

THE ZINE DUMP #25

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

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Illo by Ned Dameron

Fellow fan editors, I know that
by the time you read this, it has
been quite a while – but as I
write, it has been only hours.
Today, you see, is February 8,
2010, the day after the 2010
Super Bowl, and

**WHO DAT
SEY DEY
GONNA
BEAT DEM
SAINTS?**

That's all I have to say on the
subject.

You know my schtick. *The Zine Dump* wants to see and review every science fiction-oriented fanzine published in the English language. Simple enough. A note to anyone doing another zine like this one: stay away from eFanzines; you'll *never* get finished.

Alexiad Vol. 9 no. 1 / Joe & Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville KY 40204-2040 / jtmajor@iglou.com / \$2@ / Joe puts a lot of wit about a lot of topics into each *Alexiad*. It's an education to scan each issue. February, as ever, is loaded with stuff. Joe's editorial touches on the death of Salinger and the isolation of mainstream literary writers – perhaps the most obvious difference between our genre and “outside” literature. Obits – very moving – follow for Shibano Takumi, a famous Polish airman, and local friends. A piece on the genesis of some of the higher-number elements fails to mention *Avatar*'s unobtainium or *Bullwinkle*'s upsidaesium, but is otherwise comprehensive and fascinating. A review of Kim Stanley Robinson's *Galileo's Dream* casts doubt on the big expensive novel sitting on my to-read shelf. Tomes by Mike Resnick and daughter Laura fare better. A book about the first Red A-bomb is discussed, as is SETI and Vincent Bugliosi's superb true-trial book, *And the Sea will Tell*. Lisa chimes in with reviews and natter on horses. Johnny Carruthers' candy reviews make me want to burn my Weight Watchers card. Patrick “Goat Boy” McCray tells us where to buy kilts. Robert Kennedy reviews a book on rudeness, *not* composed at an SF convention. (My new peeve: dickweeds who text during movies.) Joe mourns yet another WWI-era veteran. In the chatty LOC section, Taras Wolansky mentions the guru from *Gunga Din* – that brilliant actor, Eduardo Cianelli, also played the club owner in the great TV series *Johnny Staccato*. Mentioned in WAHF is a name missed in zining circles: Lloyd Daub. And on the back page, as usual, satirical fanfic, this time a brief encounter between *The Dark Knight*'s Joker and 007. Joe Major's interests and acumen seem to be bottomless, and coupled with his lively and sometimes pointed style, make for an ever-rewarding read.

Ansible #273 / 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 / April issue of the indispensable *Ansible*, centered in Britain but heard 'round the horn. Into the printed version's two pages Dave packs Thog's Masterclass – professional language that no editor should love – How Others See Us – insults to the field from know-it-all outside – RIPs (including, this lousy month, actors Robert Culp and Peter Graves, artist Dick Giordano, writer Patricia Wrightson) – a list of forthcoming British conventions, and news. The Peter Watts controversy – he was trashed by border agents for refusing, or merely questioning, an order – is given appropriate outrage, but as a defense lawyer, I wish I knew more. The case was discussed at length on fictionmags.com, and while Watts praised his attorney for strong cross-examination of the cops, a juror explaining his guilty verdict sounded intelligent and conscientious. So what happened? Pinheaded jurors blindly rubber-stamping brutal, arrogant authority? or a *Rashomon* scenario where each party remembered not what happened, but what they *wish* happened? Who knows? Welcome to my world.

Aphelion #137, Vol. 13 / Dan Hollifield / www.aphelion-webzine.com / Say the editor: “*Aphelion* has readers in over 90 countries around the world. *Aphelion* is a free e-zine, we don't ask for money nor do we get paid to create the zine. We're basically an exposure market that gets the writer's names and work out there for readers to see. *Aphelion* is now in its 13th year, has a very good reputation with readers and writers, and is known to the paying publishers as an excellent Writer's Workshop sort of website. So far, over 75 writers who have had stories appear ... have gone on to sell their work in the pro markets. *Aphelion* generally has 8 to 10 short stories per issue. The e-mail address for submitting short stories is shorts@aphelion-webzine.com. New issues should be online by the 7th of each month, 11 months a year. However, we do this as a hobby, so our offline lives often prevent us from getting new issues out on time.” Whenever, *Aphelion* is a good-looking site, enthused about its mission.

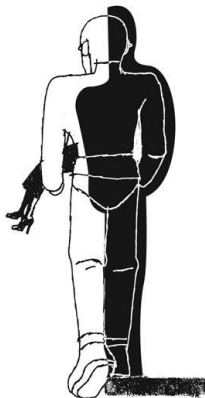
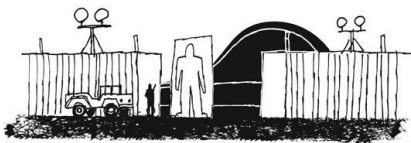
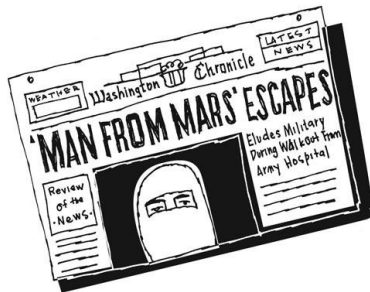
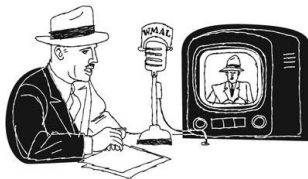
Argentus 9 / Steven Silver, 707 Spaling Lane, Deerfield IL 60015-3969 / <http://www.sfsite.com/~silverag/argentus.html>. / on eFanzines / This huge issue of Steve's Hugo-nominated genzine is the culmination of a personal writing project in several other fanzines: a study of six great silent comedians, all depicted on the excellent cover by Mo Starkey. The article is extensive,

informative, evocative, & well-written, as befits one of fandom's best writers. *Argentus'* further lineup is enviable. Greg Benford discusses his personal predictive prowess, Janis Ian (brilliantly) filks her own classic "At 17", Steve Green begins his TAFF report, Howard Andrew Jones – whom I've never encountered before – opines on Universe-R (where all the art we wish for has come to be), Ralph Roberts exults on his NASA job (my father-in-law feels the same way about his career there), Fred Lerner (see *Lofgeornost*) excoriates "mundane: SF critics, James Bacon describes (at elegant length) South Africa, and so on and so on, too much even to list. *Argentus'* signature "mock" section recasts classic TV series as science fiction – how much more SFnal could *Mr. Ed* get? – followed very niftily by a compendium by various authors on their favorite "vanished" works, stories that no one remembers or collects or reads anymore. (I'd like to find AgBerg's "Sceret Sharer".) Next ... Oh, I give up: no way to do this massive and massively entertaining publication an 'eenth of the justice it demands.

Askance no. 17 / John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station TX 77845 / j_purcell54@yahoo.com / \$2, trade or on eFanzines.com / It helps any fan publication to run an Alan White cover, and this one is joyous, sexy, choice. Opening with natter on DUFF, weight loss and the weather and Texas A&M's "One Hundred Years Hence" SF Conference (put together by Hal Hall, the heroic librarian to whom I donated my SFPA collection some years back). After reminiscing about the progress of *Askance* over the years, John proffers a critical con report on student-run Aggiecon and passes his pages on to Taral Wayne, who mulls living to 100, the Afghan War, oil politics and – most effectively – our "oblivious" self-obsessed society (illustrated by the cover to a pb of *Brave New World*). Arnie Katz makes a rare and most welcome foray outside of his Vagrant zines to discuss classic faan fiction and Chris Garcia describes burning off his beard (!). Lloyd Penney tells the tale of an SF exhibit he and Yvonne ran, Bob Sabella notes "0-year" genre landmarks, Penney returns to review *Yipe!*, a costuming zine, a "Figby" cartoon, a breezy lettercol, and a regional convention listing (the furry-con photo leaves me a little upset). In his closing remarks, Purcell notes that he's joined Facebook, and mourns the loss of a favorite dog. (Our yorkies just gave *us* a new puppy.) Bottom line: perhaps the best issue to date of an attractive and winningly *personal* genzine. Also: *Askew*, a campaign-zine for DUFF.

