

JHF
ZNF
DUMP
#24

A zine (i.e., a fanzine about fanzines) by

Guy H. Lillian III
P.O. Box 163
Benton LA 71006 (COA)

318/797-1822 (home) * 504/909-7084 (cell)

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www.challzine.net

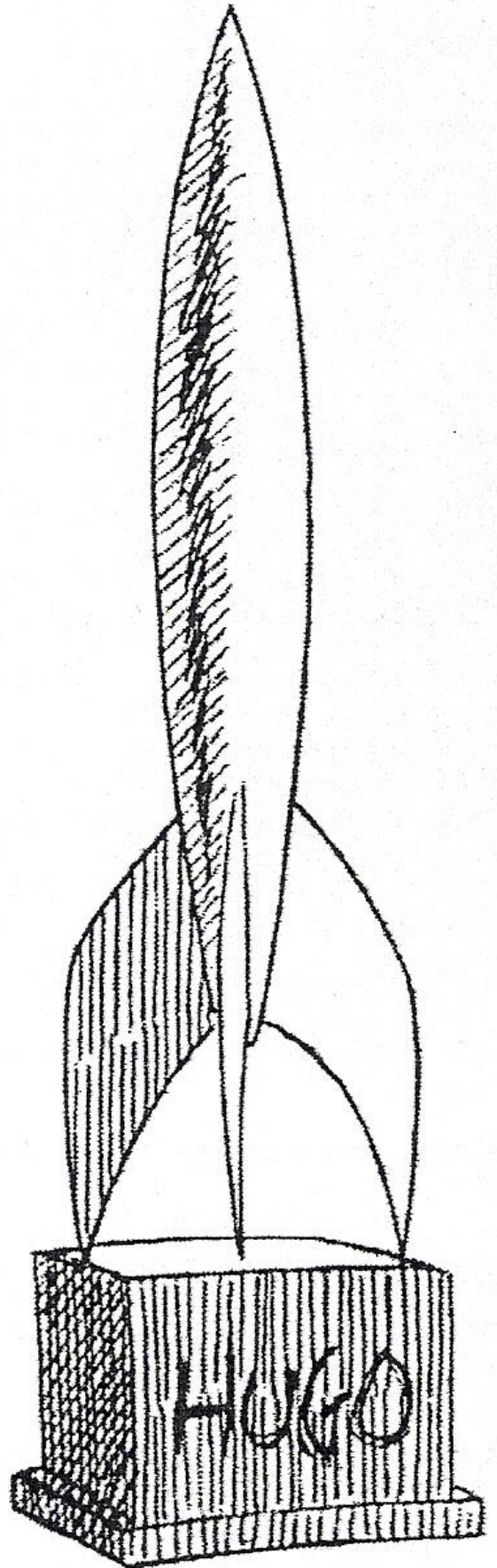
Begun Broderick Crawford Day, i.e. October 4 ("10-4!"), 2009,
finished on November 18, 2009.

Art by Taral Wayne & Alan White

The Curtain Closes. Dedication for this issue goes to the late **Ben Indick**, the enthused, entertaining, and erudite editor of *Ben's Beat*, zinedom's most informative theatre talk. Save us seats in the balcony, Ben.

So what's with the new address? I'll tell you. Rosy and I are looking for a house. In anticipation of this move I'm switching all of my fannish mail to the above post office box. Zines, LOCs, mash notes, money ... send'em all there.

Anticipation, the worldcon in Montreal, is well past. Anyone interested in the trip Rosy and I made to it, at it, and from it can find my vacation report, *The Panoramic Route*, on eFanzines or at the *Challenger* website, and feast upon my magnificent prose. A summary here: I enjoyed the con, thought the **Fan-Eds' Feast** an enormous success (thank you, everyone in attendance, and especially Cathy Palmer-Lister), and came away from the quirky Hugos convinced that there is less and less respect for the traditional fanzine in today's science fiction fandom.



Nothing demonstrates this truism better than the disservice done five of the six Anticipation nominees for the Best Fanzine Hugo. Brothers & sisters, we wuz *boned*.

I'd never heard of *Electric Velocipede* before it was nominated, but when it was I sent its editor, John Klima, an e-note offering to trade. He wrote back. *Electric Velocipede*, he said, was a fiction-zine available only on-line. He didn't even give me a snail mail address where I could send him a *Challenger*. In Anticipation's dealers' room I spotted a trade paperback of its "best." I learned in the course of the con that *Electric Velocipede* pays its contributors, as a matter of course. What kind of fanzine is that?

Someone told me later that *Electric Velocipede* fit the official Hugo definition of a fanzine, but to me, a zine that pays its contributors and sells professionally published collections of its "best" is at *least* a semiprozine. Along with *Weird Tales*' victory, its ascendance seemed a conclusive argument for the continuation of that maligned category. Problem is that no one really understands what a semiprozine *is*. The wordy official definition misses the point. Seems to me a semiprozine is a publication which is mainly for sale, which pays its contributors as a matter of course, and/or concentrates on fiction or professional news. Such publications are a different breed of cat from fanzines, which deal with fans and fandom and approach the genre from the audience's point of view.

Anticipation's Hugo results proved, for me, the continuing viability of the despised Semiprozine category. Created to exclude *Locus* from the Fanzine list, Best Semiprozine belonged to Charlie Brown for many years, and I agree, seemed a joke. But then *SF Chronicle* won on Brown's home turf (at Confrancisco; maybe they thought they were voting for the local newspaper). This year a worthy darkhorse, *Weird Tales*, came out of nowhere to cop the Hugo, and an admitted semiprozine hijacked the Fanzine category. It seems to me that the category, at last, serves a healthy need – and there are enough of them to justify keeping the category around. Also, Frank Wu – whom I've nominated and support for TAFF, by the way – tells me that Klima has now declared his publication a semiprozine, which insures that this year's fiasco won't reoccur. But what about next year? What's to keep some other usurper from raiding our turf?

I read the stats, and realize that there was no way *Challenger* could have won Anticipation's Hugo. I had that figured that going in. But to lose to a semiprozine was a cheat. It cheated me, it cheated Chris Garcia, it cheated Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, it cheated Steve Silver, it cheated Mike Glycer. We publish amateur magazines – fanzines. But Anticipation seemed to be saying that, as I bitterly scribbled on my Hugo program, "A regular fanzine is without place in worldcon fandom."

