

Feline Mewsings #12



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 sent 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). ☐ if this box is checked, I need to hear from you if you wish to stay on my mailing list. 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. I can also e-mail this in Word or rtf format. Kattesminde Press #341. ©2003 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 2003 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. Originally published in *Feline Mewsings* #12, <http://members.aol.com/ltutihasi>."

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Feline ~~Mews~~ings

#12

May 2003

* Editorial / Introduction

Last issue was started late due to holiday activities, but I'm starting early on this one. In fact I'm still printing out the previous issue even as I write this.

This has certainly been an eventful quarter year. The *Columbia* shuttle disaster happened after I put the previous issue to bed. I woke up to the news, but it was a couple of hours later before it was clear that there were no survivors. We still don't know the long-term effects this accident might have on our space programme.

Then there's the war against Saddam, which, I guess, is about finished now. The aftermath is much harder, I think. How do you build up a democracy where there has never been one before? On NPR, there have been discussions of paper democracies that look great on paper but are not really democracies at all. If that happens in Iraq, is that a success? One commentator said that the only successful democracies in Asia are places that used to be under British rule. The British left an infrastructure that is still being used by those successful democracies, such as India. However, I think the commentator forgot about Japan. Japan was never a British colony. In fact, the United States set up that democracy; and it is still working.

We have had a wetter, longer winter in southern California than we have had in years. The plants in my garden are confused. I am currently taking the third of three Successful Gardening courses at the local botanical gardens. There is one for each of three seasons: autumn, winter, and spring. In addition, I have attended talks on organic gardening and organic fertilizers. I started studying gardening as a defence against "so-called" gardeners and "landscapers" who know no more or little more than I do. However, I seem to be enjoying it much more than I had thought I would. I have been making incremental changes in my garden, adding new plants and replacing ones that didn't do too well. Photos are available at my web site; the URL is http://members.aol.com/ltutihasi/rhe_garden.html. I'm in the process of updating a lot of the pictures there.

* * *

* Mike

Below is a picture of Mike's new telescope with a picture of the moon behind him that was taken with the telescope. Mike has used it for observing many objects, including several planets, a shadow of one of Jupiter's moons, and many deep sky objects. He has also taken some photographs through it. You can visit his new website at <http://www.weasner.com/lxd> to see pictures.

Mike recently gave a talk at a meeting of the South Bay Astronomical Society. It was held in conjunction with the OASIS chapter of the Planetary Society.



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* Local Activities Live Theatre

Fuddy Meers: The Colony presented the Los Angeles premiere of this play by David Lindsay-Abaire. It was a somewhat strange play about a woman, Claire, with amnesia. Each day her memory must be rebuilt. Each night she forgets again. The play takes place on one day of her life, which I hope isn't always this hectic. After her husband starts her off on her day and goes to take a

shower, a man in a ski mask emerges from under her bed and says he is her brother and must take her away to protect her from her husband. Later, her husband and son are in their car looking for her when they are stopped by a policewoman. Things get weirder from here. Nick DeGruccio gave an excellent performance as a convict who does most of his talking through a sock puppet. Jodi Carlisle was also good as the mother who talks with a speech impediment as the result of a stroke. As the day progresses, the audience and Claire learn more and more about her life. At the end, we are left wondering whether a breakthrough has been made and whether she will finally remember everything the next day.

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The Flying Dutchman: This is was our last regular LA Opera. We have decided that the time and money spent on the opera is less worthwhile than the same spent on other activities, and our calendar was becoming over-full. This performance of Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* was the same production as was done in 1995. When I got the tickets, Mike said, "But we've seen this already". I said, "No, we haven't". He was right. The programme explicitly referred to the earlier production, and my diary referred to our seeing it. I have no memory of it. I wonder if the concussion I suffered several months later might have something to do with my amnesia.

I don't remember what I thought of the earlier performance, since I am unable to find anything I wrote about it. However, this performance was one of the worst operas I've ever attended. The singer who performed the title role - Bernd Weikl - was frequently flat and weak of voice. Since he is an experienced Wagner singer, I can only guess that he was under the weather or possibly he's just getting too old for the role. I thought the rest of the singers were more acceptable, though the soprano, Mlada Khoudoley, who sang the part of Senta sometimes sounded a bit unsure.

The only part of the performance I had any memory of were the stage sets. I don't think I liked them before. I certainly didn't this time. The sets were representational only and not realistic. I don't care for this modern stuff. I prefer more realism.

