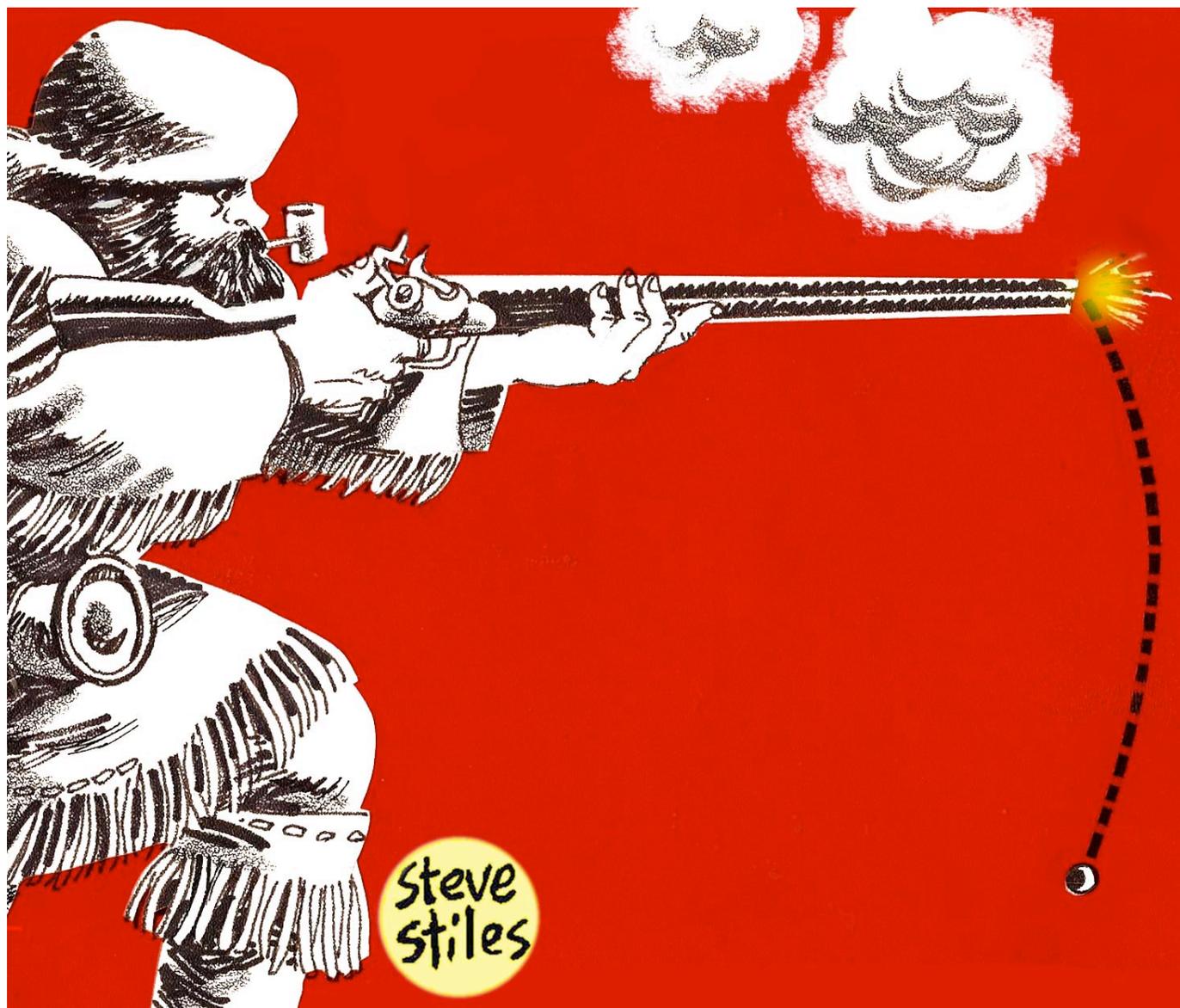


Feline Mewsings #46



Feline ~~Mewsings~~ Mewsings

#46

November 2011

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Contributions of art, reviews, articles, fiction, letters, even poetry welcome. Publication not guaranteed, but all submissions will be given due consideration. Deadline for next issue: 28 January 2012.

if this box is checked, I need to hear from you if you wish to stay on my mailing list.

If you are reading this electronically and would prefer to receive a printed version, please let me know.

* Editorial / Introduction

My intention of making a cage to put around my planter has been executed with some hardware cloth. One of my potted cacti bloomed a while back (see photo).

My allergist has decided to increase the dosage of my allergy shots, so I was back on a more frequent schedule of no more than two weeks between until I reached a new maintenance dose. I hope it works. I don't really want a repeat of this summer.

Speaking of summer, we only got about two inches of rain between July and August. In September we got about three inches. October produced little rain.

I will be replacing both persimmon trees. One never leaved at all, and the other died this summer; at first I thought I could revive it, but Mike found a split that went right up the trunk. The replacement trees have been ordered and are expected here in mid-November. That will get them in the ground two months earlier than the last two and give them more time to acclimate and establish before severe weather arrives (I hope). Based on the *la niña* conditions forecast for this winter, I expect it will be very cold again. I bought a bunch of daffodil and iris bulbs and also got some free bulbs at a meeting of the Oracle Gardeners; by the time this goes to press, I should have at least some of them in the ground. After Fluffy died, we started serious yard work. We managed to weed a lot of overgrowth, mostly clearing nominal pathways. After the bulbs are in, we can get back to picking up and pruning dead branches.

We were having a lot of problems with our DSL modem, so we replaced it in mid-August. The new modem also has a built-in router. The DSL line is still flakey. The modem needs to be rebooted frequently to restore the high speed (all of 3mbps). Mike created a little program that automatically reboots the modem at 0500 every day.

My doctor wasn't happy with my bone density scan this year and switched me to a new medication that gets injected every six months. I hope it works better. On other health fronts, my replacement implant has been crowned.

After unsuccessfully attempting to purchase a second refrigerator to be put in the garage from Sears, we got one in Tucson that was delivered the next day. Sears kept postponing delivery; after the third time, I cancelled the order. The one we got is larger than the one we ordered from Sears, just because the larger one was the same price as the smaller one. Both cost more than the one from Sears was listed for, but at least I have one now. Right now I just have a lot of blue ice in the freezer and flower bulbs in the refrigerator. The blue ice had occupied much space in our main refrigerator and the pet room refrigerator, and I'd had most of the flower bulbs in the pet room. I needed to defrost the pet room refrigerator and that ended up taking several days.

Late in September I went to a Fabric, Quilt, and Craft fair with a friend. Although Mike and I have got together with them previously for lunch, this is the first time Kathy and I had done anything together without the men. I bought some fabric marking pencils at the fair, and Kathy bought a few items. The fair was somewhat on the small side because of the economy being the way it is. Apparently it was even smaller last year. This year the admission was free to encourage more people to attend.

Back a few months ago, the Oro Valley SF Book Club selection was *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Several of us were interested enough in the book to read the other two books in the series. We had a meeting in mid-October to discuss the trilogy. The discussion was so lively that one of the librarians was worried that we were going to come to blows, though there was never any danger of that. When the movie comes out next spring, we plan to go see it together.

The regular October selection for the book club was Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*. We had a fairly lively discussion about that as well.



