



I must take this opportunity to thank so many of you for all the cards, and lovely things I got for my birthday.

It was fantastic, and so sweet of you, being sixty was such fun, I think I might do it again.

The festivities seemed to go on for a week, well come to think of it, they did go on for a week, no wonder Isobel and I were tired at the end of it, we needed another week to get over that one.

But during all the fun, and when so many of our good friends were able to drop in and share some of the huge mountain of cake that had been brought, we thought of the many of you who just couldn't have made the journey no matter how much you would have liked to.

Friends we had made through these ruddy stamps. Friends from all over the globe that write, phone, and share so much of their lives with us.

Friends who have made the last few years such huge fun.

So Me, Isobel, and Miss Hilary did sit down and give thought to the way we could say thank you to you.

We reasoned thus.. It was MY birthday, so by and large: and indeed I am by and large, it probably wasn't YOUR birthday on Friday 13th of September. Ipso-bleeding-facto, it was therefore your unbirthday.

Therefore you deserved an un-birthday present.

So I did the bit, Vincent; the perforating pixie, did his, and Miss Hilary did everything else.

So from all of us, to all of you,





DEAR READER,

It was with disturbingly great glee that many of you pointed out that the front cover of the last Stanley

Howler Journal correctly announced it to be Issue No Seven, while both vignettes incorrectly showed the digit 6. What a bunch of clever clogs. Dear me, have you people no compassion? Here was a man approaching his seventh decade at a rate of knots, and you expect him to keep track of a little thing like putting the right numbers on the front cover? Well tempus fugit, friends, and time's wingèd chariot will cover your passing years with its tyre tracks too, and rather quicker than you're expecting.

So let it be clear that calling this issue 7A is not the result of another senior moment, it is for purely occult reasons. We are advised that eldritch effects might result if we called it... er ... you know what. Page numbers might change position for no apparent reason, odd words might fall off the bottom of the page, postpersons might bite dogs. This is therefore purely a health and safety matter, and normal service will resume in January 2007 with issue 9.

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This issue's password is in honour of the man who turned the Unseen University into paper with such brilliance: BATLEY

Comings and Goings

As some of you have already discovered, the purple Ankh Bridge stamp is in circulation and for those of you who haven't yet seen it in the flesh, yes, it is true about the 'mooning man'. There are no sports, we promise.

The Anoia stamp will be issued soon, indeed it may even overtake this journal. It is the brainchild of John Pagan who conceived it in an idle moment while reading Wintersmith. We liked it, Terry liked it, we hope you'll like it.

The Hogswatch stamps are scheduled for release on November 7, which UK flatalists will know is the same day that the Royal Mail release their Christmas stamps. They are also based on the Wintersmith story, and there will, of course, be a First Day Cover.

Prepare yourselves for the passing of a few more old favourites. At the end of January 2007 we will be withdrawing the Two Shirts series, the farthing, halfpenny and the 2p, and the Seamstress Tuppeny Upright. The Assassins Guild stamp will also be subject to 'renewal of contract'. A new Seamstress Guild stamp is planned for introduction in February 2007, and a replacement Assassin stamp is being considered. In the meantime, watch out for special Consulate envelopes, and there will be a Two Shirts archive proof in February.

The Merchant Series has now been withdrawn, apart from the \$5 stamp which will continue for a while. We're planning to introduce some new merchant guild stamps in 2007 and hope to bring you more news in the next issue. We will continue to accept the Merchant stamps for exchange under the Green Cabbage trading scheme until the end of November.

Speaking of the CGTS, we can now announce the trading rates for the Unseen University stamps: UU Farthing: 10 UU Penny: 4 UU Penny Farthing: 3

See page 10 for information on exchanging Pain of Pain stamps.

