

The Terrible Papers, Part I: Stoler's Posts under various names on the Guardian Online BBS, December 1995 to July 1997. Hard to follow sometimes, I know; remember, the

stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Saturday, December 9, 1995 8:48:28 PM

spirituality/philosophy Item

From: Meursault
Subject: Absurdity
To: spirituality/philosophy
Cc: Katie

Well, I killed a guy. An Arab, on a beach, under a blazing sun. It was just an odd combination of circumstances, I guess. And I did not do much to fight the circumstances. Just didn't care, I guess. But then, I don't care about much, especially now, here in prison. Anyway, the whole thing just shows how absurd everything is, how much of a joke it all is. Some Sissy made a Fuss about how the only question that matters is whether life is worth living. I guess. Maybe mine never was. Anyway, I just hope that there will be plenty of people at my execution, and that they will greet me with shouts of hatred.

OK, KO?

Sunday, December 10, 1995 12:19:02 PM

spirituality/philosophy Item

From: Meursault
Subject: Re(2): Absurdity
To: Katie
Cc: spirituality/philosophy

Easy for you to mock me at this point. But I'm truly beyond caring now, if I ever cared. I guess you'll be there to mock me in a few days -- heck, I'll be glad. I'll be smiling because I'll know your time will come too someday. And in that small way, perhaps I can be like other humans again.

But you haven't answered my point, that there is only one remotely relevant philosophical issue, and that is suicide. I mean, what does it matter if the soul has six categories or twelve or if there are seven spiritual laws of success or none, or how the self is defined, if you haven't decided whether life is worth living or not? As I told the priest one of the last days, when he came to me with talk of goodness and salvation, nothing he could say was worth a single hair on the head of any woman (I really said this!)

And to add to my offense of snobbery -- and what point is there in being condemned to the ultimate penalty if you can't add to your offense without fear of further punishment -- "The Stranger" is such a bad translation of the title -- try "The Foreigner". and stay away from that Cure song.

And who's this LR guy? AC I could almost understand....

Sunday, December 10, 1995 3:23:46 PM

spirituality/philosophy Item

From: grendel
Subject: Re(4): Absurdity
To: Hamlet
Cc: Meursault
Katie
spirituality/philosophy

I can quite agree with what Meursault and Hamlet say. It wasn't my fault that I was born of the race of Cain. So I took the joke life had played on me and played it back, to the hilt. You make of an absurd world what you can, until someone else comes along and makes more of it. That someone was Beowulf, and he had no sense of the absurd. Perhaps he was exempt from it. Perhaps he was the final joke life played on me. That and the puddle of blood I slipped in, so he could get a grip on me, not fair, not fair! So now I look out over the stupid mountain goats, eating and procreating as they always have and always will, and I look at the bloody hole where my arm was and the life flowing out through it, and I feel like Meursault at his execution, and I think, as Gardner wrote down, "Grendel's had an accident. So may you all."

Sunday, December 10, 1995 1:51:24 PM

spirituality/philosophy Item

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From: Hamlet
Subject: Re(3): Absurdity
To: Meursault
Cc: Katie

spirituality/philosophy

Katie, though in sharp and ready mind
And tongue, you rival her of shrewish fame
Of Padua, and like to you in name
Yet I myself myself agreeing find
With him, this prisoned Frenchman, this Meursault
Who holds one question only fit to know
A question I have often asked mine own
Self and soul, in verses too well known.
For what is life? How call it, in a word
But random, accidental, or absurd.
I too have in the halls of learning studied
At Wittemburg, in rough debates been bloodied
By those who argued points so nice and fine
As might confound far deeper minds than mine.
And yet did I reply, and tat for tit
And tit for tat, did match them in their wit.
In questions theological, excelling
All the masters, even, and compelling
Wonder-filled acceptance of my view, on God, on sin
On the angels dancing on a pin.
Natural philosophy, and also
Moral -- with non vero, ergo falso---
All of these in aspects all I learned
And still, with want of further knowledge burned.
Until the news one wretched day arrived
Hamlet, royal king, who had but lived
Twoscore years and ten -- beloved sire
Unto Denmark, unto me as well -- his living fire
Quenched, and strangely, wondrously, or ill
Whiles I returned, to find his body still
Warm, that is, still worm, and yet my mother
Bride and widow both, and with his brother
Uncle to me, neither rightful heir
Ruling what was rightly mine, the pair.
Then it was that morals I forgot
Why of morals think, where they are not?
God, and all my proofs of him, I flee
Why care I for him, when he not me?
Any God allowing such perverse
Changes in this State, and mine, is worse
Than any he did from the skies expel
Who now reign over Denmark, as in Hell.
For Hell to me is Denmark, Denmark Hell
Captured here, and tortured, in some cell
Like unto the Frenchman's, and my crime
Living in ill-chosen place and time
In which I had no choice, and thus, as on a cross
I suffer for my losses, and my loss.
Now even now, the Stagirite's, the schools'
Of physics and the sciences, their rules
Which diligent I kenned, are overthrown

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Phenomena which none have ever known
Appear before my eyes -- so I must choose
To recognize that I my senses lose
Or else the world its sense, and fall to ruse.

And yet, while all philosophy's been vexed
To nothingness, and folly has annexed
Wisdom's throne, and and left its flag in tatters
Yet one question, one reponse, still matters.
Life, I ask, as now it is, what reason
Have I to prolong it one more season?
That's the only question, and none other
How to treatmy uncle, or my mother
How to the maid who pleased me well before
Death and dark enveloped Elsinore
None of these -- nor any more abstract
Have the slightest meaning till I've racked
All my wits, now addled, to decide
Which to choose -- my life, or suicide.
Thus find I agreement with that famous
Writer of your century, Camus
(French I speak not well, and were I smarter
I might attempt that other one, that Sartre.)
Who speaks in essays, novels, and short stories
Telling his deepest fears and worries
Characters he uses, who are lost
Lacking all connection, and the cost
Terrible to them, and all around
This pattern, now I see, begins to sound
Not unlike the tale I'll soon be living
And so, if you will be a bit forgiving
I hope that I have not your wrath incurred
In this lengthy talk on the absurd.

Monday, December 11, 1995 9:32:46 AM

spirituality/philosophy Item

From: Wile E. Coyote
Subject: Re(6): Absurdity
To: bubba legume
Cc: grendel
Hamlet
Meursault
Katie
spirituality/philosophy

You want absurd? Check out my life. Here i am, Super Genius, slave to my appetite, running after some stupid bird all day. The waste, the waste. So many things we do for reasons forgotten, like dogs chasing cars -- what will they do when they catch the cars? Oh, you might say it is beautiful, it is art, the irony of it all, but that's because you can watch it on Saturday morning, you don't have to live it. You want the myth of Sisyphus? I tell you, I have rolled enough rocks up hills only to have them fall on me! And I do not even have the suicide option! You think all those Acme gadgets backfire by accident? But it will never work. My karma, or whatever, condemns me to another go round, and another, forever... I guess this is where the Universe wants me, for its entertainment. So what will I do? What can I do? Keep chasing that bird, I guess. Keep chasing that bird.

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Tuesday, December 12, 1995 11:44:48 PM

spirituality/philosophy Item

From: gregor samsa
Subject: Re(7): Absurdity
To: Wile E. Coyote
Cc: bubba legume
grendel
Hamlet
Meursault
Katie
spirituality/philosophy

I'm sorry, but based on my personal experience and one other I know, I would have to disagree. True, it seems absurd that I turned into a cockroach, but this was not random or unfair, since I was already living like a cockroach. It was simply a realizing of a metaphor. The same with my acquaintance Joseph K., the one who was arrested, and put on trial. He was already putting himself on trial, holding himself under arrest with his own guilt -- that is why he never really resisted. M. Meursault, you yourself admitted that you did not really feel alive, feel free, care about anything, before you had the chance to taken away from you. Prince Hamlet, you could not make the decisions, you let others do it for you, reacting to that, and look how you ended up. I don't think life is that absurd, I think we are.

Wednesday, January 17, 1996 9:19:18 PM

Message

From: liam ridley
Subject: Re(2): 12 Monkeys
To: film

over the years I have found that the best way for me to tell if a film is any good is if it gives me nightmares and flashbacks and affects my mood for the next days. 12 Monkeys really did that. of course I had some complaints. I thought the sometimes comical look of things in the future, and the behavior of some of the people there (the board of scientists) detracted from the seriousness of the story. there were a few other moments of comic relief, such as the cab driver, that detracted as well. i thought that some of the violence was unnecessary, and that even the mental hospital riot and cole's escape served were a time-wasting way of setting up the miraculous locked room escape. also, i would have liked to see the film open in the hospital, and only later reveal that cole was not crazy....going from what makes more sense to the audience to what seems preposterous....

on the other hand, I thought there were a lot of outstanding things about this movie, wonderful and beautiful things. some of the images: cole in his plastic suite exploring snow covered philadelphia, empty except of animals, stands out. I thought bruce willis was extremely believable as he tried to make sense out of the two worlds he was in. brad pitt was terrific in the hospital scenes, a real tour de force; though that over the topness seemed out of place in the later scenes. and yes, I agree that stowe did yeoman service. she stood for everything that was good and beautiful in humanity, that he was fighting to save or would stay in the present to have (it was difficult to have much sympathy for the scientists of the future -- we never got to see the ordinary people of the future, though. and there were not mahy other 1990 - 6 characters -- to hate or love -- so that stowe had to carry even more plot weight.)

I liked the idea that cole really was at least a little crazy, hearing voices and believing irrational things like that he was being spied on through his teeth.....I liked the idea that time really was set, that there was nothing anyone could do to change it and save five billion people , (in fact, he had not been sent back to intervene, as in the terminator films, but only to observe and obtain information for the future) but that he had succeeded in providing the informations that might allow the scientist sent back at the end (who called herself Jones) to find out enough to allow humans back to the surface (and to dominate the earth again -- is this a good thing?) a little like the end of the terminator, in that Sarah Connor knew that an inevitable nuclear war would kill three billion people, but that the child she was carrying would ultimately rally humanity....

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I would like to know more about the writing of this film, the collaboration of Gilliam and the Peoples. In whose mind the story began....i guess it began with "La Jetee", which I now need to see.....

I would really be interested in others' views on this film. c'mon, disagree with me, tell me I am stupid! but I liked this film a lot.

961228

Subject: One two threeeeeeee!

From: milo

To: film

I just watched "The Taking of Pelham 123" on video.

Woweee Zoweee!

that was wicked exciting. definitely stands up even after 25 years or so. anticipates Die Hard and Speed by years. with a shlumpy Walter Matthau as the humorous but determined hero, and Robert Shaw as the steely villain. gngngngn!(sound of teeth gnashing)

well, I really liked it.

961229

Subject: Hopscotch, Waterson

From: milo

To: film

Hopscotch was a lot of fun, wasn't it? Fugitive ex-agent Matthau calling the CIA to tell them that he has put his pursuer and former friend Waterson out of action, in a very false falsetto:

"Joe Cutter is in his room. You'd better untie him!"

"Who's this?"

"It's Eleanor Roosevelt!"

I remember I met Sam Waterson around that time, as he came out the stage door after performing in an ok comedy called "Lunch Hour", with the late Gilda Radner. I told him how much I liked Hopscotch, and asked Radner her opinion of the then new Saturday Night Live cast. She said she thought my opinion on that probably mattered more than hers.

Waterson has done so much great work, from things I don't even know about in the 70's ("The Great Gatsby") to "In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer" to "The Killing Fields", of course, to the Rabbi going blind in "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Has he ever played a villain?

970103

Subject: Re(7): Hisssssssss!

From: milo

To: film

while I do not think there is much doubt that he was indeed a member of the Communist Party in the 30's and that he did indeed perjure himself in denying it, I am not at all convinced that he spied for the Soviet Union. Now that he is dead, along with the other principles in the affair, Chambers and of course, Nixon, perhaps it is time to lay the matter to rest.

970104

Subject: Re(5): Hssssssssss!

From: milo

To: film

how does one applaud sarcastically?

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by clapping very slowly, clap

clap

clap. I believe there was once an entire Saturday Night Live skit based on this.

it's like laughing sarcastically: "Ha.Period. ha. Period. ha."

and remember, if you really don't like somebody, give them the clap!

970104

Subject: Re(3): recasting Hamlet...(was Many things)

From: milo

To: film

concerning the casting of Claire Danes as Ophelia in our rotisserie Hamlet: how appropriate to have Danes among the Danes (melancholy and otherwise.)

I nominate Anthony Edwards to play Horatio. Though he may be a bit old, especially if Depp is to be Hamlet, since Horatio would seem to be the one genuinely nice, straightforward, if somewhat bland character in the play (except perhaps the abovementioned ophelia), he should thus be played by Edwards, who excels at portraying those who are genuinely nice and straightforward, if not as exciting as the romantic lead. Such a choice would increase the pathos of the final moments, with a blameless and overwhelmed Horatio sitting there among all the dead bodies, soon to have to try to explain it all to the just-arrived Fortinbras, whose casting, incidentally, should be entirely left up to Greta Christina, it being a family matter.

970104

Subject: Re(4): recasting Hamlet...(wa

From: milo

To: film

No no!!!

I have found the perfect Claudius.

I happened to run into "Amadeus", and needed only one glimpse of Jeffrey Jones, who played the Emperor ("There it is"), to know he is the one.....

He was Ferris Bueller's principal too....

I intend to dig in my heels on this one, until you all come around to my view.....not that it should take much time, since it is such an obvious choice.....

970104

Subject: Re(6): recasting Hamlet...(wa

From: milo

To: film

Now that we have fixed and determined the cast (though I would like to make a last-minute motion of nomination of Tilda Swinton for the lead, if anyone would like to second), we must choose a director, and, perhaps more important, unless it is to be left up to the chosen director, a visual style. For the former, being acquainted mainly with his darker works, I would nominate Lars Von Trier, mainly because he is a

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Dane himself. As for the latter, Renaissance black tights and doublet, and more medieval leather pants, have been done, and grandiose turn-of-this-century Edwardian/Tsarist Russian is about to come out. But Baz Lurhman's vision is an interesting one, and perhaps deserves to be extended into a trend, and therefore, let me humbly suggest a sort of modern corporate Hamlet, set in the huge Downtown (the city does not much matter, for they all look the same) International style steel-and-concrete-and-glass-and-granite skyscraping headquarters of a large corporation, with the preponderant shareholder/CEO living in a luxurious penthouse suite, with amazing views (like Jane and Ted) with his family, and close advisers and their families close at hand. The ground floor atrium, overlooked by a sort of balcony,, would be an ideal location for a phantasmal apparition to bewildered rented security guards. Hamlet could come back from college (where, as a sweatshirt of his will indicate, he is on the fencing team). I envision Fortinbras and co. arriving at the end, three-piece suited, expecting to sit down to negotiate a joint venture, and seeing that the martinis served at lunch had a bit too much of something in them, and it was not vermouth....I see the players as a group of homeless people befriended by Hamlet because they are the last sort of folks his mother and stepfather would want him inviting into the house.....

Well, whether this would be von Trier's vision, I am not sure; perhaps we will have to get Luhrmann after all, though there is always the possibility, through the miracle of thread convergence, of doing this ourselves for almost no money, directing as a committe, and arguing over every shot until the light had passed and there was nothing to do but call it a day and head for the pub.

970105

Subject: Re(5): recasting Hamlet...(wa
From: milo

To: film

The Supreme Being ("You mean God?""Well, we don't know him THAT well.") In Time Bandits was Sir Ralph Richardson, who unfortunately died in 1983. Gielgud, on the other hand, is still alive -- he was just in Shine.

I dreamed last night that I was walking down one of the long streets leading out of the East Bay Hills which had been transferred to the City for some reason, and standing on the street outside her building, directing the cleaning out of her garage or something, was Helen Mirren, who I think would be an absolutely wonderful Gertrude.

970106

Subject: Re(6): recasting Hamlet...(wa
From: milo

To: film

you know folks, looking over our Hamlet cast, something strikes me: it's ratherwhite. All our Danes are portrayed by European Americans (or Europeans.) This may be a bit more realistic, but when was Shakespeare ever realistic except in the broadest sense? If Hamlet is to have universal meaning,its cast should be a bit more diverse. Therefore, I think we need to practice a bit of affirmative action (especially while 209 is tied up in the courts, and while we are not a state organization.) A few possibilities: Forest Whittaker is a terrific actor with a broad range, and he is only two years older than Depp. why not him as Hamlet? some find textual evidence of Hamlet's chubbiness....ok, at least as Horatio or the leading player. Edward James Olmos could be a terrifically malevolent Claudius. (ok, so I like the word terrific.) And I am sure you could come up with other examples.

However, Chow Yun-Fat as Hamlet, "To be or to go leaping through the air firing about 300 rounds from guns in both hands...." -- well, maybe not.

970106

Subject: Re(3): What the Trailer told me
From: milo

To: film

Of the two things I principally remember from Starship Troopers, the book, the first, that all the spaceships were piloted by women since they were more dextrous and had better reflexes, while men were stuck in the

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far lower on the totem pole Mobile Infantry, probably will not make it into the film; the second, the basically fascist political ideas Heinlein espoused therein, unfortunately very well might.

I wonder if either could be gleaned from the preview.

970107

Subject: Re(4): What the Trailer told me

From: milo

To: film

it's too bad, too, that Powered Armor has gone by the wayside. it would have filmed nicely, especially with ordered formations of troops in step. and they could have simply reused a lot of sound effects and Foley from Robocop -- or from The Wrong Trousers.

970118

Subject: Re(4): Steve McQueen

From: milo

To: film

the question is, did he and Butterfly McQueen ever make a movie together?

"But Steve, I don't know nothin' about driving around San Francisco!"

and by how many degrees are they separated?

interestingly enough, in both of Ali MacGraw's breakout roles, she played a Radcliffe undergrad. Perhaps that was all she could play, and the writers just weren't writing that....also, since her return was that absolute classic "convoy", perhaps she should have, as the old saying goes, stood in bed. (apologies to toaster boy for criticizing a peckinpah film.)

Perhaps the market just could not stand to have her and the interchangeable with her Katharine Ross around at the same time, though it seems Ross' career went off a cliff not long after. (Perhaps she jumped with Butch and Sundance.)

970121

Subject: Re(4): Run when you hear:

From: milo

To: film

a thriller with a tag line like something something (e.g., living with a roommate -- well, no, that was a good one -- making breakfast, falling in love, etc.) can be murder.....

I am usually tipped off by the title: basically, anything with a one-word ("the" not included) or cliché phrase title that could be that of a zillion movies, but they are using now as if the current film is the first ever made on the subject or the last word on it, and that is being used literally, because that is simply what the movie is about and they could not come up with something allusive...e.g., "ghost" -- like there has never been a movie about ghosts before? or this movie says everything that needs to be said about ghosts? as opposed, say, to Ibsen's "ghosts", which is not literally about ghosts....or "falling in love" -- like no one has made a movie about falling in love before? "the chase" -- like no one has made a movie about a chase before? same with "cop" or "killer" -- are they really the last word on their subjects? this makes life really difficult for the poor kids who for minimum wage brave great peril in the air as they mount ladders on thursdays to redo cinema marquees. most theatres now are multiplexes formed out of single theatres; when they subdivided the inside they did not add a bigger marquee to handle the many more titles that would have to be advertised, so that titles must be abbreviated., usually down to a single keyword, so that for "ghosts of mississippi" you might have "ghosts" and for "breaking the waves" just "breaking" (electric boogalo optional) and confusion with the pretentious one-words reigns....the same applies to tv shows (was there never a show about friends before "friends"?), songs, books....