* * *

* Local Outings

Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club: Jeffrey Hatcher has given Sherlock Holmes an adventure loosely based on the short story by Robert Louis Stevenson. I've heard the story dramatized on the radio (old time radio) a few times. This version is quite a bit more complicated. This new adventure opened the 2011-2012 season of the Arizona Theatre Company. In this version of the story, Dr. Watson finds Holmes in a despondent state. Holmes goes out one evening and meets Mr. Williams, who is fond of cream pies. He introduces Holmes to the Suicide Club. Another member of the Suicide Club later asks Holmes for help in getting out of the club. He is Prince Nikita Starloff of Russia. Meanwhile Dr. Watson has been following Holmes. Things get complicated until Holmes solves everything at the end. The acting was good to excellent, the various actors using modified (for better comprehension) versions of various European accents. This is an entertaining show.

#

Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci: These two operas are always double-billed. Each is a somewhat short one-act opera. These opened the Arizona Opera's 2011-2012 season. *Cavalleria* is written by Pietro Mascagni, *Pagliacci* by Ruggero Leoncavallo.

Briefly *Cavalleria* involves Turiddu, who had sworn love to Lola, only to find her married to Alfio when he returned from war. Turiddu has promised himself to Santuzza, who has been excommunicated because of being pregnant out of wedlock. Turiddu has more or less abandoned Santuzza and is having an affair with Lola. Santuzza tells Alfio about Lola, and Alfio calls Turiddu out.

Pagliacci is about a band of performers. Nedda is married to Canio, who is the head of the troupe. He had saved Nedda from the gutters. She is tired of Canio and is planning to run away with a handsome townsman named Silvio after the night's performance. Unfortunately for her, Tonio the clown, who covets Nedda, tells Canio of Nedda's plans. Canio is grief-stricken and loses his mind in the middle of the performance.

Both operas end badly. I thought *Pagliacci* was better performed. The singing was better overall, not that *Cavalleria* was bad. The sets were very nice. Parts of the same set were used in both operas, rearranged in each. The costumes in both operas were mid-twentieth century. The stories could be set in any time period. Both operas were written in the late nineteenth century.

#

God of Carnage: The second play in the Arizona Theatre Company's 2011-2012 season is a domestic black comedy, somewhat in the vein of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* written by Yasmina Reza and translated from the French by Christopher Hampton. It has a similar emotional impact. Its four actors stay in the living room set except for brief periods when one or more characters exit to the kitchen or bathroom. It begins as a quiet discussion about what to do about the incident in which little Benjamin Raleigh hit Henry Novak at a nearby park, resulting in injuries that have necessitated a visit to the dentist about broken teeth. Though it's a bit touch and go, as Alan Raleigh constantly has to answer his cell phone and the Novaks refrain from name-calling, everything seems to be going well until Michael Novak suggests a drink of rum. Things descend from there, making the point that perhaps we humans have not evolved very much since we emerged from caves. There are some hilarious bits. The acting, by Amy Resnick, Bob Sorenson, Joey Parsons, and Benjamin Evett, was outstanding. While is it not to everyone's taste, I found it enjoyable.

* * *





Amy's Motley Media Musings

Reviews by Amy Harlib



Message from Amy: For the foreseeable future, "Amy's Motley Media Musings" will resurrect all the reviews in my files in alphabetical order, for they are not readily found anywhere else any more. I hope these will contain some interesting perspectives to amuse and enlighten on various genre and popular culture offerings in the past several years—opinions from a curious, feminist, inquiring, and, I'd like to think, culturally educated, mind. I hope *Feline Mewsings* readers find what I have to say worthwhile. Thank you very much for your attention.

***Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (Warner Brothers Pictures, 2004). Directed by Alfonso Cuaron. Written by Steve Kloves based on the novel by J. K. Rowling. Cinematography by Michael Seresin. Music by John Williams. Running time: 136 minutes. Rated: PG. <http://harrypotter.warnerbros.com/main/homepage/home.html> Available on video and DVD, Nov. 2004.**

The first two film versions of J. K. Rowling's phenomenally popular fantasy novels concerning the education of a young British wizard were also deservedly huge successes. The third cinematic outing in this series, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, far surpasses its predecessors, good though they were, in quality – an improvement due to a change of director. With Chris Columbus leaving the helm this time around to serve only as a producer, taking his place, highly regarded Alfonso Cuaron, admired for his stylish, edgy adult drama *Y Tu Mama Tambien* and before that, extolled for his charming, child-friendly *A Little Princess*, brings a more character-driven, swiftly-paced and darkly exciting aesthetic to the project. Steve Kloves, superb scripter, now for all three productions, keeps the continuity going.

Potter purists may object to Cuaron's not slavishly following the book as written, altering and even excising some parts of the printed source material for the sake of on-screen dramatic necessity, the result capturing the essence of the story and improving the theatrical experience. In this opus, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and his peers, reaching adolescence, are maturing nicely, their growth process well-handled by Cuaron's deft supervision. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, assuming viewer knowledge of the personalities and events from the books and the earlier pictures, plunges right into a brief prologue in which the orphaned protagonist's anger at his cruel adoptive guardians, Uncle Vernon (Richard Griffiths) and Aunt Petunia (Fiona Shaw), and reaches an overwhelming crisis point. Reacting, Harry breaks a seminal rule, using his magic in the muggle/mundane world – a spell to be reversed and erased later and largely forgiven by the clandestine Witching World authorities, for they face an even more serious problem.



Harry, with best friends Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), all now thirteen years old, reunite for their third year at Hogwart's School of Witchcraft. There Harry finds out that he and his venerable institution of learning face, for mysterious, convoluted reasons, a threat out of and related to his past involving the man who may have killed his parents, the eponymous escaped prisoner named Sirius Black (ably played by Gary Oldman) who now approaches Hogwart's, no doubt targeting Harry. Higher administrative authorities, over the objections of benevolent Headmaster Albus Dumbledore (Michael Gambon admirably filling the role after the passing of the late-lamented Richard Harris), have summoned to protect the school's grounds, a posse of Dementors – dark, tattered-looking, wraith-like, soul-sucking, protecting guards meant to apprehend the prison escapee – a police-force's presence that proves very problematic!

To help Harry and his friends cope with these genuinely eerie and scary Dementors and other attendant malign forces, a new “defence against the dark arts” teacher, Professor Lupin (David Thewlis) proves a worthy ally despite his uncomfortable secrets. Also on hand, lending their wisdom, we find beloved returning characters and some newcomers: Professor Snape (Alan Rickman), the deliciously sneering potion master given juicy scenes; witchcraft instructor Professor McGonagall (Maggie Smith); sweetly loopy, spaced-out divination Professor Trelawney (Emma Thompson); and the loveable, bear-like Rubeus Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane), this time in charge of and teaching about uncanny creatures while being caretaker of Buckbeak, an astonishing hippogriff CGI creation of incredible believability that later proves central to the plot. Also significant, Peter Pettigrew (Timothy Spall) makes a surprise, pivotal, creepy, repellent appearance in the revelatory, twisted, spine-tingling climax.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, even more dazzling than the first two films, features brilliant CGI effects seamlessly blended with live action and contributing to a greater sense of enchantment than ever before. Cuarón’s decision to open up the scenarios to more action on the grounds and in the forests surrounding Hogwarts, reflects Harry’s and his friends’ new growth and broadening horizons, giving the story more heft. The production, with beautiful cinematography by Michael Seresin, comes filled with marvellous character-revealing scenes and stunning visuals, the latter including sets, costumes, backgrounds, scenery – all rendered in breathtaking detail. Set pieces like the “knight bus”, even more clever animated paintings and a special map, ghosts in the hallways, an increasingly complex and crucial whomping willow, invisibility effects, and oh, that fabulous hippogriff – will linger long in the memory. John Williams’s gorgeous score continuing and embroidering on themes established in the previous opuses proves the perfect accompaniment.

Those stubborn muggles who managed to resist the Harry Potter spell before, if they give *Prisoner of Azkaban* a try, will surely succumb to the series charms and excitement. Cognoscenti will be thrilled, captivated, and enchanted!