Aussiecon Four Progress Report #2 / Karen Babcock, editor@aussiecon4.org.au / This issue features a late Hugo nomination ballot and a hotel reservation form I previously downloaded from the website. I wanted to record our membership numbers. Trouble is, there are two for each of us: 606/2424 (me) and 607/2425 (Rosy). Despite the anticipated confusion, we're looking forward to the convention – and to the jaunts to Hanging Rock, Ayers Rock and the Barrier Reef we hope will precede and follow.

Banana Wings #40 / Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES, U.K. / fishlifter@googlemail.com / Bedecked with a beautiful full color cover and bacover (the latter by Ditmar, decades overdue for a Hugo), this "0" issue puts editor Brialey in a contemplative mood. The lady has recently attained her 40th birthday, the poor thing. So as people will do, particularly people associated with a creative endeavor like science fiction, she worries about the things she wanted to do – and did not – before she hit that age. (All I know is that since *my* 40th birthday I've gotten married, started [and maintained] a Hugo-nominated genzine, traveled to Australia [which Claire seems to do on a regular basis], become a lawyer [albeit "only a public defender"]... *and* somehow added half again as many years to the resume. The goals and dreams I didn't accomplish before 40, or 60, no longer matter – now what I worry about is what I accomplish while there's still an "I" to accomplish anything. Let's sail till we come to the edge.) Anyway, this excellent issue has much more to it. Randy Byers reports on "The Floating Worldcon" – mentioning Sharee, his lady friend, whose photo I printed in *my* Anticipation account (she is *that* memorable). I disagree with Byers regarding the Hugo ceremony; I love all "the pomp and circus parts." Niall Harrison's discussion of the same worldcon concentrates on Hugos and socializing. Shifting focus, Chris Garcia provides "TAFF Viewed as a Series of Haikus" (John Hertz will have to critique the verse; the prose is chucklesome). James Bacon reveals the activities of GUFF winners Sue Anne Barber and Trevor Clark under his wing in London. Love the sketches. Following a delightful Steve Stiles centerfold – drawn by Stiles, that is; he's not featured – the rich, thoughtful lettercol holds sway. In his closing "Roadrunner" section, editor Plummer talks about scanning fanzines



by Vincent Clarke (from 1949-59). He wonders if today's fans would return to the fannish fifties if they could, and decides, no. I'm not so sure. Methinks the science fiction from that era (Phil Dick, Algis Budrys, Poul Anderson, *The Stars My Destination*, etc. etc.) was far more exciting than the stuff we're getting now. Not that there's anything wrong with the fandom of today – at least not *fanzine* fandom – at least not the *British* fanzine scene – at least not *Banana Wings*. It remains a handsome, focused, high-quality fan production.

Baryon Magazine 114 / Barry R. Hunter, 114 Julia Drive SW, Rome GA 30165 / www.baryon-online.com / free online, \$5@ printed / Every issue of *Baryon* produces the same reaction: **Jeezum at the books!** I count around 150 reviews in this particular issue, most by print omnivore Harriet Klausner, though the editor and Jim Brock chip in several, too. Not all the volumes reviewed are SF/fantasy – *U is for Undertow* receives a deserved huzzah, for instance – but of course, most are. Interesting items include a new Peter Straub novel and *Jaclyn the Ripper* (!). I spot a reprinted Poul Anderson Flandry collection here, too – so good to know that great stuff is available for newcomers willing to read SF as well as watch it. A suggestion: collect Harriet's reviews of the Hugo nominees, see what she thinks.

BCSFazine #s 439-41 / Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond BC, Canada V7C 1J6 / felicity4711@gmail.com / The monthly newsletter of the British Columbia club. These two issues feature Brad Foster illos on the cover, LOCs by Lloyd and Sheryl – Penney and Birkhead, as if you didn't know – a very detailed calendar of forthcoming events ("National Handwriting Day"?), "News-Like Matter" (a long list of Aurora-eligible works), and some reviews – including a friendly note to *The Zine Dump*!

Beam #2 / Nic Farey, 2245 Cape Cod Dr., Las Vegas NV 89122 / unusalsuspects@mac.com / also on eFanzines / *Beam* boasts a marvelous pun-filled color cover by Brad Foster and contribs by many of the best fan writers extant. Among these I number the editor, who's always wielded a unique voice, but Chris Garcia is also here, and Curt Phillips, and James Bacon, and Claire Brialey, and Bill Burns: Chris on his charming girlfriend (who loves whiskey), Curt on Corflu, James on wrestling and what its fandom leads to, Claire on malt whiskey (hmm ... I begin to sense a theme), Nic on "fannish religiosity" and Bob Tucker, the Founder – whom he (alas) never met, all gathered in a very attractive (if somewhat lightly-printed) package. Dan Steffan's bacover is grisly, but maybe one needs a few shots of the real stuff to appreciate it. Third round anticipated happily.

Bento / David Levine & Kate Yule, 1905 SE 43rd Ave., Portland OR 97215 / kate@bentopress.com, david@bentopress.com / Will David and Kate show at Aussiecon and hand me another **Bento** as I walk down a hallway? (That's how *Bento* is distributed – by hand at worldcon.) Stay tuned.

brg 49, 58-63 / Bruce Gillespie, see **Steam Engine Time**. /

Gillespie is a fan-ed both prolific and practiced, with a great eye for editing great publications. These are zines for ANZAPA, same high production values as *SET* but with *personal* content. No. 58 features a trip report to Bogota (by Jennifer Bryce) and an exciting scuba diving tale (by John Litchen). John's account of a train ride through Australia's midsection holds down the center of issue 63, while Bruce himself explains his favorites of the year and of the decade. Issue 61 mourns Catherine Mary Murnane, a lovely friend given a terrific farewell. Issue 60 marks Bruce's realization that he is no longer a sprite of 60 (as celebrated in issue 49), but a diabetic of 62. Issue 62, speaking of that number, is music-oriented, with Ray Wood (see his exceptional *Sarah Connor* article in *SET*) describing an opera and furriners Robert Lichtman and Taral Wayne chiming in as well. I should add that most of these zines feature slick color covers, often photos, often beautiful artwork.

Brooklyn! No. 67 / Fred Argoff, Penthouse L, 1170 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11230-4060 / \$10 in cash per 4 quarterly issues / Not every zine I receive has a SFnal base. *Brooklyn!*, as its name implies, is an ongoing love letter to the famous and picturesque NYC borough. "Brooklyn is absolutely saturated with history," says the editorial, and acknowledging this, Fred gives this issue an historical theme, "wandering all over" in search of what was and how "what is" got that way. Of course, he begins with the Brooklyn Bridge, telling of how John Roebling used an earlier effort in Cincinnati to sell his design to New Yorkers. Argoff goes on to explain famous Brooklyn site names – Dead Horse Inlet *really was* – and prints a map of Kings County when Brooklyn shared it with five other burgs. He reviews a book about the Revolution's Battle of Brooklyn (which we lost) and tells the horrible story of the execution-by-electrocution of an elephant at Luna Park (Thomas Edison actually filmed and exhibited this atrocity). Lots of information about the mutation of colonial "Breuckelen" roads to the present avenues, lots of photos of sites about the city, lots of love for the domicile of dese-dem-dose.