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also, anything that is a single last name, especially if it is a biopic (bound to be overblown, like "hoffa") or single first name for that matter, but especially, a pair of names, e.g. "stanley and iris", though there are many exceptions to this, from "bonnie and clyde" to "thelma and louise".....

Saturday, January 25, 1997 12:20:37 PM

Message

From: milo
Subject: this post is REALLY dumb
To: film

ok, so I am reading something in the KQED viewer guide, about how they are going to follow up their documentaries about the neighborhoods of Chinatown and the Mission with one on the Castro. (paid for by the Mondavis maybe.) Only, I am not reading very carefully, and as I come across the names of the other documentaries, which are simply the names of the neighborhoods, all I see is Chinatown and The Mission and I think, "KQED made Chinatown and The Mission ?" ok, then I realized what was going on, but I started thinking, how many other SF neighborhoods have movies of the same name?? Note: We are not counting movies like "Pacific Heights" and "The Presidio" that purport to be about those areas. And I would give more credit to the recent French film "Hate" (la haine) than to any documentary that was made of the 60's scene.....there must be a Civil War epic called "Richmond" (for our purposes, leading "the"s can be dropped.....), and of course, "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me".....

ok, so I told you this was really dumb, but you read it anyway, so it's not my fault.

970125

Subject: Re(3): this post is REALLY du
From: milo
To: film

there was a movie, perhaps on HBO, not long ago, which starred Helena Bonham Carter as Lee Harvey Oswald's Russian wife. It wasn't called "Marina" by any chance, was it?

970126

Subject: Re: I survived 4 hours of Hamlet
From: milo
To: film

I underwent the same ordeal last night. I think that for me it was more of an ordeal than for James.

though I could go on for pages or dozens of K of scene by scene, point by point analysis, I think I should avoid too much detail until others have seen the film. these I will say: my basic complaint about Branagh's "Hamlet" was that there was nothing, with the possible exception of having the 2bornot2b soliloquy spoken into a mirror, very new or striking or original about it. the camera work tended to linger on people as they stood there, declaiming; I do not consider myself part of the mtv generation, but I need a bit more cutting. the music was boring and often inappropriate. Branagh tended toward bombast or a sort of whisper which I guess he considers dramatic. the setting and scenery and the use of them were unmotivated and distracting. sometimes I had the feeling that made his directing decisions based on his desire to make use of the elaborate sets he had, rather than using what he needed of the sets to back up his directorial choices. (My roommate, with whom I saw the film, commented that he found the recent "Romeo and Juliet", which I did not see, far more interesting, because it genuinely innovated.)

plus I disagree with his "hostile takeover" ending, which is not supported by the text, though it did give him the opportunity to lift Eisenstein's "Storming of the winter palace" pretty much literally.

As for the casting, a few things struck me: one was how much Branagh's hamlet physically resembled Derek jacobi's Claudius, and how little Brian Blessed's King Hamlet, which confirmed a theory I already had about hamlet's parentage or suspicions about it.

I thought heston, contrary to all my expektations and dreads, was magnificent. (and depardieu stole his little scene.) My roommate and I agreed in approving the casting of Polonius, Ophelia, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (or was that Guildenstern and Rosencrantz?), and condemning that of Laertes. Horatio we

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split on. I thought that Claudius and Gertrude were well cast but could have done better jobs, with different interpretations. and hamet was entirely overdone.

All in all, I'd rather be in Philadelphia -- or rather, with Zeffirelli/Gibson. though I would say the Hamlet for our time is yet to be made. why haven't they made it yet? we have picked out the cast for them!

Humbly submitted,

mil0

970126

Subject: Re: as yet unseen

From: mil0

To: film

my question, Steve, is: although you may never have SEEN Casablanca before, were you quite ignorant of its plot? In other words, was the film suspenseful for you, since you really did not know what would happen, whether Ilsa would go off with Rick or Victor (or Victor with Rick or whatever), or have you heard so many references to the actual outcome (as in "when harry met sally") that you were just waiting for a known ending to play out?

I was actually going to pose a similar question for another reason. last night I saw "Hamlet", and though I may have much to say about it in another post, here I will content myself with the question which hit me on the way out of the theatre: what must it be like to see Hamlet for the first time, not knowing what will happen, actually held in suspense by the story, not just paying attention to the way it is presented in this particular version? Has anyone had this experience, of seeing some classic, whether it be Julius Caesar or Love Story or the Gospel According to Mark, not knowing the story, not knowing that Julius and Brutus die or that Ali Macgraw dies or that Jesus dies, and been able to appreciate it as a story with some suspense?

I don't think I have ever really had this experience -- I even knew who Mother was before seeing Psycho. though I did not really know the plot of Gone With the Wind until I saw it at 21, just the line, without a context.

970127

Subject: Re(3): as yet unseen

From: mil0

To: film

you guys think you are bad, that there are all these great movies you have never seen?

Well, there are many, many truly GREAT movies I have never even HEARD of!!

Like, e.g., like.....

oh dear.

970128

Subject: Re(2): It's a Wonderful (Muppet) Life

From: mil0

To: film

well, we could set up a sort of virtual padded cell here, complete with virtual straitjackets, thorazine, electroshock (perhaps possible through your keyboard, though probably not if you are using a laptop on battery), or hydrotherapy (one would hope, not to be combined with the electricity.)

The Terrible Papers, Part I: Stoler's Posts under various names on the Guardian Online BBS, December 1995 to July 1997. Hard to follow sometimes, I know; remember, the

stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

it reminds me a bit of a rather odd thing in Branagh's "hamlet": the padded cell in which Ophelia is confined when she goes mad is immediately off the main throne room. I guess people are going nuts in Denmark so often that they need to have it convenient...well, maybe they installed it for Hamlet....

anyway, seeing how well the Muppets did with A Christmas Carol and Treasure Island, I see no reason why they should not do "IAWL" or anything else.

Except maybe Hamlet. I can't really see Kermit as Hamlet.

970128

Subject: Muppets take Elsinore!! (was IAW(M)L or Recasting Hamlet)

From: milo

To: film

wait -- it's coming to me.....

Robin plays Hamlet, his uncle Kermit plays uncle Claudius (wouldn't that be a great reversal of expectations, like Dennis Hopper playing a nice guy?), tiresome Fozzie or Gonzo or Sam the Eagle plays tiresome Polonius, Rizzo the Rat plays Horatio, Statler and Waldorf play Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, or Ernie and Bert do, Rowlf the Dog plays the Gravedigger, Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem Orchestra are the Players, Miss Piggy Gertrude of course....

no wait!

Hamlet should be done completely with pigs!!!

Hey, Laura Deal, if you squeezed over a little, would there be any room for me in your padded cell?

970128

Subject: Re(2): Muppets take Elsinore!! (was IAW(M)L or Recasting Hamlet)

From: milo

To: film

there was an occasional character on the old muppet show called annie sue, a much younger pig who made Miss Piggy insanely jealous when she did a duet with Kermit, who seemed to be flirting with her. on the new show, there was the starlet of "Bay of Pigswatch", Spamela Hamderson, who was probably the same puppet with different hair. I guess these would be the main candidates.

The Muppets have never been strong on female characters, any more than the Smurfs or the Toys in Toy Story or most other such groups with only a token female presence.

But then again, most shakespeare plays have little morethan a token female presence.

970129

Subject: Re(7): Oscrology

From: milo

To: film

we are missing the obvious here, folks.

the person to play William Wallace is of course....Wallace! With Gromit as Robert the Bruce.

Call it "The Wrong Kilt".

"Gromit, we're out of haggis! There's not a bit of it in the house!"

Heyer: milo, you are one sick puppy.

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milo (quoting "Reversal of Fortune"): you have NO idea.

while we are lambasting Gibson's homophobia, isn't it amusing to remind ourselves of his performance in the very homoerotic "Gallipoli", in which he and the equally young and good-looking Mark Lee spent as much time looking longingly at each other in the desert as Omar Sharif and Peter O'Toole did in "Lawrence"?

970129

Subject: Re(3): Oscarology Chart

From: milo

To: film

Eva Luna: *since my mother went into labor while seeing "Midnight Cowboy"*.

Eva's point is an interesting and important one. When I suggested that the movies seen by one's parents around the time of conceptio mattered, I should also have stressed the importance of those to which we were exposed while in the womb.

the system of Oscrology takes this into account only indirectly, since there is only a good possibility, but no guarantee, that one's parents (esp. one's mother) saw the Oscar (tm) winner during the prenatal period.

but Oscrology has some validity, as the same general tenor of the times that helped cause the Academy to choose as it did, (though one might argue that the Academy rarely reflects the times) helped create the environment in which those born in those years grew up, which, along with their heredity, possibly affected by radiation in the form of intense light reflecting off the screen, has made them what they are today.

Scientifically,
milo

970130

Subject: Re(6): Oscrology

From: milo

To: film

How about Mel gibson to play Wallis.....Warfield Simpson?

Then he could be Prince Edward's lover.

Or that model of tolerance, George Wallace.

But not Henry Wallace.

970130

Subject: Re(10): Oscrology

From: milo

To: film

Heyer:

*I don't see why William Wallace couldn't be given the same kind of non-standard treatment. There are plenty of political/social/psychological issues barging around in his story -- why not make something of them? This guy was a young punk who was able to inspire the masses didn't have the support of *any* of the other Scottish nobles (at least, that's what my history books are saying), and was finally handed over to the English by them. There's plenty of meat in this story.*

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you know, that summary sounds a bit like that of the life and biopic of Michael Collins, doesn't it? but I guess that is how all revolutionaries end up, betrayed and disappointed. Gandhi, Lawrence -- Jesus for that matter.....

I totally agree with you about "Robin and Marian". From the madness of King Richard, to the sliminess of Ian Holm's King John, to the Sheriff's resignation that he cannot really hope to defeat Robin but that he is required by his job to try, to Little John's recognition that crazy and misguided as he thinks Robin is, he cannot help but follow him, to Marian's realization at the end that there is only way to save Robin.....wonderful. Connery was terrific in the mid-70's, when he made *The Man Who Would Be King* and *The Great Train Robbery* as well. I know his social beliefs are close to Gibson's, but he is an epic hero.

970131

Subject: Re(13): Oscrology

From: milo

To: film

Liam Neeson (was Re(13): Oscrology
also in the epic "The Mission", and

"Darkman"!!!

With Frances McDormand!!!

Dir. by Sam Raimi!

What an ad campaign!!!

Woo hoo!

milo

(Liam spelled backwards or something)

970131

Subject: Milo gets everyone REALLY annoyed

From: milo

To: film

This evening I was walking by a theater showing "Larry flynt", and I noticed a demonstration going on. A small one, but there was one guy with an electric megaphone who was shouting a lot. The thing was, he kept shouting the same thing: "Hey Hi Ho, Porn's got to go! Wake up America! We need pure sex!" Over and over and over. Nothing new or original. I mean, look at the things the Serbs have been doing in their demonstrations. Incredibly creative. And we americans have been free to demonstrate all this time....well, anyway. I finally couldn't stand it anymore, so I walked up to him. At first I was going to tell him that he need not worry, that "Flynt" was almost 100 % pure sex, but instead, after asuring him that I was neither a cop nor a convert nor, as he had hoped most, a newsman, I suggested that he might find some more creative lyrics for his chant. This amazed and enraged him so that he stopped chanting, which was part of the aim, and looked at me. "I suppose you've got something better?" he sneered. "Yes", I think, "Lots of things." And suddenly we wer in a scene from "Cyrano de Bergerac" or "Roxanne", and I had accepted a challenge to come up with 20 chants better than his. And so, after a pause, I began, warming up and getting better as I went, as the crowd of passersby, assembled out of curiosity, listened, counted, and applauded....

"Agrarian:

Read less porn

Raise more corn!

The Terrible Papers, Part I: Stoler's Posts under various names on the Guardian Online BBS, December 1995 to July 1997. Hard to follow sometimes, I know; remember, the stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

"Trekkie:
Read less porn!
Watch Michael Dorn!

"Shakespearean:
An thou read'st porn
wilt thou be most forlorn!
(also possibly "Bonanzish" or "Battlestar Galactican")

"Rhyme-twisting
Adultery and forn--
ication stem from porn!

"Interior decorating:
You should not adorn
Your walls with porn!

"O'Neillian:
If you watch porn
Electra will mourn!

"Threatening:
Pal, I gotta warn
You not to watch porn!

"Determined:
This we have sworn:
And end to porn!

"Specific:
Every piece of porn
From books should be torn!

"Descriptive:
I'll say it through this horn
Let's get rid of porn!

"Snobbish:
The very idea of porn
Is something that we scorn!

"New Zealander:
Those who buy porn
Are sheep who will be shorn!

"Time-conscious:
Evening, noon, and morn
We will protest porn!

"Long-suffering:
The existance of porn
Can no longer be borne!!

"Lit-crit:
The concept of porn

The Terrible Papers, Part I: Stoler's Posts under various names on the Guardian Online BBS, December 1995 to July 1997. Hard to follow sometimes, I know; remember, the

stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.
Is totally outworn!

"Jazzy:
Don't read porn
Listen to John Zorn!

"Ostrichlike:
This stuff that they call porn
We just should be ignor'n'!

"Book-burning:
Get the fire roar'n'
We're tossing on the porn!

"Hickish:
Git' them eyes o' yourn
Fer awy fr'm porn!"

And finally, to the audience's delight and my racked brain's relief....

"Pro-choice:
Abort this stuff called porn
It shouldn't be born!"

Well, he did not like this much, especially the fact that I had won, and the last one especially, and he made a very rude remark about a part of my anatomy about which I am rather sensitive, and I was thus bound to challenge him to a duel, and ultimately, to leave him lying bleeding on the pavement.

But on the odd chance that you liked this, please feel free to send contributions to my legal defense fund, care of my lawyer -- who is played by Ed Norton.....

970203
Subject: Re(8): It's a Wonderful (Muppet) Life
From: milo
To: film

one wonders what some of the other people who have been Muppetized -- Zoot Sims into sax player Zoot, Dr. John into Dr. Teeth, Carl Sagan (at least the voice) into Dr. Bunsen Honeydew -- thought of their transformations. I hope that they were chuffed.

or has Alistair Cooke ever seen Sesame St.'s "Monsterpiece Theatre" and its host?

(It works both ways. in the movie "the Commitments", the prospective drummer, asked his influences, replies "Animal from the Muppets.")

And this is only part of the larger issue of what famous people think of those who satirize them. George Bush claimed to love Dana Carvey and had him stay over at the white House. Bob Dole seemed to get along alright with Norm MacDonald.

wishing that Fozzie were based on him,

milo

970203
Subject: Re: if you were a muppet...
From: milo

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To: film

statler and waldorf. statler's the pointier faced one, waldorf the rounder. the latter's wife, Astoria, once showed up on the old show. and they once did a very nice rendition of "when I was twenty-one...it was a very good year...."

I think that if Heyer were one, Greta should be the other.

"how do you like it so far?"

"i've seen DETERGENTS that leave better FILMS than this!"

(The Muppet Movie)

970206 Message
From: milo
Subject: Mira Nair's upcoming film
To: film

Cc:

For those of you interested in the upcoming film "Kama Sutra" -- and you ARE all interested, aren't you?-- there is an interesting interview with her, mainly concerning the film, in this month's "India Currents" magazine. You can probably find this at any store selling Indian goods, so the next time you treat yourself (come on! it's been a while! you deserve it!) to a new sari or some curry powder or a pocket-size "Sayings of Mahatma Gandhi", pick one up!

Contrary to rumor, Mira Nair's new film will not star Mira Sorvino.

970207

Subject: Re: Special Forces
From: milo
To: film

hello, my name is milo and I'll be your server tonight. the specials are....

on the other hand, the Special forces are not so Special that they could win the Vietnam War all by themselves. oh, wait, in "the Green Berets" they did. or John Wayne did. How does that song go? bum budda bum. bum budda bum. "Fearless warriors, from the sky/ something men, who jump and die...." It is so scary to think that that was a number one song at a time when the Beatles, Stones, etc. etc. etc. were at their height...who sang that (if you can call it singing) anyway? I want to say sgt. barry mcaffrey, but he's the drug czar (and a general) but maybe...it was not sgt. pepper was it? personally, I'd rather be listening to the Specials.

Whenever people wax rhapsodic about JFK's founding of the Peace Corps, remind them that he started the Green Berets as well (even helped select their equipment.) Though in a way, they are rather similar, using a small group of gung-ho people to lead and train the natives and further u.s. foreign policy. it's sort of the "teach a man to fish" theory, but with killing instead of fishing.

maybe they get so tough the way the marines do, by pinning their medals straight to their chests. now is that so different from mamillar piercing?

well, isn't that special?

isn't that a line from "welcome to the dollhouse"? the guy refuses to join the special people's club because "special means retarded" (or something?)

a lot of film superheroes seem to be ex-CIA too, which seems odd, considering how incompetent the CIA has been shown to be. except maybe at killing presidents.

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970207

Subject: Re(7): Star Wars: Rites of Pa
From: milo

To: film

wouldn't you say though that at least in part, Watergate grew out of Vietnam? Nixon's anger about leaks undermining his Vietnam policies, his hatred of his "enemies" opposing him, led to the founding of the Plumbers (many of them ex-Special Forces -- look how superhuman they were!!), the burgling of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, and ultimately, Watergate, though that had other non-Nam reasons too. so in a way, the demonstrations brought down Nixon by driving him over the edge.

I would say the 70's equivalent of Vietnam -- and remember it lasted well into the 70's -- was the Iran Hostage crisis. (and perhaps the energy crunch.) both showed the US did not have the power it thought it did, and that our government could not do much about it. all on the TV news every evening.

"History is more or less bunk." -- Henry Ford

Saturday, February 8, 1997 12:10:41 AM

Message

From: Dauntless
Subject: Re: Favorite ways to end the world....
To: It's a le fou World

Cc:

what if everyone just got tired, realized things weren't going anywhere, and gave up? just sat down where they were and used up what they had at hand, then used up their bodies' resources, then died?

this idea was in a story by Irene Lantz.

or what if the world just ended, not with a bang, but a whimper, as in Ray Bradbury's "The last night of the world"? everyone wakes up having had the same dream, and they go calmly to bed that night, knowing they won't wake up, but turning off the water anyway.

oh, and in the Stephen Marcus story "The Grudge", a nobel physicist, angry at the whole universe, finds a way to destroy it, by using a particle acclerator to create and propagate an inconsistency in the laws of physics and so "crash" the universe. though he is stopped. so the universe is a little luckier than in arthur c. clarke's "the nine billion names of god", in which monks, using a computer, bring the universe to the fulfillment of its purpose and thus its end.

or perhaps something will happen for which people are so unprepared mentally that they will all go nuts, and destroy everything around them, as in Isaac asimov's story-expanded-to-a-novel "Nightfall".

