

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



From the ladies at

The Zine Dump #53

And from the editor, too:

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The Zine Dump wants to see every amateur publication devoted to SF and its fandom published in English. Most of the following publications are available at eFanzines.com, mankind and fankind's most invaluable website. Please report all errors to me ASAP.

Range: mid-August to mid-October, 2021. Next issue: early 2022.

This issue is dedicated to **CHARLIE WILLIAMS** and **JOE MOUDRY**.

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Charlie and Joe passed this month, and they leave enormous gaps in Southern fandom. Both good men, both devoted SFers: Charlie, of the Knoxville crew, was a brilliant fan artist, whose artwork Rich and Nicki Lynch showcased in *Chat* and *Mimosa* and I ran in the Noreascon program book. Joe was a Lovecraft and Phil Dick devotee who served as Official Editor for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance. He hosted several “collation weekends” for members who came to Tuscaloosa to help assemble our mailings, great fannish events indeed. Both guys were fine mates, solid members of the Southern fan community, and will be deeply missed.

Zines, please.

Alexiad Vol. 20 No. 4 | Joe and Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville KY 40204-2040 | jtmajor@iglou.com | Joe, Lisa and *Alexiad* keep to the most reliable schedule of any zine being published, rain or shine, and always feature favorite topics – Arctic and Antarctic exploration, monarchism, horseracing, WWI. But Joe begins this issue ruminating over matters unconnected with any of these subjects, the Hugo scandal of 1989, about which I’ve heard more than I want to know, and *The Last Dangerous Visions*, heading for publication at long last. From what I’ve learned from writers who sold stories to the original editor (Harlan, of course) and who have now been told they would not be part of the anthology (by current editor J. Michael Straczynski), Major’s final judgment seems accurate: this will not be the book we anticipated. On to reviews, including another icy exploration tome, a good convention report by Leigh Kimmel, a list of Worldcon bids (Memphis!), a typically fine lettercol with *wonderful* illos by Marc Schirmeister, one of fandom’s funniest artists, and finally, another trademark of *Alexiad*, a page of parody, this time of Shakespeare. Another solid issue, another choice opening review for *Zine Dump*.

The Alien Review #s 1-2 | Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia 3122 | perry@middlemiss.org | As I have oft written, there are different types of fanzines ... genzine, apazine, perzine, newszine, clubzine, etc. etc. In returning to written fanac after a successful run as Worldcon chairman, Perry has recognized this fact and instituted both a perzine (*Perryscope*) and a general interest, article-oriented pub (this). Very promising. The first issue, from April, establishes its cred with strong reviews (by David Grigg and the editor) of *Piranesi* and Stan Robinson’s *The Ministry for the Future*, shamefully neglected for 2021’s awards. The editor’s exchange on James Bradley’s *Ghost Species* with W.H. Chong adds to the depth, and the short reviews that follow – including Middlemiss’ scan of 2020’s award winners (Dragon Award excluded) show intelligence and conviction. Can’t ignore Irwin Hirsch’s fanzine review of John Coxon’s TAFF report, a zine I *growl* have yet to see. Second issue contains serious discussion of some serious work, such as Lucy Sussex’s discussion with Grigg of *The Sunken Land Begins to Rise Again*, which is gathering much attention, and a pane-like discussion of Asimov’s “Nightfall”, which already has gathered, etc. Perry’s editorial on the blow to the Hugo Awards signified by the nomination for the disgraceful slur on George R.R. Martin is righteous, and its concern that Worldcons complicit in such viciousness may be subject to “legal action” rings true.

Ansible 411 (Oct. 2021) | David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, U.K. | news.ansible.uk | “As Others See Us.” “Thog’s MasterClass.” The swollen horror of “R.I.P.” We all know what to expect when the first of the month brings an *Ansible* – one of the indispensable newszines of fandom, blest with humor and indefatigable verve. The only lack here is American convention news, but one looks at Dave’s address and concludes that makes sense. Hope we see Mr. Langford on our London visit.

BCSFazine #550 | R. Graeme Cameron, the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com | Clubzine of the British Columbia SF Association. Sporting a nifty VCon emblem on the cover, *BCSFazine*’s contents are heavy on the on-line event. (“V” apparently stands for “virtual” this year.) Graeme’s diagrams of the virtual hotel is attractive, as are the shots of the “Kumospace” hospitality room and President’s Suite, where members’ avatars can gather and make convo. Or something.

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Cameron doesn't seem to know an awful lot and I don't understand any of it. Info on how to watch the Aurora Awards on-line includes a list of the nominees for Canada's bests. (In a less "woke" environment in American fandom, would Robert Sawyer's *The Oppenheimer Alternative* be on the Hugo list, too?) Two 36-year-old articles on one-time Southerner Bill Gibson make me wonder what he's been up to in recent years. Finally, Graeme lists forthcoming cons in the area, and revives hope for fandom there: the list is long, and grants readers a lettercol in which Danny Sichel's information about Georg Schwidetzky and cross-species linguistics stands out.

