

Letters for the week of March 21

Why is it that nobody is talking about how great it is to be living in a post-Cube world? I, for one, am glad that we were able to have such a subdued holiday season this year, soft economy or no. The overcommercialisation and consumer frenzy every year during the holidays has made me sick for decades, now.

We in Perplex City are a sophisticated, educated society. It's time we threw off the shackles of superstition the Cube has held us with for so long, and begun to view the world around us with eyes of pure science.

Ian Shivuto

I'm very disappointed in the Sentinel's coverage last week of the Michael Corolla murder trial. It seems like the reports are all concerned with the flash and glitter of the celebrities attending, and not at all with whether justice is done. How can the public assure themselves that our court system is working if we don't get good, thorough coverage of the facts?

In one article in particular, 'Corolla Closing Arguments Begin,' there are three paragraphs covering which celebrity athletes made an appearance and what they were wearing, and only one actually going over the closing argument that the prosecuting attorney made! I am ashamed of you.

Kylie Sharp

Thanks for doing such a great job with your series on foreign relations, and how they directly impact our lives here in Perplex City. I never understood before how important it is to keep track of world events, because I never really saw how they affected me. What a great service the Sentinel is performing in educating the public this way!

Emile Farrow

*Letters for the Week of March 28***K I T E W A Y U N F I T F O R
O F F I C E ?**

Even though I am a foreigner, I read with great interest John Cormoran's op/ed piece ("Kiteway Unfit for Office," March 21) on Sente Kiteway and his efforts to retrieve the Receda Cube. I find Mr. Cormoran's opinion hasty and impolite; no one doubts Mr. Kiteway's [sic] dedication to retrieving the Cube, indeed I would be hard pressed to discover any other significant effort put forth by the Council, Academy, or Perplex City citizen. While a year is a long time, the value of the Cube is such that it's not incomprehensible that great thought was put into its total concealment. Therefore finding the artifact is going to take even greater innovation, cunning, and ingenuity.

Mr. Kiteway seems to have tracked it to a general location, and this is a step in the right direction. He seems to have amassed a talented and loyal crew; this is encouraging. Let's not judge Mr. Kiteway by his failures, John Cormoran, there is verifiable momentum building behind this latest effort, which will undoubtedly, eventually, produce the Cube.

Chasen der Würfel

I see that yet another sensationalist editorial graces the Sentinel's headlines, this time not merely attacking the Master of the Academy, but also the people of Earth. I fail to see how the Sentinel can claim to possess any kind of journalistic integrity when it makes statements doubting the trustworthiness of people on Earth and accusing them of stealing the cube. There is absolutely no reason to believe that agents from Earth stole the cube, never mind the fact that they clearly do not possess the capability to travel to Perplex City!

You then went on to implicitly doubt the existence of Earth and our ability to communicate with them. Clearly you would have us believe that everything that we have learned about Earth over the past years and decades through the hard work of the Academy has been a fabrication -- all of their writing, music, art and data, all made up. It is hardly worth rebutting such a risible conspiracy theory; you evidently would not have the wit to understand it. You do a disservice to the memory of Emmi Hartlin and Redward Innes, and you can be assured that I am cancelling my subscription to the Sentinel immediately.

Sian Rodgers

I was disturbed to read Ian Shivuto's anti-cubist sentiments in your paper, especially in light of The Sentinel's highly critical editorial. Whilst I appreciate that Master Kiteway's stewardship of the Cube may not have been as thorough as might have been expected, surely such glee over the Cube's disappearance may indicate that suspicion points not within the Academy, but with anti-Cubists outside it?

I hope your reporters are investigating this angle as diligently as they are the flaws of the Academy.
Julianne Bowman

**M A D A M E B I A N C A ' S
F U T U R E**

The Perplex City Sentinel is now the only newspaper or magazine in the city that publishes Futures, a fact that is no doubt connected with its frankly shoddy and unscientific reporting. Exactly how the Sentinel can justify writing this ridiculous mumbo-jumbo is beyond belief! Any newspaper with an 'intelligent opinion' would surely be aware of Avancore's study demonstrating that the predictive power of Futures is no better than chance. He found 40 futures fans and presented half with their 'real' futures and half with fake

futures predicting the complete opposite. Both groups claimed their futures were 99% accurate!

As for the notion that the gravity of other planets could affect us here, a trivial calculation shows that the Ascendancy Point exerts far more gravitational influence on us than any planet! Are we to expect the Sentinel to factor the Point in to 'Madame Bianca's' predictions, or will you follow the rest of the rational thinkers of the city and remove Futures from your newspaper?

*Arrian Hampden, University of
Perplex City*

P C A G E J E C T S N U R U

Good riddance on those third-tier ejections. The sporting industry has no room for cheaters who use cognitive enhancers.

Pierre Badiola

*Letters to the Editor, April 1***MADAME BIANCA'S
FUTURE**

I was amused to read Arrian Hampden's somewhat damning letter entitled "Madame Bianca's Future," in the Sentinel dated March 28th. Arrian is obviously a man of great intellect, yet for all his 'rational thinking' he is missing one very important aspect of this debate: Humour. I'm afraid that Mr. Hampden is taking Madame Bianca's predictions just a little too seriously. One does not need the prestige of Perplex City's University to realise Bianca's entry for The Spider - "Should your subdolous ways slip, she'll snarl. Scarper." -- is a tour-de-force of poetic alliteration, not enigmatic prediction.

I'm sure I am not alone when I say that reading 'Futures' provides an amusing and welcome break from city news. I am pleased to see the Sentinel continues the tradition of printing Madame Bianca's predictions, helping distinguish itself from other papers in the city. Mr. Hampden, and those of similar inclination, should realise that taking oneself so seriously leads to dull and unhappy temperament. Take Bianca's advice: "Funnel your energies into something positive."

Johan Hart

In response to Mr. Hampden's letter to the editor of March 28th, I would like to say that I have followed Madame Bianca's column for many years, and it is an important part of my weekly decision making process. I will state that in the recent past I have not had 100% use of

the columns (I'm not sure who she is, or why she would be coming... so I cannot ask her), but I can claim that Madame has been very helpful in my life. Using Madame Bianca "ridiculous mumbo-jumbo" futures I was able to find a beautiful, reasonably priced home in Northside. Thank you, Madame Bianca, keep up the good work, and ignore the protests of those who obviously have not followed the advice you calculate from the stars.

Lana Frankel

KITWAY'S COMPETENCY

I am an Earthling and as such, the recipient of Sente's experiment -- Hang in there! While one of the articles in your "opinions" section is scathing of Mr. Kiteway's attempts at reaching Earth, I can truthfully inform you that he has been successful and that the search for the Receda Cube is well underway.

This search is being conducted by a team of specialists in many diverse fields and we assure you that no time is being wasted in the search for this important object. I am certain that Mr. Kiteway is under tremendous pressure at the moment and would appreciate whatever support can be given to him during what must be a difficult time for you all.

Anonymous ("Eclectic Munk")

I am writing in response to your recent editorial piece "Kiteway Unfit for Office." In my view, as so often before, both the article and the headline exposed Sentinel-characteristic attitudes, revealing lazy, extraordinarily trite thinking. "Kiteway in Trouble," "Earth is over-rated," and other similar articles of recent months simply underline the Sentinel's lack

of interest in one of the issues of greatest importance to the city.

This omission might have been forgivable in the past, but not now that that Earth has become so significant to us. We know the Cube is over there and soon we might be able to communicate with them individually! Instead of passing it off as just another fad, surely it's time for the Sentinel to devote some heavyweight journalistic resources and analysis to investigating the people of Earth?

Anyone who is willing to engage in an open and fair debate on this topic is welcome to contact me at [URL deleted].

Scarlett Kiteway

*Letters to the Editor, April 11***MADAME BIANCA'S
FUTURE**

Despite the fact that Madame Bianca seems to think our literature is light, calling it "Earth-lit," at least she sees fit to quote one of our big guys in this week's future for the Apple Thief. It's the start of Puck or Robin Goodfellow's final speech from William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." I would encourage all Sentinel readers to read the play. After all, it is about how a trickster plays some mind games with a group of young innocents and some actors. Is there anything to learn from this?

Simon Glen, Earth

EARTHLY ELUCIDATION

It's been more than a fortnight since the Cube hunters of Earth received our first glimpse of the Sentinel via the Academy. Two weeks and still no word of the trail that shall lead us to the supposed location of Perplex City's lost treasure, nor indeed a sign of the man behind the quest. Really, that Sente should initiate such a widespread campaign, and then spend his time hiding in the shadows and letting his student daughter doing the talking, doesn't make him sound like the kind of man to trust with retrieval.

So desperate are we on Earth to find the Cube that we've even resorted to thinking that the Academy has implanted hidden messages in the words and pictures of the very Sentinel itself. Ridiculous, surely? However, such brutal dissection of the information you provide is

confounded by the fact that we don't know what we're looking for in the first place.

I suggest the Sentinel follow the words of Roll For Damage's promising new album and Take Initiative when it comes to urging Sente to get a move on and tell us what we need to do and why we're doing it in the first place. Otherwise, we should take him to task as to whether he's really interested in retrieving this so-called important item at all.

James Lyon, Earth

As a citizen of Earth, I appreciate the Sentinel's efforts to recant their previous derogatory statements regarding Earth and its "reality." To imply that Earth is simply a fabrication is akin to implying that Perplex City itself is a fabrication, and while there will always be citizens of both worlds who believe the other to be a deceit, it behooves us all to rise above this pettiness if we are to achieve our shared goal, i.e.: The retrieval of The Cube.

I would also like to stress that at this time we are still at a nascent point in our efforts to assist in the recovery of The Cube. As such, I beg the citizens of Perplex City to give us (and Master Kiteway) their full support as well as patience. Understandably, the convergence of two diverse worlds and cultures is a terribly large and difficult undertaking and demands fortitude and persistence from all aspects. There will always be delays in such an enormous project, and I believe we need to focus on the task at hand, rather than allow ourselves to get sucked into the "blame game" wherein we lose sight of the ultimate goal. Rest assured that progress is being made to bring your Earth counterparts up to speed on Perplex City so that we may better assist you.

T H E P E R P L E X C I T Y

+ Sentinel +

STRAIGHT FACTS, INTELLIGENT OPINION

I, along with my fellow teammates, have vowed to invest full effort into assisting Master Kiteway with his retrieval process, even at the cost of our own livelihoods. Likewise, we can expect no less from the citizens of Perplex City.

Aurora Bosch, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, April 18***NORTHSIDE UP AND
DOWN**

I have read with alarm your reports the last few weeks about the alleged conflict over the Northside development. If one should actually read the Council's decision, one would discover that only a fraction of the park's lands are being opened. There will also be significant constraints on the environmental impact the developers shall be allowed. Where have these important facts been in your articles?

The implication that Northside is somehow a crucial last bit of wildlife refuge is the result of media hysteria and nothing else. What about all of our other fine city parks? If this were such an unpopular move, why only a mere few thousand protesters in a city with a population of several million? I think you will find that the opposition is merely a very loud fringe element, and the furor will die down before the first shovel has even broken ground.

Cora Howell

I couldn't agree more with Professor Sedgewick's sentiment that, "if we must grow as a city, we should grow in our hearts, and not in our borders." It need not be a black and white issue, though. Obviously it becomes difficult to "grow in our hearts" if there are more people than there is space, housing, and food. Overpopulation is as large a threat as is environmental negligence. Nevertheless, a community can preserve open spaces while still feeding and housing its people. With that said, I think development should be sought elsewhere and the Northside Preserve should remain protected and cultivated by the community.

J. Beloc, Earth

NURU'S PUBLIC SHAME

I wanted to thank you for your fine coverage of the scandal around that cheater Nuru. We are trying to convey a vital message to our children, that illicit cognitive enhancement is wrong. You are doing a fine service to our society by showing us the consequences of his misdeeds, and by extension, all who would try to gain advantage by immoral means. By all means keep up your excellent work.

Peter Greeley

*Letters to the Editor, April 25*J U D I C I A L B R O U H A H A

I am very disappointed in Judge Alice Zeller's eviction of the media from the Michael Corolla trial. A free press is absolutely essential to our open society. This move shows a callow disregard for the public right to oversee the judicial process, by removing the public's eye in the courtroom.

Particularly in this high-profile case, it serves the civic interest to be sure that even the rich and powerful of our fair city are held to the same standard of justice under the law as equal citizens. If the press is not allowed to report on this important proceeding, how can we maintain certainty that all our citizens are afforded absolutely equal treatment?

Carlo Veritas

S E A R C H F O R T H E
R E C E D A C U B E

When my fellow colleagues and I signed on to assist Perplex City in its search for the Receda Cube, we all were given the same message: "Patience is a necessary ingredient of genius." That being said, the people of Earth are inherently an impatient lot. Still, I believe the people of Perplex City and the earth team alike will be better off to endure this wait. The reason for this wait will become apparent to us all, and the Cube will be found. Until that time I am solidly placing my faith in Mr. Kiteway [sic], as I hope we all will.

David "Darkfall" Knight, Earth

Perhaps some of your citizens do not trust the people of Earth to return the Cube.

Perhaps they are right.

Quine, Earth

Just wanted to write a general thank you for your great reporting lately. Thanks!

lain, Earth

E A R T H N O T - S O - C H I C

I attended the Earthworks opening fête a week and a half ago. My wife and I have long been Earthophiles, so naturally we were delighted to receive our invitations in the mail. The store was handsomely arranged, and a lovely spread was provided.

We were, however, very taken aback by the quality of the goods available for purchase. Many of the items were shoddily constructed. The globes were not perfect spheres and failed to demark my pet country, Canada, altogether. I certainly did not appreciate the "vision" behind "Earthen Pop Hits as Envisioned and Interpreted by Aurora Belle;" the album played during our visit to the store and was truly painful. The "au courant Earth styles" included gentlemen's suspenders! Any Earth lover worth his salt can tell you that suspenders have not been worn on Earth with anything other than complete irony and flagrant fashion abuse in decades.

Proprietor Mitchell Alba is more concerned with his bottom line than with providing a truthful slice of Earth life -- a service, mind you -- for Perplexians. I shall continue to patronize Hannigan's, which has been replicating Earth goods for nearly twenty years. Lauren Hannigan takes great care in selecting her products and truly caters to a discerning clientele. Alba's business is merely a flash in the pan trying to cash in on the latest craze.

J. Randall Flynn

*Letters to the Editor, May 2***THE VALUE OF A
LEITMARK**

I am shocked and appalled at the attitude displayed in last week's editorial, "Kiteway Cheapens Honour of Leitmarks." I myself have a Games Leitmark from my youth, and I have always treasured it; I know what it took to earn it. But how can we possibly assume that any body of Earth-people do not themselves have the capacity to earn a Leitmark? I say we give the benefit of the doubt to our crew of would-be Cube Retrievalists, and let them wear proudly the badge of pride for our city.

Heidi Malkin

As one of the so-called ad hoc rabble I was rather dismayed to realise just how little regard the Sentinel seems to have for our voluntary efforts. We have been working hard on your behalf to help you recover your civilisation's most precious artefact with no recompense and now, it appears, precious little thanks.

Of course there are rumours that there may be some kind of financial benefit for the finder but this has not been clarified and so the people of Earth have been pursuing this for the joy of the puzzle, something we understand Perplexians appreciate themselves.

The Sentinel should realise it is time to put up or shut up - do you want your cube back or don't you?

Sheweevil, Earth

I will confess that I have no idea how much a Leitmark is valued in your society, and I cannot

imagine your outrage at something that clearly means so much to you being devalued in such a way. But this is no reason to call us a 'rabble of ad hoc Cube-hunters'. While we may not deserve such an honour as a Leitmark, we are doing our best to help you in whatever way we can, and insults such as this only serve to make us wonder if we should help a people who are so rude. Perhaps it is you who are dishonouring the Leitmark by dishonouring the city it represents.

Lucy Henderson, Earth

I have been a regular reader of your publication ever since it has been made available to the people of earth. Up until now I have not had cause to complain about its content despite a growing sense of the general 'earth-phobic' position of your paper. However I feel incensed by the recent suggestion that those of us involved in assisting the search for the Receda Cube are little more than an "Earth-dwelling rabble of ad hoc Cube-hunters". Many of us 'ad hoc cube hunters' have in fact been dedicating a vast amount of time and effort over the past year in our attempts to locate both the cube and those involved in its theft. This is despite the minimal contact that we have so far had with Sente, or indeed anyone from 'MC' on earth.

With regards to your claim that we have yet to prove our worth and intellect, I again take umbrage. The majority of those terrestrials involved in the search for your cube have worked extremely hard to make sense of the small amount of cryptic information that has been made available. If Sente is serious about returning the cube to Perplex City and expects the people of Earth to help, we will require assurances that all pertinent information will be made available to us as quickly as possible.

After all, us earth-folk have our own lives to lead and can ill-afford to spend so much of our time assisting what would appear to be an ungrateful Perplexian public.

Amy Russell, Earth

I was astonished at the Editorial in today's external edition of the Sentinel. Firstly can I congratulate your 'investigative' journalists on their discovery "that an Earth-dwelling rabble of ad hoc Cube-hunters may be issued with a Leitmark". It is hardly news that we are either Earth-dwelling or an ad-hoc rabble. As far as I understand it from the article "Leitmarks are awarded, not solely to winners, but to competitors who have most stretched their personal boundaries over the course of a competition." Assisting the citizens of another world in their retrieval of a culturally valuable artifact would seem to fit your criteria admirably. However it is not for me to judge.