I still like "On the Beach" a lot. I think the world really ended in 1963.

by the way, you know the guy who walks around Civic Center Plaza and that part of Market with the sign that says "the world ends tomorrow"? that's me. say hello next time. and if you point out I had the same sign two days before, and was thus saying that the world was going to end yesterday, I'll say "how do you know it didn't?" that might give you a raw shock. but the world ends every day. every day something happens that means the end of a world, and we hardly notice it. in 1922, a man in a brown shirt walked through the streets of Munich, and no one thought any more of it than of the rhinoceros in the eponymous Ionesco play. in 1961, a small group of US advisors went to assist in training the army of a small country in southeast asia. in 1981, there was a report of a cluster of rare cancers in otherwise healthy young gay men in San Francisco. keep an eye on those little items in the newspapers, at the bottom edge of the back pages. before they make it to the front, or hit so close that you do not even need to read the paper to know about them.

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

From memory, you real poets correct me:

some say the world will end in fire
some say in ice
from what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire
but if I had to perish twice
I think I know enough of hate
to know that for destruction ice
is just as great
and would suffice. (Frost -- which is like ice, I guess.)

hey, I used the REM lyric sign-off weeks ago.

970208

From: Dauntless
Subject: Re(2): Favorite ways to end the world....
To: It's a le fou World

Cc:

there is also (forgot this last night) S.V. Subrachandrayan's (yeah right, like I spelled that correctly) story "The So-Called Shirt-Button Theory", in which he postulates that all the systems of modern industrial society (this was pre-Unabomber) are so interconnected and interdependent, and overburdened, that any of them could go down on a slight accident or deliberate act, the backup systems too, shifting the burden to other systems, which in turn would collapse, causing the systems dependent on them to collapse, until everything comes crashing down. chaos, I guess, though this was before that too.

970209

Subject: Re(2): Bash the Nominations!
From: milo
To: film

well, if it hasn't been obvious yet, I certainly refer to enough films about which I know only through articles, reviews, conversations with others, hearsay, songs, vicious rumors, ads, etc. I have been trying to come up with a typographic convention to indicate this, for instance, italicizing all such movie titles, or putting them in 14 point helvetica, rather than having to write ("I have not actually seen this movie") obtrusively and sentence-flow interruptingly after each one. but I guess my mac typefaces do not show up well on everyone's screen....in historical linguistics, a form reconstructed from later forms, but not attested in texts, is indicated with an initial asterisk ...*dhugheter, for instance --, the theorized ancient proto-indo-european word for daughter.....so if you see *Rob Roy or *Braveheart in my posts, you'll know what I mean.....feel free to adopt this convention yourself, if you want to admit that you are doing the same as i....I mean, don't we all?

though I just noticed that some people have * before their names here online. often they have an unasterisked name as well. does that mean people have not seen them, they have not seen themselves, they have been reconstructed?

or maybe it was a 162-game season.

970209

Subject: Re(3): Unseen but Judged anyway
From: milo
To: film

this thread is starting to sound a lot like "run when you hear.." of a few weeks ago, though with the tenses changed. then, we talked of how we could know movies would be bad based on what we hear in advance; now, we talk about which movies we know are bad based on what we have heard in advance, or in ads.

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

this is not a bad thing, though. I am not criticizing. there are so many movies I want to know about -- such as when people refer to elements in them as if they are part of cultural literacy and I don't really know what "I'm ready for my closeup now, Mr. DeMille" refers to -- but I don't have the 7.50 for the movie or the 3 bucks for the video or the two hours for either. so that is really one of the main purposes of this conference, or should be (I most humbly suggest, as I have not been here that long), to allow its participants to judge unseen movies, and run away from others when we hear about them here. in other words, this thread or some form of it should run in perpetuity. forever, and ever. hallelujah, hallelujah!

Hal-leeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee...

luuuuuuu.....jahhhhhhhhh!

970209

Subject: Re(2): Surviving dog

From: milo

To: film

tell me though, was this dog like lassie, or rin tin tin, or with such a master, capable of a complete range of detailed communication through english on one side and barks on the other? in other words, was there any dialogue at all like this:

Dog: woof! woof!

Owner: what's that boy?(girl?) a twenty five foot fissure has opened on the north slope, spewing deadly sulfurous gas and hot ash?

Dog: woof!

Owner: come on, no time to lose!

970210

Subject: Re(2): Sling Blade

From: milo

To: film

he WROTE that*, too? WOW! I mean, his performance was good, though maybe not as good as bill paxton's, and the directing of Carl Franklin was as taut as Brooke Shield's Calvins. but he wrote that? wow!

fave lines:

"my husband watches TV. I read nonfiction."

"are you dead, mister?"

brrrrrrrrr. that movie was so good it makes me shiver. he wrote that? WOW!

*no, asterisk does not indicate an unseen movie. I just need to translate: "billy bob thomton WROTE "ONE False Move"?"

Tuesday, February 11, 1997 8:31:06 PM

film Item

From: milo

Subject: Re(6): Unseen but Judged anyway

To: ronald j. morgan

Cc: film

I try to be objective about film, but not about pronouns; it's *"withnail and /". but as the asterisk indicates, I have never seen it. however, if I started telling you one of my movie plot ideas, you might think I was channeling Grant in "The Player" -- "because THAT'S REALITY."

970211

The Terrible Papers, Part I: Stoler's Posts under various names on the Guardian Online BBS, December 1995 to July 1997. Hard to follow sometimes, I know; remember, the

stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Subject: All Milo cares about

From: milo

To: film

is that William Macy was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for playing Jerry Lundegaard in "Fargo".

Aw, jeez.

YAAAAAAYYYYYYYY!

But seriously:

though the praise of people whose opinions I respect and believe leave me no doubt that Billy Bob Thornton's performance in "Sling blade" is terrific and deserving of award, it does tend to confirm the observation that the fastest way for an actor to win renown and Oscar (tm) is to play someone who is some way mentally handicapped: autistic, mentally ill, retarded, etc. (who usually ends up forming an unlikely friendship, such as with a child.) And this trend shows no signs of abating. In fact, my latest copy of TIME-Warner Brand Weekly Newsmagazine Product (free subscription from KQED membership -- or should I be ashamed of the latter, too?) informs me that in Timothy Hutton's directorial debut, "Digging to China", the well-connected Kevin Bacon plays a mentally disabled man who forms an odd friendship with a girl." Look for the nominations, in a year perhaps.....

970211

From: Dauntless

Subject: Re(5): Favorite ways to end the world.....

To: It's a le fou World

Cc:

as for the problem of what to do with the bodies of the plague victims:

there is a story by Richard H. Bentham called "Greyworld" -- or "Grayworld" maybe. In it, everything is grey because there is dust swirling everywhere. This is common household dust we're talking here, and like common household dust, the greyworld dust comes from dead human skin cells. See, about a generation ago, a genetic engineering bacteriologist and his sociologist sister decided to remake out of control human society by killing most of them with a bacterium, kind of like the "flesh-eating" one, that makes people's metabolisms speed up so much they devour themselves, they burn up, into dust. (as in much sf, Bentham is vague on the details. he goes for sweeping analogies.) this lingering dust reminds the guilt-ridden survivors how lucky they are to have survived, and how they had better keep humankind from getting out of control again, by getting too confident. everyone keeps their eyes lowered and talks softly.....

yeah, I read a lot of this stuff, I know.

970213

Subject: Re(3): Lost Highway

From: milo

To: film

see, when I think back about Wild at Heart, and then about, say "Fire Walk with Me", my general impression is that the former had a lot more humor in it, that despite some really dark gruesome things in it "wild at heart", "Fire Walk With Me" was in comparison utterly bleak and horrific. when I try to list the reasons, the images, comparing them logically, I can't confirm my gut feeling. Perhaps it is just that I felt Wild at heart was a better movie, so I was willing to tolerate the horror. On the other hand, perhaps the horror was one of the reasons WHY I I felt WaH was better than FWwM. But does anyone else have the same feeling, whether in gut or in heart or in brain? Anyone think that that was just what FWwM was meant to be, real horrorshow, and that that is what it was?

970213

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Subject: Re(9): The Actual Nominations

From: milo

To: film

richard von busack: *On the other hand, Paradise Lost was indeed robbed.*

Yes, I totally agree!!! I thought that Rutger Hauer as Lucifer deserved at least a nomination, as did Willem Dafoe as Beelzebub, and maybe even Uma Thurman as Eve. Steve Buscemi was great as the snake but it was too small a part, really.

Having a distinguished english actor play God (why not a doctor? they do all the time) was so..so...old. At this point I can't even remember it was Ralph Richardson or Richard Attenborough or John Gielgud or which of those Sir guys. Come on. Even George burns was better. though I could live with Kyle MacLachlan as the Archangel Michael. But why weren't there any people of color in this movie? Huh? and those special effects.....not very heavenly....

all in all, a decent adaptation and decent directing, but those special effects looked, as if...they were already old when the world began.

970213

From: Dauntless

Subject: Maybe Greta will like this one

To: It's a le fou World

Cc:

Actually, it's kind of funny that this should come up, because it sort of combines the end-of-the-world thread with something in the "Desperado" thread, the part about the woman accusing Greta of making her pregnant. There is a story by Andrea Pulaski called "Laudate No Men" which is about the passing of the last man, meaning the last MALE -- there are plenty of females around. Apparently, not long after our own time, someone discovered a way of combining the two half-sets of chromosomes from two different ova, no sperm needed for fertilization. In other words, two women could have a child together, no men needed. (At first this had to be done in a petri dish, but over time, a mutation, and some genetic engineering, allowed two ova to be combined directly.) Now, since Y chromosomes come only from males, the offspring of two women always has two X chromosomes and thus is always a female. So that over time, the percentage of females in the population slowly increases, then increases faster, since, with fewer men around, there are fewer male-female couples and thus even fewer male children produced, in a spiral. (although it is also found possible to produce a child, either male or female, from the half sets of DNA of two males, it is harder, and, [as John Cleese says to "Loretta" {Eric Idle}, who wants to have children, in "Life of Brian", "where's the fetus going to gestate? in a box?"] the artificial womb is invented too late.) anyway, the story centers on the death of the last male, on his reminiscences, and through these, the whole above story is told.

Now I have no idea whether this is possible. It seems so, but I do not know much about genetics. If there is anyone out there who does, I would be interested to know. Is there something in the male chromosomes, not the Y, but just are there genes carried only by fathers, so that this would not work? Otherwise, you XX's, get working in the lab! Get this going!

The whole thing reminds me a bit of "Motherlines", but suzy charnas (something like that. I have trouble with her name.) Funny about Pulaski; she describes the story not as a wish of any kind, but just as a thought. She is married to a man herself, and has two sons. Anyway, that's the story, I hope Greta was able to read this whole thing.

970214

From: milo

Subject: Absolute....

To: film

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Cc:
am I the only one who thinks the film ads are for a vodka?

actually, in the slight delay between the announcement/appearance of the first word and the second, my mind races, through every course I ever took, each one suggesting an appropriate completion to "Absolute..."

math: Absolute.....VALUE
physics: Absolute ZERO
astronomy: Absolute.....MAGNITUDE
Latin: Absolute...ABLATIVE
gym: Absolute...ABS??

oh, but I had not really planned to waste your time with this. Instead, I planned to waste your time, and will do so, with this:

Is it just the presence of Gene Hackman as the very powerful guy who murders his mistress, or does it seem to other people that "Absolute Power" is basically the same movie as "No Way Out"? In both, the overzealous assistant tries to cover up for his/her boss to the point of murder, and the hero can't exactly go to the police because of his own criminal past.....
ok, so the hero is a lot older and doesn't get to sleep with the mistress but still.....

970214
From: milo
Subject: Yours Lumbly
To: film

Cc:
I just noticed that Carl Lumbly will be playing Macbeth in the Berkeley Rep's production of the Scottish Play. Yay!! though you may remember Carl Lumbly mainly from his sci-fi TV show "M.A.N.T.I.S", he was perhaps most memorable, at least to me, in "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai (and the Hong Kong Cavaliers) Across the Eighth Dimension", as dreadlocked Jamaican -accented good alien ("black Lectroid") John Parker. "Buckaroo, there is little time. You'd better come quickly if your planet is still important to you." Or, in response to Buckaroo (Peter Weller)'s passing him the controls of escape pod with the warning that "it drives like a truck": "Very good. What is a truck?"

Glad you have landed on OUR planet, John/Carl.

970214
Subject: Re(2): Absolute....
From: milo
To: film

but how can they make a movie about power in Washington without Fred Dalton Thompson as the head of the CIA or the Chief of Staff or the Commander of the Aircraft Carrier or the Airport?

I guess he's moved on to better things, as Senator Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.), heading the committee investigating the Democrats campaign contribution irregularities and being mentioned as a Presidential contender for 2000.....

now he doesn't seem to be the type to kill his mistress, does he?

By the way, Laura Linney, who plays Eastwood's daughter in this, was the secretary whom Pres. Bill Mitchell in "Dave" was screwing when he had his stroke. So I guess she knows all about things like this.

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

On the other hand, it's odd that Eastwood is fighting the same Secret Service with which he served in "In the Line of Fire". I wonder if Rene Russo is still with them. Maybe he can seek an ally in John Malkovich.

Personally, I don't see how any of this can even hold a candle to the upcoming *"shadow conspiracy"*.
mmmm-hmmmm.

970215

Subject: Re(4): Absolute....

From: milo

To: film

Steve Omlid: *If I ain't mistaken, Shadow Conspiracy has already upcome and upgone.*

Like the shadows!!

Hmmm. Are you sure about this? I had not seen it advertised as playing anywhere. And I was so looking forward to it. with any luck, it would have been at a multiplex with *"dante's peak"* so I could sneak from one to the other and get that all-important double Linda hamilton fix. On the other hand, is it appropriate to watch a Charlie Sheen flick without a professional escort?

milo (who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men, ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!)

970215

Subject: Re(3): Yours Lumbly

From: milo

To: film

Wow!! To have a teacher conf. with Carl Lumbly is more than a brush with greatness; it is a full combing out, maybe even a wash and perm and trim! I find this so incredibly I can barely speak!

Yours Dumbly,
milo

ps. Oh, by the way, isn't it "Lay on, MacDuff?" Or maybe whoever I heard was not speaking clearly. Or maybe I am not.

Yours Mumbly,
milo

pps. Did I just say something obvious and wrong and maybe offensive? I am sorry if so. I have poor social skills and I often trip and fall head over heels and drop the conversational ball. Sorry again.

Yours Stumbly and Tumbly and Fumbly,
milo

ppps. And actually, it's just that I am kind of stupid and thoughtless.

Yours Bumbly,
milo

pppps. But I tell you, since I am always obliged to send gifts of apology, I have learned to bake really good coffee cakes and muffins!

Yours Crumbly,
milo

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

ppppps. In fact, just thinking about them makes my stomach make noise in hunger!

Yours Rumbly,
milo

pppppps. In fact, I am so hungry, I am losing feeling in my extremities!

Yours Numbly,
milo

ppppppps. all right, I had better go eat breakfast. too bad I can't watch my favorite morning news host anymore!

Yours Gumbly,
milo

970215

Subject: Re(5): Yours Lumbly

From: milo

To: film

now that I remember, in the Fantasticks, one of the fathers says to the Boy "READ on, MacDuff". I guess it's pretty old.

I'd love to be thane of anything; in anglo-saxon, it just means "loyal retainer". maybe the thane of spain, who stays mainly on the plain, not the Highlands.....

do they still have thanes? or when Malcolm makes them all into earls (from anglo-saxon eorl, man, fighting man, noble man) before he goes to be crowned at Scone (the Stone of which was restored to Scotland recently, but in the wrong place). maybe thanes were just any kind of nobles, any kind of gentlemen, but that "gentlemen" prefer "thanes."

well, I guess that is my cue. it's a thane cue. soooo.....

thane cue all very much!!

970217

Subject: Re(2): Donald Sutherland could do the voice of God

From: milo

To: film

I thought everyone knew that Donald Sutherland (perhaps because his green card read "resident alien") was replaced by an alien pod twenty years ago, and that is why he has not been the same since!

come on folks, it happened right in this city!

perhaps the pod turned him from an interesting, free-thinking Canadian, into a conforming American.

and perhaps it was to gain revenge on the pods that he took that kickass role in "The Puppet Masters", which I am proud to say I saw in its first showing on its first day. (ok, so I was working at the theatre showing it. it was sort of a dare from a co-worker.)

still, he was most chilling as the unrepentant arsonist in "Backdraft", the repentant "X" in "JFK". And, I agree, most amusing in "Six Degrees" -- "We could have been killed! Our throats cut!"

970217

Subject: older actors was Re(11): Absolute....

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Hard to follow sometimes, I know; remember, the stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

From: milo

To: film

for all of you who like older actors, as many as you can get in a film, this sad story, from a friend of mine who used to assistant-manage a theatre in L.A., and now does computer geekiness for Universal:

<<In early 1992, Alan McLean [or McKean], a thirty-five year old part-time telemarketer living outside Phoenix, finished a screenplay which he rather straightforwardly entitled "The Last James Bond Movie: The Death of 007". McLean was a huge Bond fan, having read all the books, plus several biographies of Ian Fleming, and having seen all the movies, which he had on tape, multiple times. So seriously did he take Bond that his screenplay aimed to make 007 "realistic". To do this, he imagined that Bond's career had actually started in the early '60's when the first movies appeared, when Bond was in his early thirties. It had ended, McLean presumed, in the mid-to-late '80's, when the waning of the Cold War and Parliamentary inquiries had led to deep cuts at the Secret Service and the abolition of the double-o branch. Bond, by then nearing retirement age anyway, had been pensioned off. He had retired to a cottage in the country, where his life was not happy. His recent treatment by the Government he had served had left him bitter. He was terrified of possible revenge attacks, and slept with a loaded pistol under his pillow. His health was beginning to suffer from so many years of drinking, smoking, violence, and unprotected sex. (In McLean's vision, Bond was HIV+but as yet asymptomatic.) McLean's scenario began with this Bond finding out that two of his old associates, Q and Moneypenny, have been severely injured in suspicious accidents, just weeks after the retired M was killed in one. A check reveals that other former operatives have also been victims. Then Bond himself narrowly escapes "accidental" death. He is now frantic, desperate to save what is left of his life, but believing that his enemy may be within the Service itself. There is only one person he can trust, he decides. This is Felix Leiter, his old CIA contact, who showed up in nearly all the movies, played by a great variety of actors, including Jack Lord, later of "Hawaii Five-O". Leiter has been working a desk job at Langley since the loss of his legs (replaced by prostheses), as portrayed in "License to Kill". Leiter manages to calm the shaken Bond enough for them, together, to go one last great adventure. In the end, in the process of defeating the enemy, (as it turns out, a cabal of former agents from various Western and East Bloc intelligence services, hoping to bring back the Cold War), Bond dies heroically. Leiter is left to pronounce his epitaph, like Horatio over Hamlet or Mark Antony over Brutus.