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The Time of Going Away: This collection of three Ray Bradbury stories was presented at the Court Theatre in West Hollywood. A Mensa friend of mine alerted me to it. The three stories were "The Swan", "I Will Rise and Go Now", and "Death and the Maiden". Each play has just two characters. The first play is about a young man who meets a very elderly woman and recognizes a kindred spirit. The second play is about an elderly couple; the man one day announces that he is leaving. The third play is about a very old woman who has shut herself in to avoid death. Ray Bradbury was in the audience. He was arriving at the same time as we. I spoke to him then and later after we found our seats. The Court Theatre is an intimate equity waiver theatre. I love these small theatres. The Colony, which we subscribe to, is no longer equity waiver; but it is still quite small, probably about a hundred and fifty seats. I had Bradbury autograph our programmes. He was very generous with his autograph. One woman even brought several books for him to autograph. He spoke just before the play started. He pointed out Talia Shire, the actress who played Rocky's girlfriend (later wife) in the movies in the audience. We recognized her as the tipsy woman who first tried to sit in a seat next to us. It's been so long since I saw her in anything that I

wouldn't recognize her. Since his stroke, Bradbury uses a walker to get around. One of the actors was a man we had seen at the Colony. I spoke to him after the play. There was a mailing list to be alerted to future Bradbury plays, so I signed up for that.

###

Films

The Core: When we got together with friends, we decided we wanted to be entertained. We weren't interested in seeing a serious film. *The Core* gave us what we were looking for. Briefly the plot revolves around the fact that the magnetic field of the Earth has been disrupted because the molten core of the planet has stopped spinning. Without the magnetic field, birds become confused, the weather turns violent, etc. A team of astronauts and scientists travel in a ship build of "unobtainium" to cause the spinning to start up again. It was a rousing good adventure. The characters were interesting, and there was a good dose of humour. This is not the type of movie where you want to start to tear into the science; doing that would spoil everything.

###

Other

Brea: We went on an excursion with the Neighborhood Place Project to see the public art in this city in Orange County. Even though most of Orange County is south of Los Angeles, this particular city is northeast of us. Brea requires any large building project to include public art. Consequently there is a large number of objets d'art. We saw a small fraction of it. I've selected a few of our best pictures here.



Beauty of Brea -- painting



Dissimilar Equals



Lauraine in front of "Just a Taste"



La Lune - some of our group are behind

We also saw some art in an Egyptian-themed Embassy Suites hotel.



Display cabinet in private dining room



Atrium

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California Native Plant Society Garden Tour: Laurraine went on this one by herself. It was a tour of three local gardens. Two of them are mainly planted in native plants. The third used Mediterranean plants. All of them are low maintenance gardens that require little water. I was particularly struck by some poppies native to our local area. Instead of the usual orange of the California poppies, these are yellow with orange centres. Seeds are available only from store that sell native plants, but I hope to get some for my garden.

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*** Leftover Mailing Comments on FAPA #261:** 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.

Timothy C. Marion (Here Come the Hardy Boys: I remember watching the *Hardy Boys* on TV in the 1980s. I don't think it lasted more than one or two seasons. I remember that Sean Cassidy and Parker Stevenson were in it but don't remember much else. I think I watched one episode of *Nancy Drew* before deciding it wasn't my cup of tea. I believe, though, that there were some crossover episodes with all three in it; but I could be misremembering. I don't believe I ever read any of the Hardy Boys books. I remember reading one or two Nancy Drew mysteries. They were in my homeroom in junior high. I didn't care much for them. Someone gave me a Ginny Gordon mystery that I liked better but not enough to keep it.

*** Mailing Comments on FAPA #262:**

Fantasy Amateur: I think it is admirable that you allowed Helen Wesson to retain her membership. Perhaps we should formally add something into the rules to allow for illness. This can happen to anyone regardless of age.

Bob Silverberg (Snickersnee): I'm happy that you have a replacement for your missing FAPA disty. I'm also happy that you were able to make up with Judith Merrill before it was too late.

Eric Lindsay (For FAPA): If a cell phone becomes necessary for using vending machines, I will probably stop using vending machines. Vending machine prices are usually pretty outrageous anyway.

Macintosh computers can write CDs that can be read by Wintel machines.

I've always found it nearly impossible to multitask. I had to keep explaining this to my boss at my last job. If I tried to multitask, I made mistakes. While I can play music while I read, I can't read while listening to people talking on the radio.

Mike's book is widely available now. He has received comments on it from all over the world.

We also like the area where we live. Being near the ocean, the weather is milder. The air is cleaner. The only downside is that we get quite a bit of fog.

We also don't have a lawn. However, it takes more work to take care of a garden than a lawn. It's also harder to find people qualified to take care of it and willing to put in the time to do a good job.

For someone who claims not to have time to read very much, you seem to have a great number of book reviews in your zines. I looked over my book reading records since the early 1980s. My reading fell off dramatically after I acquired my first computer.

You don't need a cable converter to receive basic cable. You only need it to receive the scrambled channels and some of the higher channels that are not programmed in to TVs and VCRs. I use a VCR to receive cable channels with my old TV that dates back to 1977.

