

Straight Up | Jan Herman

Arts, Media & Culture News with 'tude

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June 15, 2006

ASYMMETRIC BOOKFARE

For all you bibliophiles, a few granular thoughts about Brion Gysin and Wyndham Lewis, written so long ago they qualify as pre-historic: ["Roundup at the O.P. Corral."](#) Topic: "To Master, A Long Goodnight" vs. "America and Cosmic Man."

And for all you pervs out there, here's the opening of a literary monograph by Supervert, [Necrophilia Variations](#):

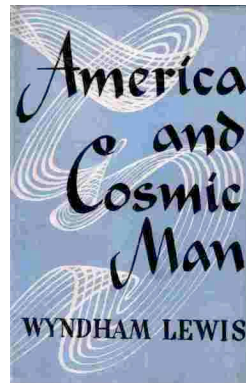


Inevitably there came a point at which I had to pause and ask myself: How would you like it? How would you like to be lying there on the autopsy table having the coroner slice you up into a variety of sexual aids? The femur bone makes a fine dildo. Intestines are natural prophylactics. The heart, that organ of romance, can be used as a four-chambered pocket pussy. Whatever remains of your body afterward can be filled with KY instead of embalming fluid - or vice versa, perhaps a horny little necro nymph will come along and leech the embalming fluid from your body to use as a "personal lubricant." Who knows? The possibilities are endless. Do you prefer your corpse to be a waste produce or a sex object?

[Mikey Houellebecq](#) would be jealous ... heh?

Postscript: And [from my earlier life:](#)

Jed Birmingham surveys the avant-garde publications of Jan Herman: the Nova Broadcasts, the San Francisco Earthquake, and his collaborations with William S. Burroughs.



ABOUT...

...Straight Up

The agenda is just what it says: arts, media & culture delivered with attitude. Or as Rock Hudson once said: "Man is the only animal clever enough to build the Empire State Building and stupid enough to jump off it." [more](#)

...Books 'n Stuff

I'm the author of ["A Talent for Trouble,"](#) the biography of Hollywood director William Wyler. Putnam published it in [hardcover](#).



It is now in [paperback](#) (Da Capo Press).

I've also co-written ["Cut Up or Shut Up,"](#) experimental fiction, with Carl Weissner and Jurgen Ploog (with a "tickertape" intro by William S. Burroughs).



[more](#)

...My Checkered Career

Writing of mine has appeared in "little magazines," among them VDRSVP, Ricochet, Unmuzzled Ox, San Francisco Earthquake and

Posted by jherman at June 15, 2006 08:39 AM

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John Bryan's Notes From Underground, as well as in Partisan Review, The New York Times Book Review, Trans-Atlantik and The Journal of Film History. [more](#)

...Jan Herman

When not listening to Bach or Cuban jazz pianist Chucho Valdes, or dancing to salsa, I like to play jazz piano -- but only in the privacy of my own mind. [more](#)

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CHECKERED CAREER**ME ELSEWHERE****'WILD SIDE' STILL ROCKS**

Nelson Algren was one of the great American authors of the 20th century, it is no exaggeration to say, and among the most neglected. Consider his underrated classic, "A Walk on the Wild Side." The title -- popularized and co-opted as an idiomatic phrase by Hollywood and Madison Avenue (institutions Algren loathed) -- is familiar to most anyone who speaks English or knows Lou Reed's lyrics. But the novel itself? Hardly.

[more](#)**BUSTER KEATON REVISITED**

Buster Keaton: Tempest in a Flat Hat is not a biography. "This book is merely a fan's notes," Edward McPherson writes in the introduction, although his publisher ignores the disclaimer and calls it a biography on the cover. In fact, the book is a bit of both, a difficult combination to bring off unless you're David Thomson, who set the standard with *Rosebud*, his penetrating rumination on the life and career

of Orson Welles, which was nothing if not a distillation of every obsessive thought he ever had about the myth and the man and all his movies. [more](#)

[more of me "elsewhere"](#)

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