-- Amy Harlib

* * *



Jonathan's Science Corner

by Jonathan Vos Post



Notes 18 Oct 2011 on Oracle to overcome Turing limits of TOE by Jonathan Vos Post, former Adjunct Professor of Mathematics at Woodbury University

Dr. Post has been unusually busy but sent in a draft of a speculative computer essay. He would like feedback.

Given an “oracle” in the Computational Complexity sense, then a Physics Theory of Everything can violate the Church-Turing thesis. Given such a magical device, a hypercomputer, one could have what appears to be a finitely generated Turing Machine or Cellular Automaton model of the universe, or the universe itself, which can physically compute uncomputable functions and do what does not violate physical law as such, but violates computational complexity limits.

The Church-Turing thesis (formerly commonly known simply as Church’s thesis) says that any real-world computation can be translated into an equivalent computation involving a Turing machine. In Church’s original formulation (Church 1935, 1936), the thesis says that real-world calculation can be done using the lambda calculus, which is equivalent to using general recursive functions.

The Church-Turing thesis encompasses more kinds of computations than those originally envisioned,

such as those involving cellular automata, combinators, register machines, and substitution systems. It also applies to other kinds of computations found in theoretical computer science, such as quantum computing and probabilistic computing.

There are conflicting points of view about the Church-Turing thesis. One says that it can be proven, and the other says that it serves as a definition for computation. There has never been a proof, but the evidence for its validity comes from the fact that every realistic model of computation yet discovered has been shown to be equivalent. If there were a device which could answer questions beyond those that a Turing machine can answer, then it would be called an oracle.

Some computational models are more efficient, in terms of computation time and memory, for different tasks. For example, it is suspected that quantum computers can perform many common tasks with lower time complexity, compared to modern computers, in the sense that for large enough versions of these problems, a quantum computer would solve the problem faster than an ordinary computer. In contrast, there exist questions, such as the halting problem, which an ordinary computer cannot answer, and according to the Church-Turing thesis, no other computational device can answer such a question.

The Church-Turing thesis has been extended to a proposition about the processes in the natural world by Stephen Wolfram in his principle of computational equivalence (Wolfram 2002), which also claims that there are only a small number of intermediate levels of computing power before a system is universal and that most natural systems are universal.

In complexity theory and computability theory, an oracle machine is an abstract machine used to study decision problems. It can be visualized as a Turing machine with a black box, called an oracle, which is able to decide certain decision problems in a single operation. The problem can be of any complexity class. Even undecidable problems, like the halting problem, can be used.



In the following couple of paragraphs, I must address this comment from Dr. Timothy Poston. Timothy (Tim) Poston (born 19 June 1945 in St Albans, Hertfordshire) is an English mathematician best known for his work on catastrophe theory. His 1972 Ph.D. work at the University of Warwick on “Fuzzy Geometry” was directed by Christopher Zeeman. Less well known was his role as active founding member of COUM Transmissions performance group with Genesis P-Orridge. They studied at Hull University together. Tim Poston wrote texts and advised COUM on physics and maths 1968-1978. Tim Poston remains “Scientific Adviser” to P-Orridge to the present.

“It is peculiar, in this context, to read ‘an oracle tape, on which an infinite sequence of B’s and 1’s is printed’, with no operational definition of ‘infinite.’”

“If the Universe can contain such a tape or tape analogue, can we -- without crossing an event horizon -- effectively use it? Note that while quantum computers may speed some kinds of calculation, quantum uncertainty limits the information density of matter and space-time.”

In the following, as Tim suggests, we first of all mean *countably* infinite, as we do not have a 19th century continuum nor any material with continuum properties; rather, the universe is quantized and thus discrete, per Quantum Mechanics (QM). Of course, General Relativity (GR) does presume that space-time is an infinitely sub-divisible continuum. Resolving the conflict between QM and GR is beyond the scope of this paper. We do not literally demand that a hypercomputer be built with physically infinite tape. This is a *formal* definition; what we consider is a function *analogue* of such a Turing Machine, i.e. functionally computationally equivalent. Now, on to the formal definition.

An oracle machine is a Turing machine connected to an oracle. The oracle, in this context, is thought of as

an entity capable of answering some collection of questions and usually represented as some subset A of the natural numbers. Intuitively then, the oracle machine can perform all of the usual operations of a Turing machine and can also query the oracle for an answer to a specific question of the form “is x in A?”

The definition given here is one of several possible oracle machine definitions. All these definitions are equivalent, as they agree on which specific functions f can be computed by an oracle machine with oracle A.

An oracle machine, like a Turing machine, includes:

- * a work tape: a sequence of cells without beginning or end, each of which may contain a B (for blank) or a 1;

- * a read/write head that rests on a single cell of the work tape and can read the data there, write new data, and move left or right along the tape;



- * a control mechanism that can be in one of a finite number of states and that will perform different actions (reading data, writing data, moving the control mechanism, and changing states) depending on the current state and the data being read.

In addition to these components, an oracle machine also includes:

- * an oracle tape, on which a *countably* infinite sequence of Bs and 1s is printed corresponding to the characteristic function of the oracle set A;

- * an oracle head that (like the read/write head) can move left or right along the oracle tape reading data, but that cannot write.

Formal definition

An oracle Turing machine is a 4-tuple

$$M = \langle Q, \delta, q_0, F \rangle \text{ where}$$

Q is a finite set of states

$\delta : Q \times \{B, 1\}^2 \rightarrow Q \times \{B, 1\} \times \{L, R\}^2$ is a partial function called the transition function, where L is left shift, R is right shift.

$q_0 \in Q$ is the initial state

$F \subseteq Q$ is the set of halting states.

The oracle machine is initialized with the work tape containing some input with finitely many 1s and the rest of the tape blank; the oracle tape containing the characteristic function of the oracle, A; and the Turing machine in state q_0 with read/write head reading the first nonblank cell of the work tape, and oracle head reading the cell of the oracle tape that corresponds to $\chi_A(o)$. Thereafter it operates according to δ : if the Turing machine is currently in state q, the read/write head is reading a symbol S_1 , and the oracle head is reading S_2 ; then if $\delta(q, S_1, S_2) = (q', S_1', D_1, D_2)$, the machine enters state q' , the read/write head writes the symbol S_1' in place of S_1 , and then the read/write head moves 1 cell in direction D_1 and the oracle head moves one cell in direction D_2 . At this point if q' is a halting state, the machine halts; otherwise it repeats this same procedure.

Turing machines can compute functions as follows: if f is a function that takes natural numbers to natural numbers, MA is a Turing machine with oracle A, and whenever MA is initialized with the work tape consisting of n+1, consecutive 1s (and blank elsewhere) MA eventually halts with f(n) 1s on the tape, then MA is said to compute the function f. A similar definition can be made for functions of more than one variable or partial functions.

If there is an oracle machine M that computes a function f with oracle A , f is said to be A -computable. If f is the characteristic function of a set B , B is also said to be A -computable, and M is said to be a Turing reduction from B to A .

Complexity classes of oracle machines

The complexity class of decision problems solvable by an algorithm in class A with an oracle for a language L is called A^L . For example, $PSAT$ is the class of problems solvable in polynomial time by a deterministic Turing machine with an oracle for the Boolean satisfiability problem. The notation A^B can be extended to a set of languages B (or a complexity class B) by using the following definition:

$$A^B = \bigcup_{L \in B} A^L$$

When a language L is complete for some class B , then $A^L = A^B$ provided that machines in A can execute reductions used in the completeness definition of class B . In particular, since SAT is NP -complete with respect to polynomial time reductions, $P^{SAT} = P^{NP}$. However, if $A = DLOGTIME$, then A^{SAT} may not equal ANP .

