

OPUNTIA

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ISSN 1183-2703

April 2012

OPUNTIA is published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. It is available for \$3 cash for a one-time sample copy, trade for your zine, or letter of comment. Americans: please don't send cheques for small amounts to Canada as the bank fee to cash them is usually more than the amount. US\$ banknotes are acceptable in Canada at par value; what we gain on the exchange rate we lose on the higher postage rate to USA. Do not send mint USA stamps as they are not valid for postage outside USA and I don't collect them. A cumulative subject index for all issues is available on request.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ISSUES #72 TO 247?

by Dale Speirs

When I first began OPUNTIA in March 1991, I used a template system that allowed me to sort out personal diary accounts, sercon issues, and review issues by fractional numbers. In recent years, the majority of my material has been reviews, with fewer personal items, only occasional apa issues, and fewer and fewer sercon articles. On 2010-08-08, I retired and as part of my plan to keep me off the streets, I decided to write the postal history of Alberta, a thing never done before by anyone, and which involves more than 4,000 post offices past and present. This meant that my sercon article writing has come to a dead stop, although I have a couple lengthy items in inventory that will appear in due time.

The change in my writing habits has unbalanced the production of OPUNTIA, so I have decided to revert to a mundane numbering system. Henceforth all issues will be a mixture of articles and reviews, with faster publication of time-sensitive items and letters of comment. Issue #71.5 was the 247th issue of OPUNTIA, so therefore I will re-set the numbering system with this issue as #248. Completist collectors of this zine will go crazy trying to locate issues between #72 and #247 inclusive, which don't exist. The change will also make clear that I have churned out quite a few issues over the past two decades. I'm not the oldest zinester, but neither am I a spring calf when it comes to publishing.

THE EUROPEAN CURRENCY CRISIS EXPLAINED

[Editor's note: The item below was making the rounds on the gold bug Websites in 2011 and undoubtedly elsewhere.]

Broker's E-mail To His Customer.

It is a slow day in a little Greek village. The rain is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit. On this particular day a rich German tourist is driving through the village, stops at the local hotel and lays a 100-euro note on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night. The owner gives him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the 100-euro note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the 100-euro note and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the 100-euro note and heads off to pay his bill at the supplier of feed and fuel. The guy at the Farmers' Co-op takes the 100-euro note and runs to pay his drinks bill at the taverna. The publican slips the money along to the local prostitute drinking at the bar, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer him "services" on credit. The hooker then rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill to the hotel owner with the 100-euro note. The hotel proprietor then places the 100-euro note back on the counter so

the rich traveler will not suspect anything. At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, picks up the 100-euro note, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, pockets the money, and leaves town.

No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole village is now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how the bailout package works.

Customer's Reply.

I edited your bailout e-mail a little to help make it more effective to clients, please see below.

It is a slow day in a little Greek village, planet Earth. The rain is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit. On this particular day a rich German tourist is driving through the village, stops at the local hotel and lays a 100-euro note on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night. The owner thinks about maybe beating the tourist to death, but decides to give him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the 100-euro note and shoves it in his pocket. He owes Piraeus Bank down the street 100,000 euros, but has

little intention of repaying it as his business has been contracting for several years. That bank also has claims of 10,000 euros on a butcher's business, 10,000 euros on a pig farmer, 75,000 euros to a supplier of feed and fuel, but in turn owes 100,000 euros to EFG Bank which itself has fractionally reserved claims on a pub owner and a prostitute who bought two homes on 105% LTV, among many others.

At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, and asks for his 100-euro note back. The Greek innkeeper asks "What 100-euro note?" The German threatens to call the police. The innkeeper says "Go ahead, ask for my brother who's a Lieutenant down at the station, he'll help you out." The German storms out back into the night, 100-euros poorer. No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole village is still buried in debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism at the thought that maybe the Germans really are that gullible.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how the bailout package works.