Thank heaven for Steven Silver. Although he won no Hugo that night, he picked one up for another winner. He brought it to the Hugo Losers' Party, and together we eyed the gorgeous chrome emblem of our genre and the splendid base – a real triumph – on which it sat. Later, he'd sell the right to hold the Hugo to all comers for \$5@ – proceeds to the fan funds. But at that moment, he cut through the outrage and disappointment of the night to articulate our hobby's heart. *We don't do this for Hugos* – although God knows, they're nice. *We do zines for ourselves ... and for others like ourselves*. There are still lots of us around.

And here's a sampling of what "Us" has put out since the last *TZD*. (*Italicized* entries did *not* come our way, and were among the many missed.) The schtick behind *The Zine Dump* should be well known by now. Now and forever (or at least until I gafiate), *The Zine Dump* wants to see every SF-oriented fanzine published in English. When SF fan editors send me their zines – or alert me to their appearance on eFanzines.com – I note them here. I hesitate to call what I pen "reviews," since my notices are seldom critical and I hope, never harsh. My belief about this hobby is that fan publishers need camaraderie and encouragement and "KTF" is for whack jobs. So send me your zine; I won't be mean. Please note the new address! Oh yes – *Challenger* #31 should be out by year's end. *I need LOCs on Challenger #30!* C'mon, Chorus – unleash those golden pens!

Alexiad Vol. 8 no. 4-5 / Joe & Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville KY 40204-2040 / jtmajor@iglou.com / \$2@ / Joe is a voracious reader with a cheery wit and a scholastic mind; he has the luck to be interested in everything, and the gift of inspiring reader enthusiasm for *almost* everything. Herein find reviews of works ranging from Tolkien's poem on Sigurd and Gudrun to a first person account of Valkyrie. Not to be outdone, Johnny Carruthers provides reviews of various varieties of M&Ms and Snickers (the breakfast of champions). We later find technological musings from Rodford Edmiston and Steve Silver's article on Fatty Arbuckle, part of a six-piece study of silent film comics. In these issues Joe & Lisa start their Anticipation trip report (including a run by Gettysburg, which we'd warmed up for them), and close with extensive lettercols rich with give'n'take. Joe asked me at worldcon how he could improve *Alexiad*. Beats me. The zine is spirited, varied, well-written, enlightening, and enjoyable – and appears on a frighteningly regular schedule. What's to improve?

Ansible #268 / Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5AU, U.K. / U.S. Agent: Janice Murray, P.O. Box 75684, Seattle WA 98125-0684 / SAE or google it. / Web news.ansible.co.uk / Langford's irreplaceable classic hies on, with news bits, comments, British convention listings, sentences that never should have been (a.k.a. "Thog's Masterclass"), notes on the recently lost, insults to the field (a.k.a. "How Others See Us"), all buoyed on outrageous wit. This month showcases a splendid stage tribute to Ken Campbell and an exciting review of a new play, *Nation*.

Aphelion #137, Vol. 13 / Dan Hollifield / www.aphelion-webzine.com / Editor Dan apologizes at the outset of this handsome on-line fiction-zine: he's been working on his own writing and neglected his fan publications. His thoughts on the writing "engine" are compelling, as is the article on that very subject by DAW novelist Seanan McGuire. As a matter of policy, I avoid commenting on fan-wrought fiction, but the poetry here is good, especially Davidson Hero's "The Cyborg", and the whole production remains attractive. .

Argentus / Steven Silver / <http://www.sfsite.com/~silverag/argentus.html>. / on eFanzines

Askance no. 17 / John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station TX 77845 / j_purcell54@yahoo.com / \$2, trade or on eFanzines.com / A real genzine – we're not extinct yet! – *Askance* is unpretentious and all the better for it. It takes nerve and talent to showcase such a solid black area as shows on this issue's exceptional cover – Taral's treatment of a sunbather on the moon. There's good art throughout this issue, and the bacover, from Sky High Gallery, is simply incredible. The text is topical and quite fine. Bill Wright and the editor "debate" Obama's Nobel Prize; Taral Wayne starts with "On Flanders Fields" and is off on an articulate consideration of the cost of war. Figby is here, Lloyd Penney recollects the '82 worldcon and reviews *JOMP* and *Bento*, and the lettercol, "Hinterlands", features good give'n'take. John lists forthcoming regional conventions – I think I'll skip the Furry Fiesta.

Aussiecon Four Progress Report #1 / Karen Babcock, editor@aussiecon4.org.au / Not much detail yet, just a few poems, ad and membership rates, a list of sign-ups to date and introductions to the Guests and committee heads for the 68th worldcon. We take joy in all, but special delight that Robin Johnson is being feted as Fan GoH. *Sometime during or just before the convention, Rosy and I will lead an expedition up Hanging Rock*. Watch for details.

Banana Wings #38-39 / Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES, U.K. / fishlifter@googlemail.com / *Banana Wings* is the most focused zine out there, concentrating its fine writing squarely on fandom. You won't find any articles about tennis players or the Manson family here. Instead, you'll read James Bacon's detailed account of chairing an Eastercon (complete with *Gettysburg* illustrations; I didn't know Brit conventions were so rough!), Peter Sullivan on webcasting the same, Brialey on the care and composition of LOCs, a chapter in a GUFF Report (Australia-England/England-Australia) by Juliette Woods, and much more, including some worthy LOCs. This single-mindedness may limit *BW*'s appeal for those not as committed to fandom as the editors, but for

fellow travelers, it's fascinating. Production is immaculate (though I wonder at the occasional pasted-in pages), and Alan Hunter's covers – especially that to #9 – are excellent.

Baryon Magazine 110-1 / Barry R. Hunter, 114 Julia Drive SW, Rome GA 30165 / www.baryon-online.com / free online, \$5@ printed / That's a pretty profile on the cover of the printed version of this reviewzine, in which Harriet Klausner, joined by the editor and several others, reviews dozens of genre thrillers. I'm amazed by the volume of material being published, and Harriet's ability to keep up with it all. *206 Bones* sounds very readable. Touching eulogies for Ken Moore and Ben Indick lead.

