

Feline Mewsings #20



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Feline ~~M~~ewsings

#20

May 2005

* Editorial / Introduction

This year has continued to be interesting, in the Chinese sense, though things seem to be improving toward the end of this period.

In February I had my annual physical. My doctor was puzzled by a small growth in my mouth. She advised I see an oral surgeon. Before I had that appointment, however, I went to see my regular dentist because of another tooth that was bothering me. It turned out that I had two infections in my teeth. The “growth” was a fistula that was draining from one of the infections. That was still has not been resolved. Antibiotics were not successful in eradicating the infection. I just saw an endodontist about it. Even he could not tell from x-rays or probing. I made another appointment with him; he will do an exploratory. The other tooth ended up having to be extracted. There was a fracture all the way down to the tip of the root. My dentist inserted a post in that one, and we hope that we can get an implant to replace it; it is the end tooth on that side, so a bridge is impossible.

I never knew that infections in teeth could cause general health problems. But those infections explain the aggravated fatigue and dyspepsia that I’d been suffering since the end of last year. After the one tooth was extracted, my health improved considerably; but I am still having more dyspepsia than normal for me.

Mike also had an interesting experience. He’d had occasional experiences with changes in his vision that lasted for short periods of time. Then one day he noticed a large blind spot. That panicked him into seeing the eye doctor right away. The diagnosis was idiopathic central serous chorioretinopathy. This is a condition in which bubbles of fluid build up under some areas of the retina. It is usually temporary and occurs in only one eye at a time. However, he had the condition in both eyes. He will be going in for a follow-up appointment in a couple of months. Fortunately, neither symptom has recurred since seeing the doctor.

Early in February Jean Weber stayed with us for a few days after flying in from Australia for an extended stay. She used her time here to adjust to the time zone before a conference she attended in San Diego. We saw her a couple of weeks later at Corflu, which I report on below.

I don’t usually talk much about TV, but I have been enjoying a series on Animal Planet called *Ultimate Zoo*. Zoos these days create habitats and don’t cage animals up the way they used to. The aim is to encourage reproduction. Many zoo animals represent species that are endangered in the wild. The show covers zoos all over the world and has me excited about seeing zoos when I travel.

There are a couple of other shows that I must tell you about. One is a movie that was on the Discovery Channel. *Supervolcano* was a sort of docudrama. The movie started out by saying, “This is a true story, it just hasn’t happened yet”. There is a large pool of magma under Yellowstone. Geologic records show that there have been two or three eruptions from that pool in the past. Some geologists believe we are overdue for another one. The size of the eruption could vary from about the same size as Mt. St. Helens to the super volcano of the title. If the eruption were as large as it theoretically could be, it would devastate most of the United States. Over time, it would affect the entire world because of the large amount of ash that would be thrown into the atmosphere.

Another show that I have been very impressed by is the miniseries *National Geographic: Strange Days on Planet Earth*. Over four episodes, various topics are covered that show that the Earth is one

ecosystem. The future looks pretty grim.

At Corflu I caught the flu. It started with congestion my chest, which lingered after all the other symptoms had played out. Fortunately I did not really feel sick until the day we left San Francisco, so it did not affect my enjoyment of the con much. The congestion, though, played havoc with my asthma. Last year's Corflu aggravated my asthma because of all the tobacco smoke in Vegas; this year it was the flu.

With spring weather coming and improvements in my health, I was finally able to spend measurable amounts of time in the garden. Most of the time has had to be devoted to weeding, unfortunately. I have also been able to do other exercise, though not as much as I'd like or could use.

Shadow had his third post-cancer ultrasound, and it was clear.

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* Mike

He finally made it out to Oracle for stargazing in early March. The monsoon weather had finally come to an end, and he could count on clear weather. He met one of our neighbours there. He also saw roadrunners and rabbits and heard animals that sounded like coyote. The photo on the right shows his "Oracle Observatory" site on our land.

A second trip in April proved less fruitful. The skies were cloudy. However, he did take some video footage of two quails and a rabbit on our property.