It is obvious that NP is contained in or equal to P^{NP} , but the question of whether NP^{NP} , P^{NP} , N^{NP} , and P are equal remains tentative at best. It is believed they are different, and this leads to the definition of the polynomial hierarchy.

Oracle machines are useful for investigating the relationship between complexity classes P and NP , by considering the relationship between P^A and NP^A for an oracle A . In particular, it has been shown there exist languages A and B such that $P^A = NP^A$ and $P^B \neq NP^B$. [Baker, 1975]

The fact that $P = NP$ question relativizes both ways is taken as evidence that answering this question is difficult, because a proof technique that relativizes (i.e., unaffected by the addition of an oracle) will not answer the $P = NP$ question. Most proof techniques relativize.

It is interesting to consider the case where an oracle is chosen randomly from among all possible oracles (an infinite set). It has been shown in this case, then with probability 1, $P^A \neq NP^A$. [Bennett 1981] When a question is true for almost all oracles, it is said to be true for a random oracle. This choice of terminology is justified by the fact random oracles support a statement with probability 0 or 1 only. (This follows from Kolmogorov's zero one law.) This is taken as evidence $P \neq NP$.

A statement may be true for a random oracle and false for ordinary Turing machines at the same time; for example for oracles A , $IP^A \neq PSPACE^A$, while $IP = PSPACE$. [Chang 1994]

Oracles and halting problems

It is possible to posit the existence of an oracle that computes a non-computable function, such as the answer to the halting problem or some equivalent. A machine with an oracle of this sort is a hypercomputer.

Interestingly, the halting paradox still applies to such machines; although they determine whether particular Turing machines will halt on particular inputs, they cannot determine, in general, if machines equivalent to themselves will halt. This fact creates a hierarchy of machines, called the arithmetical hierarchy, each with a more powerful halting oracle and an even harder halting problem.



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Applications to cryptography

See Wikipedia Main article:
Random oracle

In cryptography, oracles are used to make arguments for the security of cryptographic protocols where a hash function is used. A security reduction for the protocol is given in the case where, instead of a hash function, a random oracle answers each query but consistently; the oracle assumes to be available to all parties including the attacker, as the hash function is. Such a proof shows unless the attacker solves the hard problem at the heart of

the security reduction, he must make use of some interesting property of the hash function to break the protocol; he cannot treat the hash function as a black box (i.e., as a random oracle).



See also

Turing machine

Turing reduction

Interactive proof system

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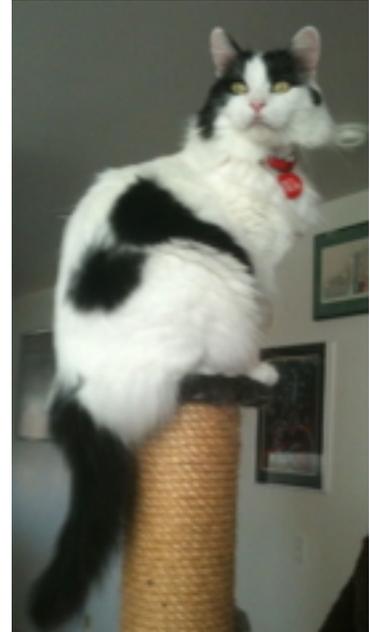
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-- Jonathan Vos Post

* * *



* Kritter Korner

Here's a photo of Mercury taken recently. He perches on his kitty condo, where he can be king of the world.

Other critter photos are scattered throughout. On p. 15 is a photo of two rabbits feeding. The photo on p. 16 is of two roadrunners. The photo on p. 18 is a deer that visited us recently.

* * *

* Mailing Comments on FAPA #296

Eric Leif Davin (A Different Drummer, No. 26): I enjoyed your article "...And Their Children after Them". It reminds me of the last time I saw *Hamlet* at the theatre. During intermission I turned to my companion and mentioned that it seemed like we were watching a play made of familiar quotations. That's how familiar so much of *Hamlet* is these days.

Eric Lindsay (For FAPA): On a good day, we get 3 Mbps. Mike has the modem recycle in the middle of the night to prevent the speed from deteriorating too much. We think it's the ancient infrastructure we have to use.

Political pygmies aren't limited to Australia. We have them here too.

I'm thinking of subscribing to the digital editions of magazines when possible in future.

I read your blog almost religiously, just skipping the parts that get too technical (in the computer sense) or too political.

I hope the iCloud will live up to its promise. It will be nice when I'm travelling only with an iPhone and iPad.

Our house and both cars are in both our names.

I'm trying to limit my collecting. I don't really need to amass more stuff that needs getting rid of later on, and I don't need to be spending money like that. I'm using the library as much as possible.

*** I turned to crime ***

Milt Stevens (Alphabet Soup #71): I enjoyed your analysis of *Game of Thrones*. I still don't think I'll try to read the books. I tried to read the volume that was nominated for a Hugo and couldn't get into it at all.

I listen to podcasts the way I listen to radio shows, mostly as background while I'm doing other stuff that doesn't require my full concentration.

Dale Speirs (Opuntia 70.5A): Welcome to the ranks of the retired.

I always enjoy your diary type zines best. I also appreciate all the pictures you included this time.

I agree that zines meant to be read online should be done in horizontal, landscape format. The only zine I post online is this one. I haven't so far done a landscape version for the Internet, since that's not the primary destination. I belong to a couple of APAs that are primarily online. I started out doing landscape format for them, but most of the members of one of them persist in using portrait mode, so I have acquiesced. With the large screen on my new computer, it really doesn't make that much difference; but I'm generally in agreement with you.

Tim Marion (The Arkham Archivist): This is apparently a one-shot franked by Robert Lichtman, but I hope my comments will get back to Tim.

I sympathize a lot with your loss of Jesse. One of my cats used to lick plastic grocery bags, but he didn't chew them. I don't know whether this habit contributed to his developing adenocarcinoma.

I'm adding the three cat books you listed to my reading list. Only one is listed at the library, though.

Roger Wells (Voice of the Habu, Vol. XIII, No. 3): You're certainly correct that the TSA measures have discouraged many of from flying. I think I've flown twice since the new security was instituted but before they became draconian. In fact it's not just the personal searches. One friend reported that the TSA apparently searched his luggage when it went astray. There was a bottle of fluid in his suitcase, which he had carefully enclosed in a ziplock bag. However, after the search, the agents had failed to secure the top of the bottle securely and didn't zip up the plastic bag. The fluid escaped from the bag and got all over his luggage, possibly ruining his favourite tie. I think that's outrageous.

Robert Michael Sabella (Ride the Lightning, Summer 2011): Enjoyed seeing your photos from Spain.

Mike McInerney (Number One #18): I enjoyed reading about your radio contest days and your trip to the West Indies.

You mention that you're less organized than most people. Well you certainly were highly organized in the years when you were listening to and calling into all those radio stations. Maybe you just used up all your organizational abilities then.



Tom Feller (The Road Warrior): It was interesting to see how your opinions about the Hugo-nominated novels differed from mine. Because it took me so long, about half way through the book, before I got into *The Dervish House*, I didn't rate it very highly. I gave first place to *Feed*; I haven't decided yet to go after the rest of the trilogy, but I'm still thinking about it.

Janice Morningstar (The Good, the Bad, and the Interesting): You've certainly had a rough time. It seems like you're the new Job. I hope with all my heart that life improves for you.

* * *

* Letters to the Editor

The text of letters received will be in brown. My replies to the letters will be enclosed in double parentheses and will be in black. I will also routinely make editorial corrections in punctuation, spelling, and the like. Deadline for next issue is 28 January 2012.