Many of you asked how many of each Dragon Sanctuary envelope there were, so here is the final reckoning:

DS Number	1	Total printed	52
2		52	Sala .
3		51	
4		52	
5		59	
6		45	
7		51	
8		51	
9		76	
10		50	



Q. How many green Tower of Art stamps were issued and how many variants?

A. In total, 10,400 green Tower of Art stamps were released including 650 'falling man' and 650 'splash' variants.

Falling man with birds moved (version 1)	62
Falling man with birds moved (version 2)	40
Weathervane reversed	60
Bigger splash	60

Q. How many Hogswatch 2005 stamps were produced? A. 7500

Q. How many 'eminence gris' were produced?

A. Not all are yet in circulation, we will announce the total when they are.

Q. Are there any Civic sports still to go into circulation? A. Yes, there are.

Dates for your Diary:	
Hogswatch 2006:	8, 9, 10 December
Spring Fate Lite	5, 6, 7 May 2007
Scouting for Trolls Jamb	oree 4, 5, 6 August 2007

Are you the youngest Flatalist? Or do you think you might be the oldest? We want to hear from you. Write to us at The Cunning Artificer, 41 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JU, or email hilary@cunningartificer.demon.co.uk



Letters to the Editor

Mr Howler has received the following letter from a Mr Brian Rhubarb, who claims to be an Ankh-Morpork Underground Tram Driver and is therefore not to be trusted*. However he makes some interesting points and comments would be welcome.

Sir

I confess to being a new recruit to your esteemed Society of Stamp Fanciers and as such will be open to much derision from the Old Sweats of your Flatalist community but as I have subscribed to your journal I shall be heard!

My interest was initially aroused upon the discovery of a book entitled 'Going Postal' written by an otherworld author by the name of Mr Tommy Pratchett or suchlike and quite jolly it was too. So much did I enjoy this tale that I felt compelled to cross the fine line between fan and fanatic and to acquire some of these fine stamps you purvey.

But alas! Here lies my problem. Although I love the stamps, I cannot bring myself to collect them alone. Unless they have been used for their proper purpose, I find them (and indeed all stamps from all worlds) somewhat onedimensional, nay, sterile! They must be licked, stamped, franked and delivered for me to see their deep and subtle beauty. Tell me, Mister Stanley, am I alone in this peculiar inclination or are there others out there like me?

Thankfully I have learned of your wonderful letters, consulate envelopes, first day covers and postcards and I am a most contented gentleman. But may I make just one suggestion if this is not being a trifle forward? That is to apply the frank to each stamp on the cover and not just to one or two of the stamps, and also to add a date, just like they do in other worlds?

As we say down my way: 'Lick me a Howler!'

Your learn'd friend Mr B Rhubarb

* Everybody knows the Rhubarb family business is cabbage carting and a Rhubarb would only take up another trade if forced.

And from David Waskett (obviously an invented name) in Norfolk, a letter in support of the Journal Subscriber Service:

'The idea is an excellent one especially for those of us poor benighted souls who have made the eternal mistake of failing to find a mud hut on the south side of the M25. The trouble for those of us who live in the tribal areas of the Iceni with our good Queen Boudica gods bless her Her Majesty does not smile favourably on those of us who want to take our chariots around the M25. And it does take a lot of effort to scrape off the blue woad.'

(For readers in For'n Parts, we should explain that the M25 rings London and is officially described as a road. In reality it is the third circle of hell.) Wincanton can be reached without negotiating the M25, but you have to have all your wits about you because bits of it seem to pop up everywhere.)

IN THIS ISSUE

To mark the publication of Thud in paperback, we're releasing the stamped Koom Valley Service Post Card as issued by the Ankh-Morpork Post Office to members of the Watch while serving in the field, together with a mint KV patrician stamp.

The special offer is a new departure for us and has been specially devised to shake Vince, the perforating pixie, out of the complacent rut he has been occupying since he mastered the perforating machine. The two special A5 Koom Valley sheets, one favouring the dwarves, the other the trolls, each have a stamp cunningly incorporated within the design. The sheets have been designed by Colin Edwards, with philatelic advice from Darren Hill. There will be 600 of each sheet, and the pair will cost \$15.00, including postage worldwide. Please order via the website don't forget the password or write to the usual address enclosing a cheque or your full card details.



Also contained within this issue is a very special token. Keep this somewhere safe because you will need it when Journal 9 comes out in January. With tokens from both journals you can send off for a free book of Ankh-Morpork postcodes If you have the new Post Office Handbook and Discworld Diary you will see a mention of these postcodes which our friends in 'forgn' parts might know as zipcodes. As ever in the great world of Disc that Terry has created, the moving finger writ, and a cunning git had an idea. And what a corker, so, expect the unexpected!

