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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CONTEMPORARY LEGEND RESEARCH

THE TOOTHBRUSHES IN THE ANUS PHOTO

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One of the most popular legends during the past few years involves a mysterious theft that occurs, often when a family is on vacation in a Third-World resort. Either the room is stripped of valuables and only personal belongings and a camera are left behind, or else nothing (or a very few items) are found missing. Either way, when the family later develops the film in the camera, they find an image of the burglar's buttocks with the family toothbrushes thrust up his anus.

The legend compresses several contamination themes documented in recent contemporary legends. Gary Alan Fine has noted the way in which many horror stories stress vermin or snakes brought in with products imported from the Third World, implying that such contact is contaminating. A similar point is made in "The Spider Bite," in which contact with some pest in a foreign country leads to a filthy boil full of maggots or spiders. In a less xenophobic way, though, "mooning," exposing one's buttocks to strangers is a common adolescent prank whose rationale may be to contaminate onlookers visually by forcing them to break a social taboo. A similar prank involves making an image of one's buttocks on a photocopy machine and replacing the resulting sheet in the stack of paper to be used by the next patron.

The specific combination—burglary/forcing victims to eat excrement/exposing one's buttocks to the camera—suggests an widespread but under-collected tradition among thieves. Albert B. Friedman found that detectives and criminals were familiar with the thieves' ritual of defecating in a house that they were burgling. He located references to the practice in Central European publications from the mid-1600s on and infers that the rite may well be ancient. By 1900 the rite was common in Rumania, Hungary, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, France, and English; while stricter censorship seems to have kept it from being documented in the United States, Friedman suggests that the custom was widespread here as well. (See "The Scatological Rites of Burglars," *Western Folklore* 27 (1968):171-179; also *HdA* 3:1178-1179.)

Normally euphemized as *grumus merdae* [pile of feces], Friedman suggests that the object may reflect criminals' superstitious practices. European thieves nicknamed the deposit "watchman" or "lookout" in various argots, so leaving such a token may have magically kept the thief from being detected or protected his new possessions. This seems to be the function of excrement in the Polish-American folktale "The Two Brothers," collected by Richard Dorson in 1947. Here, a rich brother buries a treasure, then defecates on the mound, saying "O moon, you see me; you my witness. Nobody can touch this money, just the man who eats the number two [my excrement]." But a poor brother finds a way to consume the feces without discomfort and steal the treasure. The rich brother denounces the thief, and a court rules that he can reclaim the money by eating the poor brother's excrement, but he is foiled when his opponent uses another ruse to produce a truly monumental *grumus merdae*. (*Western Folklore* 8 [1949]:50-53; *Folktales Told Around the World* [Chicago: U Chicago Pr, 1975]:493-498.)

The first part of this folktale inverts the ritual practice--the potential victim uses feces to protect his property, and the thief has to consume them. However, through his cleverness the poor brother reverses the situation and the sequel is a comic version of the criminals' ritual. We could also see the leaving of excrement as a way of replacing the wealth stolen with a symbolic equivalent (as in Tale Type 563, "The Ass, the Table, and the Stick," in which a magical donkey is said to defecate gold). By making the victims consume a token amount of his excrement, the legend suggests, the thief makes good his appropriation of the family's property. It is noteworthy that in most variants, the stolen objects are never returned; instead, an insurance company or American Express makes a monetary settlement.

Another likely folktale influence for the story is motif K1044: *Dupe induced to eat filth*, sometimes included in Type 1543 "The Clever Doctor," in which a pill made of excrement helps a compulsive liar start telling the truth by saying, "That tastes like shit!" A well-known American joke involves a logger forced to cook for his cabin until someone complains: in desperation, he bakes a pie made from moose droppings, only to have the others say, "My God! Moose turd pie!—good, though!" (Barre Toelken, *Dynamics of Folklore* [Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979]:66-67, 179-180.)

Other stories feature deceptive street salesmen who offer excrement-laced treats (see G. Legman, *Rationale of the Dirty Joke* 15.V.1). One of the most elaborate of these, told by Dr. Daniel R. Barnes of Ohio State U during the early 1980s, even contains the toothbrush connection: a previously unsuccessful salesman is given one last chance to prove himself by selling a case of toothbrushes. When he returns with a huge sum, his boss asks him how he had managed to unload the brushes for so much money. "It was simple," the salesman says: "I set up a table at an airport with a sign that read "Free hors d'oeuvres." People would come by, eat one, and say, "Man! That tastes like shit!" Then I'd say, "It is shit—want to buy a toothbrush?"

This legend has proved especially active on computer networks, so we include a number of texts and comments that circulated on bulletin boards, edited to eliminate the usual transmission data. These discussions also describe a number of cases in which the legend was appropriated by forms of popular culture or was the basis for ostensive performance.

18 Apr 91. I heard this story twice in the past 6 months, and I'm convinced that it is the stuff of urban folklore. I apologize in advance to the regular readers of a.f.u, as I'm sure that this has been discussed/exposed/flogged thoroughly in the past. I slogged through the 600+ postings jammed up at my site, but found no reference to this story. I'll tell the sad tale (to the bitter end), and if it has indeed appeared here before, would some kind soul email me a one liner confirming my suspicions. With hope, I can then convince my wife that is OK for us to go the Caribbean after all. In both cases, the events described *definitely* happened to persons known to the storyteller. Confirmed FOAF.

It seems that this couple go to some island resort for a vacation, and one day while they are out of their room, it is burgled. (Groan, not this story again..., right??). They are relieved of their traveler's checks and cash, but, because they have the AmEx (or Craig's) checks, they happily continue their vacation. Upon returning home, they have their many rolls of film developed. In the midst of one of the rolls are found photos of someone's exposed derriere, cheeks parted, with one (possibly more?) of the vacationers' toothbrushes inserted, business end in, of course, into the bunghole presumably belonging to one of the burglars.

The first time I heard this story I gacked, the second time, it began to dawn on me that this fell into the category of folklore. Right, am I right? Or did these two parties happen to fall victim to the same clever perpetrator? (Joe Harrington, Hewlett-Packard.)

2 May 91. heard a new one today. it came to me as "i heard this on the news yesterday", but it *feels* like an urban legend.

it seems that a couple returned from a vacation to find that their home had been broken into. they checked it out, and the only thing amiss was that their camera had been moved. time passes. they finish off the roll of

film in the camera and take it in to be developed. all the pictures are what they expect except for one. this one shows their toothbrushes inserted into a man's rectal opening.

why does this feel like an urban legend? tell me—these people didn't brush their teeth on vacation? unknowing total grossness as an indicator... (chuck bridgeland—U of Illinois at Urbana.)

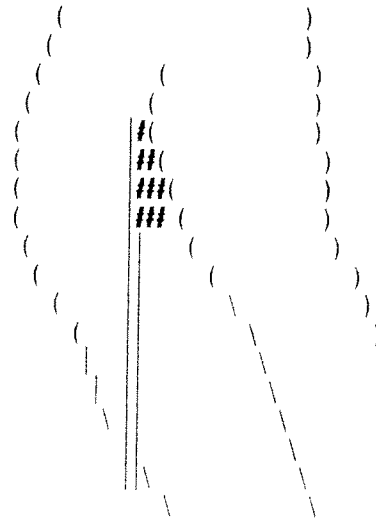
22 May 91.

Now, I know this topic recurs from time to time, and I don't really want to start a big discussion, BUT...

A friend of mine recently told me that this had happened to a friend of his girlfriend (ahem!)—the old camera left behind after a burglary with a photo of the toothbrushes inserted in the burglars' posteriors trick. I told him it was urban legend, but no—he swears it *must* be true. So, I would like a *stack* of reports of this story, from all around the world, to demonstrate that it qualifies for legend status.

If you don't want to see it happen in this news group, feel free to use email! :-) (Mark Summerfield-Switching, Telecom Research Laboratories, Melbourne, Australia.)

29 May 91. This story about the thieves photographing the tourists toothbrush stuck in their butt is ABSOLUTELY TRUE. I have the pictures. You can see it if you want to, just scroll on down to the end.



Paul Carter Intergraph Corporation- Huntsville Ala.

12 Jun 91. This isn't a new UL, but it may be a new way for one to get told:

A couple weeks ago I went to see "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind" at the Live Bait Theatre here in Chicago. This is presented weekly by the neo-futurists, and features 30 plays in 60 minutes, with new plays presented weekly (the number of which is determined by having audience members hurl a die at the

performers). ANYWAY, one of the sixty plays was the story of the Jamaican toothbrush incident.

They presented it by having a couple stand in the background with their backs to the audience, brushing their teeth. Another performer tells the story in the foreground until the denouement when the couple faces the audience and looks horrified. Since the plays change all the time, you may not be able to see this one again (although I noticed that the 90-second version of "The Sound of Music" has stayed on the bill for a long time...). (Victoria Crawford—U of Chicago.)

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2 Aug 91

Mike Civita writes...

This is supposed to have happened to a girl that works with my friend's girlfriend in Robinson's at the Northridge Mall:

Someone broke into her house and pretty much cleaned her out. They did not find her camera, as it was still there. Several weeks later, she finished the roll of film, and sent it out to be developed. When she looked through the pictures, she found one that the burglars left for her. It was a picture of one of the thieves' ass with her toothbrush in his rectum. Neat, huh?

If the burglars didn't find the camera, then who took the picture?

Try reading alt.folklore.urban—this story has been making the rounds for quite a while, although usually in more exotic locales.

Of course, if you actually *believe* this story, let's check it out. I live right near the Northridge Mall. Just let me know what department this person works in, and I'll go down to Robinson's and ask to see a copy of the photo. I'm sure that this COAFOAF (co-worker of a friend of a friend) will either turn out to be non-existent, or will suddenly have "lost" the photo. (David Mikkelsen—Digital Equipment Corp., Culver City, CA.)

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16 Apr 92. Hey, I recently heard an outrageous story that sounds rather like an urban legend to me, so let me know if you have heard it.

Some American tourists were staying in a nice Jamaican hotel. One day they were out of their room and the room was burglarized. The thieves took everything except the camera and the personal bathroom items. The Americans stayed and finished their vacation, still making use of whatever the thieves left behind, including the toothbrushes. When they got home and got the film developed there was a picture of a large Jamaican man, with no pants on, bent over with a toothbrush sticking out his.... Well, let's just say that you would be pretty darn sorry if that was your toothbrush! (Kevin McEntee—Taligent.)