Chunga 15-16 / 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 / What always strikes me first about *Chunga* is how attractive it is, with open, "clean" layout and excellent line illos. The positive vibe survives reading the creative and witty content, a testament to the deep experience and fine taste of its editors. When I first reviewed #15 I failed to note Andy Hooper's terrible medical accident en route to Corflu – diabetic retinopathy and partial blindness. He seems to have enjoyed Corflu anyway, and returns in issue #16 to analyze the ethnicities involved in a new Michael Chabon novel. Also in this issue, a multi-personed interview with Steve Green (see *Fortnightly Fix*), a piece on Donald Westlake by Ted White, and Steve Silver's piece on Ben Turpin (see *Argentus*). Narcissist that I am, I have to mention Randy Byers' thoughtful review of *TZD*. Randy acknowledges the difficulty fans from different groups – some would say "cliques" – have relating to one another, and how this keeps some of us from enjoying each other's zinework. *Zine Dump* counters this tendency, indeed one of my motives in reviewing zines from "every nook and cranny" of fandom. Trying try to understand and convey some sense of what the whole genre is up to is an impossible task – *TZD* is exhausting in ways beyond *Challenger* or even the program books I edit – but I do believe it does some good.

DASFax Feb-March '09 / Ivan Geisler & Sherry Johnson, 8046 Lee Ct., Arvado CO 80005 / Editor@DASFA.com / <http://www.dasfa.org> / Two good 8-page issues of the Denver clubzine. Each features meeting reports – DASFA hosts its share of professional writers – photos from the club's many parties, and an article from Sourdough Jackson on "That Old Science Fiction", fandom as once t'was. February's column deals with fannish duplicators – remember mimeo? Ditto? Hecto? – and March's guides newcomers into the exquisite *oeuvre* of Cordwainer Smith: *Norstrilia* – "The Dead Lady of Clown Town" – "Scanners Live in Vain" – all available through the NESFA Press. Later that issue, editor Geisler chimes in on the intriguing moon mystery surrounding the ray that cleaves Mare Serenitatis. From *Rogue Moon* on, I love lunar mysteries. Fred Cleaver, who has had *DASFax*'s book reviewing gig for ages, keeps his string intact.

Data Dump #145 / Steve Sneyd, 4 Nowell Place, Almondbury HD5 8PB, U.K. / SF verse is *Data Dump*'s subject, and Sneyd's reviews often remind me of why I love poetry. Unfortunately, Steve's

handwriting – the whole zine is done that way – reminds me of why I love *typescript*. But I can't gripe; Steve's love of the material shines through his wretched penmanship in spirited reviews. Titles touched on include Janet Fox's "Death-O-Mat" and genre music by Queen (whose *Flash Gordon* theme – and Brian Blessed's hawk-king – were the best things about that goofy movie) and no less a figure than Hendrix. A unique publication, unlike any other in looks and subject matter, *DD* is idiosyncratic but addictive – I always enjoy deciphering Sneyd's handwriting to find his perspective.

De Profundis 444 / Marty Cantor, c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood CA 91601 / www.lasfsinc.info. / 55¢ in person, \$1.00 by domestic mail. / Once the official, now the *unofficial* newsletter of California's senior SF group, *De Prof's* major reason for existence is the publication of LASFS' "cream of menace" (a.k.a. meeting minutes), which are the funniest and most *personal* in fandom. Every week hails a different Patron Saint (e.g., Woody Dodge, Milt Stevens, the late Frank Gasperik), and occasionally includes interesting info not connected with the actual meeting (such as the "Sage Break", Jerry Pournelle's rap on lunar water). Marty lists the new books donated to LASFS' extensive library, reports on a forthcoming memorial for two late LASFSians, and begs that the infamous Chocolate-Covered Manhole Cover be returned in time for the Christmas gift exchange.

The Drink Tank Issue 239-247 / Chris Garcia, Garcia@computerhistory.org / On eFanzines / As this man *never* tires, there will have been many more issues of this on-line gem by now. These eight issues, covering one or two hours of Garcia's production, are rich with witty yammer on music (specifically, the National Recording Registry) and feature input from Taral Wayne (as fine a fan writer as he is a fan artist), Warren Buff, and others. Specific subjects include Guns'n'Roses, Richard Pryor, Cinequest (Jason Wiener and Cynthia Corral cover the whole schtick, flicks and social activities), DUFF, toys (and their sadistic vacuum-packed plastic packaging), jazz, and the brilliance of frequent cover artist Mo Starkey (I see Hugo talk already). Possibly my favorite piece in this span of hyperactive creative wit is Randy Smith's note of gratitude to his understanding parents, who, though not fans, supported their son in his love of comics and SF.

EI / Earl Kemp, P.O. Box 6642, Kingman, AZ 86402-6642 / earlkemp@citlink.net / eFanzines.com

Ethel the Aardvark Oct/Nov '09, Dec. '09/Jan. '10 / Murray MacLachlan, c/o MSFC, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne VIC 8005 Australia / ethelaardvark@yahoo.com.au / Responding to my overt plea, the Melbourne SF Club sent me two issues of their jolly clubzine. MSFC is one of the most active and enthusiastic clubs I've ever visited – its fanzine collection fills the onetime projection booth at the church where they meet, and their library rivals LASFS'. Their clubpub is just as impressive. Its contents include reviews – the only one I've seen of the Burton-produced 9 – and a busy calendar, crammed with trivia quizzes, dinners, movies, discussions, and lots else. *Ethel* also covers, with photos and text, a nifty event last October – installation of two new MSFC Life Members. Chain up, MSFC, Rosy and Guy are coming back! 153 days till worldcon, as of April 1st!



Exhibition Hall / Chris Garcia & James Bacon, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View CA 94043 / eFanzines

Fanzine Fanatique Winter-Spring 2010 / Keith & Rosemary Walker, 6 Vine St., Greaves, Lancaster, LA1 4UF U.K. / "trade or exchange or editorial whim; sample issue only for 2 stamps or 2 IRCs or \$1" / Like *TZD*, *FF* provides short notes on the various zines Walker has received of late. Keith's zine listings include several non-SF-oriented publications, like *The Goddess Inside* (a Wiccan publication) and *The Angry Violist* (I know one of those), and several poetry collections. The previous issue had very kind notices for *Challenger* no. 30 and *The Panoramic Route*, my Anticipation report. N.B. When sending your zine to *Fanzine Fanatique*, address it to Keith, by name; help him foil a plot by the Royal Mail to dun him for additional fees.

Feline Mewsings #39 / R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle AZ 85623-5323 / Laurraine@mac.com / \$3 per issue, \$10 per year / Good Lord, I've known Laurraine since Suncon – that's 33 years. This is her perzine/FAPazine, with natter about H1N1, the weather (awful even in Arizona), her house, and of course, her cats. Her reviews of local theatre productions are insightful. Amy Harlib contributes reviews of an unfamiliar Disney animation about Atlantis and a weird SF mystery called *Atom*. Interestingly, the LOCs are printed in red, like Jesus' words in my mama's King James.

File 770:157 / Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia CA 91016 / Mikeglyer@cs.com / Central to this issue of the most honored fanzine in Hugo history (at least since *Locus* became a semiprozine) is the epic worldcon report by Montreal's Fan Guest of Honor, Taral Wayne. (Taral also drew this issue's bacover, and the Anticipation membership card taped to one page.) By turns awed, embittered, informative, befuddled, it is an incredible document – with "Interesting!" thoughts on the Hugos. (I do wish Taral had ditched the "Speech I Never Made", the spiel he would've given had he won best Fan Artist last year; it's an isolated patch of sour grapes in a great fannish account.) There's also a collection of reports on Ray Bradbury's 89th birthday *soiree*, a remembrance by Dian Crayne (SFPA's first female member) of the occasion in 1965 when a bullet fired into the LASFS clubhouse passed within inches of her head, John Hertz' extensive report on Westercon, Martin Wooster brief report on CapClave, touching obits of Charlie Brown, Wrai Ballard, Ben Indick, Donald Grant and others. Among news items, we find LASFS's 75th anniversary celebration, the 2009 Heinlein and Nova Award winners, my own tornado experience and Aussiecon's declaration that blogs and websites qualify for their Best Fanzine Hugo. (Swell.) Closing this issue is Glycer's "Sowing Dragon's Teeth", a strong editorial reply to Mike Resnick's comments on the decline of worldcon. Dragon*Con is stealing worldcon's monopoly on publishers, and Resnick avers this is due to so many worldcons locating outside of the US. (It hasn't hurt that D*Con comps rooms for professionals and pays their air fare.) Glycer ascribes the decline in worldcon attendance to the general economy and links the convention's success with the market for written SF. Elegantly he argues that worldcon is "not a business, but a community," a righteous shot to the heart of the matter; but I must note that while worldcon doesn't "run off" media fans, they *do* flock to events more devoted to their interests. I saw only two hall costumes at Anticipation, a definite comedown from worldcons past. I *miss* such neofannish energy. Must mention the Brad Foster illos and the Brianna Wu cover – especially clever this time.