Auction Price-Watch By Gavin Arnold

Flataly has been alive and well on eBay over the last three months with over 500 various discworld stamps items selling for more than $\pounds 8,500$ – anything from sports going for as little as 99p to a whole collection of Stamps, Cover and Proof Sheets fetching £300.

As always it was the rarities that fetched the highest prices with a Red Nose Patrician fetching £ 180, a white backed Zombie £155 and a set of Bad Blintz rat stamps going for £145. A nice addition was a signed Thieves Guild Engraver's Proof, a charity donation by Bernard and Isobel, fetching no less than £157.90.

The Green Cabbage Trading Scheme continues to fuel eBay with the end of the Dragon Sanctuary envelopes seeing a flurry of trading with no less than 15 being sold over the last three months reaching anything from £39.00 to £111.19. This also saw the first of the Cabbage Seeds sets reaching eBay with a complete set of Catalogue, Seeds and Envelopes achieving £144. In addition to this Cabbage Trading Stamps continue to be a popular buy with prices of anything from £102 to £150 a sheet.

The mainstay of Discworld Stamps e-Bay sales does however continue to be those elusive sports and special stamps that always seem to be missing no matter how may LBEs you buy. While I would always recommend visiting the Trading section of the Discworld Stamps Forum (where you will find some real bargains without high postage) eBay does still offer some good buys with sports such as the 1/2 p Gold, 2p Blue and Gris going for as little as 99p!

Having said that the rarer stamps do still go for higher prices – the new \$5 Purple triangle has been fetching anything from £50 to £100 and the old favorites still continue to be popular -as a rough guide Assassins Postage Paid Zombies are now fetching somewhere around £13, but one lucky bidder did get one for as little as £7.73. Antidotes are keeping their value a little better at around the £50 mark and Blue Triangles continue to sell at around £35. As a committed Flatalist with a total lack of willpower when it comes to LBEs the thought of leaving any unopened is simply unthinkable. My final thoughts and admiration therefore goes to the two brave individuals who put up unopened LBEs on eBay. The first, two individual Hogswatch 2005 LBEs which were auctioned for charity fetched £37.50 and £30.78 in July, while more recently in September five of the first LBEs went for £87, how's that for inflation!

Just to give you a better idea of how on-line auctions have been faring here's the figures:

	Jul	Aug	Sep
Number of Listings	310	288	292
Items Sold:	203	162	142
Items not Sold:	107	126	150
Total Value of Sold Items:	£ 3,477.49	£ 2,982.22	£ 2,131.19

E-Bay Trading - Sold and Unsold

Value of Sold Items

Value	Jul	Aug	Sep
Less than £10.00	88	109	86
£ 10.00 to £ 24.99	68	28	31
£ 25.00 to £ 49.99	31	5	15
£ 50.00 to £ 99.99	11	12	8
£ 100.00 to £ 149.99	2	6	1
£ 150.00 to £199.99	2		1
£ 200 +	1	1	0
Total Winning Bids	203	162	142

For a full list of all the auction prices and a lot, lot more about the stamps, sports and covers be sure to visit Narelle Cairns' (Kelshandra) very interesting website at **www.discworldstampfans.co.uk**.

From Our Own For'n Correspondent Lisa Risley, USA

I've recently taken a part-time job in an independent (read: non-conglomerateowned) bookshop, dedicated to sci-fi & fantasy & related gaming (aptly named Pandemonium). I like to describe the place as "my shade of weird" the shop attracts a faithful clientele, and there seems to be a great "jerk shield" around the place: our customers are fabulous folks, nice folks, COOL folksthe kind of people who love to talk about their favorite books and authors. They're a lot like the folks who hang out on the Forum. And guess who is rather popular? Yes, a certain fellow by the name of "Terry Pratchett."

One recent Saturday evening, a gent wandered into the store. He might have been about my age (late 30's) or he may have been youngerhis head was shaved, his eyes bright and he had a serene joy in his countenance. He approached the counter and said to me in heavily accented English, "I am looking for book. By Pratchett. Terry Pratchett. Yes, Pratchett book. On science." "The Science of Discworld," I answered with a pleased grin. "One, two or three, but I'm afraid we've none of them in stock." (Sadly, they've not been released in the USA, although we're working on getting them.)