[Speirs: The easiest way to understand all the financial news you may read or hear is that more money was borrowed than will ever be paid back. All else is commentary]

THE STATE OF ZINEDOM AS AT 2011-12-31

by Dale Speirs

I've been keeping count of the zines I received for quite some time now. The chart is on the next page. Still on the long tail of a slow decline.

Year	eAPA	FAPA
1997		1,348
1998		1,454
1999		1,540
2000		1,463
2001		1,266
2002		1,389
2003		1,273
2004	n.a.	1,903
2005	424	1,065
2006	722	1,287
2007	494	1,019
2008	448	1,088
2009	497	1,011
2010	414	1,011
2011	348	1,062

At left is a page count comparison between eAPA, which is online, and Fantasy APA, which is paper. People tell me that it is cheaper and easier to publish online, but if that is so, how come the page counts are so low for e-zines?

The long-tail decline of zines continues. American zines have dropped by half since 1998. Canada has fluctuated but stayed about the same. If one particular Australian zinester is run over by a bus, that country's zine production will go to single digits.

Britain and other foreign countries are moribund, and kept going only by a couple of zinesters. The total decline has leveled off. Those who are going to abandon the Papernet have already done so. The brave few survivors keep going. -4-

Year	Australia	Canada	Britain	USA	Others	FAPA	Other apas	Totals
1998	23	31	39	244	7	155	10	509
1999	14	51	67	213	19	150	125	639
2000	7	55	55	161	29	140	90	537
2001	9	42	35	172	25	132	68	483
2002	10	40	42	184	31	102	42	451
2003	4	72	27	171	26	111	34	445
2004	1	33	19	172	34	135	53	447
2005	8	34	14	148	27	116	dropped	347
2006	5	10	32	130	18	120	all other	315
2007	5	32	12	139	10	105	apas	303
2008	5	28	10	136	7	115		301
2009	5	31	8	143	5	105		297
2010	6	26	5	138	8	98		281
2011	16	33	7	127	4	92		279

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[Editor's remarks in square brackets.]

FROM: Mark Plummer
59 Shirley Road
Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES, England

2011-12-11

On looking through OPUNTIA #71.1C, I got to wondering how many copies of your fanzine we have, seeing as the numbers don't in themselves give much of a clue. The answer seems to be getting on for 200. In a way your numbering does you a disservice as it rather masks what a remarkable achievement of longevity and consistency OPUNTIA is.

[Pat yourself on the back, Mark, for your letter prompted me to finally act on something I've been thinking of for some time, to revise the OPUNTIA numbering system.]

Re: your observation that kids read books on smartphones and "*Only Boomers use e-book readers.*". Is that just your observational experience or is there some firmer basis for that contention? Speaking as somebody who's either a tail-end Boomer or an early Gen Xer depending on where you draw the line, it seems to me that the e-reader users I know are more likely to be younger than me, although there are plenty of older people

who have embraced the new technology zealously to the chagrin of booksellers everywhere. My personal observational experience as a London commuter is that there's been a notable increase in the number of people reading screens rather than paper in the last couple of years. I guess that people who are only very occasional book readers might be drawn to phones simple because they have them anyway. London commuters may be atypical as many of them have an hour or more each way daily train journey, and as such have the kind of heavy book habit that justifies an e-reader.

[My remark was only half serious but I will stand by it. I spend two or three hours daily at the University of Calgary Library doing research and see countless thousands of students. Half of them walk about head-down grimly texting on smartphones. Many of them seated in the library or food court are staring at their handhelds, not texting but slowly scrolling or paging. Lots of students have their laptops as well, but I have never seen any student with a tablet or e-book reader. Same thing downtown where I pick up my mail; lots of executives and secretaries hunched over laptops or smartphones, but never someone brown-bagging it with an e-book reader. When it comes time to upgrade my 1998 candy-bar cellphone, I'll make the giant leap to a top-end smartphone and skip the e-book reader.]

FROM: Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20882

2012-02-02

I have been listening to some older whodunit novels. How quickly cellphones, etc., listening with a small smile about the up-to-date technologically mention of a car phone. As technology moves on apace, stories that rely on rapidly changing methodology become dated. I listened to a new edition of a light mystery, in which the author explained what things had been changed to keep up with technology since the initial printing and which things had been kept the same and why.