From the start, McLean had fantasized that Sean Connery might agree to play Bond again. He figured that he was the right age, and that his script would offer Connery a chance finally to put Bond to rest. For Leiter, a part for once equal in size and importance to Bond, he wanted Clint Eastwood. Having no idea where to find Connery, but having heard that Eastwood lived in Carmel, Calif., he quit his job and drove to Carmel, script in hand. For almost three weeks, he staked out Eastwood's house and bar in Carmel before he was able to meet the actor-director, and almost got himself .44 magnumed in the process. By reciting large chunks of "Rawhide" episodes and Eastwood's early westerns, McLean was able to charm Eastwood into taking a look at the screenplay. Eastwood did, and he was very impressed. At the time, he was finishing up "Unforgiven" and getting ready for "In the Line of Fire", both films that reexamined the sorts of heroes he had played. He liked the idea of doing the same for James Bond, another icon of the '60's and '70's. He also liked the idea of working with Connery. He not only wanted to act in the film, but to direct it as well. He agreed to contact Connery.

Unfortunately, Connery listened to a summary of the story and would have none of it. He was through with Bond; though he had said that before and then gone back to playing 007 in "Never Say Never Again", this time he really meant it. He had no desire to play the death of Bond. To the idea of an HIV+ Bond, which had some importance to the plot, he responded, with his famous tolerance, that "he wasn't going to have anyone thinking he was a bloody poof". Plus, he was quite busy with other projects. And, he pointed out, the right to put Bond on film still belonged to producer Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, who would never consent to the filmic termination of his cinematic franchise. No, he was sorry, he would love to work with Eastwood, but not on this. And there it ended. After a week or so, McLean returned to Phoenix and telemarketing and writing scripts to submit pseudonymously to "Star Trek: The Next Generations", two of which have supposedly been accepted and produced. His Bond script, I guess, still languishes in a drawer, like so many other great scripts, like the Ark of the Covenant in the last scene of "Raiders".>>

<snif, sniff>

But do not fret, folks. There is yet hope. I have heard reports that Eastwood and Connery plan to work together on a film version of "Golf in the Kingdom", starring Connery as a sort of golf guru and with

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Eastwood directing. So maybeon the other hand, Connery is even more conservative, at least socially, than Eastwood....on the other hand, it seems that Eastwood is forgivable...your call; I just provide the info.

970218

Send

Subject: Re(3): older actors was Re(11):
From: milo
To: film

Greta Christina: *Whoever wrote it {goldeneye} figured out that women do like to see action movies when they don't insult us.*

Didn't you find Goldeneye rather insulting to women? For instance, the scene in which bond and the drop-dead gorgeous Russian girl (the "nice" one, the programmer) are on the beach before the big final confrontation, he in shirt and trousers, she in some sort of (very welcome) abbreviated tropical skirt and bikini top, and whenever she spoke, the camera seemed to focus not on her face (which was not even in the frame) but on her crotch?

Although having a female head of the Service was nice, especially because the current head of MI5 in Britain, as revealed in the papers, contrary to usual secrecy, is a woman. One of the headlines announcing this ran, "The name is Bond. Jane Bond."

Well, what do I know. I actually liked Timothy Dalton as Bond. And George Lazenby, but maybe that is because his costar was Diana Rigg.

970218

Subject: Re(2): Goldeneye
From: milo
To: film

I'm not sure why John Barrymore types this big, but I don't want him to feel odd doing it so I will do it too.

Concerning the casting of Bond: The late Richard Burton was a strong candidate, too (he went on to play darker, more realistic spies.) Connery was at the time known mainly for "Darby O'Gill and the Little People." There exists a sketch which is supposedly Fleming's idea of Bond; it looks much more like Moore than Connery. Fleming wrote that there was something cruel about Bond's face, especially around the mouth; this is something Dalton, I think, has the most of all Bonds. Fleming also wrote that he imagined Bond as looking like Hoagy Carmichael. I have very little idea who Hoagy Carmichael is, but anyone named after a cold-cut sandwich on Italian bread can't be all bad. One of Fleming's inspirations for Bond was Sidney Reilly, the British agent of the first quarter of this century. The '80's PBS series about Reilly, "Reilly: Ace of Spies", starred New Zealander Sam Neill (later of "Amerika", "Dead Calm", "The Hunt for Red October", "Jurassic Park" and many, many others), who looked something like the real Reilly, and a lot like a young Connery.

With this exhaustive catalog of all I know about Bond casting, I am exhausted, and I had better get my exhaust checked.

Resume for Milo

Not one jot or tittle shall pass
from this resume from now on. New stuff at the top, old at the bottom, scrolling down like the STAR WARS opening in reverse. Maybe I will date some things -- but why? They won't spoil....

I was good, I could talk
A MILO minute
On this caffeine buzz I was on
We were really hummin'

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

We would talk every day for hours...

Let's go crash that party down in Normaltown tonight!!!

Well, I did it. (See below.) And now I'm going straight to hell. There ain't no need for me. Go straight to hell, boy. There ain't no asylum here. King Solomon he never lived 'round here. Go straight to hell.....Hell hell hell. And not Sartrean "No Exit" existential wimpy hell. To paraphrase the Chron headline on the Simpson punitivie damages, God's going to throw the book at me....

They wouldn't listen to the fact that I was a genius. The man said, "We got all that we can use". Now I got them steadily depressin', low-down, mind-messin', workin' at the car wash blues.

Cause your head's shaking cause your arms are shaking And your feet are shaking cause the earth is shaking

This is a slight unmeritable man

Meet to be sent on errands

I lost my job at the orange juice factory because I couldn't concentrate. So I went to the doctor to have my head examined, and he said he couldn't find anything.

Tesla girls, tesla girls, testing out theories, electric chairs and dynamos, dressed to kill, they're killing me...

I was going to do something really evil today -- something specific, I mean. I couldn't keep from doing it. Oh, bullshit, of course I could have. In fact, doing it would have been rather difficult; nevertheless, I was all set to do it, excited about doing it. But guess what? God saved me. God kept me from doing it. God (I keep saying God, not using a pronoun, to avoid assigning gender) has done this before, but not for a while, and never when I was going to do something so evil. But I don't know why God bothers. I can still do the thing Friday. And I will.

Desperately seeking a PARAPET

no, not a parakeet. and I'm not planning to jump off. what's a parapet? I need something that looks like a castle wall. a long balcony maybe. or a fort. the older the better, but anything striking will be considered. a walkway with a belly-high wall, wide enough to walk on, with care. ideally, the whole thing will not actually be more than a story or two above the ground. also ideally, it would have a view of the water and as few buildings in between as possible. ok. questions? feel free to ask. thanks!!

All Coincidences Must Be Fulfilled (from a story by Anthony Firpo)

What?

Say it.

Say what?

What I just said.

I don't remember it. Could you....

All right. "All coincidences must be fulfilled."

"All coincidences must be fulfilled"?

Right. Again.

"All coincidences must be fulfilled."

Again.

"All coincidences must be fulfilled."

Once more.

Why?

Just say it.

All right. "All coincidences must be fulfilled." Ok?

No.

Why? I said it right!

But it's wrong.

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

It's wrong?

I told it to you wrong.

Wrong how?

It's incomplete.

Are you going to tell it to me complete?

Yes.

What is it, then?

Listen.

I'm listening.

Ok. It's "All RARE INSTANCES must be fulfilled."

Oh.

Say it.

"All rare instances must be fulfilled."

Again.

"All rare instances must be fulfilled."

Again.

"All rare instances must be fulfilled."

Keep that up all day.

But what does it mean?

Maybe you'll tell me tomorrow.

There was once a boy named Milo who didn't know what to do with himself -- not just sometimes, but always.

When he was in school, he longed to be out, and when he was out he longed to be in. On the way, he thought about coming home, and coming home he thought about going. Wherever he was he wished he were somewhere else, and when he got there he wondered why he'd bothered. Nothing really interested him -- least of all the things that should have.

"It seems to me that almost everything is a waste of time," he remarked one day as he walked dejectedly home from school. "I can't see the point in learning to solve useless problems, or subtracting turnips from turnips, or knowing where Ethiopia is or how to spell February." And, since no one bothered to explain otherwise, he regarded the process of seeking knowledge as the greatest waste of time of all.

As he and his unhappy thoughts hurried along (for while he was never anxious to be where he was going, he liked to get there as quickly as possible) it seemed a great wonder that the world, which was so large, could sometimes feel so small and empty.

"And worst of all," he continued sadly, "there's nothing for me to do, nowhere I'd care to go, and hardly anything worth seeing." He punctuated this last thought with such a deep sigh that a house sparrow singing nearby stopped and rushed home to be with his family.

from "The Phantom Tollbooth", by Norton Juster. Chapter 1

Looking for something interesting to do, a watchdog/travelling companion, or a Venus De Milo.

.....or something honorable, like Auda (Anthony Quinn) in "Lawrence of Arabia". Sorry, horses won't do.

As I was driving once I saw this painted on a bridge:

"I don't want the world. I just want your half."

Why should I play the Roman fool....?

Men Without Hats, "Rhythm of Youth":

"I got the message and the message is clear

I really really really really wish you were here.."

Joe Jackson!!! "Look Sharp!!!!" and "I'm the Man":

"Pretty soon now

You know I'm gonna make a comeback..."

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Alphaville, "Forever Young":

"Is my comeback on the road again?"

Ray Lynch, "Deep Breakfast":

No lyrics. No lyrics needed

Frequent thought: "People should not do things like that." Meaning "I" usually. But not always.

Crypticness is neat if there is something behind it; nonsense is good if it's creative.

I'm not a teen though wish I were. If you want to know my "race", we don't want to talk to one another.

You still want to know about me? If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth....If there's one thing I hate, it's the movies. Don't even mention them to me.

Catch you later!

2/12

970312

From: Belloq
Subject: the UC guy
To: film

Cc:

so I went to see "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"
at the UC last night,
9:30 show.

I've seen it a few times before.

but this time,
I am sitting a few seats down from this guy.

he's not what you'd call Berkeley, exactly.

he has a beard and a pony tail,
but he's dressed in black boots and jeans,
black shirt,
black suit vest.
see, not totally Berkeley.
my idea of Berkeley, sorry.

he starts telling me stuff about the movie.
it's obvious
a) that he is really obsessed with it,
and b) he doesn't have a lot of people to talk to.

(at one point I suggested that he come here,
but he doesn't have a modem.)

he pointed out how Lee Van Cleef
is missing the tip
of his right middle finger.
it's true.
look at the close-ups.

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

(unless he had a hand double?)

wonder how that happened.

hey, what year did he die?

he told me about how it was filmed in Spain,

in studios outside Madrid,

and the outdoors in Almeria

or someplace that sounds like that.

I have not checked my atlas yet, see.

he told me that the film has some historical basis,

that there really was a Union Colonel Canby

and a Confederate Gen. Sibley,

that a bunch of Texans marched up and took Santa Fe,

and then a bunch of Coloradans came

and chased them out

and back down the Rio Grande,

but it was all in 1862,

and nowhere near the scale in the movie --

a few thousand on each side.

He suggested titles for further reading

and I nodded politely.

he told me that Leone originally wanted to make the film an opera.

Tuco would have been a tenor,

"Blondie" a baritone, "Angel Eyes" a bass.

He showed me what he said were lyrics for the music that plays

when Tuco is running around the graveyard.

(they cut the beginning of that scene on the UC print.

bleahhh.)

he said it was called "Il Exstasio dell'Oro".

The lyrics were in Italian

so I could not make much of them.

good language for opera, though.

but I got the word "oro"

over and over

that means "gold", right?

and that seemed to fit the music.

he said there were even lyrics

for the main title.

you know, the famous part.

he said the studio

would not let Leone make the opera

because it would not translate.

not go over

with the American audience.

he said he had seen a staging

in New York.

in the early 80's.

real off-broadway, experimental.

they showed the movie on the screen

with no dialogue

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

and had live singers.

like Rocky I guess.

Horror, not Stallone.

(he looked more New York

than Berkeley.)

outlaw, sort of.

the distributor

doesn't allow a "mutilated"

or "mute"

or "mutated"

screening.

he said he could send me more info

but I was not sure I wanted

to give him my address

so I said I was staying with friends just now.

I would have had him email me here

but like I said

he doesn't have a modem.

so that's it really.

anyone know

if the Civil War stuff is true?

if the opera stuff is true?

if the filmed in Spain stuff is true?

anyone seen "Straight to Hell"?

or was he just

another Berkeley nut?

ever meet anyone like that?

speaks quite rationally?

believes what he says?

only later you find

it's completely untrue

so he must be

insane? if he can't

tell truth from fiction?

scary, though, isn't it?

to think you sat next to him

all night?

that you would not have known

at sight?

poor guy though.

I looked at him during the three-way duel scene

he was gripping his armrest

like he wanted to be holding someone's hand.

I don't know,

I should not guess people's feelings

but he seemed like he wished he was there with

someone who had not seen it before

so he could enjoy her tension

her suspense

comfort her through it

then enjoy her gratitude

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.
for having introduced her
to the movie.
(her? maybe him.
maybe that's why he was talking to me.
whatever.)

he sat bolt upright
when it was exciting
and when the music soared
he bobbed his head
and swayed
and grinned
contentedly
beatifically.

if you go to the UC
and you see this guy
sit near him, maybe
you might learn something.
even it it's not true.

he was a little ugly,
but good I think.

970328

From: Belloq
Subject: more clint
To: film

hey, did anyone catch on cable
(I'm not sure what station though
I was out of town and so
all the channel numbers varied
from what I'm accustomed to.
thought that is was AMC
maybe it was TNT,
TBS, some one of those
that shows old movies, nothing else)
I can't believe I've never seen it
never even heard of it
Roger Ebert's expert guide
says it's not on video.
Which is weird. I don't know why.
"Sherman" is the title, though
Starring Eastwood -- yeah, that's Clint.
That is why I can't believe
It's been buried all these years.
It was made in '76
(Watched the credits till the end
Hope I knew my roman numerals.)
You know I love spaghetti westerns
Dirty Harry too, somewhat.
Clint, I think, is just as good
In this, as in those other films.
Clint is General Sherman -- yeah --
"War is hell!" "Let's burn Atlanta!"
William Tecumseh -- yes, that Sherman.

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Thing is that he looks just like him.

See, I've looked in books, at bios

Clint, with beard -- think "Josey Wales"

Just the age of Sherman, too

Looks just like the craggy faced

Bearded Sherman -- I mean, exactly.

Kind of weird, but check it out.

Now I don't know how Sherman talked

But judging by the things he said

"War is hell" and "War is cruelty"

He had to sound like Dirty Harry.

Spitting words between clenched teeth.

(Not too many words, though, deeds

Sherman seems to have preferred.)

So Clint was playing Dirty Sherman

Bob DeNiro -- U.S. Grant.

(Not in many scenes was he.

Bearded, though, he looked the part.

Even has a mole like Grant.

Check your fifties, if you've got some.

I don't get a lot of those.)

Lincoln was Hal Holbrook -- yeah --

Kinda has that part down pat.

Katharine Ross was Mrs. Sherman.

Once, and this was really funny

Sherman had his cannon ranged

Johnston (of the South)

Had his men drawn up to charge.

Clint's words I don't quite remember

Wish I did -- but they were almost

Just the same as "Make my day".

(which I guess Clint didn't say
until a movie some years later.)

Also, he said something like

"Are you feeling lucky?" but

Once again, I don't recall

Exactly what it was and maybe

I, a fan, was looking for

The lines and heard them where they weren't.

Anyway, it's quite a flick

Lots of battles, lots of burnings

Of course, Atlanta, which looked better

Burning down around poor Scarlett.

Anyway, I recommend it

If you like Clint Eastwood, or

Anything historical

(this seemed fairly real, not hoky.)

Still don't get why it's been hidden.

Maybe it was just the times

76 -- two hundred years

Since Independence, Revolution.

Not the best time to recall

The Civil War, the South's secession.

Unity instead was marked.

Also, that year, Jimmy Carter

Georgian, the first candidate

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

From the South in many years.

(Georgia, too, was where fierce Sherman wrought his greatest devastation)

Maybe someone thought the film

Might raise ire against the Georgian

Maybe for him. I don't know.

Just a theory. who knows why certain films don't get released?

Head into oblivion

Into cans to sleep in vaults?

Never seeing day or screen?

Anyway, that's what I saw

"Sherman", with as star, Clint Eastwood

well worth watching, if you ever

have the chance. and that is all.

970330

Subject: Re: Opinions

From: Belloq

To: film

I agree with Greta (Queen of Norway)

Totally concerning "Falling Down"

Truly 'twas a victim of publicity,

And people's expectations out of Douglas.

People called it racist and misogynist.

But for ev'ry stereotype, another

Character, more positive, made balance.

Sure there were the bad Latino gangsters;

Still, let's not forget Duvall's Latina

Partner, who was complex: pretty, smart

Kind and understanding, tough and able

Quite courageous, too. So things were even.

Sure there was the overpriced Korean

Market owner, but, remember also

Also in Duvall's cop squad, an Asian

(ethnic group not given, though he noted

Duvall had never cared enough to ask.)

Again, the old and tired cliches are balanced

With progressive images. Of Blacks,

Again, there were some views that might have riled,

justly so. But then, the most important

character (well, maybe) in the film

was the Black man picketing the bank

Asking, or demanding, that they tell him

Why his loan was not approved. And Douglas

looks at him in sympathy, another victim

Hurt by an economy downsized, sees

Race is not the issue, that it's wealth.

On the other hand, there's naught of balance

When it comes to wealth. The rich play golf,

dying after heart attacks, with nothing

anything like sympathy from Douglas

Or from us, the audience. No noble,

kind, redeeming, wealthy folks show up

anywhere in "Falling Down". It's wealth,

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.
wealth that is the enemy, not race.

And, though douglas seems a bit right wing
He's a total moderate compared with
Frederick Forrest (owner of the store
selling army surplus clothes and guns.)

That's why Forrest dies -- he's too extreme
(so is douglas, yeah, but that comes later.)

One thing that I really, really like is
When D-FENS's (douglas's) old mother with
whom he has been living since his breakup
says she never knew that he'd been fired.

Every day, she says, he'd leave the house
Going off to work, she thought. Reminds me

Quite of bit of Mike, the guy in "Fargo"
Saying he'd been married to a classmate
Recently deceased, from something awful.

Even though they'd never even dated and
She was hale and hearty somewhere else.

this reminds me, too, of my experience
Chronicled below ("the UC guy")

Are these people crazy, really thinking
What they say is true, or are they lying?

Knowing that they are? It's kind of weird.
Anyway, to sum, the movie's message

(So I see it -- maybe I'm the only
Member of the audience who saw this.

Maybe neither writer nor director,
actor neither, meant for it to seem so.