Thanks for FM #44, which arrived some time in the not too distant past, sometimes I mark these things down but don't seem to have done so for this one.

My gracious that Amy can put herself into some strange configurations. Years ago there was a guy who worked in pro wrestling, used the name Joe Millich, probably not his real name but I forget what that might have been; he sometimes went by the name of The Rubberman. He used to do convoluted bodily twisting like that during the matches.

It was intriguing to me to find we have something quite a bit in common. I couldn't put my body in those positions even when I was young and my mom died in hospital at age eighty-six. *But* she was always near and dear to me; father and I never got along very well. Mum died eight years ago last April and I still think of her often, am, in fact, still mourning to some extent. Father died eight years ago this coming Sept. 13, not quite a month away. I rarely ever think of him. *Unlike* Amy, my show stopped when my mother died; I was prostrated for months. She died on Friday, and for almost a year I couldn't do a thing on Friday.

Critters. Well. One day some weeks or months ago I came around the corner of the house and found a rabbit about to knock on the door. Probably not and actually it was off the walk; but here he or she was, right at the edge of the walk, sitting on his hind legs facing the door. I said: "I ain't letting you in the house", and she ran away--ran in circles, eventually back to the woods.

There are deer everywhere this year. The one that bounced off my truck seems to have survived. I saw the larger, older one. *But* then there was a *bang*, probably a yearling, ran straight into the side of the truck and bounced off. Numerous words I will not repeat. Neighbours were behind me and stopped close to the deer, which was in the middle of the road; I backed up and got out to check the truck; didn't appear to be any damage and they drove up. I said, "Is the F*&<(*g thing dead.?" No. Male neighbour thought it was mortally injured; female neighbour suggested if I could get it off the road it might be ok. They went on to work. I walked over to the deer, which had its head up by this time. Some cuts, some missing hair. I said to her, "If I had my knife, I would turn you into venison"; and she jumped up and staggered around and flopped on the side of the road. Hmnnn. Wandered over to where she was looking more scared than damaged; she got up and staggered off into the woods. If the coyotes didn't get her and she hasn't run into any other vehicles, she should be ok.

On the current job, we have to drive through the landowner's yard. She has horses and llamas and a goofy guard dog. Big white dog. Not very well trained. She chases vehicles and also engages in races with vehicles, sometimes running alongside but sometimes getting in front. One time I was afraid I would hit the fool thing. Next time as I came out, the dog came alongside; I had the window down and I said to her, "You are a bad dog; stay there"; and to my surprise she did. Raced me yesterday, though.

I heard on the news a while ago that it was 140 or something ridiculous like that in Tuscon. Yikes.

((You must have misheard, or they were talking about someplace else. No place in Arizona gets that hot. The hottest in Tucson this year was probably about 110° F. It gets hotter in Phoenix, maybe 120° F.))

Lyn's cat named Fluffy passed on. She was seventeen; good age for a barn cat. Died peacefully.

I abandoned the hundred books project; lost interest. Sent what I had to Chuck who was planning on including it in a fanzine.

I did find a copy of *El* so I was unintentionally lying. Don't know where it came from or when; I dug it out of a box of old stuff; couldn't recall anything about it and ran upstairs to sit down and read it. Found it so boring I brought it back down here and chucked it into the recycling bag after a few pages and some scanning.

Thanks for the list of zines. Apparently once a zine is on there it's there forever. I put a sort of circle around those I would most like with an asterisk of sorts next to the 3 I would really like and check marks next to those that I would like to see but not as much as the others. All the while understanding that

Hyphen is probably not printable; *The Reluctant Famulus* is or used to be quite large; I haven't seen an issue in years, and I think I read that *Science Fiction Five Yearly* was in excess of a hundred pages. But *This Here* might be possible.

All the things I said before hold true. I seem to be developing a real antipathy for using this machine. If you do send some fanzines, I will write and thank you. That will likely be it.

On the other hand, every so often I think about doing something in a review way with the nineteen or so books on the table behind me that I have read in the not too distant past and getting some copies made or sending something to Joe Major or maybe Tim ... publishes *Fosfax*; zine is mostly yearly now; he and Elizabeth live in Louisville and are friends with the Majors; Elizabeth and Joe are cousins. I used to contribute a fair amount to *Fosfax*, but it was a much different zine; came out bi-monthly and my interests were different; that was back before *Alexiad* was born. But then, well, energy is low, interest is low. I am home due to heavy rain, and I was thinking I would write to a bunch of folks this morning. But three letters in, I am starting to think this may be it for me and this old machine for today.

I paid twenty dollars for this machine eight years ago. Shouldn't complain about it I don't suppose.

P. S. (28 Aug): #45 with the lovely cover arrived days ago. Like Brad I found the numbers essay boring. Should be a few before days. Enjoyed most of the issue; nothing to say.

#

Marie Weasner, Succasunna, NJ

18 August 2011

Your *Feline Mewsings* arrived today; and before days go by and I forget about it, I have to tell you about the garden. I don't know about computers but have "good luck" with gardening and lots of trial and error. In fact a few neighbours thank me for their lovely gardens.

We have *deer* day and night running through the yard. I have blooming plants, over fifty, all summer; and Deer Out keeps them away [she enclosed a label] and keeps our many squirrels away too! My cactus has about one hundred fifty blooms (must be indoors in winter--a problem you don't have). The other way to keep pests away is Bird-d-Fence protective netting. I cover my impatiens, petunias, and other annuals squirrels like. Give the Deer Out a try! Also feed them with Miracle Gro potting mix that feeds them two to three months! Good luck.



((I will keep your tips in mind in case I need them. We don't really know how frequently the deer come around. I do put my potted plants inside when the forecast calls for below freezing nights. I will also be covering my saguaro (see photo to right). Photo on p. 4 is an agave.))

#

Marcia Meldrum, Culver City, CA

24 August 2011

I was very sorry to hear that you lost Fluffy. It is so painful to lose an animal you love and that will always be special to you, no matter how many walk their paws through your life. I probably wrote you when I lost Felix, my diabetic cat, a few years ago. He had been doing very well for a long time, and then he just crashed very fast. I still miss him.

A friend brought me Ptolemy a few months later. I named him that (he had some stupid name before that like Princy) because when he sat up and you looked at him in profile, he looked just like an Egyptian cat statue. (He is fatter now though). He is very playful and affectionate and fortunately has no health problems at all.

You and Mike seem to be doing well. I'm glad to hear that your arthritis and other pain problems have been somewhat relieved.

Things with me are much the same. Work takes up most of my time, but I feel very lucky that UCLA has continued to employ me, despite a haemorrhaging budget. I still live in Culver City and occasionally get to

the theatre here. Last fall, I saw an excellent production of *Much Ado About Nothing* with Helen Hunt as Beatrice. I hardly ever go to the movies any more, as it is cheaper just to get the DVDs on Netflix. My most precious possession now is my Kindle, although I frequently write annoyed letters to publishers when I think the Kindle edition has been shortchanged.

In July, I went to a conference in London and had an excellent time. In my free time from the conference, I saw *All's Well that Ends Well* at the Globe Theatre (not the greatest play, but the actors were so good and the audience so enthusiastic, it was a wonderful experience), rode the London Eye, and went to the British Library, where they had a wonderful exhibit on science fiction, with many original books and manuscripts of early sci fi works. If you haven't seen it already, you might enjoy visiting the website at <http://www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/outof/about/index.html>.

#

Jan Weasner, Bremerton, WA

24 August 2011

Appreciated your recent newsletter. I understand your loss of your cat-child. Four special cats I have lost, and two of them I had to have put to sleep due to cancer. My heart aches for you.