I am also astonished that in yesterday's call for contributions in your "View from Earth" column you describe the "rabble of ad hoc Cube-hunters" as "an educated, carefully-considered group...large in spirit...and thoughtful in addressing the problems confronting us here at home."

The capriciousness of The Sentinel seems boundless.

The people of Perplex City may worry about their cultural heritage that the Leitmark represents, but the people of Earth (dilettente puzzle-solvers as may be) are aware of the current fashion in the City to buy reproduction Earth goods, reducing our own proud cultural heritage to a fad.

If you wish to test our resolve and ability to find and retrieve the cube, I invite you to do so; you will not find us lacking. You could do so in your own hypocritical pages. Until such time, reserving your petty judgements may convince us that your "shining metropolis by the sea" is worth our attention.

Mike Cox, Earth

I am appalled with your papers hypocrisy regarding your earth readership. In one article, you call us "educated" and "carefully considered" and praise our generosity in helping you find the Cube. However, in your latest editorial you condemn us as "dilettante puzzle-solvers" and imply that we have neither worth nor intellect.

We were not told of the honour Sente was bestowing upon us, and indeed, only a small fraction will be rewarded Leitmarks at all. Sente's intention was obviously to give us a symbol by which we can identify ourselves, and we will attempt to live up to the ideal that such a symbol presents.

The group that is hunting for the Cube is comprised of some of the smartest and most creative people earth has to offer. Many of us are experienced puzzle solvers, and we have people skilled in every field imaginable. We expect little in return for our help, and we will search for the cube to the best of our collective abilities. We only ask that you show the same politeness that we have shown you.

Erekose, Earth

I was very sad to hear how you are treating the hunters of the Cube. In your article published on 28. April 2005. you wrote the following:

“A Leitmark is something to be proud of. Something to place in a silk-lined box for your grandchildren to treasure. Something to include in your life’s list of grand accomplishments. It is certainly not something to award to foreigners who have proved neither their worth nor their intellects. Let this not be taken for xenophobia; the people of Perplex City would be glad to honour true achievement, but achievement has been notably lacking in Sente’s Cube-retrieval efforts.”

To start, sometimes you people at Perplex City don’t think about things like the Cube has been stolen, and if Sente Kiteway would reveal his plans and efforts on bringing the Cube back, then the thieves - who are still unknown to both You, Perplexians, and us, Earthmen - would have an easy job hiding the Cube so well that no one would ever find it again.

I would also like to tell you that my impression of the staff of PerplexCity Sentinel was that you are intelligent, smart and straight people, and now it really seems to me that you are making a media campaign against Sente, and his Cube retrieval. I also find revolting that a newspaper, that has “Straight Facts, Intelligent Opinion” has “Opinion/Editorial” type articles in the headlines - how could an opinion be a straight fact? Also, this opinion might not be as intelligent as some would think.

By saying “Earth-dwelling rabble of ad hoc Cube-hunters” you really insulted some of the people here. We were trying to form a good relationship, but may this be xenophobia or not, this is certainly not the way to treat allies, who are working for your good.

Again, there are things you might not be aware of. Not all sources are correct, and they do not always know everything. If you would have forgotten, Mr. Kiteway is STILL working on retrieving the most valuable object to Perplex City, and I am quite sure that judging his deeds does not bring him closer to finding the Cube.

Concerning giving Leitmarks to the people of Earth - we might not be as intellectual and smart and sharp, etc. as you, Perplexians are, and we might have not proved our “worthiness” to get a Leitmark. But I feel that the people of PXC haven’t done anything to retrieve the Receda Cube (at least, we haven’t seen anything in your media so far), while we are working on finding it 24/7. It might even seem like that it’s more valuable to us then it is to you. And if Mr. Kiteway would feel like giving Leitmarks to us, I would have to say that some of us might really deserve one. Although, I am not convinced he would really give us Leitmarks - or if he does, I am quite sure he has a plan by doing so. You, editors of the Perplex City Sentinel really have something to learn from Earth’s history, especially 1796 (though readers should ignore the middle of the end).

Please, do not judge people working for your good so easily, it might be better to take a look from an other point of view.

Kelsey Requiem, Earth

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Sentinel must humbly apologise to our Earth readership regarding the inflammatory language in our Opinion piece regarding the issuance of Leitmarks on Earth. We would like to point out that our Opinion pieces are not representative of the opinions of our entire staff, nor of the paper as whole. Rather, they are an opportunity for many voices within our ranks to be heard, without fear of repercussion or reprisal. Surely in your own world, the value of free and anonymous speech is recognised?

We do not intend for our Earth readership to take offence at our pieces, and we apologise most profoundly if this has been the result. Nonetheless, we cannot commit to stifling the free execution of our Opinion pieces in the future, and we regret any disharmony that may result.

Best regards,

Michiko Clark, Editor

*Letters to the Editor, May 10***STARS IN OUR EYES**

I totally agree with the View from Earth author of last week, Hannah Saks. It's easy to become so dazzled by the talent and intellect of our city's many artists and athletes, that we lose sight of the fact that it is their work and accomplishments that matter, and not their personal lives. Clearly we should steer away from the Earth's obsessive and frightening compulsion toward celebrity life.

Joanna Pomaran

I am very upset with the cold and unsympathetic tone of the piece "Alejo Arrested," which ran in the Sentinel last week. I have been a huge fan of Roll for Damage practically since they were formed, and I have myself met Alejo a number of times. He is a very sweet and sensitive individual, and I am appalled that your paper presented him as spoiling for a fight, when he was very obviously provoked by this callous cretin, Ian Petreson.

I understand the public's interest in the life of as prominent an artist as Alejo, but please, use some care when reporting on the very difficult personal troubles of a star who is enduring a painful span in his private life.

Zoe Roberts

EDITORIAL INTEGRITY

In response to your apology and espousment of free speech, I must say that a large proportion of Earth citizens respect and believe

in this notion. We have wars on our planet over this very issue. However, it is a rare occasion that such a piece will make front page news on any, but the most biased of publications.

Perplexians hold puzzles and the ability to question in the highest of regard. This is another similarity between our worlds. In fact it was an Earth philosopher who typifies this notion, best explained with this quote, "Wisest is he who knows he does not know." This idea was put forward over two thousand years ago by a man named Socrates. It also typifies a stance that has occurred to me numerous times since hearing of the missing Cube. We know very little about Perplex City, the Receda Cube, or the relationship between Earth and yourselves.

Perplex City has asked a lot of a people with whom there is no relation, nor has there been a genuine attempt to create that relationship [sic]. Now let me pose a little puzzle to you: Would you cloud your investigators in mystery, deny your police the tools necessary to solve a crime and turn any investigation they carry out into a treasure hunt that is little more than a joke? This is what your City is doing to those on Earth willing to help.

Philip Healy, Earth

LEITMARK REDUX

I am simply stunned at Sente Kiteway's blatant disregard of the prestigious nature of the proud and noble tradition behind the Leitmark. Although I am an Earthly citizen, I have grown very interested in the goings on of Perplexian affairs. At some point, I would like to vacation in Perplex City, if possible. I am, in many ways, a

+ Sentinel +

STRAIGHT FACTS, INTELLIGENT OPINION

strong supporter of the Perplexian custom and culture. So it fills me a certain kind of disgust when I read about things like this. Knowing the Leitmark will be worn casually by any person in the streets of Earth, blithely knowing not what they are doing is an absolute outrage. Sente should be ashamed of himself! When the people of Earth have accomplished something profound and noble in the name of Perplex City, then perhaps Leitmarks may be awarded. How can Sente justify this course of action in a foreign land which does not even have so much as one puzzle bar? If I see anyone in the streets here bearing one of these false Leitmarks, I shall decry them openly.

Zander Monroe, Earth

We here on Earth are searching for your Cube, because of your requests, and please note, we began to search before any mention of financial reward was made, purely out of kindness and generosity, and suddenly we are being described as “an Earth-dwelling rabble of ad hoc Cube-hunters”, and “a body of dilettante puzzle-solvers”! How dare you insult us so!? We have spent much time and effort on the search for this Cube, whilst being drip-fed information by an annoyingly reticent contact, and you dare to mock us so? Why should we return your cube, if all we get from you is insults and rudeness? If this cube is so valuable to you, perhaps we would be better to keep it for ourselves. Think on it, but not overlong, or a decision may be reached that you will not be pleased with...

Crane, Earth

Letters to the Editor, May 27

**S E N T I N E L P L A Y I N G
S I D E S ?**

I am concerned that you are not giving a balanced view on the Northside Preserve area. Your newspaper seems to be only presenting the argument for the development. We heard that there was a protest and five people were arrested, but what are their views? At the moment, I am undecided whether it should go ahead or not because I don't feel as I have been given all the details. A development can be sympathetic towards the environment and preservation. It can even have a positive impact. Has an Environmental Impact Assessment been conducted?

Matilda Akama, Earth

I am writing to congratulate the Sentinel on its masterful coverage of the run-up to the summer Mazy boat race. So often, newspapers allow themselves to be swayed by an interest in "facts" or an aversion to "bias." The Sentinel's piece last week "Tigers rule!" showed none of these unfortunate tendencies; the fawning interview with Tigers rowing captain Bamina Mulholland admirably sidestepped any serious debate concerning the injuries which have dogged her crew, the astonishing "history" sidebar was clearly designed as an enjoyable quiz for the alert reader, containing as it did no less than 12 serious errors of fact, and the failure to mention that the Tigers carry advertising for the Sentinel merely stimulated the reader's desire to enter the world of investigative reporting. Altogether I declare myself, as did your Sentinel reporter "nocked

[sic] over" by your paper's coverage.

Lianne Vay

**I N T E R W O R L D
R E L A T I O N S**

I am absolutely appalled that the Sentinel has not made any mention of all of the veiled and not-so-veiled threats that those horrible Earth people have sent in regarding the Receda Cube in the Letters to the Editor pages of the Sentinel. Master Kiteway has put a lot of faith in these people, and for his blind trust, we get suggestions that perhaps once the Cube is recovered, they will simply keep it! It is positively abhorrent that our Academy officials are continuing to work on an even footing with these kinds of people, and I seriously hope our government is making contingency plans on how to cope with these violent, angry people should they, in fact, seize the Cube and keep it for their own ill-conceived ends.

Thompson Fiori

It occurs to me that there are increasing ways and increasing value to the flow of information that could easily create a strong balance of trade between Perplex City and Earth. Besides the obvious creation of Puzzles for the multitude of websites and newspapers that carry them daily, the academy talents could be used to discover a pattern in our stock markets that we've failed to see. However, technology improvements and cryptography applications are likely to be enormously profitable for the people of Perplex city and likely to strengthen the Leck.

Stephen Casey, Earth

I recently read an editorial about "Kiteway Unfit for Office." I find it unfair for John Cormoran to be so negative of us, from our point of view, we find ourselves communicating with the unknown hoping good things come of it, for all we know you could be here to attack. Whether this Perplex City exists or not is why I want to help, if you really come from parallel universe or you're communicating through time.

I'm also very interested about the Academy Researchers and how they have managed such a feat in technology.

Hisatoshi Sato, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, July 8***A U R O R A S P E A K S O U T**

No thanks to you lot at the Sentinel but you may be dismayed to learn my life is fine and doing better all the time! I may be a public celebrity but I have feelings too and I was very cross indeed to see the terrible review you ran of 'Absolam [sic] and Tavent' that I was in. What have I ever done to you, I would like to know? Well the review plunged me into despair and the show was cancelled shortly after so I know it is all your fault. I would still be very angry indeed, but something wonderful has happened to me. I am in love! I will have you know that Alejo and I are indeed an item and we are very happy together! We are positively giddy with the joy of finding one another in this rough and rumble world that we are living in! You may be a bunch of third-class spiteful and mean bunch [sic], but you can never take away the love I have for Alejo and that he has for me!

Aurora Belle, Singer and Actress

**Y E T A N O T H E R
E N I G M A T I C W A R N I N G**

You would appear, from my limited knowledge, to be a friendly people, and it is in the spirit of friendship that I wish to give you a warning. On Earth we have many military organisations of all shades of political allegiance, both official and unofficial. Without debating the veracity of any communications you may have received I would advise you to be very careful before acting on information obtained from such military sources.

Tanner, Earth

R E L I G I O U S F U R O R E

I am shocked and appalled that the Sentinel summarily fired its advertising director for no reason beyond his religious views. Even the barely-civilised citizens of Earth have all manner of legal protections for persons of varying faiths! You should truly be ashamed of yourselves.

Georgina Harrold

Now the KT of Roll for Damage has announced he is a Recon, I find myself looking at our civic institutions with more and more fear, wondering if there is some secret fanatical agenda in even seemingly innocent actions of our leaders. We should rise up as a city and root out the influence of all who would subvert our democratic processes for the sake of some archaic mystic ideal.

Royce Von Toureg

I never thought I would see the day when even the Sentinel would let me down as a beacon of tolerance and logic in our beautiful city. I demand that Ryan Klein be reinstated to his position on the staff of the Sentinel at once, or I shall surely be canceling my own subscription, and encouraging everyone I know to do likewise.

Lola Braun

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

I am appalled that anyone would have the nerve to be so disruptive during a match of the Perplex City Academy Games - especially a match such as Myra Champaign's.

Here we have a young lady, falsely accused of using cognitive enhancers when it is a matter of public record that she has not used anything save that which was prescribed by her doctors - and has ceased to require them well before the start of this year's Games - attempting to prove that she can perform just as well as any PCAG athlete without resorting to performance-enhancing drugs, and what happens?

Instead of being cheered on and encouraged, this prodigy receives not praise for her excellent performance, but condemnation! Condemnation which, I might add, seriously impaired her ability to function, and almost caused her to lose the match!

Where does the self-appointed PCAG Gestapo - oh, excuse me, the Alliance for Clean Players - get the sheer, unadulterated NERVE to do such a thing? Freedom of speech is all very well, but that same freedom of speech carries the requirement that one exercise that right responsibly - and using that freedom of speech to distract an athlete is irresponsible in the extreme. I might even go so far as to call it CRIMINALLY irresponsible!

I recommend that Myra Champaign be allowed a rematch, and that those members of the

Alliance for Clean Players who so disrupted Ms Champaign's first match as to cause her both mental and emotional distress (and almost cause her to lose the match) be barred from attending the rematch - and indeed any further matches in which Ms Champaign may compete, until such time as they can utilize their right to free speech responsibly - and should they utilize it irresponsibly again, they should be charged with premeditated disturbance of the peace and criminal irresponsibility.

*PFC. Peter Walker, 255 UNSC
Marine Btltn, Late of UNSCRV
Apocalypso, Earth*

CONDOLENCES

Our hearts go out to the Salk family in their time of crisis. Pietro Salk's legend has spanned two worlds, and touched millions. He is in our thoughts this day.

Scott Myers, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, August 25***GOVERNMENT IN ACTION**

When will our governing officials learn that the only way to move ahead is to stop waiting on a perfect consensus first? This deadlock over how to spend development monies to renew the Old Town district is simply ridiculous. We have elected these men and women as our leaders, and it is time for them to step up and LEAD. Make some decisions, councilmen. It's your job.

Sandra Zamora

When is the City Council going to do something about the poor lighting in the government district at night? While it may be true that the area is only bustling during the day, there are a number of us who are residents here. I think we are entitled to the same accommodation as residents of busier night areas, like the Mobius Strip or the Dalia Way shopping districts.

Rodney Gannon

POLICE BUNGLE AGAIN?

My name is Shamus Leahy (call me Jimmy if we meet for a beer), and I am writing to you to express my concern over the lack of police work in the case of Pietro Salk's murder.

That's right -- murder.

I don't mean to be dramatic. But, I have over 25 years of police experience on this green Earth of mine, and men don't just fall into comas for no reason. I demand, as we all should, to see and hear of an investigation having begun.

I must be frank, and remark about how unsatisfactory the work of Eoin Morgan and the department as a whole has been. I know the Sentinel has been hard on Mr. Sente Kiteway, but I think the investigation over the Cube, Fran

Mending's death, and now the lack of investigation into Pietro Salk's death has been poor, to say the least.

I am currently at work on retrieving your Cube, like the rest of us Earth-bound sleuths, but I am officially offering my investigative services, free of charge, to Mrs. Salk and her family to find the truth around Pietro's death. Because, it's clear the Perplex City Police Department is not doing so.

Shamus Leahy, Earth

MISSING THE GOOD OLD DAYS

I want to see the Sentinel cover the failures in our educational system today. Our children rely too much on technology to get them through the simplest communication and research functions. Why, if I took away my great-grandchildren's keys, I don't think they would even know how to set up a real cobblestones board!

Edgar Sellers

*Letters to the Editor, September 1***MORE PCAG COVERAGE**

The Sentinel is doing a really poor job this year of covering the excitement and buzz of the PCAG championship season. It's true that the early part of the season includes far too many players to track all of them, and that it becomes easier to explain the standings as the field gradually narrows -- but that's no excuse for not even trying!

Yanis Barclay

**SENTINEL LOSING ITS
EDGE**

I'm very disappointed that the Sentinel is going so soft on those ruffians at the Academy, who lost the Receda Cube and haven't managed to recover it yet. Where are those hard-hitting editorials I've come to rely on? Did the Sentinel lose its nerve along with its publisher?