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22 Apr 92 Here's an awful one:

THE PARISIAN BELLBOY

It goes like this: this nice American family of four goes to Paris, France on vacation. They check into a hotel and go sightseeing and all the other touristy things. A few days into their (until then) pleasant, normal vacation, they go for lunch at a cafe. They return to find that their hotel room has been broken into. Fortunately, it seems to have been a rather surgical strike and very few of their possessions are stolen or even out of place.

Two displacements however, strike the family as odd: their four toothbrushes are strewn around the sink, and their camera is set out in the open on one of the beds. The hotel management is apologetic and blames the bellboy. The bellboy, who had seemed so nice, if unnervingly suave, to the family upon their arrival, had just quit his job on the morning of the break-in.

The Americans get the missing portion of their American Express Travelers' Cheques refunded, check into a new hotel, wind up the tail end of their trip, and head back to America. (Or alternately, nothing in the room is disturbed or stolen. They have only returned from an evening on the town to find the camera and toothbrushes on the bed. They shrug and continue the remaining small portion of their vacation and fly home.)

In America, they develop the pictures in the camera. Half are of the family in front of the Eiffel Tower, but the other half of the pictures in the roll feature various views of the bellboy, smiling deliriously, with the four family toothbrushes stuck up his bootie.

(People who hear this story cringe as they visualize the implications of the unsuspecting family brushing their teeth with the toothbrushes after the incident.)

I was told this story by a friend, who said it had happened to a friend of a friend who had been vacationing in Paris with his parents. I immediately smelled "Urban Myth." I was talking about this story with some completely unrelated folks at a party and two of them said "No Way! A friend of mine told me the same shit!"

Taking a stab at analyzing this pup, I'd say it's a "nice" American (or midwestern or WASP) "family values" thing juxtaposed with the "immoral" foreigner. The myth feeds off the stereotype of the typical Frenchman as "sophisticated" which can slide down a xenophobia-greased slope into thinking of them as "effeminate," and "immoral." The myth is also homophobic with its implications of the bellboy smiling as he imagines the toothbrushes which had found such intimacy with him being inserted once more into the mouths of God-fearing red-blooded Americans. The homophobia is camouflaged underneath the aegis of xenophobia/francophobia.

I collected this story right here in the heart of the upper Midwest, St. Paul, Minnesota. Minnesota, fabled home of Garrison Keillor's "Lake Wobegon" and the uniquely Minnesotan behavior of "Minnesota nice" is experiencing a slow shift from an overwhelmingly white, Lutheran demographic to a mixed ethnic makeup more in keeping with coastal parts of the country. This is more

pronounced and rapid in the Twin Cities metro area.

The Parisian Bellboy myth is riding on a wave of Patrick Buchanan/Jesse Helms-like reaction. It also rides on the eternal popularity of scatological humor and gross-out jokes in general. Paris is also a good setting for the myth because it has a built in reputation for "sauciness" and "exoticism" and because it is so geographically remote from the Midwest as to elude "let's-go-check-this-bullshit-out-ourselves" verification ideas.

That's it for my book. Any other encounters with this myth or other interpretations? (ebestrom—Macalester College.)

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Mon, 27 Apr 1992. This story has been hashed, rehashed, and rerehashed dozens of times. Last I heard, it was a Jewish family from Brooklyn going to the Bahamas, and there was only one picture. Huge UL. (Jeffrey S. Curtis—U of Illinois at Urbana.)

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27 Apr 1992. The versions that I have heard usually have the incident occurring in the Caribbean (first couple of versions I heard) and one or two in Hawaii (one posted to the net, I believe). The Caribbean versions all involved black men and probably have some root in racist/anti-foreign (i.e. pro-US) sentiment.

The homophobic segment was not as clear in the versions I have heard.

Great version! (Terry Chan—Energy and Environment Division, Lawrence Berkeley Lab., Berkeley, CA 94720.)

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Tue, 5 May 1992. I recently heard a story in which a couple visiting Disney World return to their hotel room to find that their belongings have been rifled through. On closer inspection they discover that nothing has been stolen; they are perplexed by the incident. About two months after the return to their suburban home, the vacationers finally take their film to the photo shop for developing. When they get their pictures back, they discover what had happened. It seems that someone broke into the room and simply took pictures of himself with the vacationers' toothbrush shoved up his rectum—a kind of perverse retroactive practical joke.

The story sounds similar to that of the globe-trotting garden gnome (sometimes a lawn jockey). A family finds their garden gnome missing one day, and two weeks later they get postcards from the gnome in front of the Sears Tower, two weeks later in front of Disney World, later in front of the Eiffel Tower....After several months of this, the garden gnome mysteriously returns to their front yard.

A final variant was collected from a fraternity student at Indiana University. The brothers sent several dozen doughnuts to the sister sorority house. Three days after the girls had gobbled up the doughnuts, they received photographs from the fraternity guys, showing them with the doughnuts stacked on their erect penises.

Does anyone know any variants of these stories? Seems to be an underlying theme of photography for practical jokes... (Greg Kelley—Folklore Institute, Indiana U,

Bloomington, IN.)

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9 Jun 92. I spent the weekend at my fiance's house, and over dinner her family and I started talking about bizarre/grotesque things in order to gross out my fiance's sister and therefore ruin her appetite.

My fiance's mother told the classical story of the lady whose family went for a vacation to Mexico (Mazatlan, Mexico to be precise), had their room burgled but had nothing taken, and later when they developed the film there was a picture of men with the family's toothbrushes stuck up their rear ends. My mother-in-law-to-be said that the victim was a nurse working in the same hospital ward that she worked in. Not wanting to make this a FOAMILTB (Friend of a Mother-in-law-to-be) about a story that I have heard many times in this newsgroup, I arranged things so that my fiance and I could stop by the hospital during the lady's shift en route to a movie.

The timing went well, and I met the lady, who has a good sense of humor and keeps the photo in her purse. Indeed, there was a pretty good shot of three Mexican men, one with a very broad smile at the camera and pointing to his friends' derrieres. The two other men indeed had one toothbrush each shoved rather far up their rears. The man facing the camera looked about in his mid-twenties.

The lady (who would like to remain anonymous) said that after the robbery, the husband had used one of the "contaminated" toothbrushes for only a second, for it had a smell/taste that he felt "uncomfortable" with but blamed it on the Mexican water system at the time. Only when they got back to the states and had their film developed did they find out the fate of their toothbrushes.

So, the "legend" about the toothbrushes are, indeed, real! I feel quite lucky to have been able to view the photo and be able to report back to a.f.u about it! (Perry Pederson—Western Washington University.)

[Editor's Note: Mr. Pederson was regrettably unable to obtain a copy of this photo.—BE]

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19 Nov 92. This well known and currently popular UL has appeared on KEY103 the local FM station in Manchester UK at approximately 17:30 GMT 18 Nov 1992. The DJ claims to have received a letter from a listener saying that while holidaying in Florida their hotel room was burgled and everything valuable was taken except the camera, and when the film was developed some shots showed the old toothbrush-up-the-burglar's-rectum trick. If I can be bothered I'll contact the station and try to ascertain whether:

- (a) the DJ knew of the UL and used it to spice up the show;
- (b) the people who wrote in used the UL to spice up the show;
- (c) it really happened (I can imagine a burglar hearing the UL and thinking it funny enough to include on his next burglary).

(dave budd—Manchester Computing Centre.)

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20 Nov 92. Also appeared in the "True Stories" [sic] section of *Private Eye* (UK satirical magazine) No. 807 Friday 20 Nov 92. The "True Stories" section contains items lifted from the press. The following snippet appeared in *Bedfordshire on Sunday* on 18 Oct 92.

"It was what you might call a bad year," said Mrs Wendy Etti. "Our dream trip Florida villa was burgled and all our holiday things stolen except the camera. When the film was developed the prints showed the burglars mooning at the camera with our toothbrushes, also unstolen, stuck into their bottoms.

(Ceri Hopkins—Computer Science, U of Birmingham.)

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27 Nov 92. On last night's (November 26th) Smith and Jones, on BBC1, they launched into a retelling of the story, as if it had happened to friends of theirs, except that they'd been burgled at home. It was interspersed with variations on the trust-game theme: Mel Smith cured Griff Rhys Jones of his lack of trust, and Jones retaliated by pulling his chair away.

So now comes the 64,000,000 pound question: who out there in AFU netland writes scripts for the BBC? First Victoria Wood, now Smith and Jones. And who persuades gullible people to act out those ULs? There *must* be somebody! (Stephen Wilcox—Oxford University VAX 6620.)

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To complete our survey of this legend, we append three reports that give overviews of the narrative as it seems to have developed in the US, Europe, and New Zealand.

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A peek into the toothbrush file of Jan H. Brunvand:

I have about three dozen letters reporting the anal toothbrush story. The first came from New Jersey in November 1990 and said the incident happened to three girls vacationing in the Virgin Islands. My second report was from Washington, D.C., in December 1990: it had happened to a couple vacationing in Paris.

The story has continued to come in more or less steadily ever since. Usually the victims are a married couple, often a honeymoon couple. Other victims may be a group of friends (usually female) or a family. The scene of the incident is usually said to be a Caribbean vacation spot, most commonly Jamaica, but also mentioned are The Bahamas, St. Maarten, Mexico, Costa Rica, and The Dominican Republic. If the setting is in the US, it's usually Florida (Key West, Disney World, etc.) or Hawaii, and in one instance Texas. In a few versions the victims are on a cruise ship in the tropics. If the perpetrators of the outrage are identified (seldom), they may be said to be Black, Hispanic, Rastafarian, or simply uncouth thieves or servants.

The only "subtype" discernible from my examples is one in which the incident happens either at the victim's home while they are away, or to the victims at their campsite. I have nine such versions, and most of them specify that a family was victimized.

I also have a letter telling the story of a college

fraternity that buys a large box of donuts from a door-to-door sales person and has the box sent to their rivals in another fraternity. Before the donuts are delivered, the buyers take them upstairs in the house and take a photo of each donut placed over the penis of one naked member. Later they send the photo to the fraternity receiving the donuts.

Not much can be determined from the place of origin of the letters I have. The biggest bunch comes from California, but the higher population there may be a factor. Letters have come in from all over the East, the Midwest, and somewhat less often from the South and West of the U.S. I have nine reports from Canada. The latest report to be filed was a letter dated in December 1992 from a Michigan writer who had heard the story from an English friend who said the incident happened to an English family on vacation on the French Riviera: the thieves use a *video* camera.