I got myself an Amazon Kindle and wish you guys could help me master it. My reading speed has greatly increased. I have always read fast, but now you can call me Speed Racer! Chuckle.

#

Alexis Gilliland, Arlington, VA

27 August 2011

Thank you for your FM #45, which is again the square of a prime (3) times a prime (5). Local excitement was on Tuesday; we were coming off a doctor's appointment and were hit by a 5.9 earthquake, so we had to walk down eight stories, while today we are waiting for Hurricane Irene to blow by.

P. S. Lots of rain but no power outages.

#

Bob Jennings, 29 Whiting Rd, Oxford, MA, fabficbks@aol.com

28 August 2011

Thanks for sending along *Feline Mewsings* #45. I figured while I'm waiting for Hurricane Irene to come calling, I can get off a letter of comment to you. Living in central Massachusetts, we normally don't have to worry about hurricanes; but Irene seems to be the exception, a nasty new weather event for the new decade. So far we've had intermediate light to heavy rain, followed by long periods, up to an hour or more with no rain. Late tonight and tomorrow morning the winds are supposed to hit full force with torrential down pours in the mix, up to six inches of rain. I dunno, the hurricane has to move over a lot of land from New York City, and up thru Conn. before it finally reaches here; so maybe it will have blown itself out. I hope so. I suppose we'll find out pretty soon.

I'm very sorry to hear about the death of your faithful old kitty. You made the right decision having him put to sleep. You don't want a friend or family member to suffer, especially when there is really no hope of a recovery.

Your comments brought back some unhappy memories for me. I love cats but I made a decision more than a dozen years ago when my two old cats died within two weeks of each other to never have any more. It just hurts too much when a member of your family, which is what a beloved pet really is, passes away. They lived for seventeen years, both from the same original litter; and both cats were healthy right up until almost the very end. I still miss them, and I never want to go thru anything like that again.



Persimmon trees can grow in Arizona? Really? I always thought persimmons needed a lot of water and long periods of warm, but not scorching, weather to thrive. I'm not sure Arizona has all those ingredients. Persimmon trees were fairly common back in my home state of Tennessee, and also an endless source of frustration. The stupid persimmons were either green and guaranteed to turn your mouth into a



permanent pucker if you dared to bite into them, or they were so over ripe that they dropped to the ground and made a mushy splat. I can only remember one time as a kid getting the fruit at almost the right time, and there were so many seeds that it sort of overwhelmed the taste, which as I recall now wasn't really that interesting. Are you trying to grow the trees for shade, or are you actually hoping to get some persimmons to eat? How many years does it take for a sapling to produce actual fruit anyway?

((Since persimmon grew in the San Gabriel Valley in LA, I am assuming they can grow here as well. It gets a bit colder in winter, but otherwise the weather is very similar. I irrigate all my fruit trees. The variety I grow, or hope to, are the Fuyu variety; they are not bitter like the kind you describe and are usually eaten when the meat is firm. All my fruit trees are being grown for their fruit. It should take only a few years for the trees to become productive.))

I enjoyed Amy Harlib's review of *Brother Bear*. I thought she covered the details of the movie and filled in the background very well, altho she did give away too much of the plot as the review finished up. Still, her enthusiastic recommendation has convinced me to give the movie a try. This is pretty amazing since the other reviews of the movie I had read in the newspapers pretty much convinced me the thing was a drab echo of past Disney movie making with a simmering and meandering story line. Ms Harlib's comments indicate something entirely different, and I'm willing to test her opinions by searching out the movie and giving it a shot.

I tried to read the Jonathan vos Post article on prime numbers, really I did. I made it almost to the bottom of the first page. Math and I do not agree. It gives me a big headache and makes my eyes glaze over. I note with stunned horror that his three and a fourth page article was followed by a four page bibliography. No, this is not for me. I hope your other readers got something out of it.

My experience has been that almost all plumbers and home repair people, glazers, contractors, everybody is always very friendly. And why wouldn't they be friendly when you are about to hand over the equivalent of four or five month's salary for them to spend an hour and twenty-seven minutes fixing your particular problem? Hell, I'd be smiling ear to ear if I were they. Thankfully most of these guys don't drive up to your door in their brand new Rolls Royce Silver Shadows or bring along their personal valet to hand them their tools on a silk cushion, but they might as well.

I wish I had the ability to take care of these problems myself; but altho my hands and fingers may look perfectly normal from a distance, in fact they happen to be all thumbs. Horrible things go wrong when I try to fix anything more complex than a blown light bulb, so I have learned from sad experience to call an expert when anything needs fixing. I just grit my teeth and hand over the loot. I'm surprised more of

these guys don't wear masks and carry guns, or demand your first born male child as part of the bargain. Not that I'm bitter or anything.

Copyright law, being designed by lawyers, is by definition incomprehensible to normal human beings, especially those of us who have sold our souls to Old Scratch the way most barristers seem to have done. Why is a spoken work of art not considered to be a copyrightable item until it is enshrined in some electronic format or transcribed to paper? The original provisions of copyright were supposed to protect the works of creators for a reasonable length of time, after which those works became the general property of the population at large. But today we seem to have perpetual copyright, where anything is protected for seventy-five years after the death of the original creator; and if the original creator happens to be a corporate entity, and thus a legalized person in the eyes of the law, that copyright may last forever and a day. The whole system seems to me to be way out of whack.

By the way, why do you not include the addresses of the people in your letter column? I deplore this new style of letter columns. The whole purpose of science fiction fandom is to foster communication among like-minded individuals. If you ever decide to print any part of any of my missives in your letter column please be sure to include my full address (and the e-mail address too). Fans need more ways to get in contact with each other, not some system that encapsulates us and cuts off communication.

((I only use the city for addresses, since I post my zine on the Internet. However, I'd be glad to print the full addresses of anyone who requests it. No one brought this up before. If any reader would like to contact any of my other readers, I would also be glad to help in any way.))

I wonder if US restaurant chains fail in Canada not because they don't understand Canadian food preferences, but because their merchandising efforts are geared to the US audience. People tend to forget that Canada is a completely different country from the USA. Some of them even speak a foreign language, and some of them speak another language that almost sounds like English but isn't quite. A friend made a pretty good comparison (if I can remember it right) that if you traveled X miles from the centre of Massachusetts down to the Florida Keys, you'd be almost out of the US. But if you traveled those same X miles north from Ontario, you'd still be in Canada with a lot more Canada left ahead of you; and the temperatures, scenery, population density, and geography would have changed completely. They have a different cultural history and background; and altho everybody likes to think the world is being steadily homogenized, I think businesses that operate in any foreign nation, even one that seems as familiar to us as Canada, should do some demographic studies before launching their products there.



Really excellent Alexis Gilliland cartoon on the back cover. I am constantly amazed at how he can consistently turn out amusing and relevant artwork.

All in all an enjoyable issue (except for the math thing). I look forward to seeing the next one.

#

Rita Prince Winston, Venice, CA

28 August 2011

Your *Feline Mewsings* #45 arrived a week ago and led me to discover that I hadn't LoCced #44.

First I have to say how very sorry I am for your grief at the loss of Fluffy. And how very sorry I am for Amy's loss of Shanedy--how shocking to have a healthy cat drop dead in front of you! At least no one can accuse him of having brought it on himself by snorting cocaine. As an aside, Amy must be a pretty tough

person (or a totally weak one, which seems unlikely) to have Maine Coon cats as her sweet babies. I once had a Maine Coon cat (a friend of a friend had to give him up, along with her apartment, in the 1990 recession), and he really did think he was the boss of me (not like all my other cats, who pretend that they believe they're the boss because they figure they can get away with it because they're so cute). He antagonized the neighbours, because he believed he was a great opera singer, and it was generous and kind of him to sing tenor arias to the whole neighbourhood, but they were hideous as well as loud. He would start by tuning his voice in a series of "Yow"s, each rougher, more grating, and uglier than the last, until it was the sound he wanted, and then added volume.