* * *



* Local Activities

Theatre

Proof: This Tony-winning play by David Auburn is about Catherine, who has taken care of her brilliant mathematician father after the death of her mother. Her father experienced a mental breakdown after early success in his career. She fears that she has inherited more than an interest in maths from him. As the play opens, her father has died recently. One of his graduate students is going through his notebooks to see if there is anything of scholarly value. Catherine's sister, Claire, arrives from New York City. She has been helping to support Catherine. Claire has ideas of what should be done with the house and where Catherine should go. Catherine is resistant to ideas from others about what she should do with her life. When she finally reveals to Hal, the graduate student, a notebook containing a mathematical proof that she claims to have developed herself, she is rewarded with doubt from both Hal and Claire. Catherine is devastated. The title refers both to the mathematical proof and tests of human relationships.

The play was produced by the East West Players in a converted church in Little Tokyo, and many of the actors were Asian. The production was very well done.

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Accomplice: This is a sort of murder mystery written by Rupert Holmes. It starts out in a fairly ordinary way in an English moorlands cottage. But things don't stay that way. We find out that the situation isn't at all what we thought at first. Once we are comfortable with that, we again find out that things are really not the way we thought at all. The pace of the surprises picks up after the intermission. I really enjoyed it. It was really well done. In the ten or so years I've been a subscriber to the Colony, I think this play ranks among the top two or three plays I've seen there.

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Climbing Everest: This performance at the Colony Theatre was its world premiere. This play by Margi Ahlin has two levels of meaning. On the surface it is about a young woman who feels compelled to climb Everest to recover her brother's body for proper burial. Her journey, though, also reflects her search for herself and the meaning of her life. It's a powerful play and was excellently performed.

* * *

* Corflu

We flew up to San Francisco on Thursday, 24 February. At the American Airlines terminal at LAX, we ran into some really bad airport design. We were told to go to one end of the terminal to turn in our checked luggage. Then we were told to walk to the other end of the terminal to go up to our gate. This terminal is a very large building. This was too much for me. I was feeling somewhat tired already and had a touch of nausea. At that point, we ordered a wheelchair for me. After that things proceeded more smoothly.

The flight itself was okay. There was beverage service. I found a crossword puzzle to do in the airline's monthly magazine. After we arrived in San Francisco we took an airport shuttle to the Holiday Inn at the Civic Center. The weather in San Francisco was overcast and a bit chillier than at home. By the time we reached the hotel, it was only a couple of hours before the hotel restaurant opened for dinner. I was starting to get hungry and hadn't had lunch, but it seemed best just to wait for dinner. The hotel check-in went smoothly. We saw a few others, such as Ken and Aileen Forman, checking in at the same time.

We took a walk after we had secured our rooms to scout out the neighbourhood. Mike found a bottle of diet Mountain Dew at a Walgreen's.

We went down to the hotel restaurant a few minutes after they opened at 17h30. My teeth were still sensitive from some dental work that was done on Tuesday, so I had soup for dinner.

Fans were gathering in the bar next to the restaurant, so we joined them there after we ate. I spent most of the evening there talking with various people. There was some registration for Corflu that was done in the bar, so I picked up badges for Mike and me. Mike retired early. However, Mike had to come get me about 22h00. Our pet sitter had set off the alarm on our house. An armed response team had responded. The alarm company had called my sister up north. She had tried to contact Mike. He had been almost asleep. By the time he had picked up his cell phone, she had already left him a message. Mike called her back. However, she had already called my parents, who also called him. He came to get me, because he did not have the pet sitter's number. I called her and calmed her down.

I went back down to the bar later until they closed up for the night.

Friday we went down to breakfast in the hotel restaurant. After that we took a walk down to the Apple store, which is about four blocks away. We saw some sort of purse snatching happening a short distance from the hotel. At the Apple store, we bought a WiFi detector and a headphone splitter to use with our iPod. On our way back from there, we saw a craft fair near the hotel and looked around. I bought one of those Japanese good luck cats with kittens.