Many of these texts are discussed in *The Baby Train* (NY: Norton, 1993):54-58 [JHB]. [This discussion also includes a reproduction of a cartoon version from a Columbus, OH, alternative periodical--*Eds.*]

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The Netherlands: The biggest hit among contemporary legends in 1992 is, as far as I can judge, the toothbrushes-stuck-up-rectum practical joke, played by Hell's Angels on an unsuspecting family in a holiday resort. Here is the way it was written down at my request by an informant who called me on 18 Mar.92. He found the legend so disgusting he did not want me to mention his name in case of publication:

A family—father, mother, two kids—have booked a luxury bungalow in one of the Center Parcs resorts, the best-known and largest purveyor of holiday homes in the Netherlands. On the appointed day they arrive, leave their car in the parking lot, and lug their heavy suitcases to the bungalow. Much to their surprise and dismay, they discover that it is still occupied by four long-haired leather-clad bikers. They are lounging on the terrace drinking beer and smoking; their Harley-Davidsons are parked outside the holiday home.

The bikers are not in the mood to leave at such short notice. They tell the family to leave their bags and go for a stroll. Which they do. For an hour or so they walk around, looking at the other guests and the shops. On their return they are very pleased to find the bikers gone. But ... their suitcases are strangely reduced in weight. In fact, they are quite empty! How could they have been so stupid: surely they should never have left their belongings with these criminals.

But then one of the children opens a cupboard, and there is all their stuff, the clothes neatly folded and carefully stored, everything as if they had taken care of it themselves. With a sigh of relief they tell each other that, after all, appearances can be deceitful. Really nice boys those Hell's Angels turned out to be.

They have a good time in the holiday resort. Home again, they have their holiday pictures printed in the "Ready-in-an-Hour" shop. The first picture portrays four naked bottoms in a row with the family's toothbrushes stuck up their rectums.

This was the first Dutch version that came to my notice. I subsequently collected 9 versions of the legend in the next six months. Each time it was told as a true story. It reached print for the first time (so far as I know) on 5 Sept.92, when *NRC-Handelsblad* (certainly no tabloid) published it as one reader's true holiday adventure. Regional and national radio also contributed to its spread.

In most cases the perpetrators of the practical joke were described as Hell's Angels. Their victims rented a holiday home or had pitched their tent on the same campsite as the bikers. In only two cases the setting differed: burglars had broken into a house and turned the furniture upside down but had seemingly done nothing worse. The reason for the bikers' prank was never disclosed. They supposedly possess an impish sense of humour, or maybe they are thought to be malicious by nature. Only one version presented the prank as a means of revenge: A family complains about the noise and behaviour of the Hell's Angels next door, who are then evicted, but return for revenge.

The legend emerged in the Netherlands in March 1992, one year after I first heard about it from Brunvand. How did it cross the Atlantic? I know of one tangible transatlantic link. In a letter (13 Sept.92) a reader from Antwerp, Belgium, claimed that the story was a hit in his home town. He himself had learned it in summer 1990, when visiting a friend in Anchorage, Alaska. His version is about burglars, so my guess is that this is the older one and the Hell's Angels/holiday resort version is a Low Countries' contribution. [Peter Burger.]

Auckland, New Zealand [Results of the "Kiwi Urban Legends Competition"]: Graeme McInnes of Mt Eden tells this: "After discovering that their house has been broken into, the occupants check their possessions. All the burglars appear to have done is to have eaten most of the contents of the fridge and polished off a small collection of wines and spirits. Some months later one of the occupants develops the film they had in their camera the night of the burglary. Among the various snaps is one of three sets of buttocks, each with a toothbrush mounted bristle end down its anus."

In other variations sent in, the couple lose all their possessions except the camera, which, of course, contains the film of the rectal toothbrushes. When I was discussing the story with a colleague, a further version came to light. It happened to a friend of a friend of his just a few weeks ago; only instead of using a camera, the thieves had filmed the profanity with a video camera. [Noel O'Hare, "This friend told me..." *Observer* (13 Mar.93):33. C: John Mackle.]

Germany. Also possibly related is variant A of "Happy Africa," No. 19 in Rolf Wilhelm Brednich's latest book of German "sagenhafte Geschichte von heute," *Das Huhn*

mit dem Gipsbein:

Dies ist eine Swissair-Geschichte. Sie spielt während eines Zwischenstopps in Afrika, die Besatzung hat Ruhetag. Bei der Hitze ist Strandaufenthalt angesagt. Eine schweizerische Flugbegleiterin kommt, weil sie etwas vergessen hat, vom Badestrand kurz in ihr Hotelzimmer zurück. Da sieht sie, wie der schwarze Hotelboy sich gerade mit ihre Zahnbürste die Zähne putzt.

Diese Story gibt es auch noch in einer verschärften Variante. Die Hostess sieht, wie der Boy gerade—fröhlich pfeifend—mit ihrer Zahnbürste den Rand des Waschbeckens schrubbt.

Trans.: This is a Swissair story. It took place during a stopover in Africa when the crew had a day off. Because of the heat, a trip to the beach was announced. A Swiss flight attendant came back from the bathing beach to her hotel room because she had forgotten something. There she saw the black hotel boy brushing his teeth with her toothbrush.

This story also has a more pointed variant. The stewardess saw the boy—gaily whistling—scrubbing the rim of the washbasin with her toothbrush. [(Munich: C. H. Beck, 1993):37-38. Trans. Alan E. Mays.]

BULLETIN BOARD

1993 ISCLR SEMINAR. The Eleventh Seminar on Perspectives on Contemporary Legend was held at the Indiana Memorial Union, Bloomington, Indiana, USA, on May 10-15. Presented were the following papers:

Shirley Arora, Spanish & Portuguese, 405 Hilgard Ave., UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1532 USA.

"Dealing With the Devil: Devil Pact Legends From Contemporary Mexican Tradition."

Haya Bar-Itzak, Head, Folklore Studies, University of Haifa, Mt. Carmel, Haifa 31905 ISRAEL.

"From religion to Nationality--The Hannuka Narrative in Israeli Secular Culture."

Thomas E. Barden, English, U of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606 USA.

"The Folk Legend in Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*." [Vietnam military legends in literature.]

Joel Best, Sociology, Southern Illinois U, Carbondale, IL 63901 USA.

"Imagery in Contemporary Legends and Social Problems: Stalkers, Car-Jackers, and Ankle-Grabbers."

Jan Brunvand, English, U of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 USA,

"Bedtime for Blooper: The Legend of the Clown who Cussed the Kids."

Thomas E. Bullard, 517 E. University St. #2, Bloomington, IN 47401 USA.

"Many Ways to be (or Not to Be) a Legend." [UFO abductions.]

Cylin Busby, Box 283, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA 01002 USA.

"This Is a True Story': The Role of Women in Contemporary Legend." ["The Spider Bite."]

- Frances Cattermole-Tally, 472 N. Barrington Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90049 USA.
 "Birth Anomalies: Legend as Rationale."
 Willem de Blecourt, Sinaasappelstr. 9, 2464 EM Den Haas HOLLAND.
 "Legends, Memory and History." [Narratives about a Dutch family of witch doctors.]
 Hasan El-Shamy, Folklore Institute, 504 N. Fess, Indiana U, Bloomington, IN 47405 USA.
 "Wants, Perception, Cognition, and the 'Legend' Tradition." [Egyptian ritual identifying a thief with the aid of a magic mirror.]
 Bill Ellis, Penn State--Hazleton Campus, Hazleton, PA 18201-1291 USA.
 "Why 'The Hook' is Not a Contemporary Legend."
 Mark Glazer, Rio Grande Folklore Archive, U of Texas--Pan American, 1201 West University Dr., Edinburg, TX 78539 USA.
 "Victimization, Violence, and Scapegoats in the Contemporary Legend." [Rene Girard's theories.]
 Diane E. Goldstein, Folklore and Folklife, U of Pennsylvania, 3440 Market St., Suite 370, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3325 USA.
 "We Have Met the Enemy and It Is Us": Contemporary Legend, Scientific Speculation, and the Politics of Blame in the Search for AIDS Origins."
 Sylvia Grider, Anthropology, Texas A&M U, College Station, TX 77843.
 "Legend as Local Color: The Yellow Rose of Texas."
 John A. Gutowski, Dean, School of Arts & Sciences, Saint Xavier U, 3700 W 103rd St., Chicago, IL 60655 USA.
 "The Beast of 'Busco in Contemporary Legend" [Giant turtle living in an Indiana lake.]
 Ilana Harlow, 610 West 110th, New York, NY 10025 USA.
 "When Is a Legend Like a Riddle: Cosmology and Causality in Supernatural Narrative."
 Jean-Noël Kapferer, Institut Supérieur Des Affaires, HEC Management, 78351 Jouy-En-Josas FRANCE.
 "The Persuasiveness of an Urban Legend: The Case of Mickey-Mouse-Acid." [Surveys on French responses to the "Blue Star Acid" flyer]
 Charles Greg Kelley, Folklore Institute, 504 N. Fess, Indiana U, Bloomington, IN 47405 USA.
 "An Exploration of Legends and *Hamlet*." [Adolescent legend-tripping as a model for Act I.]
 Janet Langlois, 3440 Bishop, Detroit, MI 48224 USA.
 "Candyman's Coming: Issues of Cultural Reflection in Contemporary Legend and Horror Film." [Cinematic treatment of "Calling Bloody Mary from the Mirror.]
 Carl Lindahl, English, Language & Culture Center, U of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-3012, USA.
 "The Joys of Ostension." [Legend-tripping and a "satanic cult" murder case.]
 Linda Milligan, 2350 Bristol Rd., Columbus, OH 43221 USA
 "Folk Science as Science." [UFO beliefs.]
 Eric L. Montenyohl, English, P.O. Drawer 44691, U of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504-4691 USA.
 "Gender Roles in Contemporary Legend." [Sex and power relationships.]
 Danielle M. Roemer, Literature & Language, Northern Kentucky U, Highland Heights, KY 41076.
 "Temporal Impingement in Contemporary Legend."
 Moira Smith, Rowe Housing #B-8, Bloomington, IN 47406 USA.
 "The Relationship Between Legends and Fabrications." [Narratives about student hoaxes.]
 Paul Smith, Folklore, Memorial U of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5S7 CANADA.
 "Contemporary Legend: Creating a Practical Bibliography." [Prospectus for the forthcoming Garland bibliography.]
 Jeannie B. Thomas, English, Indiana S U, Terre Haute, IN 47809 USA.
 "Pain, Pleasure, and the Spectral." [Narratives about a dormitory ghost in the light of Elaine Scarry's work.]
 Pat Turner, African American Studies, UC-Davis, Davis, CA 95616 USA.
 "Liz Claiborne--Satanist or Racist?: A Topsy-Eva Contemporary Legend Cycle."
 Jeffrey Victor, 39 Gukcrest Ave., Jamestown, NY 14701 USA.
 "The Ritual Abuse of Children by Satanic Cults: How Can We Determine if It is a Contemporary Legend."
- The seminar included a paper panel on the boundaries of the genre of contemporary legend organized and chaired by Bill Ellis and followed by responses by Paul Smith and Linda Dégh. Also featured was a forum on sociological uses of the concept of contemporary legend, organized and moderated by Jeffrey Victor. More informal events included a wine and cheese reception at the Folklore Institute, a sherry reception honoring Linda Dégh, and a buffet dinner at Prof. Dégh's residence. On Friday night there was a special screening of the 1992 horror film *Candyman*, which was the focus of Janet Langlois's paper the next morning.
- GENERAL MEETING OF ISCLR. On Friday, 14 May, Paul Smith called a general meeting to order to discuss business submitted to the Council. The following issues were discussed:
- Proposed Change in the Constitution.* To streamline procedures and eliminate unnecessary slots, the Council recommended and the membership approved a change in Sec. 5.4 of ISCLR's Constitution (*FN* 11 [Oct.88]:3). Members will receive details from Paul Smith separately.
- Site of 1994-95 Meetings.* After discussing the logistics of various proposed European sites, it was agreed to accept an invitation to hold the 1994 meeting in Paris, France. Details on specific dates and locations will be announced before the American Folklore Society meeting in October 1993. The 1995 meeting is tentatively planned for San Antonio, Texas.
- Contemporary Legend to Appear Twice Yearly?* The publisher, citing the reluctance of libraries to subscribe to "yearbooks" rather than "journals," has suggested that it may be better to publish twice a year. It is hoped that the two volumes together will contain the same amount of material as at present—at approximately the same cost.