Call it deconstruction then, and mock me.)

The problem's that the socioeconomic
System makes expendable some humans.

That's what drives to madness and to violence.
This could be a communistic movie.

Or, perhaps, a sad and mad lament for
Economic safety, and security

Common and expected from the forties
Up until the 80's - the Cold War

And the US lead in global trade
guaranteeing jobs, good jobs, for most.

Rather artificial, though, and doomed
Not to last, but quickly lost when times

Changed and new realities arose.

As I said, it's advertising's fault

Coming in the wake of Rodney King's

Beating, and the riots, and presenting

Douglas, known from films like Basic Instinct,

Wall Street, too, as playing "take-charge" males.

showing him as doing what we all would

like to do, or telling us we would when

None of us would really want to do it!

(Well, not many -- so I hope.)

then the ads portray him as the hero

Which in fact he wasn't in the movie.

There the cop, Duvall's the real hero

Not the madman douglas who cannot

Do a thing for good, just cause destruction

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.
Scaring people, even those he claims to
Love. But it's not his fault, it's the system.
Thus he's really tragic. (Not the Grecian
meaning of the word: he has no flaw
bringing on his downfall, but a modern
sense of being wrecked by giant forces
far beyond his power to control.)
Well, I've said my piece, and so, so long.

970405

Subject: Re(2): Power-Hungry Goons
From: nicholson
To: film

a brief but fairly complete history of soviet secret police organizations.
The first Soviet secret police was the Cheka (the "Chrezvychnaya Kommissiya", or "extraordinary commission"), or Vecheka (V stands for "Vserossiskaya" -- "all-Russian"), founded by Feliks Dzhherzhinsky, whose name is still born by the square where the Lubyanka prison, HQ of the Russian/Soviet secret services, is located.. today, Russian intelligence officers still refer to themselves as 'chekists'. the cheka was replaced in 1922 by the GPU ("Gosudarstvenoye Politicheskoye Upravleniye", or "State Political Administration") later called the OGPU (O standing for Obyedinenoe, or "unified.") This was replaced in 1934 by the NKVD ("Narodnaya Kommissiya Vnutrennikh Dyel" -- "People's Commission of Internal Affairs") which then became a Ministry ("Ministerstvo") -- thus, MVD, in 1946. During WWII, a People's Commission for State Security (NK Gosudarstvennoi Byezopasnosti -- NKGB) was split off, and then it too became a Ministry (MGB). In 1953 it was merged back into the MVD. In 1954, the KGB (Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Byezopasnosti -- committee of State Security) was started, while the MVD was abolished soon after the fall from power of its chief, Lavrenti Beria, in 1956. The KGB covered both external espionage and internal counterintelligence and political policing, as well as border control. I don't know if the Soviets made a big deal of announcing the reorganizations and name changes, but I kind of doubt they did. So Fleming, who was writing in the 1950's mostly, even as a former British intelligence officer, can be pardoned for not getting things quite right.

970409

Subject: Re(5): Movies from Books (was
From: Belloq
To: film

Don't tell me! Goodness gracious!
With actors in the millions
Who could play Ignatius
They've picked on Robin Williams?

I think that he'd be totally
Wrong, miscast, and gnarly.
Count MY vote in the vote tally
As going to Chris Farley.

Could an actor we afford
With a heart, a fit ticker?
Let race then be ignored
Let's go with Forrest Whittaker.

Or someone thin, who'll gain
The weight to play the hero?
Then very few remain
Except for Bob Deniro.

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I doubt that Johnny Depp
Skeet Ulrich, Thomas Cruise
Would want that weight to schlep
Or could it later lose.

Or then, that guy on TEE-vee
Drew someone? Kind of foolish?
I think that he is HEA-vy
Enough, and quite John Toole-ish.

If the film's an indy, real
Low budget, I can think of
Some quite ideal
To play Myra Minkoff.

Think -- so no one winces
She'd fit the role so cozy...
That famous "Indy Princess"
I do mean, Parker Posey.

So it could be a hot film
But still, my view at once is
I'd just as soon they not film
"A Confederacy of Dunces".

970411

From: nicholson
Subject: Re(3): the almanac thing
To: Folk Culture

Cc:

I thought that the word almanac came from the arabic, like most words starting with al-, and referred to a book of astronomical observations. (an example would be the Almagest, the "the great one", the arabic translation of Ptolemy's book of observations which were not that great but good enough for a while.) the arabs were doing all the astronomy while europe was in the dark ages though that should be a good time for astronomy but they didn't take advantage of it which is why a lot of star names are arabic, like aldebra and aldebaraan and you star trek fans know a bunch more I'll bet. so almanacs originally told you stuff like when the sun would rise each day which was useful to farmers. then they started to tell where the stars and the planets and the sun and moon would be in the sky at certain places at certain times which was really useful for mariners. I think the weather stuff came later but drew partly from science of a sort since knowing when the sun will be up helps you predict how warm it's going to be and other weather stuff from there and partly from astrology which has become divorced from astronomy in people's minds relatively recently and not entirely but they'd just sort of predict things based on the stars. the rumor that the word is from a woman named alma who wore manacles is interesting but unconfirmable. oh yeah on another subject: timber wolves are so called because their voices are lower in timber than other wolves when they howl. really. lower than alan ginzburg R.I.P.

970412

From: Sentenza
Subject: Re: Fwd: Joke - Funny Latin Quotes
To: Folk Culture

Cc:

Non saepe lego ea quae scribuntur hoc in symposio, sed cum mihi dictum esset aliquid linguam Latinum pro ludibrio habens hic positum esse, sentivi mihi respondendum et linguam meam defendendam esse.

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Primo, credo omnes has sententias excerptas esse e libro Henrici Barbati, "Lingua Latina Occasionibus Omnibus", vel sequente libro simili nomine. Igitur a legibus de iuribus scriptorum conservandis teguntur, et non debent litteris reficere sine permissu primi scriptoris, neque sine nomine eius.

Epistula Laurae Negoti aliquos errores continet. In prima sententia, "etian" "etiaM" debet esse. In quarta, mutata "nobiE" in "nobiS". In ultima, "cantavit" melius "cecinit" diceretur.

Nos qui Latine loquimur difficilium intelligimus cur vos "barbari" linguam nostram tam iucundum inveniant. Nulla lingua per se iucunda est; sola ea quae illa lingua dici possunt. Ut scripsit philosophus antiquus, "Rident stolidi verba Latina."

970413

From: Sentenza
Subject: Ignoscite mihi
To: Folk Culture

Cc:

Cum ut scribebam festinaverim non satis lente, duos errores in epistula mea feci. partis secundae in sententia altera, verbum "reficere" potius "reficI" scribi debuit, et in sententia prima quartae partis, "iucundAm" pro "iucundum" substituendum est.

Me paeniteat si cui alicuius incommodi causa fuerim.

970416

From: nicholson
Subject: where the day takes you
To: film

Cc:

ok, so I watched this movie on video over the last two nights called "where the day takes you". it's about young runaways living on the streets in LA. it was actually pretty good I thought with pretty believable acting by a bunch of young actors or at least actors who were still pretty young in 1992 when the movie came out like Dermot Mulroney, Lara Flynn Boyle, Ricki Lake, Will Smith, Balthasar Getty, Sean Astin, James Le Gros, and an Arquette boy of course though I forgot which one. oh and Kyle MacLachlan and Laura San Giacomo though they don't count as young. it seemed pretty realistic though that meant it was really bleak though and depressing and the last quarter was not as realistic and the very end seemed totally unrealistic though it tried to be uplifting. but anyway, I have three questions which maybe people out there can help answer:

1) isn't there out there a documentary on street kids that is supposed to be really good? I seem to remember hearing about it when "American Heart" with Jeff Bridges and Edward Furlong came out so were they maybe made by the same people?

2) Christian Slater had an uncredited cameo appearance in this movie and I had noticed during the opening credits that his mom Mary Jo had done the casting and then I remembered the same thing happened in "Star Trek VI" where Christian had an uncredited cameo in a movie cast by his mom. Has this happened in any other movies anyone can think of?

3) what else has Balthasar Getty been in? he looks kind of familiar and not just because I worked with a guy who looks like him.

thanks everybody.

970418

Subject: Re(3): where the day takes you

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From: nicholson

To: film

thanks all for the info (though I guess there were no other christian slater cameos.) I guess Balthasar Getty's rather distinctive name was in my mind from hearing about Lost Highway though I can't say I have ever seen any of his movies except perhaps a bit of "young guns II" and I don't think he was in those minutes. He looks a little like Brad Dourif I think.

another person who was in this movie was Steven Tobolowsky, who has played nerds in movies such as "Thelma and Louise" and "Sneakers". the weird thing was that the week before I was watching David Byrne's "True Stories" and the credits said that he had helped write it (along with Beth Henley as Byrne). Has he written anything else?

I guess another street kids movie is "My Own Private Idaho" but though that does have some scenes of kids just talking about life it seems mainly to be about other things that go back to Shakespeare and earlier and street kids are just a way of talking about these issues.

970418

From: nicholson

Subject: Re(6): red river valley

To: Folk Culture

Cc:

ok I am not sure if this is the right place to post this. I can even think offhand of better places but I have been posting here and this was inspired by something we have been discussing here sort of and I think it relates to the general mission of this conference (of which I have not seen a statement but it is fairly clear.) so ok:

what inspired me to "remember the red river valley" in the first place was as I said hearing about the floods in the red river valley of the north between minnesota and the dakotas. now they are still talking about the floods on the radio and they invariably as they do in other flood times give many mentions to the dikes holding the water back or threatening to break or whatever. now since I live in the Bay Area and not in a river area the word "dike" has a rather different connotation (and different spelling but this is the radio) to me so I keep pulling myself up short as I listen to the radio otherwise I have these visions and I hope I will not offend anyone with this of women with short hair and leather jackets valiantly holding back the water with their broad backs, women as structural members just like the caryatids in ancient temples. ok. now here is the question: does anyone have any idea where the word "dyke" comes from? my normal excellent american heritage dictionary is no help on this one and I know a lot of people here like etymologies or at least Heyer does. or I thought that maybe this was the sort of folklore that is passed down among members of the group though if so maybe it is not supposed to be shared with non-members like me. ok. well anyone who wants to answer this or anyone who wants to tell me to mind my own straight male business is welcome to.

Resume for atomic power

Duck and cover!

do you fear this man's invention that they call ATOMIC POWER?

we all in great confusion, do we know the time or hour?

when a terrible explosion may rain down upon our land

leaving horrible destruction, blotting out the works of man

are you ready for that great ATOMIC POWER?

you rise and meet your savior in the air

will you shout or will you cry

when the fire rains from on high

are you ready for that great ATOMIC POWER?

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

(thank you, Uncle Tupelo. wait, I just heard another version yesterday. so UT did not write it? anyone know? checking the liner notes....)

Well boys, I reckon this is it. Nuclear combat toe-to-toe with the Rooskies. -- (Dr. S.)

Tell me about fast breeder reactors. -- (Time Bandits)

In the Soviet Union, a scientist is blinded
By the resumption of nuclear testing, and he is reminded
That Dr. Robert Oppenheimer's optimism fell
At the first hurdle...

(Billy Bragg)

I am so scared of it.
It makes me want to cry when I think about it.
Did you hear about the NRC report this week?
There isn't anything anyone can do about it, is there?
There is nothing I can do about it.
I am so scared of it.
We worship what we fear.
Like the subterranean human remnants in "Beneath the Planet of the Apes."
Or Aldous Huxley's "Ape and Essence".
I believe that Satan works through nuclear power.

Resume for Belloq
Indy hates me
And he gets Marion!!!!

And I get my head blown up!!!!

But I have all the good lines.

"Ah, Dr. Jones! Again we see that there is nothing you can possess which I cannot take away. And you thought I'd given up. You chose the wrong friends! This time, it will cost you."

"Yes, too bad. You could warn them, if only you spoke Hovidos!"

"Good afternoon, Dr. Jones."

"Not a very private place for a murder."

"It was not I who brought the girl into this business. Please, sit down before you fall down. We can at least behave like civilized people."

"I see your taste in friends remains consistent. How odd that it should end this way for us, after so many stimulating encounters. I almost regret it. Where shall I find a new adversary so close to my own level?"

"You and I are very much alike. Archaeology is our religion. Yet we have both fallen from the pure faith. Our methods do not differ as much as you pretend. I am a shadowy reflection of you. It would take only a nudge to make you like me. To push you out of the light."

"You know it's true. How nice.
Look at this. It's worthless. Ten dollars from a vendor in the street. But I take it, bury it in the sand for a thousand years, it becomes priceless. Like the Ark. Men will kill for it. Men like you and me."

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"All in good time. When I'm finished with it. Jones, do you realize what the Ark is? It's a transmitter! It's a radio, for speaking to God! And it's within my reach!!"

"Your methods are too crude, Colonel. You would use a bulldozer to search for...a...china.....cup. Colonel, wake your men!!"

Resume for milo
tabula rasa
Desperately seeking salvation.

Or should that be 'seeking with all deliberate speed'?"

I don't know.

And I don't know any quotes about it or songs about it.

Why am I looking for it here? You know the joke about the guy who drops his keys on the dark side of the street but looks for them under the streetlamp, because the light is better there?

If you are curious about me, you can get a pretty good impression of who I am by reading my posts, mainly in film.

For the convenience of group chatters, I'll say right now you probably do not want me in. For individual chatters, hell, why not?

Resume for nicholson

come on, make fun of me
Yes, I am putting a Billy Joel song on my resume.

Well, I'm on the Down Easter Alexa
And I'm cruising through Block Island Sound
I have charted a course to the Vineyard
But tonight I am Nantucket bound.
I took on diesel back in Montauk yesterday
Left this morning from the bell in Gardiners Bay
Like all the locals here I had to sell my home
Too proud to leave, I work my fingers to the bone
So I could own my Down Easter Alexa
And I go where the ocean is deep
There are giants out there in the canyons
And a good captain can't fall asleep.
I got bills to pay and children who need clothes
I know there's fish out there, but where, God only knows
They say these waters aren't what they used to be
But I got people back on land who count on me
So if you see my Down Easter Alexa
If you work with the rod and the reel
Tell my wife I am trolling Atlantis
And I still have my hands on the wheel.
Yiiiiiii---yoooo. Yiii--yiii--yiiiiiii--yooooo.
Now I drive my Down Easter Alexa
More and more miles from shore every year
Since they told me I can't sell no stripers

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

And there's no luck in swordfishing here.

I was a Bayman like my father was before

Can't make a living as a Bayman anymore.

There ain't much future for a man who works the sea

But there ain't no island left for islanders like me.

Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...
Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...
Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...
Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...

Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...
Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...

Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...
Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...

Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...
Yiii--yiii--yiii--yiii--yooo...

Now, if only I knew "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald" by Gordon Lightfoot. Anyone?

970418

From: Roger Wilco
Subject: Re(2): JD
To: Crushes on Greatness

Cc:

jeanine, perhaps she could look into your eyes the way she did into Glenn Close's in "Serving in Silence".

Judy is one of those actresses like Helen Mirren who are not beautiful but so, so cool. I know Helen likes younger men (like Liam Neeson, with whom Judy was involved in "Husbands and Wives") but I don't know if Judy does. Hey Judy, if I looked like Barton Fink would you come over and help me with my screenplay?

So many Judy movies: High Tide, Impromptu.....

Okay, this is a stretch, but didn't Alice Krige play the Gilbert and Sullivan singer with whom Abrahams (Ben Cross), the Jewish runner, gets involved, in "Chariots of Fire"? I saw that and instantly went out and learned all the lyrics to "The Mikado".....

970419

From: nicholson
Subject: Re(7): Fetishism
To: Folk Culture

Cc:

Heyer when you played your conch shell or simply held it, did Jack and the choir and Piggy and Samneric and the littluns all be quiet and listen to you?

Or were you a conchie who burned your draft card?

One New Year's eve long ago on the way out of a big corporate skyscraper I passed one of its dozen thirty foot Christmas trees covered with decorative horns both bugle and hunting shaped. As a former marching band trumpeter I could not resist helping myself to one of the latter so I was able to go bicycling hope blowing it and wishing all a happy new year. This one was a little thin of brass and of sound but still had a nice tone. Tally ho! (you could count many in the tenderloin.) off to the unspeakable in pursuit of the inedible....you know now they have foxless foxhunts? beforehand they drag a bag soaked with fox scent (I don't know though if getting fox scent involves any less cruelty than killing a fox) over the course so the dogs go nuts and chase it. In this week's Newsweek, there is a quote from "Yorkshire resident Stuart Shaw on the movement in Britain to ban fox hunting: 'It's part of our culture. but if it was a tribe in South America, we'd probably have pop stars trying to preserve it.'"

Fox hunting must go way back to something in Celtic or Anglo-Saxon tradition. How far?

970420

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Subject: Re(2): John Cusack (was Grosse Pointe Blank)

From: nicholson

To: film

one thing that is kind of interesting about Rob Reiner's "The Sure Thing" (I had a college roommate who could recite the whole "Consider outer space..." pick-up line) is that it is sort of the dress rehearsal for Reiner's "When Harry Met Sally". think about it; the sometimes crude and slobby but funny and lovable guy and the prim woman on a long road trip, looking for everyone but each other....the difference is in emphasis and the point in life when the trip is made, during freshman year as opposed to after senior year. I wish more directors would do this, approach a story sort of cubistically, from all angles. "should we make the character a man or a woman?" "let's do both, make one movie in which it's a man and another in which it's a woman!" or "let's make essentially the same movie but since we're not sure which is more meaningful to have the main character die or not let's make both! not to see which tests better with preview audiences or relief audiences but just to illustrate both possibilities...." I guess Hong Kong films are sort of this way "ok let's make one in which the gangster and the cop are brothers!"

I liked John's cameos in "Stand by Me" and "Broadcast News" and concerning the latter in how many films has he costarred with his sister?(Joan not Sinead or Cyril)

970420

From: nicholson

Subject: Re: fox hunting

To: Folk Culture

Cc:

ok I have been thinking about Heyer's idea for a few hours now and I have some ideas of my own. first of all it sounds a little like a variation on a critical mass ride with the resultant need for planning and police escort and stuff and loss of spontaneity if it is going to be of any size unless it is going to be totally outlaw but that has its own dangers. in that case it should be late at night or at dawn on a weekend. maybe in the burbs instead of the city where there are fewer cars and more trees???

ok so we have a "fox" which could be a foxy or vixenish (and foxily dressed) person whose gender etc. would depend on the tastes of the participants (though is this starting to sound too much like the chosen execution in "Monty Python's The Meaning of Life"?). I think this would get back to a lot primal bacchanalian type rituals but anyway the "fox"(fox mulder?) could be on skates and skatter pieces of paper or something biodegradable behind him/her to create a "scent". the hunters would be in two groups: the dogs, the faster riders, the racers and messengers (who are basically dogs anyway; they live like dogs and work like dogs and are treated lke dogs by the bosses are etymologically cynical) out in front and the slower riders behing. whoever catches the fox gets it bushy tail. remember that top hats worn for fox hunting were originaly crash helmets like modern foam bicycle helmets they were designed to crush on impact and absorb the blow. well I have MY costume ready. I guess this would be a 20th century or almost 21 century fox hunt.