After we got back to the hotel, we discovered that the con suite, which was located a few doors down the corridor from us, was open. We spent a bit of time there until it was time for the first panel of the con, called "Interactive Native Guide", which featured Rich Coad, David Bratman, and Spike Parsons. It was a useful panel to inform visitors to San Francisco how to get around in the city.

Then we went to dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Corflu really got started at 20h30 with "Opening Ceremonies" (Tom Becker, Lucy Huntzinger, David Bratman, and Spike Parsons). Murray Moore's name was drawn as guest of honour. This was followed by the panel "Life, the Universe, and Fanzines", which featured stories about fanzine fandom in Britain and Australia. The panellists were Bruce Gillespie, Peter Weston, and Bill Burns.

After that everyone adjourned to the con suite, bar, or points unknown. Mike retired to our room, and I stayed up until past 01h00 talking to various people, among them Karen Schaffer, Pat Virzi, Frank Wu, and Janice Morningstar.

Saturday I didn't get up until 10h00, so I missed most of the first panel, "Exploring and Solving the Problems of Fanzine Fandom Utilizing a Complex Scheme of Algorithmic Phantasmagoria" (Ian Sorenson, Bill Bodden, and Tracy Benton). I'm sorry I did, because the part I saw was really entertaining. The second panel, "E Pluribus Fandom", was about Bay Area fandom and much drier. The panellists were Jeanne Bowman, David Bratman, Terry Floyd, and Kevin Standlee.

For lunch we went the grill at the Ramada, which is around the corner. I had a delicious sea bass dish there.

I was a few minutes late getting down to the afternoon panel, which was "Xero Hour". Dick and Pat

Lupoff, Jacob Weisman, Trina Robbins, and Frank Robinson moderated by Ted White discussed the early days of American fanzine fandom.

The rest of the afternoon was mostly devoted to the Fan Fund Auction. The con suite shut down during that time. I took the opportunity to catch up with my diary.

Dinner was partaken in the hotel.

At night there was a presentation of a play by Andy Hooper titled "Read and Enjoyed, But No Content". It was very well written and performed and recreated a fictional APA, and it was really funny. The participants were Lenny Bailes, Aileen Forman, Moshe Feder, Hope Leibowitz, Bill Bodden, Lise Eisenberg, and Ken Forman.

I partied later, while Mike went to bed. It was about this time that I started to notice a lot of congestion in my chest and an unproductive cough. Alcoholic beverages seemed to make me feel better.

I set my alarm Sunday morning so I would get up in time for the brunch. It was well attended. It was self-serve done in a very orderly manner. We were at the last table to get food, but it was close to the front so I could get good shots of the proceedings following the meal. We were at the same table as Dick and Pat Lupoff, so there was plenty of conversation to keep us entertained.

Awards were presented after we ate. Here is the list of awards for the benefit of those of you who haven't seen them yet.

Best Fanzine – *Chunga*

Best Fan Writer – Claire Brialey

Best Fan Artist – Steve Stiles

Best Fanzine Design – *Chunga*

Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award for Best Fan Correspondent – Lloyd Penney

Then Murray Moore gave his speech, which was strange.

In the afternoon because it was raining and the softball game had been cancelled, a bunch of us went to the California Academy of Sciences. We walked the five or so blocks. It was a leisurely walk so not difficult. There we looked at the small aquarium and other exhibits. There are apparently plans to enlarge and move the facility. There was a model there that made the new place look very attractive.

Mike and I had dinner in the hotel. I almost had us join a dinner expedition but thought better of it. Mike doesn't care much for exotic food, and I wasn't feeling that great. It's just as well. My food didn't taste good that night. I think my sense of smell was starting to go away at that point.

Later on in the con suite and bar I partook of alcoholic beverages to help me feel better. I remember a rather lengthy conversation in the bar that involved Lucy Huntzinger, Bob Webber, and other people whose names escape me. Back in the con suite, I talked with Eric Lindsay, Kevin Standlee, and others.