Cheche Orlin

NO LOVE LOST

I think it's just terrible that Alejo has dropped Aurora Belle so quickly, just because she sees a sunny future together. That man is going to have to give up his childish ways sooner or later and settle down and have a family. Now that we know how shallow he is, though, we can avoid the new RFD album as the work of a selfish boor -- Aurora deserves better than this!

Hamilton Yee

Hurrah for Alejo! I'm so glad that he isn't with Aurora any more. She's too clingy for him, and everybody knows he belongs with Joya and their baby, anyway. Aurora was just an obstacle between them.

Jennifer Frye

*Letters to the Editor, September 8***R U M O U R S O F W A R**

I'm very concerned about this idea that the Academy Museum may put up a war exhibit. Those dark days are long over, and I think it would only cause more injury to the city to dredge up such an awful time in our history. Let's focus on our proud moments, and not on our suffering.

Lucia Hanover

I hope it's not true that the Academy is thinking of covering the war in their museum. Dwelling on the tragedy would only glorify the acts of violence perpetrated in those times -- look at Earth, where war memorials dot every city and there is a war always going on. Do we want to follow that permissive example? Too clearly studying violence can only create a situation in which committing violence upon our neighbours becomes too easy.

Emilio Chen

P C A G P R E S S U R E

Thank you for writing about the PCAG's critically flawed drug testing policies. The way testing is implemented, successful players have in the past been statistically less likely to be selected for random testing -- and the successful players are just the ones who might be guilty of illicit cognitive enhancement! Articles like this will hopefully turn up the heat on the PCAG, and lead to a truly anti-drug culture within professional sports.

Camille Fournier

Ed. Note: We at the Sentinel would like to express our dismay and profound sympathy to the people of Earth regarding the tragic weather event in the southeastern United States. We in Perplex City are keeping you in our thoughts.

PCAG POTAGE

Letters to the Editor, September 15

LEARNING HISTORY

Recent letters from Lucia Hanover and Emilio Chen have given me pause for thought. I and many others on Earth fully support the full documentation and analysis of history, be it good, bad, or difficult to face. An Earth philosopher named George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." It's an important lesson that Perplex City would do well to learn.

SteveC, Earth

OLD TOWN, OLD TACTICS

For all that this Raoul Valentin thinks that he is breathing new life into the Old Town, I'll have you know that the Lighting of the Way celebration has been a tradition here for as long as I can remember. Valentin comes along, throws a few more lecks into the candle budget, gets the Council to cut support for festivities in other parts of the city, and we're supposed to call that 'urban renewal'?

If the city is truly serious about bringing new residents into the Old Town, they'll have to do a lot better than this. We need more than deceptive repackaging of our own traditions to help us. We need funds for public works projects and infrastructure improvement, and we need tax cuts for area entrepreneurs. When are we going to get real and meaningful change, Mr Valentin?

Bowen Fuller

I am worn to bits over the tiresome coverage of alleged 'drugs controversy' in the PCAG. I think we all know that this is almost entirely a media-driven issue. There is no compelling evidence that drug use among our athletes is as pervasive as the Sentinel and other news outlets are making it appear -- why, no athlete has been even suspected of actual drug usage since Nuru was ejected, months ago! It's time to let go of this dead subject and move on to more pressing news coverage.

Petya Park

I'm very concerned about the fate of young Myra Champaign. Her parents are doing her a woeful disservice by allowing her to be exposed to public scrutiny so early in life. It doesn't matter if she's 'enhanced' or not, or whether her gifts are given to her by nature or by science. The poor child is simply not mature enough to handle the hostility she receives from drug purists. I think her parents should pull her from PCAG competition for her own good.

Sun Vedat

*Letters to the Editor, September 22***W H I S P E R S O F W A R**

I am absolutely shocked at the article the Sentinel printed last week from that Earth writer, 'Cookster.' We are all terribly aware of the awful history of Earth and its ongoing wars, so how can we take advice from this source when it comes to addressing the topic of war? Have the people of Earth not realized that this constant rehashing and glorification of war been partly to blame for their terrifying failure at lasting peace? Perhaps the people of Earth should learn from our example, and leave the horrors of the past where they belong -- in the past.

Sharon Alvarez

In light of the completely poor taste of the last week's 'View from Earth' article, I sincerely hope the Sentinel will re-examine its stance on publishing Earth material. I understand that to some degree, sensationalism and shock value do drive newspaper sales, but this sort of thing is simply over the line.

Helmut Flannagan

Since the new Academy Museum curator has come on board, all we hear out of the Museum are rumours of preparation for a comprehensive exhibit on war and the city's history of war. If you, like me, feel that this topic should not be dragged out into public view as a distasteful spectacle, then please join me at a protest in front of the Museum on Saturday, beginning at 10am. Let's join together and make a stand for decency and peace.

Soo-Yung Rosenthal

*Letters to the Editor, September 29***WAR EXPERTS SPEAK**

In light of recent responses to certain articles regarding the subject of war (and the historical portrayal thereof), I have to wonder if perhaps those who so vehemently protest the display of part of their history might have something to hide.

Perhaps at some point their ancestors were in charge of the extermination of "undesirables," much like certain aspects of the Nazi regime of 1935-1945 -- a xenophobic fascist-expansionist regime which, has other major world powers not opposed their expansion with military force, would even now be in control of Earth, with a death toll of millions of soldiers and hundreds of millions (if not billions) of "undesirables."

Or perhaps they betryaed [sic] their homeland into the hands of an enemy, much like Vidkun Quisling: a high-ranking Norwiegan official who collaborated with the Nazi armies, providing them with detailed information about the location and disposition of Norwegian military defences, thus enabling the Germans to capture Norway with relative ease.

Or possibly they fear the discovery that their ancestors worked to develop weapons of mass destruction: chemical, biological, or thermonuclear weaponry designed not only to obliterate people, buildings, and vehicles, but also to so contaminate the land as to render it uninhabitable for decades, if not centuries or millennia.

Or perhaps they simply fear the disruption of their safe, comfortable lives and their safe, comfortable futures if someone should remind them of their past.

And to that last, I would like to remind them that "those who forget the past are doomed to repeat

it." Granted, Earth has had its share of wars, but look not at the soldiers to place blame and condemnation; look instead at their leaders, the Presidents, Kings, Premiers, and Prime Ministers who send them out to kill and die -- the leaders who have forgotten the horrors of the past, and thus are repeating them.

The soldiers, the guns, the planes, and the bombs are just the sharp end of the stick. Place no blame with them -- instead, lay it at the feet of those who wield the stick.

PFC Walker, Earth

It would seem that the issue of war is the only major cultural difference between that of Earth and that of Perplex City. Whilst we do not condone war in any shape or form, we do believe that remembering war is what keeps war from happening. The United Nations Organisation, which has prevented any mass war from happening. [sic] A massively destructive waeapon, the atomic bomb, has perversely prevented any wars happening between the two major super powers of the twentieth century. I myself am vastly aware of how war needs to be dealt with head-on, instead of side-stepping the issue. And this is why.

During the Second World War, the Japanese invaded the Chinese mainland, over-running Manchuria, Beijing and the coast. Because of the propaganda put onto the Japanese youth, the soldiers were told that the Chinese were inherently inferior to them, and that it was their right to eliminate them. The Rape of Nanjing, a principal city in the south was hit the worst. The male population was killed, and the women were systematically raped or killed. My family had managed to escape when the Japanese came. When they returned after the war, their families and freinds who remained behind were dead or diseased.

The remembrance of war, no matter how terrible, is important because it prevents these mistakes happening again. I believe a famous man once said -- "We must remember the mistakes of the past, in order to prevent the mistakes of the future." This message must be remembered.

I certainly have.

*Joshua Alexander Qi-Feng Yau,
Earth*

*Letters to the Editor, October 13*EARTH ADVICE

I'm writing to urge you to discontinue your 'View from Earth' column permanently. In the hue and cry rising from the Museum's insensitive decision to display war artefacts, I've found the Earthers' relentless egging of them on to be tactless at best and willfully seditious at worst. If we must work with these awful people to recover the Receda Cube, so be it, but let us not blindly let their influence seep into the very pores of our culture. The time is over for us to be treated as simpletons who don't understand our culture by a populace who continues to wage war to this very day.

Julia Roberto

I realise that the 'View from Earth' column must sell a lot of papers. It's certainly controversial, and Earthiness is something of a fad right now. Surely, though, it is time to step up to your rightful place as responsible shepherds of the public discourse. As such, I think it would be best for our people if you cease to carry the inflammatory 'View from Earth' column, for the good of our world.

Paolo Reade

TECH ETHICS

Words fail me when I try to express how horrified I am that Hesh Records would release The Silver City on an unsuspecting populace. I had thought we lived in an enlightened age, in which everyone took care to examine closely their own actions to prevent undesirable consequences. It would appear this is not the case. I hope all the city joins me in telling the City Council to ban Viard's album as untested and dangerous.

Clark Wooster

*Letters to the Editor, October 20***VIEWS ABOUT EARTH**

In response to your recent contributor's View from Earth article I would like to make it clear that the concept of 'ideas' being bad is by no means an Earth-wide view. In fact as humans we pride ourselves on our ability to develop ideas, schools of thought and arguments and to express these with all the protection involved in the right to free speech. Without the right to free expression of ideas we would be without the writings and influence of Fermat, Isaac Newton, Descartes, Annan, Einstein and er... Hasselhoff, to name but a few who may be familiar to consumers of Perplexian luxury foods.

Simon Douglas, Earth

I am frankly disgusted by the Sentinel correspondence of late suggesting that the View from Earth feature be dropped. Perplex City is filled with rational minds, who surely are aware that being exposed to outside influence does not equal any degree of corruption by that influence. Indeed, I feel that seeing ourselves through the mirror of Earth's barbaric excesses can only keep us on the path that has made our city so great. Please keep up this illuminating, if sometimes disturbing, column.

Falah Crowe

COUNCIL OVERSIGHT

When is the City Council going to step in and take a firmer control over the affairs of the Academy? From the concealed and oft-bungled Cube-retrieval efforts through to this outrageous and unacceptable 'war exhibit' at the museum, it is clear that the Academy is being poorly managed. One wonders what influence Master Kiteway has over the council to be left to his own arrogant devices in this way.

Eileen Dakarta

*Letters to the Editor, October 27***OPINIONS FROM ALL
OVER**

I recently purchased from Earthworks, who are, in the Sentinel's own words, purveyors of "high-quality replicas of Earthly merchandise." Did the Sentinel actually visit this store? The words "high-quality" and "Earth" appearing in the same sentence appear to prove they did not. A shirt of such "amazing quality" that it appeared to have been made by a five-year-old child? A single-use bound paper book, wasting our natural resources? If this is the quality of Earth-made goods, then thank the heavens we do not live on the other side of this divide. But perhaps this is all part of the council's ruse. They create this fictional place, seed these shoddy goods into our society and all of a sudden no one thinks our life is all that bad. Paranoia? Perhaps, but maybe I'm the only one with my eyes open.

Melissa Slang

Close the Earth link! The Cube is lost to us, we must forget our past and move on! These Earth people will only indoctrinate us with their circle-loving fetishes! We should look towards The Square to guide us now, only then shall our true destinies be realised! Can't you see?! Join me, join us, just contact me at to pay your initiation fee.

Received Anonymously

Ban the Viard album? Yes, of course, your reasons for it are perfectly satisfactory. And while we're doing that, we should use some brain-enhancing drugs to help us think about it more clearly. Hypocritical, no? It may sound it, but obviously not because we allow drug-taking junkies to enter our national games. However, music, now that's a big problem, our world could end if an album is released. Our youth shall become a rabble, and the economy will collapse. Get a grip people, it's only music.

Pat Levenhouse

Letters to the Editor, November 3

SILVER CITY

Thank goodness the council has finally seen sense and banned 'The Silver City.' The idea of our children's minds being subconsciously altered is disgusting and reprehensible. I can only hope that this ban will be followed up with an investigation into how Hesh Records could be allowed to get so far as to actually produce such a record before the authorities stepped in.

Alan Philips

I was shocked to hear the City Council has banned 'The Silver City.' Here on Earth we already believe certain types of music can alter brain activity, such as improving a baby's intelligence by playing classical music to them before they are born. Must we ban all music before it's released in case it alters our way of thinking? Or how about films or theatre, paintings or books? Any of those could change the way we think and feel and act. For that matter, let's stop anyone having an opinion as that might change someone's mind or even, heaven forbid, cause an argument.

Susan Arkill, Earth

YET ANOTHER
ENIGMATIC WARNING

What a surprise, another celebrity murder leading to another million-leck book deal. Does Michael Corolla have no decency? I'm sure his book will tell of all the trauma and pain he's been through, and how he's had to struggle with his feelings in deciding whether or not to tell the world every intimate detail of his fiancée's life and brutal death. Somehow, his heart and bank account were able to guide him to making the 'right' choice.

Ian Brackford

*Letters to the Editor, November 10***ADVICE FOR THE
ACADEMY MUSEUM**

May I say, as a citizen of Earth, I am academically interested in the war exhibit at The Academy. I couldn't agree more with the general populace on the subject's distaste. War is heinous and unpleasant, and I dare say no-one would argue this point. However I'm quick to add: Every thinking person in both worlds must consider it their duty to study the history behind their civilisation. History is not a subject we are meant to look back on gleefully and think how grand everything used to be. We are meant to look at the failings [sic] and successes of those who came before, and learn from [sic] them. Therefore, I would like to encourage and invite the Academy to extend some of their exhibits to the Earth audience, so we may all gain a deeper understanding of the matter at hand. Certainly a pictorial gallery may be considered.

Scott Myers, Earth

I had occasion to visit the new exhibit at the Academy Museum this week, and I think every citizen of the city should consider seeing it. While the journey can be emotional -- even very painful -- it only gives one a greater appreciation for where we stand as Perplexians and as human beings today. The exhibit does not seek to tear down the accomplishments we have made. Rather, it shows all the more how astonishing it is that we could have come so far. I hope the museum continues in this important work.

Brianna Fiore

Weeks pass, and the crowd of protesters in front of the Academy Museum grows ever larger. The time is coming when the City Council will be forced to step in and intervene. It has become very clear that this exhibit is unpopular, and there is, after all, an election coming. If it is the will of the people that the past should be left in peace, then that will should be done -- even if it takes voting out the entire council to get there. To Anja Marlowe: Now is a good time to start planning your next career, because your curatorship will be coming to a swift end.

Suki Maitling

*Letters to the Editor, November 17*LETTER OF THE WEEK

I think it's absurd that certain Cubehunters *cough* *oliverkeepers13* *cough* *Ryanandrew* *cough* *cough* have managed to pull ahead of the rest of the pack by "somehow" obtaining second wave puzzle cards ahead of schedule. Obviously, some kind of illicit activities have taken place. Now, I'm not one to spread rumors, but rumor has it that at least one of these evildoers assaulted upwards of five children in the process of stealing these cards. He beat up five children!!! I mean seriously, what kind of sick maniac does that? I think that two things need to be done to fix this problem. First, the source of the puzzle card leak needs to be found and plugged. Second, the five victims of this heinous crime should be given the opportunity to extract revenge upon their attacker(s). This Earth policy of "eye for an eye" was first put forth by the ancient leader Hammurabi, and in his honor I suggest a public stoning of the guilty parties. Obviously, five small children who have been recently injured will not be able to lift very large stones, so a large quantity of small stones will be needed instead. This might make the process lengthy and painful, but all the more fitting for such despicable vermin.

Ankit Jain, Hooville, Earth

SENTINEL UNDER FIRE

I find it unethical the amount of advertising of PCBC bank on your website. Do you not agree it is wrong to promote commercial banking in such a way on a popular website?

Paul Thomas, Earth

The Sentinel used to be a true pillar of democracy, never afraid of pointing out the follies of our leaders and institutions. Lately, though, the Sentinel hasn't been putting the pressure on the City Council, the Academy, business, or even the PCAG the way it once did. Has the Sentinel lost its drive for truth with its publisher? Is editor Michiko Clark not courageous enough to seek out truth and injustice wherever it might be found? hard question, but ones I think the Sentinel needs to be asking itself.

Diana Kung

*Letters to the Editor, November 24***LEADERBOARD
CONTROVERSY**

I am appalled that you should carry an article from the Earth primitives insisting on some ancient "stoning" ritual. Such a request runs contrary to all that we have been told about the alleged sophistication of Earth people but, I believe, shows them in their true colours! Perplex City has no need for the opinions of these benighted fools; let us break off communications forthwith!

Natasha Aldridge

I am outraged at these allegations towards me published in your paper. To even suggest that I would batter senseless FIVE innocent children? Despicable! The leaked cards I received were not at all tainted with the blood of five children. I have half a mind to sue. This paper allowed Ankit Jain to suggest, nay, flat out accuse Oliverkeepers and myself of theft, as shown in these direct quotes, "The process of stealing these cards" and "Obviously, some kind of illicit activities have taken place". So I put it to you, Ankit Jain, if that is your real name, that you are merely trying to spread rumours to satisfy your own petty jealousy, or even deter us from noticing your own wrong doings! Again, let me repeat, I am deeply disgusted at the allegations of being somehow involved in the beating of five small children.

It was merely two small children and a granny.