The cover art on #44 looks even more like a Marian from *War of the Worlds* than does the illo on p. 1 of #43. And three of its theatrical outings mention standing ovations. Jonathan: Why was 2 ever considered not a prime?

I've always supposed that the Pythagoreans considered even numbers feminine because they considered odd numbers masculine and that they considered odd numbers masculine because that extra unpaired pip (as marked on dice) reminded them of the visibly unpaired organ, the penis. But attempting to count the appendages of bilaterally symmetrical tailless beings would make the woman odd (two arms + two legs + one head) and the men even.

On to #45, where I'm glad to read that you feel less pain. Is the Verde Canyon Railroad a stream train? Having pages and pages and pages of prime number bibliography saved Laurraine from having to go to a Westercon or Worldcon in order to write a con report for her zine.

((I believe the Verde Canyon train uses coal.))

#

Lloyd Penney, Etobicoke, ON

8 September 2011

Thank you for *Feline Mewsings* 45. The weather here is starting to cool down already, and I've already had cause to get a sweater out as I head off to work in the late afternoon. It's allowing me to get caught up with fanzines, and here's a LoC to prove it.

Delphyne Woods did your masthead artwork...she was at the Reno Worldcon, and she greeted me like a long lost friend. There were a number of old friends found at Reno (like Jeanne Mealy!, Hi, Jeanne!), plus lots of newer friends I got to meet for the first time, having corresponded with them through fanzines and Facebook.

A shame about Fluffy...at least we try our best to provide as good a life as we can for our cats and dogs and other pets, and we do try to make sure their lives are as pain-free as possible too.

Given that you are having some pain problems of your own, perhaps it was just as well you didn't go to the Worldcon. The walk from our hotel room to the convention centre was completely enclosed and air-conditioned, but it was still quite long. The next Worldcon we intend to go to is the one in London in 2014, should they win it. I think the new convention centre in London is quite large, and Yvonne wants to look into renting an electric scooter.

My LoC, plus Facebook, reminds me that today, September 8, is the 45th anniversary of the premiere of *Star Trek* on NBC. And, I remember watching it on Channel 2, Buffalo. Yvonne is now working at Akzo-Nobel north of Toronto, and I am once again looking. I've had some great interviews and nothing more than that. I didn't get the job at TV Guide, but some other good-looking jobs have come up.

Right beside us is a construction site...the little business campus that was there has been torn down, and condominium towers are being built. What else gets built these days? I had no idea there was such a shortage of condominiums. Anyway, the construction goes on, starts very early in the morning, and goes on until sundown, which is getting earlier each day. Guess we have to live with it. There is a similar site on the other side of the highway, and condos are going up there too. Soon, our view out our balcony will not be of the distant Toronto skyline, but of the nearby condos. Yvonne wants to move when that happens; but I suspect that with the end of our great view, the rent might stabilize; and it would be a good place to stay for the moment.

So much more to do and other writing projects. Take care and see you with the next issue.

#

Nate Bucklin, Minneapolis, MN

10 September 2011

Laurraine, thank you for keeping me on your mailing list. I know I've been a bit rude, not getting back to you in some months while you continue sending me fanzines. But now is as good a time as any for me to get back in touch. (I have #43 and #45 here right now -- not a clue what happened to #44, though I am quite sure I received it.)

I am very sorry to hear about the situation with Fluffy. Louie and I lost our poor Misty kitty (age 19 or 20) just after Minicon. We could probably have kept her alive another month or two, but she would not have been well or happy, and it would not have been the best thing for her. Our other two cats (litter-mates named Spackle and Grout -- two brown-verging-on-black tabbies) are doing fine, and we are happy for that. They are about ten years old; and if they make it as long as Misty did, we will consider ourselves blessed.

I also appreciated hearing about the Verde Canyon train ride. At this point I will digress and talk about my most recent musical endeavour. (And if I spend the rest of my life doing it, will it be a forever endeavour?) My closest male

friend, and my best friend outside of fandom, is a bandleader about my age who is using the stage name Cannonball Paul. He has never been interested in the basic club gigs but has always booked special events of one sort or another; I played with a wedding band of his for eight years once. He (playing ukulele) and I (playing electric bass on the electric gigs, acoustic guitar on the acoustic gigs) and a blind flute/clarinet/sax genius named Max are rehearsing as a trio, with some three-part harmony; his intent is for us to get gigs around the country at train depots and train museums of one sort or



another, with him driving his van with all our gear, and Max and me hopping on board an airplane and meeting him in the town where the gig is. (The entire show is songs about trains.) This sounds really big and pretentious, but Paul has a serious and major track record. (We played six nights at the Minnesota state fair one year, with a different combination, which got me to the Chicago world con that year -- was that 1992? I am so hazy on this.) We will be putting 1500 flyers in the mail over the next couple of weeks. I may very well never see the Verde Canyon train -- we'll be lucky to get one call for every hundred flyers; but I may very well see a lot of trains like it, and it will be great fun.

I am enjoying reading Amy's and Jonathan's carefully thought out bits, but have few or no comments. It's hard to remember that back in high school I was considered a math whiz, but the pressure got to the point that I simply couldn't handle it; and by the time I graduated from high school, I could barely add 7 and 7. Prime numbers are interesting in and of themselves, though. I am not sure about movie reviews, since Louie and I are not in a spot where we can go see movies at all, right now, even with a discount theatre just a mile east of us.

I note Lloyd Penney's LoC where he commented on *The King's Speech*. I still want to see that movie someday. I don't know what most people's impression is of my speech -- called "pressured speech" in my medical records, though I have better and worse conversations; but I still tend to identify with stutters/

stammerers/etc., even though there is some question as to whether I still fit under that umbrella. There is a lot there to look at, and one could get a marvellous dramatic film out of it or more than one. Note that when *Galaxy Science Fiction* magazine was biting the dust, one of the last nine or ten issues had a novella called "Sun-Planet" by Greg Bear (who also painted his own cover portrait for that issue). An important character was a very, very respectable and likeable person who happened to have a speech impairment. I found this really impressive, because it is unusual. And in *A Fish Called Wanda*, some stutterers were offended, even appalled, by the one bad guy with a severe speech impairment/impediment. I was impressed. The jerk was exactly as evil, exactly as craven, as the other bad guys; and to me this made it quite clear that people with speech impediments are people too, with no place to hide from this reality. I want people to remember this; and if *The King's Speech* helps us remember that, good!

All for now. Please keep me in the loop, and say hi to Bob Sabella for me. (I was thinking of him all the more an hour ago. I remember how impressed he used to be by the Moody Blues. Louie and I just had one of the albums on -- vinyl. Fun!)

#

Henry Welch, Los Gatos, CA

8 October 2011

Thanks for the latest several issues of *Feline Mewsings*. I am more behind than normal in my LoCcing.

#43

It is common practice in the northern states to have an interior shut-off valve on all outside water taps so that they can be turned off and drained before winter. They even make a special tap that turns off inside the wall, not at the tap itself.

((I've lived in the North but never noticed this. Of course I was not the homeowner, so I suppose I just wasn't paying attention.))

Thanks for the wonderful wildlife photos. I never have the patience to get them.

