

## Weakly Review Column (850 Words) Rights Reserved

Title: **What the Hey...Two Weeks Without a Reject Slip**



### *What the hey...two weeks without a reject slip.*

Must be a record?

Anyways, with the electronic super highway wha'daya expect? According to the opinion takers silicon chips will soon overtake the written word. Say what??

Apparently it scares the bjeebes off the big shot publishing houses.

Not too long ago Harcourt Brace fired half of its veteran editors, and both Houghton Mifflin and Macmillan closed a major printing division. That's not so bad you say, yet, these were the ones who steadfastly refused to reduce their staff when the others already had. We are told by the new breed, "unless a new manuscript smells of instant blockbuster sales it is automatically rejected" ... *woe is me.*

"Too many books chasing too few readers." Although 49,000 new titles were published in the old U.S. of A, a recent survey found over half of all American adults are functionally illiterate. It is sad when a country of over 250 million population produces only 120,000 serious readers,

meaning those who read a few hours each evening. Some say it's worse, only 4,000 keep up with reviews of literary work, then actually go to a book store and buy it. Horrors!! What will happen to us all?

Yet all is not necessarily lost, 82 million Americans bought adult books, 7 percent more than last year. Oh oh, what do they say about the 25 and under group, they aren't reading much. Zero from zero means... you guessed it. That's where most of the functionally illiterate are.

"New York publishing is self destructing. They've forgotten what books are for." Too many conglomerates bought up the big publishing houses. Caring only about the bottom line, they don't give a hoot about what goes out, only if it makes big bucks.

Still, serious authors will continue to write, whether they have readers or not, that's their nature. Anyway, books are still the DNA of our culture. Perhaps lack of readers could be the reason why we are so clueless and confused with no depth and breadth to our future.

Are you job hunting, but enjoying it less. In the '80s 90 percent of those unemployed found work compared to the ones lost. Yet, in the '90s only 25 percent did... In the 2000s anybody that wants a minimum pay job can have one, the rest are writing books. So what's the problem? Were we already going down before the free trade agreement?

Anyways, to protect yourself from unscrupulous people, the Federal Trade Commission publishes two free pamphlets on scams that try to take what you've got left. No, it doesn't mention the IRS.

Speaking of kids, education, illicit reading, and science, on a recent test, Middle-school students gave an indication of the direction this nation is headed... down... or in the funny papers...? Study the answers following that came back on tests given to students:

*What does the falling barometer indicate:* "That the law of gravity is still with us."

"When you look at water under the microscope, you find there are twice as many H's as there are O's."

"Water goes from the ocean to clouds because of evaporation. When perfumes disappears, we say it is because of evaporation. Evaporation gets blamed for a lot of things people forget to put a lid on."

"There is nothing to keep a liquid from changing to another state. The Mississippi River, as we all know, does not have to stay in one state alone."

"When people try to live under water these days, we no longer call them crazy. We call them oceanographers."

The CIA recently gathered some incriminating evidence while sifting through Hillary's garbage. A note to the proverbial milk man... you thought only Slick Willie

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did it huh? No no no, this was a real note: *In accordance with our previous agreement, it is hereby requested that you cease delivery from the period beginning Tuesday, May 19, up to, but not including Thursday, May 21, and that you resume per our original agreement, on Thursday, May 21, and therefore until you receive further written notice by the undersigned individual.*

The real question was, why was the note intercepted, and why thrown in the trash? After thorough investigation, it was noted that Bill changed the wording to read: Please skip Wednesday... maybe he's after cutting red-tape after all. Didya ever think maybe silly Billy being from the south might be related to Billy Carter? Ya know, Jimmy's other brother, they kinda acted alike didn't they??? Weird and weirder, as apposed to dumb and dumber.

Anyway, they say, Trosky said something about blind men arguing about what an elephant looked like, wonder if Billy and Hillary are blind, they argue a lot? I suppose it's true. The part about blind men not agreeing.

Now... the revisionists are at it again. First Eisenhower, now they say??? Trosky didn't originate the story about the elephant, but John G. Saxe (1816-1887) did as a poem. Will wonders never cease?

**So what's next?**