

Here now is your reflective news synopsis for Tuesday after lunch, on this thirtieth day of September in the first year of the third millenium.

The Middle East, long regarded as the hotbed of Armageddon, has been determined to be, like Ireland, a geographic and demographic focus of cultural synthesis. The violence that prevails in those areas must be maintained indefinitely, according to the right reverend Howdi Dowdi. Reverend Dowdi, also a practicing cultural engineer, assures us that violence is essential to the human experience, thereby Ireland and Israel should be assigned "protected reserve" status.

A consortium of drug distributors met today in Bolivia. The purpose of the meeting is to establish quotas for the upcoming biennium. The price of oil has risen beyond the means of middle class America and stay-at-home citizens, unable to travel freely, have become homebody druggies. "The price of 'crack' is still much less than the price of 'crude,' and that's the way we should keep it," is the philosophy of most drug suppliers. Experts say that the price of drugs will rise and the supply will drop.

Bob Hope's brain, freeze dried since the famous comedian's body death last year, refuses to be thawed. Quipped Hope's brain, "Death is un-American."

Daniel Ortega, former populist now retired to the good life in Sausalito, is considering a re-release of his ten year old smash hit movie, "THE MOUSE THAT BIT".

Confined within Sowetoland's concrete wall, WhiteBoss Botha railed against what he called South Africa's unofficial policy of segregation. King Tutu pooh-poohed Botha's claim, saying "It is traditional in our country to secure 'coloreds' in their proper place."

Hanford received its first shipment of nuclear waste from Russia today, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture is expected to release the long delayed shipments of wheat to the Soviets. The Department of Energy praised the Russians for providing jobs to the American economy.

Residents of Richland, Washington are protesting the arrival of a religious cult which claims to be interested only in rebuilding the abandoned town of Kennewick. The entire population of Richland, thirty-eight nuclear garbage masters, turned out in a show of solidarity. They were met by cultists bearing signs that read "Remember the Guru". The Guru plans to import two thousand moral majority refugees in an attempt to outvote the inbred garbage masters.

Gold has been discovered in Young's Bay. After decades of speculation in everything from seafood to real estate, the residents of Astoria, USA, have finally struck gold — real gold, that is. Scientists have discovered that, through an odd chemical symbiosis with radioactive material overflowing from the Hanford facility in Washington state, real twenty-eight karat gold is migrating in significant amounts into the silt of Young's Bay. The majority of citizens of the oldest settlement on the west coast say they will mine the tourists, not the Bay. Said local tavern owner U.B. Tooke, "Sure, the gold is there for the taking. But I don't need an anti-radiation suit to sell beer to tourists." United Mining Corporation, founded by philanthropist Lee A'More, plans to hire two or three hundred robots for its gold mining endeavors in Young's Bay. County authorities refused comment on United Mining's mineral rights claim to the Columbia Bar, regarded as the richest lode of golden riches ever anticipated in Astoria's history.

McDonald's Conglomerate announced yesterday the biggest Big Mac attack of the century. McDonald's military attache assures consumers that the invasion of Nikkaragwa will not slow the flow of burger-beef from neighboring ConglomerStates of Central America. Burger Boss Ronald admits there may be stiff resistance but avows that the All American Burger Brigade will prevail.



DATELINE 2000

by E. A. Anderson

Turf war is imminent in New York as the city's Bureau of Tourism squares off with tightly organized territorial turf toughies. Two tourists from Seattle haplessly wandered away from a guided tour through Jersey City, a suburb of New York CityState, and were slain by muggers who operate in tourist-free zones. The Bureau of Tourism immediately launched a public relations attack against the shadowy Federation of Felons, which provides an umbrella of lawyers for assorted anarchists. Said Bof T CEO Bertrand Boffett, "Doesn't that street rabble realize that tourism is becoming our biggest industry? It must be written into our next contract that tourists are necessary to all of us and therefore must be given free passage throughout the great CityState of New York. If the FofF doesn't learn a lesson from this ugly episode of senselessly murdered tourists, they will see wholesale rejection of mugger's license applications." Officials at the Denver headquarters of the Federation of Felons declined comment.

In a remote, as yet undisclosed religious community in the region of southwest America, the first autonomous decision making computer has gone on-line. At the activation ceremony, Judge TRS 81 swore to dispense vehicular justice in a micro-timely fashion. Justice TRS 81 will assume his duties as a traffic court judge as part of an effort to streamline the traffic-fine collection system.

Electronic voting makes its debut this year in what may prove to be a genuine cultural advancement. After years of discussion and heated argument, it has been decided that the only qualification necessary to participate in an electronic voting experiment was proof of television ownership. "The paperwork will be reduced tremendously," said project director Countem Cann. "If you can push a button, there is no need for ballot cards." Detractors of the electronic democracy equate the experimental vote with the recent elevation of a machine to the position of traffic judge.

WHALE'S TALE

NEWPORT, ORE.

On The Bayfront

VALENTINE WITH US

Caffeine junkies in Houston are being rounded up in an effort to curtail the blackmarket trade in illegal coffee beans. Addicts have been known to grind the odiferous bean into a fine powder which they then "snuff up" their noses through a tightly rolled three dollar bill. Anyone caught with a "beanbag" is subject to acrimonious abatement. The DEA (known commonly as the Department of Extremist Ass*****) assures that "killing the market will kill the source of supply, which is what we must do to free our great republic from the sins of personal addiction to any substance known to man." If there is any connection between the well publicized caffeine raids in Houston and DEQ authorization bill now pending in Congress, DEA officials deny it.

Amid massive rioting spearheaded by retired Beatles Fan Club charter members in Tokyo today, Britain was declared the unanimous winner of the uncombined Western/Eastern music master championship of the world. Members of Beatles Fans Forever declared that tradition dictated the votes of judges. Citing the nontraditional thrust of the Beatles' musical genius, fans claim that Japan is the "grossest!" Noted Japanese groups agree. Internationally famed Rockabilly Susuki avows, "The battle rages under the rising sun, which will soon set upon the western usurper."

In a landmark case pending before the Supreme Tort, McBoing AeroSpace Corp., a division of Lunar Trolleys Inc., is challenging the landing rights to the moon of SpaceBus Europus. McBoing's case hinges on the "planted flag" theory. SpaceBus, defendant in the suit, has chosen the defense of "first small step, first great leap." Antionne LeSuit, litigation laureate for SpaceBus acknowledges the territorial prerogative of the United States, but asserts that McBoing, as a private corporation, does not have the same rights. "After all," says LeSuit, "your government granted SpaceBus permits to construct a SpaceBus terminal on the moon. SpaceBus did not build a Lunar-Trolley terminal." Bob McBoing, VP of Government Action for Lunar Trolleys is expected to testify in behalf of McBoing AeroSpace. "What's good for Lunar Trolleys is good for the USofA," is good for at least four votes on the court of the Supreme Tort.

The demise of Republicanism will be honored in a theatrical presentation by the Redondo Beach Revisionaries, a popular nostalgic singing group based in Albuquerque, Old Mexico. Performing live on stage at the tabernacle in Salt Lake Flats, the centerpiece of the performance by RBR will be a eulogy to former President Ronnie Reagan, who abdicated his office only through death in 1987. The old western hit, "Home On The Range," once considered the unofficial national anthem, will be played subliminally during the concert.

Your synapse reporter from the year 2000AD is fifty-eight years old and weighs one hundred and seventy-five pounds.

E. A. Anderson lives in Elsie.