Jean certainly looks much younger than her years. I thought she was about the same age as you. I believe you and I are about the same age.

If we didn't already have *The Prisoner* series on laserdisc, I'm sure Mike would have bought the DVD set. I never saw the series in black and white. What happened to your resolve not to buy DVDs because of the region coding?

I doubt that your plane trip caused your heart attack. It was probably waiting to happen. The plane trip may have caused it to happen earlier than otherwise, though. It is advised that one walk around a bit on long plane trips. I make frequent trips to the rest room, so I never sit still for more than an hour or two at a time.

Ben Indick (Ben's Beat 71): Mike rarely drinks wine, so I bought one of those vacuum corks in order to keep my wine fresh for the week or so it takes me to finish a bottle.

The Colony mikes some of the performers when musicals are done. Some of the actors don't have very loud singing voices. The only reason I know some are miked and some aren't is because I can see the mikes. In the LA Opera's production of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, the boy singers were miked. Usually the miking is done very well and is unobtrusive. The only time the miking really was noticeably bad was a performance of *Kismet* that I saw in Pasadena about fifteen years ago. The voices kept changing in volume as the performers turned their heads from side to side. It was really bad.

As a general rule, Francis spelled with an "i" is a man's name. If it's spelled with an "e", it's a woman.

Are you saying you didn't enjoy Connie Willis and Amy Thomson or that you haven't read their works? Have you tried Octavia Butler?

Arthur D. Hlavaty (Hundred): You said, "I once took an IQ test that said I was in the top 1% in intelligence. I've come to the frightening conclusion that it's true." I've had a similar experience.

You also said, "I am a burned-out drunk, rather than a recovering alcoholic. I don't have to go to meetings to keep from drinking." My paternal uncle was that kind of drinker. He used to drink so much Scotch when he travelled that it affected his memory, but he didn't drink very much at home. After he developed pancreatitis, he gave up Scotch and only drank beer.

I can agree with "The best thing (among many) that my parents did for me was encourage me to think for myself." However, I think this also led to some problems.

I need you to expand on "I have Cartesian Syndrome. It's not as bad as autism or even Asperger's, but I feel like a mind trapped in a body. Whenever I try to be ontologically correct, the world stops making sense to me." I'm not quite sure I understand what you mean.

I can also agree with "I was raised not to believe in strong sexual dimorphism, and I think that's one of the things my parents got right." However, like thinking for oneself, I think this sometimes causes problems.

I'm going to see if I can come up with one hundred statements about myself. By the way, you only had ninety-nine; but I guess that's what you meant by number ninety-nine: "I sometimes lack the stick-to-it-iveness to complete assignments."

Harry Warner, Jr. (Horizons, Vol. 65, No. 1): I've been listening to the "Big Show" on your Washington FM station on the Internet. The ones I've listened to have had a variety of types of programming. A week or two ago, there was a historical segment about segregation in Washington, DC, that I found very interesting and enlightening (also appalling).

Marty Cantor (Fish Wrap Daily Spew): On the Macintosh, the € symbol can be inserted from the symbol menu or by pressing 4 while holding down the Option key.

Gordon Eklund (Sweet Jane 36): There was a discussion about book clubs on my favourite NPR station not too long ago. Apparently, there is a wide range. Some are very serious and actually discuss the book

for that meeting and very little else. Others talk very little about the book and are really just social groups.

Fred Lerner (Lofgeornost #70): The best miniaturization in Disneyland is in Storybookland; I don't think there is a corresponding one in Disney World. You can ride through on a train or on a boat. I recommend the boat, since I think the train is too fast to let you see much. Various scenes from some of Disney's animated films are depicted.

There is a miniature town in the Netherlands. I don't recall exactly where it is, but it shouldn't be difficult to find in such a small country.

Here in Southern California, we have Legoland, where there are miniature buildings and other recreations made of Lego bricks.

I'm reading Proust in French, and it is not easy. Reading Proust is like reading Faulkner. Even a native speaker is going to have problems. On the other hand, I never expected that it would be worthwhile to look up the French originals of Verne. Having read Charlotte Moslander's observations, perhaps I will look into them. I had an interesting experience with the movie *Marooned*. I originally saw it in French in Paris. There were lines that made me laugh. When I saw it in English, I didn't have a comparable experience. I don't remember whether I laughed because it seemed funny to hear James Franciscus speaking in French or if I were sharing a humorous experience with the Parisian audience.

I must ask my libertarian friends about limited liability corporations. I wrote my own version of a constitution; and I never thought about it, either. I wrote to two of my libertarian friends and received two very different replies. J. Neil Schulman wrote:

Limited liability historically limits the debt liability of common shareholders to the loss of their stock and not beyond that to further debts incurred by the corporation or the tort and criminal liabilities caused by the actions of a corporation's directors and management. The theory has been that a common shareholder, like a voter in an election for public office, has no actual control and therefore should not be dragged into court to answer for a corporation's debts and actions.