We checked out from the Holiday Inn Monday morning a short while before noon, which was the checkout time. Then we boarded a shuttle to the airport shortly after noon. We had time for lunch at the airport, but I had no appetite. I just bought myself a bottle of water.

The flight home was smooth and uneventful. I just had to keep my breathing passages clear, as the flu had ascended to my sinuses. At LAX we took a taxi home.

Corflu Titanium was much enjoyed with the exception of the CorFLU CONtagion suffered by a few of us. A 3-DVD set of the proceedings is available. Please e-mail or write if you are interested. The 2-DVD set from last year's Corflu is also still available.

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*** Mailing Comments on FAPA #270:**

General Comment: This must be the thinnest mailing since I joined.

Eric Lindsay (FAPA Contribution Jan 2005): It was great to see you at Corflu.

When I first heard the name Paris Hilton, I thought people were talking about a hotel in France and that something scandalous had happened there.

Jim Caughran (A Propos de Rien): We missed you at Corflu.

Jack Calvert (Exclam): Enjoyed getting to know you better at Corflu.

Gordon Eklund (Sweet Jane 42): I probably didn't describe the movie terribly well last time. The movie was in colour. The bonfire I remember was at night in the woods. The canoe scene was in broad daylight, and I remember seeing reeds along the shore; the water way wasn't very wide. The scene I remember at a fort was similar to Fort Niagara or Ticonderoga; all I remember is a man walking along the parapet. I've seen *Big Sky* recently, and it's not that one. I haven't seen the earlier incarnation of *The Last of the Mohicans*, so I couldn't say whether that one might be it. I think this is the last unidentified movie, song, or book. I've managed to identify everything else I have faint recollections of.

You certainly were elusive at Corflu. If you hadn't let me know you were there, I probably wouldn't have seen you at all. I tried to find you after to the banquet and at other times, but you were nowhere to be found.

Roger Wells (Voice of the Habu): I really admire your ability to bend with the wind. Good luck with your continuing job search.

Moi (Feline Mewsings #19): We used e-tickets for our flight to Corflu and back. At the airport, there were machines that required a credit card, AAA card, or a third one that I can't remember. My credit cards, at least the ones I usually use, do not have my full name. Since the name didn't match the name on the ticket, we couldn't get boarding passes that way. On our way to San Francisco, we ended up getting the boarding passes by using one of Mike's credit cards. I think it used to be that you had to use the same credit card that you had used to make the purchase, but I guess that rule has been changed. On our way back, I tried my AAA card and was successful. The hyphen doesn't seem to be important. The system seems to ignore it.

The changeover to all digital TV is really fuzzy. The rules actually say 2006 or when 85% of Americans can receive digital, whichever is later. I have to believe, though, that there must be some end date by when the switch must be made. Otherwise, we could linger on the brink forever.



I encountered some of those evangelist stations. The first time I came across one[,] I thought it must be somewhere in darkest Africa. After all, their English wasn't nearly as good as that on Radio Moscow. I think it turned out to be in Arkansas. Milt Stevens



Robert Michael Sabella (Visions of Paradise #102): I am truly sorry to hear about Iris Chang's self-inflicted death.

Janice Morningstar (I Had a Ball at Corflu (Blackjack)): You must have taken notes to write such a complete report of the con after such a long time.

I'm sorry to hear about the misadventures with your car(s).

I found your thoughts about Asperger's syndrome very interesting.

Fred Lerner (Lofgeornost 78): You asked if any of us do more than visualize in our minds when we read. I definitely visualize in Technicolor. I also make use of my mind's ear, tongue, and nose when appropriate. My imagination is so good that sometimes I have to think hard before I remember whether I saw a play or a radio play. The latter is not done fully staged, so there are usually no sets. Sometimes I have problems remembering whether I heard something on the radio or saw a report on TV.

Shelby Vick (Comments Commence): I enjoyed reading about your typical day.