New Editor for FOAftale News. Bill Ellis announced that, effective January 1993, he will step down as *FOAftale News* Editor, though he will still contribute notes and news items. Beginning with *FN* 33 (March 1994), Eric L. Montenyohl will take over. Contributors should begin sending research notes and queries to him at the Dept. of English, P.O. Drawer 44691, U of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA 70504-4691 USA. Clippings and bibliographical references will still go to Alan Mays, who continues as News Editor.

Occasional Publications Series Launched. "The Orkney Islands SRA Case: A Checklist of British Newspaper Reports" was announced as printed and available to members for \$2.50 or £1.50 postpaid. The first in a series of separate publications, this 22-page booklet collates, corrects, and extends the checklists published previously in *FOAftale News* by Bill Ellis, Gillian Bennett, and Sandy Hobbs. It also includes an extended summary of the case and its complicated twists from underground plans by social workers to abduct children from their homes and hold them incommunicado to one of the most extensive (and expensive) public legal inquiries in British history. The booklet is currently available from Bill Ellis, Penn State, Hazleton Campus, Hazleton, PA 18219-1291 USA.

JUST IN!

HURRICANE ANDREW RUMORS.

On 24 August 1992, Hurricane Andrew, called the "costliest natural disaster ever," hit the suburban areas south of Miami, Florida, damaging 80,000 homes and dislocating over 100,000 people. Surprisingly, however, only 41 people in Florida died during the storm and subsequent cleanup operations. The contrast between the violence of the storm and the low death toll made the event the germ of numerous rumors and legends, some attributing the lack of casualties to divine protection, others, more cynically, suggesting that the real death toll had been covered up. Following is a sampling of the most popular cycles inspired by the hurricane.

Miraculous Protection. *These Last Days News*, a newsletter associated with a Marian apocalyptic group based in Bayside, New York, published five testimonial letters from survivors of Hurricane Andrew [(1 Nov.92): 2-4, 5, 7]. John, Veronica, and Christina, all from Miami, C.K. from Miami Beach, and Veronica from Homestead, Florida, wrote to say they used crucifixes, medals, scapulars, and holy water to prepare for the coming hurricane. Veronica placed crucifixes and the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on her door for protection. She also said the rosary during the storm to insure that her house came through unscathed. Christina related how she and her children prayed near a Shield of the Immaculate Conception. "All the lightning was green and blue," she wrote. "I knew then Our Lady had placed her blue mantel over us and St. Michael was near us too, as I said the rosary."

Veronica and her family took the most elaborate

precautions. "We all walked around the outside of the house taping St. Benedict medals to the outside of each shutter while we prayed the prayer against storms on page 49 of the *Pieta* book [a prayer book]," she said. "We also sprinkled some Holy Water on the house and some trees that were dangerously close." She also affixed a crucifix to the back door and "hung a brown scapular over the headrest of my car asking Our Lady to protect it." Veronica prayed the rosary as the storm passed over, and although the wind damaged shutters and shingles, her house and car were otherwise undamaged. When daylight came, Veronica's husband looked outside and called to his wife, "Honey, come quick, I think it's the end of the world." All around them were downed trees and debris. "Our house is a miracle," Veronica wrote. "People that come by can't believe it when they see our home. Untouched among the ruin."

[Cf. Marion I. Bowman, " 'Twas Only the Statue on His Dashboard Saved Him': Narratives Affirming the Efficacy of Devotional Objects," *ARV* 1 (1981):7-10; also David Graham's photo, "Tornado Damage and Insurance, Smyrna, Delaware, 1988," showing a house wrecked by a tornado next to an undamaged home with a Virgin Mary statue in the front yard, *Only in America: Some Unexpected Scenery* (New York: A. A. Knopf, 1991): 59. For the Bayside movement, see Karen Heller, "A Flock Apart," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (19 Dec.89):1-D, 4-D C: BE, Kyle Weaver].

Uncounted Corpses. With the low number of casualties and breakdown in official communications in the aftermath of the storm's devastation, rumors spread about a government cover-up of the number of hurricane deaths. Detective Lizette Williams of the Metro Dade Police Department told one reporter, "I can't begin to tell you the number of calls we have received about bodies being put into body bags for storage in freezers that we are hiding." She also heard rumors alleging that "we have a makeshift morgue at the Port of Miami, that we are jettisoning bodies through submarines, and that 1,000 bodies are being buried in a mass grave in Florida City." Wrecked trailer parks and collapsed apartment buildings supposedly contained other untallied corpses. Residents of a damaged migrant labor camp claim they saw 6 bodies taken from wreckage in black plastic bags and hauled away in a red ambulance, though fire department officials maintained that their ambulances are white. Talk show host Larry King also mentioned reports that "police are shipping corpses north in trucks." [Larry Rohter, "Rumors Abound of Storm Deaths Going Untallied," *New York Times* (5 Sept.92):6, Joel Achenbach, "Second Wind," *Washington Post* (6 Sept.92):F1, F5, Larry King Live television show, CNN transcript, 7 Sept.92, C: Sally G. Waters.] The rumors of hidden and uncounted hurricane deaths correspond to accounts of frozen U.S. war dead still awaiting burial from battles in Vietnam and Nicaragua. [Graham Shorrocks, "Body Bag Backlog: A Contemporary Legend?" *FN* 20:5.]

Wild Beasts and AIDS. *Washington Post* reporter Joel Achenbach related what he called the "classic" rumor of the hurricane: "That thousands of AIDS-infected monkeys, from a medical research facility, are roaming

the street!" ["Second Wind," (6 Sept.92):F5.] Lions, panthers, gorillas, and snakes were said to be loose, too, though the local zoo reported none missing. [Rick Gore, "Andrew Aftermath," *National Geographic* 183 (Apr. 93):33.] In fact, up to 2,000 monkeys and 500 baboons escaped from the Mannheimer Primatological Foundation, while several hundred primates fled the Perrine Primate Center at the University of Miami. At least 1,500 of the primates were recaptured in the month after the hurricane, while approximately 200 more were killed by people frightened by rumors that the primates carried the AIDS virus. [Hartford (CT) *Courant*, 23 Sept.92 via *Fortean Times* 66:13, C: Bill Ellis.] [AM]

Hurricane Babies. "No lights. No air conditioning. Couples cooped up together for days. What to do? Many South Floridians found something to pass the time after Hurricane Andrew. And nine months later, Broward County is greeting Andrew's legacy: a baby boom. Said one new mother: 'I imagine during labor there are some women cursing Hurricane Andrew instead of their husbands.' " ["Storm Babies," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (2 Jun.93):G1; cf. Brunvand, *The Baby Train*:33-37, and Hal Morgan and Kerry Tucker, *More Rumor!* (New York: Penguin, 1987), pp. 113-15.] J. Richard Udry, commenting on similar reports of "blackout babies" after the 1965 power outage in New York City, said: "It is evidently pleasing to many people to fantasize that when people are trapped by some immobilizing event which deprives them of their usual activities, most will turn to copulation." ["The Effect of the Great Blackout of 1965 on Births in New York City," *Demography* 7 (1970):326-27.] [AM]

PANIC IN THE STREETS

ERIE LION. Greg Havican, an Erie County farmer, had noticed that something was stealing his chickens and turkeys—30 in all over a few days. On Monday, 31 May, he heard his dogs barking, grabbed a shotgun, and went into his yard to confront a growling male lion wearing a red collar with gold bells. The lion fled when Havican fired a warning shot, and two hours later police got a second call from an motorist using a cellular phone, reporting that the lion was near Interstate Highway 90. The same morning, a nearby resident was also disturbed in the morning by his dog barking and awoke to find garbage strewn around his yard and large clawed tracks through his garden. When troopers arrived in the area, they found residents patrolling the road with rifles.