Libertarians have argued against this, on the theory that ownership and management cannot truly be separated. I used to think that the problem could be solved by insurance, but I now see the advantages of the principle of outright legal immunity for shareholders. I don't see why someone who owns stock in a corporation should be treated any differently than someone who invests money in a bond or investment account. A lot of stock ownership today is institutional anyway -- pension funds, unions, employees. The degree of separation between "ownership" and "management" is almost total.

I now see the utility of a legal protection for those stockholders who are not involved in any way with management from being criminally or civilly liable for the actions taken by a company's directors or management.

Samuel Edward Konkin, III, said:

Corporations have no place in a free-market; they are creatures of the State. Joint-stock companies may make any voluntary contract with anyone else including those foolish enough to accept limited liability. Under no circumstances would a Libertarian accept state-imposed (fill in anything) including limited or unlimited or anything else concerning liability.

When I asked Sam about the difference in their views, he said:

Neil apostatized from Libertarianism back in 1991 when he decided that pro-gun legislators getting elected was more important than smashing the state. Now he's cheerleading Bush's naked imperialist aggression.

This is Neil's explanation for the difference in his views from Sam's:

Libertarianism is not a church and Samuel Edward Konkin, III, is not its pope. SEK3 does not get to define who is and is not a libertarian. As a matter of fact, SEK3's labelling himself a libertarian precedes my own self-labelling by only fifteen months -- his on September 2, 1969, mine on January 10, 1971. When later in 1971 I first met SEK3, I had already founded a libertarian group on my college campus.

My current disagreement with SEK3 is in the way he approaches the world. He thinks himself to be a sort of Aristotelian in his thinking; but I think he is, rather, a Platonic Idealist. SEK3's vision of Agorism looks great on paper. I should know: I was the first to describe it on paper to a mass readership in my novel, *Alongside Night*, which I dedicated to SEK3.

The difference in our current approach is twofold.

First, I no longer think the form of institutions -- whether a function is performed by a person in the state-controlled sector or the private sector -- to be the defining feature of how free a society is. I consider that the desire for freedom in the human heart and how much actual freedom-of-action people have in their day-to-day life is more important than whether a specific ideological vision is being realized.

Second, I grade real-world institutions, including states and statists, on a curve, based on what actually exists as available options. SEK3 grades real-world institutions against the standard of his

theoretical ideals. That's why I call him a Platonist or, otherwise, an Idealist.

To bring this difference to a fine point: SEK3 looks at the existing government of the United States and sees how far short it falls in realizing ideal libertarian values and unrelentingly condemns it as the worst evil. I compare the existing government of the United States not only to all existing governments, but historically to all governments that have existed; and I find it to be the best humanity has ever produced in pursuing liberty and is often praiseworthy thereby, particularly when it does something good like depose an evil dictator and liberate a foreign people. By any objective standard -- in its redress for violations of rights, in daily freedoms -- the United States of America -- even with its failures such as the War on Drugs, miscarriages of justice such as Waco and Ruby Ridge, violations of private property rights and invasions of privacy -- is the freest country that has ever existed and that exists today.

All this aside, and despite our disagreements and our disappointments with each other's views, I still consider SEK3 an important libertarian thinker, who has been a mentor to me, and one of my oldest friends.



Illo by Bill Rotsler

Ray Nelson (Big Cat, Vol. 1, NO. 2): Thank you for the compliment on my ConJose report. I'm afraid we won't be going to this year's WorldCon. I think Mike and I are just getting old and tired. We decided to cut back on travel. This year we will be going on a two-week cruise-tour of Alaska in September.

Radio theatre is alive and well in LA and also I think in New York City and Chicago. LA Theatreworks does twenty-one plays a year. We used to go, but it started to seem like a chore, because the plays are so frequent. Since we stopped subscribing, we've gone a couple of times. It's interesting to see the variability in actors' styles. Some do a straight reading, but others act things out to a greater or lesser degree. For *M Butterfly*, the Chinese character was in costume; if you're familiar with the play, you will understand why this was important. The plays are broadcast later on one of our NPR radio stations. I don't know what other stations around the country broadcast them, but I'm sure they must be broadcast in other places. The plays are also made available on cassette and possibly on CD. I have

several of them. I believe there are also readings done at the Getty Museum that are broadcast on the same station.

Joyce Katz (Crazy from the Heat): Fuzzy is a nickname. Her actual first name is Marilyn, but only one person I know uses it - Roberta Pournelle. I'm told she acquired the name because of a pair of fuzzy pink slippers she used to wear. The full nickname is actually Fuzzy Pink.