I am being checked for glaucoma. My optometrist saw a change a couple of years ago and sent me to an ophthalmologist. My mother has glaucoma. I'm still seeing my ophthalmologist every six months. I haven't developed glaucoma yet.

I disagree that AARP has nothing to do with having fun. I believe they do organize vacation trips that people can sign up for.

Dick Eney (Target: FAPA): I have most of the recordings sold by the Capitol Steps. I don't have their latest, but I wait until I can order several. That way I can get a price break.

I can distinguish between the common breeds of doves and pigeons. I'm a sometime birdwatcher. We have doves that come to our backyard.

Bill Bowers (Xenolith @ 50): Good to see a zine from you. I tried to keep up with your electronic output, but I fell woefully behind with my online reading. I'm only a few months behind with my paper reading, though, so I hope to catch up with the electronic zines eventually.

* * *

* Letters to the Editor

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

Chaz Boston Baden, Anaheim, CA

3 March 2005

Thank you for mailing me *Feline Mewsings* #19. I think you have the January timeline a little wrong; Michael Mason died on 25 December, so it's unlikely you saw him at Kelly's funeral service. There were two services for Kelly, and the second one (the one at the Scientology place) was on the same rainy day as Michael Mason's funeral -- 23 January. So you lost two weeks in there somehow...

Loscon's Ice Cream Social was not deliberately shorting people on their ice cream; I hope that if you'd asked for more in your bowl you would have received it. I made an error when I went on that mad shopping run to the supermarket to buy ice cream; I bought dozens of flavours. I should have purchased dozens of tubs of just a few, simpler flavours.

Who was in the photo you took of a masquerade entry? I missed the masquerade because I was upstairs prepping for the L.A.con IV party in the Con Suite.

Oh no, you printed the photo of me caught in daylight undressed! Well, without the ears, anyway. The bear ears have been such a part of my convention costume that I don't feel properly dressed without them on.

((Thanks for your LoC and for straightening me out about dates. I didn't hear about Michael's death until after Kelly's funeral (not memorial service), so I thought he must have died after Kelly. Kelly's funeral was the Monday immediately following New Year's Day. I didn't realize Michael had died Christmas Day -- not a great Christmas gift.

((I will be reading your zines, both of them, very soon (as opposed to Real Soon Now).

((I just watched the portion of my Loscon video with the masquerade. The entry whose photo I used sounded like "Fairy at Arms". The entrant was Heather Molina (sp?)

((Sorry to have caught you without your "ears". You without your "ears", I guess, is like me without my watch.))

#

Ed Meskys, Center Harbor, NH

9 March 2005

... I was especially interested in your description of the sequel to *A Christmas Carol*. Was this play written especially for the company or was it a published play they performed? I took the liberty of cutting

the paragraph about it to a friend in Arizona who collects stuff related to *Christmas Carol*. I sent her the paragraph and your name and address. I do not know whether she will want to write you.

I was also interested in the old time radio convention. I am sixty-nine years old this week and remember much of radio. Was it Redd Boggs in his fanzine *Retrograde* in the 60s who wrote a lot about old time radio? I remember talk of *I Love a Mystery*, or was that in *Xero*? *Xero* had a lot about nostalgia but mostly comix. Somehow I associate the name Jim Harmon with radio nostalgia.

I used to listen to both *Mysterious Traveler* and *Duffy's Tavern*. It is too bad no transcriptions survived.

I am not surprised that Harlan Ellison was involved with the re-creation. His story "Jeffy is Five" showed he had a real love for old time radio. I have listened to rebroadcasts of *X-1*, the *Goon Show*, *Lone Ranger*, and other old programs on public radio; but (at least my station) no longer airs them. It has gone all news except for a few items like *Prairie Home Companion* and *Click&Clack*.

Up to around 1950, my mutual station, WOR in NY City, had kid's programming from 5 to 6, later adding the 4:45 time slot. Then after the 6 PM news they had *Terry and the Pirates*. In that time slot, they had at different times *Superman*, *Hop Harrigan*, *Jack Armstrong*, *Sky King*, *Captain Midnight*, and *Buck Rogers*. After only one or two years, *Buck Rogers* was replaced by a show that dramatized classic stories in five instalments.