For the Clerisy 78 / Brant Kresovich, P.O. Box 404, Getzville NY 14068-0404 / kresovich@hotmail.com / e-mail / *FTC* doesn't appear often enough; we haven't seen an issue since January. "The Clerisy", if you wondered, are lovers of reading ... you and me, for instance. This issue divides its attention between commercial works, like *Moonraker*, Georges Simenon, a non-Flashman George Macdonald Fraser and a Charlie Chan, and esoteric Oriental writing, a trilogy of "Japanese modernist fiction" and several Chinese non-fiction works and fantasies. Brant's reading is of enviable variety and he does it justice in his reviews.

The Fortnightly Fix # 7-9.5 / Steve Green, stevegreen@livejournal.com / eFanzines / Pleasure to meet Steve, the reigning east-to-west TAFF delegate, at Anticipation. Here's his perzine, nattering on the loss of funding for the Orion moon project (apparently never a serious commitment, no matter how cool it sounded), the long gap (16 years!) since his last *duplicated* fanzine, and most compellingly, this year's DAFT and TUFT ra- ... this year's TAFF and DUFF races. Though the candidates were superb people, Steve sensed discontent among a "core" group that those standing for the funds were "outsiders" – not *us*, which is to say, not *them*. Fandom's encountered such arrogant possessiveness towards the fan funds before, and I'm with Steve, it's time such elitists learned to show some generosity, or at least live in reality. Steve wields a sharp, skilled, friendly pen; has he finished his TAFF report?

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

Head! #9 / Christina Lake & Doug Bell, 35 Gyllyng Street, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 3EL U.K. / doug_bell@tiscali.co.uk, christina.l@virgin.net / ‘{T]hrown together for Corflu Cobalt and Odyssey 2010,” *Head!* opens with Brad Foster’s instructions on building “Your Own Intelligent Robot Cubehead”, and then proceeds to get serious. Christina leads off with a report on Novacon, a longer trip for her since she moved, but finds the community worth it. Doug follows with “Waking the Kraken”, comparing the Cornwall of Wyndham’s *The Kraken Wakes* with the harbor and docks and people he knows. (Methinks our editors are engloomified by their surroundings. He says *The Road*’s grisly landscape wouldn’t even faze Cornish ken.) Peter Crump’s “How to Make a Science Fiction Movie” seems mostly to deal with convincing people he’s not making a gay porn video and wrestling with insane technology and impossible shots. He gets it done and wins a prize. Ms. Lake returns with a piece on the French underground – no, not World War II resistance fighters: stations on the subway and their clues to French history (via Wikipedia). A chatty lettercol ends things. Hey, if it means anything, this *Head!* was reviewed fresh out of the envelope.

Home Kookin’ #13 / The Vegrants, c/o Arnie Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas NV 89145 / A mad fumetti cover featuring Katz and Bill Mills opens another color- and photo-filled slice-o’-life with the magnificent Vegas “Core” club, in which – in proper “oneshot” style – everybody types. Various club members proclaim their favorite fannish moments of the year, Arnie reviews the various meetings, all is set down in pixel and print. Favorite photos of the batch: Nic Farey living the dream at the keyboard and Ross Chamberlin chatting with Art Widner. Bill Mills’ account of Art’s visit to the Vegrants mentions that he’s 90 now – nice to know it can be done.

Inca #5 / Rob Jackson, Nightengale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, W. Sussex PO18 8UH U.K. / jacksonshambrook@tiscali.co.uk / eFanzines / The evocative D. West covers tell you that this zine will be special, and so it is. Rich Coad’s detailed report on his 2008 trip to India is excellent, “Watering Can Surprise” (pee) is funny, the editor’s long Corflu Zed report makes me wish I could someday make it to a Corflu (one took place within a day’s drive, but we couldn’t afford the money; Shelby Vick personally invited us to his event, but we couldn’t afford the time) ... but central to this zine is the best 20 pages of fanac I review in this *Zine Dump*: a transcribed 1978 conversation between Fred Pohl and Alfred Bester. Bester was never sharper with his quips and asides and Pohl’s memories of Cyril Kornbluth are amazing. (Bester’s memory of John W. Campbell exulting about L. Ron Hubbard is also amazing – but for a different reason.) It is a privilege to eavesdrop as these two geniuses trade praise and talk shop.

In Midair: 2006 / Bruce Gillespie, see **Steam Engine Time** / A Christmas “letter” to Bruce and Elaine’s buddies catching them up on this&that, illustrated with many photos of fans (so that’s Yvonne Rousseau – redhead, right?) and cats, such as the noble beast on the cover.

The Insider #276-7 / Michelle Zellich, 1738 San Martin Dr., Fenton MO 63026 / mzellich@csc.com OR michelle@zellich.com / \$10/year / The latest issues of this colorful, comics-rich clubzine. Michelle is suffering through winter in the far, far north (Missouri is north of Louisiana), reporting a bad fall (as in “slip & fall,” not “autumn”). Let’s hope for a climatically sane spring. From a long, wide-ranging collection of news items pulled from the web, there are stories reporting that cell phones may help prevent Alzheimer’s, the closure of a onetime astronaut hangout in Houston, an inexplicable move by California to designate Apollo trash – as in, the junk Neil, Buzz & Co. left on the moon – as state treasure, unused NASA technology, obits for Arnold Stang, Dan O’Bannon and SF writer Kage Baker, the discovery of five “Exoplanets”, more comics, a U.S. version of *Torchwood* (Rosy and I didn’t like the British version), the remaining Harry Potter movies (they’ll be in 3D), more comics, a list of birthdates, club activities (I’d like to hear R. J. Carter’s spiel on his *Alice’s Journey Beyond the Moon*), more color, more comics. Get well, Michelle!

Instant Message #828-33 / Instant Mash-up #834 / NESFA, P.O. Box 809, Framingham MA 01701-0809 / info@nesfa.org / <http://www.nesfa.org> / Despite slobber-worthy descriptions of the “shortbread, caramel and chocolate layerbar confections” served at a recent gathering of the great northeastern club

and conglomerate, the meeting itself was all business, concentrating on improvements needed for Boskone. Many are noted, and if we know NESFA, most will be implemented – like the priest in *The Seven Samurai*, NESFA's main interest in fanac seems to lie in perfecting the art. Certainly they have come far: Boston conventions are hailed as mirrors up to perfection and the NESFA Press is the finest SF publisher in the world. Oh – *Mash-up* promises “exciting zombie action”; I don't know if this is because it's the April (as in “Fools”) edition or if the editor has been reading the equally loony Menace of the LASFS. I appreciate *IM*, NESFA's monthly clubzine, which keeps their membership up to date on all this activity, but I admit to missing *The Proper Bostonian*, their late genzine. Wish they'd revive it.

Interstellar Ramjet Scoop / Bill Wright, 4/1 Park St., St. Kilda, Vict. 3182 Australia / See you at the con, Bill.