#44

We are also struggling with our gardens. We have a drip system, but tweaking the control valves and dealing with the calcium deposits that interfere with the drip buttons has been tough. The weather also didn't help this year; but now that our tomato plants are doing well, it may be too late in the season to get large amounts of fruit.

Interesting article on prime numbers. Did it actually inspire the middle school students?

I am still in pain as a result of seeing the two pictures of the contortionist.

#45

Our condolences on Fluffy.

I found *Cowboys and Aliens* to be less than satisfactory. The plot was a bit trite and the final battle scenes were completely inconsistent as to whether the cowboys and Indians or the aliens were actually winning. The most interesting aspect of this was that we saw it at the local drive in.

#

Amy Harlib, New York, NY

3 November 2011

Recent Performances:

Yoga Cougar profoundly pleased the audience, pouncing in Drive Thru Burlesque: Early Bird Special, Fri. Sept. 9th, 11 PM, Parkside Lounge, 317 E. Houston St., NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=150596161693730>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam with Matt Dallow and his accordion/theremin combo, was a smash success, in A Benefit For Vic Thrill, Fri. Sept. 16, 8 PM, Big Sky Works, 29 Wythe Ave. (at N. 14th St.), Brooklyn, NY. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=147924351965601>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam with the music of Tiffinni Saint Ranae and Her Band, was a real crowd pleaser, in The Live Source Burlesque, Sat. Sept. 17, 9 PM, The Haven, 244 East 51st St., NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=158604307558308>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam to DJ House Music, knocked the audiences' socks off, in A Night Without Boundaries: Benefit for Sheba Medical Center, Sat. Sept. 17th, 9 PM (my shows at 11:30 PM and 1:30 AM), Broad Street Ballroom, 41 Broad St., NYC. <http://www.shebamedical.org/events/28>, <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=125923427492113&ref=ts>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam to God's ILLa Mutual Band, was a hit at the Emerging Artists Connect One Year Anniversary and Fund Raiser, Sun. Sept. 18th, 6:30 PM at Southpaw, 125 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=235266053159896>



The Yoganeer: Kooky Corsair Contortion, was a sensation at International Talk Like A Pirate Day, Mon. Sept. 19th, 7 PM, Public Assembly, 70 N. 6th St., Brooklyn, NY. <http://www.ticketweb.com/snl/EventListings.action?orgId=15474>, <https://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.slideshowplayers.com%2F&h=SAQA77uQ9#!/><https://www.facebook.com/ScenicPresents>

SPECIAL! Yogini Devidasa: Avatar of the Divine Spirit of Yoga (from its Indian source thousands of years old), enthralled the audience, in Oh My Goddesses: A Burlesque Revue, Fri. Sept. 23rd, 7 PM, Sapphire Lounge, 249 Eldridge St., NYC. <http://ohmygoddesses-efbevent.eventbrite.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=161557677254860>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam to DJ House Music, rocked out on the ReW and WhO Webcast, Wed. Sept. 28th, 4:30-4:45 PM – tune in at: <http://www.rewandwho.com/> (scroll down 'Show Calendar' to the date 9/28 to see me on the guest list). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfoJi-BT9uU&feature=related>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam to Live piano music by Gabriel Sickel, charmed the audience right afterward at Rough Draft: Freestyle Art, Live Audiences, Wed. Sept. 28th, 7 PM, DROM Lounge, 85 Ave. A (bet. 5th and 6th Streets), NYC. <http://www.wix.com/roughdraft/rough-draft/artist-sign-up>

Later that same day, Yoga Yenta with live music by Barry Levitt (keyboard), John Miller (bass) and Howie Gordon (percussion), sensationally celebrated Rosh Hashanah at Wednesday Night at the Iguana, Wed. Sept. 28th, 8 PM, Club Iguana, 240 West 54th St., NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1322266490#!/profile.php?id=1322266490&and=775230440>

SPECIAL! Mulan: Mature Matriarch, Chinese-style Soft-Bone Skill Contortion, amazed the audience, in Lady Scoutington's Birthday—Disney Burlesque, Cabaret Sing-A-Long, Sun. Oct. 9th, 9 PM, Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery, NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=251740758197985>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam with the guitar music of Elijah Catrone wowed the crowd at, Emerging Artists Connects Presents: Comic Con After Party, Fri. Oct. 14th, door opens at 6 PM, my act at 8 PM, Kenny's Castaways, 157 Bleecker St., NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=180223082039231>

Spooky Yoga: Spectral Stretch was a huge hit, haunting all 4 shows at the 5th Annual Forgot to Laugh: Sideshow and Animation Festival, Sat. Oct. 22nd, 2 PM and 8 PM and Sun. Oct. 23rd, 1 PM and 5 PM,

Lyric Hall Theater, 827 Whalley Ave., New Haven, Ct. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=253728687975084>, http://www.forgottolaugh.com/Forgot_to_Laugh/Shows.html

Spooky Yoga: Spectral Stretch thrilled the audience, also haunting Cabaret 13: An Artist's Playground, Tues. Oct. 25th, 7 PM, 13th Street Repertory Co., 50 West 13th St. (bet. 6th and 5th Aves.), NYC. https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=300472383296114&view=wall¬if_t=event_wall, <http://cabaret13.weebly.com/performers.html>



Yoga Contortion Dance Jam to DJ House Music was a fantastic success, free-styling at ANTI-DIVA: Celebrating Jessie Mann's and Ellie Covan's Birthdays, Fri. Oct. 28th, 6 PM (my performances at 8 PM and midnight), Dixon Place, 161a Chrystie St., NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=285817241439391&ref=ts#!/pages/Anti-Diva/150689161621115>

Spooky Yoga: Spectral Stretch and other surprises enthralled the audience, as part of TWILIGHT THEATRE Featuring Robert Jackson, Fri. and Sat. Oct. 28th and 29th, 9:30 PM, Dixon Place, 161a Chrystie St., NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=179738505437802>

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam to DJ House Music wowed the crowd at, The Set NYC Presents: Halloween Circus Meets Fashion, Fri. Oct. 29th, 11 PM, Moon Room at sea, 835 Washington ST., NYC. <http://thesetnyc.com/?section=home>, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/42113579879/>

Spooky Yoga: Spectral Stretch triumphed at Theater for the New City: The Village Halloween Costume Ball, Mon. Oct. 31, 8 PM (my performance at 10 PM in the Womb Room), Theater for the New City, 155 First Ave. (bet. 9th and 10th Streets), NYC. <http://www.theaterforthenewcity.net/halloween.htm>

Yoga Cougarr captured the crowd, in The Gong Show Live! Tues. Nov. 1st, 8 PM, B.B. King's, 237 West 47th St., NYC., <http://www.bbkingblues.com/bio.php?id=688>, <http://www.gongshowlive.net/#!>

The Amazing Amy can be seen in these forthcoming shows:

Yoga Contortion Dance Jam to the live guitar and electronic keyboard music of Cosmal, performs in Waiting For Bobby Presents Déjà vu: Music, Art, Life, Fri. Nov. 4th, 9 PM (my performance at 10PM), The Delancey, 168 Delancey St., NYC. <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=253005638074234>

Yoga Contortion Dance Surprise participates in Cream of the Big Top: Fall Circus Cabaret, Sat., Nov. 5th, 8 PM, Big Sky Works, 29 Wythe Ave. (near N. 14th St.), Brooklyn, NY. <http://bigskyworksbrooklyn.com/?p=148>, http://www.circusnyc.com/items/Cream_of_the_Big_Top_Nov_5

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I also heard from: Sheryl Birkhead, Trisha Royle

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* **Closing Remarks**

We plan little or no travelling before the next issue. I wish everyone a happy holiday of your choice.

Laurraïne
5 November 2011