BCSFAzine #s 436-8 / Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond BC, Canada V7C 1J6 / felicity4711@gmail.com / Fine cover illos to these three issues – two clever Fosters and Blackhawk, by Howard Chaykin, whose art I don't see much of these days. As befits the newsletter of the British Columbia SF Association, most of the content is fact stuff, event calendars, "News-Like Matter" of book signings, "Twitter fic" contests (???), forthcoming SF flicks and the like. Sorry I missed Cthulhupalaoza!

Bento 21 / David Levine & Kate Yule, 1905 SE 43rd Ave., Portland OR 97215 / kate@bentopress.com, david@bentopress.com / David & Kate have the coolest method of distributing *Bento*. You'll be strolling down a hallway at worldcon and suddenly, *there it will be in your hand* (i.e., they'll give it to you). The content of this palm-sized genzine reflects that light-heartedness. In honor of Quebec, site of Anticipation, the cover is in French and Kate opens with natter about studying the language in the past. David writes about making his own yogurt, which he gives a Lovecraftian twist by shortening the word to "yog." Karen Berry misses "the boredom and torture" of automobile travel for kid passengers. Kate exults over having the internet's depthless fount of info in her pocket. David boasts about almost-fixing stuff. Kate mulls over funny language. That's half the zine – the rest is a charming lettercol. Will we be astonished at Aussiecon IV by a *Bento* appearing suddenly in our grasp? Stay tuned.

Brooklyn! Nos. 65-66 / Fred Argoff, Penthouse L, 1170 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11230-4060 / \$10 in cash per 4 quarterly issues / Normally filled with photos and anecdotes of various borough sites and sights, nursery rhymes are the theme of this *Brooklyn!* Fred sets the stories of Rapunzel, Red Riding Hood, Jonah Rumpelstiltskin and more in America's favorite neighborhood and retells them in its inimitable *patois*. #66 offers a delightful photo spread taken at Coney Island's Mermaid Parade, whose participants would be right at home at Mardi Gras, a book review, an article about Greenpoint, and a fascinating page about Steve Brodie, fraudulent bridge-jumper. I don't know why Fred claims no one could survive a leap from the Brooklyn Bridge; Johnny Weissmuller did it in *Tarzan's New York Adventure*.

Chunga / Andy Hooper, Randy Byers, *carl juarez*, 1013 N. 36th St., Seattle WA 98103 / fanmailaph@aol.com / \$3.50@ / Editors requests three copies of any zine sent in trade /

DASFAx Oct. '09 / Ivan Geisler & Sherry Johnson, 8046 Lee Ct., Arvado CO 80005 / Editor@DASFA.com / <http://www.dasfa.org> / I note the delightful name of Dana Cain – onetime NOLan – listed as hostess for a Dead Dog Party in October. Wish we'd seen her at D3 last year! Also in this issue of the Denver SF club's monthly newzine, Fred Cleaver's book reviews – a standard – and Sourdough Jackson on A. Bertram Chandler's John Grimes stories, a charming reminder of the way the future was.

Data Dump #138 / Steve Sneyd, 4 Nowell Place, Almondbury HD5 8PB, U.K. / I love getting *Data Dump* in the mail, because I know Steve's exuberant language will entertain me even as his idiosyncratic penmanship (the text is handwritten) exercises my eyes. *Data Dump* wouldn't be half as much fun if you could easily read it. Herein, Steve natters away on the place of poetry in SF, the fascinating *King in Yellow*, the Ern Malley hoax (of which I am ignorant). He praises Robert Lichtman for "unmasking" the mystery behind "the oddly-named *Vembletroon*" and mentions the many losses to the field (e.g. Jack

Speer, Forry, Phil Farmer) noted in a Rhysling Awards anthology. I most enjoyed his review of Brian Aldiss' *A Prehistory of Mind*, perhaps because Steve's handwriting is microscopically more legible there than elsewhere. Also here: a review of *Moondust – The Album* and "Lady GaGa's Metal Bra", which comes along many years too late to impress *this* aged roué.

De Profundis 440-1 / Marty Cantor, c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood CA 91601 / "No longer the official newsletter of the club", meaning LASFS. Costs were the culprit forcing the iconic Angeleno organization to dump its newsletter. So editor Cantor took over, and *DeProf* will be written and distributed as ever – on Marty's nickel. Both LASFS and fandom owe Marty a huzzah for this – LASFS because it gets to keep in touch with fandom, fandom because it gets to keep reading LASFS' wackoid "Menace" (read "minutes") – with their triple cheers for Patron Saints (including Marc Schirmeister, FGoH at the '10 Westercon and o'erdue for such recognition) and ridiculous reports and phenomenal *joie de fandom*. (I note the name of erstwhile coastie Jeni Burr, wonderful to see in print. *Semper paratus*.) Good for you, Marty.

The Drink Tank Issue 230 / Chris Garcia, Garcia@computerhistory.org / On eFanzines / The amazingly prolific and enthusiastic Garcia wings a new *Drink Tank* into the ether every few days – or so it seems. He's a fine writer and attracts excellent contributors, but boy, does he make me feel old. Here, calling on his Mexican heritage, he announces a forthcoming issue themed on *los muertos* – literally, "dead people." (Contributors are asked to write about people no longer living that have importance to them. I don't know where to start. Lincoln? MM? My grandmother?) I more look forward to Chris' report on Windycon, where he was Fan Guest of Honor. Taral Wayne chats about the writing projects he has under weigh, and Garcia returns to chat about *teen films* – the kind of movies I avoid. His analysis of *Dude, Where's My Car?* is sharp and entertaining, which shows how much I know. By the way, I tried to look back at other issues on eFanzines, but drew only white screens. Considering the excellence of *DT*'s artwork, as well as its text, that's a double burn.