[It doesn't pay to be too specific in fiction. Cyberpunk stories about 10-megabyte world-controlling computers were cutting edge back then and laughable now. My personal favourite is the supervillain from the 1960s who threatens to destroy the world unless he is paid the staggering sum of \$1 million.]

FROM: Joseph Nicholas
15 Jansons Road
Tottenham, London N15 4JU, England

2011-12-13

[Re: C.H. Crickmay's jihad against other geomorphologists for not acknowledging his theory of extinct erosion] What speaks to

me about Crickmay's attack on these people is not just -6-
how bitter he must have been about the interruption to his university career but also the extent of his obsession with their arguments. In the 1920s and 1930s they would have been of more recent vintage and so have loomed larger in the daily lives of university geologists. That he was so pre-occupied with them half a lifetime later surely indicates the desperation with which he was still trying to get a hearing for his own counter-arguments. These counter-arguments he might otherwise have been able to inculcate in successive generations of geology students, in time founding a new school of geological thought and becoming as famous as his bete noires. Perhaps therein is the reason for his bitterness. He saw a shining light in his future, then a few years later saw it extinguished, never to be rekindled.

FROM: Lloyd Penney
1706 - 24 Eva Road
Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 2B2

2012-01-11

I see for Canada Day celebrations this year, the government wants to add in lots of references to the War of 1812, given it's the bicentennial of that conflict. I can see some people to the south of us getting a little upset over this, but to be honest I don't think the Conservatives think that far ahead.

[Out here on the prairies, few people care about eastern Canadian history so I don't think the Tories will lose any votes one way or the other. Calgary's big celebration is the centennial of the Stampede rodeo, first held on Labour Day weekend 1912, although nowadays it runs the middle two weeks of July. Canada Post is issuing a stamp, and there will be all kinds of celebrations in Cowtown. I'm on the show committee of the Calgary Philatelic Society, which this year is hosting a national stamp convention on the Labour Day weekend and the theme is the Calgary Stampede.]

2012-03-04

Shortening attention spans through the increasing demand for visual and aural stimulus is killing literature. Blanket statement perhaps, but I see so many people around us who proudly proclaim that they do not read or own any books. They cannot understand why anyone would bother with such a waste of paper and other resources.

Hope you will go to When Words Collide 2012 in Calgary. It's this year's CanVention [the national SF convention of Canada at which the Aurora Awards are presented], so you may see some eastern faces. Wish we could go but money is tight.

[Details at www.whenwordscollide.org, and yes, I'll be there, seeing as it's only a five-minute drive from my house.]

FROM: Ned Brooks
4817 Dean Lane
Lilburn, Georgia 30047

2011-09-06

Interesting account of the [Calgary] steampunks. I was surprised to see two of them wearing the weird bird-beak masks associated with a doctor's costume from the era of the Black Death in Europe. The beaks were full of herbs supposed to prevent infection.

[My first question to the steampunks was "Aren't you hot?" I couldn't hear the muffled reply from the guy inside the full-leather cape, bird-beak mask, goggles, and tweed suit. If it was me, I'd have passed out from the heat.]

FROM: Franz Zrilich
4004 Granger Road
Medina, Ohio 44256-8602

2012-01-21

[Re: ILL WIND, a novel about oil and plastic eating bacteria that destroy civilization] The author forgets that plywood and OSB flooring and sheathing are ubiquitous and used extensively. They are made with several types of plastic adhesives. Most sewer, gas, and potable water lines are various types of plastic.

[Actually the chipboard houses and condo apartments don't need plastic-eating bacteria to decay. There are already numerous cases of low-rise condos and houses in Canada having to be re-sheathed a few years after completion at great expense to owners because the chipboard rots so easily from moisture. They are also huge firetraps. Calgary has had a number of spectacular fires where the blaze gets started in one unit and takes out a hundred others. They burn like Roman candles due to cedar-shingle roofs, chipboard walls, and vinyl siding.]