*Ryan Andrew, (Almost) Top of the
Leaderboard, Earth*

Why is the Sentinel wasting so much time and space covering the efforts of the would-be Receda Cube retrievers rather than more adequately covering our own PCAG championship? Why, when Serena Duncan fumbled a match last week and Ryan Cahill took the lead, it hardly warranted more than the barest mention, much less the in-depth analysis I had come to expect.

Amber Morrigan

*Letters to the Editor, December 1***C O V E R A G E G A P S**

The Sentinel never has any good news anymore! Where are the celebrations of our city's fine heritage and accomplishments? Last week, I attended a deeply moving performance of Triumph in a local theatre in the artist's quarter. Did this performance receive a review in your paper? Only a two-line summary! It is about time we started to appreciate what we have in this city, instead of constantly complaining.

Warner Elmerway

I have written to you several times on the subject of the appalling service now operating on the Perplex City subway system. Why, I was held up for almost *four minutes* last night on my journey home! This is a matter of extreme importance to the city, but your newspaper has clearly become dazzled by the culture of Earth, to the detriment of your city news coverage. Where is the campaigning spirit of the Sentinel of old?

*Jeanne Loamming***L E A D E R B O A R D
C O N T R O V E R S Y**

After recently reading the outrageous letter written by Ryan Andrew (the supposed name of the enigmatic culprit known only as Ryanandrew) I have come to the conclusion that I was wrong to demand his stoning. Anyone who savagely thrashes two innocent albino children and a quadriplegic 80 year old women with a lead pipe deserves much worse than a simple stoning. I call for the creation of a committee whose sole purpose will be the invention of a befitting method of execution for Ryan Andrew. I think that the heinous nature of his crimes, as well as the disturbing way

in which he publicly boasts about them, warrant a particularly gruesome punishment. I suggest something involving a corkscrew, a 9 volt battery, and a colony of fire ants. I'm not sure what one could do with those things, but whatever it is it'll be excruciatingly painful.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to respond to Ms. Natasha Aldridge's letter about the "benighted fools" who are trying to save her precious Receda Cube this very moment. How very hypocritical of Ms. Aldridge to view our society as "primitive" when, in fact, her own city eradicated all of its neighbors in order to end a prolonged and bloody war less then 300 years ago. If an outsider were to compare our societies, which would he/she deem more barbaric? Our history may be violent, but it is something we have been able to accept and learn from. Perplex City can only maintain its sense of cultural superiority by hiding its dark secrets from foreigners. As we have learned more and more about the truth behind Perplex City's seemingly flawless facade, I have become increasingly angered by the haughtiness of Perplexians who dare to scoff at us when they can not even face the brutality of their own history. I think that Perplexians should think twice from now on before looking down their noses at us.

Ankit Jain, Hooville, Earth

Letters to the Editor, December 8

**C U B E R E T R I E V A L
P R O G R E S S**

It is now perfectly obvious to anyone what a bang-up job the Cube Retrieval Team appear to be doing. With all of this information regarding the thousands of cube-hunters on Earth, it really brings a tear to my eye to think of how these people are selflessly aiding our cause and bringing new hope to our people. I hope that in return, we can bring the Light of the Cube to Earth and bring peace to their barbaric shores. Perhaps all of this was meant to be, in Gyvann's name.

Roland Cupertine

I am astounded to say that I saw Tippy Ankron, allegedly one of Sente Kiteway's 'Cube Retrieval Team,' at Conundra with Helix Hesh in the middle of the afternoon last week. It was clear from her state (if you follow me) that she had been there for some time, and had no intention of leaving to go back to work at any point in the future! Is this the level of dedication we can expect from the people working to recover our most prized artefact? The Academy should look into the hours and practices of this allegedly noble and hard-working team to make sure they are, in fact, working toward the best interests of the city, and not the best interests of their own leck-delving visions.

Lenora Carrick

**L E A D E R B O A R D
T I R E S O M E**

I, for one, am finding all of these 'Earth leaderboard' articles in the Sentinel tiresome. We all know perfectly well that there is progress being made on Earth, but that doesn't mean we must hear about every tiny solve by third-rate amateurs on Earth. The PCAG championship is in full and exciting swing, and it could certainly use the extra coverage!

Cora Fuentana

Letters to the Editor, December 15

**EARTH ISSUES A
CHALLENGE**

In response to Cora Fuentana's letter, I sympathize with her wanting to hear more about the PCAG. It does seem as though the sentinel should be focusing [sic] a bit more on this exciting cornerstone of Perplexian society. However if she thinks these are "tiny solves by third-rate amateurs", she should perhaps attempt some of the puzzle cards herself.

[EODMF XRUTH] WBBMC HGFIB LXCQY WEZFL
ITHPJ LFHWY ETKWY LJOTY YNGYJ BIOGI
FUVMR XIHGU RAGXH NQHRS XAWHU FJTAM
SMMOS MVBAA KPGVV WXOVM YKZPL LUL
[FHURG IFULP]

Scott Myers, Earth

JOYA AND MOTHERHOOD

I think it's tragic how poor Joya is going to be left to care for her new baby all by herself. Being a new parent is a very difficult time, and all the more so when you don't have anyone to share your joy and your burden. I hope her fans will respect her privacy during what will surely be a rough patch for her.

Ludwig Jones

We all know that Joya has been romantically linked to a half-dozen high-profile boyfriends (Alejo Jackson, Horace Shockley, Ryan Cahill) but it's time for her to settle down and lead a more modest lifestyle. It's simply ridiculous for her to be keeping up her late nights and irresponsible hours rather than resting and preparing herself for what lies ahead. If all of these so-called boyfriends really cared about her, they would be making sure that she was becoming emotionally and physically prepared for parenthood!

Yukiko Powell

*Letter from the Editor, December 23***A LETTER FROM THE
EDITOR**

The Sentinel would like to thank its Earth readership for its many months of support and interest. We regret to say that in the next week, we will be temporarily discontinuing the External Edition while the city concentrates on the first week of the PCAG finals. After the first week, the field has been narrowed considerably, so the External edition will resume its regular schedule in the new year, on 3rd January.

Although our solstice is over, we at the Sentinel would like to extend to you our warmest wishes that you should enjoy your own winter holidays, and of course have a joyous new year.

Michiko Clark, Editor-in-Chief

*Letters to the Editor, January 12***L I T E R A R Y T H U R S D A Y**

I was wandering along the banks of the River Mazy recently, and I saw an unusual sight. A single duck, sitting, motionless, gazing in my direction. Of course, it just couldn't be looking in my direction because ducks don't look... do they? I spent a few moments pondering this to myself, my vision blurring slightly as my attention was led elsewhere. Upon refocusing, a surprise awaited me. My solitary duck, the strange character that he was, had now gained two companions, similarly still, piercing my shell with their gaze. Five minutes I stood watching their hypnotic bobbing. And then, in the blink of an eye, they had scattered, leaving but a watery ripple. I have my eyes on the ducks.

David Glosh

P C A G J U D G I N G B I A S ?

I think that the judging call on Wednesday night that eliminated Maureen Fender-Hu from the finals was an absolute outrage. This was most certainly a case where following the sheer technicalities of the situation was willfully disregarding the spirit of the tourney. While it is true that Ms Fender-Hu did not ring in her answer correctly, review of the footage from that particular linguistics match reveals that she very clearly came to the correct answer far and away before Ryan Cahill did so, proving that the officials are more interested in pandering to the fans of most-favoured players rather than rewarding true skill. The leaders behind the PCAG are aware that a finals match between Ryan and Serena is what the fans are expecting, and they are determined to provide that... whether or not it is fair.

Dot Frouden

E A R T H E D U C A T I O N

Those Earth people get right up my nose. Have they not heard of such things as spelling and grammar? I hear from one of my inside sources at a top Perplex City newspaper (guess which!) that their View From Earth articles have to go through extensive editing to even make sense. And they expect us to read their articles and listen to their viewpoints? Listen up Earth, learn to spell.

Ivory Wintington

*Letters to the Editor, January 19***SEXUAL POLITICS**

When I read the View from Earth column 'Sexual Politics' last week, I was horrified at the Earth-centric base assumptions the author made. Unlike on Earth, where artificial categories of people are by turn oppressed and defended, we have no such bizarre subdividing in Perplex City. We have many notable men in the city who love men, and many notable women who love women, as well; but why is this placing of affection something that needs to be separated and defended? I know that I have never been attacked or snubbed because of my own relationships with women. What next, will we be scolded for not vigilantly defending the rights of people who have green eyes?

Charlotte Fanning

I find myself puzzled by the View from Earth column, 'Sexual Politics,' of last week. The author appears to believe that there are no homosexual people in Perplex City, or that such a group is vilified and secretive, as it apparently is on Earth. I can assure you that this is not the case. Many successful and highly-respected 'gay' persons have very visibly dated and even marry individuals of their own gender. Among them are, of course, myself, Academy Senior Fellow Margaret Wildwood, and the PCBC's CEO, Walter Cove-Houghton. It's not that we have shame or fear; it's just simply not significant enough to remark upon.

Keenan Thoreau

I wonder at the View from Earth column of last week that accuses Perplex City of being intolerant of same-gender sexual preference. I, for one, have never felt that my individual rights limited by my sexuality; though it is amusing to note that the Sentinel and other press want me to be romantically involved with Joya, despite the fact that this is not historically in my nature.

At any rate, I assure the concerned people of Earth that there is no concerted effort to obliterate same-gender romances, nor any effort at all. Though we do appreciate the sentiment, I suppose.

Ryan Cahill

*Letters to the Editor, January 26***TASTE AND DISTASTE**

Why must the Sentinel keep publishing these frightfully distasteful columns and letters addressing war? While it may have become fashionable in some quarters to openly discuss such shocking affairs, I was brought up in a traditional and wholesome Perplexian household, where we knew that some subjects are not a fit topic for discussion. You may find yourselves selling more papers in the short term, but over the long term, your outrageous statements will only lose you readers such as myself.

Arturio Fenton

All my best to the Sentinel for continuing to push the envelope of public perception. The Sentinel's ongoing View from Earth columns addressing subjects of war and violence have certainly helped to open my eyes to the fact that there are more ways to look at our history than the limited and hushed gloss-over we are given in school. Keep up the good work.

*Helvi Arroyo***MORE LETTERS, PLEASE**

Why has the Sentinel discontinued printing letters from Earth readers? I always found those insights truly compelling. You should certainly try to resume printing them.

Aderi Woodman

*Letters to the Editor, February 2***CREDIT WHERE IT'S
DUE**

Your recent interview with Roll for Damage lead singer Alejo Jackson, in which he mentions the band's intense recording sessions and how they recorded the day that the city discovered the Receda Cube was missing, got me to thinking. Jackson mentions only three employees of Hesh records, but does not even acknowledge the many other people that it would have taken to put the album together. The Viard album released recently on Earth was accompanied by no form of credits or acknowledgements, simply that it was by "Viard" and produced by "Hesh Records", yet I'm sure many people put a great deal of time and effort into making the album. Here on Earth we have a custom of giving credit to the people who worked on things, with albums having a sheet inside containing the names of the performers, producers, and engineers who worked on the album, and several minutes of on-screen credits are added to the end of film and television works. It would be nice to learn such details about the artistic works that we are seeing come out of Perplex City, as I am sure the people behind the scenes are just as talented and worthy of recognition as those in the public eye. How about giving credit where credit is due?

Daffy, Earth

**INQUIRY FOR PCAG
FANS**

As a member of the Earth Cube Retrieval Team, may I say I am wildly enthused at the prospect of playing in the PCAG event, planned here on our blue planet. I get an utter sense of jubilation at the prospect of engaging in the proud and noble tradition. However, I am a bit nervous, specifically, about treading on the established traditions and practices of proper PCAG events. My question to the populace of Perplex City is this: are there some things which Earth players should plan on doing, saying, wearing, or otherwise engaging in, in accordance with the tradition of the Games? Of course, I imagine some disgruntled Earth-haters will probably say "Live in Perplex City." But short of this, any advice? Jazz-hands perhaps?

Scott Myers, Earth

**COUNCIL INFLUENCE
BOUGHT?**

I, for one, am terrified that as unpredictable a group as the Recons have had any major impact on our city's government policies. These religious extremists have long refused to co-operate with the mainstream of society, even going so far as to isolate themselves from our communications infrastructure. Why should people so far off the beaten path be allowed to dictate the actions of the City Council just because they have the lecks to throw around?

Heather Kelik

*Letters to the Editor, February 23***EARTHLY LEITMARKS**

I am appalled that the Academy has once again seen fit to award leitmarks to the people of Earth. This newspaper has shown time and again that Earth is a world of war and waste -- yet you endorse these new awards. That planet of glory-hunters and copycats deserves no such recognition from our noble Academy. I urge the Academy to reconsider.

Asrian Teuraud

I am so excited that the people of Earth are being awarded leitmarks for their efforts in searching for the Receda Cube. While some elitists may sneer at this imagined affront, I ask them: what nobler calling can there be than helping the city to locate and retrieve this priceless artefact?

*Candace Azad***CRIME WAVE**

Once again, we see that the crime levels in the city are spiraling out of control ('Police Arrest pair of Arson, Vandal Suspects'). Not only is the Old Town becoming increasingly dangerous, but now even the Artist's Quarter isn't safe. I already fear for my life when walking down Milamont. It's surely only a matter of time before the whole city is swamped by tidal wave of crime.

Maxim Tsuki

*Letters to the Editor, March 2*W H O C O P I E S W H O M ?

In response to Asrian Teuraud's letter from last issue, while our world full of 'copycats' may not be perfect, remember this: "people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones". Maybe you could add that to the growing dictionary of phrases you've 'borrowed' from our world. It's one thing to copy a role-model, but to copy an entire culture? Not that I'm complaining, sharing cultural diversity is something we on Earth value -- maybe you should do the same with your leitmarks.

Lyle Enigmaster, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's first Letter of the Week. Mr. Enigmaster has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

E A R T H L Y G R A T I T U D E

As a participant in the recent London, Earth, PCAG I would like to extend my thanks to those who organised and took part in the event. From a perplex city perspective, if the collaborative efforts of the earth organisers and players are anything to go by we should find the cube before too long. I was, however, surprised to find the PCAG players relying so heavily on running around shouting. Somehow I get the feeling the games in Perplex City may be somewhat more cerebral?

number9dream, Earth

S N O W B L I N D

Following the recent snowfall, it again became abundantly clear that the Council remains unable to cope with cold weather, no matter how predictable it may be. Public buildings were underheated and the roads slowed to a pedestrian pace. Must we go through this same chilling experience every year?

Ardman Scatz

*Letters to the Editor, March 9*R E S P O N S E S

As a resident in the earth [sic] country of England [sic] it is refreshing to see that your correspondent Ardman Scatz (letters: 03/03/06) describes a scene of weather chaos in Perplex City which would be familiar to anyone trying to commute to work in an English winter. I find it incredible, however, that both of our technologically advanced societies are completely unable to devise ways to cope cleverly with the weather. From the disappointments of abandoned football matches to the 'wrong kind of snow' affecting the railways, we should not be still struggling to live normal lives in the winter.

numberdream, Earth

I would like to ask Lyle Enigmaster, [sic] why he is stuck in a greenhouse and feels so strongly about not throwing stones, [sic] why he and so many other people live under such constrained conditions where [sic] they feel they can't throw stones is beyond me. Obviously the somewhat cliched metaphor Lyle is referring to is to do with new radical ideas, [sic] that can have profound effects on society, but surely if we were all copycats, [sic] or sheep we would still be knocking two stones together and going 'um', and not much else. However, we do not, because we as humans have the ability to think for ourselves, a virtue that seldom few of us choose to use. One must argue that there is too little of individual thought, [sic] individuality must be sought out and valued with in [sic] our ever 'average' society, [sic] by being copycats we lose this sense of the individual and instead we are left with a boring mass of office workers, [sic] please for my sake, be individual. Everything will be better!

*Edward Legg, Earth*E V E R Y O N E H A S A N I D O L

I was delighted to read your profile of Anna Heath in your recent Sentinel edition. Mrs. Heath is a shining example to all working mothers, proving that every one of us should be capable of raising a family and pursuing a successful career. I salute her and her husband for their efforts.

Bacci Pascoe

I remain surprised that Helix Hesh is the only man with the foresight to promote Perplex City music on Earth. We've known for years that many sectors of Earth culture share our aesthetic values, and our citizens spend a fortune on Earth music every year. Why not bring some money back into our economy by giving Earth music fans what they want? The recent Alejo chat with Earth revealed a solid fanbase with an interest in sonic engineering. What are we waiting for? Our culture should be celebrated and shared, not hidden and squandered.

*Chino Delaware*C R R L I N K C E N S O R E D ?

I found the interview with the staff of mind candy [sic] very interesting [sic] especially about the nature of the link between worlds. "no-one [sic] is intentionally censoring anything" [sic] But how do we know? As only transitions [sic] can currently go though [sic] all we can receive is "word of mouth" and no hard evidence of the facts we are given. On Earth when things have been censored [sic] be it films, books or peoples [sic] opinions we usually will what to find out about the uncensored truth. With the link being the only way of getting any information from perplex city [sic] how do we know what we get is true or just half truths? Is what we don't know wont hart us or is ignorance really not bliss. [sic, for the entire sentence]

Martin Baker, Earth

Ed. Note: The Sentinel has chosen not to award a Letter of the Week prize for this week, due to the singularly poor grammar and punctuation of this week's offerings. Our editorial board would like to advise that greater care be taken in future by Earth readers hoping to achieve a Letter of the Week. Future recipients of the award will receive five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard.

