



# Turpitude

Slanapa 457  
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Matthew taught me how to sign up for podcasts. I downloaded iTunes and found podcasts for doo wop, zydeco, bbc news, and Thirties music. I am very pleased with the smooth access to the music that iTunes allows. This makes approximately twelve hours of radio each week ~ and that's about as much as I can listen to conveniently. So, no more frantic downloading of mp3 files. I'm cool.

I have a cousin that I dearly love. She and her husband have tried to get Susie and I to go with them to Disneyland for years now. We were reluctant to go, knowing that we would not get much pleasure out of it. However, when the husband, Dale, was diagnosed with colon cancer they asked us if we would go with them if he got through treatment successfully. Who could resist such an invitation, so we said, Sure!

Time passed and Dale did make it through; he had a pretty rough time of it, with many complications. The day came when they telephoned from their home in the Bay Area and said, We're ready! We made plans to meet them there on a Wednesday afternoon and play

in the two parks, Disneyland and California Adventure Park, Thursday and Friday.

A word about my cousins. They don't love Disneyland; they *live* Disneyland. They own stock in the company, they have an annual pass, they go there five or six times per year, and they have a lot of Disney "points."

We flew to San Diego instead of Anaheim in order to save a bundle on air fare. My daughter, Rebecca, met us at the airport and took us to Anaheim. She has a great job which allowed her to take off Thursday, so she joined us in the adventure for a day.

My cousins have a time share in one of the Disney hotels. They were somehow able to use their "points" to get us all in the Disneyland Hotel. The hotel was worth the flight down, believe me. It is huge and completely done in the style of the Arts and Crafts Movement. I am very fond of the Arts style and couldn't get enough of it! The lobby has a huge fireplace and arches six storeys tall; fantastic. Sue and I get up earlier than Dale and Elaine, so each day be-



gan with a latte and a lounge in the great room; fantastic.

It is interesting that the rooms themselves were no great shakes. Just a plain room with some arts and crafts touches. It shows that the Disney Team knows where to be fancy and spend a lot of money ~ and where to conserve expenses. Everyone, I'm sure, was so "wow"ed by the lobby and building exterior that they would have been happy with anything. It was also interesting to note that they only changed sheets every three days in order to be "earth responsible" (and save laundry expenses).

Our first meal there was a very good dinner at a restaurant in the DisneyTown shopping mall. We had to put up with lovesick gorillas and a gurgling hippopotamus ~ but the food was good. Cheapest thing on the menu was \$23.00. With prices being what they were, I had no hesitation in ordering something really good at \$32.00. I had a prime rib.

I really should have done this trip report sooner, as

now it has all escaped me. Darn. So, let me cruise over into mailing comments:

Ned: Picture a Far Side cartoon illustrating a female bison, dressed to the nines, giving a come-hither glance to a bull from Topeka. That's how they got beefalo. The Far Side is on my mind as I recently bought the two volume, The Complete Far Side. It is a lovely set, impeccably printed in China, well bound and a joy to hold. Once upon a time we could do such things right here in the United States. // I go to bookstores much as you do, Ned; I generally have nothing in mind and look over the titles to see what Fate presents me. That is really the only way to shop. My wife does not understand this at all. When she shops, she has a list and a mission: get in, get it, get out. I saunter. // I had a nice chat with a gentleman who is firmly convinced that the Mexicans ~ and that includes Mexican-Americans to him ~ are breeding to overwhelm California and adjacent areas so as to effect a bloodless return of that area to Mexico. He foresees a time in the not to distant future when Caucasians will be a downtrodden minority in the U S of A. // The no-

tion of being cremated with a favorite 'zine is outrageous! One could be buried with *Planet Stories*, and retain the notion that one's body and the 'zine would remain entwined through eternity. But if you're going to burn it, might as well assemble a little altar and ceremoniously ignite it while still alive. // I thought that Scientology did not consider itself a religion, hence no need for a symbol on the grave marker. I know Bob figures it is an evil religion ~ so guess he is more correct than I am. // I think Dale's point in denigrating fantasy as "just made up stuff" is that since the framework is so flexible, there is no need to go to the effort to construct a world-system. Of course, in that, he is wrong ~ at least for the good fantasy. // I thought high fantasy was something like *High Crusade*, lots of royalty and chivalry.