This was the beginning of an hour-long conversation as my fellow fan told me of Mr. P.'s great popularity in the Czech Republichow his books are translated in Czech almost as soon as they're printed in English, how well his sense of humor translates, and howlike methis gent had read all the Discworld books.

We got to talking about our favorite characterGranny Weatherwaxand this man, a carpenter from a Buddhist monastery halfway across the world, here in the U.S. for two months to talk about Buddhism, and I met eyes and smiledthat moment of mutual understanding that here was another human being who Got It. He actually uses Granny and quotes from the books in his talks. The message: it's not about what you believe, it's about how you live. Being a good human being doesn't being nice. And it's better to live rightly. He wasn't preachingwe just hit those high points of a mutually-loved character and stories we both knew so well.

And then... Then I asked my new-found friend if he'd read Going Postal. Of course he had! And then I asked if he'd seen the stamps. Stamps? (Picture the grin, fellow Flatalists, the joyful grin at the prospect of introducing a virgin to the glory of Flataly in person.) With real joy, I pulled my latest packet from Wincanton out of my satchel, the packet with the 2nd Anniversary LBEs and stamp catalog, and I laid them on the counter. Understand that this gent already had a pretty darn serene aura about him, but the Stamps... the Stamps brought delight into the mix. Exclamations over their beauty... their artistry... and the peculiar joy of seeing a "true" artifact from a beloved imaginary place. I had to share my bounty, particularly after the gift of the conversation, and my friend the carpenter chose only three (but the three! A new TOA, Purple Ankh 10P and a Gold Ha'Penny Post Office!), and I insisted he take the catalog. His smile was worth half a dozen LBEs (without sports).

It's tough sometimes on the American fanswe're just a wee bit envious of our fellow Flatalists in the UK, so close to Wincanton and the events, while The Pond separates us former Colonials from Mater Britannia and makes pilgrimage difficult. On that sunny Saturday afternoon, I got a little taste of Wincanton and got to introduce someone else to the peculiar pleasure of Discworld Stamps. I never even got his name. I know he was a carpenter... but I wonder if he's also a

CHARITY UPDATE BY DARREN HILL

A brief update this time oh learned Journal reader. Not due to any lack of generosity on your part or lack of worthy causes to be supported, but simply a squeeze to fit all the stuff into our ever-expanding tome. So, in as few words as possible (waddaya mean "Yippee!"?), on with the show...

Matthej's school fundraiser opened things, beginning just as the previous edition of this esteemed publication landed on your doormats. The cause supported was Christ Church C of E Infant School, and their project for updating and improving the landscaping, surroundings and play equipment of the school.

To achieve this, rather than follow the preceding raffles with another one, a number (22 in all) of items were collected and auctioned on eBay, with all profits going to the fund. The items ranged from unopened LBEs and first day covers to mint stamps and an (extremely rare) signed Thieves Guild first proof of artwork. And things sold extremely well (mainly to forum members), raising the princely sum of \$712.55.

The other big fundraiser recently was Steve "Lemming" James yet again wandering off the top of a tall building supported by nothing but a rope (and a damn sight more courage than I'd have!). The absurdly high place this time was Guys Hospital Tower (all 450ft of it), and the cause again Marie Curie Cancer Care.

His aim was to raise at least \$450 (a quid per foot of the drop), but at the time of writing he'd actually managed \$843. So rather than get out a spade and start digging, he decided that his next target was to get across London Bridge (hopefully having remembered to detach the rope!). And he's very close to it

(another \$470 needed to make it, so currently \$77 from the far end of it), so if you feel like getting him across just visit

http://www.justgiving.com/steeljamatguys and give him a final boost to his second goal!

And as an added bonus, he even secured a number of gifts, which were distributed by draw to his sponsors. These fifteen items were all well worth having, and I'm sure made the winning donors very glad.

So that's about it for now, except to remind that Doc's used stamp collecting is still ongoing (see the charity forum on the website, or drop them into the collection post-box in the shop). And once again, a huge thank you to everyone for their continuing generosity in support of the n**9**edy.



Philatelist, collector, and pole dancer

THE PATRICIAN REQUESTS YOUR ASSISTANCE ON PAIN OF PAIN

Have you run out of ideas on how to use your surplus of Pain Of Pain stamps? Is your stockbook groaning under the weight? Well now there is a solution.