FROM: Stuart Stratu 2012-03-05
Box 35
Marrickville, New South Wales 2204, Australia

You mentioned that FANTASY COMMENTATOR was full of typos. One thing that bugs me is bad proofreading jobs. One of the worst atrocities against grammar is the inverted comma thrown all over the place, like "There were four dog's" or "I alphabetized my CD's".

I Also Heard From: Henry Welch, Mark Sonnenfeld, Mark Strickert, Theo Nelson, John Held Jr

WHAT IS FAPA?

I circulate OPUNTIA through a science fiction apa called Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA). For those of you receiving this issue who do not know what an apa is, please read on.

Modern zine publishing as we know it today began in the middle 1800s as cheap, home-use printing presses became available to the general public. Zinesters developed a distro method called the amateur press association (apa) where members sent x number of copies of their zine to a central mailer (also known as the official editor). The zines are collated into bundles, and each member gets back one bundle of everyone's zines. There is an annual fee to cover postage, but this works out cheaper than mailing individual copies. Apas have a minimum level of activity required, such as publishing 8 pages a year. It must be emphasized that apas are not for passive subscribers; you must commit to the minimum activity level or you will be booted out.

The oldest apa is the National A.P.A., founded 1876. FAPA was founded in 1937. Details from Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, California 94611-1948. In addition to articles, there will be mailing comments on other apazines in the last FAPA bundle. I quote the remark I am commenting on or otherwise make the context clear, so hopefully an outsider can still read the comments with interest.

COMMENTS ON FAPA #298

FAPA #298 mailed from Virginia on March 2 and received in Calgary on March 15. The Clearcut Award for the most pages in a mailing goes to Dale Cozort with 36 pages.

Thanks to our new editor Curt Phillips for taking over the mailout of FAPA after the sudden and unexpected death of Robert Sabella.

Alphabet Soup #73 *“Science fiction didn’t predict what cellphones were going to be like.”* Alas, it didn’t predict what Facebook and Twitter were going to be like either. A Calgary firefighter recently told me that they are thinking of adding a new category to their accident statistics, dividing “Inattention to surroundings” into “Inattention to surroundings: pedestrian texting” and “Inattention to surroundings: all other causes”.

Something For FAPA *“Charity shops are being deluged with donations of video tapes that no one wants or needs.”* When my Uncle Norman died in 2007, my brother and I were his executors. We kept some of his stuff but gave away the furniture and everything else we didn’t need. No one wanted his massive Betamax collection; we filled a dumpster bin half full with them. When I bought my digital Nikon digital SLR camera, the old one, a Nikon SLR film camera, went into the garbage bin. No one in Calgary wants film cameras, period. Now I’m trying to thin out

my book collection by donating them to charities, so my heirs won’t just dump them in the recycle bin. What we think is important, our heirs consider so much junk.

Nice Distinctions #22 Re: your childhood in a 1950s Jewish school where you were given lessons on how to assimilate and sound like a Gentile. This may be more because the stereotype of an American Jew is a Yiddish speaker from Brooklyn, popularized by such characters as Jackie Mason, rather than the actual religion. Assimilation may have more to do with language and non-religious culture. Here in Alberta, the early Jews weren’t shopkeepers from Yiddish ghettos, they were mostly Slavic farmers and sounded the same as any Polish Catholic or Ukrainian Orthodox immigrant.

My Fellow Fapians Re: Calgary’s annual convention When Words Collide and your remark *“How great to read that there is still a fandom for the written word out there.”* I think what has killed media fan conventions in Calgary is the annual Calgary Comic Con, which has ballooned into a massive show at the Stampede grounds and sucked the life out of amateur shows. No one in the publishing or bookselling industry seems interested in running their version of a Creation Con, so that leaves it up to literary fans to get the job done. Details about them that has read a book are at: www.whenwordscollide.org

Voice Of The Habu Re: what a recourse loan is. It means that if you default on a mortgage, the bank takes back the house, sells it for what it can get, and if there is still a balance owing, come after you for the remainder, such as garnisheeing your wages, seizing your car, or emptying out your bank account and savings. In Canada, mortgages are recourse loans; you can't just walk away from the house.