Captain Flashback #34 | Andy Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 | fanmailaph@aol.com | "CAPTAIN FLASHBACK is devoted to old fanzines, crusader kings, Christian amazons, and other fascinating phenomena of the 12th Century." *And*, this time, to a section of a play Andy wrote for the 2006 Corflu, *Read and Enjoyed but No Content*. Its subject is the barely-fictional amateur press association Bag of Donuts Apa, its characters its members, its contents mailing comments, its success considerable. Why it took Hooper 15 years to publish is a mystery. Also, as is his practice, Andy pays tribute to a local TV horror host, delving downunder this time to hail the many incarnations and many cities of "Deadly Earnest." The lettercol features an interesting LOC from Kim Huett dealing with jazz and Hugos, delivered via quotes from fanzines of old.

CounterClock #39 | Wolf von Witting, wolfram1764@yahoo.com | A beautiful blue cover, a sunken city, is a clue to the lead article in Wolf's latest genzine: Atlantis and other flooding legends. It's a well-done piece, but I imagine von Witting thought it a jinxed subject when his computer subsequently crashed and he lost gobs, so to speak, of data. One topic suffering the loss was info for his history of Eurocon, which, defiantly, he writes from memory; "Fortunately," he says, "I didn't bump my head." It's a cool, niftily illustrated and comprehensive history, most fun when dealing with A.E. van Vogt and his 1978 speech on Dianetics. I met van Vogt in an elevator once, and am glad the subject didn't come up. Anyway, salutes to the dedication it took to recreate this trove of fan history, and to do it so entertainingly. Also on eFanzines: two issues of *Clockwise*, Wolf's outlet for his fantasy fiction and poetry.

CyberCozen Vol. XXXIII, No. 09-10, Sept./October 2021 | Leybl Botwinik, leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com | The Israeli Society for SF and F newszine | Sez Leybl: "CyberCozen is Israel's longest surviving Science Fiction (SF) fanzine (we've been around since about 1988) – and the only one published in English. Founded as the voice of the Rehovot SF club (now defunct), it has continued to be published on a monthly basis by volunteers and is distributed free of charge (via e-mail) ... Content varies from issue to issue, but usually contains: (1) A short Hebrew listing of key activities/news from the Israeli Society for Science Fiction and Fantasy. If there is anything of major interest (e.g. a Con) we translate to English. (2) Book and movie reviews. (3) Science fact section that touches on up-and-coming technology or how it may affect our near and far future. Sometimes just 'neat' stuff (technology, practices, etc.). (4) Occasional short story." Adds me: *CC* is very readable and its links are valuable – and as I always say, the segments in Hebrew are quite attractive. Surely it's the prettiest written language on the planet. This issue reviews three obscure SF films amongst the dozens proliferating promiscuously and drearily on streaming services. October is a nest of links, cushioning a lead story about some guy named Koster/Kirk/Hooker/Crane and his recent foray above the stratosphere. ("Whose 'Koster'?" I hear you cry. Our boy played ADA David Koster in *For the People*, an excellent offshoot of *The Defenders* from 1965. Along with Gregory Peck's Atticus Finch, it was a major inspiration for me to become a lawyer.)

DASFax Sept-Oct. 2021 | Jeanne Jackson, 31 Rangeview Drive, Wheat Ridge CO 80215 | DASFAEditor@Hotmail.com | The Denver club's newszine is very brief in September, as Jackson is in the horse-pistol. By October she has recovered enough to attend and enjoy MileHiCon and pen a report. Lousy hotel, good convention, with an excellent lecture on paleontology and a compelling discussion on great writers who are crummy people. I'm glad Jackson has the sense to separate brilliant work from flawed creators, especially in this

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unforgiving and self-righteous age. Wishes from here for clear ether and further recovery – we miss Jeanne’s essays!

De Profundis 580-1 | Marty Cantor, 11825 Gilmore St. #105, North Hollywood, CA 91606 | Marty declares herein that this is his last issue as editor of “the unofficial clubzine of LASFS”, after months if not years of seeking a successor. He doesn’t offer his frustration as a reason, but only admits to being 86 and tired. (Fortunately, this ever-able apa central mailer will continue handling LASFAPA.) COVID and real estate issues may have dwelt the great Los Angeles club a mortal blow. The enthusiasm and humor that exploded from earlier issues seems just about shot, and although the meetings keep happening, no one seems to be giving Marty the minutes from which he creates his hilarious “cream of menace.” What’s needed by, in, for The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society? Whence the rebirth it needs and all of its admirers, including me, deserve?

The Drink Tank 433 | Chris Garcia, drinktankeditorial@gmail.com | A portrait of Barnabas Collins by Maurine Starkey announces the theme to the latest issue of *Drink Tank* – that’s two Hugo winners I just mentioned, and Collins isn’t one of them – which features articles on graphic (i.e., comic book) and novel adaptations on the legendary *Dark Shadows*. I wasn’t a follower – but I *did* see the very first episode! And I do enjoy Chris’ and Chuck Serface’s enthused accounts. Where will the mad Garcia next turn his gaze? Keep checking eFanzines.