"Good Mexican accent" sounds like a contradiction in terms to me, but I realize I'm a snob. I'd like to learn Spanish one of these days, but I want that to be Castilian. I had a roommate in college who was studying Spanish, and it sounded ugly to my ears. Then I met a floor mate also studying Spanish, but she spoke it with a Castilian accent, and it sounded very melodic.

Tom Feller (The Road Warrior): I think it's great that you are building a house.

Is Anita retired? Isn't she rather young to be retired? Please explain.

Congratulations on your honourable mention in the writing contest.

Janice Morningstar: I had a setback in my sleep when I tried to perform jury duty in early February. Luckily, I only had to serve one day. The next day, I felt so tired that I would have had to call in sick. It took six weeks to get my sleep back to where it was before; until then, I did a lot more sleeping. I imagine that if I tried to work outside home, I'd end up with a life consisting only of work, sleep, and meals with no time for anything else. Before I got fibromyalgia, I was doing fine on five or six hours of sleep. At one point, I managed to get down to four hours a night. Yoga played a large part in reducing my sleep requirements. I kind of got away from yoga, so I'm back to six to seven hours. I've tried to get back to yoga but haven't managed to stick with it. Each person's sleep requirements are different. The only work I'm doing these days is from home. So far, unfortunately, it also doesn't pay.

You should know also that it's not so much that I can get away with seven hours of sleep as that if I sleep longer than that, I get into a vicious cycle of too little sleep one night and too much the next ad infinitum. If I sleep much longer than seven hours for more than one night in a row, I end up lying awake trying to get to sleep for as much as three or four hours. It also seems to be tied to the exact hour when I get up. Regardless of the amount of sleep I've gotten, if I'm not up by seven or eight in the morning, except when I've had fatiguing activity

the day before, I will have difficulty getting to sleep that night. I have to stay on a much stricter sleep schedule than I ever had to before.

Milt Stevens (Alphabet Soup #37): I found *Perdido Street Station* a bit difficult to get into, but it did become more interesting and ended up being a fairly good book. He never explicitly explained how New Corbuzon came into existence. However, there were several references to some disaster in the past.

Reading the Hugo nominees is about the only time when I read more or less current writing. I'm that far behind in my reading.

Steve Green (Free Radical): If mail is getting across the Atlantic faster than it used to, it may be because our postal system has a lower volume of mail than it did before the anthrax scare. At that time, if you recall, people were discouraged from using the post. I think a lot of people just got into the habit of not using it.

Robert Michael Sabella (Visions of Paradise #94: Ride the Lightning): You're in luck. I found my notes of how I voted on the Hugos. I believe I have voted for the Hugos every year since 1973, though it's possible I wasn't consistent in doing so until 1976. I think I have been at least a supporting member every year since then. I sometimes didn't vote in all the categories, but I think I've voted every year.

My voting last year went as follows. In the novel category, I voted for Connie Willis's *Passage*. Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* won. After thinking about it, I decided that the result was correct. While *Passage* was exciting to read, it's not the sort of book I'm likely to reread.

In the Novella category, I voted for Brenda W. Clough's "May Be Some Time". The winner was Vinge's "Fast Times at Fairmont High", which I think I later heard was the beginning of a longer work. I didn't think very highly of any of the nominees. I've developed the habit of grading each work, and nothing in this category rated higher than a B+.

For Novelette, I voted for Allen Steele's "The Day's Between". Ted Chiang's "Hell Is the Absence of God" won; I had put that in fourth place.

My Short Story of choice was Mike Resnick's "Old MacDonald Had a Farm", though I usually don't care that much for his work. Michael Swanwick's "The Dog Said Bow-Wow" won. This was another category where I was not terribly impressed by the nominees. My highest grade here was a B.

I confess that I based my vote in the Best Related Book on reviews. I voted for *The Art of Chesley Bonestell*, which won.

I did see all the nominees in the Dramatic Presentation category. I voted for *the Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*, which won. This one was a no-brainer.

The categories of Professional Editor, Professional Artist, Semiprozine, Fanzine, Fan Writer, and Fan Artist are difficult; because you're not just considering one work. You have to get a feel for the whole body of work for that year. Furthermore, it is difficult to isolate your feelings to one year of their work. I always feel strange voting in those categories. Yes, I do it anyway. My choice for Best Professional Editor was Patrick Nielsen Hayden; Ellen Datlow was the winner; I had voted for her in second place. For Best Professional Artist, I voted for Michael Whelan; and he won. For Best Semiprozine, I voted for *Absolute Magnitude*; as usual, *Locus* won. I voted for *Mimosa* for Best Fanzine; *Ansible* won, probably because of its higher circulation. For Best Fan Writer, I voted for Mike Glyer; Dave Langford, whom I had put in second place, won. My choice for Best Fan Artist was Frank Wu; Teddy Harvia won.