Science Fiction Adventure Magazine Re: your thoughts about why and when humans developed agriculture due to climatic stability. You mentioned marine archaeology in reference to the fact that large areas now under the seas were once dry land when the water was locked up in continental ice sheets. This is something that was studied with respect to aboriginal languages in North America. Linguists had trouble understanding the pattern of languages in today's world until they realized that places such as the Newfoundland Grand Banks and the Florida Keys were once above water. Proto-European culture was influenced by the English Channel once being dry land, and the Middle Eastern legends of a great flood were based on a distant memory of the end of the Ice Ages producing meltwater that flooded what is now the Arabian Gulf. If you do some Internet searching, you should be able to find recent papers on archaeological work off the coast of British Columbia, where many tribes once lived on what is now flooded continental shelf.

This raises some thoughts about alternative history, such as the most recent retreat of the continental ice sheets being delayed by a few thousand years, an eyeblink in geological time, but long enough to let tropical human cultures develop technology such as horse riding or coastal ships. What might they have wrought?

Re: why so many alternative histories are based on the American Civil War and WW2 because authors don't have to explain the background. This would lead me to wonder why alternative Vietnam Wars aren't so common, since the majority of Boomers would know the rough outlines. Perhaps it is the trauma of being only the second major war the USA lost. (Korea was a stalemate.) Canada had all kinds of separatist fiction, but that faded away a couple of decades ago.

Re: trying to find an AH scenario in which the Boer Republics survived. As you mentioned, this is difficult because the discovery of gold resulted in a flood of outlanders swamping the Boers. I think this would be a case of the Tide of History overwhelming any alternatives, what chaos theory refers to as the Great Attractor. However, in a sense, the Boer Republics did ultimately triumph after 1948, when apartheid was established. Then the Great Attractor reasserted itself by the 1980s.

All That Jazz Re: the timeline of how e-books will wipe out print books by 2025. As much as I am a fan of the Papernet, I have faced the fact that no one in my family is interested in books and have begun planning accordingly. As far as the destruction of traditional publishers is concerned, I do not worry about them. They will be replaced by others. It does not matter what our opinion is, for the next generation will use e-books just as we abandoned 8-track cartridges for something else.

Re: Pulpcon's problems with dealers in the bourse who wanted to allow comic book sales, movie memorabilia, etcetera, and had to be told each year that they could only sell pulp magazines. Quite right. To allow the camel's nose under the tent flap would soon lead to what has happened at so many SF conventions, where the bourse is mainly dealers selling crystals, costume weaponry, and movie magazines. I'm on the Show Committee on the Calgary Philatelic Society, and our dealer contract specifically states that only stamps can be sold, not coins, medals, or military regalia. Some stamp clubs were too lenient and ended up destroying their show. The thinking was that by allowing coins or memorabilia, they could convert collectors into philatelists. That didn't work; many people collect both stamps and coins but a dedicated numismatist will not convert just because he attended a stamp bourse. The stamp collectors stayed away and the coin and memorabilia collectors didn't bother attending since it was advertised as a stamp show.

ZINE LISTINGS

by Dale Speirs

[The Usual means \$3 cash (\$5 overseas) or trade for your zine. Americans: please don't send cheques for small amounts to Canada or overseas (the bank fee to cash them is usually more than the amount) or mint USA stamps (which are not valid for postage outside USA). USS banknotes are acceptable around the world.]

[SF means science fiction. An apazine is a zine for an amateur press association distro, a perzine is a personal zine, sercon is serious-constructive, and a genzine is a general zine]

Xerography Debt #30 (US\$4 from Davida Gypsy Breier, Box 11064, Baltimore, Maryland 21212) Review zine, 64 pages with card cover, nicely printed. Lots and lots and lots of zine reviews done by multiple reviewers to give a spread of opinions. An interesting essay on the death of Weblogs; apparently 90% or so have been abandoned. We who fuss about print zines can take some encouragement in the fact that the slaughter on-line is far worse, with less good material archived. Twitter is killing them.