Dee: My experience with fans and people with stuff in general, is that the **one** thing they do appreciate is more stuff. I know it's true with me. Lately, though, I have been able to sell off a substantial cubic footage, so I am headed in the right direction. // You mentioned Jewish archetypes appearing in comic books. I suggest that most of the same archetypes are found in nearly all folklore traditions. It is interesting to consider them Jewish, though; I had never thought of that ~ I can see where it would make an interesting exhibit. // It is grand that you got postcards from so many interesting places. They certainly make fine souvenirs! My postcard collection is not growing much lately, but I did find a nice, new album type and I will be converting all my storage over to it. What do you think? The new albums all look like expensive, leather-bound books! Sigh, I'm so predictable. // Nice Mucha postcards at the end of your trip report. I am sorry that you didn't write more.

Dan: I can see that making models of horses out of found material would classify as art in some homes. However, I cannot go so far as to approve of the casting in brass of the driftwood for the driftwood model horse. That puts another level of effort into the project and that effort would be better spent casting real art. // I enjoyed your trip report, Dan, but don't have many comments about it. I would like to go to South America sometime, so perhaps we can talk about it a little when I see you. A friend and I have just begun talking about a trip to the Falkland Islands to do the amateur radio thing, similar to the Alaska Trip of yore.



Frank: You know, it is a distinct possibility that \*soon\* someone will abolish the Constitution. I worry about that. A lot. It sounds a little ridiculous, but it could happen within this generation. I know quite a few people that would opt for a dictator if he could make the streets safe and the trains run on time. // Good for you using "AWK." The student needs that kind of help ~ and I don't think that the teacher should always explain the awkwardness. It's a great lesson for the student to rewrite.

Dale: "This is the Plan" sure looks like a great perzine. You manage to convey the best of the old ideals. I would almost slip, as I read it, into the notion that it was mimeographed. Nicely done. But no comment hooks. I think I am just getting tired. I'm a little nervous, too, as this is the day and the very afternoon when two fellows from Mystic Stamps in New Bighod York will be stopping by to look over my collection(s). More on that next month.

Jerry: Your pain is intense. I am so sorry about your job. // Your television watching is overwhelming. I watch about five hours a month, that being two or three movies. And I still don't have any free time. // I was a 58 year old diabetic when I retired. I didn't so much retire as become unemployable



Gary: Just a thought to add about TR, since it came up again. I think that his quote (“Any man who says he is an American but something else also....”) merely means that a person coming from immigrant stock should consider himself an American first. The idea was prevalent at that time that Americans were a new breed amongst countries; we had new characteristics; we were a little brash, a little sharp with an eye to the main chance. TR knew very well your observations that Americans are all hyphenated Americans.

Bob: How in the world did you get that photograph of me and my dad? That really has my sense of wonder ignited! // My, how you and Dale do go on! Pshaw, you two fellers need to shake hands and make up. ~ or not.

The art this issue is, once again, mostly from my post-card collection. It has been fun, but now the bloom is off the rose and I am looking for another hobby. Any suggestions, out there? It needs to be something sedentary and almost free...and not necessitate special clothes.



With that, I think I'll sign off. There hasn't been much other news from Stayton. I did have a friend who is a retired international banker stay for a couple days; conversation was good as well as lengthy. We even got Dale over one evening, a real good time was had. // I went to a ham radio convention, but didn't enjoy it too much ~ I became quickly alienated by the crowd and fled to my corner. My medication is supposed to stop such action, but it slipped a little here. // Went to a Stamp Society meeting Wednesday evening. It was the club's 75th anniversary. A pleasant time with cake as well as a bunch of stamp collectors. // I just found out about the Willamette Bonsai Club. I will be attending that next month. Twenty years ago I tried to find or start a club in the Salem area, but couldn't get any support for it. I found out that this club is nineteen years old ~ someone stole my idea! // If you think that this is a lot of activity for this old recluse, you are right. My doctor tells me I really need to get out and around people, so I try. But mostly, I like my basement.

See you next month,  
Mike