My choice of Best Web Site was based on going to each of the web sites. I placed SciFi.com in first place. Locus Online won. I regularly use SciFi.com. Although I also use the Locus site and Strange Horizons, I don't find them as generally interesting or useful.

Aren't you sorry you asked?

Jeremiah and *Odyssey 5* are both on ShowTime, though *Odyssey 5* has been axed. The premise of *Odyssey 5* is that the Earth is destroyed while the shuttle *Odyssey 5* is in orbit. The astronauts witness the destruction of the Earth. An alien being rescues them and sends them back in time five years to try to find a way to prevent the destruction of the Earth. I thought it was interesting, but ShowTime apparently didn't agree. There are still some unaired first season episodes; and no one knows if and when they will be shown.

Jeremiah was inspired by a Belgian comic series of that name. The comic series is a post holocaust story following, I think (I've only glanced at the book), a war. In the TV series, the holocaust is a deadly virus that kills most adults. I don't know yet, since I haven't read the books, whether the stories done on TV have much resemblance to the comic series. I imagine they probably don't. The main characters' names in the TV series are derived from the comics, but they are physically different in appearance from the comics. The TV series is produced and mostly written by J. Michael Straczynski of *Babylon 5* fame. As with that series, this one is supposed to have a five-year arc. I have enjoyed it quite a bit. I supposed it will eventually be syndicated. People are already asking about DVD releases.

General Comment: A while back, I tried to publish a map showing the distribution of fans in southern California, based on the LASFS membership list that was the latest at that time. It was too pale for many of you to read. I have twiddled with the picture, and I think you can see it better this time.

Moi (Feline Mewsings #11): I have now finished reading *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, the first book in the series I have read. It started kind of slow, but I liked it sufficiently that I will probably read the next book whether or not it's nominated for the Hugo. I have the previous volume, so I will read that, but I doubt I will go back to read the first two books.

I noticed an error on page 4. I meant Greenfield Village, not Park.

I made another error regarding our new scanner. It connects to the computer using USB, not fire wire.

For the past several weeks, my dictation software has not worked. It's probably because of some new software I installed. The dictation software is really finicky. This isn't the first time this has happened.

Michael W. Waite (Trial and Air #13): My sympathies on the loss of your cat.

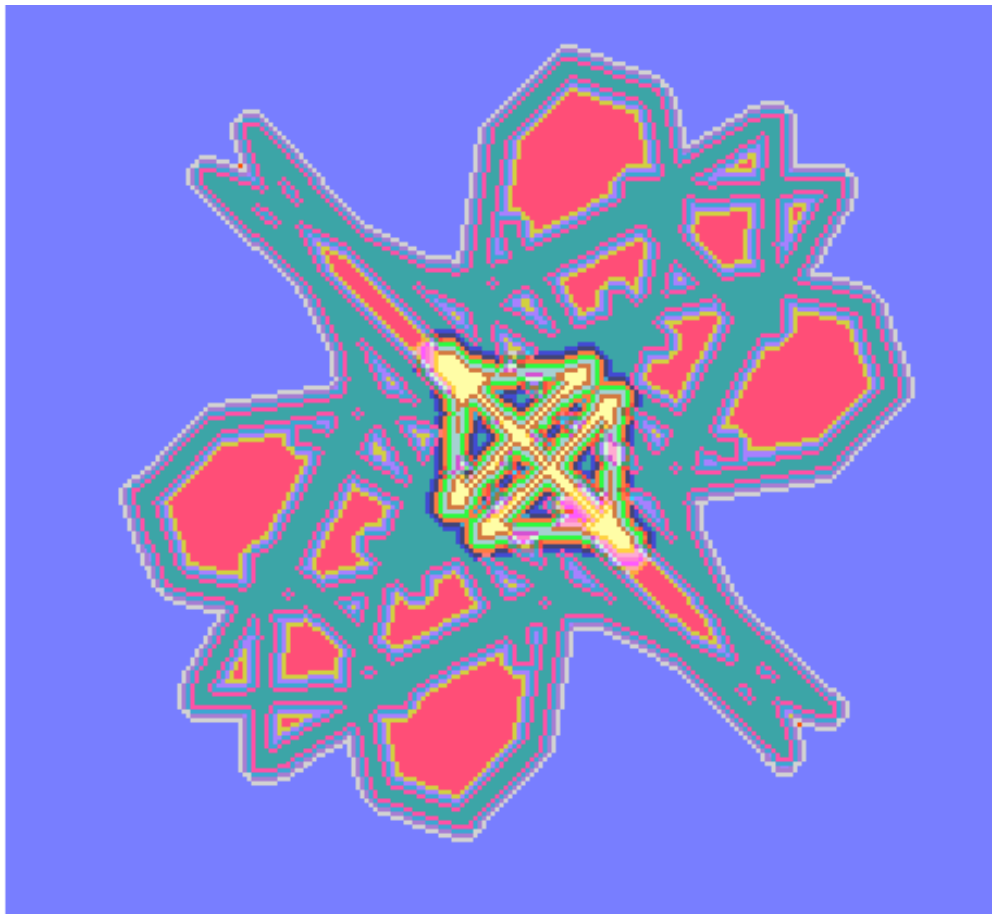
Was there a new version of *Nicholas Nickleby*? I hadn't noticed. Can you supply the particulars?