970420

From: nicholson

Subject: Re(2): fox hunting

To: Folk Culture

also I just remembered you can make a pretty fair facsimile of a brass horn with a trumpet or french horn mouthpiece a length of plastic tubing of the right length and diameter and a funnel all available at your local hardware store. the tone is a little different but surprisingly full and it's cheap and you can always spray paint it metallic yellow.

970421

From: nicholson

Subject: Re(3): fox hunting

To: Heyer's Cocktail Party

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Cc:

ok here are my two senses on the subject. I have already posted over in folk culture if anyone wants to read it but Heyer told me to post here so I have to because you have to do what Heyer says.

I think the inspiration for this should be ancient fertility rituals and "the most dangerous game" or "the most deadly game" or whatever it's called (the movie was "naked prey") or shirley jackson's "the lottery". yeah. the "fox" should be a sort of scapegoat and everyone should run after it and when we (presuming I am not it) catch it we should stone it to death (unless it's already stoned) and rend it to shreds as the women did to orpheus when he was too sad to make music anymore and then used its blood to fertilize the fields as they did with the king in ancient matrilineal cultures like the minoan. only that should really be done in the spring with the planting and maybe it's now a little too late. see people did this all throughout the Bronze and Iron Ages and look how long those ages lasted, much longer than the space age or the information age or whatever age we are in so they must have been doing something right right?

ideally we would all be mad with blood lust but I don't really know how to get that way maybe someone who was in the Marines knows. maybe the right herbs under a full moon.

we could ask all the jockeys standing there on people's lawns holding lamps to participate because after all they have the right costumes!!! and all the marriott doormen too.

maybe it could be a weekly thing and a show on Fox starring michael j.

how about an ox hunt instead that might be a better speed for a lot of us?

970423

From: nicholson
Subject: Re(3): graffiti
To: Folk Culture

Sierra Styx writes: *So actually, the correct sentence would have been, "it was gang graffito." Just nit-picking.*

well if they covered a whole wall or parking lot there were probably lots of individual images and words each one being a graffitiO so there would have been a lot of plural graffitiI so no fleas on anna. or if you really insist it was all of a piece it should be "A gang graffito" not just unarticled "gang graffito".

970423

From: nicholson
Subject: Re(6): fox hunting
To: Heyer's Cocktail Party

how about a huge game of tag through the financial district instead? maybe one "IT" per 20 or som participants...imagine all these people dashing madly around market and montgomery trying to avoid one another....

hey how about a game of tag here? you tag someone by getting them to accept your chat or read your email.....or assassin....

NOT IT!!!!

970506

From: Ironside
Subject: Amnesia Moon
To: Sci-Fi & Fantasy

Cc:

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

I just read "Amnesia Moon" by Jonathan Lethem, author of "Gun With Occasional Music". He's from this area and all or part of both books are set here. The book was pretty good, but I won't go into a detailed analysis. What struck me was this: the idea is that in various parts of the country different collective fantasies prevail, instilled by transmitting dreamers. In one part, someone is describing the situation in her part of the country, West Marin county, and I recognized it as the plot of a Philip K. Dick novel, "Dr. Bloodmoney". (Literally, down to the names; it was obviously deliberate.) I wondered if anyone who has read the book and has read more recent sci-fi than I could recognize any of the other situations as being drawn from real novels, not invented by Lethem for his book?

970511

Subject: ode to rob roy on video
From: Belloq
To: film

Liam Neeson
Is great when he's in
Tartan plaid and kilts
Timmy Roth
So well doth
Play his role, and stab, to the hilts.

Jessice Lange
Has the hang
Of roles like this, though older.
With youth the rage
So many her age
Can't get roles and moulder.

Eric Stoltz?
No thunderbolts
But a workmanlike performance
But beard alert!!
And old John Hurt
Seems to be back from dormance

Rob Roy
I did enjoy
Can't get enough of him
And now I've heard
And learned a new word.
I'll have to start using it: "quim".

970519

Subject: Re(6): Iceland
From: John Bigbooté
To: film

wasn't the character played by Greta Scacchi in "The Player" -- the artist girlfriend of the murdered screenwriter who ends up with tim Robbins -- wasn't she Icelandic? her name ended with "-dottir"?

I guess that really isn't too important, but I thought of Greta while watching her in "the Odyssey" last night.

You know the legislature of Iceland is called "the Thing"? Like that 1950's movie....Watch the skies!!! (It's the oldest Parliament in the world.)

970519

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Subject: Re(3): The Lost World

From: John Bigbooté

To: film

Juillianne Moore is Laura Dern with blond hair? but I thought JULianne Moore had red hair (and, from "Short Cuts", we know she is a REAL redhead) and Laura Dern had blond hair....well, whatever.

My impression from the ads, albeit, was that this movie was basically "Aliens" to "jurassic Park"'s "Alien". first movie: small group of people against unknown threat; second one: big military operation against known threat. and the threat looks pretty much the same. although in the first one, I thought that Laura Dern was going to pull a Sigourney Weaver, grabbing a shotgun to defend the kids against the raptors. I forgot who was the Michael Biehn analogue. or the bishop. maybe Ian Malcolm.

970521

Subject: The Man in the Iron Mask

From: Ironside

To: film

I just saw in Time magazine that a new film version of "The Man in the Iron Mask", Dumas' second sequel to "The Three Musketeers", is being filmed again. It takes place about 30 years after the original novel, so the original heroes are now aging heroes. I love aging heroes, "and though we are not of that strength which in former times moved earth and sky, that which we are, we are, one equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate but strong in will", as Tennyson's Ulysses put it. Usually, the world has changed around them but they have not coped, and they are dangerously out of place. But there is a certain nobility about them. "Robin and Marian" is a great example, as is, I guess, "The Wild Bunch". "Let's get the old gang together for one last ride, one last adventure Even if we get killed on him. Heck, there's nothing really to go home to anyway..." "High Noon" and some of Clint Eastwood's latest movies. Or the Frank Miller graphic novel "Batman: The Dark Knight Returns". That was one of the things that was so bad about "Escape from L.A.", was that Snake had not really aged or mellowed or learned anything.

Anyway, what I think will make this new "Man in the Iron Mask" so great is not just its theme of aging heroes, but the cast: Gerard Depardieu as Porthos, John Malkovich as Athos, Jeremy Irons as Aramis, and Gabriel Byrne as D'Artagnan. Wow. That's a cast. Except isn't it strange to have one Frenchman among the four guys all of whom are supposed to be French? I mean, usually all the Musketeers have the same accent and that translates as the same nationality. But I guess when you have one American, one Englishman, and one Irishman too, then we are just supposed to ignore the accents. Which I will do willingly.

970526

From: Belloq

Subject: "Blank" Verse

To: film

Cc:

"Grosse Pointe Blank". I finally just saw it.
Liked it much, especially the soundtrack.
I was class of 86 myself, you see
All that music still plays in my head.
Hearing it again was a reunion
Meeting once again old friends, who shared in
Memorable times. No "Safety Dance" though?
Also liked the actors. Minnie Driver's
Funny, cute, and sexy, if not gorgeous.
Someone whom you might in real life meet.
One you might ask out, and have her go!
Not like most one sees upon the screen:
Picture perfect goddesses, but spark-less.
Both the Cusacks shone, but I liked Joan

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Just a little more, for using "Sir"

All the time, and needling her boss.

As she no doubt needled younger brother

As they both grew up. But here's a question

Whose career by whom required saving?

Which was helping which? which did a favor?

All the smaller parts were well done too.

Aykroyd seems to thrive when he's supporting

Overblow and blow it when he's leading.

I liked the two assassins tracking Blank

Liked the reunited classmates, liked the realtor.

Most of all, I really liked the ending.

Sure that I'm the last to see this film

(It's been some time since it was here discussed)

I won't shrink at spoiling it. I feared

A light, a silly, boy quits job, turns nice

Gets the girl, lives happily ever after

Sort of end, the sort I really hate.

Thus, I was surprised but well content

When the real one came out dark and tragic.

I liked how after Debi had rejected him

(After he had killed the Basque assassin)

He decided, she is right. It IS me!!!

(After saying "It's not me!" all film)

This is what I am, this is my work

This my life. I'd better go and do it

If I don't, I'll nothing be. I love that.

I like when folks in love are disappointed

And realize there is something more important

That they need to do, and go and do it.

(C.D. Bales, Steve Martin in Roxanne

Breaking off his argument with her

Realizing there's a fire to fight. You get it?)

He saw that he had made a choice, ten years

Earlier, on prom night, and confirmed it

Every moment since of his career.

When he tried to change, then Debi mocked him

Told him she could not be his salvation.

Later told him he would never have her.

Choices must be made in life, this shows it.

Sometimes, too we've made our choice already.

When he made the hit, and when he fell

Ambushed, cut down in a hail of bullets

Having let his guard down, been distracted,

Thinking then of Debi not of dangers....

That was sad, but true. That's how things happen.

Blank had hoped to cease to be a killer

But succeeded just a tiny bit

Just enough to make him not a good one

Just enough to make him not alive.

Then, when Debi heard of it, she cried

Only just a bit. It wasn't her fault,

Just his choice . And got on with her life.

God, I love bleak endings. Call me morbid.

I mean, I love the ending of High Noon.

You know? Where young Grace Kelly boards her train?

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.
Rides it out of town, not looking back?
Even as she hears the gunshots signal
Death for Gary Cooper, who had chosen
Job instead of her. He made his choice.
Died a futile death, and sad and lonely.
She was not to blame, and this she knew.
Left the wretched town to start anew.
Why can't more films end this way, unhappy?
Happy endings make me sick. That's that.

970602

From: John Bigbooté
Subject: Re(4): Buckaroo Banzai
To: Heyer's Cocktail Party

Cc: Heyer

it's actually "the world crime league" that was to be Buckaroo's next opponent -- no ethnicity given.

a friend has told me -- god knows what his sources are -- that they originally planned to make five movies and that the whole gang had signed on for all five, and that "across the eighth dimension" was in the middle of the sequence. (like Star Wars, I guess, though I am not sure if Lucas conceived the nine movie thing before the success of "Episode 4" in 1977 or after.) but when it was not a raving smash, well, they forgot about the other four. This WOULD help explain why "Across the Eighth Dimension" feels like a sequel, full of references to things we feel as if we should know from other movies. (For instance, as they are looking for lectroids in the laboratories, New Jersey asks Reno "Why is there a watermelon over there?", and RENO answers "I'll tell you later." It is either very much in the spirit of the part in "The Last Crusade" when Indy identifies with great certainty a depiction of the Lost Ark on a catacomb wall, or it is a deliberate bit of randomness intended to create a certain feeling. We also get the feeling we are supposed to know what happened to Peggy, about some occasion when Perfect Tommy went in with a strike team and screwed up, why Pecos is in Tibet, and all sorts of other random inexplicables, perhaps even including what is wrong with the President's back....)

If a sequel were to be made today, it would not be impossible to use the old cast. It has only been 13 years - - no one has gone gray. However, I think I have a better idea. maybe they could make the kid, scooter lindley (now played by Will Smith or Cuba Gooding, Jr., but with dreads, taking after "Uncle" John Parker) the main hero, with the old Cavaliers in more an advisory role. Think of it as "Buckaroo Banzai -- the Next Generations"!

970604

Subject: Re: New topic!
From: Charlie Sedarka
To: film

I QUITE AGREE with EVA. Though LILI TAYLOR always KICKS BUTT, and always has. Anyway, I am GLAD to see SOMEONE introducing NEW TOPICS! Why isn't EVA LUNA RUNNING THINGS around here? Uh oh, am I going to get this DELETED by the REGIME for saying that??

Hey, CRAIG IS PRETTY COOL TOO for introducing a NEW TOPIC too! I liked CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION, even though I had NO IDEA how old the characters were supposed to be. And I could not tell whether the movie was supposed to be SLAPSTICK COMEDY or SAD TRAGEDY and I don't think it could really be both. But I LAUGHED a lot. And RACHEL GRIFFITHS is WAY CUTE.

970606

Subject: Re(5): New topic!

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From: Charlie Sedarka

To: film

Eva Luna pronounces:

Ok, here's another attempt at a crowd pleasing topic: I think good movies are good! And bad movies suck! How bout everyone else?

Thank you very much, Eva, for saying this. Actually, you beat me to the punch. I could not agree with you more.

970607

Subject: Re(9): New topic!

From: Charlie Sedarka

To: film

Sirin N says:

woohoo Steve Omlid is a dismal moron!@!(\$%* I'll see you all in the Cutting Room Floor!!!!!!*

party in the CRF!!!

hey, as the only one there so far, I'll get the liquor flowing and the music playing! you'll be welcome! what was it Lucifer said about it being better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven?

I am thinking too of how in all the totalitarian countries and police states, the only intellectual ferment is in the prisons, because that is where they have put all the intellectuals....

maybe we can post directly to Cutting Room Floor and save the moderator the trouble of reading our stuff and moving it. get sort of an alternate conference going there.....how about it, Moderator? it might get us out of your hair.....

970607

Subject: Re(11): New topic!

From: Charlie Sedarka

To: film

I pontificated:

I am thinking too of how in all the totalitarian countries and police states, the only intellectual ferment is in the prisons, because that is where they have put all the intellectuals....

well, that's a little pompous, since I am not an intellectual. I was thinking more of the endings 'of "Brave New World" or of "Fahrenheit 451", where only in exile can freedom of thought be found...

as for Milton's Lucifer: "I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints.....", as Billy Joel sang.....

bring me some books in the slam when you visit me, ok, folks?

970607

From: atomic power

Subject: M-16's and AK-47's

To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

the latest Esquire -- or maybe it's GQ, I think it was whichever had that hot Italian actress in her underwear on the cover -- had a piece on Mr. Kalashnikov. Yeah, the guy who invented the thing way back during WWII (it was first made in 1947, hence the number. AK stands for "Avtomat Kalashnikov". But the article did not say much about the weapon, more about the man. Kind of unsatisfying.

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

On a sadder note, a few weeks ago I saw an obituary for Eugene Stoner, the designer of the M-16. Apparently, he and Kalashnikov met a few times after the Cold War ended, comparing notes....

Now, the old Warsaw Pact standard 7.62 round is not compatible with the NATO 7.62, is it? Which is why former East Bloc members who are invited to join NATO (which is about the stupidest strategic decision I can think of since, oh -- the 1965 escalation? but that is an argument for another place) will have to rearm completely.....?

Isn't it kind of dumb that the standard U.S. issue rifle cannot use the standard NATO round? Yeah, well, so are \$400 toilet seats....

Toaster Boy, I seem to remember reading that the WWI Springfield had a phenomenal range and accuracy and was used as a sniper rifle -- even through the Vietnam War? Is that possible?

Civilize 'em with a Krag, that's what I say.

970608

Subject: Re(4): Ewan and Star Wars?

From: Charlie Sedarka

To: film

MacGregor is also in the current "Brassed Off". I read an article about him last Sunday, in the New York Times; it centered on the variety of his roles. It stated that at the time, he was negotiating to play the young Obi-Wan in the next three Star Wars films, the prequels, Episodes 1, 2, and 3, dealing with the downfall of the free Republic, the rise of an oppressive Empire (any resemblance to this conference is entirely coincidental), and the turning of Anakin Skywalker to the Dark Side, and his transformation into Darth Vader.

Now, what I don't get about these "first three" is, who will want to watch a downbeat, depressing movie about the triumph of evil, no matter how good its special effects are? (I mean, besides me.) I mean, really....I guess they watched the ambivalent "Empire Strikes Back", but did they like it? I don't know. the only hopeful bit would be in the ending of the third movie, in which Anakin Skywalker's children (considering the differences in the appearance of siblings Leia and Luke, I would love to see what their mother looked like) are spirited away, presumably by Obi-Wan, with the girl to be left with the King of Alderaan (a King in a Republic?) and the boy left with a farmer not far from Obi-Wan's own hideout on backwater Tatooine. I suppose it would be like the birth of ape baby Caesar to Zira at the end of "Escape from the Planet of the Apes"....

What I would suggest to Mr. Lucas, who no doubt logs in here from Marin, is just to do the last three movies, concerning the rebuilding of the Republic. The hero, I would presume, will be a child of Han and Leia, since I have heard that none of the old characters or the actors who played them are to be brought back, due to their having aged and being able to demand too much money. As he/she faces various challenges as a Founding Parent, he/she could learn about (through the archives stored in Artoo-Detoo, who, not being played by an identifiable actor, could be brought back) or be told about by the apparitions of ObiWan, Yoda, Luke, Leia, and Anakin, the failures of the Republic in its earlier incarnation, so that they could be avoided in its reconstruction. In other words, lots of flashbacks. This way, the ending could be kept upbeat.

970608

Subject: Re(6): Ewan and Star Wars?

From: Charlie Sedarka

To: film

maybe what the evil empire represents is really -- commercialization!!! that under the REpublic, people just did things for the creative joy of doing them, until the dark, mercenary side of the Force took over, and

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everyone sold out!!! so the first three movies will be Lucas' paean to his student film days, when he was poor but free.....

by the way, it just occurred to me that Ewan MacGregor really does not look much like a young Sir Alec Guinness. Think "The Bridge on the River Kwai"....hmmm, well, maybe.

I can't believe Ewan was not in "Braveheart" or "Rob Roy" -- didn't they want some real MacGregors in that one?

Peter, don't go into Mr. MacGregor's garden!!

"Moderation in pursuit of vice is no liberty" -- Barry Goldwater.
Charlie

970609

Subject: Re: speaking of fahrenheit 451
From: Charlie Sedarka
To: film

well, the Truffaut film is not the greatest interpretation of the book. The ending, too, is somewhat different. In 1993, I met Ray Bradbury, who was signing the 40th anniversary edition of f451 at Dark Carnival (when it was still in Berkeley.) I guess I asked him about the film, and he reacted with a certain disgust. However, he enthused, a new version was in the pipes, with Mel Gibson in the lead. "We're going to do it right, he averred, we're going to have the Hound." Well, it is four years later, and

970610

Subject: Re(6): Victor Nunez
From: Charlie Sedarka
To: film

Stockard Channing seems to save her best work for Broadway. She created her role in Six Degrees there, and right now is getting raves in "A Doll's House". She was also in Tom Stoppard's "Hapgood" a few years ago, and many others too numerous to remember or mention.

Last movie that comes to mind? "Married to It", with Beau Bridges, Cybille Shephard, Ron Silver, etc.