At least one police officer responded ironically to the reports, asking if Dorothy and the Tin Man [of L. Frank Baum's *Wizard of Oz*] had also been spotted. Other officers stressed that the report had been checked out and "is not a joke." A source circulated a description of the lion, but added, "If anyone sees a lion, it's probably the lion we're looking for." Residents were warned to remain close to home, stay with children waiting for school busses, and leave the lion alone if seen. Two local authorities suggested that there might be real danger: The Erie Zoo lion handler said that a lion confused by a strange environment "could definitely

hurt you or worse," and a zoologist at a local college predicted that an escaped cat could live for no more than 3 days "before it must stalk and kill food."

By Tuesday, 7 additional sightings had been made in the same area, and police prepared a lion hunt with tracking dogs and tranquilizer guns. The animal, nicknamed "Hershey" because several witnesses placed him near Hershey Road, did not appear, however, and police were unable to verify any tracks as those of big cats. A game commission source, unable to locate an wildlife permit to own lions in the area, speculated, "It could have been someone passing through, and the lion got loose from a vehicle." By Wednesday, police were trying to trace a circus that had allegedly passed through on I-90 over the weekend "to ask if a lion ... is possibly missing." No missing big cats were ever traced, though, and though Hershey continued to be seen in the area, police discontinued the search. Authorities were puzzled by the sightings, State Police Lt. Erby Conley told reporters: "We have no idea what it is.... We wonder if they are copycat reports. We just don't know."

[AP, 1 June 93; Kevin Flowers, "Lion spotted in two places but search proves futile," *Erie Morning News* [EMN] (1 June 93):1B; Brian Kinal, "APB still out for 'Hershey' the African lion," *Erie Daily Times* [EDT] (1 June 93):1A, 14A; Laura Goldberg, "Collar ID: Reports of a red-necked lion," *USA Today* (2 June 93):3A; "Residents near lion sighting concerned," *EMN* (2 June 93):1C, 5C; "Lion might have escaped from circus, police say," *EDT* (2 June 93):1C; AP, 3 June 93; "Loose lion sightings reach nine," *EMN* 3 June 93:1C; "Spring newsbeats," *Ibid.*, 2C; George Miller, "Suspected lion footprints probably those of a dog," *EDT* (3 June 93):1A, 14A. C: AM, Henry Koretzky.] [BE]

CHINESE CHILD-EATING ROBOT. On 16 March, the Legal Announcements Journal of Chongqing, China, described an odd rumor that had recently swept through local primary and secondary schools. According to this, a "robot-zombie manufactured in America" had gone out of control in the city, and it was tracking down children dressed in red clothing. The rumor, which had caused a full-fledged panic among both children and parents, alleged that several children had already been devoured.

The panic was influenced by Anglo-American vampire lore, as children insisted that parents make crosses out of sticks and put garlic in their bookbags before they would return to school. Demand for garlic was so great that it created a temporary shortage in local markets. [*Libération* (22 Mar.93):42; "Alerte au 'robot-zombie,'" *Le Figaro* (22 Mar.93). C: Véronique Campion-Vincent. This event is similar to the Glasgow "Vampire with iron teeth" panic documented by Sandy Hobbs and David Cornwell in *Monsters with Iron Teeth*:115-137.] [BE]

LOOK OUT FOR BODY-PARTS MARY. Gary Alan Fine reports: A man is visiting Atlanta on a convention, and he goes to a bar. While there he meets an attractive young woman, and they hit it off. He takes her back to his hotel room, where they enjoy themselves. The following morning she has left.... He notices that he does not have any sensations in his legs, but he is able to reach

the phone, where he calls 9-1-1. The woman who answers the call, asks him if he can feel a bandage on his back, and he says that he can. She tells him that there is a woman going around Atlanta, who is surgically removing men's kidneys for transplant operations.

A reporter for WSB-TV called me about this one, which he had heard several times including from someone in New York, always about Atlanta (Center for Disease Control connection?). It seems like an amalgam of several CLs, particularly "AIDS Mary" and "The Stolen Kidney."

MEXICAN BODY-PARTS PHOTOGRAPHERS. On 8 March, 3 people arrived in Tepatlaxco, Mexico to take school photos at the Rafael Ramirez Elementary School, when rumors spread that they actually were there to abduct children for their organs. One of the photographers tried to explain that "we came to do a job, and not to rob anyone or anything," but a mob gathered and savagely attacked the photographers. Police rescued the men and the school principal and took them to a local jail to protect them from the mob, which encircled the building shouting "Bring them out!" One of the photographers was still in a coma four days after the attack; no arrests were made, though authorities said they had at least 7 suspects. [AP, 13 Mar.93. C: Jeff Victor.] [BE]

MEANWHILE, DATELINE BRAZIL, 1889. A British merchant in Pernambuco, Brazil reported in Spring 1889: "There has been quite a reign of terror here past fortnight owing to disappearance of about a dozen children, who have, it is said, been kidnapped, some say to be trained for circus, others to be killed for benefit of sufferers from leprosy, for which disease there is no cure, but an old superstition is that it may be done if persons attacked eat heart, liver, and kidneys of a young, healthy child, wash themselves with its blood, and make grease of body also for anointing their bodies. Whether any truth in the presumed connexion between this belief and the disappearance of the children, I cannot tell; anyway, report says there is the demand, and price paid for a child is 10/ [£10]. It seems really too horrible to be true; anyway a panic exists, and hardly any children are now seen out, and the public schools have been almost deserted. Some people who were supposed to have bought some children had their carriage stopped in the street, and were stoned. Our children now go out for their walks attended by two servants." ["Ache," "Brazilian Superstition Respecting Leprosy," *Notes and Queries* N.S. 8 (24 Aug.1889):145-146.]

ALSO HEARD

PRESIDENTIAL RUMORS. Facing criticism over difficult issues relating to taxes, health care, gays in the military, and the role of the First Lady, U.S. President Bill Clinton, along with his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, have become the targets of numerous rumors and jokes, many revived from previous political controversies. [See Nathan Cobb, "Guffaws and Gripes Greet Gaggle of First Lady Jokes," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (8 Apr.93):A-1, A-13, C: Henry Koretzky; Suzanne Garment, "It's No Laughing Matter," *Pittsburgh Post-*

Gazette (18 Apr.93):C-1, C-4. A good survey of these antecedents is Michael J. Preston, "A Year of Political Jokes," *Western Folklore* 34:3 (Jul.75):233-244.]

One story tells how 12-year-old Chelsea went to the school nurse complaining of a rash on her arm. When the nurse discovered that Chelsea's parents hadn't signed a release authorizing her to administer medication, she told the girl that she needed to contact a parent to get permission to apply a salve. Chelsea's alleged response: "You'll have to call my dad, my mom's too busy." [*Los Angeles Times* via "Chelsea's World," (Harrisburg, PA) *Patriot* (23 Feb.93):A2, C: Henry Koretzky; see also *G.O.P. Insider: A Publication of the Republican National Committee* 8 (Apr.93):2, and Michelle Green, Nina Burleigh, and Jane Sugden, "Her Own Woman," *People Weekly* (10 May 93):88, C: Fay Ann Youngmark.]

Some accounts provide additional detail. In one, the president "had plenty of time to chat and breezily carried on with the school nurse for several minutes." [Eleanor Clift and Mark Miller, "Happy Campers at the White House," *Newsweek* (1 Mar.93):27, C: Joe Goodwin]. Another gave the president's explanation: "I was easier to get on the phone--but that's because I'm more likely to be in one place." [Margaret Carlson, "A Hundred Days of Hillary," *Vanity Fair* (June 93):167.] Given the First Lady's prominence during last year's campaign and her current role as head of the task force charged with solving the country's health-care woes, the anecdote seems to question her role as mother to her sick daughter. Another implication is that Hillary's active political role has symbolically made her "masculine," an idea explicit in popular jokes like "How did Bill and Hillary meet? —They were dating the same girl," and "Why can't Hillary wear shorts? —Her balls would show."

Reporter Chip Rowe compared 21 accounts of the Chelsea story from newspapers, magazines, and radio and television shows between 11 Feb. and June. [Chip Rowe, "Chelsea Goes to the Nurse...," *American Journalism Review* 15 (Jun.93):37-39.] He found wide variation in Chelsea's alleged symptom (rash, headache, felt ill, sick, minor boo-boo), treatment (salve, lotion, aspirin, injection, medicine), and response ("Gee, my mother's been pretty busy the last few days--better call my dad" was one variant). Based on his investigation, Rowe determined that on 5 Feb. Chelsea apparently *did* visit the nurse at Sidwell Friends, the private school she attends in Washington, D.C., and the nurse *did* contact the president for permission to give Chelsea medication for a headache. Rowe also confirmed that Mrs. Clinton was out of town the day her daughter saw the nurse.

Other rumors involve marital discord, alleging that Hillary threw a lamp, book, or Bible at the president, or that she lit a cigarette to aggravate his allergies. [Lois Romano, "The Reliable Source," *Washington Post* (30 Mar.93):E3; Eleanor Clift with Rich Thomas, "The Not-So-Secret Service," *Newsweek* (5 Apr.93):43, C: Fay Ann Youngmark.] The Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas, Clinton's home state, were the site of another "apocryphal story": The attendant at a gas station where Bill and Hillary stopped happened to be an old boyfriend

Hillary had dated during high school. As they drove off, Bill asked, "Aren't you glad you didn't marry him?" Hillary replied, "If I had married him, *he* would have been president." [*Washington Times* via "Hillary—Already Larger Than Life," *Glamour* (Jun.93): 149; "Here's a Start for the Book of Hillary Jokes," (Harrisburg, PA) *Patriot* (3 Apr.93):A9. C: Amy Mays; Rob Musial.] [AM]

HAVE YOU HEARD?

HAIR CURLER REVENGE. John Betts writes from British Columbia, Canada: An urban legend passed through here about 5 years ago; I'm afraid it is a lurid tale, but it has many of the characteristics of an urban legend. Originally I believed it. Later it was proven to be untrue. I also heard someone comment that they had heard the same story about a doctor in another town. I would be interested to know if this particular legend really has cropped up in other places.

My sister heard from a friend who had an impeccable source at the local hospital that one of the town's chiropractors had been admitted to the emergency ward with severe burns to his anus. The story went that he was having an affair with one of his clients and their taste in sex ran towards the kinky, bondage in particular. The wife discovered the two *in flagrante delecto* with the husband tied to the bed. The mistress fled but she was pretty good at tying knots and the chiropractor was left prostrate. The wife was upset and, taking the hair curler, plugged it in, both ways.