As we all know these stamps are not covered by the GCTS scheme, however in an act of Supreme Wincanton Kindness, Bernard and Isobel have agreed in conjunction with the Patrician's Department of Charitable and Uncharitable Affairs, a new one-off trade-in, whereby the pain can be exchanged for happiness.



When all the stamps have been sent in and collated you as the donor will receive a certificate that will be special in two ways. Firstly the certificate will carry a special designed by Bernard, Vetenari seal, and secondly your certificate will be signed by Stephen Briggs in his guise as Lord Havelock Vetenari.

There is one important thing you must do to qualify for the certificate, you must send your Pain of Pains to me at the address below for collating and NOT to Hilary at the shop. Remember to include your name and address - if I don't have a record of your gift, I can't issue your certificate.

Please, please support this initiative, we all have loads of these stamps we don't need, so let's use them to make a difference. Send your stamps to me: Jem Millar. 4 Lower Felderland Cottages, Felderland Lane, Word In Worth, Kent,

UK, CT14 0BN.

Any questions please email me at: jemmillar@btopenworld.com

Please get the stamps to me by November 30th 2006 at the latest, so we know how many we've collected in time for the auction. Thankyou.

LETS MAKE THIS THE HEAVIEST THING PAT HAS EVER HAD TO AUCTION!

Cheers, Jem

* The charity chosen by Isobel will be The Kitchen Table Charities Trust, which supports small 'kitchen table' charities working in the third world which don't have their own fund-raising operations. Many of them work with children whose parents have died from Aids. Another charity helps polio victims who are forced to beg for a living, by training them to make sculptures from old junk. Other charities make small loans to widows who use the money to set up little businesses. Another teaches skills such as carpentry to young boys. A small hospital restores the sight of people with cataracts. Yet another runs a cancer hospice. The one thing these charities have in common is that whatever money they have is spent in the local area on the people most in need, with the minimum of bureaucracy, and all are closely monitored by KTCT.

Everything In Moderation by Fiona O'Mahoney

Loads of stuff have been going on in The Society pages. A membership certificate has been produced in PDF format and is available to download; all you need to do is add your name and Membership number. You can then keep it as a record of your Membership to the Flatalist Society, with all its Rights and Privileges. Sadly The Grand Secretary, Peter Yorke, recently had to resign from his post, real life having got in the way in a hugely exciting manner.

Steeljam posted a piccy of the shirts for the two teams that will battle it out in the Hogswatch Bar Football Championship and which are now available for purchase. I don't think you need to be in a team to buy them, so spend, spend, spend people!

Mad Hamish aka Chris Griggs is the organiser again and I'm fairly sure his devious mind will come up with a nasty twist to the game.

Zephyr aka Jenn Davis, our resident artist, was the cause of a Stamp Catalogue, Volume One, being sent round the world to all forum members to sign. We were worried for a while as it disappeared on its way to Ceriphinz but it turned up in the dead letter office in New Zealand and then continued its journey. So far its been round the USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, The Netherlands and

France. As we speak it's winging its way to Fendetestas in Spain.

The Society meetings are still happening on a regular basis and they are far more than just a Flatalist meet. Young Nicobains has excelled himself and has managed to arrange The Wales and The West's first meeting. Well done that young man! On a sadder note, Ptim has stepped down as organiser of the Essex Meets although he will still attend meetings as and when university studies permit.

Ankh-Morpork now seems to be properly twinned as it features on the road sign you see as you enter Wincanton - a real road sign featuring the AM coat of arms. Another interesting happening was announced via Gaspode; plans are afoot (and I think fairly well advanced) for the creation of a public footpath in Wincanton. It will be a brick path (as opposed to tarmac/concrete) and it is hoped that people will be able to buy their own brick and hence "own" a small bit of the path. And in return for this contribution from Discworld fans, the council has agreed to call the path "Ankh Morpork Way".

Now then a few statistics; at the time of writing, our forum had posted 296642 articles (please note that its not posts anymore), we have 932 registered users and on Fri Aug 25, 2006 at 9:58 pm 49 members were logged into the forum at the same time. So till the next time have fun with Flataly.