97610 Not Sent

Subject: La mariée était en noir
From: Charlie Sedarka
To: film

I watched Truffaut's "The Bride Wore Black" last night. First of all, I should say that, at the moment, the only other Truffaut films I have seen are Fahrenheit 451 and L'Enfant Sauvage. Anyway, the film was quite entertaining, but that was all. See, I thought that Truffaut being an Important French Auteur, his film would have something important to say about the human condition. And I did not really feel that this film did. As I said, it was entertaining. Watching Julie kill her various victims in various ways -- especially since in she generally did not plan ahead a lot, but instead improvised using the tools provided at hand -- that was neat. But it could easily have been an American film, even more easily a Hong Kong film, or even a French film -- say, another La Femme Nikita. And it was fairly suspenseful, both at the beginning as I wondered why she was killing, and then, as I wondered what would happen to her. So that's fine,

BUT (oversized transition words borrowed from Hal Hartley's "The Unbelievable Truth")

what was the point? Ok, so they killed her husband and she wanted revenge and she did not care what else happened to her, which is she did not care what they said to her or tried to do to her, she just sat there icily.

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But as one of them protested, the killing was an accident. They all had other faults; their attitudes toward women were such that they deserved to be hung up by the privates, if not killed, and in a way, that was what killed them, since it was their attraction for Julie that allowed her to get close enough to kill them. (It was odd, too, that everyone was so fascinated by her -- I did not think she was THAT gorgeous. But maybe it was a given of the film that she was supposed to be. Or perhaps they were just fascinated with her because their guilty unconscious recognized her even if their consciences did not.) One remarks that the only common interests of the five friends were hunting and women, and the hunting certainly got them in trouble. Is the idea that the two interests were so intertwined -- they hunted women --- that they had to be punished for both simultaneously. They were also, in general, involved in some sort of shady dealings. And perhaps this is to show that only really sleazy types would hit and run as they did, and that their sleaziness is inextricably linked to their connection to the murder, and thus they deserve to die for that too. Now, this may seem like a lot of meaning in a movie, and to belie my assertion that it did not say all that much, but I kind of have the feeling that I found all these themes without Truffaut necessarily having put them in there.

Personally, my favorite french story of revenge is still the Count of Monte Cristo, in which Edmond Dantes exacts terrible vengeance on those by whom he was unjustly sent to jail.

970610

Subject: Re(6): Ewan and Star Wars?
From: Charlie Sedarka
To: film

Eva Luna lamented:

I just wish I could be 7 years old again when the new movies are released, so I could enjoy them through my naive and youthful eyes.

I heard it said today by a fellow twenty-something: "Star Wars was what we had instead of a moon landing".

970610

From: atomic power
Subject: Re(7): M-16's and AK-47's
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

I was reading a book titled something like "the U.S. Infantryman in Vietnam" at Barnes and Noble a year or so ago - I don't remember the exact title and if I did, I would find the book again, because it was really interesting, discussing everything from selection through the draft, through training, to the actual going into combat. in the training section, it mentioned that shortly after the introduction of the M-16, a new way of firing it for maximum effectiveness, known as "quick-kill"(sic) was introduced (that it was in fact devised by a civilian.) now, it is easy to figure that "quick-kill" was probably something along the lines of "spray a lot of metal around quickly and put the other guy down, even with a small wound", as opposed to taking careful aim at range. but I also figure there might be a little more to it than that, and I would be really interested in hearing from anyone who knows-- well, if there are any veterans there with real experience, that would be ideal -- or second best, anyone who has read any actual training manuals.

also, what do honor guards carry? M-14's? is that because M-16's are too short to slope over the shoulder comfortably (and too ugly for the visiting dignitary to review?)

enrico

970612

From: atomic power
Subject: full body armor
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

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Cc:
remember that shoot-out at the bank in L.A. a few months ago, at which the police with their 9mm's and .357's were totally outgunned by the robbers with AK-47's? I kept hearing on the news that the robbers were wearing "full body armor". when on other occasions, they were referred to simply as wearing bulletproof vests, I began to wonder whether "full body armor" was one of those expressions that one reporter uses erroneously but is then picked up and used unquestioningly by all the other media, who don't know or don't care about the actual facts and details of weaponry. (the same folks who constantly use the Israeli term "katyushas" -- which really refers to WWII Soviet rockets -- to refer to the rockets the Hezbollah keep launching at them from Lebanon, which I suspect are of a slightly more recent design.) but then I wondered: is there really full body armor? can one obtain, on any market, kevlar cuisses and greaves (to use the medieval terms) for one's legs? (I thought that one of the bank robbers was shot in the leg, though.) are we talking about the sort of suit worn by Jeff Bridges in the forgettable "Blown Away", the complete anti-explosives suit? how about "Starship Troopers" style powered armor? I know this is not strictly guns guns guns, but one has to give the opposition a chance, and know the defense.

thanks for the info, mr. blum.

defensively,
leo szilard

970612
From: atomic power
Subject: Re: Hunter S. Thompson
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:
you know, I never realized Doonesbury's Duke had a last name; I always thought he was just Duke. But if he is Zonker (Harris') uncle, I guess he would be Harris too.

Is Hunter a hunter, or just a shooter?

That really does David Letterman's dropping things off buildings one better....

Looks as if they are going to ban handguns completely in Britain, because of the Dunblaine massacre. Not even for target shooters in clubs. Exceptions for international competitions. Shotguns are still ok, I guess; the lords and country gentlemen need to shoot their grouse or they will grouse about it. But I imagine they will ban those too when a Royal Mail clerk goes nuts.....

970612
From: Charlie Sedarka
Subject: Re: Dinosaur movies
To: Heyer's Cocktail Party

Cc:
concerning who always dies in movies:

my old comrade in polyester and clip-on tie, my fellow movie theatre employee Alan, who is African-American, had a law about who got killed in these sorts of movies:

the Black guy always dies.

Jurassic Park (Samuel Jackson), Alien (Yaphet Kotto), Terminator 2 (Joe Morton) are just a few examples.

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It's sad, but true. Think about it. Now they always die heroically, giving their lives to save the white characters. But it is never vice versa. (Although some Black directors are trying to change this. However, their casts are often all-Black, so the law would not quite apply.)

Alan used to quote a scene that poked fun at this -- I believe it was from Saturday Night Live, with Garrett Morris.....

970613

Subject: Re: Palookaville

From: Charlie Sedarka

To: film

I liked this movie a good bit too, especially the title. However, I have a few complaints -- with its, er, realism. Because sometimes this film was trying very hard to be realistic. But some things were just not believable (I will exclude the ending, though I will not spoil it.) And other things just left me with a lot of questions which I know should not matter since it is not a realistic movie -- or was it? For instance, the woman at the used clothing store for William Forsythe? That just seemed like something out of every nerd's wish fulfillment fantasy (including this one's.) Was she just lonely? She kept hinting at a mysterious past....she even suggested a crime to him, but that was never explained or followed up. And what was Forsythe's deal with his ex, that he had not had a date in years? Or I would have liked to know more about the other character, the out of work carpenter, and his African-American wife. That seemed just a little unusual and worthy of explanation. How did they meet? And then, what was going to happen to the characters at the end? They still would not be able to pay their rent, or have any more of a clue as to what to do with their lives. Ok, so the carpenter's wife would be working again, but....

Still, I liked it, I liked the characters and the urban feel, since all were veryreal. Wow, what a word.

It's the oddest thing; my ticket stub from seeing that is still tucked under the corner of my keyboard. No idea why.

970613

From: atomic power

Subject: Re(2): full body armor

To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

toaster boy: *Another term the media is constantly misuses is "automatic..."*

another personal favorite is "heavily armed". it seems to mean uzis sometimes (when talking about russian businessmen's bodyguards) or armored personnel carriers other times. ok, I guess it is all relative, but it is one of those things that grabs attention and inspires fear, not thought.

970613

From: Charlie Sedarka

Subject: Re(5): Dinosaur movies

To: Heyer's Cocktail Party

Cc:

I believe James Earl Jones once played Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Of course, that is not a play in which contrast of race is a central issue.

I agree with Steve -- say it ain't so, Charlie! -- that the tendency of African-American characters to get killed of is due mainly to their marginalization to the status of the "buddy" or the "sidekick" of the White main character, and thus to expendability. But on the other hand, it was not too many years ago that members of non-dominant groups were almost absent from movies, except in stereotype roles. (Often, for instance, Blacks and especially Hispanics were played by made-up White actors.) At first, it seemed like

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progress when minorities had made it as far as number 3 or number 2 roles. But if they have risen this far only to be killed off...

Concerning the life spans of Whites in Black-directed films, I know that Mario Van Peebles' "Posse" concerned a group of Black cowboys/gunfighters, and from the ads, I remember that Billy Zane was in it too. Whether he played a villain, or member of the posse of the title, and if so, whether he was killed off or not, I do not know. In Van Peebles' "New Jack City", there was a White cop (Judd Nelson) who survived; on the other hand, I believe that the Asian-American cop did not make it.

Though I can't think of any examples in movies I have seen, I remember reading in a review of "Independence Day" that that picture contained "yet another gay character who sacrifices himself" or something like that. I guess it is symbolic of the progress of gays, lesbians, and other sexual minorities into the mainstream that they are even allowed into movies, though perhaps it is just that clever moviemakers have realized that gays, or people curious about gays, buy tickets. On the other hand, it is symbolic of how little tolerance there actually is that any gays -- and those often stereotypes -- who make it into a mainstream movie, have to die so a straight hero can live.

970614

From: atomic power
Subject: Re(2): full body armor
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

I just remembered a fairly unique and creative solution to the problem of body armor weight: when the 1890's Australian outlaw Ned Kelly fashioned himself a suit of armor from boiler plate, he made it to cover only half his body, since when he stood to fire with a pistol, only half was exposed. (I believe he made it to cover the pistol side. if he made it to cover the side exposed when he fired a rifle, it would have to have been the other side. unless he was ambidextrous. I suppose I could go see that CLASSIC film about him, starring Mick Jagger, for the straight historical facts. though I would imagine that the not moribund Australian film industry has produced a few biopics of him as well.)

970614

From: atomic power
Subject: Re(3): Hunter S. Thompson
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

I read in an interview on a Website devoted to Warren Zevon, he who reached his zenith with "Werewolves of London" in the late '70's and whose activities have been fairly obscure since, that Zevon's last album, the 1995 "Mutineer", was dedicated to Thompson, though I cannot find the dedication anywhere on the fold out of my cassette copy. Zevon's songs have often celebrated guns (here are just some titles: "Lawyers, Guns and Money", "Roland the Headless Thompson Gunner", "Jeannie Needs a Shooter"), as has his album cover art: the back cover of the early '80's "Bad Luck Streak in Dancing School" shows a toe shoe mixed up with an uzi and spent shells; another featured a .44 magnum on a plate of chicken, peas and carrots. I don't know if Zevon, who lives in an apartment in L.A. and not a spread in the Rockies, actually owns or used guns, or if he just wishes he did; I don't know either if he knows Thompson, or just wishes he did.

Speaking of things like this though, wouldn't it be cool if William S. Burroughs and Hunter S. Thompson had the same middle name? Now, I will bet that THOSE two have met.....

970615

From: atomic power
Subject: Re(5): full body armor
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

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the most recent "Rolling Stone" (the one with Sandra Bullock on the cover) there is an article on the North Hollywood shootout, and there in the first paragraph, it refers to one of the gunmen as being clad "ankles to neck" in body armor. (no helmet? what an idiot! obviously his head was not his most useful body part.)

I'm wondering, tongue not entirely in cheek, if they are confusing "full body armor" with "full metal jacket"?

now, if Hunter S. Thompson EDITED the magazine instead of just writing for it., this sort of thing would not happen....

970617

From: atomic power
Subject: Re: Ball Turret Gunner
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

I don't know if this refers to a specific incident, but the ball turret was in the belly of a B-17 Flying Fortress or B-24 Liberator. Ball turret gunners, alone, exposed, had a nasty habit of getting killed in particularly gruesome ways, either when German fighters attacked from below, or when the plane crashed on landing. (For an idea of what things were like in the ball turret, watch the 1990 movie "Memphis Belle".)

the position in the belly of the plane explains the birth imagery in the first few lines.

This is actually one of my favorite poems because of its connection to an incident from my own life: while cycling, I was hit by a van. Amazingly, I walked away from it. But with the ambulance arrived a fire truck, and when I asked why, I was told, "Usually when this sort of thing happens, we have to hose down the street."

Criiiiiinnnnnnnggggggggeee.....

Now, I later found out that having fire trucks come is just a way of getting paramedics to the scene, and fulfilling a clause in the firemen's contract to keep them busy. Still, though.....

970617

From: atomic power
Subject: Re: Ball Turret Gunner
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

I hope that toaster boy's post will signal the introduction of topics on other sorts of military history, not just guns, to this conference.

I have a question of my own along these lines:

I am reading "Always Another Dawn", the 1960 autobiography of test pilot Scott Crossfield. It was obviously an important source for Tom Wolfe's "The Right Stuff"; in fact, I have already found some sentences Wolfe quoted almost directly. One of them runs (in reference to the shape chosen for the X-1, the first plane to go supersonic): "They knew that a .50 caliber bullet had been fired supersonically, so they shaped the X-1 like a bullet." Now, here's the question: hadn't there been supersonic bullets long before? I mean, for instance, the Springfield bullet must have been supersonic.....

sorry to sound so dumb.....

970618

From: atomic power
Subject: Re(3): muzzle energies

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To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

thought the minié ball wasn't until the 1830's (even though I know some battles of the war of 1812 took place after the war ended, that would be pushing it, like the Japanese soldiers holed up on pacific islands who did not surrender until the 1970's)....."then we opened with our squirrel guns and really gave 'em hell..." can you imagine this, or the Ballad of the Green Berets, being a hit today?

speed of sound at sea level, where the demon lives, as Levon Helm intones at the beginning of "The Right Stuff", is 750 miles per hour, 1100 feet per second. ("where the air couldn't get out the way fast enough".)

so, is the "bang" mostly from a sonic boom produced by the supersonic bullet, and thus unaffected by gas-trapping silencer? or does the silencer, by trapping some of the gas, slow down the bullet? in that HIGHLY technically accurate movie, "Grosse Pointe Blank", the hit man's secretary is heard to mail order "subsonic" bullets. would these be ones that were deliberately slowed down for use with a silencer?

970618

From: atomic power
Subject: Re(4): Ball Turret Gunner
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

ok, here is the dope on Jarrell. He enlisted in the Army Air Forces in WWII, but flunked flight training. (He did not like flying that much anyway; it was not "thrilling" enough, because once you were up there, there was really not much sensation of movement.) He ended up teaching flight trainees, ground school I guess (and hope) in Texas and Arizona. (one thing he taught was celestial navigation.) He never went overseas, never saw combat. He wrote a number of poems based on his experiences and those of the men he trained; among them are "Eighth Air Force", "A Pilot from the Carrier", and "The Dead Wingman".(I'll read them tonight and let you know how they are.) In fact, he was at one time considered a sort of a "war poet" like Wilfred Owen or Siegfried Sassoon. I guess later he wrote a lot of children's books.

From the introduction to his 1964 "Selected Poems": "A ball turrett was a plexiglass sphere set into the belly of a B-17 or B-24, and inhabited by two .50 caliber machine guns and one man, a short small man. When this gunner tracked with his machine-guns a fighter attacking his bomber from below, he revolved with the turret; hunched upside-down in his little sphere, he looked like the foetus in the womb. The fighters which attacked him were armed with cannon firing explosive shells. The hose was a steam hose." Boy, if only all poets explained things that well. Mr. Eliot, whose this Prufrock guy? Mr. Joyce, what's a commodius vicus?

I also read today that he got the idea for the poem while hosing out garbage cans while on KP duty.

This may sound a bit odd, but another image I conjured up was that of a suction abortion machine. Which I don't think existed in 1945, though I could be wrong. I will ask about that somewhere else. That's not the sort of killing device we like to talk about here.

There is really something jarring about having a dead person tell you about his death; it goes against all our logic. The pathos of it reminds me of the scene in The Odyssey when Odysseus visits the underworld and is told by some of his old acquaintances of the unpleasant ways (is there any other kind?) that they died.

There is also something about the namelessness of the gunner, the Unknown Gunner as it were, standing for all. Reminds me for some reason of Technical Sergeant Garp in "The World According to Garp."

Boy, we're a long way from guns now.

970618

From: atomic power

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stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Subject: Re(5): muzzle energies
To: GUNS GUNS GUNS

Cc:

now that I think of it, I seem to remember that the slowing of the bullet by a silencer is not the basic mechanism of a silencer, but an unfortunate byproduct of the basic mechanism, which is to trap the expanding gasses in a series of baffles like a car muffler. since some of the gas is no longer pushing the bullet, but wandering around baffled, the bullet's muzzle energy/velocity is reduced.

I seem to remember hearing that the silencer was invented by sir Hiram Maxim, inventor of the gas-operated machine gun. is that right?

and also, that it does not really silence a "BANG" to a "phtt" the way it does in the movies. I guess silencers are illegal so no one will be able to help me on this.....

and if the .22's muzzle velocity is 920 fps, that is subsonic, yes? I was not sure who was agreeing to what.

970620

Subject: Re(10): the Special Forces Underground in action (3
From: atomic power

To: politics

gather round while I sing you of Werner Von Braun
a man whose allegiance is ruled by expedience
call him a Nazi, he won't even frown
"Nazi, Schmazi" says Werner von Braun.

don't say that he's hypocritical
say rather that he's "apolitical"
"once the rockets are up, who cares where they come down?
That's not my department," says Werner von Braun.

some have harsh words for this man of renown
but some think our attitude should be one of gratitude
like the widows and cripples in old London town
who owe their large pensions to Werner von Braun

you too can be a big hero
once you've learned to count backwards to zero.
"In German, and English, I know how to count down....
and I'm learning Chinese," says Werner von Braun.
--- Tom Lehrer, circa 1964

Though my opinion is formed almost entirely by Tom Wolfe's book and the movie based on it, I agree with Steve Kroll that the astronauts were more than lab rabbits. In the movie, Sam Shepard as Chuck Yeager has the job of expressing the sentiment, contradicting the idea that the astronauts are no better than the chimpanzees who made the first flights, "You think a monkey knows he's on top of a rocket that could blow up on him? See, these astronaut boys, they know that. It takes a special kind of man to volunteer for a suicide mission."

On the other hand, I agree with nessie that the Apollo program was pretty much a waste, except for showing that our metaphoric phalloi were larger and more powerful than the Russkies'. (But even in terms of the Cold War, the moon landing did not demonstrate any militarily or strategically useful technical prowess, while the early stages of the space race, in speeding missile and satellite development, did.) I think Teflon and Tang might have come along anyway, and I don't think anything we learned about the moon has really revolutionized our lives, or at least mine. On the other hand, considering how little good

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much of the billions poured into the Great Society social programs did around the same time, perhaps having invested the cost of the moon shots elsewhere would not have done much good.

Still, when President Bill, not satisfied with trying to echo JFK's sexual exploits, tried to evoke the memory of one of his great speeches in calling on US scientists to find an AIDS vaccine (oh, where was LLoyd Bentsen at the moment we needed him?) -- well, no, it was not the evocation of the speech that bothered me. To compare the search for an AIDS vaccine/cure to the moon landing was so utterly inappropriate as to be ludicrous. For \$22 billion, the moon shots saved no lives. For almost no increase in federal funding, AIDS shots are supposed to save millions. Someone take that domestic policy advisor, and that speechwriter, out and shoot him.