Interestingly, some months later the same chiropractor was charged with sexually assaulting some of his clients, resulting in a conviction. Also here in this province sexual abuse of patients by their doctors has been a major story in the media, suggesting that there is a lot of this going on.

This urban legend has a certain moral overtone to it with a particularly punishing penance. If we believe these tales run a little deeper, and reflect social themes, the chiropractor's severe retribution is like something out of a primitive morality tale. No doubt victims of abuse at the hands of professionals feel humiliated and violated. I can't think of a more explicit and degrading vengeance. In this context I begin to think this story is a warning to professionals who would abuse their patients. But I leave it to you and your colleagues to do the theorizing. Contact: Queen's Bay RR# 3 S36 C9, Nelson B.C. CANADA V1L 5P6.

THE CUTTING EDGE

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

Rolf Wilhelm Brednich. *Das Huhn mit dem Gipsbein: Neueste sagenhafte Geschichte von heute.* Munich: C. H. Beck, 1993. 186 pp., references, bibliography. ISBN 3-406-37391-7. Prof. Brednich's third legend collection contains 134 texts, with annotations and variants, in 16 different topical sections. Categories include Automobiles (The Headless Bicyclist, An Expensive Trabant), Vacation and Tourists (The Disappointed Opera

Fans, Vacation in the Cellar), Students and Professors (The Eternal Student), Video and Computer, Family (The Baby on the Car Roof), Celebrities (The Robert Redford Story), Animals (The Chicken with the Leg Cast, The Spiders in the Vacuum Cleaner), and Curiosities (The Biggest Wooden Church in the World, The Mysterious Card). Price: 9.80 DM; write: Verlag C. H. Beck, Wilhelmstrasse 9, Postfach 400340, D-8000 München; phone: (089) 381890.

Jan Harold Brunvand, *The Baby Train and Other Lusty Urban Legends*. NY: Norton, 1993. 367 pp., some ill., type index of ULs. US\$20.95, Can.\$26.99 ISBN: 0-393-03438-0. This is the latest in a series of reprinted news columns documenting trends in contemporary legends. Brunvand presents accounts of legends dealing with sex and scandal, horrors, crime and punishment, offices, fun and games, animals, and academe, as well as a section noting legends from foreign countries. Quoting extensively from news accounts and letters from readers, Brunvand extends our knowledge of legend covered in *FN*, particularly "Batman," "The Toothbrushes in the Anus," "The Photocopy Lie-Detector," and "The Spider in the Cactus." Also covered are rumor-panics caused by sinister clowns, campus massacre predictions, mystery cats, and mall-slashers. This entertaining volume is made especially useful by the type-index, which provides handy titles for widespread legends and references both this volume and Brunvand's previous four. Essential.

Jerome Clark, *Encyclopedia of Strange and Unexplained Physical phenomena*. Detroit: Gale Research Inc., 1993. xxvi + 395 pp. introduction, references, illustrations, index. \$49.95 ISBN: 0-8103-8843-X.

Unexplained!: 347 Strange Sightings, Incredible Occurrences, and Puzzling Physical Phenomena. Detroit: Visible Ink Press, 1993. xxvii + 443 pp. introduction, references. \$14.95 ISBN: 0-8103-9436-7.

These publications represent the same work in two forms, the first being a hardbound double-columned library reference work, the second a paperbound abridgement for popular audiences. The first contains somewhat more detailed information and excellent photos and graphics, as well as entries on important Fortean and networks of investigators; the second is limited only to entries on "mysteries" such as the Bermuda Triangle, crop circles, spontaneous human combustion, etc. In either form, the work is a much-needed handbook, helping folklorists to trace many legend complexes and rumor-panics through previously unused non-academic publications. Clark, as before, displays his detailed knowledge of the Fortean literature and evenhanded reporting of skeptical and enthusiast viewpoints.

Readers of *FOAFtale News* will be particularly interested in the handling of "Alligators in Sewers," "Black Panthers and Other Anomalous Felines," "Cattle Mutilations," "Mad Gassers," "Men in Black," "Phantom Attackers," and "Unidentified Submarine Objects."

Arthur Goldstuck. *The Leopard in the Luggage: Urban Legends from Southern Africa*. Johannesburg: Penguin, 1993. x + 309 pp. ISBN 0-140-17615-2. A sequel

to the author's *Rabbit in the Thorn Tree* (1990), this volume presents legends active in South Africa and other nations in the same part of the world. Many narratives deal with the tensions caused by the move toward eliminating apartheid and portray the ANC as stock villains. But the volume also includes a wide variety of black legendry, particularly an interesting chapter on LaMlambo, a half-man, half-fish blamed for abducting women in Swaziland. Other chapters deal with rumors concerning AIDS, its origins, and its predicted progress by 2025. Also included are the Nigerian genital theft flap and a South African panic caused by burglars who allegedly filled the room with sleeping gas before cleaning out the house. Many localized versions of international legends, including "The 666 in the UPC," "Blue Star Acid," and "The Stuck Couple." Address: Amethyst Street, Theta Ext.1, Johannesburg SOUTH AFRICA.

Jeffrey S. Victor, *Satanic Panic: The Creation of a Contemporary Legend*. Chicago: Open Court, 1993. xiv + 408 pp., notes, bibliography, index, list of resource persons, guidelines for dealing with rumors, lists of rumor-panics and satanic ritual abuse cases in the US and Canada. ISBN: 0-8126-9191-1 (hardcover), 0-8126-9192-X (paper). A detailed study of satanic cult lore in North America from the 1980s on, this book combines the approaches of social constructionism with recent contemporary legend research to provide the most comprehensive explanation of this complex crusade to date. Chapters survey scholarly research on the topic, stressing a skeptical point of view, but also providing much information on "real" teenage satanism underlying criminal acts. Chapters treat the evolution of the satanic cult demonology from classic times onward, the typical dynamics of small-town rumor-panics, "survivor" accounts, child abduction claims, and other "signs" of satanism in adolescent culture.

VIDEOS. *Journey to the Tunnel*. Researchers interested in adolescent legend-tripping will want this 22-minute feature, produced by Bloomington Community Access Television with the assistance of the Indiana University Folklore Institute. Based on fieldwork in southern Indiana, this show shows the vitality of ritual visits to "The Big Tunnel," a structure has inspired a wealth of supernatural and local legends. It complements Gary Hall's classic "The Big Tunnel: Legends and Legend-Telling," *Indiana Folklore* 6 (1973):139-173; also in Linda Dégh, ed., *Indiana Folklore: A Reader* (Bloomington: Indiana U Pr., 1980):225-257. The show juxtaposes clips from numerous interviews, giving multiple variants of legends known to several generations in the area, and also provides a close look at the tunnel itself and its elaborate graffiti. Not available commercially, this show can be obtained by sending BCAT two extra-quality VHS videotape cassettes; the studio will record the show on one and keep the other as payment in kind. Contact Mr. Michael White, BCAT, 303 E. Kirkwood, Bloomington, IN 47408 USA, and be sure to mention *FOAFtale News*. **JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS**

Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty, Inc., Newsletter. Documented cases of child abuse associated

with religious sects in the US. **1992 No.4** focuses on efforts to repeal laws that give Christian Scientists and other Christians special exemptions from child abuse laws in Massachusetts and Minnesota; a similar law is proposed in Michigan. Authorities refuse to prosecute a California Christian Scientist family whose daughter died of meningitis. Reviews, accounts of relevant publications and conferences. Ed. Rita and Doug Swan, P.O. Box 2604, Sioux City, IA 51106 USA; 4/yr; membership in CHILD, Inc. by application; dues \$25/yr.

Dear Mr Thoms... A "folklore miscellany" focusing on contemporary folklore. **In No. 30 (Apr.93)** Gillian Bennett summarizes media coverage of the horse ripper flap in the British quality press, and Jan H. Brunvand reports on recent rumors concerning cats--a serial cat killer in the Pacific Northwest, a Chinese restaurant in Toronto accused of serving cats, cats sucking babies' breath. Photocopied homilies, impromptu student "skip days," friendship cake recipes, ghostly black cars, Blue Star Acid, mystery pumas, zipper mishap. Entertaining, well-edited, and useful. Ed. Gillian Bennett and Sandy Hobbs; irreg., ca. 6 issues/yr. £7.50/yr; address: 28, Brownsville Road, Stockport SK44PF.

Fortean Times. International news accounts and reports of anomalous phenomena, often with photographs. **No. 68 (April-May 93)** highlights the US 1970s cattle mutilation panic: Paul Sieveking provides historical overview and Dennis Stillings surveys theories. Also included: an interview with Mary Seal, who hired Wembley Stadium in January to announce the end of the world. Kevin McClure summarizes his research on the real events underlying the "Angel of Mons" legend. News items include "Danielle," the French deaf-mute "survivor," Philippines panics, dolls that speak obscenities, horse mutilations, crop circles. The well-known "Vampire of Croglin Grange" told to Augustus Hare in 1874 is described as a probable hoax. Extensive reviews, letters. Ed. Bob Rickard and Paul Sieveking; 6/yr.; 6 issues £12.00; £15.00 or \$30.00 overseas; address: FT, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DX UK.

International UFO Reporter. The journal of CUFOS, devoted to scientific investigation of UFO sightings. **18:2 (Mar./Apr. 1993)** focuses on the controversy over Budd Hopkins's investigation of Linda (Napolitano), who claimed to have been abducted on 30 Nov.89 and whose story was allegedly corroborated by 2 policemen and a passerby, all of whom saw a woman floating out of a window into a UFO in a beam of blue-white light on the same night. Donald A. Johnson and Willy Smith give skeptical critiques of the testimony; Budd Hopkins, David M. Jacobs, and John E. Mack respond to these and other critiques. Ed. Jerome Clark; 6/yr.; \$25/yr.; address: J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 West Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659.

Magonia. The premiere British skeptical journal on UFOs and the paranormal. **No.45 (Mar.93)** has John Rimmer's comment on the Linda Napolitano case and Christopher Allan on recent publications on the Roswell crashed saucer. Martin Kottmeyer continues his history of hypochondriac themes in UFO popular culture through

the 1960s. Peter Rogerson finds satanic themes in David Jacobs's *Secret Life*. Letters. Ed. John Rimmer; 4/yr.; £4/yr, 7 ECU (£5) Europe, \$10 US, £5.50 other countries; address: John Dee Cottage, 5 James Terrace, Mortlake Churchyard, London, SW14 8HB UK.