*Letters to the Editor, March 16***STOP, WE'RE BLUSHING**

I am writing to tell all of the people, both directly and indirectly involved with any part of this scrumptious publication, that I think you are doing a tremendous job! I have been reading The Sentinel for quite some time now and I am always impressed. You tell it like it is, informing and entertaining at the same time. Now that is quite a skill! However, by far the most impressive, you keep us together. You constantly keep Earth in touch with Perplex City, through the medium of a simple online newspaper. If I were currently living in Perplex City, I wouldn't have to think twice about paying PCL2,350 for a year's subscription! I thank you for the brilliant publication and look forward to the next great issue. Keep up the good work!

Magicmancraig, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the prize.

HEAR, HEAR

I am writing to express my profound hope that the poor quality of letters that the Sentinel has recently published from Earth soon be rectified. I do not wish to publicly (or privately) attack those who write letters -- they are often good quality. But the fact that the editors decided to withdraw from the awarding of a Letter of the Week speaks for itself! Come on, Earth, if you write a letter to an Earth-based newspaper, you take the time out to make sure that it is correct. Why should the Sentinel be any different? Let's get those spell checkers into gear!

Paul Williams, Earth

PEOPLE WITH AGENDAS

I believe the time has come for people to reassess the true impact of Barrow-Feld Syndrome. Those afflicted with the disease should be treated with sympathy, not revulsion. Until we can learn greater tolerance, I fear we will be no better than Earthlings.

Tassos Bhuna

I was surprised to learn that not all citizens of Perplex City are opposed to sharing more of your culture with us here on Earth -- given the recent events, such as the anarchist graffiti and the assault on Mr Drake, I would have expected the anti-Earth sentiment to have grown stronger.

I personally am interested in learning more about Perplex City culture. Having noticed several similarities already -- for example, the Perplex City Auxiliary Volunteer Police bear a striking resemblance to a volunteer law-enforcement group on Earth known as the Guardian Angels, and Viard's "Heartfelt" seems to share elements of style with the work of Earth artists such as VNV Nation and Orbital -- I would be most interested in learning more about Perplex City.

I hope that those who make the decisions regarding what to share with us on Earth and what to hold back will see the wisdom of Chino Delaware's statements, and act accordingly.

*PFC. Peter Walker, 255th UNSC
Marine Btln., Earth*

*Letters to the Editor, March 23***OTHERWORLDLY
CUISINE**

I was pleased to note that 'seafood is the entree of choice for diners this spring.' As an avid seafood fan (my home town is a fishing port) I thought I would share one of my favourite recipes. Best server with a light white wine this one always pleases and provides a warming start to any meal. I do hope you will publish it for the citizens of Perplex to read and, hopefully, enjoy.

Calamari Salad

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 10 minutes

Ready in: 25 minutes

Servings: 8

Ingredients:

1/2 cup olive oil
 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
 2 cloves garlic, pressed
 1 cup dry white wine
 1 cup water
 1 pound squid, cleaned and cut into rings and tentacles
 1 cup chopped celery
 1/2 bunch chopped fresh cilantro
 1 green bell pepper, chopped
 1 red bell pepper, chopped
 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped
 1 cup chopped cucumber
 1 bunch fresh green onions, chopped
 1 bunch chopped fresh parsley
 1 cup jicama, peeled and shredded
 1 jalapeno pepper, finely chopped

Directions:

In a small bowl, mix the olive oil, red wine vinegar, and garlic. In a medium saucepan, bring the wine and water to a low boil. Stir in the squid and cook

until opaque, about 2 minutes. Drain and cool. In a large bowl, mix the celery, cilantro, green bell pepper, red bell pepper, yellow bell pepper, cucumber, green onions, parsley, jicama, and jalapeno. Toss gently with the squid and the olive oil dressing mixture. Chill until serving.

GuiN, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

**SENTINEL
PERFORMANCE REVIEWS**

Vanity, thy name is Sentinel. How could you people have conscienced to award Letter of the Week to a missive so lacking in substance as magicmancraig's? Surely your editorial staff have better judgment (I know I've seen more worthwhile articles than not) and more stable egos than what allow them to print this piffle? Michiko? Gunter? Ilja? If you would like me to tell you you're smart and attractive, I'll say it. But I don't expect to see such self-congratulatory drivel put up on the front page. Flattery will get you nowhere, and false flattery will do you in. I would like to see a little more credit given to honesty over empty platitudes in future pages.

Colin Clark, Earth

Whilst the View from Earth column in your newspaper has received mixed receptions from Perplex City residents, I personally believe it is an excellent idea. With your readership increasing from Earth, would it not be prudent to perhaps have a 'View from Perplex City' column as well - to help us Earth people understand more about your culture? We on Earth have many questions about the differences and similarities between Perplex City and Earth, for example: What is your solar system like? What lies outside Perplex City? How does your economy compare to ours? What is

Perplexian food like? I could go on for a long time... and not all questions could be answered by a single weekly column, however, any small snippets about life on Perplex City you would care to share with us would be of great interest to your avid Earth readership.

Josiah

Congratulations to all the people working on the Perplex City Sentinel for its successful one year external edition that has been available to all of the citizens here on Earth. On behalf of myself and many other people on planet Earth, I would like to thank you for providing such top quality reports and informative insights throughout the past year. My knowledge and understanding of Perplex City and its culture has greatly increased whilst reading the articles featured in the Sentinel.

Once again, many congratulations and all the best in the future.

Onionring, Earth

Thank you so much for providing Earth with such a quality newspaper. I recently became one of the Perplexed and I had no idea of where to start. Luckily with the help of your paper, I was able to look into the archive and understand what was going on. You all do a good job of keeping new users in the loop as well as old ones, thanks again for helping this young searcher on his way to finding the Receda cube.

Chris AKA Linkz, Earth

BUT IS IT ART?

Letters to the Editor, March 30

GOSSIP IS UNIVERSAL

As a new reader of the Sentinel, I would like to say that it is always an informative and interesting read. Despite what Jo Stroud says about the superior intelligence of residents of Perplex City (View from Earth: Education Matters) I am delighted and comforted to know that you have as much of a fascination with celebrities and gossip as we do!

Although I have no real idea who Helix Hesh (who apparently was spotted out at late-night hot spot Cervantes with none other than PCAG star Serena Duncan) I am immediately interested in him and his life. Perhaps you would like to know about our bad-boy actors and who they've beaten up recently or our minor royals and the unsuitable people they are currently dating?

Maybe gossip emphasises the similarities between our people and can only help with co-operation between us. We seem to have the same feelings, problems and concerns and this can only help to make us seem more real to each other. I know some of you there still have doubts in this area!

We on Earth must be fascinated by your story already to be spending so much time and effort trying to find something that we know very little about. So if you cannot tell us more about the Receda Cube yet -- at least let us know how Tippy Ankron took the news of Helix's possible infidelity!

Berni Williams, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

How can the Council justify wasting thousands of lecks on a pile of worthless ashes ('Bristle's Spring Show Gets Council Approval')? Is this the price of so-called art these days? Not only will it cost the city a fortune to police the 'performance piece' but it will also cause an unnecessary obstruction in the middle of Azad Park. Worst of all, we can't even burn the artwork in protest.

Manni Aldred

CLUE FROM EARTH

Though I have only in the past few days become aware of Perplex City and the theft of the Receda Cube (and am still in the process of catching up on all that I have missed), I must say that I am fascinated by your fine city and its culture. Being a great fan of puzzles and games myself, the prospect of a society in which they are a ubiquitous part of daily life is inspirational, to say the least. I hope someday to be able to visit Perplex City and experience its wonders firsthand, but in the meantime, in the spirit of partnership and brotherhood between our peoples, I'd just like to say: listless music and Chandler's hint returned salute(7)!

Rifflesby, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, April 6*TRUE COLORS?

We have a long tradition here on Earth, expressed through our cinema and writing, of preparing for the inevitable invasion of our pretty blue globe by ungodly forces from the sky, or wherever exactly you, you -- people -- plan to descend from. Some of us will set to weeping, I'm sure, all romantic like about our "great friends" from Perplex City here to usher us into a new age of peace and puzzles and other hippy dippy communist crazy talk. But before you slither, bound, or whatever obscene locomotor gyrations you make, from your sky-darkening planet-destroyers and dare to set foot on our planet, you'd better know that you're not fooling all of us. When you do finally get here we'll be waiting, me and the boys. Through our brand of entertainment/education called "science fiction" we've seen ourselves lasered, invaded, taken, scorched, enslaved, eaten -- the whole nine yards. We always end up on top. That's our way when faced with foreigners who try to steal our women (don't say you don't want 'em -- we've seen pictures of yours, blech; they're so bony you could carve a roast on their faces). Yeah, we know, your kind always say that you come in peace and then it's a raygun in the face and cold, metal weasel up the jacksie. Not for this patriot, buddy. You think you're so smart, so advanced and la dee da, well all I have to say is "bring it on, alien scum!"

PS. Is it true that when you come you'll eat the fat ones first?

Colin "EvilGenius" Briscoe, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

COMBINED LABOUR

I hope you publish this letter, so that all of your readers are fully aware of how much we (Earth) are pulling together to try and recover the cube for you. Ignoring racial, cultural and social differences, several members of the Unfiction.com forum on Earth have banded together to break one of the hardest cards that you have set us to date.

Thanks to an absolutely fantastic effort on the part of Chimera245, a client is being tested that allows us to donate our spare CPU time on our computers, to decrypt the code. Early results are extremely promising and a proper release is just around the corner. Anyone looking for more information should keep an eye out either on the Unfiction forums or at the website that has been setup specially for this one card, www.13thlabour.tk.

It is now only a matter of time before this card falls like so many others and with the release of Wave 3 imminent, there is a real sense of urgency to clear the last couple of cards (maybe not Riemann.....) before the next wave comes out.

I wonder if there has ever been any similar attempt in Perplex City, where people from all walks of life have joined together to collectively solve a puzzle that would take one person most of their life to solve?

NDoldon, Earth

Ed. Note: The Sentinel cannot be held responsible for the content on external web sites.

SOUPERY QUALITY

Is it just me, or have the standards in Soupery declined dramatically in recent weeks? I ordered the leek & truffle soup on Monday and found it quite inedible. Has anyone else suffered the same culinary anticlimax?

Jusi Spackmann

*Letters to the Editor, April 27***FROM THE BIZARRE
RANTS DEPARTMENT...**

Having followed Tally's domination of the leaderboard with great interest I have noticed a distinct lack of progress in recent days. Having described herself as a sprightly 97 year old and been reported by the Perplex City Sentinel as a participant in the Live Event (below):

"Tally Climbs to Top Place on Leaderboard

By KATE BREWSTER

After climbing to the top of the leaderboard by way of her team's fourth place result in the London PCAG event, Ramazel has now slipped to third place. Tally, a 97-year-old from the UK, has overtaken her for the top spot. Tally was part of the second place team at the London event, earning 200 points."

...there was no reason to doubt this.

So what could have inspired this lack of effort and interest in the Wave 3 cards? Maybe, I thought to myself, she was poorly -- or the excitement of W3 had given her a funny turn and she'd had to have a lie-down.

However, on further investigation, I discover that she has miraculously reverted to the age of 38. This would explain a lot -- finding the Elixir of Youth would certainly take precedence over solving cards to find a cube... then the thought occurred to me - What if the two were related?

Maybe -- as she was way ahead of any of us -- she had actually FOUND THE CUBE?? We have been told that it has amazing and miraculous properties. Perhaps it bestows eternal youth on the one who possesses it?

If the Cube has been found, I think we should be told. In the meantime I shall keep an eye on her profile for further changes...

Bunnery, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

It is with great amusement that I note how you Perplexians have yet to ken just how that Cube of yours could have made its way to Earth. The answer ought be as obvious to you as it is to all of here on my planet. Oh, yes -- we know exactly how your cube-thingy came to be here. I think it's cruel how my compatriots have kept you in the dark about this truth, playing with you like a cat with a mouse. Shall I spoil the fun? Clothes dryers. There, I've said it. Since the earliest patents for this diabolically protean contraption were granted to George Sampson in 1892, we on Earth have been engaged in nearly constant interchange with beings from another dimension. Until now we didn't know your name but we knew you were out there. At first with befuddlement, and later with a glimmer of understanding, we have been exchanging what we can only assume to be the appropriate currency of such transactions - socks. You call then "lecks" it seems. Odd, isn't it, how that our different cultures have settled on such similar names for things...

It had long been assumed that the vagaries of multi-exhaust manifolds in spacetime meant that we could only transmit footwear across the Void. In recent years, however, it has been recognized that socks (sorry, "lecks") have been manifesting themselves in our new-fangled, high-efficiency dryers with ever-increasing frequency. Who knew that it was simply a technological limitation?! My laundry is now regularly flecked with clothing of other-worldly provenance -- lecks and more, like panties and the odd thong. Sometimes

what appears to be wadded-up paper, keys, the occasional handful of loose change is discovered lurking in the trap. While I must say that I am grateful for the newer items I would prefer to have my original items back. My solitary sock collection is growing vast and disturbing. What you must be doing with the ones inadvertently send to you I can only imagine. In any event, this mode of material displacement is surely how your Cube was sent here -- someone must have put the thing on the "Delicate" cycle or whatever you people consider safe for polyhedras. I can tell you from experience that more cubes get misplaced this way than all other causes combined. Myself, I have experimented with cubes of sugar, chalk, and talc, and have successfully transmitted them every time, leaving the dryer entirely empty!

I hope that clears up matters for you. Should we locate your Cube, rest assured it will go in with the first load. If you need further enlightenment regarding multi-exhaust manifolds, just send along an Argyle, holed tube sock (no stripes, please), and a pastel thong to: Dryer #3 (from the left), Sit and Spin Laundry, Vancouver, Canada, and I will get right back to you.

EvilGenius, Earth

PS -- Is a Receda Cube safe with colours?

**. . . A N D M O R E M U N D A N E
A F F A I R S**

Isn't it time the Council stepped in to control the AQ's ridiculous property prices? I realize that space is at a premium, but surely something should be done. Immediate action must be taken.

Amerada Hunter

*Letters to the Editor, May 4*ART ELITISM

As a young artist, I find it increasingly difficult to find outlets for my work in the city. Thanks to John Ha and his 'Möbius mafia', I'll have to exhibit my work in rural galleries. While I don't wish to exaggerate my contribution to art, it is a sad indictment of our facilities that city artists are being forced to look elsewhere. It's the citizens' loss.

*Laentine Quandry*STRANGER EVERY WEEK

Sir, it is with some dismay that I have witnessed a general drop in the quality of the letters you have printed. Surely they must endeavour to find your precious Cube, rather than sending in letters about how the sky is a particular shade of the colour green this season, or the various musings about a 30 year old postbox and its pet cat called Marty Fuffkins

I sincerely hope that you improve the quality, or I shall be printing off the newspapers onto paper and using it as an battering ram to enter next doors butcher, who have a fine collection of steak and kidney pies which I could nick

Now High Horse! AWAAAAAY

"Jay", Earth

At long last the nurses have allowed me an opportunity to write in order to clear up what I hope to be a misunderstanding of truly Brobdingnagian proportions. Perhaps I should explain. There I was, sipping a mint julep on the veranda, as is my wont on a lovely spring afternoon, when the missus appeared carrying with her the latest edition of The Sentinel of her clever new e-book unit. Naturally, being a man of open vistas, I have

been perusing your broadsheet with interest - our domestic nonsense of war and poverty is such a bore! I had, of course, seen it before but today I noticed something I had heretofore overlooked. And my heart stopped cold. How could you not have told us before?! You know what I mean - that, that, advertisement for your bank. There it was, my fragile blue planet, nestled in the palm of a gargantuan Perplexian hand. Who knew you people were that size?! Honestly, you just might have mentioned it. When they let me out of the cardiac unit I shall have to have a word with your advertising department. I hope you have a good lawyer.

*EvilGenius, Earth*SORRY TO HEAR IT

On his retirement from the Earth Cube Search Community, I would just like to say a big Thank You to Nik_Doof for his sterling effort in the past and for the considerable work in creating the Wiki which is so essential to us on Earth.

So I, and, I'm sure, most of us here on the Cube Search Community, would like to wish Nik and Jo (who has retired with him) all the best in their future endeavours.

tanner, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, May 11*WELL WISHERS

As an open letter to those Perplexians who read The Sentinel with regularity, please allow me to apologize for some of the correspondence arriving these past few weeks from Earth.

You see, it has become a bit of an unofficial competition among some of the Cube Hunters here on Earth to see who can garner the most published letters, while gleefully misrepresenting the general population.

This is not to say that there is anything wrong with EvilGenius, "Jay," and the other Cube Hunters that have written in. In fact, I rather respect them all a lot. However, I feel it is my duty to try to explain the reasons behind such bizarre letters. Mostly their strange tone is due to an odd tendency among many people on Earth: the more attention we get, the stranger we tend to act. This is especially true of people who frequently peruse forums on the Internet, which is, conveniently enough, where most of Earth's cooperative efforts to find and recover the Receda Cube are located.