A few years ago, the actor who did Archie on *Duffy's Tavern* lost his sight and was a guest at the competing blind organization's convention, and I heard his talk on a tape of the con.

Speaking of miniature rooms, when Sandy and I did the tourist thing I remember going to a museum near the La Brea Tar Pits Museum that had spectacular miniatures of rooms or houses.

I note your problems with running out of energy. Sandy is like that but runs out even faster and spends half of a con reading or sleeping in the hotel room.

Thanks again for an interesting zine.

((Thanks for your response.

((*The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge* was not specially written for the Colony. For anyone interested, a write-up of the Colony presentation can be read at <http://www.colonytheatre.org/news/CurtainCallJanuary2005.shtml#scrooge> .

((There are transcriptions of many episodes of both *Mysterious Traveler* and *Duffy's Tavern*, but there is no transcription of the episode of *Mysterious Traveler* that Harlan did at the convention. I imagine that a lot of transcriptions exist only in the hands of private collectors. Who knew when these were done originally that people would be interested in hearing them again many decades later?

((A lot of areas seem to have lost their old time radio shows. We no longer have one in the LA area that I know of. There are some web sites that have old time radio shows on. My husband has also found some web radio stations that have them.

((The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is near La Brea Pits, but I don't recall any miniature rooms there. Possibly there was a visiting exhibition when you were there.

((I have chronic fatigue syndrome, so I have frequent problems with lack of energy.))

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Rita Prince Winston, Venice, CA

12 March 2005

Deaths and rain. Fortunately only the rain continued after January. It reached, as you know, the third biggest amount of rain in a year since Los Angeles started keeping records, and I hope it rains just enough

more to break the first place record. It turns out that my liking for breaking records outweighs any compassion I might have, as I discovered when wishing that a *fifth* hurricane would landfall in Florida last fall.

You two look great in your Regency costumes.

As Loscon had a panel about whether blogs are the APAs of the 21st century, I was reminded of the fuss about CD radio in the 1970-80s that caused APAs to be explained (by Tom Digby?) as "CD with typewriters instead of radios". My experience is it is mailing list forums things, such as Yahoo groups and Usenet groups that have consumed the people who used to do APAs, such as me – the "immediate gratification" is addictive.

Your ct Dick Eney about traffic lights makes me recall being told when I visited Boston that the lights could turn green in all directions, signally all the automobiles to "go – at your own risk".

Hooray for Dan Deckert's information on animals living under the name of "gopher"!

((*Nature Conservancy* magazine for Fall 2004 had an article about prairie dogs. According to the article, there are five species of prairie dog in this country – Black-tailed, Gunnison's, White-tailed, Utah, and Mexican. Prairie dogs are apparently even less popular among some than are wolves. Many of the endangered species in our country need prairie dogs as prey. By the way, there are no prairie dogs in California outside of zoos.))

Lloyd Penney wrote you a long LoC. Mention of things filmed in Toronto reminds me that it is a matter of vast anger locally that Toronto gives not only tax breaks but also subsidies to steal movie and TV production work from us (Los Angeles). In a previous era, my late grandmother, living in NYC, liked to point out the recognizable LA scenes in TV shows set in New York.

#

Lloyd Penney, Etobicoke, ON

24 March 2005

Many thanks for a paper edition of *Feline Mewsings* 19. Paper rules! (Don't mind me; sometimes, my middle name is Ludd.) Some comments to help me catch up...

In some ways, Kelly's death was a shock; and in other ways, it was somewhat expected. After Kelly couldn't make it to Torcon as its Artist GoH, we knew that his time would be nigh. The first person we called was Larry Stewart in Ottawa. He had a special relationship with Kelly and Laura; Larry was the Little Gremlin. Kelly's death was devastating to him. Larry comes down to Toronto once a year for Toronto Trek in July, so I expect we'll see him then.