Endeavor 14 | Kurt Erichsen, 2539 Scottswood Ave., Toledo OH 43610-1358 | mail@kurterichsen.com | *Just wanted to remind fandom of one of the finest zines produced in 2021, by one of its zaniest fan artists.*

Event Horizon 9 | John Thiel, 30 N. 19th ST., Lafayette IN 47904 | kinethiel@mymetronet.net | As usual these years, John’s zines sport beautiful color covers and interiors. The photo gallery that begins this perzine is no exception: non-SFnal city landscapes, evocative. The text is varied – a good deal of verse, Dr. Mel Waldman’s poem inspired by an amusement park outstanding, and a thoughtful scientific piece by Jeffrey Redmond, always very good.

Fadeaway #65 | Bob Jennings, 29 Whiting Road, Oxford MA 01540-2035 | famficbks@aol.com | Bob has been a fan-ed since I was in single digits, and though he opens this issue of his genzine with apologies for the irregularity of its publication, he maintains his expertise – even though his mail order business all but swamped him during the pandemic. Now that the “super-hyperdrive” from the pandemic is fading, he revamps his spare time, detailing the activities he can again enjoy. Reading, radio, fanzines ... his relief is almost tangible. Rich Dengrove, like Bob and like me a SFPA brother, contributes a piece on the ancient Karloff TV series, *Colonel March*, The lettercol is among the best in the hobby.

Fanac.Org | Joe Siclari and Edie Stern, jsiclari@gmail.com and estern7770@gmail.com | *Pub your ish!* Joe and Edie are watching ... and scanning same for their ever-more-comprehensive collection. At the last count that I saw, over 15,000 fanzines were on hand and in scan, and Fanac.org is always adding more arcane gems from the days of old when knights were bold from the days of old when knights were bold. For instance, issues of Wally Weber’s classic *Cry of the Nameless*, the contents of FAPA 34, Karen Anderson’s *Alif*, zines by Bob Tucker, Francis Tower Laney, Jack Speer, Elmer Perdue – no, not the chicken guy. Stay tuned also for Edie’s ZOOM interviews with such lights as Juanita Coulson. Joe -- also won DUFF, chaired a Worldcon and a SMOFcon and with Edie edited the most professional Worldcon program book I’ve ever seen – and I should know; between us, Rosy and I have edited four. These fine folks are frequent guests at the Greenhouse, when we go out for Thai food and fine fannish flap. *Where* is their honorary Hugo?

Fanactivity Gazette Vol. 1 No. 4 | George Phillis for the National Fantasy Fan Federation, see *The National Fantasy Fan* | And what fans apparently do is create fanzines and put on

conventions. The latest report from Fanac.Org is reprinted here along with a list of forthcoming conventions, virtual and “on-site,” complete with invaluable links, very helpful shortcuts.

Faux Pause 1 | Taral Wayne, 245 Dunn Ave., Apt. 2111, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1S6, Canada | Taral@bell.net | “The Eve of Gotterdammerung may be upon us, but is no excuse to put off a fanzine.” Known and hailed (with many Hugo nominations and a Fan Guest of Honorship at a Worldcon) for his unique, often charming funny animal ‘toons, Taral is also a superb fannish writer, and both talents are well displayed in this huge 88-page publication. What do we have here? Writing for money ... the wonderfulness of Steve Styles and the fan artist tradition he exemplified ... Taral’s grandfather (a moving article) ... Fraggles fan fiction of novella length. Taral’s unique funny-critter art illustrates everything. *Faux Pause* is a showcase of Wayne’s multi-talents, colorful and lively, and more’s to come.

Inca 19 | Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8UH U.K. | robjackson60@gmail.com or jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net | A charming combo per- and genzine from an accomplished Brit. He begins by celebrating a rare period of national *unlockdown* with two extraordinary personal gatherings – a concert in the company of loads of fans, including Yvonne Rowse, whose zines I very much miss, and his daughter’s wedding. Rob’s new son-in-law looks like he’s seven feet tall. The zine leaps into genzine territory with a fun survey of fan buddies on their university years. Many are the great names contributing memories and regrets, leaving a residual feeling of nostalgia mixed with embarrassment; surely I wasn’t as callow and annoying back then as I remember. Forgive me, Poul and Karen! An amusing anecdote from Curt Phillips, a terrific lettercol (Curt’s LOC is *epic*, and there are many more), a page on an unidentifiable piece of excellent faery art and an ad for Corflu Concorde, coming up in November. Move the convention to early April, Rob, and we might be able to make it!