James P. Hogan Newsletter / the same, jamesphogan.com / Regular communication from one of the best guys in the genre, keeping us up to date on new editions, new novels (*The Migration*, due in May from Baen), and providing a nice political editorial on deficits. Links a'plenty.

Janeens_news@yahoo.groups.com / Janeen Schouten@nrm.qld.gov.au / An invaluable resource for those wishing to keep up with media news, Janeen's e-mails have recently announced a new *Godzilla* movie, a new Conan, a new *Questor Tapes*, *Max Headroom's* RSN appearance on DVD (yay), a new *War of the Worlds* (in documentary form; I guess they'll keep redoing it till they get it right), the making of a vampire flick in Queensland, a possible live-action *Star Wars* TV show (I understand it's to be a comedy), and forthcoming atrocities from/on the SyFy Channel. How can I wait for *Sharktopus*? Janeen's also given due notice to the passing of Fess Parker, my – and my American generation's – childhood hero, whose evocation of Davy Crockett – and its importance to our lives – I have discussed in these pages before.



Jomp, Jr. #28 / Rich Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Dr. #302, Alexandria VA 22306 / RichD22426@aol.com / t.u. / Rich's essays on arcane history have been a staple of *Challenger's* contents since I started the zine, and here's another pair in his own, devil-on-a-toilet-bedecked publication. An interleaved errata sheet explains why he uses the aforesaid illo here instead of on *Jomp*, his other zine, which is probably excessive information. Anyway, his essays range from a study of Isaac Newton's career as an alchemist searching for the Philosopher's Stone (where Newton failed, Potter succeeded) to YHVH seen as a four-letter word. Jim Sullivan adds a family story set in a funeral home a la *Six Feet Under* before the Chorus takes over. Ned Brooks' LOC on *The King in Yellow* is star. See you in SFPA, Rich.

Journey Planet 5 / James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Chris Garcia, eds., see *Banana Wings* / journeyplanet@gmail.com / Huge, slick, impressive zine from three of fanzine fandom's leading players. Its theme is alternate history, and its perspectives are many. Chris talks about an ancient radio show (evoking fond memories of the great Meade Frierson) and, with Jay Crasdan, discusses Spinrad's *The Iron Dream* (best part for me: the introduction). James remembers John Baxter's alternate air forces. Stephen Baxter's *Voyage* wins attention from Niall Harrison. Edward James is here on medieval history, Barbara Johnson-Haddad on Harper's Ferry. And there are many others, including John Scalzi, whose “Missives from Possible Futures #1” regarding the several deaths of Hitler made me laugh out loud in a men's room stall at the Cracker Barrel in Alexandria, Louisiana. If I had any complaints about this boisterous publication, they would be that the pages could use wider margins (we lose some print). Speaking of alternate histories, I wonder: anyone there ever read *Jesus Christs*?

The Knarley Knews / Henry Welch, 18345 Skyline Blvd., Los Gatos CA 95033 / knarley@welchcastle.com / \$1.50 @

Littlebrook 7 / Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins, P.O. Box 25075. Seattle WA 98165 / littlebrooklocs@aol.com / eFanzines & t.u. / The first thing I note whenever I see *Littlebrook* is its very attractive color (my secretary calls it *bone*). Once I tear my eyes from the pleasant hue the text (which is *black*) comes into focus, and a rewarding, civilized zine appears. To begin, Jerry catches us up with things since the last *Littlebrook* two years ago, a time of fervent activity, travel, and loss. His mother has passed, he and Suzle have worked a convention, they've visited Paris. His brief trip report concentrates on the famous Cimetiere du Pere Lachaise, where much of mankind's finest literati are interred, and mentions the bookstore revered by all Joyceans, Shakespeare and Company. Wistfully, he describes selling their first mimeo to a new publisher. After a sharp schoolboy anecdote by John Berry, whose zines I miss in these pages, Jim Young provides a good article on Val Lewton's films of psychological horror. The lettercol is outstanding, especially the rare authorial insight from Christopher Priest about the film of *The Prestige* and its competitor, *The Illusionist*. Suzle closes matters with her own rich remarks on Paris ... and Newark. (The destination was grand, the trip a nightmare.) Nice photos of the city of lights.

Lofgeornost #96 / Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction VT 05001 / fred.lerner@dartmouth.edu / FAPA and trade / Fred always leads off with an essay, this time on the worthlessness of library statistics, a subject on which he is expert. He goes on to praise a detailed intellectual history of modern thought – which apparently disses scholars and intellectuals! I *must* share his comments on Heinlein's predictive prowess vis-à-vis the war on terror – “some day we shall all be required to fly in the nude” – with my father-in-law, who wrote an article on that subject for *Challenger*. The rest of Fred's FAPazine is devoted to LOCs – even a professorial perzine has a Chorus – marked by an illuminating exchange on Judaism with Sue Thomason. The back page shamelessly advertises Fred's own book, *The History of Libraries*.

MarkTime / Mark Strickert, P.O. Box 1051, Orange CA 92856 / busnrail@yahoo.com / \$2 or t.u.

MidFanZine / Anne KG Murphy, 120 S. Walnut St., Yellow Springs OH 45387 / editor@midfan.org / eFanzines / I look forward to this beautiful lady's TAFF report. How did she fare among the mad Brits?

MonSFFA Impulse / Bernard Reischl / reischl@videotron.ca / January and February numbers of an e-mailed clubzine, announcing a group project, “an old-fashioned sci-fi radio play”, a barbecue next July 25th, and a “Fan Film Theatre” in November that sounds pretty cool. They provide links to other zines they trade with. But where's *Challenger*?

More Balls 1-5 / Ang Rosin, 26 Hermitage Grove, Bootle, Merseyside, UK, L20 6DR / Email: lister@liv.ac.uk / <http://www.liv.ac.uk/~lister/balls/> / Anybody who lives in a town called *Bootle* owes it to mankind to produce a fanzine. Returning for the fifth issue since December, 2004, this GUFF winner's perzine only surpasses two pages in issue #3, when articles by Claire Brialey, Flick, James Shields, a section of photos and an actual lettercol swell the issue to 12. Herein find musings on superlambananas (if you have to ask, read the fanzine), giving a GUFF report through interpretive dance, roundabouts (don't have those in Louisiana), Ang's love of chocolate and love of Tolkien. The photos of Liverpool landmarks are affectionate and intriguing, reminiscent of Fred Argoff's *Brooklyn*! Ang plans attendance at worldcon; so let's hope we get a 6th issue out of it.

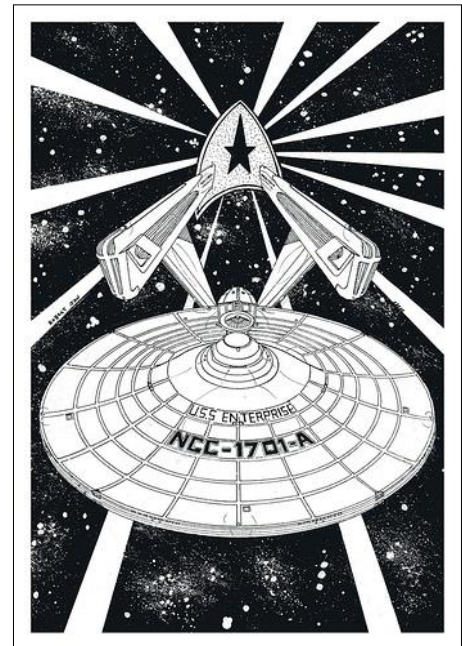
MT Void Vol. 28 No. 39, whole #s 1590 / Evelyn C. Leeper, eleeper@optonline.net / <http://www.geocities.com/evelynleeper/> / Subscribe at mtvoid-subscribe@yahoogroups / I'm listing only the latest number of this weekly e-zine, always a good read. Both Mark and Evelyn are excellent writers who touch on a multitude of matters. In recent weeks, these include the Rosenberg case (segueing therefrom to a philosophical consideration of problem-solving –I wonder if Mark ever read Robert Coover's *The Public Burning*), the powers of ten and pi, remakes (John Guidry hates Peter Jackson's *King Kong*, and I hated the redone *House on Haunted Hill*), *Attack of the Vegan Zombies*, and new prints of Edison's 1910 *Frankenstein*. Evelyn reviews a Tony Hillerman novel, an Argentinian film and a book on famous frauds

(I recommend the Cardiff Giant in Cooperstown, nestled between the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Glimmerglass Opera). Keith Lynch and Dave Anolick LOC these matters, and a letter from Phil Dick praising *BladeRunner* is reprinted. (That movie is better without the voiceover, and infinitely better without the implied Deckard-as-replicant plot twist.) And that's just in the last month or so.