Banana Wings #47 to #48 (The Usual from Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES, England) Various essays and extended letters discussing the state of SF fandom, convention reports and more philosophical musings about them, and letters of comment.

Show Me The Money! #36 (The Usual from Tony Hunnicutt, Box 48161, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55448) One of the few zines around that discusses economics, albeit with a number of rants and conspiracies. One reprint article amused me; Dacris Software predicts the imminent shutdown of the Internet and the collapse of civilization thereby. I'm assuming whoever wrote this came of age in the 1990s and thus doesn't remember a day (several millennia actually) when people got along without Web sites and texting their friends that they are in the food court at the mall. The Web only became common about a decade ago and e-mail back in the late 1980s. There are many Boomers who remember a time when you sent a memo by paper and only if it was important, not "I'm in the food court". Within living memory, businesses got along fine without e-mail and could do so again if they had to. You do not have to check your messages every time your smartphone beeps. You do not need an app for anything.

Another article rants about Roundup-resistant genes escaping into the wild among weeds, but this is old news. As a professional horticulturist, I was reading about this in the peer-reviewed scientific literature in the 1990s. Back on the farm in the 1960s and 1970s, we used tractor-drawn duckfoot cultivators to cut the thickest weeds and even tree roots, which has become a lost art among modern farmers spoiled by glyphosate herbicides. They'll go back to it, and Monsanto will take a writedown on its profits. Incidentally, if protestors want to hurt Monsanto, all they have to do

is short-sell the stock. That will get the instant attention of the executives, who are only vaguely aware of the Occupy movement.

There are those who rant against the 1% but won't buy a few gold coins or invest in petroleum (Peak Oil). According to statistics, I'm one of the 10% in Canada, but I figured out a long time ago what was happening and how to evade it. I grew up on a cattle ranch in central Alberta and as a boy learned that you don't try to climb over the manure pile, you go around it. I am debt-free; if I can't afford it, I don't buy it, and I keep spare cash for emergencies such as the furnace quitting. I have months worth of dried and canned food, not because I'm a survivalist but because I know how delicate the food supply chain is. SMTM! is well worth reading to shake yourself out of your complacency.

Brooklyn! #74 to #75 (US\$10 cash for four issues from Fred Argoff, Penthouse L, 1170 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11230-4060) A look around the New York City borough, including the filled-in Dead Horse Bay, and various neighbourhoods and how they have changed over the years.

Grunted Warning #13 to #14 (The Usual from Stuart Stratu, Box 35, Marrickville, New South Wales 2204, Australia) Cut-and-paste zine of weird news from newspapers around the world. The things people get up to never cease to astonish.

Trap Door #28 (US\$5 or The Usual from Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, California 94611-1948) Genzine with articles on a Tennessee commune, a prostate operation (you know you're getting old when someone writes about their operation and you read it with genuine interest because you might be next), working with Hugh Hefner, the art of conversation, an hilarious short story about a rowdy SF fan named Earl "Pigg" Foss, and letters of comment.

Vanamonde #883 to #892 (The Usual from John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street #409, Los Angeles, California 90057) Single-sheet apazine commenting on a wide variety of topics.

As The Crow Flies #11 (The Usual from Frank Denton, 14654 - 8 Avenue SW, Seattle, Washington 98166-1953) Perzine, with remarks on recently deceased SFers, touring Yellowstone Park, and art exhibits.

Banana Rag #41 (\$15 for two issues from Anna Banana, 3747 Highway 101, Roberts Creek, British Columbia V0N 2W2) Mail art zine with reports on Anna's globetrotting performance art, mail art events and zines, and bananas *sensu stricto*.

