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The Urth list — 2 messages, 2 voices, 26 Apr 2000

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Patri10629 — 26 Apr 2000, 17:45

FYI: Frank Kermode is refering to the ending of Julian Barnes Magnificent and hilarious novel STARING AT THE SUN. I doubt it is a reference to Severian. The context doesn't suggest that. Though I have no idea who the caddie is meant to be literature-wise.

Patrick O'Leary

"The British novelist Julian Barnes allows an old-style heaven, the one that lingers on in the popular imagination, with harps, crowns and nightshirts for those who want it, but declares that it is going out of fashion. The new heaven is a more democratic, laid-back affair, a sort of limited monarchy where the titular head of state does not attempt to interfere and there is "pleasure every way." One can have the perfect breakfast three times a day, with as much sex and golf as desired. (His hero has a caddie called Severiano, a little joke for the cognoscenti.)...."

Do we have any of the cognoscenti here? I am completely at a loss. Is it a golf joke? An opera joke (Severiano sounds like an opera name)? A literary joke?

-alga

Kevin J. Maroney — 26 Apr 2000, 13:58 · follows Patri10629

At 01:45 PM 4/26/00 EDT, Patrick wrote:

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Google turns up one significant "Severiano"--Severiano Ballesteros is a professional golfer, "the most successful player in the history of Spanish golf", according to one site.

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