EI46 / Earl Kemp, P.O. Box 6642, Kingman, AZ 86402-6642 / earlkemp@citlink.net / eFanzines.com / Earl's journal is an invaluable resource for anyone desiring to know about America's *hidden* popular culture. His former career as a purveyor of loathsome porn provides a depthless well from which articles and reminiscences can be drawn. Bedecked with a righteous Steve Stiles toon in the EC style, this issue deals – in an adult and intellectually satisfying manner – with a "classic" from the courageous days of Essex House, comparing it favorably to the works of Jim Thompson (a favorite of Leslie van Houten's, and an equal genius to James M. Cain in many opinions). Earl's "Letters to Jim O'Meara 2" is a chapter in an epistolary autobiography, covering a move to California from Chicago in the mid-1960s – the attitudes of the times blister through, and the photos are a royal trip. Dick Lupoff contributes a piece on Mack Reynolds' first novel, *The Case of the Little Green Men*, and the nifty small press, Ramble House, re-issuing it. It's only at this point that the issue finds its theme, with several articles on gay porn in the day, with Ann Bannon's review of *The Golden Age of Gay Fiction* at the crux, along with a long, thoughtful article by Rob Latham which depicts Phil Farmer's *Blown* and *A Feast Unknown*, which, 20 years old and thinking myself outrageously hip, I bought at Cody's Book Store in Berkeley. Following, a selection of risqué pulp covers (remember nudist magazines?) and a gorgeous *coda illo* from Ditmar.

Exhibition Hall / Chris Garcia & James Bacon, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View CA 94043 / eFanzines / Preview issue of "An International Steampunk Fanzine" by two of the most robust writers in current fandom. It celebrates Steampunk, a sub-sub-set of fandom marked by "amazing costumes, great presentations and dealer's room[s] nearly beyond belief." James, the UK editor, provides a piece on and a photo of Robert Rankin, who looks natty in his Al Capone suit. His next project is a sequel to *the* great steampunk novel, *War of the Worlds*. Speaking of sequels to H.G. Wells masterworks, Chris provides a sprightly review of Stephen Baxter's *Anti-Ice* (Baxter wrote *The Time Ships*, remember) and an awed account of his religious experience with the Hereford Cathedral Screen, "an object that seemed eternal." An appreciation of cute costumer Miko Simons tops all. Chris and James: talk about dynamic duos. Anything either takes up will be worth watching; more than double that when they work together.

File 770:154 / Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia CA 91016 / Mikeglyer@cs.com / The indisputable king of current zines, *File 770* was the last *real* fanzine to take home the Hugo, and probably would have this year, too. I've called the zine "fandom's yearbook" in consideration of its admirable purpose and unique niche. It boasts worldcon reports (from Francis Hamat), ruminations on great fanzines past (by Taral, whose Anticipation report will run in the next issue), obits (a cursedly full section, including Jack Stocker), gossip, features on matters various, fannish and interesting (nice to see Wombat again), editorials (Mike favors dropping the semiprozine Hugo category – as you've seen, I do not), and a righteous set of LOCs. Generously illustrated by photos and great fan artists – Brad Foster, Taral – who did this issue's covers), *File* is simply unmatched, *the way* fandom in America keeps in touch with fandom in America – at least in print.

For the Clerisy / Brant Kresovich, P.O. Box 404, Getzville NY 14068-0404 / kresovich@hotmail.com / \$2, LOC, or trade

The Fortnightly Fix #s 1-2 / Steve Green, stevegreen@livejournal.com / eFanzines / Steve was the TAFF representative at Anticipation and grand company throughout the con. These brief zines cover the Festival of Fantastic Films (at which Steve interviewed actress and hot patootie Emily Booth, star of *Sacred Flesh* and memorable in *Grindhouse*), and his speech to the Birmingham SF Group he joined as a lad. LOCs include a miffed response from the Corflu Cobalt chair to Steve's plaint about high room rates, and a welcome back to fan editing by John Purcell which I heartily second.

Fosfax / Tim Lane, c/o FOSFA, P.O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281 / \$4



Head! #8 / Christina Lake & Doug Bell, 35 Gyllyng Street, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 3EL U.K. / doug_bell@tiscali.co.uk, christina.l@virgin.net / A rather old (March '09) issue, but too interesting to ignore. Maybe it's nostalgia; the zine's title, like Brad Foster's psychedelic cover, strikingly evokes the golden sixties. The writing within is powerful in spots, and always skilled. After Bell's report on the '08 Eastercon, Christina describes a trip to Dresden and Berlin, haunted by hideous history. (Apropos of little, *Slaughterhouse Five* isn't the only novel to take on the firebombing of the former city; my onetime teacher John William Corrington took it on in a

terrific book called *The Bombadier*.) Randy Byers reviews an older French film, *Diva*, which I recall enjoying, Lake applies the spirit of Salman Rushdie to her life in the BSFA ... uh, okay ... and Doug dissects his musical tastes. Having recently discovered Texas fandom, in which Rosy and I are completely unknown, Hugo nominations and DUFF status notwithstanding, I identify with Lake's plaint that an unfamiliar con makes her feel like a neo, and the comments in the lettercol about the lack of young faces in traditional fandom. As Rosy says, we have no common ground. We read, they watch.

Home Kookin' #9-10 / The Vegrants, c/o Arnie Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas NV 89145 / Okay, so it's not the great Las Vegas genzine of yore, *Wild Heirs*, it's still the Vegrants at full throttle, an e-zine conceived and halfway created at the Vegas club's grand meetings at *chez* Arnie. The "editorial" is produced in the classic oneshot style – who else remembers oneshots? – of various fans taking turns wailing at a keyboard with rants ranging from ringtones to limericks. Photos of the madmen abound. Nic Farey was there! JoHn Hardin supplies an appreciation of great delicatessens, and Katz himself contributes a fine piece on the Fanoclasts. It's illustrated by superb "old" (1966) photos of the legendary NY club, of which the Vegrants are obviously the wildest of wild heirs.