Millennial Times. Formerly *Millennium News*, the newsletter of the Millenium Watch Institute, tracking ephemera produced by prophets of various sects, including Christians, New Agers, Jews, UFO cults, hollow-earthers, and so on. **Vol.1:10 (Apr.93)** combines new-age channelled messages from the Archangel Michael with descriptions of Armageddon from fundamentalists, one of whom notes that Satan was loosed and the Tribulation begun on 22 May 1988. A description of Clinton's inauguration, during which the Pres. flashed a demonic hand signal and gays and lesbians stroked each other as Billy Graham blessed them.

Vol.1:10 [sic] (May 93) headlines a thoughtful analysis of the David Koresh self-immolation in Waco as being based on millennial beliefs that the government and media poorly understood, unwittingly encouraged, and finally fulfilled. More on Clinton: closet Bilderberger, Rothschild agent, servant of Antichrist—or, in one item, agent of the Lord who intends to use the pres. to redeem America. Ed. Ted Daniels; 10/yr.; \$30/yr; address: PO Box 34021, Philadelphia, PA 19101-4021.

Millennial Times seeks submissions of original material pertaining to ideas of global transformation and the end of the world. We are especially interested in primary sources, but short (500 wds.) survey and review articles are also welcome. Credit to authors or sources of information will be given in every instance; copyright will be reserved to authors of original material on their request. Material must be considered non-returnable and should be sent to the address above.

News of the Weird. Bizarre news summaries. **No. 21 (2 Apr.93):** In Zimbabwe, a woman drops a newborn baby through a train toilet onto the tracks; 2 news anchors are fired for giggling while reporting the event. A mystery assailant in Sandusky, Ohio, slashes Barbie dolls in their privates. In Calgary, police are called to untangle a copulating couple at a shopping mall. A Hawaii man holds a woman hostage, begins "a satanic chant," but has to leave to go to the library to look up words he forgot; she escapes and he's arrested at the library's "occult" shelf. Ed. Chuck Shepherd; irreg., 7/\$10, \$11 Canada, \$16 foreign; Address: P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, FL 33738.

Revista de Investigaciones Folklóricas. **No.7 (Dec. 1992)** continues the theoretical bent of previous issues with Mirta Bialogorsky and Ana M. Cousillas proposing critical revisions of the 1970s' performance-oriented approach. Marcelo Muñiz and Jorge Blua criticize the theoretical shortcomings of the influential 1980 article, "Enunciados fundamentales tentativos para la definición de Folklore" by Martha Blache and Juan Angel Magariños de Morentin; these two respond with revisions of their approach but reaffirming their methodological approach. Other articles: the traditional roots of Latin American popular music and of the Star Wars movie *Return of the*

Jedi; ethnography of an Argentinian gypsy community; performance-oriented analyses of interviews, Indian narratives, a children's version of AT 330A "The Blacksmith and the Devil." This issue also includes an index to the "Serie de Folklore" 1-8, Spanish translations of significant international articles in folklore including Dégh and Vázsonyi's "Dialectics of the Legend" and "Legend and Belief" and Pat Mullen's "Modern Legend and Rumor Theory." [We note that the most recent set of translations includes Dan Barnes's "Interpreting Urban Legends."] Bibliography, reviews, notices of meetings. Ed. Martha Blache; irreg; USD \$7/issue; subscription address: Oficina de Publicaciones, Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Puán 470--Planta Baja 1406 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Strange Magazine. Fortean research reports with an emphasis on cryptozoology. **No. 11 (Spring-Summer 1993)** features a section on H.P. Lovecraft and his influence on Fortean thought. Mark Sanbourne and Fabio Picasso report on South American humanoids, including some, like the Duende, similar to gnomes and fairies than the conventional Bigfoot or Sasquatch. Andrew Rothovius reviews the 1954 windshield pitting flap blamed on US open-air nuclear tests. Loren Coleman on a New Zealand "moa" sighting and mystery cats in Illinois. Update on the Wisconsin "Bray Road Werewolf." News reports include a Malaysian man who swallowed a live snake and was unconvinced by x-rays that showed the animal dead. Hurricane Andrew blobs, Ulrich Magin on mystery sinkholes in central Europe. The "First Person" section (memorates) includes balls of fire in the bedroom, a hooded, robed figure in the kitchen, and a hairy, clawed creature opening the door from the garage. Book and Audio reviews. Ed. Mark Chorvinsky; 2/yr.; 4/\$17.95, UK £13.50, other countries \$22.95, single copy \$5.95 (£3.75). Address: PO Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20847 USA.

These Last Days News. A publication based on the Marian apparitions and messages to Veronica Lueken of Bayside, NY. **15 Apr.93** gives a detailed account of Vassula Ryden, a self-proclaimed bride of Christ who has published 5 facsimiles of messages in the actual handwriting of Jesus. An account of a talk she gave in Sacramento, with the approval of the local Catholic bishop, suggests that she is the Antichrist. Much on sexual abuse by Vatican-II-influenced priests; lengthy response to a San Francisco Catholic magazine that claimed that the Bayside supporters were "a bogus group"; claim that the World Trade Center blast was caused by a miniature nuclear bomb.

7 May 93 warns that Communism is not dead and attacks Clinton for his stands on fetal tissue use and gays in the military. Ted Turner calls Christianity "a religion for losers." Jesus and Mary predict that the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building will be hit next by terrorists. Miraculous healings and escapes, notices of meetings, advertisements for religious peripernalia. Ed. Gary Wohlscheid; irreg., free with an inquiry; Address: PO Box 40, Lowell, MI 49331. Phone: 1-616-698-6448 or 1-800-444-MARY. Fax: 616-698-2260.

View from the Ledge. Ridiculous news items and

headlines, many in facsimile. **No. 44 (2 Apr. 93):** a Beachwood, OH, 8th-grade class chides the editor for reporting the flyer that implied that dog food was made by Jews from missing children; two Penn State students arrested for streaking with a sock over their penises. Ed. Chuck Shepherd; irreg.; free with every second copy of *News of the Weird*; Address: P.O. Box 8306, St. Petersburg, FL 33738.

The Wild Places: The Journal of Strange and Dangerous Beliefs. Skeptical views of the paranormal, with emphasis on fringe Christianity. **No. 6** has Editor McClure pronouncing the UFO as good as dead, and "while we have been believing we were investigating events, we have actually been investigating memories"; he argues that we should look at the phenomenon in the context of religious experience. Tom Ruffles gives a useful and objective survey of the Fantasy Prone Personality theory of the paranormal, cautioning that "Labels are useful, but there is always the danger that explaining something can turn into explaining it away." Shorter accounts of spiritualism, censorship in the Bible. Extremely valuable summary of current fringe journals, including Fortean, folkloric, satanic, and New Age. Ed. Kevin McClure; 4/yr.; 4 issues £6.00, Europe £7.50, US and elsewhere \$18 or £10; address: 20 Trembear Road, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 5NY UK.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

We are interested in publications on any topic relevant to contemporary legends, especially those in journals or from publishing houses not usually read by academics in the US and the UK. Forward references or offprints (if convenient) to Alan E. Mays, Heindel Library, State Harrisburg, 777 W. Harrisburg Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4898, USA. For work in foreign languages, English abstracts would be appreciated.

Items starred (*) are housed in a file in one of the editors' office and can be made available to qualified scholars for reference. Books and articles from major publishers or standard journals are not normally starred.

* Alvarado, Carlos S. "The Psychological Approach to Out-of-Body Experiences: A Review of Early and Modern Developments." *Journal of Psychology* 126 (1992):237-50.

Bailey, Ronald. *Ecoscam: The False Prophets of Ecological Apocalypse*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993. [Predictions of impending environmental doom.]

* Barker, Martin. "Sex, Violence, and Videotape." *Sight and Sound*, n.s., 3:5 (1993):10-12. [British moral panic over violence in the media.]

* Bax, Mart. "Women's Madness in Medjugorje: Between Devils and Pilgrims in a Yugoslav Devotional Centre." *Journal of Mediterranean Studies* 2 (1992):42-54.

Bennett, Gillian. "The Color of Saying: Modern Legend and Folktale." *Southern Folklore* 50 (1993):19-32.

* Bickelhaupt, Susan. "He's Just Ducky." *Boston Globe* (27 Feb. 93):1, 9. [Muppet death rumors.]

* Boyer, Paul. "A Brief History of the End of Time." *New Republic* (17 May 93):30-33. [Apocalyptic belief in light of the Waco disaster.]

Brednich, Rolf Wilhelm. *Das Huhn mit dem Gipsbein: Neueste sagenhafte Geschichten von heute*. Munich: C. H. Beck, 1993. [The author's third collection of legends.]

* Bronner, Ethan. "Psycho-Semitic." *New Republic* (24 May 93):17. [Arab conspiracy theories.]

* Carroll, Michael P. "Folklore and Psychoanalysis: The Swallowing Monster and Open-Brains Allomorphs in Plains Indian Mythology." *Ethos* 20 (1992):289-303.

* Clift, Eleanor, with Rich Thomas. "The Not-So-Secret Service." *Newsweek* (5 April 1993):43. [Rumors about Bill and Hillary Clinton allegedly circulated by the Secret Service.]

Clover, Carol L. *Men, Women, and Chain Saws: Gender in the Modern Horror Film*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton U Pr, 1992. [Analyzes slasher, occult, and rape-revenge films.]

* Cobb, Jean. "A Super Bowl—Battered Woman Link." *American Journalism Review* (May 93):33-38. [Debate over whether major sports events are linked to an increase in domestic violence.]

* Cobb, Nathan. "Guffaws and Gripes Greet Gagger of First Lady Jokes." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (8 Apr. 93): A1, A13. [Jokes and narratives about Hillary Clinton.]

* Cozens, Jenny Firth. "Fake-fur." *The Psychologist* 6:4 (Apr. 93):151. [Critique of psychological profiles of British horse-mutilator published in popular press; David Canter, one of those criticized, responded in 6:5 (May 93):203.]

* "Cults in America." Special issue of *CQ Researcher* 3 (7 May 93):385-408.

* Damphousse, Kelly R., and Ben M. Crouch. "Did the Devil Make Them Do It?: An Examination of the Etiology of Satanism among Juvenile Delinquents." *Youth and Society* 24 (1992):204-27.

* Dempsey, James. "Mutant Chain Letter Resurfaces." [Worcester, MA] *Telegram and Gazette* (9 Apr. 93):B1, B2.