Thanks for the heads up on the new A. E. van Vogt collection.

The *LA Times* ran an obituary of Virginia Heinlein. It was accompanied by a photo of her when she was young skating with Robert.

Mike was not an astronaut, but he worked on the shuttle programme when he was in the Air Force and got to see the *Columbia* up-close-and-personal several times. After the tragic accident, he put up a memorial web page. The URL is http://www.weasner.com/etx/site/columbia_memorial.html.

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Illo by Bill Rotsler

*** 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.

Tom Feller

5 March 2003

Thanks for sending the zine through FAPA.

I managed to spot Wil Wheaton in the marriage scene of *Star Trek: Nemesis*. I'm a long-time Trek fan, but I found the movie largely derivative of *The Wrath of Khan*.

((Mike always buys the Trek movies when they come out, so I will have the opportunity to spot Wil Wheaton then. I didn't realize that *Nemesis* was so much like *The Wrath of Khan*, because I have largely forgot the earlier movie. I'm not much of a Trek fan these days. In the 70s, I was quite a Trekker, collecting Trekmagazines and film clips and attending Trek cons. I thought sure I would buy the episodes when they came out in laserdisc. However, it took so long for that to happen that I was no longer interested. Mike, though, has all the Trek Classic and Next Gen and all the Trek movies on laserdisc or DVD.))

I agree with you on the Harry Potter, and I have read all four books. I haven't seen the expanded first of *Fellowship of the Ring*, but I enjoyed the *Two Towers*.

We missed the James Bond movie.

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Jean Weber

15 March 2003

I'm looking forward to reading your fanzine. I haven't published my fanzine in over two years -- too busy writing books for sale. I'm in the last stages (I hope!) of the latest one, planned to be the first of a series.

I also haven't published an Avalook newsletter in far too long, but as we'll start travelling again soon; I'll have more incentive and more material. We're off to Brisbane in a few days for a week; one of the airlines had a really cheap deal that was too good to pass up.

We're both doing very well, btw. I had the lens implant in my left eye (which wasn't the correct power) replaced in January and can now see really well for the first time in years. To celebrate, I bought a new car -- a Subaru Forester all-wheel-drive.

((I'm glad your eyesight is doing better. I have just ordered trifocals. I still have a dry eye problem. My optometrist recommended a new type of eye drop, but I don't think they are going to do the trick. He has also referred me to an ophthalmologist, because he wants me to get checked for glaucoma. My mother has the condition. The ophthalmologist has said I'm at high risk for glaucoma for two reasons. My mother has glaucoma, and I have fibromyalgia. The tests run during my second appointment with her were inconclusive.

All wheel drive sounds good. I'd like something like that. There are state and national parks that have areas that require that kind of vehicle to get around. My sister has a Lexus RX300 (I think that's what it's called), but she doesn't do any off-road driving. She just gets really nervous about driving in the snow; she lives in Federal Way, WA.))

#

Leslie David

17 March 2003

Finally got it [*Feline Mewsings* PDF file] open. I enjoyed reading your con report. I'm still not sorry I didn't go, but then I never am. The author readings do sound cool, though. Mike's activities sound more like an astronomy con instead of an SF con.

Things here are busy; I started my new job on the 27th of January after being fired for having a medical condition that was under treatment. I am now working as an instructional designer for a contractor in support of the FAA Flight Standards Division, which is closer to home and gives me more time off and I don't have to travel for work.

Elena [friend in Los Angeles] came to visit me here in the City of Lying Politicians for President's Day weekend and got caught in our 7-year blizzard, which stranded her here for an additional two days before she could get back to LA. In spite of it, we still managed to get to Colonial Williamsburg; and she got two days at the Smithsonian and a trip to a used bookstore. She ended up having to ship a box of books back via USPS before leaving. We didn't get to the Spy Museum or some of the other areas; but maybe I can convince her to come back again, just not in February.

#

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON, CANADA M9C 2B2

1 April 2003

Many thanks for issue 10 of *Feline Mewsings*, my first issue. As I do with all the zines I get, I shall try to produce a letter of comment worthy of printing in the next issue. It's what Harry Warner would do, rest his soul.

((Thank you for your well-considered LoC. Following in Harry Warner's footsteps is perhaps the best way we can honour his memory. I feel lucky to have been able to meet him.))