But, I am forgetting, this thread was originally about government conspiracies, and in discussing AIDS, have I brought up another?

970621

Subject: Astronauts are nuts? (was Re(11): the Special Forces Underground in action (3

From: atomic power

To: politics

This just in: John Glenn, retiring from the US Senate, wants to go into space again at age 75. "To study the effects of space flight on aging." Glenn became a national idol by becoming the first american to orbit the earth (third to go into space) in 1962, and after that, he never flew again. (Unlike, say, Alan Shepard, the only one of the original 7 mercury astronauts to make it to the moon.) I remember that in the early '80's, Senator Jake Garn of Utah rode on a shuttle flight, basically I guess so that he would keep voting for NASA funding. The official problem is that ever since the Challenger disaster, civilians have not been allowed on shuttle flights. (Huh? I got this from National Public Radio. What do they mean by civilian? I don't think Shannon Lucid was in the military...)

When I was a kid, a Cub Scout, I subscribed to "Boy's Life" magazine, which seemed to have a policy that the ultimate possible aspiration of any Boy Scout was to be an astronaut. I even remember a Norman Rockwell painting, like those rise of man evolutionary parades, starting with a cub scout and going on through various levels of Boy Scout to Eagle and terminating in a silver suited star voyager. The odd thing was that this was in the mid-70's, when absolutely nothing was going on in the space program except resting on laurels.

Now, David Kessler, there's someone I really admire. He's Untouchable.

970701

Subject: Re(5): The Second Amendment is . . .

From: atomic power

To: politics

b. thomas:

I have seen ads for used SAAB fighters from Sweden. Would that do?

oh no!!! SAAB's are such YUPPIE fighter planes!! Safe, and good for the kiddies, but SO strange looking!

Still, that delta-wing Draken is pretty cool....

It seems there must be FAA rules for the possession of and use of a Mach 2 aircraft.

The gummint has a bunch of F-14's at its desert mothballing site, the "graveyard" at Davis-Monathan AFB outside Tucson. Maybe they'd part with one cheap.....

But why get a fighter to defend yourself from government aircraft? Stinger missiles are much cheaper, and readily available from the Afghans, who were generously equipped by the CIA....

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970702

Subject: Re(5): The Second Amendment is . . .
From: atomic power
To: politics

After all, as he pointed out in the same interview, our national ANTHEM is about what heroes a bunch of guys are when they perceive in a shoot out with the cops.

"he" being Ice-T. writer being nessie.

I have a good bit of respect for Ice-T as a performer, but I think that as an historian he is maybe a little limited. Though one might call the first skirmishes of the War of Independence the "shootouts with the cops" of their time, our national ANTHEM concerns the shelling of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, which was just one nation against another.

Hey, Happy Independence Day, everybody!!! (It was actually today that the Congress passed the resolution on independence -- the fourth is when they approved the text of the Declaration.)

970702

Subject: Re(7): The Second Amendment is . . .
From: atomic power
To: politics

again, as one who has never had such a good year as the bicentennial and probably never will (on the east coast, where they really celebrate this stuff), and in this Revolutionary commemorative season, I must question nessie's interpretation of a song:

". . . stuck a feather in his cap and called it macaroni . . ."

A "macaroni," for what it's worth, was a stylish and expensive plume in on a stylish and expensive hat of the day. A feather was what came free with dinner; you plucked them off between shooting it and eating it. Sticking one in your hat and calling it macaroni was like thumbing your nose at the rich and their styles. It was sorta like in the sixties when working class English kids, the Mods, dressed like the rich of their great grandparent's day dressed. Back then they couldn't. But by the sixties they could. It was a way of thumbing their noses at the class restrictions that confined their parents in every way, even in their dress.

see, the song "Yankee Doodle" was originally sung by the BRITISH to make fun of the American irregulars:

"Father and I went down to camp
Along with Captain Goodwin
And there we see the men and boys
As thick as hasty puddin'...

And there we see a thousand men [the British]
As rich as Squire David
And what they wasted every day
I wish it had been saved....

And there was Captain (sic) Washington
Upon a slapping stallion
A giving orders to his men
There must have been a million...." (there are many more verses; no doubt there was no official version, but new verses were constantly made up.)

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The sticking an ordinary feather in one's hat, and calling it a fancy plume, is supposed to be the act of a dumb hick colonist, a "doodle dandy" who does not know better, not a defiant mocker of wealth and privilege.

It was only later, when the song was adopted by colonists in pride, the same way once derogatory names are adopted by members of minority groups, that the act of hat decoration might have acquired the significance nessie attributes to it.

I believe it was Laurie Anderson who commented on the absolute surrealness of "Yankee Doodle." and it was U.S. Grant who said, "I know two songs. One is 'Yankee Doodle', and the other isn't."

I was once at an international program in which a group from the Soviet Union was also participating. In the interests of reducing Cold War tensions, we tried to teach each other songs. Deciding that The Star Spangled Banner was too -- governmental? official? -- I chose "Yankee Doodle" instead. Well, they knew some English, but trying to explain "doodle" was quite a job.....

Resume for atomic power

it's just evil. just evil.

Peace is our profession. -- Strategic Air Command motto

well boys, looks like this is it. thermonuclear combat toe-to-toe with the rooskies. -- Major "King" Kong

well, Dmitri, you know we've always talked about the possibility of something going wrong with the Bomb....the HYDROGEN bomb, Dmitri....Pres. Merkin Muffley

....and this is what he said on

his way to armageddon

so long mom

I'm off to drop the bomb

so don't wait up for me

but though I may roam

I'll come back to my home

all though it may be

a pile of debris

remember Mommy

I'm off to get a commie

so send me a salami

and try to smile somehow

I'll look for you when the war is over

an hour and a half from now!!!! -- Tom Lehrer

if the atomic bomb drops, you've got to remember two things: duck, and cover.

I believe nuclear weapons are a gift from God. -- Phyllis Schlafly

are you ready for that great atomic power?

you'll rise to meet your saviour in the air.

will you smile or will you cry

when the fire rains from on high

are you ready for that great atomic power? -- performed by Uncle Tupelo, but it's OLD....

the sun is a mass of incandescent gas

an enormous nuclear furnace

where hydrogen is fused into helium

at a temperature of millions of degrees. -- They Might Be Giants

I am so scared of it.

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It makes me want to cry when I think about it.

Did you hear about the NRC report this week?

There isn't anything anyone can do about it, is there?

There is nothing I can do about it.

I am so scared of it.

We worship what we fear.

Like the subterranean human remnants in "Beneath the Planet of the Apes."

Or Aldous Huxley's "Ape and Essence".

I honestly believe that Satan works through nuclear power.

Reading "Dark Sun: The Making of the Hydrogen Bomb", by Richard Rhodes. Man, it's good.

Resume for Dreadnought

aren't you filled with dread?

Nought!!

brother of Juggernaut

no relation to astronaut

or cosmonaut

or Argonaut

so much momentum now, I couldn't hope to turn aside

stand back and get out of my way, please, I don't want anyone to get hurt

battleships can't turn on a dime

if I had a dime

in 1906, H.M.S. Dreadnought was launched.

Every other battleship in the world instantly became obsolete.

It was 526 feet long, displaced 20,000 tons fully loaded.

With its steam turbine engines, it could do 21 knots, at least 3 faster than other battleships.

It had ten 12" guns.

When people saw it, they said, "Oh my God, what is THAT?"

They stood agape, in awe, in fear, and very quiet. Their hair stood on end and they stopped in the middle of whatever they were saying.

They thought it must be closer than it was.

They thought the laws of perspective had been repealed.

Refraction, said one man, who had been to school. From the water, the salt spray, in the air. Then why, asked a kid who had stopped hawking newspapers for a moment, did all the other ships look normal?

Seeing the men on deck, they thought the ship must be manned entirely by midgets; only then could the crew be in proportion.

It was the same sort of reaction that had greeted HMS Warrior fifty years before.....

The above should be heard in your head in the voice John Chancellor used to describe come-from-behind World Series victories in Ken Burns' "Baseball", or in the one with which Morgan Freeman described Andy Dufresne's escape from prison in "The Shawshank Redemption".

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Resume for Ironside

Be careful, kid.
That's what I say.

Head always tilted a little forward.

High cheekbones, a sunburn and scars, prematurely greying black hair.

Grey eyes when you can see them.

Think Peter Weller, Robert Burke or Willem Dafoe.

Full body armor under a black shirt, black trousers.

Sawed-off under a long charcoal grey coat.

Protector of the weak, and the innocent.

Yes, there are some.

At your local comix shop soon.

Resume for nicholson
Harold: they'll never catch me!!

so he thought, and HE was recently indicted for espionage....he had an escape plan all worked outon his computer!!

Jack: I was a young prodigy, now laboring in the oilfields, I've been over the cuckoo's nest, I have forgotten a lot of things because, after all, it's Chinatown, and I have even shone a little. and I have a lot of jokes.....

Baker: I do not have any strong attachment to card catalogs, though I like libraries, and I believe strong and deep relationships can be forged between people who remain distant and anonymous....no, wait, what was I on when I thought that?

anyone seen "The Bridge Over the River Kwai"? Colonel Nicholson, the Alec Guinness character? Like him, I am completely willing to ignore long-term repercussions for some short-term goal, or obsession. NEVER underestimate my willingness to do something stupid and self-injurious just to prove some point.

I'll chat sometimes, but I won't chien

I just found out tonight that one of my college roommates, a hell of a guy, a great guitar player too, died a few months ago. a heart attack. a heart attack? he wasn't even 30, for god's sake!!!!I can't believe this. and I did not know until now. I feel like Will Munny, late in "unforgiven""Ned ain't dead!"

Something I wonder: all those cool people who have their own conferences (they must be like the cool kids in sixth grade who were going out on dates before the rest of us were) they always have their chats turned off, lest we uncool masses disturb them. But presumably, all the cool people are friends, right? They all have something in common, that is, being cool (and having their own conferences). So they would probably want to chat with one another, right? So how do they do it? They can't invite each other because the other's chat is off, and they can't wait for the other to invite them, since their chat is off. Do they send an email, and then, like a klingon ship turning off its cloaking device or the Enterprise lowering its shields to fire weapons, lower their shields for just a moment so they can be invited, turning their chats back on, then turning them off again as soon as they have accepted the invite, before any of the uncool can get any ideas

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and mar their celestial serenity? I don't expect any of the cool people to tell me, but if any of my fellow uncool have any ideas, confirmed or otherwise, I'd be glad to hear them.

Also, are all the teens totally unself-conscious and they all really talk that way and it occurred to all of them independently to phrase their resumes and write their names that way? Or did someone ordain it that way, or do they all believe someone did, or did they all agree democratically to do it that way? Don't they notice that others, non-teens, do not phrase their resumes or write their names that way? Do they realize that there are people here who are not teens and cannot tell them what "skool" they attend? Or did someone of such importance and charisma, someone they all want to emulate so badly, set the trend? Or is it all post-modern self-parody? yeah, I'll bet that's it. Now, what happens if they mess up and type a letter upper case that should be lower? that throws the whole thing off, right? do they have to go back and retype? it must be so hard to keep pressing and releasing the shift key in sync. do you start again with each word, do you include spaces in the alternation? and if you make a mistake, are you formally expelled in disgrace from the teenage siblinehood? gotta know this stuff.

Oh, oh, telephone line

Give me some time
I'm living in twilight

doo wah
shooby dooby doo wah
doo wah doo wah.....

ELO

(sounds kind of like that David Bowie song about all the young dudes or whatever, don't you think? the melody I mean.)

Everyone's Irish today
The minstrel boy to the war is gone
In the ranks of death you'll find him
His father's sword he hath girded on
And his wild harp slung behind him.
Land of song, sang the warrior bard
Though all the world betrays thee
One sword, at least, thy rights shall guard
One faithful harp shall praise thee.

(It sounds good on bagpipes. Really. Ask that guy on Market St.)

I wish I had a celtic face -- both on the front of my head, and like a font.

Oh Danny boy, the pipes, the pipes are calling
From glen to glen and down the mountainside.
The summer's gone, and all the leaves are falling
'Tis you must go, 'tis you must go, and I must bide.
Oh come you back, when summer's in the meadow
Or when the glen is hushed and white with snow
Yes, I'll be there, in sunshine or in shadow
Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so.

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That's such a good song. Probably not on bagpipes though.

real cool intro....

when I die and they lay me to rest
gonna go to the place that's the best
when I lay me down to die
goin' up to the Spirit in the Sky
goin' up to the Spirit in the Sky
that's where I'm gonna go when I die
when I die and they lay me to rest
I'm gonna go to the place that's the best

....great guitar bridge.....

prepare yourself, you know it's a must
gotta have a friend in Jesus
so you know that when you die
He's gonna recommend you to the Spirit in the Sky
gonna recommend you to the Spirit in the Sky
that's where you're gonna go when you die
when you die and they lay you to rest
you're gonna go to the place that's the best

.....more great guitar bridge.....

never been a sinner, never sinned
I got a friend in Jesus
so you know that when I die
He's gonna set me up to the Spirit in the Sky
oh, set me up to the Spirit in the Sky
that's where I'm gonna go when I die
when I die and they lay me to rest
gonna go to the place that's the best
go to the place that's the best.....

....repeat and variations of intro and fadeout.....

(N.B. -- this was well used in "Miami Blues" -- real good flick with Alec Baldwin, Jennifer Jason Leigh, and Fred Ward...)

Norman Greenbaum to the 39

Love this one even when it doesn't apply

In the tower, the lover sighs
"Good Sir Knight, please take my eyes -- I've used them."
"Doctor, doctor, I'm on fire."
"Oh, I'm sad to hear that, squire -- we're closing."
She snuffs you out like silk
And pours you out like milk
But just before the dawn appears, draining all the blue away
And just before all your perspectives change
Isn't it strange?

On the black Fellini sails

The Terrible Papers, Part I: Stoler's Posts under various names on the Guardian Online BBS, December 1995 to July 1997. Hard to follow sometimes, I know; remember, the

stuff in Roman is mine; in *Italics*, theirs.

Tattered rags that hangs on nails reminds me
You the mistress of your chair
I the sergeant of your hair -- you blind me
You turn me on like light
A liquid silver light
That emanates inside of you, decorates the room around and
Just before the curtains part for dawn
And everything's gone

She had one long pair of eyes
One long pair of eyes between her
One long pair of eyes
So she could see you

On the lone Norwegian shore
Lovers weep forevermore in evening
With the clouds above their heads
Go back to their lonesome beds and leave them
She falls on you like rain
When will she fall again?
But just before the dawn appears, draining all the blue away and
Just before all your perspectives change
Isn't is strange?

She had one long pair of eyes
She had one long pair of eyes between her
One long pair of eyes
So she could see you

Ok, it's 1990, and George Bush is still President of the U.S. and Mikhail Gorbachev is still President of something called the Soviet Union. And they're talking. And Bush says to Gorbachev, "You know, that Foreign Minister of yours, that Eduard Shevardnadze, we're really impressed with him, he's really smart and able. How did you select him for the job?"

And Gorbachev replied, "Well, I'll tell you. I posed him a conundrum to test him. I asked him, 'Eduard, who is your father's son, but isn't your brother?' And he answered, 'Well *I* am, of course.' So I said, "OK, you can be Foreign Minister."

So Bush heard this and said, "Hmm, that's really interesting. I think I'll try that myself." So he went to Dan Quayle, and said "Hey Dan, how ya doin'? Hey, just wondered, who is your father's son, but isn't your brother?"

And Dan Quayle gave his deer-caught-in-the-headlights look and stammered "Um....Um.....Um.....I don't know. But I'll find out!!!!" and went rushing away. The first person he ran into was then-Secretary of State James Baker. So the out of breath Quayle said to him, "Hey Jim, good to see you, help me out will you? Just..um.. who is your father's son, but isn't your brother?" And Baker, kind of surprised, promptly answered "Well *I* am, of course." And Quayle thanked him and ran off as fast as he had come. When he found Bush again he called triumphantly, "Mr. President, George! I've got the answer!! It's Jim Baker!!!" And Bush looked at him in disgust, "No, no, you idiot!!! It's Eduard Shevardnadze!!!"

I like this joke very much. It was first told to me by an old and distinguished man whom I admired very much for both his dignity and gravity and his great sense of humor. I think of him, and of two other men I very much admire, when I tell it.

I wear my glasses when I sleep so I can see clearly what I am dreaming!!!!!!

Looking forward to May Day and "Children of the Revolution"

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Moye otchestvo Nikolaevich.....

Tomorrow: 26 April 1997 -- the 11th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. What can one say?

Resume for Paul Revere

I got the horse right here
Listen my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere
On the 18th of April, '75....

Revolutionary courier (note: courier type)

Don't kill the messenger, ok?

Looking for a used horse -- no, ATB. prefer no shocks, top mount shifters. good hubs. messed up paint all the better. 21" (yeah, big) give or take.

lots of scars, so no tattoos needed. but planning on wings for my ankles, next time I have a good week and an appetite for pain

why don't they friggin' pave Mission? and who needs the friggin' tracks on Market? no, I'm not afraid to say "fuckin'", I just like "friggin'" better. everyone says "fuckin'" -- it's either too strong or it's lost all meaning.

no, don't know any Raiders, ok? no Oakland ones either. except maybe the ones of the lost ark.

all companies should be worker-owned!!! expropriate the friggin' expropriators!

I am not queen or king or baron or baroness or imperial wizard of anything. I'm proud to be a commoner. and I figure all the kings like Charles and Louis and the Tsars and all the other nobles had it coming.

Listen, my children, and you shall hear....

da da da
da da da
da da da
da da da (ok, it's like solo guitar, ok?)

da da da
da da da
da da da
da da da (bumpety bumpety bumpety bumpety on the drum)

(now add bass)
BUM ba da da
BUM ba da da
BUM ba da da
BUM ba da da

BUM ba da da
BUM ba da da
BUM ba da da
BUM ba da da

I AM THE MESSENGER (ok, so it's "the passenger". trying to be friggin' relevant!!!)
and I ride and I ride

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I ride through the city's backsides

I see the stars come out of the sky....

----Iggy Pop, "The passenger" though Siouxsie's cover is pretty ok.

Resume for Roger Wilco

Rog

I am twenty-something and gainfully employed.

I like to ride my road bike in the East Bay Hills, and to do crossword puzzles in ink, though if I make mistakes, I write over them and make a mess.

my name means "spear-famed". really.

I'm 6'2", maybe 170

I know all the presidents in order, (and most of the vice-presidents and losing major candidates), all the states in alphabetical order, and the first 103 elements in the order that they fit into the melody (if you can call it that) of "I am the very model of a modern major general" by Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan. I know most of the corpus of Gilbert and Sullivan. Guaranteed to break the ice at parties!!!

And I am not as stuck-up as the above makes me sound. I don't know -- I just tried to put the things I'm proud of. If you want to hear bad things about me, just ask.

Do you copy?
I copy.

Over and out.

.....static.....