Fadeaway #25 to #27 (The Usual from Robert Jennings, 29 Whiting Road, Oxford, Massachusetts 01540-2035) Sercon zine specializing in the history of SF magazines. Issue #25 has an

article on an early SF club, commentary on a recent history of John W. Campbell Jr, and letters of comment. #26 looks at recent problems with DC Comics, Nero Wolfe fandom, zine reviews, and letters of comment. #27 is mostly letters of comment to #26.

It Goes On The Shelf #33 (The Usual from Ned Brooks, 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn, Georgia 30047-4720) Reviewzine of older books and obscure periodicals, comments from readers, and a frightening clipping about fake wands used by police to detect drugs.

Junk Zine #6 (The Usual from James Dawson, Box 292, Malden, Washington 99149) Mostly letters of comment, the majority from prisoners, as well as zine and mail art reviews.

Space Cadet #15 to #16 (The Usual from R. Graeme Cameron, 13315 - 104 Avenue #72G, Surrey, British Columbia V3T 1V5) Perzine of another recent retiree, who gets out of bed on his schedule, not the company's. Also articles on ancient coins, book lists, and letters of comment.

Challenger #34 (US\$5 from Guy Lillian, 5915 River Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71105) Doorstop-category zine with 90 pages, with SF fanhistory, the Canadian Royal family, H.G. Wells as a prophet, various personal reminiscences, and letters of comment.

Night Train To Mundo Fine #3 (The Usual from Frederick Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, New Hampshire 03278) Bad news; the last manufacturer of manual typewriters has ceased making them, although apparently electric typewriters are still in production. Also a review of "So Wrong They're Right", a DVD about the world of 8-track collectors and users. This is a video I reviewed several years ago and I join with Frederick in recommending. You can get it on-line; please do.

Probe #149 to #150 (The Usual from Science Fiction South Africa, Box 781401, Sandton 2146, South Africa) SF clubzine with lots of short fiction by its members, as well as book reviews and letters of comment.

Rambles To T(L)C #326 to #329 (The Usual from James Dawson, Box 292, Malden, Washington 99149) Apazine with thoughts about alternative philosophies, libertarianism, and religion.

Argentus #11 (The Usual from Steven Silver, 707 Sapling Lane, Deerfield, Illinois 60015-3969) SF genzine with articles on supervillain sentencing and imprisonment, the evolution of opening titles in movies, book cover art criticism, happiness, fun with nuclear isotopes in a day job, convention running, John W. Campbell, and letters of comment. 2011 was the 40th death anniversary of Campbell, generally considered to be the greatest

SF editor and the man who took SF away from superscience stories to a more mature form that enabled it to survive when westerns and other pulp fiction dwindled away.

Chunga #18 (The Usual from Randy Byers, 1013 North 36 Street, Seattle, Washington 98103) This issue starts off with a trip report to Seattle, which might seem strange given that the zine is published there, but it is written by a Briton. Also many reminiscences about the late SF writer Joanna Russ, a few zine reviews, and letters of comment.

EOD Letter #20 (The Usual from Ken Faig Jr, 2311 Swainwood Drive, Glenview, Illinois 60025-2741) Devoted to H.P. Lovecraft, and starting off with reviews of some recent reprints of varying quality of his works, reviews of related fiction and authors, and a consideration of August Derleth's interest in newspaper comic strips.

The Great Stereopticon #5 (The Usual from James Dawson, Box 292, Malden, Washington 99149) Apazine with personal reminiscences and housewife Buddhists.

The New Port News #260 to #261 (The Usual from Ned Brooks, 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn, Georgia 30047-4720) Apazine with various comments on a wide variety of topics.

***BRG* #72 to #73** (The Usual from Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard Street, Greensborough, Victoria 3088, Australia) #72 is a detailed look at the first two volumes in the Gormenghast trilogy by Mervyn Peake. This is a set of books that makes the Lord of the Rings series look like DC Comics. #73 has trip reports and reminiscences of a conga player.

Christian New Age Quarterly V20#1 to #2 (US\$5 from Catherine Groves, Box 276, Clifton, New Jersey 07015-0276) In V20#1, the editor discusses her son's responses in a conversation about love and beliefs, and elsewhere is an article on shamanism, plus letters of comment. #2 discusses the Law of Attraction, and has several essays and letters of comment.