The Insider #274-5 / Michelle Zellich, 1738 San Martin Dr., Fenton MO 63026 / mzellich@csc.com OR michelle@zellich.com / \$10/year / Missed the Z's at worldcon! Here's the colorful, brim-full genzine/clubzine Michelle edits for her St. Louis comrades, a beautiful mélange of fannish stuff, science articles ("Serving Up Buckyballs on a Silver Platter"), media news, well-wrought eulogies (lovely pieces on Khen Moore and Walter Cronkite – strange comrades indeed!), cartoons, calendars – you name it. My favorite article in #274 is a classic account by Jud Meyers of his encounter with Julie Schwartz at the DC offices – as a truant. It's so good I might ask to reprint it. In #275, Michelle reprints a cute article about the space experience of Buzz Lightyear – a doll from *Toy Story*. I well remember Buzz Aldrin holding up a Lightyear doll at the start of his speech to LACon III and shouting "*I come in peace!*"

Instant Message #825-8 / NESFA, P.O. Box 809, Framingham MA 01701-0809 / info@nesfa.org / <http://www.nesfa.org> / I just noticed that – unless it's a coincidence – the great Boston SF club *changes the color* of its newsletter issue to issue. Isn't that fascinating? Their business reports, reported in detail in each issue, boggle one's wits. A first-rate regional convention, Boskone, *the best genre publishing company* going (we treasure the collections of Poul Anderson and Roger Zelazny stories – six volumes between them – we bought at worldcon) – and they still find time to hand out Skylark Awards (as documented here) and hold fan picnics. Awesome. We learn from #828 that *IM* will soon go electronic, but paper copies are still promised for NESFA members in good standing.

Interstellar Ramjet Scoop / Bill Wright, 4/1 Park St., St. Kilda, Vict. 3182 Australia

Janeens_news@yahoo.groups.com / Janeen Schouten@nrm.qld.gov.au / Janeen is like that paint company – she *covers the world*. Among the recent bizness mentioned in her constant and enthused e-notes are the *V* revival (which is awful), *Flashforward*, the death of Pavel Popovich (whose orbital flight, simultaneous with Adrian Nikolayev's, shocked the U.S. space program in the early '60's), the "hatchet job" on SFers by Aussie hoser Couchman, advice from burglars on thwarting same, the settlement of an Ellison lawsuit, and a photo of Summer Glau, for which hallelujah. She's also providing Rosy & me with some welcome guidance for our 2010 worldcon trip. We look forward to meeting her.

Journal of Mind Pollution #34 / Richard A. Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Dr. #302, Alexandria VA 22306 / RichD22426@aol.com / t.u. / A "light" issue of Rich's unique essay-zine, lacking the scholastic interest in the occult on which he often touches. Instead he natters on *Die Fledermaus*, socialism, and the obscure but popular subgenre, "swindlers with hearts of gold," principally *The Rogues*, a show from the sixties about lovable thieves with the best cast ever assembled for a TV program: Niven, Boyer, Gig Young, Gladys Cooper, Robert Coote. His follow-up piece self-critiques a speech he made to Toastmasters which he thinks fell flat – on Alien Greys. (On that subject, I advise one and all to miss *The Fourth Kind*, a pointless waste of Milla Jovovich.) Other voices take over: Jim Sullivan, always welcome, on *vegetable pets* – haven't seen *that* movie yet – and the Chorus, on previous issues.

The Knarley Knews #134-5 / Henry Welch, 18345 Skyline Blvd., Los Gatos CA 95033 / knarley@welchcastle.com / \$1.50 @ / Knarl's genzine keeps an enviably regular schedule. I had a hard time opening #134. Brad Foster's cover – the façade of a cathedral – is so intricate and precise in detail that I could study it for hours. But tearing myself away brings the interior of the zine to view: a thoughtful essay/story by Alexis Gilliland on "The Tao of Happiness", a funny piece by Jim Sullivan, Steve Silver's continuing description of the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Knarley's editorial "spumings" include sad news of a pet cat's demise and non-news about his Patent Bar Exam. Worthwhile stuff throughout, but we miss regulars Letha Welch and Terry Jeeves. #135 features a very funny Schirmeister piece, "spumings" about house-buying and California's crazy school districts, a Gene Stewart article on the future of periodicals, another Silver chapter, many LOCs, including some excellent exposition on homelessness and kind atheists from Dave Szurek.

Lofgeornost #96 / Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction VT 05001 / fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu / FAPA and trade / Gee, poor Fred – he and his wife Sheryl had to spend ten

days last summer in the *south of France*. This issue of his FAPAazine – bearing the epigram of “Simplicity and Patience” -- details his adventures. Fred illuminates the beauties of the present with rich historical references. It’s an exceptional report of an enviable trip. In “Topics”, Fred lists responses to earlier issues by other wits of fandom, Steve Silver, Joe Major, Sue Thomason, Dainis Bisenicks. Rosy and I passed through Vermont – a gorgeous place – coming home from worldcon.

Luna! Nos. 1-4 “An Official Publication of the Luna Project” / Christopher D. Carson, P.O. Box 1035, Ft. Worth TX 76101 / ed_luna@lunarcc.org / www.lunarcc.org / *gratis* / Calling for “immediate, permanent human settlement in Luna,” these are one-sheet (legal-sized) arguments for the establishment of just such a Luna City. Its enthusiasm is admirable. These four issues climax with Carson’s call for worldcon 2017 – the 75th – to be held on the moon. Premature – the 175th, maybe – but a nice dream.

MarkTime / Mark Strickert, 9050 Carron Dr. #273, Pico Rivers CA 90660 / busnrail@yahoo.com / \$2 or t.u.

MidFanZine #4 / Anne KG Murphy, 120 S. Walnut St., Yellow Springs OH 45387 / editor@midfan.org / eFanzines / Saw Anne at Anticipation running interference for GoH Gaiman. She’s now running for TAFF. Bedecked with a funny Kurt Erichsen cover and an elegant Brad Foster interior, this is ... well, we’ll quote: “*MidFanzine* is published by Midfan – a group of Midwest convention running fans who’ve decided to band together to help make conventions run better, and to further fannish connection in the Midwest.” I haven’t organized a convention for almost 35 years, but I can see how the articles here on hotels, access, “diversity” (attracting and entertaining younger fans, i.e., gamers) and organizing a bone marrow registry (!) would be extremely helpful. The zine ends with a listing of Midwest conventions, which are obviously in good hands.