Instant Message #s 978-9 | NESFA. PO Box 809, Framingham MA 01701-0809 | info@nesfa.org | Though the New England Science Fiction Association declares in its colophon that *Instant Message*, its official newsletter, appears monthly, and these issues are dated July and August respectively, #979 didn’t appear until late September. Be that as it may, NESFA – SF fandom’s most industrious and professional organization – concentrates in these issues on Boskone meetings, with detailed minutes – presented, in #979, verbatim. A glossary is provided for those unfamiliar with the club’s parliamentary shorthand. Appended to the latest issue, an invaluable roster of the club’s many members, regular, honorary, inactive, interdimensional, all.

Intermission #113 | Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com | *Intermission* is an apazine *not* available on eFanzines, so send Engholm an e-mail to join his mailing list. Why do so? Sez the irrepressible Ahrvid: “Boy-oh-boy! This might be the best fanzine in history! Where else would you get the History of Sin (don’t blush) and the extraordinary story of the music icons emerging from a time machine after four decades. Add to this coin collecting, Captain Wyxtphll, encountering Mr Heinlein on a European tour and the shrunken French mademoiselle. You could hardly wish for more.” Maybe not, if when you think of Sweden your first thoughts are *not* of Ingmar Bergman or the Nobel Prizes but of *Swedish Erotica* and ABBA. Such are the dual foci of this zine: a history of the national porn industry and a study of the insanely popular band. (I find it all but impossible to think of the two subjects together.) Ahrvid also propounds on Heinlein’s 1955 visit to the land of one fourth of my great-grandparents, and there is more, all very jolly and light in heart.

Journal of Mind Pollution 44 | Richard Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Dr. #302, Alexandria VA 22506 | richd22426@aol.com | Rich announces here a change in his essaying– in this issue he imitates, on her advice, the humor and poignancy of his sister’s writing. A stand-up comedian, she’s written a book about her career (which I hope she self-publishes if she can’t place it elsewhere) filled with, you guessed it, humor and poignancy, and she felt Rich’s essays would benefit from the same style. So, he announces, his usual “arcane” material on the occult and

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suchlike will be relegated to *JOMP Jr.* and *JOMP* gets, again you guessed it, humor and poignancy. It's a hard transition – Rich is a fine fan and friend but his stories contain their share of sadness and/or tedium. *Viz*: the tale of a lost friendship and the story of the gummint's Cottom Stamp program (Rich was a government librarian). Only praise for a charming co-worker and Dengrove's problem with literal bats in his literal belfry save the day. Bring on *JOMP Jr.*, Rich; the occult and UFOs and suchlike may lack humor and poignancy but they *don't* lack for interest.

Littlebrook 11 | Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins, P.O. Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165 | littlebrooklocs@aol.com | Welcome return for this genzine, long absent from these pages and eFanzines. Nicely produced, with a nifty cover by Ulrika O'Brien (showing – what else? – a *little brook*) and – despite an “accidental” nostalgic theme to the issue – a good variety in its contents. To wit: the noble editors separately describe a recent trip to Dublin; Eli Cohen prints, at last, the autobiographical editorial from an unfinished 1984 fanzine; fan historian extraordinaire Any Hooper revisits the first Worldcon through the experience of William Sykora – a detailed but engrossing account; Terry Garey hails the Flying Karamazov Brothers – jugglers, not Dostoyevsky characters – with text and verse; the lettercol, “Backwaters”, rings with clever Choral voices. All facets of a gem. Noted also, Jerry's promotion of the upcoming Corflu Pangloss, March 18-22, in the beautiful venue of Vancouver. It's been 57 years since I was there; I wish I could go.

Lofgeornost #144 | Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction VT 05001 | fred@fredlerner.org | Fred begins this FAPA-/perzine with a moving memorial to Ed Meskys, editor of *Niekas* and very fine fella. (Fred reveals that he was at Berkeley a few years before me, and even lived at one of the same co-ops. Terry Carr and Ron Ellik were at another.) Subsequently, Lerner blames his annoyance with mystery elements of the Ottoman-Empire-based *My Name is Red* on his inability to “apply the appropriate reading protocols,” but he gleans too many other values from the novel for us to believe that. An intriguing contemplation of “non-traditional” racial casting in Shakespeare's plays follows, inspiring the realization that such nonsense offends me in lighter media like *The Irregulars* (a black Dr. Watson, indeed) but, like Fred, I'm not bothered by a competent African-American actor in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Lerner cedes his publication at the last to his witty Chorus, and continues to provide fandom with one of its smartest and most civilized zines.

MarkTime 138 | Mark Strickert, P.O. Box 1171, Rialto CA 92377 | busnrail@yahoo.com | \$2 or the usual, LOCs, trade, whatever | Say the word “vacation” around Mark and you know you're in for a detailed and diverting trip report. This time Mark & Family head north for Yellowstone and Montana, listing and describing everything – tourist hotspots, restaurants, *radio stations* ... (Why is the Boy with the Leaking Boot statue so revered? Apparently there are 25 of the things here and there around America, and there is a mild mystery as to their origin, but ...) Having grand memories of Yellowstone myself, the part of the trip – and the pages of the fanzine – dealing with the great mega-volcano grab me the most. Eventually Yellowstone will pop, which will mean goodbye, North America, but until then, it's game on. Next issue, he promises, photos.