Mumblings from Munchkinland #28 / Chris Lewis, 25 Fuhrman St., Evatt, ACT 2617 Australia COA / nelsonleeoz@hotmail.com / eFanzines.com / (I just got the Oz reference in the title. Never let it be said that it takes me a while ...) Here's a nostalgia-filled publication I always enjoy seeing. Chris opens matters with questions about an activity he's currently into: scanning and posting old fanzines. *Is this a good idea?* he asks. Factual errors, extinct arguments, old perspectives could be revived and preserved when t'would be best to let them fade into the dust of forgotten hobby history ... For me, to answer him, the delight at reading old mimeographed pages far outweighs any offense I might take at encountering an obsolete attitude, so Chris, continue to scan away. The photo and history of pretty Roma Castellari he prints is more than enough justification for a look back. Turns out she was the first female member of organized Australian fandom, admitted to the Futurians despite "a few objections." One wonders what objections there could have been to such a cutie. Follows an exhaustive index to Australian fan input – LOCs and the like – into various magazines of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, which must have taken forever to assemble. The transcript of an address by the author of *The Battle of the Sexes in Science Fiction* follows, an interesting evolution of an idea into a book, followed by several prominent Aussies as well as the usual suspects in the lettercol. Love the antique lettercol. Finally, a lost friend is eulogized, the downside of looking back, which *Mumblings* otherwise does so happily.

The NASFA Shuttle Dec. 2009/March 2010 / 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 / I've said often that the *Shuttle* presents the most complete awards news of any source in fandom – including in its coverage the bittersweet Oscars, where *three* SFnal movies earned nominations for Best Picture, only to lose to a fine men-in-war film, and the Razzies, *won* by *Transformers 2*, which I suppose SF has to embrace. March also proffers the final Nebula, Stoker and Prix Aurora ballots, and news on some honors I've never heard of, like the Aeons, Rondo Hattons, and Audies (for audio books). There's a smattering of other news, such as the 2012 Chicago worldcon bid, and club meeting dates and minutes. Editor Kennedy often contributes well-turned con reports, as well.

Newsletter of the Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society / Reese, skywise@bellsouth.net / No issue since January! What's up there in Nashville?



The New York Review of Science Fiction Vol. 22 No. 3, Issue #255 / Dragon Press, P.O. Box 78, Pleasantville NY 10570 / \$4@, \$40/year / Filled with erudite essays, the *Review* is an essential for a serious student of the genre. There is more to it than I can possibly cover, but I mention it here for Joseph Green's piece on a visit made by Edmond Hamilton and Leigh Brackett to his home during the Apollo days. Present there, Joe's daughter Rose-Marie, now married to the luckiest s.o.b. on this planet. Also notable: an exceptional article by Darrell Schweitzer on the ongoing rewards of reading Stanley Weinbaum.

On My Sleeve / John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., Los Angeles CA 90057 / \$5 donation to a fan fund / Here is a second collection of excellent writing from the author of *Vanamonde*, much of it reprinted from John's Apa-L zine. Rich with feeling, informed with intelligence, adorned with fine illos, sprinkled with haiku, John's words include reviews, a long Nippon '07 trip report, essays ("An Independent Mind" is

awesome) and, alas, obits (those for Budrys and Lee Hoffman are especially powerful). “A fanzine is a gift,” he writes. Truer than true in this case.

Opuntia 68.1D, 68.1E, 68.3, 68.5A-B / 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.” Got that? / I kept thinking of *Opuntia* during the late Winter Olympics – even though Dale lives in Calgary, many miles from the Vancouver events. Sure enough, in his latest number, no. 68.5B (sounds like a statute), he discusses the Games and the passage of the Torch through his city. In earlier issues the polymathic [*sic*] Speirs writes – and quite entertainingly – on western novels (not mentioning my favorite such writer – Elmore Leonard, pre-*Shorty*), economic history (using lines from “The Second Coming” as “chapter” headings), precious metal investing, and the hoopla surrounding the Grey Cup, Super Bowl of the Canadian Football League. The last issue closes with incredible b&w photos from the Rocky Mountains, inspiring me to swing us through the American Rockies en route to Reno next year.

The Original Universe Issue 10 / Jeff Boman, 6900 Cote St-Luc Road #708, Montreal QC H4V 2Y9 Canada / theoriginaluniverse@gmail.com / \$3 for sample issue, \$12 annually, or t.u., explained herein / Recent winner of an Aurora Award, Jeff hurt himself the day of the ceremony and couldn’t attend. Fortunately he could watch snippets of the event on YouTube. Inspired by his accomplishment, he’s run for DUFF, plans business cards for his comics zine and is running a contest to create a slogan, or epigram. “Life is like a box of comic books” is his suggestion. Moving into content, Gregory Woronchak opens his survey of the recent field with “Comics today suck” and argues his point. The editor chimes in on Disney’s takeover of Marvel, reviews some comics-related DVDs, opines on changes in the field (Dr. Light 2?), prints LOCs by the ubiquitous Penney, Steve Green and others, and memorializes the fine artist, George Tuska. Like all of comicdom, he has Dick Giordano to mourn next time. Also: *Da Curl in My Hair*, Jeff’s DUFF campaign-zine.

Pablo Lennis 268-9 / John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904 / \$2@ / *PL* eschews margins and seems to be typed on a machine with a slick platen, so the amateur fiction and poetry which comprise much of its content is sometimes difficult to follow. I’ve forsworn critiquing such material, anyway. Of the rest, there’s a very interesting piece by L.A. Hood on Tolkien’s Elvish language – consider all Graceland jokes already made – and a funny editorial about local collegiates and their Dylan-esque affectations. William Wake Wallace’s science column deals with the Large Hadron Collider. Amazingly, the lettercols sport no notes from Etibicoke, Quebec. Oh yes – a word of appreciation on the cute, quirky artwork by Ramos Fumes, Gerald Esmiralda and others.

Pips IV / Jim Mowatt, 273, The Rowans, Milton, Cambridge CB24 62A, U.K. / on eFanzines / Delving uncertainly into fanzine and convention fandom, Mowatt almost seems intimidated by the crush of fannish activity he encounters. Brought into our mix long ago, he identifies with fans “completely alienated inside a convention ... huddled together trying to protect themselves from the strange inexplicable creature that is wider SF fandom.” Leery of printed or even electronic fanzines (he seems intimidated as well as entertained by prolific Chris Garcia, whom he compares to a snowball rolling downhill), he gets his fan fix from podcasts like *Clarkesworld* and *StarShipSofa* (then waging a noisy campaign for the fanzine Hugo), and provides a revelatory piece on the subject. (Podcasts: the future beyond eFanzines? Am I *two* generations out of date?) But having enjoyed the latest Picocon, here is *Pips*, inappropriate photo of T.E. Lawrence, sharp analytic article on Nick Hornsby novels and all, and who knows, Mowatt says he may do another.