MonSFFA Impulse / Bernard Reischl / reischl@videotron.ca / Bernard was ill this fall so the October issue of the Montreal SF group’s newsletter had to be kyboshed. Plenty of news in this e-mail, however – a release from the Odyssey Writing Workshop in their online classes, and initial plans for the Polaris 24 convention.

MT Void Vol. 28 Nos. 15-20, whole #s 1566-71 / Evelyn C. Leeper, eleeper@optonline.net / http://www.geocities.com/evelynleeper / Subscribe at mtvoid-subscribe@yahoogroups / A weekly e-zine which riffs on lots and lots of topics. Evelyn and partner Mark Leeper are good writers and their essays are always on point and well-turned. In the last month or so we’ve seen Evelyn review a poor collection of Sherlock Holmes horror pastiches and praise China Mieville’s *The City & the City*, persuading me to try that difficult writer’s work again. Mark’s salute to *The Twilight Zone* at age 50 is so righteous that I’m moved to pen my own for the next *Challenger*. Also here: the generic use of “champagne” and “Roquefort”, Poe’s 200th birthday, and much more. Does the Mt. Holz SF Society have any other members besides the Leepers?

Mumblings from Munchkinland #27 / Chris Lewis, 63 Ligertwood St., Evatt, ACT Australia / nelsonleeoz@hotmail.com / eFanzines.com / “The only West Australian fanzine ever published in Samoa!” / I owe Chris a copy of *Challenger* #30; off it goes today. Chris is a seasoned fannish vet who founded *Mumblings* 20 years ago while in Pakistan with the Aussie Peace Corps. Beneath the Brad Foster cover – *MfM*’s first original art, Chris says – we find a thought-provoking article based on a Sam Merwin editorial from 60 years back – “Who is Science Fiction’s Sherlock Holmes?” Where is the SF character who can become so identified with the genre as to “lift stf out of the specialized into the generally popular”? Chris mentions Buck Rogers – SF was even then “that crazy ‘Buck Rogers stuff’” – Captain Future, Superman, and decades later, Kirk & Spock. The species-wide popularity of *Star Wars*, *HHGTTG* and *Dr. Who* is conclusive evidence of their success as SF’s Holmes & Watson. I don’t understand the SFnal connections of Penelope Cruz, the exquisite cornerstone on which Tim (Tim who?) builds a hilarious report on his trip to Spain – but who needs one? Only such as she could make the wonderful illo by Edd Cartier with which Lewis closes this issue anticlimactic.

Narcolepsy Press Review 2009 / Randy Robbins, P.O. Box 17131, Anaheim CA 92817-7131 / narcolepsyreview@hotmail.com / \$3 by mail / *The first time I reviewed this “zine”, last issue, I didn’t adequately praise its deep and well-turned personal writing. Randy’s account of his hospital stay (a heart transplant! MFER!) and his eulogy for the uncle who had informed him of the joy of living are really fine work.*

The NASFA Shuttle Sept.-Oct. 2009 / Mike Kennedy, c/o North Alabama SF Association, P.O. Box 4857, Huntsville AL 35815-4857 / nasfa.shuttle@con-stellation.org / \$1.50@, \$10/year / One of my favorite clubzines from one of my favorite clubs – and not just because they named Rosy & me Fan Guests of Honor at one of their outstanding Con*stellation conventions. In addition to running a club schedule, the *Shuttle* is as good a reference to fandom at large as most zines, with the best awards news in the genre and frequent con reports. September features one by Gary Shelton, with some good masquerade photos. Constant welcome presences in the lettercol, Lloyd Penney and Sheryl Birkhead.

Newsletter of the Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society November, 2009 #85 / Reese, skywise@bellsouth.net / Cool articles and links from everywhere. Aside from items like the similarities between James Cameron’s *Avatar* and Poul Anderson’s “Call Me Joe” and the disposition of Octavia Butler’s SF collection, reprinted with credit from *Ansible*, this is material I haven’t seen anywhere else. Such as: regional stage productions of *The Screwtape Letters* ... an analysis of the current “cute vampire” trope ... a fascinating article about whether the Chicxulub Crater in the Gulf of Mexico marks the true meteoric bullseye for the dinosaurs, or whether the newly-discovered Shiva Crater in India denotes the true cosmic culprit. Always a fun e-mail, but *it needs a name*.

Nice Distinctions 18 / Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814 / hlavaty@panix.com / Most of Arthur’s snarky and witty annual perzine originated on livejournal, where the author goes by “supergee”. Arthur’s fallen in love with such media: he’s also on Facebook, Dreamwidth, but eschews MySpace and actively fears Twitter. Here he opines – snarkily and wittily – on the ’08 election, the elevation of Sonia Sotomayor to the Supremes, the despicable assassination *in church* of that abortion doctor, the International Conference of the Fantastic, PETA, the term “spooks,” and memorializes the many friends he’s lost of late. I love his description of John Updike as “their Robert Silverberg.” (I liked *Rabbit, Run* and *The Centaur*.) Individualistic and irreplaceable, “snarky and witty” is the way to go.

Opuntia 66.3, 67, 67.1A, 67.1B, 67.1C / Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7 Canada / \$3 @ or. / “Whole numbers are sercon, x.1 issues are reviewzines, x.2 issues are indexes, x.3 issues are -apazines, x.5 issues are perzines.” / Dale denies leading “a very exciting life,” but the life he does lead makes for fascinating fan writing. In these issues he runs the gamut. He sees a fatal car wreck, avoids a terrible bike accident, finds a goose killed by a golf ball (!) and ruminates on life & ... the other thing: “If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans for the future.” He mourns his uncle, who once survived a plane crash through ice (!!) carrying thousands in cash which he subsequently recovered and ironed (!!!). He opines on oil and gold, reviewing books on each. He lists zines he’s received, including a couple I need to trade for. Through the inexplicable death of a Wal-Mart employee trampled in a Black Friday consumer stampede, he ponders the meaning of the Book of Amos. He reports on Calgary’s Con*version. Sharp, edgy, never boring, without attitude, but with passion, Speirs is the most compelling fan writer we see from Canada and one of the best, period.