So, in a nutshell, on behalf of all of us who have yet to lose our minds, I would like to apologize for the extremely odd behavior of those few who already have.

DrKra37, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

I and my compatriots on Earth would like to express our sincere condolences to those affected by the explosion that destroyed the Highview Apartments in the Artists' Quarter last week.

I also hope that, should the destruction of the building prove to be anything other than an accident, those responsible for the act are apprehended and brought to face trial post-haste.

If there is anything that we here on Earth can do to assist you with this tragic event, please let us know.

PFC. Peter Walker, Earth

... AND OTHERWISE

I feel I must respond to Laventine Quandry's assertion that we on Earth ought to putting our efforts towards finding your wayward trifle instead of concerning ourselves with nonsense. I would like to point out that searching for this mysterious object, that we know of only from your say so, is, without some evidence to substantiate it's [sic] existence, a task indistinguishable from nonsense itself. It also bears mentioning that our planet is beset with warfare, starvation, poverty, disease, climate change, and a general loosening of moral standards so we rather have our hands full looking out for our own without your adding to things. Honestly, if you people can't manage to look after your baubles it's no concern of ours. We shall find your cube when we are damned good and ready so do quit your mewling.

EvilGenius, Earth

Letters to the Editor, May 25

**SETTING THE RECORD
STRAIGHT**

Kate Brewster's recent article made me chuckle, having spent the past week or so actually in the Fjords (giving me some time to ponder upon Earth's Destiny, the shocking price of everything in Norway, and why someone would want to consume fermented fish, amongst other things; see here <http://bergen-mesocosm.livejournal.com/> for a taste of environmental science Earth-style) and yet it seems that it has had no effect. If someone would like to pay me to go back, it would probably have to be a significant sum, simply to cover the cost of living (gin isn't cheap either). Although that's not to say I wouldn't abandon my allegiance for a sniff of a barmaid's apron.

I also found amusing her suggestion that Oliver and I are rivals... not true at all. We are working to ensure that the great Team Jazz Hands occupy all the top spots on the table. Take this as confirmation of the Jazz-Handed conspiracy that Cube-hunters have been worried about for some time.

Finally I would like to congratulate Kate on the accuracy of this sentence: "Finally, a brief analysis of current profile data indicates that the average Cube Hunter is 26, British, male, and almost certainly roguishly handsome." Correct on all counts. Obviously a reporter with deadly perspicacity.

Yours in handsome roguishness,

MikeyJ, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

**A LIST OF THEIR
DEMANDS**

As a Cube Hunters from Earth, many of us have been extremely focused on any information from Perplex City that could aid in the search for the Cube. However, the data that we get is limited by what the Center for Reality Research and those who have access to Earth will tell us. Conversely Perplex City has access to an unknown amount of information about Earth. For that matter, Perplex City has been aware of Earth for a considerable amount of time and has been learning about us without every bothering to make contact.

It seems that Perplex City researchers have a voyeur-like treatment of Earth denizens. They know of our wars, our customs, and our culture but what information we get must be gleaned from news reports and begged from Perplex City denizens. There should be a free flow of information between our worlds. Instead, it feels as if we are patronized, that there is a limit to what the people of Earth can be allowed to learn or know. Wouldn't the people of Earth greatly benefit with more information about Perplex City? Besides helping Cube Hunters in their search, our research in the sciences would be greatly bolstered. Even in the realm of linguistics, documents and texts from Perplex City would allow us to make the same analysis that the Academy can make from analyzing our texts and literature.

Speaking of which, how much access into our world does Perplex City have? They have certainly demonstrated the ability to see the electronic (Internet) portion of our world. Is that all? Certainly Perplex City technology would be able to crack the security programs we have here. It would be child's play. Perhaps researchers are able to watch us wherever we go. Maybe they can see our most intimate secrets. Our planet is naked to the eye of Perplex City while theirs is cloaked by their control.

ThusQED Team, Earth

+ Sentinel +

STRAIGHT FACTS, INTELLIGENT OPINION

As of last night all 62 Wave 3 Perplex City cards have been solved, 47 days after they were first issued. Wave 2 took 93 days - from 23 November 2005 (268) to 24 February 2006 (269), and three of the Wave 1 cards are still unsolved, over ten months after their release.

Although Wave 3 had slightly fewer cards than Wave 1 and Wave 2 (62 rather than 66), it had more black and silver level cards (10 rather than 6 of each). It therefore should have been more difficult than Wave 2 but was solved in almost exactly half the time.

To what can we ascribe this increasing ability to solve cards? The greater number of Earth players? Or, perish the thought, are the cards getting easier? This brings in mind the controversy at school exam results time every year here in the UK, when the pass rate increases each time. Are children better educated, or are the exams getting easier?

I suggest that the puzzle scribes take into account the greater number of players and the greater familiarity of the players with the cards when designing Wave 4. Call me a masochist, but let's have some real stinkers!

doublecross/Angus Walker, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, June 1***PERPLEX POINT
PILFERING**

Anyone can get to the top of the board
 Even me, although I cannot afford
 To buy all the cards & get to the top
 So I've written this poem, if only to stop
 One more person from having bonus points scored
 Yes I know that it's petty, but hey, I was bored
 One verse may not do it, but two should be fine
 To get that star letter, those 5 points'll be mine

If you're all thinking one thing, I suppose
 It's 'how's he gonna win any points with this prose?'
 I think that I can, you've enjoyed it so far,
 Or should that have been 'you've endured it so far'?
 Maybe I should not have been so emphatic,
 And instead written something more enigmatic...
 So to finish this poem, I'll leave with the claim
 That I know the Receda Cube thief's real name...

*Jon 79, Earth***WANT A JOB, THEN?**

Tjodf zpvs dijfg fojhnbutju, Cmbodp, mfgu uif
 Tfoujofm, J'wf opujdfe b nbslfe epxouvso jo uif
 rvbmjuz boe tpqijtujdbujpo pg zpvs Dszqupmphz
 qbhft. Zpv tffn up dpotjefs fwfo uif tjnqmftu dpeft
 tffn up cf cfzpo zpv sfbefst. J pomz ipqf uibu uijt
 mfuufs xjmm hp upxbset qspwjoh zpv xspoh.

Dbtups Zpumm

Since your chief enigmatist, Blanco, left the
 Sentinel, I've noticed a marked downturn in the
 quality and sophistication of your Cryptology
 pages. You seem to consider even the simplest
 codes seem to be beyond your readers. I only hope
 that this letter will go towards proving you wrong.

*Castor Youll (ROT-25)***ADRENALINE RUSH**

As an interested party on Earth, I was dismayed to
 read that another jumper successfully bypassed
 the security of Ascendancy Point and attempted
 to jump off the pinnacle of the building, by means
 of the same maintenance hatch nonetheless.
 Although the thrill-seeker only suffered injury
 instead of death in this instance, I feel that the
 management of Ascendancy Point and especially
 Eclipse Security should be brought to task for their
 egregious ineptitude in this matter. What if the
 jumper decided to take a piece of valuable art or
 a prized possession of a tenant with them on their
 next escapade?

Representative Jules Northerlie has made an
 apology and promised an "external security
 analysis." Even so, for a breach of that magnitude
 to happen within days of each other shows a
 complete lack of organizational control, and if I
 was a tenant of Ascendancy Point I would be wary
 of any suspicious people in the building in the
 immediate future.

Raymond Pheris/rlp6028, Earth

It is nice to see that despite all the advancements
 of Perplex City and its residents, that there are
 still some people that love to risk their necks for
 the thrill of the adrenaline rush. I refer of course
 to the jump off Ascendancy Point by that unknown
 daredevil and the copy-cat attempt by Raoul
 Benton. We have a similar "sport" on Earth called
 BASE jumping, where brave, some people would
 say stupid, thrill seekers throw themselves off
 the tallest buildings in the world and attempt to
 parachute to safety while avoiding the strange
 weather conditions caused by the same buildings
 they are jumping from.

I must ask if that other such "extreme" sports exist in
 Perplex City? If so, how big a movement is it? Are
 we perhaps more like each other than the citizens
 of the city wish to admit? What else do we share
 when it comes to risking our necks for kicks?

Locqust, Earth

OLIVERKEERS13 SPEAKS*Letters to the Editor, June 8*FAIR WARNING

I am writing to apologise on behalf of a large proportion of cube hunters on Earth, who from today (9 June 2006 - 269) and for a month will turn a large part of their attention away from hunting the cube to watching 352 men from around the world playing a game involving kicking a ball about (only 22 at a time, you understand).

Cube hunters from England, the USA and Australia, along with 29 other Earth nations, will be particularly distracted (for a couple of weeks at least), as their nations will be represented at this tournament, known as the 'World Cup Finals'. Well OK, maybe not the USA. Even those who are not interested are likely to lock themselves away from the outside world (or worlds) in an attempt to evade the blanket coverage. And if the coverage before the tournament has even started is anything to go by, we are talking a stack of 20-tog duvets here.

The game is technically for the purpose of putting the ball in a net at one end of the playing area, but on this world stage principally involves diving to the ground to feign an injury from an opposing player as often as possible. Observers of the games are now required to paint themselves in the colours of the flag of their team, and drive around their local area honking their horns if their team wins.

Normal cube-hunting reception will be resumed on 10 July after a month of worshipping a sphere.

Angus Walker / doublecross

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

I would like to write to thank the members of the OliverKeers13 Dream Team Fan Club for their support. It has been vital in spurring me on. As I'm sure they're aware, I'm currently focussing on the promotion of our Perplex City Fan Film [URL omitted]. As a result, I haven't had time to focus on solving Mother Tongue. (I'm also halfway through some difficult exams at the moment, but they're nothing compared to the challenges I face here). The words of encouragement sent by Jessica and friends will encourage me to work harder on solving the card, and regaining the lead. I'm flattered that I've become somewhat of a celebrity in Perplex City, and thank my fans for their support. If there are any materials that I can send them that they would like, they need only ask. Finally, I'd like to reassure Bill Franklin that my puzzle-solving prowess is not going to be "ruined" by the adoration, rather, it will propel me on to new heights. I set my sights on Mt. Riemann, and will conquer it within 10 years!

Peace and prosperity (and hugs and kisses to Jessica Langley and all my fans).

oliverkeers13, Earth

ARTS AND LETTERS

Now I perchance have lost a wondrous thing;
 Earth's bound'ries and beyond for it I seek.
 Zeal drives my search, for I might be the king
 If I could but find it. In ancient Greek
 Tomes, I seek it. Thinking I lack knowledge
 I read, puzzl'd, essays by wiser hunters.
 Cross, perplexed, bemused, forlorn, I falter.
 X marks the spot for pirates, not for me.
 Enlightenment dawns slowly as the sun.
 Love lost may be regained by grace; I find
 Peace in simplicity. A thought, just one
 Remembered fragment, brightly brought to mind
 Ekes out resolution. Loss is regained --
 Perhaps in verse, perhaps inverse explained.

Rohina, Earth

MADAME IS VERY PRIVATE

Although here on earth we have been doing
 horoscopes since 410 BC based on the
 interactions among the Stars and the Planets,
 they never seem to reach the uncanny accuracy of
 Madame Bianca and her "Futures."

For example, my earthly horoscope today said "You
 will have to be careful with machinery and fast
 means of transport." which has not really taken into
 account the fact that I am confined to the house
 with a bad hair day. I won't be near either at all!

However looking at Madame Bianca's "Excessive
 taking of unnecessary risks leads to personal
 injury. Not you, just someone in your vicinity; but
 still, it'll be the most interesting thing to happen to
 you this week, so there it is." shows her spooky
 grasp of reality, after I watched the neighbour
 skateboard into a tree through my bedroom
 window. Better than anything on "You've Been
 Framed" so far! (For puzzled Perplexians - this is

a TV show where earthlings enjoy watching other
 earthlings being maimed or injured)

This had led me to wondering how exactly she
 divines our fate. Is it by stars and planets and if
 so what constellations does she see when looking
 into the night sky from Perplex City? Where did the
 names of the twelve divisions come from. I was
 most surprised to find myself an Apple-Thief!

Perhaps a "Future" edition of the Sentinel could
 include an interview with Madame Bianca - I'm
 sure your many readers will be fascinated by her
 insights.

Bunnery, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, June 15*THE GLOVES ARE OFF

I first would like to give my congrats to everyone on the leaderboard. I admire your dedication and wish you the best in locating the Cube. I was only recently informed about the Cube's disappearance [sic]. I was in my local Rhino and a sales clerk [sic] informed me that a precious [sic] artifact had gone missing and was reported to be somewhere on Earth. I was so intrigued by this story that I bought a starter kit. That was 7 days ago... I am now on a mission. I will not only try my hardest to find the Cube, but I will be the first American to Achieve [sic] top 10 status. I will lead the USA in solving the Receda Mystery [sic] and work diligently in finding the whereabouts of the Receda Cube. This is my goal, I've set it for now, it will be accomplished. The United Kingdom may have a head-start, but I have the determination and willpower to see that the USA will reign supreme.

The_Solver, Earth

P.S.- Bring it on, Red [sic] coats.

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

EVEN MORE POETRY

Having seen all of the various poetical offerings of my Cube-hunting peers on Earth, I offer this humble limerick to add to the collection:

There was a mysterious Cube.
It fell through a dimensional tube.
From the place of its birth,
It traveled to Earth
And is sought now by Cube-hunting rubes.

PFC Peter Walker, Earth

WHO'S THE BIASED ONE?

I have become once and for all disgusted with the Sentinel's outrageously biased reporting. The sensationalist and invasive treatment of Douglass Finlay in his council candidacy is nothing short of horrifying. I have canceled my subscription, and you can be quite certain that I shall not be renewing it.

Roger McLennan

Letters to the Editor, June 29

**DEFENDING THE
CHILDREN**

For the last several months, I've seen nothing but pity for the future of our youth. The image produced by Earth reports is that our teenage demographic is listless, shallow, and lacking in intellect. To a startling and disconcerting degree, I see this; I cannot deny it. But, as a member of this incoming dominant portion of society, I can, through firsthand interaction and participation, say that there's not as much to worry about as certain other letter-writers might have you believe. There are a number of more-than-capable minds at work, even within this cross-section of the public. I am far from alone in being an Earth CRT member under the age of 18 who's met with decent success; the meteoric rise of Oliver Keers only bolsters my point. As a matter of recruitment, I was unable to find anyone in my area that was willing to take up the cause and the people that I've devoted myself to, but those I've asked have shown more than capable capacities to compete with many of the more highly ranked individuals, solving Blue-level cards in short order. I only came up short on new recruits because of time-devotion issues and the work needed to try and understand the complexities of Perplex City this far into our inter-world relationship. Although, I confess, this does serve as something of a self-congratulatory back-pat, the point I'm trying to make is this: although a fair majority of the young and adolescent these days is as bad as previous letters have portrayed, if not worse, there are enough of us able brains in the juvenile set to more than manage. Those of us that will matter in the end of things do read for pleasure, are bright enough to exist on par with Perplexian youth, and will guide Earth to a brighter tomorrow. Give the ones that deserve it a little credit now and again, would you?

Gaspar Lewis, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week.

ON NATIONAL PRIDE

I would like to apologize to the readers of The Sentinel for my fellow countryman's diatribe in the most recent edition. While I applaud him for engaging in the hunt for the Cube, his motives seem suspect and his execution flawed. He seems to seek glory for himself by achieving point supremacy in our country, and then goes on to seemingly seek the demise of our United Kingdom compatriots. While I am as patriotic as anyone, your attitude is a divisive one and takes away from the worldwide goal, which is to help the Perplexians retrieve the Receda Cube. Also, I must bring you some unfortunate news, The_Solver. You have failed in accomplishing your stated goal, as I have become the first American to achieve a sole position amongst the top 10 players on the leaderboard. Do not take this too hard my friend. Sharpen your skills and join us on top of the leaderboard, but for the appropriate reason: to better prepare you for the ultimate goal of finding the Cube.

P.S. - Spell check is your friend.

Raymond Pheris (rlp6028), Earth

I find myself befuddled by the recent statement that The_Solver made, that he aspires to be the first American to break into the top 10 on the leaderboard. I have been an avid follower of the progress on Earth for some time, and unless my understanding of Earth geography is very incorrect, hasn't this already been done? Indeed, when the cards were first released on Earth, one of the most dominant players was an American -- BrianEnigma, who is my most favourite player, besides! Even aside from my Breathtaking Brian, though, other Americans have been in the top 10 before. Why, in the very first week the leaderboard was up, Kate Brewster reported that Americans occupied three of the top ten spots! It's wonderful to have aspirations, but please, check your facts!

Molly Krawitz

*Letters to the Editor, July 13***OUR FAVE
CONSPIRACIST DU
JOUR**

I find myself awestruck at the scope of the Perplex City's search, even broaching the boundaries of realities to cast their hopes to our shores.

But this may be in vain, I am afraid. It is my firm belief that the Receda Cube was never removed from your dimension to my own, given the scant facts that have percolated to us either by your august organ or the CRT's personal (and private) websites, which are housed in my home reality.

Instead, I put the question to the readership of both worlds: How is it that the Receda Cube has been transferred to our dimension when there is scant evidence that physical transport in any direction, whether from Earth to Perplex City or the reverse, is hard to come by? Why would the thieves risk an artifact of such great importance in a potentially dangerous transfer?