The Competition in Journal 7 was to design the heraldic device of any Discworld character, and the quality of entries was staggering. The only character with two designs to choose from was Dr Lawn. Aine Doherty's design features some fairly lethal-looking medical instruments on a shield quartered with a red cross on a background of grass, a border of apples, and the motto: Pomus Dies Servo Medicus Absentis (an apple a day keeps the doctor away). Pete Chapman's version had an old-fashioned lawnmower, a syringe, and an instrument

which I sincerely hope was for gardening, because if it was something for medical use you'd need a serious amount of anaesthesia during its use. Pete also contributed arms for Gaspode, the Hogfather, and Lu-Tze.

Martyn (Doc Brown) Ransom chose The Lady aka Luck, and his design showed said Lady winking over bone dice made with real bones, of course. The motto translates as 'Shhhh!!! You Know Who! Luck is a Lady'. Steven Healey honoured Detritus the Troll with a shield featuring, amongst other things, a Ruby (aah), and a reasonably lethal-looking crossbow, with a banner reading 'A Pacificus Quisnam Mos Planto Pieces ex Vos', being a Punne or Play on Words: 'A Peacemaker who will make Pieces out of You'.

Heather Avigdor made something wondrous in cross-stitch, which will probably go into the Charity Auction at Hogswatch, commemorating Mrs Vena "The Raven-Haired" McGarry. What else could there be but knitting needles and a sword? Her banner reads: 'Voro Frigidus Chalybs Porcus Canis' Eat Cold Steel Pigdog! William de Worde was Per Stalby's chosen character. His design featured a broken sword and a quill (well, actually, it was a rather fluffy yellow feather, but you get the idea), to suggest that the pen is mightier than the sword, a sentiment repeated (in Latin) in cut-out newsprint.

Dave (Addicted) Sherman rather bravely tackled the Dragon King of Arms himself. In another regrettable outbreak of Punnes, he used coats, to represent 'coats of arms', a badger (maker of badges) and a cricket bat with fangs (a vampire bat).

continued on back page

Coming Soon to an Emporium near you

A 'GENUINE' PILLAR BOX KEY AND IDENTITY PLATE, WITH ADDED WALK NUMBER DISC. Making a superb key ring in pewter

Details to follow, and a special offer for Gournal readers.

Your Editorial Team Editor in Chief Mr Stanley Howler

Your Editorial Team

Editor in Chief Mr Stanley Howler Sub-Editor & Envelope Stuffer Hilary Daniels Roving Reporters Gavin Arnold, Darren Hill, Helen Hill, Jem Millar, Fiona O Mahoney, Martyn Ransom Guest Columnist Lisa Risley Art Editor, important utterances and resident sexagenarian Bernard 'Birthday Boy' Pearson Everything else Granny Pearson

The Competition

Continued from page 12

Jonty Hird took on both Nanny Ogg and Granny Weatherwax. Jonty had obviously put a huge amount of thought into his contributions, which in itself is slightly worrying. For the Weatherwax crest, the shield features scales 'representing balance, judgement and justice', and a battle axe, symbolising 'the default setting of Mistress Weatherwax's natural emotional state'. Above the shield is the motto 'Inter Lux Lucis Quod Atrum' (Between the Light and the Dark), and below is 'Ego Non Loco Sursum Per Is', translated as 'I can't be having with that'.

Mrs Ogg's coat of arms should, Jonty claims, have been topped by a bruised dove, to represent the lady's lurid past, but it was decided that bruising was insufficient 'we would have to batter it with a hammer for ten minutes', so a pink ribbon was substituted. Her shield was originally supported by two trained hedgehogs salient, until a series of unfortunate and largely x-rated incidents involving Greebo, scumble, a Nac Mac Feegle and a feral hedgehog. The resulting chaos gave rise to the shield's banner: 'Il Porcupino Non Sodomy Est'. Isn't it comforting to know that this man is one of the Thin Blue Line, upholding law, order and decency? No? No, perhaps not.

Winners all, they will in due course receive exciting prizes.

The next competition is to design an LBE label. Please send your entry to the usual address to reach us by 31 December 2006.



Free with this issue:

Stamp Update by Helen Hill Franks for the Memory by Helen Hill The Unbirthday LBE

Koom Valley Service Postcard and free stamp

Special Gift Token 1



If any of these items are missing from your Journal, please contact the editor, who will make the usual excuses.

Kindly address all correspondence, abuse, valedictory communications, or marriage proposals to:

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