The Fanactical Fanactivist #4 to #7 (The Usual from R. Graeme Cameron, 13315 - 104 Avenue #72G, Surrey, British Columbia V3T 1V5) Discusses the state of SF zinedom in Canada and a new proposed system of fanzine awards for Canadian editors. A noble cause for those of us who tilt at windmills. Includes letters of comment.

Paper Radio #6 (The Usual from Frederick Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, New Hampshire 03278) A look at pirate radio stations, with articles on the station European Music Radio, underground shortwave stations, podcasting versus broadcasting, and interviews.

The Knarley Knews #140 to #141 (The Usual from Henry Welch, 15290 Upper Ellen Road, Los Gatos, California 95033) Genzine with essays on the history of serial killers, capitalism, some trip reports and zine listings, and letters of comment.

Lamplighter #27 (The Usual from Guy Miller, 2951 Archer Lane, Springfield, Ohio 45503-1209) This issue is an account of a 1946 hitchhiking trip to a zine convention and a 2011 zine gathering in Nashville by car.

Apricot Blossom V2#1 (US\$3 from Creative Type, Box 4335, Chico, California 95927-4335) Collage zine, in full colour.

BCSFazine #460 to #465 (The Usual from British Columbia SF Association, c/o Felicity Walker, 3851 Francis Road #209, Richmond, British Columbia V6R 2G5) SF clubzine with letters of comment, club news, event listings, zine reviews, and articles.

For The Clerisy #84 (The Usual from Brant Kresovich, Box 404, Getzville, New York 14068-0404) Reviewzine emphasizing older books and movies, with emphasis on travelogues and mysteries.

Statement #390 to #394 (The Usual from Ottawa SF Society, 18 Norice Street, K2G 2X5) SF clubzine with news and letters of comment. Always strong in astronomy content.

Alexiad V10#5 to V11#1 (The Usual from Lisa and Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40204-2040) SF genzine with lots of book reviews, articles, convention reports, and letters of comment.

The Fossil #350 to #351 (US\$15 per year from The Fossils, c/o Tom Parson, 157 South Logan, Denver, Colorado 80209) Published by a group of zine historians, with articles covering more than a century of zine publishing, convention reports, and news about zinedom.

Mark Time #102 to #104 (The Usual from Mark Strickert, Box 1051, Orange, California 92856) Perzine with updates on family life, trip reports, transit fanning, zine reviews, and letters of comment. #104 is taken up almost entirely by a trip report to London, England.

No Sin But Ignorance #51 (The Usual from Claire Brialey, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES, England) This perzine issue is entirely about touring California, attending a Worldcon, and lots of wine drinking. *In vino Britannia.*

Les Carnets De Rastapopoulos #8 (The Usual from Robert, 7 Larch Street #2, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6W4) An unusual issue about penpals. Back when he was a young boy, he tried to find some penpals from behind the Iron Curtain and was swamped

with hundreds of replies. Now he is writing to those addresses again to see if any are still there and what their story is.

The Ken Chronicles #21 to #22 (The Usual from Ken Bausert, 2140 Erma Drive, East Meadow, New York 11554-1120) Perzine, with a trip reports to Las Vegas, photographing old gravestones, bank scams, wine tasting in California, and a visit to Lake Tahoe.

Moz #13 (The Usual from Murray Moore, 1065 Henley Road, Mississauga, Ontario L4Y 1C8) Perzine with a trip report of Murray and Mary Ellen's 2011 visit to the British Columbia coast where they admired big trees, and then did a grand tour of Alberta, with a stopover at When Words Collide.

One Minute Zine Reviews #2 (The Usual from Frederick Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, New Hampshire 03278) Brief reviews of zines and some obscure books.

WORLD WIDE PARTY #19

June 21, 2012, at 21h00 your local time and place. Raise a glass and salute your fellow denizens of the Papernet.