I know that some of the stations in the Toronto area are broadcasting HDTV signals; but like most other new technologies in broadcasting, a special receiver is required. So, that will probably mean more programming I will miss. There's lots of satellite stations I can receive, but it's just not worth me paying for stations I won't watch. I've already got plenty of those on existing cable. The Springsteen song was so right; there's now even more channels than just 57, and there's still nothing on.

((I agree that there is little on TV worth watching, but there is some good programming. Our PBS stations, which make up about fifty percent of my viewing, have much worthwhile programming. Other stations where I find good programming are on cable channels such as The Learning Channel, American Film Classics, Turner Movie Classics, A & E, Bravo, and other similar stations. I do view a few shows on broadcast channels, such as UPN and the WB, but not a whole lot. The only reason we bought the HDTV is that we were on the market for a new set. We would not go out of our way to replace sets in working order.))

The English language is the most bastardized language in the world, and as a result, it's the most versatile. I'd like to think that knowing English inside and out is as good as being bi- or trilingual in other languages. It's usually how I make my living...I work as an editor. Latest job dried up after only four months, so I'm trying to find something else.

((I am also now trying to make a living with language, but things are starting out rather slowly. I am working strictly from home. I spend most of my time right now on volunteer work for a fannish / writers' site.))

ConJosé...another Worldcon I had to pass up because I couldn't afford the expenses and the horrific exchange rate. Oh, well, at least the one coming up is local. I look forward to Torcon, but in a lot of ways, I will be happy to see it done and wound up. It's been a source of great tension and grief for Yvonne and me where it was once the most important project I could have been connected with. We're tried our best to make lemonade from the lemons dealt to us, but we still have some regrets about what's happened. Nonetheless, we are hoping for a lot of fannish fun in our own back yard.

((Unfortunately, we have decided not to attend Torcon. We have decided to go on an Alaska cruise-tour instead. I hope it goes well. I know a lot of people who will be there.))

Time to go...I'm sure I can do a better job once I'm a regular reader. I'll look forward to further issues.

Many thanks for thinking of me.

#

Rita Prince Winston, catlady@wicca.net

12 April 2003

Seeing the issue date of November 2002 reminded me of the latest ish of *Near Eastern Archaeology*, which I noticed is DATED December 2001 event tho' it arrived fairly recently and is copyright 2003. No wonder it contains an ad from the publishing staff apologizing for getting late! However, with *Feline Mewsings*, presumably it is I who am late.

((I didn't get around to posting the November issue of FELINE MEWSINGS until March, so we were both late. The February issue should be up fairly soon. Things always tend to slow down around Xmas, because of all the extra stuff I usually do then.))

Charming linguistic history of the Br(u)itish Isles. I realize that it's absurd to nitpick anything that claims that Henry VII's dynasty were Tooters who tutored the flute; but, according to J. R. R. Tolkien (some book of his essays that Lee [Gold] has), the Welsh never called themselves Welsh. That was a name given to them by the Saxons. Tolkien praised the originators of the Germanic language family, the speakers of Saxon and Scandinavians, for being more intelligent than the Greeks who called all non-Greek-speakers "Barbarians" by having a special word for speakers of any language of the Italo-Celtic family. He said this word, as "Waugh" in Angle and "Wala" in Saxon, became the name given to the Cymry. And "Vallonde" was the Norman word for France. And some old tale specifies Bretwala and Rumwala for Britons and Romans.

Re: Mount Baker. I imagine that, when one lives in Greater Los Angeles, "remnants of snow" IS "quite nice". Are they not the sort of exotic thing one travels in order to see?

One way to have phone numbers with you is to have a Palm. Another is to have a little notebook and write them down. Little notebooks come in many attractive styles and some are very tiny indeed.

((When I carry little notebooks around with me, they become tattered and torn and illegible after a while. Besides, they can't be organized like the Palm.))

First, (fake) Klein bottles. Then Jay Kay Klein. I watched in vain for more references to Kleins.

You mentioned 282 hits on Google. I queried the exact phrase 'Rita Winston' and got 45 hits, but several of them are NOT ME. In fact, several of them are a *TV Guide* listing of a movie with '.... as Rita. Winston Bell as' There was also a Rita Winston in a list of 1960s graduates of Far Rockaway High School -- I was 1974 graduate of Palisades High School on the other side of the continent. However, that hit confused me by including Susan Foxx in the list; Susan Fox (now Fox-Davis) was in high school with my brother Alan.

Ct Ben Indick: compounded prescriptions. I think I saw something in a newspaper a couple of months ago about someone demanding that pharmacists be required to pass some special test in order to be allowed to compound. Apparently passing pharmacy school and the pharmacist test is not enough now.

* * *



Illo by Franz Miklis

* **Closing Remarks**

For a pleasant change, I've managed to finish this in plenty of time to send it in without having to worry about whether or not it will reach Ken Forman on time for FAPA collation.