MT Void Vol 40 No 16 (Whole No. 2193) | Evelyn Leeper, eleeper@optonline.net | Since summer, Evelyn and Mark have brought forth the following topics in their terrific weekly e-zine: *Forbidden Planet* (in LOCs), *Black Sun*, *The Relentless Moon*, *Captain Video* (by a contributor), the NPR poll on the decade's best SF/fantasy (including *Exhalation* and *Piranesi*), a genealogy of zombie movies from *Night of the Living Dead* on (the linkage should go back to *White Zombie* and *I Walked with a Zombie*, if not further), weeks of discussion on *The Fly* (1958), and lots on James Bond films and their theme songs (for me, *Goldfinger* is absolutely the best film, “You Only Live Twice” the most *effective* song; ahh, the drive-ins of Contra Costa County) ... and that's only part of it. Every week there's more, centered on fine reviews from both

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editors and solid commentary from the Chorus and contributors. By all means join their mailing list through the e-mail link above.

The National Fantasy Fan Vol. 80 #8 | George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net | The flagship zine of the N3F's 10 regular publications, an awards issue George announces a Franson Award, given for services to N3F and named for Donald, who inspired me to start *The Zine Dump*. Patricia Williams-King is the recipient. The **Neffy** nominees are also given, fanzine awards including Bob Jennings, Toni Weisskopf, *Portable Storage* and the magnificent *Outworlds* compendium among their nominees. What does it signify that no Hugo-nominated novel made the Neffy shortlist? The lettercol is active, with a mild argument among Lloyd Penney, John Thiel and Nic Farey over the place of fanziners in FFAW (fandom as a whole), and a strong objection by Justin Busch to the idea of going all-PDF for *TNFF*. Jon Swartz contributes a short piece on the 1940s radio and comic hero Dick Cole, and then the Treasurer and Bureau chiefs make their reports.

The N3F Review of Books (August 2021) | George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net | Opening with a memorial to Tamara Wilhite, the shockingly young SF author, here's an enthusiastic set of reactions to recent SF by an able cadre of readers. Dominant among them is Pat Patterson, whose appetite for the printed page is voracious ... if suspiciously youthful. In an otherwise astute critique of *A Memory Called Empire's* dense style, Pat mentions that the novel is a Dragon Award finalist, neglecting the minor rocket-shaped doodad it picked up in 2020. Clearly here is a generational divide. Nevertheless, some of the reviews are sharp. I'd call this among the most successful of N3F's publications.

OASFiS Event Horizon issue 404 (October) | Juan Sanmiguel, 1421 Pon Pon Court, Orlando, FL 32825 | sanmiguel@earthlink.net | COVID be damned, Juan Sanmiguel and the Orlando SF club hang in there, even though their fine convention continues to be cancelled and their club meetings remain virtual. The clubzine continues, this time featuring the winners of the new Ignyte Awards, celebrating "inclusivity," and the Hugo nominees for Graphic stories.

The Obdurate Eye #13 | Garth Spencer, 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 3X5 Canada | garth.van.spencer@gmail.com | The unfinished Jose Sanchez illo which opens this issue of Garth's perzine reminds me of *The City & the City*, the Hugo-winning novel by China Mieville I finally read recently. Intended for July, Spencer brings us the pub in September, publishing delays being a problem many fan-ed's have encountered during the pandemic. We lead off with SFnal "Nooz" from Canada, cons and Aurora Awards, sad memorials to Lorna Toolis and Judith Hanna, neither of whom I was privileged to know, and personal news. After a lettercol featuring familiar Choral voices (e.g. John Hertz), Garth editorializes on the less evident epidemic currently coursing through mankind: willful ignorance. I'd quip that I didn't know what he was talking about, but his point is too salient for levity. Though he lists among his "Zines Received" many that you'll find here in *TZD*, he laments on today's paucity of fannish correspondence. He posts on eFanzines; I find a bonanza of activity there. Are we looking in the same place?

Opuntia #509 | Dale Speirs, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; opuntia57@hotmail.com | Astonishingly full issue of Canada's most prolific perzine. There will be several more issues by the time you read this note. Fast food, jazz outlets, COVID cases, steampunk reviews, series detectives, including Philip Marlowe and the Saint – ever read Deon Meyer's South African novels? They're quite good, reminiscent of Michael Connelly – and an astonishing section on scientific literature, including the shocking revelations of *Diversity and the evolution of the extraordinary vocal sacs of casque-headed treefrogs* (apologies to the offended) ... you'll find them all here. Also a piece on *Napoleon Bonaparte's exiled paper daisies*, showing purty flawurs possibly grown on Elba, but that topic might be too risqué for most SFers. By the way, the *Opuntia* archive on eFanzines is said, now, to be complete.