"¿De Veras Se Operó 2 Costillas?" *Contenido* (Apr. 93):70. [Mexican videttes have ribs surgically removed to make their waists smaller.]

Editors of *USA Weekend*, comps. *I Never Believed in Ghosts Until . . . 100 Real-Life Encounters*. Chicago: Contemporary Books, 1992. [Ghost stories submitted by *USA Today* readers.]

* Edwards, John. "The Stuff of Urban Legend." *CompuServe Magazine* 12 (Apr. 93):8. [Computer legends.]

* Fesperman, Dan. "As Turn of the Century Nears, Cults Dig in for 'The End.'" [Baltimore, MD] *Sun* (15 March 1993):1A, 8A. [Apocalyptic belief.]

* Fogarty, Robert S. "Sects and Violence: 'Cults,' Guns, and the Kingdom." *The Nation* 256 (12 Apr. 93):485-87. [Criticizes the media's use of the word "cult" to refer to David Koresh's Branch Davidians.]

* Franklin, H. Bruce. "M.I.A.sma." *The Nation* 256 (10 May 93):616-17. [POW/MIAs.]

* Garment, Suzanne. "It's No Laughing Matter." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (18 Apr. 93):C-1, C-4. [Jokes and stories about Bill and Hillary Clinton.]

Georges, Robert A. "Using Storytelling in University Instruction." *Southern Folklore* 50 (1993):3-17.

* Gleick, Elizabeth et al. "The Strangers among Us."

- People Weekly* (19 Apr.93):34-39. [Identifies dangerous American cults.]
- * Graves, Thomas E. "Powwowing in Pennsylvania: An Ancient Tradition Refuses to Die." *The World and I* 7 (Jan. 1992):636-45. [Pennsylvania German folk medicine.]
 - Green, Martin. *Prophets of a New Age: The Politics of Hope from the Eighteenth through the Twenty-first Centuries*. New York: Scribner's; Toronto: Maxwell Macmillan Canada, 1992. [New Age world-view.]
 - * Hanrahan, Jenifer. "Believers not alien to UFO encounters." Harrisburg, PA *Sunday Patriot-News* (28 Mar.93):A1, A20. [UFO abductees' support group.]
 - * Hebestreet, Kristen. "Agencies Rattled by Snake-Stocking Rumors." *Johnson City [TN] Press* (11 Apr.93): 24. [American naturalists are releasing poisonous snakes in the US Appalachians.]
 - * Howard, Lucy, and Gregory Cerio. "Horse Rippers." *Newsweek* (29 Mar.93):8. [Horse mutilations in England.]
 - * Jones, Timothy. "Rumors of Angels." *Christianity Today* 37 (5 Apr.93):18-22. [Renewed interest in angels.]
 - * Kephart, Jeffrey O., Steve R. White, and David M. Chess. "The Michelangelo Effect." *IEEE Spectrum* 30 (May 93):21. [Michelangelo computer virus panic.]
 - * Keyser, Tom. "Close Encounters of the Chilling Kind." [Baltimore, MD] *Sun Magazine* (4 Apr.93):8-9, 11-16. [UFOs and alien abductions.]
 - Koster, Michelle. "Beliefs about the Color Green in Auto Racing." *Midwestern Folklore* 18 (1992):69-72. [Green-painted cars are "jinxed," often causing death.]
 - * Lamy, Philip. "Millennialism in the Mass Media: The Case of Soldier of Fortune Magazine." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 31 (1992):408-24.
 - * Lavallée, Marielle R., and M. A. Persinger. "Left Ear (Right Temporal Lobe) Suppressions During Dichotic Listening, Ego-Alien Intrusion Experiences, and Spiritualistic Beliefs in Normal Women." *Perceptual and Motor Skills* 75 (1992):547-51. [Experimental study of factors relating to the sensed presence associated with the Old Hag and similar experiences.]
 - * Leiby, Richard. "The Saucers' Apprentice." *Washington Post* (28 Mar.93):F1, F4, F5. [UFOs, channeling, and the New Age community in Sedona, Ariz.]
 - * Marcussen, A. Jan. *National Sunday Law*. Thompsonville IL: Amazing Truth Publications, 1993. [The corrupt Catholic Church (VICARIUS FILII DEI = 666) will kick off the Apocalypse by proposing a national law requiring Sunday as a rest day, enforced by the death penalty. Rev. edn. of a 1983 book.]
 - * Martinez, Yleana. "A Long, Tall Texas Tale." *American Journalism Review* (May 93):11. [Hoaxed report of a 79-foot earthworm perpetrated by a Laredo paper.]
 - * Miller, Bill. "Fantasy May Have Gone Askew." *Washington Post* (15 Mar.93):B6. [Alleged link between Dungeons & Dragons and a Spotsylvania, VA, murder.]
 - * Miller, Dan E. "'Snakes in the Greens' and Rumor in the Innercity." *Social Science Journal* 29 (1992):381-93. [Rumors in the African-American community of West Dayton, Ohio, regarding snakes in supermarket produce.]
 - * "Moral Panic." *The Economist* (27 Feb.93):62.
 - [Outrage in Great Britain over the murder of two-year-old James Bulger by two ten-year-olds.]
 - * Mowbray, Phyllis W. "Solving the Mystery of the Fire Letter." *Early American Life* 24:4 (Aug.93):39, 74. [Facsimile and history of a Pennsylvania German charm built into a barn to protect it magically from fire.]
 - Murray, Thomas E. "The Ontogeny of a Midwestern Urban Legend: The Case of the Crazy Baglady Who Ate Her Hair." *Midwestern Folklore* 18 (1992):45-55.
 - * Nuwer, Hank. "The Schemes of Things." *CompuServe Magazine* 12 (Apr.93):42-44. [CompuServe's online "Conspiracy Theories" forum.]
 - * O'Hare, Noel. "This Friend Told Me..." *Listener* [Auckland, New Zealand] (13 Mar.93):32-33. [Popularized versions of CLs sent in by readers, incl. "Hare Dryer," "Fingers in the Chain," and "Stolen Lunch."]
 - * O'Sullivan, Gerry. "A Closer Look at Cults Shows Little to Fear." *Philadelphia Inquirer* (23 Apr.93):A35.
 - Pflughoeft, Darren M. "Telling Tales Out of School: Transcription of an Interview with Male College Students." *Midwestern Folklore* 19 (1993):5-33. [Indiana legends.]
 - Poundstone, William. *Biggest Secrets: More Uncensored Truth about All Sorts of Stuff You Are Never Supposed to Know*. New York: William Morrow, 1993. [Mrs. Fields cookie recipe, backward masking, food contamination rumors, and other secrets.]
 - * Robinson, Andrew. "Identifying the Beast: Samuel Horsley and the Problem of Papal AntiChrist." *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 43 (1992):592-607. [Eighteenth-century apocalyptic beliefs involving the papacy and the French Revolution.]
 - * Rosellini, Lynn. "The Case of the Weeping Madonna." *U.S. News and World Report* (29 Mar.93):46-51, 54-55. [Weeping Virgin Mary statue in Lake Ridge, VA.]
 - * Rozin, Paul, and Maureen Markwith. "Magical Contagion Beliefs and Fear of AIDS." *Journal of Applied Social Psychology* 22 (1992):1081-92.
 - * Sagan, Carl. "What's Really Going On?" *Parade Magazine* (7 Mar.93):4-7. [Alien abduction claims.]
 - * Sanja, Mike. "Storyteller." *Pennsylvania Game News* 64 (Mar.93):14-18. [The career of Henry W. Shoemaker, Pennsylvania newspaperman and legend collector.]
 - * Scheihing, Will. "Bigfoot Has Lot of Kin in Pennsylvania." *Altoona [PA] Mirror* (5 Apr.93):A1, A2. [Bigfoot and UFOs.]
 - * Schneider, Howard. "As Waco Siege Goes On, Agents Enter Folklore." *Washington Post* (22 Mar.93):A4. [Stories about federal agents that circulated during the Branch Davidian stand-off.]
 - Schwartz-Nobel, Loretta. *The Baby Swap Conspiracy: The Shocking Truth behind the Florida Case of Two Babies Switched at Birth*. New York: Villard Books, 1993.
 - * Seabrook, Jeremy. "Root of All Evil." *New Statesman and Society* (26 Feb.93):12-13. [Moral panic over James Bulger murder.]
 - * Shapiro, Laura, with Debra Rosenberg and John F. Lauerma. "Rush to Judgement." *Newsweek* (19 Apr.93):54-60. [Child sexual abuse hysteria in America.]
 - * Sharpe, Tom. "Rumors of AIDS at School Quelled."

Albuquerque [NM] Journal (11 Feb.93). [AIDS rumors after a blood drive at Santa Fe High School.]

* Sheehan, Neil. "Prisoners of the Past." *New Yorker* (24 May 93):44-51. [POW/MIAs.]

* Siano, Brian. "Truth in Advertising for Satan Sellers?" *The Humanist* 53 (May-June 1993):37-38. [Cornerstone magazine's exposé of Mike Warnke's *The Satan Seller*.]

Sun Bear with Wabun Wind. *Black Dawn, Bright Day: Indian Prophecies for the Millennium That Reveal the Fate of the Earth*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992.

* Trebay, Guy. "Second Coming Soon." *Village Voice* (23 Mar.93):14. [Messianic beliefs of Lubavitcher Jews.]

* "Waiter, there's a paw in my soup!" *Chronicle of Higher Education* (12 May 93):A5. [Food contamination in a Virginia college cafeteria.]

Wildridge, Aimee. "Performing Folklore at a Family Dinner: Transcription of a Tape-Recorded Interview." *Midwestern Folklore* 19 (1993):48-60. [Jokes, legends, and riddles.]

* Williams, Lena. "Can a Green Candy Make Love Sweeter?" *New York Times* (17 Mar.93):C8. [Green candies as aphrodisiacs.]

* Wright, Lawrence. "Remembering Satan--Part I." *New Yorker* (17 May 93):60-66, 68-74, 76-81. [Two-part discussion of SRA hysteria centering upon a 1988 case in Olympia, Wash.]

* _____. "Remembering Satan--Part II." *New Yorker* (24 May 93):54-66, 68-76.

FOAftale News is the newsletter of the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. We encourage study of "modern" and "urban" legends, and also of any legend circulating actively.

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