The Original Universe Issue 9 / Jeff Boman, 6900 Cote St-Luc Road #708, Montreal QC H4V 2Y9 Canada / theoriginaluniverse@gmail.com / \$3 for sample issue, \$12 annually / Jeff gave me this issue at worldcon. He reports that the zine is an Aurora Award nominee (congrats!) and that he’s campaigning promoting it via his Twitter community. Maybe that’s how I could take a Hugo from Glycer. Getting to “the meat” of the issue, Boman interviews Fred Hembeck, (who claims he still has trouble drawing hands), reviews several films I didn’t see, talks comics (there’s a *Black Lantern Corps*? An *Orange*

Lantern? They publish comics on Twitter? I'm *old! Help!*) His lettercol includes (who else?) Lloyd Penney, whom Boman calls "our generation's T.M. Maple", and overly kind reviews of *TZD* and *Challenger*. .

Planetary Stories #16 and Pulp Spirit #7 / Shelby Vick, www.planetarystories.com / planetarystories@gmail.com / ShelVY recently got phished, leading to a phony e-mail to his entire address book. Apparently he'd gone to England and needed \$1500 to get home. (*I* outsmarted the hijackers; only sent *a thousand*.) As to the zine, ShelVY's evocation of '40s pulp is always beautiful. With the invaluable expertise of Jerry Page (winner of Southern fandom's triple crown – Rebel, Phoenix, and Rubble Awards), he creates a unique package. #17 features a fine Jim Garrison cover – hopefully, this fine artist *isn't* the lunatic who prosecuted Clay Shaw – and a continuation of Page's BonnieN Clyde series, among several "good new stories." *Pulp Spirit*, edited by Page, deals with other genres besides SF; the item I note most wistfully is the piece by the late Jerry Burge, Page's lifelong friend. Got to meet him once, *the* unforgivably missing name in the roster of Rebel winners.

Plokta #s 39¾-40 / Steve Davies, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berks U.K. RG30 2RP; Alison Scott, 24 St. Mary Rd., Walthamstow, London U.K. E17 9RG; Mike Scott, 2 Craithie Rd., Chester U.K. CH3 5LJ / locs@plokta.com / <http://www.plokta.com> / What form will protean *Plokta* transform itself into next? Guarantee you it'll be wonky and in-groupish and very, very funny. The earlier of these A4 oddities depicts "Transylvanian Families", cuddly toys in a fiendish vein; the interior beckons readers towards <plokta.com>, where these pages come to life, and a prose portrait by James Bacon of Paul Cornell, one of the convention's guests. There's also funny bizness about collecting audiotapes and Alison Scott's proud account of her running career. The 40th issue, obviously distributed at the con, celebrates ... 40 issues, with cover reproductions and clever stories by Cornell and Diana Wynne-Jones, another of <plokta.com>'s guests. Phil Bradley's piece on loo etiquette would do well in Southern fandom. Throughout, the Hugo-winning artistic wit of Sue Mason.

QuasiQuote / Sandra Bond, 40 Cleveland Park Ave., London E17 7BS UK / locs@ho-street.demon.co.uk

The Reluctant Famulus 71-72 / Tom Sadler, 305 Gill Branch Rd., Owenton, KY 40359 / thomasdsad@copper.net / *TRF* is a reliably good genzine featuring short, well-turned articles from a consistent stable of contributors. Bob Sabella runs us through an SFnal alphabet. Gene Stewart critiques modern comedy. Looking back to better days, Steve Silver continues his series on silent movie comedians with a wowzer piece on Buster Keaton (*Challenger* awaits his article on Chaplin) – Steve merits his frequent Hugo postings for Best Fan Writer. Best laugh is Al Byrd's take on the local Sorghum Festival, part of his continuing series on "Kentuckiana"; most upsetting is Sheryl Birkhead's account of conveying a dead kitten to an inaccessible pathology lab. Excellent art from Steve Stiles (the cover) and Brad Foster (interiors), and why do I feel I should add "of course"? The follow-up issue starts out wacky, with a cover by Kurt Erichsen – with Marc Schirmeister, fandom's looniest 'toonist – and an editorial that is mostly *blank*. Sabella, Stewart, Byrd and Birkhead are all back, with good stuff (Byrd talks Civil War in this article) – Bob eulogizes the great Ben Indick. Invaluable contributors, all, but more important to the success of any genzine is the editorial presence, and Sadler provides that: friendly rejoinders to the lettercol chorus and inspiring thoughts on the nature of our genre.

Renovation / P.O. Box 13278, Portland OR 97213-0278 / Nice, colorful flyer for the 2011 worldcon – to be held in Reno NV – promoting their initial membership rates. Short squibs herein from Chris Garcia and Patty Wells promote the area, which I vouch for; it's gorgeous. Rosy (S672) and I (S393) will soon convert our memberships to Attending, since of course we plan to be there.

The Revenge of Hump Day / Tim Bolgeo, tbolgeo@att.net / Weekly e-zine / Made aware by many of how tired people are of politics, Timmy has vowed to keep the first *Revenge* of every month politics-free. That leaves us with science, always interesting, and jokes, always dreadful. An unmissable experience,

but the jokes merit a warning label from the Food and Fanzine Administration. Rebel-winner Bolgeo's long-running Chattanooga convention, complete with casino, is a highlight of every Southern spring.

Royal Swiss Navy Gazette #19 / Garth Spencer, Box 74122, VMPO, Vancouver BC Canada V5V 3P0 / garthspencer@shaw.ca / Boasts Garth proudly of his perzine, "this fanzine is entirely free of Olympic promotions." What it does have is a lot of good personal writing – Taral Wayne on Remembrance Day and his adventures in the Canadian wilderness, Phil Paine on how to *exhale* relax one's way through life – a funny cover by Roy Pounds (would that all griffins were that cute), a LOC from Lloyd and an editorial listing some of Garth's projects. What's a "contemporary life manual"?