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Pablo Lennis | John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904 | kinethiel@mymetronet.net | I lost my copy! And since Thiel insists that *PL*, normally an outlet for fan-wrought fiction and poetry, is only available in hard copy, and there isn't time to obtain a second, I'm SOL. Next time, a promise: *Lennis* runs *first*, alphabet be damned.

Perryscope 15 | Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia 3122 | perry@middlemiss.org | The most compelling fanzines are the most personal ones, the *perzines* published by communicative fans. *This Here ...* and *Opuntia*, *Captain Flashback* and *Obdurate Eye* are sterling examples. And *Perryscope*, a relative newcomer to the inventory by a former Worldcon chair. The zine is already in its 15th issue, each adorned by a portrait of the fan-ed (I used to do the same in LASFAPA until Iguanacon, when my face became relegated to warning posters for the Department of Health). Anyway, *Perryscope* is quite well-written, eclectic, mirroring its author's wide range of enthusiasms. Perry reviews recent reads in several genres, new and old, films (including several movies made for streaming on Netflix, obscure but often well done – cf. *Oxygen* and *Worth*), podcasts. It's good stuff, very like conversing with Middlemiss at a Worldcon chowtime. Which is the point and purpose of *perzines*.

Portable Storage Six | William M. Breiding, 3507 N. Santa Rita Ave. #1, Tucson AZ 85719 (last address) | portablezine@gmail.com | “The Great Sercon Issue Part One.” *Great* it is. Such a work, like *Outworlds* 71 and Kurt Erichsen's *Endeavor* 14, deserves a higher appellation than “fanzine,” but in content, in theme it only exalts and celebrates our hobby. Think I exaggerate? Exquisite full-color wraparound cover by Alan White (including a Dad Joke title: *Amazing Storage*). A terrific portfolio by one of the funniest of fan artists, Marc Schirmeister (illustrating the fannish life of 80 years ago). Articles on sercon subjects – H.G. Wells, the Jewish presence in SF, comic book sidekicks (Robin was a mistake in 1940 and remains so to this day!), and much more – by superb writers like Fred Lerner and Pete Young, Paul di Filippo and Cheryl Cline, Andy Hooper and Alva Svoboda – a lettercol for the ages and throughout, exceptional fan art. How often does SF fandom look this good, read this good, satisfy so well? If there was justice in this hobby, *Portable Storage* and its contributors would be buried in Hugo nominations and trophies. Let's take heart, though. Great zines aren't done for chrome-plated doodads. They're done for joy, and *Portable Storage* both shows and inspires it.

Purrsonal Mewsings #82-3 | R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle AZ 85623-5323 | Laurraine@ma.com | Laurraine's personal- and apazine (for Stipple Apa), always nicely illoed with Mike Weasner's photos (often astronomical, but desert critters, this time). Pubbed about every six weeks, it's enjoyable and enthused. Laurraine's recent trip to Seattle is the issue's text centerpiece, a jaunt by the sacred Tamanowus Rock at the center of the report. In appearance, the stone reminds me of Australia's Hanging Rock, but Laurraine reports no missing schoolgirls connected with the site. #83 sports a charming cover photo of an Icelandic Puffin, taken in *Iceland*. Laurraine is getting around!. She promises a trip report next time. Mailing commentary (on StippleApa) and the lettercol both carry COVID talk, of course.

The Ray XX-Rayer #158-9 | Ray Palm, Boxholder, PO Box 2, Plattsburgh NY 12901-0002 | raypalmx@gmail.com | Ray's wit is wry-er than rye bread – poor phrase, I admit, but true. Very few fan writers could make “comorbidities” sound funny. The word comes up in issue #158 connection with his COVID vaccinations, which themselves provoke an encounter with a “covidiot” and, later, a listen to a lunatic claiming that the vax *magnetizes* its users. Is it sinful to find laughs in a horror like COVID? Ray's mildly bitter humor continues in #159 – which crams a lot into 5 pages. There Ray describes the snowbound joys of Plattsburgh, recounts the hassles involved in photographing buildings there, and re-tells the story of *Fiend without a Face*, a semi-sane horror film of the '50s. I'm upset that he doesn't explain the presence on the poster of a brunette, clad only in a towel, facing flying brains. With the exception of the brains, it reminds me of the standout incident of our last trip to Australia.

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Resnick at Zineth | Doug Roemer, 674 Newbridge Court, Arnold MD 21012 | My sister-in-law was unloading some old boxes and found this antique publication (internal evidence says it's from 1991). I have no idea if Roemer is still at the address above. This is a zine devoted, no surprise, to the late and great Bwana Mike, with short pieces on Mike's non-religion, love of Africa and recent (as of then) productions. The artwork is pretty nifty – the cover is a hoot and the graphic story, "The Destroyers", features unique and evocative art by Leesuh Allen. Alas, the *Santiago* movie touted herein never came to be, and Mike himself is gone. A second issue?