Planetary Stories #17 and **Pulp Spirit** #8 / Shelby Vick, www.planetarystories.com / planetarystories@gmail.com / Subtitled “The Return of Space Opera”, the *PS* pair is now scheduled thrice annually, and is bedecked this time with a great cover by a great find, Kevin Duncan. Co-editor Jerry Page says that changes are underway to make these pubs more fun to read, but I find them very cool as is. It’s my policy not to comment on fan-writ fiction, but I will say that Page is an effective and

discerning editor (as shown by his *World's Best Horror* anthologies) and the love of pulps shown by Jerry and ShelVy is unmatched. Vick's account of a pelican rescued by his daughter – which won't leave, a true Louisiana bird – is righteous, and are his "Gremlins" comments about problems with production. (Kevin Duncan's illo thereto is just wonderful. I may steal it.) Lovely stuff; care tells.

Plokta / 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>

Procrastinations 8 / John Coxon, 14 Chapel Lane, Peterborough, PE4 6RS, U.K. / zines@chickensinenvelopes.net "Chickensinenvelopes"? / on eFanzines / It hasn't been that long since Brit fandom thronged with energetic perzines, and it looks like that era might return. *Procrastinations*, true to its name, seems to appear about once a year, so forget what I said about "energetic," but it's *written* with energy and enthusiasm, anyway. Subtitled "The Silver Screen", the zine reviews several humongous hits from last year, including *Iron Man* and *Star Trek*, which Coxon and I both enjoyed, and *Sherlock Holmes*, which I loathed. John – apparently a grad student in astrophysics! – utilizes the last film as a platform from which to discuss steampunk, on everybody's mind these days.

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

The Reluctant Famulus 73-4 / Tom Sadler, 305 Gill Branch Rd., Owenton, KY 40359 / thomasdsad@copper.net / I always think of Tom as one of the last of the true believers, a consistent producer of solid genzines since well before I founded *Challenger*. He publishes an attractive, readable zine with regular contributors of good, consistent quality. Here are two issues proving that he – and his crew – have lost nothing over the past umpteen years. Bob Sabella ("The Old Kit Bag") gives his favorite reads of the decade (yes, Bob, re-visit *Lord of Light*; I loved it in 1968 and loved it as much 40 years later) and, in the next issue, applauds Paperback Swap. Gene Stewart ("Rat Stew") writes about untrue truisms and in "Unburnable Books", praises Kindle. Alfred D. Byrd ("Kentuckiana") talks Civil War. ("Put two American men in a room and they will talk about the Civil War!" – *GHLIII*, too many times to count.) And here comes that man again: Taral Wayne writes on TV and the movies. Good lettercols, as befits a consistently good zine. Must applaud the exceptional art – covers by Brad Foster and Sheryl Birkhead and interiors by Kurt Erichsen (though printed too small to make the word balloons readable), Sheryl, Gilliland, and others.

Renovation / P.O. Box 13278, Portland OR 97213-0278 / A slick come-on from Reno's 2011 worldcon, boasting of the beauty of Lake Tahoe (amen!), Reno's museums (that's a new one), hotels, and so forth. Gambling isn't mentioned, nor the casino stage shows – do they have Cirque du Soliel? Membership info also included. Barring ELE, we'll be there; it's a gorgeous area and the concom shows high ability and rich enthusiasm. Hey ... *Reno*-vation. I just got it.

The Revenge of Hump Day / Tim Bolgeo, tbolgeo@att.net / Weekly e-zine / Every week Tim socks it to subscribers with horrid jokes, horrifying politics, and ... I can't think of a "horr" word to describe the science. The latest issue as I write opens with the news about the million-dollar *Action* and *Detective Comics* – I, personally, have held three copies of *Action* #1 in my hands, one (coverless) copy of which a DC technician ripped to pieces after closing a drawer on it. How did those million-dollar copies stay mint through 70+ years of war and recession and frenzied monkey sex? A recent *Revenge* ran an incredible adventure story from Bill Swears – a close encounter of the Moose kind. Tim's LibertyCon should be coming up soon: it's one of the South's staple conventions and a highlight of Chattanooga's year.

Robert E. Howard Days / Project Pride of Cross Plains, P.O. Box 534, Cross Plains TX 76443 / arscp04@windstream.net / www.rehupa.com / Flyer for the annual celebration of the great fantasy author's life and work at the place where both took place. A tentative schedule includes bus and walking

tours of the town, panels at the library and a Barbarian festival. Can't speak for the to-do, to occur June 11-12, but the Howard House makes for a very moving visit.

Royal Swiss Navy Gazette #20 / Garth Spencer, 82 E. 40th Ave., Vancouver BC V5W 1L4 Canada / garthspencer@shaw.ca / eFanzines and e-mailed / I look forward to hearing Garth's tale of the Olympics, held in his backyard. After a cute Brad Foster illo Spencer engages in pre-Games griping about the Canadian gummint and the overblown 2012, and reveals his New Year's resolutions. Two – founding a political party and building a private space station – seem a tad *outré*, but filing for bankruptcy, getting in shape and finding employment seem eminently sensible. His statement that giving up on success makes him feel better is even smarter, but what he's really doing is not punishing himself for perceived failure. Other stuff here is quite neat: an article lamenting the loss of letters by Lyn McConchie – now that almost everything is e-mailed, no one is preserving their thoughts on paper – and Sharry Wilson's terrific piece about Neil Young's days as a stockboy in a Toronto bookstore, immortalized in song.

Sense of Wonder Stories 3 / Rich Coad, 2132 Berkeley Dr., Santa Rosa CA 95401 / richcoad@gmail.com / A funny – and pointed – Steve Stiles cartoon opens this very cool issue, much-expanded and -improved from the first two numbers. Good writing dominates. Rich's "Wondertorial" expounds on the Fantasy genre, particularly on *The City of Dreaming Books*, and the Hugos, joining me in promoting some splendid Aussies for the 2010 awards. (Alas at our unsucccess.) Randy Byers' article about Homer Eon Flint is followed by a piece on a "forgotten novella" by H.G. Wells, itself succeeded by an appreciation by Bruce Townley of the epic SF "landscape" artist, Chesley Bonestell. This is the only spot in this zine when I regret its digest size; reprinted Bonestell needs to be huge. An article on Dean McLaughlin's work by Peter Weston and the story of Nikola Tesla's LINY energy tower lead to a lettercol distinguished by James Bacon, Ned Brooks and other outstanding voices of the Chorus. A sercon influence dominates *SoWS*, but there's also humor and enthusiasm. and in abundance.

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 Update Vol. 1 No. 13 / Warren Buff, 2412 F Still Forest Pl., Raleigh, NC 27607 *COA* / warrenmbuff@gmail.com / SFC membership \$15 annually / These Updates are Warren's great innovation as SFC President, helping keep SFC current and in the eyes of its constituents. Beginning with a convention calendar (from March '10 through worldcon), it contains Hugo recommendations by several Southern fans (including the late Hank Reinhardt's *Book of Swords*, which alas did not make it), a review of a new Baen novel and an intriguing piece by Rich Dengrove asserting that ERB's Barsoom may have been inspired by Gustavus Pope's 1894 *Journey to Mars*. Buff's "Rebel Yells" column conveys "news and notes from all over", and Jennifer Liang describes chairing a convention and the strange events that brought her to that fate. I've had to let most of my Southern con-going fade away in recent years, but as a true-grey son of the South, I do miss it.

Statement #369 / Sandi Marie McLaughlin, OSFS, 18 Norice St., Ottawa ON K2G 2X5 Canada / osfs@ncf.ca / memberships or trade / This is the January issue of the Ottawa clubzine; haven't seen one since. Predictably, it opens with an *Avatar* illo, and a story about how moons as habitable as Pandora could be found within a decade. A reviewer's note comparing it to films past makes a horrendous blunder, though – it's *Ol' Yeller*, not *Ol' Yellow*. (Jeeze!) Ken Tapping's regular column on astronomy provides sky guidance – finding famous stars – and there's info about a Phil Dick comic, *Electric Ant*, forthcoming this very month, April '10.