The actual facts, however scattered, may be more noble. Master Kiteway may have learned of an attempt to steal the Receda Cube and created an ornate simulacrum of it, preferring to keep the actual artifact safely stored away. The actual efforts of the CRT may in fact be the "mopping up" of a failed theft by a group of highly positioned and trained individuals.

I further suspect that once V and his remaining accomplices are firmly in the grip of the law, the Receda Cube will be drawn from a hiding place in Perplex City, leaving the members of the Earth CRT frustrated at this duplicity.

I beseech the readership of both realities; demand answers to these accusations, find the actual answers behind the puzzles, and justify the trust that is shared between our realities.

Dan Wood

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week.

**AND NOW, A FEW WORDS
FROM OUR FANS**

I will not attempt to defend Jane Monroe's claim that Earth is not a land of hope, as we certainly have our ups and downs. However, I will not stand idly by while she suggests we have been hiding anything from you. If you have a sense that you have somehow been misled by who we are or what we are like, perhaps you should look to your own leadership within The City and within The Academy. We on Earth are pleased to help you, but the information you have been with-holding could choke a horse. Has it even occurred to you that The Receda Cube might be a weapon, able to destroy both our worlds? Why is it you tell us so little about your own misdeeds?

Scott Myers, Earth

I really must protest the unbelievable nonsense you recently published in your ever-muckier rag regarding my Evilness. Slander! Imagine my surprise as I read your irresponsible reportage while licking the flavor from a bag of potato chips before returning each to the bag thereafter. I nearly forgot to kick the cat on my way to the computer to respond. After a long day of hurling bunnies at babies, such a slap in the face is more than an EvilGenius should need to bear. I can only assume that this outrage -- outrage! -- is an attempt to spoil with me for a fight. Easy when hiding yourself away on another planet. Come down here and say that! Then we'll see who's evil and who isn't... My minions are gathering so watch your step or I may have to take the ultimate step and cancel my subscription.

EvilGenius, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, July 27***COMPELLING SOCIAL
COMMENTARY**

As a keen participator in the search for the Receda Cube, I have followed the correspondence in The Sentinel closely, especially regarding the recent debates concerning Earth's history of violence and our influence over the people of Perplex City. I do not wish to cover old ground too much in relation to the discussion over our respective wars, and the influence of the political movement of anarchy etc., saying only that given their generally intelligent nature one would have thought that those Perplexians crying out against Earth would have more common sense in realising that finding the easiest scapegoat to attack never solves the problem.

The reason I have been compelled to write, however, concerns the comments made in the Sentinel on 24/07 by Academy Sociologist Ricardo Givens. Mr. Givens states, in the article relating to the coming delegation from Xia-Hifa, "Proximity and over-familiarity between Earth nations leads to greed and violence". Unfortunately, Mr. Givens, it is my duty to inform you that whether in close proximity with other countries or not there will always be greed and there will always be violence; they are just one side of human nature that will always become evident in some capacity, friendly neighbours or not.

However, fortunately for us there are other sides to human nature, such as empathy, open-mindedness, a willingness to learn and experience new things, compassion for our fellow man... Without new experiences life would become dull and void. I have spent some of the most amazing times of my life exploring all the different places and environments our world has to offer, learning about other lives and other cultures and picking up new languages along the way. If I had been

confined to my one small island of Britain, then I would be less of a person because of it, and I know an awful lot of people would say the same about themselves.

Yes, we have made mistakes. Yes, there have been wars fought over possession or invasion of other countries. But to deny yourselves the opportunity to learn more about what your world has to offer for fear of "hardship" as Mr. Givens suggests, is not only incredibly xenophobic but also incredibly ignorant.

I hope that Ricardo Givens does not represent the general view of the PXC populace, and that the new links between the different cities/nations of your world encourage the understanding and enrichment of all.

Hannah (eeeqz)

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

N I C E T R Y

Hello!

I think you are doing a great job!
You could make your website better!
In my opinion Perplex City Rocks!
I'm sure you've loved hearing from me!

Keep up the good work!
Don't give up now!
Peace out,

Alter Ego

WE FEEL YOUR SORROW

This is an open letter to all the cube hunters on Earth and Mind Candy: HELP! Recently I was at an outdoor event, wearing my Leitmarks with pride on my bag (you never know when you might run into a fellow cube hunter) and having a great time, when disaster struck. Towards the end of the night I noticed that my PCAG London Leitmark had disappeared! I'm hoping that this was purely an accidental loss and not the heartless work of some Third Power sympathist, but you can never be too sure.

This is a Leitmark that cannot be easily replaced, I can't just set up another account and solve cards to get another one sent to me, it's a special symbol of a unique event that I was lucky enough to participate in and I'm really upset that I've lost it. I know this is a long shot, but if there are any cube hunters out there that somehow managed to pick up two, or if there were any left lying around after the event that Mind Candy doesn't have a need for, please, please send one my way!

Let this be a lesson to all cube hunters out there, wear your Leitmarks, but not in crowded fields!

Purplephreak

EARTH GRIEVES*Letters to the Editor, August 17*BANATU BANANAS?

I was disappointed to read about the efforts of Mr. Leo Banatu in this week's Sentinel, a gentleman so insecure with his current way of life, that he would create a public spectacle in protest of an event which should bring nations closer together. Mr. Banatu claims that his people have "lost their self-reliance and independence" and perhaps that is a good thing, a culture can very easily stagnate itself when it refuses outside influence.

We must bear in mind that a loosening of paperwork requirements for foreign visitors is not only long overdue but a positive step in the right direction. I agree that we should never forget events from the past for if we did, how could we learn from them? To mindlessly cling to ideals, however, is just as dangerous.

With recent events on Earth and a hostile presence from your world breaking through, I would hope that Mr. Banatu will realize that the only hope anyone has for the Receda Cube being returned safely is by trusting and depending on 'outsiders'. To this end I would ask him to abandon his vigil out of respect for those very outsiders he would protest against, and are now quite possibly risking their lives to restore the Cube to its rightful place.

Gareth (Ringtail), Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

Loss is the hardest human emotion to bear yet, at the same time, is the strongest foundation upon which the rest of the experience called "life" is built. We fear it, but by living through it we grow stronger. We remember it, and in doing so take joy from all the things both large and small that surround us on a daily basis. Loss reaches deep into us to pull out parts of us we forget we have, but without it we wouldn't be the spirits that we are.

It is strange, then, to be ripped at by the loss of someone that we here on Earth never had the chance to meet in person. Anna Heath was more than just a member of the Academy for many of us, more than a colleague sharing simply in the same goal. Through her writing, her puzzles, and her deeds, she became a friend, a mentor and often even someone you expected to bump into on the street here on Earth.

The dedication of Anna reminds us of the courage within all of us. The loss of her reminds us of what is at stake, and that this is not just a game. The way in which she was taken from us spurs us on with ever more vigour, having woken up to a sober alarm call that highlights the dangerous conclusions that are ever possible in such interesting times.

It is a sad and dark time, but a united legion of Earth-bound cube-hunters stands ever more resilient to bring this matter to a conclusion, and to bring the guilty to justice. In these times, Perplex City has never felt closer to Earth.

scribe, Earth

+ Sentinel +

STRAIGHT FACTS, INTELLIGENT OPINION

AND FROM THE
CRACKPOT
DEPARTMENT . . .

So come, Third Power. Bring your best agents to Earth, and watch them fail -- because your best just isn't good enough.

PFC Peter Walker, Earth

This is an open letter from the people of Earth to the Perplexian secret society known as the Third Power. Recently, you disrupted a vital communications link and made threats against the well-being of the agents of CRT-EarthDiv. I and my fellow members of CRT-EarthDiv wish to send you this message:

We on Earth don't take kindly to threats. In fact, we have stood up to greater threats than you and have come out on top.

Send all the agents you like to attempt to recover the Receda Cube -- we will be here to oppose them every step of the way.

For every plan you have, we have three.

For every agent you send, we have ten.

For every act of sabotage you commit, we can come up with five ways to work around them.

In short, we are smarter, faster, more numerous, and better equipped than you -- the speed with which we effected the activation of the San Francisco Datalink is proof of that.

We can go places you can't. We can do things you won't. And above all, we are willing to do anything and risk everything to keep the Receda Cube out of your hands -- we'll risk our homes, our countries, and even our lives.

We're experts at this sort of thing -- if you've studied our history, you should know that. We've stopped power-hungry madmen before, and we're willing to do it again.

*Letters to the Editor, August 24***YOUR THOUGHTS ON
THE ACADEMY**

It would seem from recent articles featured in the Sentinel that public opinion of the Academy, and specifically of its Master, Sente Kiteway, has gone south in the days and weeks following the blackout. "The Academy can't be trusted", is the general outcry a reader would assume to be echoing throughout the streets of Perplex City.

What many in the vocal faction fail to realize is that we Cube Hunters here on Earth are functioning as an extension of the Academy. I can understand how many of the Sentinel's local readership might forget us, considering the fact that at best we are a group of people a whole world away from your own, and at worst an abstract fantasy concocted by the Academy to alleviate concern regarding the Cube.

But I promise you, we are quite real. And we are just as concerned as all of you are in regards to returning the Receda Cube to its rightful resting place.

Perhaps those who are decrying the Academy's policies and necessary secretiveness would do well to remember that when they claim that the Academy can't be trusted, they are by extension claiming that the people of Earth can't be trusted.

I feel the need to remind such people that without our assistance, the Cube would be just as lost now as it was two years ago. With the help of the Academy's puzzle scribes and Mind Candy, we are every day getting closer to discovering the whereabouts of the Cube. And when it is found, you can be sure that we will do whatever is necessary to return the artifact to your world.

The Academy cannot be trusted? Without the Academy and Master Kiteway's leadership, it is much more likely that the Cube will waste away somewhere on our world. Because without the Academy, there are no Cube Hunters here on Earth. Perhaps people should think a little bit before throwing about such insulting language. Because I for one am quite insulted that our efforts in locating the Cube seem to be so underappreciated.

And my wife wonders why I never read the newspaper...

Carda, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

I would like to thank the Sentinel for coming out and demanding the truth from the Academy. That institution has been self-governing for too long. How can we entrust such critical functions as the recovery of the Receda Cube to an organisation that has so little transparency in its decision-making processes. I have already written to the council expressing my disapproval, and you can be certain this issue will affect my vote in October.

Rebecca Morton

Over the years since the theft of the Receda Cube, the Earthbound division of the CRT have asked any number of times for an opening of books and hearts. Our search has been hampered on all sides by excessive secrecy on the part of your city and those inhabitants we have interacted with, with very few exceptions.

While it's certainly understandable that your Academy and council have secrets that may need to be kept, the search for the Cube would be made much easier if we had some further clue about

what it is. A '10cm-by-10cm metallic cube with engravings on some sides', while perhaps helpful in the physical search, gives us no information about what it is that the Cube can do or why your world holds it in such high esteem.

Similarly, we are given only fragments of access to your city. A few articles weekly from the Sentinel (and tantalising headlines of what the rest of your paper must hold) and a scattered number of websites -- and those we must locate ourselves. While perhaps the latter is a test of our abilities to decipher the puzzles inevitably leading to the Cube itself, surely our search would go more swiftly if we were provided with the information we need?

And who, exactly, is behind this secrecy? Our dealings are with the Academy, and it is sometimes easy to forget that they are not the ruling entity of your world -- the Council must be involved in this somewhere along the line. While your most recent article (or at least the most recent one we can see) suggests the Council knows little about the Academy's workings, is this truth or could they, too, be hiding under layers of falsehoods?

Along with the Perplexian victims of this secrecy, we too ask for the truth -- but of whoever it is that is behind everything we do not know. The good relations between our worlds will likely prove difficult to maintain if all we can garner from your governing bodies are only fragments of the whole.

Achenar, Earth

It's easy to rail at the Academy for its so-called culture of secrecy, but simply attacking the Academy doesn't reach to the true culprit in this wreck. Sente Kiteway is not a man who operates in a vacuum. Instead, we must look to Camryn Scott and her disastrous policies encouraging excessive autonomy, not just in the Academy, but in all of the city's offices and agencies.

The only true way to correct this matter is remove Scott from her position as Council Leader, and the path to do this lies, of course, in voting for Nathan Earlywine. Councillor Earlywine already has a proposed policy of integrating more work under a single authority, both for better supervision and to benefit from the economies of scale that would naturally come to pass. Letters of protest can go only so far; votes for Councillor Earlywine as the Council Leader, on the other hand, will lead to lasting change.

Lorenzo Hamish

While I can tolerate and be open to the opinions and views of other, I must take exception to the author(s) of the Op/Ed article that implied negligence on the part of the Academy, and specifically allegations against the Master of the Academy, Sente Kiteway, in regards to the recent blackout in Perplex City.

It is understandable to question the validity of the statement that the blackout was caused by a wormhole that opened to Earth when it has been thought to be impossible. However, is it really a stretch to think that it is impossible for people to travel between the two worlds when the Receda Cube itself found its way here? If this is the case, is it not reasonable for the Academy and the CRT to remain silent on any specifics in case the perpetrators of the event were malicious in their intent?

I also was less than impressed with the Sentinel dismissing their journalistic integrity in order to feed the mob mentality placing the blame for the blackout at the feet of the Academy. By belittling Ms. Covington's position publicly, imparting blame for the blackout on the Academy without solid evidence, and promoting a letter writing campaign against the Academy, the Sentinel has abandoned its duty to the citizens of Perplex City to provide timely, accurate, UNBIASED news.

Raymond Pheris (rlp6028), Earth

**A N D N O W F O R
S O M E T H I N G
C O M P L E T E L Y
D I F F E R E N T**

Further to Kate Brewster's article entitled 'OK13 Unlucky for some'.

It appears that for some time now the Sentinel has lost focus on the hunt for the Cube and instead seems more interested in feeding the ego of a complete fraud, namely Mr. Oliver Keers.

It is quite clear to anyone with even the smallest degree of intelligence that the 'solving blitz' Ms. Brewster describes is not the result of some amazing genius on the part of Mr. Keers. Rather, it is simply the systematic copying of answers posted by other Cube hunters in the various forums, a fact that is made all the more evident by Mr. Keers lack of significant 'first solves'. Indeed, it would appear that while Mr. Keers has an uncanny knack for obtaining puzzle cards before most other players, he has yet to solve any of the more difficult puzzles without assistance from the Cube hunting community.

As a long-time Cube Hunter I find it irritating and insulting that you continue to concentrate on this attention-seeking teenage fraudster and feel that your time would be better employed in covering the efforts of the entire Cube-hunting community or perhaps actually doing something yourselves to find this artifact that is of such great significance to your culture.

Sotiris Yiakoumi

*Letters to the Editor, September 7*HOW THOUGHTFUL

In May of 268, renowned former Academy researcher and Earthologist Ruth Coralhouse passed away. In her will, she left a considerable grant to the Academy and the CRR for the purpose of developing a system of Perplex City--Earth matter transportation, and requested that, should such a project be successful, her ashes be subsequently transported to Greece and scattered in the Mediterranean.

We all know that the Academy refused Ruth Coralhouse's bequest on ethical grounds. However, I would like to remind the Academy that "Should the technology to transport material to Earth be developed, the board plans to review [Coralhouse's additional] request to have her ashes sent over" (Valerian Reynolds, quoted in "Coralhouse Denied", Jeremy Claridge, 28 June 268).

Despite public skepticism and institutional secrecy, it is very clear to those of us searching for the Cube on Earth that such a method of transport exists, at least in a prototypical state. While I suspect we will see far worse things than city-wide electric outages occurring as the technology is refined and control fought over, I believe that the Perplex City--Earth physical connection will ultimately benefit both our cultures, and allow us to restore the Receda Cube to your society.

In that spirit, I am hoping that the Academy in the near future will reconsider Coralhouse's last request, and allow her to make the crossing.

Cassandra, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week.

CHEATERS NEVER WIN

Hopefully the recent findings and subsequent investigation into the alleged use of cognitive enhancements in the PCAG will bring with it a stronger awareness for the need to increase enforcement and research into developing tests that can detect new cognitive enhancements in the future. Similar to the physical athletic events we hold on Earth, it appears that a population of competitors in Perplex City will also look for an "easy way out" in an effort to achieve success at the highest level.

If there is sufficient evidence of cheating in the event, I would hope severe sanctions are placed against those competitors and their results stricken from official record. If there is one lesson we on Earth have learned, it is that those trying to enforce the rules of fairness are always facing an uphill battle against cheaters. With diligence and advances in testing methodology, however, cheaters will be unveiled and the integrity of the event, be it football, track and field, or the PCAG, will remain intact.

Raymond Pheris (rlp6028), Earth

*Letters to the Editor, October 12***TOUCHY, TOUCHY**

For a world so advanced, I am amazed at how narrow minded some residents of Perplex City. The remarks made by Nathan Earlywine regarding Earth were entirely uncalled for (and if you ask me, extremely pig headed). "Why do we hold these violent and valueless civilisations in such high esteem?" he moaned. You hold our violent and valueless civilisations in such high esteem because many of us are currently involved in the search and recovery of your most precious Receda Cube. We are doing this as an act of kindness. There may be a reward for the finder, but most of us are not helping for a reward. We are helping because it is the right thing to do. You know, an act of kindness to another race? Or is that a concept your culture is not familiar with? Oh, and as far the reputation of being violent, it is only because we don't cover up our wars.