Scientifiction (New Series) #69 | John L. Coker, 4813 Lighthouse Rd., Orlando FL 32808 | jlcoker3@bellsouth.net | First Fandom's official fanzine is a handsome production, burdened this time with far too many memorials for far too many tremendous SFers – Erle Korshak, Ed Meskys, William Nolan, Alastair Durie, Stephen Hickman, Elizabeth Anne Hull. The obits and photos presented – Korshak's features our mutual friend, Julius Schwartz – are rich accounts of fine lives. Con reports, Discon III updates, new pubs from FFers, some good LOCs – including an account by Steven Davidson of his third *gulp* heart attack, which struck him at O'Hare. Thank God I never smoked!

The Stegophoraus Meteor #1 | John Thiel, see *Event Horizon* | Dating from June, this is John's first attempt at a perzine. Except for the photo of Phobos (I think) atop the first page and the little color doodad at the end, and a few random words on meteors, the whole of its four pages is devoted to defining a perzine. I suppose we'll see a second issue when he decides.

Through Time and Space: Forry Ackerman's Remembrances from *Mimosa* | Rich Lynch, PO Box 3120, Gaithersburg MD 20885 | rw_lynch@yahoo.com | Available on eFanzines under Rich's *My Back Pages*, an invaluable set of 12 pieces by science fiction's #1, originally published in Rich and Nicki's epic zine of fan history, *Mimosa*. Worldcons, club meetings, fans and professionals encountered through Ackerman's career, recounted with wit and warmth. My favorite piece is the last, Ackerman's memories of Boris Karloff, topped only by my own memory of visiting Edgar Allen Poe's grave and museum with Forry during the last Baltimore Worldcon. Neat illos by Teddy Harvia accompany each chapter in this wonderful collection. Why are you reading *this* when you could be reading *that*?

Tightbeam 325 (October 2021) | George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Dr., Worcester MA 01609; Jon Swartz, jon_swartz@hotmail.com | An N3F publication – monthly, they say – devoted to reviews, anime, books, films, "graphic tales," sercon. Bedecked with a familiar cover from Jose Sanchez, this issue is a memorial for Tamara Wilhite, whose interviews informed many issues past. In tribute *Tightbeam* runs her final conversation, with author Marissa Meyer, and reprints several others. Articles on anime (who else reviews that medium?) and the new Marvel app (who knew there was such a thing?) lead to a good Jon Swartz piece on Katherine MacLean, first female writer ever nominated for a Hugo, and who packed a lot of great SF writing into her 94 years. More reviews, including a new *Batman* 'toon, provide good perspectives on most every aspect of the genre ... even grilled cheese sandwiches!

Tommyworld #87 | Tommy Ferguson, 125 Haypark Ave., Belfast, BT7 3FG, Northern Ireland | tw@tommyworld.net | Letters of comment from excellent correspondents on previous issues, mostly concerning virtual conventioning. It costs big dolla' to attend the upcoming Worldcon even by computer; I suppose they'll black out your screen if they think you insufficiently woke.

Vanamonde | John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 406, Los Angeles CA 90057 | Haven't seen any new *Vans* from John in a while, and they have been missed, but his LOC to my last *TZD* will follow. It displays the same polymathematical literacy and joy in life that his every zine for Apa-L has on prominent display. John has already contributed to my Theodore Sturgeon issue of

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Challenger, shaming me for my sluggishness. He and I partnered to bring forth the last W.O.O.F. mlg; has anyone signed up for Discon's?

Vita Transplantare #20 | John Nielsen Hall, johnsila32@gmail.com | Describing himself as "a miserable old scrote," Hall nevertheless produces a rather chipper perzine. A lot of credit needs go to the Chorus in his lettercol, such as Gary Mattingly, talking up music, books, TV (he should try the Parker novels by "Richard Stark" and watch for Peter Dinklage's *Cyrano*), Jerry Kaufman and Graham Charnock, in addition to the ubiquitous Lloyd Penney. "Uncle Johnny" at last takes over his own zine, with thoughts on COVID, *The Dig*, and a portrait of ... himself?

Wild Ideas #15 | Henry Grynnsen, grynnsen@hotmail.com | Sez Henry on eFanzines: "In *Wild Ideas*, I present highly speculative ideas on the fringes of science, philosophy, and science fiction. In fact, it is hard to know if they should be classified as philosophy or some kind of science fiction presented in a non-fiction format. Some of the ideas are, as far as I know, entirely my own, others not, and some fall somewhere in between." Previous issues of this unique journal have centered on topics such as the *Mona Lisa*, Mozart, intelligent aliens, *2001*, Neanderthals and Shakespeare. I know because Henry lists the topics in this number. Here he takes on the fiendish addictive, Trimethylxanthine, better known as *caffeine*. His analysis of its hidden menace, including its ties to Alzheimer's, is well-written, entertaining, and exhaustive, complete with multiple pages of footnotes. So I'm convinced. 5 cans of Pepsi daily instead of six!