I'd love to see an old time radio group in Toronto; for all I know, there's one here; but I've never been able to find them. I have tried to get a career going as a voice actor, so having the opportunity to do voice work is a real bonus. I hope in less than a year to tell everyone about the Sectarian Wave series of CDs I was involved with up to last year. It's in post-production, so that's why it will be a while until it shows up.

Forry is 88? I pray that he's well. I hope for the best, and brace myself for the worst.

Is Star Trek dead? No, but it does need a rest. I hope we won't get the 20-year gap that we did between the original series and the *Next Generation*; but if we have a three- to four-year gap between *Enterprise* and the next series, I think people would be pleased. I also hope this would mean some fresh imagination would be employed to produce some good stories. I have read on some of the Usenet areas that J. Michael Straczynski is interested in creating the next Trek series; maybe we won't need that gap.

In many ways, blogs are e-diaries; and so many people are doing them...for a while. As always, for many people, the novelty of starting such a new project is quickly replaced by the drudgery of having to maintain it and create new content. Blogs are already the victim of this all-too-human tendency, and I am interested to see what comes next so it too can be victimized by human nature.

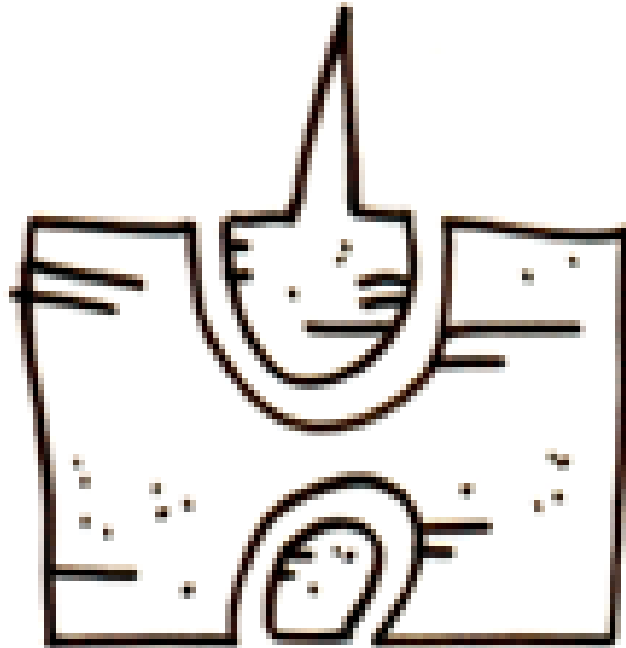
I know the Canadian fan from Montreal you met at Loscon -- Capucine Plourde. She's a sweetie. Because of her medical problems, I only see her when we go to Montreal for Con*cept, their annual convention. We hope to go there this year.

Won myself a FAAn Award at Corflu! The Thursday after Corflu was one of our local fannish pub nights, and Corflu Titanium GoH Murray Moore presented me with my Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award for Best Fannish Correspondent. Next year's Corflu will be in Toronto; I hope it can get the same attendance the San Francisco Corflu got.

Hello, Hope! I'm finding your LoCs everywhere now. I know we talked about this at the pub night; I hope that you will continue to vote for the Hugos. All awards like this are subjective and in many ways are popularity contests, but still they have value and are only as good as the people who choose to participate in nomination and voting.

My loc -- well it's now spring and we're receiving a fresh dusting of snow. Our groundhog up here predicted an early spring. I hope he realizes that he's an endangered species all by himself. I should have said that Hugh Gregory lives in Vancouver, not Montreal. The job at Canada Newswire lasted five weeks; they decided I wasn't learning the job as fast as they wanted me to. So, I have had work with BBW, a local registration company that runs it for local conferences and trade shows (been working registration at cons for free for decades, about time I got paid for it!); and I have an evening job doing website data entry for *The Globe and Mail* newspaper.

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* Closing Remarks

It's time to wrap this up. We will be spending a few days in Tucson, so I will be short on time to print and collate this.