Sense of Wonder Stories / Rich Coad, 2132 Berkeley Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95401

Some Fantastic / Matthew Appleton, 4656 Southland Av., Alexandria VA 22312 / www.somefantastic.us / primarily via PDF, free, but \$2@ for printed copies

Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 3 / Warren Buff, 2144 B Ravensglass Pl., Raleigh NC 27612 / warrenmbuff@gmail.com / SFC membership \$15 annually / Warren's doing an excellent job as SFC President and *Bulletin* editor, although one wishes his interiors featured artwork as funny as this cover (Alan Beck's "Robert Mouse Lee"). Still, the many con and trip reports (by Steve & Sue Francis, Regina Kelly, Tom Feller &c.) are good reading for all and essential fare for Southerners. For instance, Randy Cleary's tale of winning the Rebel *in absentia* (the fakefan left DeepSouthCon to attend a concert!) is a hilarious lesson for fans south o'the Mason-Dixon: never skip the DSC Awards Ceremony; it *might* be your year! Also con listings, regional fanzines, LOCs. The *Updates* Warren publishes are more genzine-like, with reviews (the latest Stross, James Morrow's *Shambling Towards Hiroshima*), Warren's personal schedule, a report on a Nashville comicon by Jeff Thompson. I'll join the others in praising the cool headline font.

Statement #367, Vol. 33 No. 7 / Sandi Marie McLaughlin, OSFS, 18 Norice St., Ottawa ON K2G 2X5 Canada / osfs@ncf.ca / memberships or trade / Attractive newsletter of the Ottawa SF Society. September's is the latest I've received. The columnists cover a lot of ground, from upcoming SFnal TV (bring back *Sarah Connor!*) to the science of searching for ET life, to a new Supes/Batman animation (those are pretty good), to the mysterious "space blob" found at the limits of Hubble, back near the beginning of Time, to computer advice ("NO ALL CAPS"). End-of-the-year plans for the Ottawa club include readings, parties ... all the stuff clubs do and lonely fan editors do not.

Steam Engine Time / Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard St., Greensborough Vict. 3088 Australia; Janine Stinson, P.O. Box 248, Eastlake MI 49626-0248 / gandc@pacific.net.au, tropicsf@earthlink.net / "print edition available only by negotiation with the editors"

Tortoise / Sue Jones, Flat 5, 32-33 Castle Street, Shrewsbury SY1 2BQ U.K. / sue.tortoise@btinternet.com / www.tortoiseloft.com / editorial whim

Vanamonde Nos. 788-797 / John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St. No. 409, L.A. CA 90057 / Apa-L & Trade / Comments to LASFS' apa are only *lagniappe* for John's weekly one-sheet. The substance is his natter, which ranges to the farthest reaches of this polymath's interests. In these issues from summer '08, Hertz discusses haiku artist Sadakichi Hartmann, eulogizes Ken Slater and Derek Pickles, writes some haiku of his own, muses on Olympic diving, gives a digest-sized report on Denvention 3, hails the life of friend Bora Gajicki, whose funeral partially conflicted with Ray Bradbury's 88th birthday soiree. *Van* is always a treat; here and in *Lofgeomost* we find Sfdom at its most civilized.

Visions of Paradise #146 / Robert Sabella, bsabella@optonline.net / at eFanzines / Incorporating Bob's "Out of the Depths", personal natter, "Passing Scene", a diary of the period since his last issue, "Wondrous Stories", his sercon review section, and "Halcyon Days", his lettercol. / A paperback by

Robert Silverberg rides the cover to this issue, accompanying a long retrospective article on his work – well done, as we can expect from a literature teacher. But it's his personal stuff that's most interesting. Sabella has decided to retire from teaching. It's not an easy choice – Bob feels he's "deserting [his] children" – but he lists the pros and cons and the pros are overwhelming. (Arguing for retirement, the fabled Fei Fei, a student of years past.) Checking out the questions in his Baby Boomer Quiz, I find I can answer 10 out of 17. (I saw 21 and was a contestant on *The Who, What or Where Game*, but never heard of *Call My Bluff*.) *VoP* always ends with a joke page; Lloyd Penney supplies this issue's, and they're fierce.

Voyageur Issues 1-11 / Flick, Alison Scott / The tri-daily newsletter of the late worldcon was very well done, with party info, awards notes, b&w masquerade photos, and of course all the news a worldcon can produce, headlined both in English and *français*. Bound with *Plokteur*, a choice parody by the obvious cabal. What's the story behind the guys in the canoe?

Warp / Cathy Palmer-Lister, MonSFFA, c/o Sylvain St-Pierre, 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7R 1Y6 / www.monsffa.com / cathyp@sympatico.ca / *Our heroine!*

That must do it. Please check out www.eFanzines.com for the mountain of grand work I had to neglect. Speaking of which, my thanks to Bill Burns for pdf'ing and posting *The Panoramic Route* there. Someday I must learn to do that for myself.

A note from Tim Marion, out of a job after publishing the latest issue of his fanzine: "I have an overrun of the last two issues of *So It Goes*, which I am making available for \$10@ (\$16 outside North America). #17 has the portfolio of rare, serious (as opposed to cartoony) art by Rotsler, as well as the first ever 3-D cover on a fanzine (52pp not counting covers or portfolio). #18 has many rare and cheesecake photos of Diana Rigg in her role as Mrs. Emma Peel, as well as rare art by Steve Fabian and Marcus Boas and an overview of Robert E. Howard fanzines (42pp not counting covers of Diana Rigg and the portfolio)." I'll vouch for the remarkability of *So It Goes*. You can contact Tim at timothy.marion@rocketmail.com, or by mail at: Tim Marion c/o Kleinbard, 266 E. Broadway, Apt. 1201B, New York, NY 10002-5625



Finally, a note from *me*. On October 9, 1969, a student at the University of California at Berkeley and a resident of Barrington Hall, I assumed editorship of *The Barrington Bull*. The co-op newsletter had a distinguished fannish past – it had been edited, years before, by Terry Carr and Ron Ellik – but I didn't know that. All I knew is that it sounded more appealing than washing pots at the Central Kitchen. On 10-9-69 I hacked out an all-but-illegible issue.

I did more issues in November. And December. Throughout 1970. In January 1971 I joined the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, and that was that, cat. In the 40 years since, *not one single month* has gone by that I have not done at least one new GHLIII Press Publication. 480 months. *One thousand and fifty-five* fanzines. Gad! What a *ridiculous* way to waste one's life! What's the *matter* with me?

Or should I say, with *us*?