CHORAL RESPONSE – letters

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We know we are getting older when our friends start dying. Too damn true. I met Michelle Zellich once, and Ed Meskys a number of times, but we knew the Bouchards best of all. They fought for all they had, especially for things we take for granted, like health care, housing, and more. They went to cons where they could, but also had to bring scooter chairs along. Alex died because of a careless kid of a driver, and Megan seems perpetually on the edge of a heart-broken breakdown. These good people never deserved any of this.

So far, you mention mostly zines I do get. Andy Hooper's *Captain Flashback* brought back a lot of memories for me re late night television in Southern Ontario. There are some zines I do not get, but at this point, I have all I can handle. So many arrive in my Bell.net or Gmail.com IN boxes, I am just happy they arrive, but am also happy when I can put the downloaded zine in my To Be Printed file (yeah, right). Right now, participation is about all I can do. (Just to let you know, be ready for a COA from Garth Spencer, I think around September or so.)

In my First Fandom membership, I get *Scientifiction (New Series)* too, and I'm loving it. So much history in it, and hey, they publish my loc.

Locol...Yvonne and I have both of our shots, and should a booster shot come about, we will be there. I cannot fathom why anyone would refuse the COVID-19 shots; after all, we've been vaccinating our kids for decades, why would we object to the COVID shots? Unless nasty politics? We are in the midst of a snap federal election, and right now, the part ahead in the polls, the Conservative Party of Canada, has announced that should they be elected, they will greatly reduce the COVID restriction imposed on the general public. Hurray for the intelligence-deficient voters...

Near the end...I do wish Worldcons weren't so political (but then, some would say they always have been). I have no complaints, though...we doubt we will ever get to another. At least, with Worldcons generally returning to North America, they will be more affordable. I will support Winnipeg in their bid... maybe I should scrape up a few bucks and send it their way.

Hertz
236 S. Coronado St., No. 409
Los Angeles, CA 90057
11 Aug 21

Dear Guy,

Thanks for the kind words about my fanwriting, and Vanamonde, in ZD 52. Thanks for noting the fanart in Van -- though the news is that I'm still the only one printing current Tim Kirk art. Some folks say the cmts may be the best part. I try to write so nobody needs to see the other side of the conversation. Some say I succeed.

You'll have seen I'm sending you Van in two sequences. With this letter 1420-23 continue past issues -- I fell behind back there a ways -- and 1451-54 more recent ones. I add 1458 with my appreciation of Ed Meškys -- which, speaking of W. Willis, ends with his applause for Ed.

Your chest of three drawers irresistibly recalls King Kaspar in Amahl and the Night Visitors (G. Menotti, 1951).

On the topic of our forebears' failings, I think the best remark is Mark Blackman's: "Certainly they look laughable [or worse] now. Isn't that a refreshing sign of our progress since then?"

Another Mark (I'm re-Marking) treats theme songs of James Bond films in The MT Void 2181. Your cmt is excellent. Brother Leeper falls into the failing -- all too fannish -- of only bringing up this topic to say how the songs were wrong (indeed the Void so tends too much; I wrote "You seem to write only of how things are wrong. I think that's wrong", which the Void printed, explaining how I was wrong). You quite rightly (an expression which for me irresistibly recalls Bill Minkin's parody of Donovan's 1967 Mellow Yellow as by "Senator Bobby & Senator McKinley" i.e. R. Kennedy & E. Dirksen) don't even mention that, only remarking how good the films From Russia with Love (T. Young dir. 1963) and Goldfinger (G. Hamilton dir. 1964) are.

I've called the book Moonraker (I. Fleming, 1955) a classic of science fiction. See <<http://file770.com/classics-of-sf-at-boskone/>> 17 Jan 13 + my con report <<http://file770.com/hertz-why-you-might-like-boskone/>> 27 Jan 14>, <<http://file770.com/hertz-classics-of-science-fiction-at-westercon/>> (i.e. Westercon LXVI) 17 Jun 13, <<http://file770.com/loscon-was-nearly-the-answer/>> i.e. Loscon XLI 7 Mar 15.

The Dispossessed (Le Guin, 1974) is overrated. The book of that year is The Mote in God's Eye (Niven & Pournelle). But we -- many of us -- like the world we see in Dis, and don't like the one we see in Mote, so we cheer Dis and jeer Mote, blind to Mote's being a far better made book. That isn't reading -- or criticism -- but it's what too many of us do.

How about aiming to pub ZD thrice a year, i.e. every 4 months?

*I agree about **Moonraker** – a better book by far than movie. The only good thing about the flick was the pre-credits parachuting scene, possibly the most exciting sequence in 007's history. As for bringing forth **TZD** quarterly, that's an excellent suggestion – I'll certainly try.*

So ... happy Halloween, happy Thanksgiving, *joyeux Noel*, happy Chanukah, happy new year. Get your boosters! I am still looking for contributors to the Theodore Sturgeon *Challenger* – write to me for article suggestions. I can't write it all myself! Those who attend Discon III, have fun, eschew Woke at every turn, stay safe.