Ryan Andrew, Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week. The author has accordingly received five points on the Perplexcity.com leaderboard, as will future recipients of the Letter of the Week prize.

QUEST FOR CONSEQUENCE

The recent attention given in the Perplex City press to Extreme Puzzling has given me pause for thought. Of course, behaviour which endangers life, even the lives of willing participants, is always worrisome and bears attention. Deterrence and enforcement naturally have their very important roles to play, but it is this humble reader's opinion that understanding, even compassion, is the only route to a lasting accommodation between proponents and opponents of such movements.

Many people who participate in 'Extreme Sports' on Earth are described as 'adrenaline junkies'. (Extreme sports can be likened to extreme puzzling, without the puzzles. The physical realities, e.g. of street lugging, travelling at speeds approaching 100 kilometers per hour, inches above hard asphalt, are enough of a draw for most 'extremists' here, even without the added intellectual stimulation of solving puzzles at the same time.) The expression, 'adrenaline junkie', is not just to be laughed at: it gives an insight into what makes these activities appealing. In the age that includes advanced medicine, helicopter rescue crews, and safety regulations, we are shielded from the most unpleasant consequences of practically all aspects of life. A side-effect of this is that people can feel disjointed from the results of their actions, as if they're not affecting the world at all... not fully **in** the world, even. They want something on the line when they act. They want to feel their lives are not inconsequential.

What I describe may well be just one of a number of aspects of Extreme Sports and Extreme Puzzling, which makes them such a draw for followers and such a trouble for society at large. I, personally, am not a member of either community, so my perspective is limited; I am only trying to form an understanding, and encouraging others to try too. By understanding the draw, even if not condoning it, society will be able to make room for these people to actualise themselves without criminalising them, will be able to accommodate their views and -- who knows? -- perhaps even learn from them. It's not so easy a solution, short-term, as putting more police on the beat -- but it is the win-win solution, the one that will last.

Hugh O'Byrne, Earth

STEPS ON THE PATH TO INTERWORLD PEACE

Just when I thought that it couldn't get any worse I read with horror Cassandra's letter advocating that the last wishes of a Ruth Coralhouse be honoured -- that her ashes be sent Earth should the means become available. Honestly, do you people know no shame? While I can't speak to Cassandra's motives in this matter I can say, without hesitation, that we have just about enough in the way of dessicated corpses of our own to deal with without you adding to the pile, thank you very much. Can you really think we would be honoured or something to have you people dumping your grisly remains through a wormwhole (or whatever) onto our heads? You who have asked so much from us vis a vis your lost Cube have offered so very little in return and this is the best you can come up with? Stuff Ruth Coralhouse in a box and send us a cure for cancer instead.

EvilGenius

*Letters to the Editor, November 3***E A R T H S P E A K S . . .**

This is an open letter to Council Leader Earlywine from the people of Earth.

We are shocked and dismayed by your recent actions, Mr. Earlywine. Here on Earth, we have worked hard to ensure a free flow of information between Earth and Perplex City so as to keep the citizens of Perplex City informed on our status in the search for the Receda Cube. After all, it's hard for people to believe they're ever going to recover something they've lost unless they hear from those who are searching for it.

We have shared the information we gathered while attempting to locate the Receda Cube, and the views we have developed on the many facets of Perplex City life because we wanted you to learn about us and how we work together to achieve a goal such as the successful recovery of the Receda Cube.

We freely admit that we aren't perfect: we love, we hate, we argue, we fight, and sometimes we let our differences divide us instead of looking past them to the common threads that are shared by all - threads that should bind us together. But not once did we shy away from your requests - indeed, we did our best to fulfill them.

But we believe that our greatest moment thus far occurred when the main Earth-to-Perplex City data link was disrupted by agents of an organization known as The Third Power, who told us to "say goodbye to Perplex City!" (Quoted directly from the messages they sent once they had successfully cut the link.)

It was feared that the carrier wave would dissipate, forever crushing the hope that the Receda Cube would be found and returned - but many of us here

on Earth formed a single, massive group dedicated to making sure that the secondary San Francisco link was activated so that information could once again flow between Earth and Perplex City. It was a difficult task, and even with our best minds taking on this mighty challenge, we barely managed to activate the San Francisco terminal before the carrier wave faded. In fact, reliable sources at both Mind Candy and the Perplex City Academy informed us that the carrier wave was mere minutes away from fading completely when they picked up the signal from San Francisco.

And now, after all the work that went into ensuring that communications between Earth and Perplex City remained open, your first act is to have it locked down. This drastic action - to practically shut down the data link after all the effort we put into making sure it stayed operational - represents not only a grave setback to years of Cube recovery efforts, but a sure impediment to any further efforts.

What's next, Mr. Earlywine? Considering your current attitudes, we fear that the citizens of Perplex City may be facing a greater loss than that of the Receda Cube: the loss of the rights and privileges they take for granted in their daily lives. Such things have been known to happen in situations such as these.

This may sound alarming to some people, and perhaps it is. But we, the undersigned, speak for those on Earth who have sacrificed their time and efforts to assist in the maintaining of the Perplex City-Earth link. Your actions and attitude are not conducive to a successful outcome. They serve only to hinder it.

You have taken advantage of panic and outrage to further your own ends, and we consider this a deplorable act on your part - indeed, we would consider it a deplorable act on the part of any public servant. We have worked with the people of Perplex City in good faith, and for our efforts we

+ Sentinel +

STRAIGHT FACTS, INTELLIGENT OPINION

have gotten closer to recovering the Receda Cube that those in Perplex City long for.

But we now see a political coup staged in a time of fear, uncertainty, and doubt generated not out of any reasonable cause - but an experiment whose potential benefits were ignored and whose flaws were magnified and twisted out of proportion. We see the beginnings of a repressive state in what was once a free society.

We call on you to reconsider your actions, Mr. Earlywine, and we call on the citizens of Perplex City to stand with us in rejecting your policies. Your attitudes and actions do not assist us in locating the Receda Cube; indeed, your interference only hinders our joint efforts.

However, despite our dismay at the unfortunate choices that Mr. Earlywine has made, we bear no ill will towards the people of Perplex City. Indeed, we consider the people of Perplex City to be our friends, and we hope that this parting between our respective cultures will be a brief one.

Additionally, the people of Perplex City can rest assured that we will continue our efforts to locate the Receda Cube and keep it secure in the hopes that a physical gateway between Earth and Perplex City may someday be established, in spite of Mr. Earlywine's attitude towards the people of Earth.

And when that day comes, we sincerely hope that the representatives of Earth and the representatives of Perplex City will meet with good will towards all and malice towards none.

Sincerely yours,

PFC. Peter Walker, 255th UNSC Marine Battalion (United States of America)

Jetamo (UnFiction)

Chester Mays (UnFiction)

Jay (PCG Forums)

Benjaminbrum (United Kingdom)

Chris LoBue (USA)

Ixalon (UnFiction)

Jotacon of Team Tollin (USA)

AnotherUselessPawn (USA)

poozle (UK)

DarkHuman (USA)

locqust (UK)

Wanabesafa (UnFiction)

themandotcom (USA)

Soulsproximity1 (UnFiction)

cruse4 (UK)

zephusdragon (Halfway between the gutter and the stars)

silvermoonwurm (Australia)

Erekoze (A maze of twisty passages, all alike)

Raymond "rlp6028" Pheris (USA)

The Dark Moomin (Sheffield)

Datango (UnFiction)

jsweby (UK)

Gaspar Lewis (Unfiction)

Simon Wentworth (London, UK)

AtionSong (USA)

Dr. Russ Hewson (London, UK)

Ruuku (UK)

klindsay (USA)

Croll (UK)

mDuo13 (USA)

aesclepius (UK)

Dranioth (Canada)

DrKra37 (USA)

xandert_86 (UK)

Scott Myers (USA)

falquin (Singapore)

flicb (UK)

myf (UK)

MikeyJ (UK)

ambskunk (AUS)

josejose50 (UnFiction)

ginc (UnFiction)

ManleyM (UK)

eeeqz (UK)

Tesseract (Scotland)

Drinkmonsters (USA)

Enix Highwind (USA)

Nodmeister (Everywhere)

Mattyjh (UK)

J. "Magma42" Peeples (USA)

hobyne (USA)

Mindez (UK)

TheDragonArmy (USA)

Achenar (AUS)

ManiacFive (UK)

EARLYWINE RESPONDS

To the people of Earth:

I fear that you have been left with a skewed perspective of many of the events in Perplex City that have led to our current political and cultural climate. I take pen today, personally, to disabuse you of some of your more mistaken notions.

First, I should perhaps apologise for the baser statements I have made regarding Earth. In the heat of a political campaign, we sometimes use strong words out of frustration and anger. As you rightly point out, many on Earth have demonstrated a true nobility in spirit for coming forth to aid our city in our efforts to recover the Receda Cube. I am grateful, as are all of the people of my city.

I should point out, however, that though you did recover the data link in its secondary San Francisco location; if security for the original link or activation of the secondary link had been handled correctly by the Academy, no such thing would have been necessary. And if the Academy had held the Cube in a sufficiently secure situation, it would still reside on its plinth in the Academy Museum today, and none of you would know that Perplex City even exists.

It is true that I have grave reservations about the ongoing popularity of Earth and its many cultures. This is no indication that Earth should not itself take pride in its great works and accomplishments, for they are many and varied. Still, Perplex City is an older and more mature culture, and has long since moved on from the terrain that the Earth now walks. You are learning lessons now that we have surpassed. Continued admiration for the strife and warfare of the Earth brings us the risk that we may fall backwards in history to a dark and shameful time. Perplex City has emerged from that time the wiser for it, and it does not become us to forget this. Surely your own cities would feel the same if

your children became enamoured of another place, forsaking your own heritage?

As you so astutely observed, we do rely on you to aid us in finding the lost Receda Cube. It is a poor reflection on us if we display anything but gratitude for this generosity your people have shown us. As a sign of goodwill, the Perplex City Sentinel will be resuming its Earth Edition; and in the spirit of greater understanding and continued co-operation between our peoples, allow me to lay out for you a series of facts that may change many of your opinions.

First: Your loyalty to the Master of the Academy, Sente Kiteway is a sentiment that does you credit; but blind loyalty is no virtue. In our preliminary investigation of the data link and its uses, we have already uncovered a large number of irregularities. Researchers at the Centre for Reality Research have misappropriated the link to acquire shoe designs. Sente Kiteway himself has improperly allowed his daughters significant time with the link for spurious reasons. These are but the least of the accusations against him, and I am working to ensure that these and other matters are investigated, and justice done.

You see, direct access to the data link from Perplex City is not something that can be widely distributed, like electricity or water. The link is a very limited and expensive resource. It is funded by public monies, and the stewardship of these funds is a matter I take very seriously. Can we not all agree that public resources should not be used for the vanity and personal entertainment of a select few? And is it wrong, then, for me -- the duly elected Leader of the City Council of Perplex City -- to take measures to ensure that the data link is being used only for its intended purposes?

And again, this is but the surface of the charges against Master Kiteway. The most serious matter of all is one that you barely hint at in your own epistle. As you know, evidence has surfaced that my

predecessor, Camryn Scott, and Master Kiteway together colluded to conduct dangerous and illegal research. These were decisions made behind closed doors and with no oversight nor public discussion.

You suggest, "We see the beginnings of a repressive state in what was once a free society." I completely agree that Perplex City was on that dangerous path, though not for the reasons you cite. I hope that with my election, we have been spared that grim fate. It may be true of Special Project 487 that its "potential benefits were ignored" and its "flaws were magnified and twisted out of proportion." But this is not a judgement to be made in secrecy. Matters of such grave import should be subject to free and open debate. The bedrock of a free and open society is, indeed, open access to information -- in particular that pertaining to its leaders and their actions. For in Perplex City, we believe that even our leaders are subject to the same standards of law and ethics that bind all of our citizens.

Investigation into these grave allegations continues even now, and I expect it will be a long and arduous road before the truth is revealed. But open your hearts and minds to understand that the truth may be far less clean and clear-cut than you had been led to believe. Now and into the future, I hope that we can work together to recover the Receda Cube.

*Nathan Earlywine,
City Council Leader*

Letters to the Editor, November 17

LET'S AGREE TO DISAGREE

ER, SORRY ABOUT THAT

In direct answer to your scathing remarks in the latest article in the sentinel, especially in regards to #217 Tower of Cubes, I would like to say that I DID end up solving the card on the 3rd try, and WITHOUT CHEATING!!! I take pride in attempting to find the cube, but if you require more 'intellectual' help than 'neurologically misguided' earth people, perhaps you would like to retract your original 'cry for help' to 'find the cube'? Remarks such as the ones your journalistic team placed in the Perplex City Sentinel will NOT, I assure you, gain you further helpers or puzzlers in your request for the cube. I will continue to search for the cube, and will take pride in my accomplishments (I didn't think I could get this far on my own, but I have!), but your article certainly takes the enjoyment out of helping the Perplex City people.

Tame Adams (AKA notverytame75), Earth

Ed. Note: This letter has been chosen as the Sentinel's Star Letter of the Week.

COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER OURSELVES

It has recently become blah blah that current blah are sufficiently blah blah to concern those of blah who still give a blah about this cube nonsense. When will the blah finally be realized, now that blah is finally sorted out. Really, who could have blah that blah blah could possibly think blah and blah? What's more galling is that there more blah than one would normally find tasteful under blah circumstance and it seems to be coming this way. In closing, blah blah blah blah blah, and I mean it this time!

EvilGenius, Earth

I'm shocked at the bile being heaped upon the hapless solvers in Kate Brewster's recent article. Granted, the guesses cited were spectacularly wrong, but perhaps people wouldn't find such wild guesswork necessary if they could be confident that the answer to any given card would make sense in the end. How many cards have we slaved over, searching for something that makes logical sense when the "correct" answer might as well have been randomly chosen? How many cards have been solved by people who were reduced to randomly guessing after exhausting all logical possibilities? How many cards are listed as solved without anyone being sure why that particular answer is right? The natural response upon discovering the correct solution to a good puzzle is a resounding "Of course!" Far too often, though, the only possible response to a solved card is "What the HELL!?" Why shouldn't you try any random idea that comes into your head when it seems that you're as likely to get a correct answer by guessing as you are to find it through actual puzzle-solving?

I'm sorry that our efforts to help the people of Perplex City are causing such anguish to Kate and her friends. Perhaps she would prefer that we spare her the agony of our foolishness and leave her to find the Cube by herself.

Penh, Earth

*Letters to the Editor, May 29***A n n o y e d a b o u t P a r c e l s**

In these pages in recent days, the Sentinel has given unfair consideration to whingers and self-centred boobs sullyng the name of the Perplex City Post. I speak as an employee of the post office, and I am here to tell you that the ridiculous claims of Patience Wellington and others like her have no basis in fact whatsoever. Perplex City Post delivers parcels on time, PERIOD! Before anyone dares to again speak a single word against the post - and, by extension, the hard-working men and women who ensure each and every day that your parcels go where you want them to on time and in one piece - try to find some basis in fact for your outrageous accusations. If you could see it working in practice, you'd be singing a different tune.

Ralph Kerrigan

P e r p l e x i a n R u l e s

Our esteemed Council Leader, Nathan Earlywine, soared into office last autumn by advocating traditional Perplexian values. We should reject the questionable influence of Earth, he said, and focus on the culture and heritage our ancestors have built for us over many hundreds of years. For a time, he even succeeded in freeing us from the data link to Earth, with the hope of fostering a renewed interest in our youth toward the city that gave them birth.

Now, though, despite the significantly decreased level of involvement the Earth has in Perplexian affairs, we discover that the idle attentions of our youth have moved on to new pastures. The strains of popular Earth artists such as Tom Jones and Mozart may still be heard on our streets, to be sure. But now, too, the Xia-Hifan game of "puzzle karaoke" has caught our collective imagination; Harbin cooking methods such as smoking meat over smouldering tea leaves has become the haute

cuisine; and Allerdun is becoming a popular holiday spot. But does this mean that we have rejected Councillor Earlywine's insistence that we become reacquainted with ourselves?

No, very much no. This curiosity toward the novel and different is anything but an abandonment of traditional Perplexian values. Indeed, the drive to explore the world around us, to understand, to seek knowledge about all things - this is the thing that inspires us to dabble in Harbin cuisine, to play Xia-Hifan games, to listen to the music of Earth. We have not failed to recapture the spirit of Perplex City; indeed, we never strayed from it.

Anja Marlowe

C e l e b r i t i e s H a v e P r i v a t e L i v e s , T o o

I was thrilled to hear of the reconciliation of pop icons Joya and Alejo Jackson last month. As a big fan of both musicians, I agree they really need to settle down together. It's perfectly obvious to the whole world. But now the two are fighting again - because of the irresponsible press! The Sentinel reported that Alejo's bandmate in Roll for Damage, Echo West, called Joya inflammatory names during a recent press junket. While that may or may not be true, why in the world would the press report on such a thing, unless they were intentionally exploiting the lives of Alejo and Joya just to sell more newspapers? It's one thing to passively report on celebrity life without interfering, but in this latest episode, it appears that the so-called objective journalists are generating strife where the reality isn't sufficiently dramatic. Why else would Echo's comments be remotely newsworthy? Simply shameful! Even the famous are still real people with real feelings, you know!

Naomi Woods