

# Turpitude

Slanapa 470  
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March is here! It's the happy month of Winter's last blasts. We've had rain, snow, and a bit of flooding in the basement; makes me anxious for Spring.

I visited some old friends from High School. They moved up from California in 1996 to Brush Prairie, Washington, and it took us ten years to make local contact. I hadn't seen them for forty years. I was made a bit melancholy by the contact.

Duane and Teresa were smart in high school (and still are, for that matter!) and had a lot of ambition. Duane taught Fourth Grade for a few years, then went into the flower business, both retail and wholesale. They worked hard and came away with much money. They live on a three acre parcel in a new Victorian home that would hold three of my houses. I am reminded by all this that I haven't made much of a success of my corporeal life.

I've got a great Family, etc etc etc. However, I get tired of trying to make ends meet financially and I get melancholy.

My radio antenna is moving further along on the path



to rising! I finally got the mast sections out and got the ends straightened. I was worried about being able to manipulate the girdered sections and consequently put off trying for some months ~ like for a year!

I was cleaning the garage and came across a couple of pneumatic cylinders that my dad had. Voila, that's just what I needed to bend the mast sections. I screwed up my courage and went to it. In less than a half hour I had the sections fixed. I am always slow to tackle something that I have not done before; most times, it is like this adventure was, make the effort and get it done and off my mind.

Rich, a ham friend of mine, came by yesterday. He is going to make the bottom mounting plate for me. The mast should be all ready to raise next weekend or in May.

In the past month, I have gone to two ham radio conventions, one close by me in Rickreall, Oregon, and another quite a ways from here in Puyallup, Washington. I sold quite a bit at both of them and bought one new set for my "permanent" desk (a Yaesu FR101D and FL101). The one in Puyallup reminded me of the

old science fiction conventions in that I camped out in my car rather than getting a motel. I borrowed my mother's '99 Honda Accord for the trip as it is larger inside than my '89 Corolla. At least that was my excuse; really, I just wanted a vehicle that I could count on to get me there and bring me home!

I met a friend, Jerry, at the hamfair. He brought me a stack of his old records and two turntables that I bought. The records had a little treasure trove in that they contained thirteen old Kingston Trio albums that Jerry had bought new. The turntables are nice, too; newer and better than the old Goodwill one I kept.

Now I have to set up a stereo system, either in the basement or in the garage. This works out well because Susie has been wanting me to get rid of all the old speakers that I have. This way, I will be able to save two without any hassle. I sure hate to part with the speakers as they are excellent quality ones that I put together through the years. Oh, well, Goodwill receives as well as gives.

Dale: "Don't Tell, Don't Ask" seems like a good system to me. Isn't it the same as saying that homosexuality does not matter in the service? It seems like it should be ignored in most facets of society.//My defense of Traditional Marriage is not based on religion or law. It is based on a common conception of Marriage in the social fabric of our society. I don't want to see things change in my view of what's best for the family.//Interesting comments on Blagojevich. I was on his side from the beginnings because of his Pollock name. That persuasion quickly left after hearing him talk. Nice comments about the Senate being illegal. Much to think about.//*The Iceberg* is welcomed. Stunning bits and pieces. Wish I could write like that.

Jerry: Your comment to Bob about *The West Wing* reminds me that it's a show I must watch *One Of These Days*. Dale has shown me the Cheese Episode and a couple others; it looks very well done. Dale has them all on VHS tapes, to be converted to DVD *Real Soon Now*.//Glad to hear that Nita is feeling a bit better.//I have been cheerfully taking a pill a day for my diabetes and watching my food intake (a little) and that seems to have it under control. I watch Frank and shudder, hoping that it never gets that bad for



me!//The nice thing about Facebook, for me, is that members can "flash" little notes about what they are doing "at the time." These notes go out to all one's "friends" and aids keeping in touch. I don't get many emails from the people I'm on Facebook with, but I do get these notes.//Just watched the newest version of *The Black Dahlia*. I thought it was well done and portrayed the era splendidly. Most of what I took away from it, though, is that my hearing is getting so bad that I cannot follow the dialogue well; I lose lots of the banter and much of the main information. Makes reading look better and better. Sigh. This was the first movie I have seen with the sidebar "grisly" on the warning notice. I closed my eyes when they showed the body.//We don't know, yet, what to make of the Utah relatives. There is a (slight) chance that Rebecca's husband, Russ, will be called back to run the family ranch. It will be something if Becky ends up a farmgirl. We did meet the Utahans once and it went over well, but we were all on our best behavior.

Dee: My condolences on your dad's passing. Somehow it has been fourteen years since my father passed away, but I still feel he is only "in the garage, working on some project" and will walk back into the house at any moment. I guess that this feeling will never leave./



/I agree with you about gifts; I can't wait to give them. Of late, though, I find that I feel no gift will be welcome. My wife, Sue, is so adamant about getting rid of things that it seems "bad" to add to the accumulation. For instance, I bought her a couple of antique beaded purses a few years ago; now they seem like just more useless baggage around the house. // What is your job title, Dee?

Ned: Nice Bok art. I don't see much of him these days ~ still like his work. // Georgia is a typeface that I use in eBay; it is a nice, common, serified face. As you say, though, it's not as nice as Goudy Old Style. I have gotten so that I prefer Palatino Linotype or this Perpetua to everything else. But I am an old Goudy fan. He said, "Anyone who will letterspace lowercase will steal sheep." // Just invited you to "be my friend" in Facebook. Forty years of SLANapa and we quietly slip into the modern age.

Bob: How was the play by Kaminsky? He is one of my favorite writers; I envy you the chance to see "The Final Toast." // I am currently listening to The Big Broadcast from WFUV (New York). It's a great show of pre-1940s music. It is four hours long, each week,

and it takes me all week to assimilate the new music. Not that I am cutting down on downloading cuts, however. I am still doing the music thing ~ do you need any more doo-wop? // Sue and I are ready for warmer weather, too, Bob. We are going to have a great bloody huge garden this year. Got the peas planted in the mud. My father-in-law is not doing well physically but still has a greenhouse wherein he's starting hundreds of little bits of green for our garden. (Actually got news recently that his cancer is back and is very aggressive.) // Nice to see your illos. They add a lot to a 'zine, I think, even if they have no definite connection. I say that mostly because I like to add them myself!

Gary: I would rather see the Constitution changed than have the states agree to some sort of Electoral group. Do it right. // Thanks for mentioning *House*. If it passes your test, it must be a good watch. // The only experience I have with filmed stage plays is the series of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. They were all right as plays, but would have been immensely better had they been performed as a movie, such as was done with *Pirates of Penzance*. But, one gets some enjoyment from the play atmosphere. // The era of The New Deal is a fascinating one. I was interested in it a great deal in my early 20s, when I read Schlesinger's volumes on it. I didn't really keep up with it, though, as my interests went "back in time" to 1871-1916. I agree with you that The New Deal was, overall, a very successful program. I have known lots of old CCC members who are particularly grateful. I'd like to see more programs supported, such as VISTA, that would give government-style jobs to people. Of course, though, I am a socialist-leaner. // We did not make it to the final scene in *Fleshipods*. I vote no redeeming value to it.

