...
((I already had that checked into, and I don't have any compression.))

Thank you for sending *Feline Mewsings*. You two lead *very* busy lives, don't you?

...

Love to you both.

#

Ron Salomon, Ron.Salomon@state.ma.us

21 March 2002

Howdy,

I'll be checking your latest *FM* as soon as I can, but I wanted to tell you that the at-home email address of randlakejake@prodigy.net does get read but only those rare times when my teenaged son needs to ingest or excrete sustenance. Inudderwoids, I take a look-see once or twice a week, whereas the work address is looked at every workday. But we will be getting an additional PC Real Soon Now and then upgrade to some sort of high speed net link, at which point the home e-mail address may or may not change. Letcha know. As for FAPA, I blush to think you think I am worthy of being a member of so august an institution. For now though, I think I will remain stretched fat (not a lovely image I admit but realistic) and not sign up for the duration and bite off more than I can fannishly chew. Say, are you feeling hungry too?

I think I hear the lunch whistle so'll say bye for now.

Y H O S

#

Sheryl Birkhead, catsmeouch@yahoo.com

21 March 20022

Hi--

I am, only now, figuring out how to look at your zine. I do not spend much time on the Internet and I also did not realize that the terminology meant that this WAS your zine -- then it took quite a while to get a look at it and ... ah, but you get the picture.

I feel more comfortable, if you want, sending fillos (etc.???) by mail -- but I can try it electronically if you walk me through it step by step once I have things done. Since I have never seen a copy of the paper zine, I don't know if you have a cover or if the masthead as on the e-zine is the way it is printed -- let me know.

I bought a Cuddle Ewe and it does make a difference. I was tempted to say it did not make the bed feel any different (and I had thought it would) BUT, when I got up the next morning, I knew it HAD made a difference. The good news is that it can be turned and go from mattress to mattress.

Now I wish I had printed a copy of the zine, but ... Let me know -- Sheryl

#

David Thayer, 12341 Band Box Place, Dallas, TX 75244-7001

29 March 20022

Dear Laurraine--

I am currently reading all the Hugo-nominated novels from 1953 to the present. Neal Stephenson's two novels are on the list but fairly far down. Diana gave up on *The Diamond Age*, but your comment *Crytonomicon* piques my interest. And besides, Diana and I do not always like the same books. ((I liked *Diamond Age*, though possibly not as much as *Crytonomicon*..))

We are collecting the state quarters, too. I read that Americans average about \$50 in hoarded change. We have that in pennies alone. Diana has collected for over twenty years and refuses to cash them in.



Illo by William Rotsler

* Closing Remarks

Our plans are to attend Westercon in July. It will be at an airport hotel in Los Angeles. We plan to stay at the hotel. I hope to have the report in the next issue.