Steam Engine Time 11-12 / 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" / I am aghast that *SET* didn't make the Hugo ballot on its home turf. What is the *matter* with Australian fandom? These are fanzines of immaculate

scholarship and superb production values, sercon to be sure, but informative, instructive, attractive, and entertaining. You won't find better work. #s 11 and 12 were mailed together, an unmatched pair. #11, themed on women in SF, sports a Carol Kewley cover, and although editor Gillespie admits that it hasn't enough content oriented around Australian woman, it has plenty to recommend it. Editor Stinson writes on urban fantasy and C.J. Cherryh – the latter article is especially compelling. Lyn McConchie regrets that handwriting will soon be as rare a skill as, say, juggling; people will be so used to typed words that individual and idiosyncratic handwriting will be illegible to read and difficult to do. (we see that now; see Steve Sneyd's zine.) Terry Morris and Gillian Polack consider LeGuin's *Earthsea*, and in a huge, important article, Pamela Sargent discusses the role of the editor as critic and advocate in bringing a work to fruition. In the follow-up number, Bruce writes about books about SF, Bertram Chandler's John Grimes stories receive due praise, and George Zebrowski, Ms. Sargent's husband, continues the study of editors by recalling writer-editors like Campbell and Carr. Central to the issue is Ray Wood's marvelous piece, "The Dancing Cyborg". Opening with the enchanting image of Summer Glau as the inhuman Cameron, assaying a ballet turn on *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, Wood invokes Von Kempfer's "Turk" automaton and the ballet *Coppelia* to create a rich study of the robot as *faux* human artiste. (One wonders where the *Chronicles* would have gone in a third season. The boy John Conner, savior of the future, has been sent to that future and met the *real* Cameron. Would he have saved her, and learned the lesson of life and loneliness so deftly put in *Twilight Zone*'s "The Lonely" and "In His Image"?) Anyway, *SET* is a great publication, giving its contributors the time and space to make, develop and cement their points, and – once again – it is a shame that in the year of an Australian worldcon, this prophet must go without honor in his own country.

This Here ... #s13-14 / Nic Farey, 2245 Cape Cod Dr., Las Vegas NV 89122 / thishere@mac.com / See *Beam* / I love Brit perzines, and here's one transplanted first to Maryland, now to Las Vegas. Issue #13 concentrates on the hassles attendant in moving from one to t'other – including the loss of a fine dog. As the owners of three excellent pooches, we sympathize greatly. In the follow-up issue, Farey relates the joyful enterprise of finding two new hounds, Lulu (big) and Bailey (small). He also reviews the new *Star Trek*, which took him forever to see, various albums, and wrestling, which I'll bet he discusses often with Arnie Katz. His lettercol features photos of a smart car (in #13) and Sally Field (in #14), and a great epistle from Gilliland on Marx. Is Marmite anything like Vegemite? So what "salient fact" do I keep missing about *This Here*?



Time and Again #11 / Dave Locke, time3again@gmail.com / eFanzines / A brilliant, if horrifying, photoshopped cover, and Dave is off with another issue, happy to present regular contributors but also delighted to introduce a new one: Taral Wayne – another name for "ubiquitous." Admired by Locke for his superior "wordwhipping," Taral whips out plenty of words on and inspired by the legendary Charles Burbee, whom he starts out studying and ends up emulating. Lee Anne Lavell, apparently a regular contents name, talks about games, Curt Phillips takes us on his book searches through the South, June Moffatt gives the lowdown on her pets (she should meet Pepper, Ginger, Paprika, Whistler and DaVinci – *our* critters). Eric Mayer, a legal editor by trade, declares in his article on his profession that "Legal and creative writing are not compatible," no kidding, and earns lots of good ink in the black and blue lettercol. (Black – the LOCs. Blue – editorial responses.) However excellent these offerings, and they are quite good, Locke remains the star of his own show – the zine's dominant voice. His reprinted article on graffiti (from '77, which doesn't seem very long ago), has cool photos of outhouses (and a graffiti-despoiled anti-graffiti sign). In his editorial, Dave laments the loss of feedback a digitalized fanzine should expect – after all, no one has to trade or pay or do "the usual" for them – but accepts this surrender to the future. Please LOC anyway, he asks – for instance, on your three favorite SF novels. Nowadays, he says, he prefers mysteries to SF, and one can understand that. The works of James Lee Burke and T. Jefferson Parker have an immediacy science fiction, with its reliance on An Extraordinary and

Fundamentally Unreal Idea upon which a story must be based, cannot match. How much easier it is to arouse emotion – care – in front of a backdrop familiar to the reader than in a medium where the backdrop *is*, to an extent, the story.

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

Trap Door No. 26 / Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland CA 94611 / locs2trapdoor@yahoo.com / t.u. or \$5@ / Is this issue's Steve Stiles cover printed upside down or not? It's funny either way. Nostalgia for days and friendships past rules in this fine publication. Noting the coincidence of a 26th issue published 26 years after the zine's founding, Robert reminisces about the days of its genesis and his earlier association with Paul Williams and other Haight-era heavies. (Paul's *PKDS Newsletter* was a revelation.) Continuing with nostalgia for those noble days is Gordon Eklund with "The Great Gafia of 1967", although the author denies actually being Eklund. The article is complete lunacy, and I won't believe any of it until someone sends me a copy of Artie Goodbody's *Porcupine* ... or that rat reappears. Dave Langford also goes on about olden days with his "South Wales Alphabet". It's marginally saner than Eklund's piece, although I take it one should always hesitate to play Fizz-Buzz in Gaer. A nice if painful change of pace is Carol Carr's account of her rehabilitation from a leg injury: all-too-real and all-too-contemporary. *Yihh*. Ron Bennett returns us to the late '60s with a rambling tale of book-dealing from Singapore and William Breiding recounts an evocative story of his valuable friendship with a hiking enthusiast. Everything in this zine celebrates times and people past. Even the lettercol title – "The Ether Still Vibrates" – has a nostalgic tone. Well, let it be: *Trap Door* may long for a past long gone but with fine writing, consistent editing, and good production values it's near the top of the fanzine pyramid in the here&now.

Vanamonde Nos. 808-832 / John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St. No. 409, L.A. CA 90057 / Apa-L & Trade / Each week LASFS (see *De Profundis*) publishes Apa-L, an assemblage of short zines by interested members. As described in issue #817 of *Vanamonde*, Fred Patten established a record for consistent contribution here, never missing a mailing between the fall of the Bastille and the rise of the Burj Khalifa, some 2279 issues in 2279 Apa-L disties. At 832 contributions as of the latest of these zines (dated 5-6-09) Hertz may have a ways to go to match Fred, but still, he's been around Apa-L for at least 16 years dispensing wit, information (how to make mincemeat; the career of Jack Speer; much else), haiku, and good fellowship. Find all here. Best bits collected in *On My Sleeve* (supra). **LATE-BREAKING NEWS:** High congrats to John for winning DUFF and zinesters John Purcell and Jeff Boman for their good races. Forget the silly movie of 2012, guys – run again then!

Visions of Paradise #151 / Robert Sabella, bsabella@optonline.net / on 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. / Bob is retiring soon from his teaching position and much of "The Passing Scene" is devoted to "the Ed Biz." He takes personal pride in his excellent student evaluations and makes informed political rants on the incompetent politicians crippling state schools. Escaping to science fiction, Sabella scans the 2009 Best-of-Year lists (*The City & the City* is on 26 such lists, *The Windup Girl* on 10), reviews several Jack McDevitt novels (I find his work very readable), mulls over a Clifford Simak collection (Simak once autographed a book "to Bob Lillian III"; don't know if Bob still has it), and praises David Weber, a very nice guy whose brother mike (who prefers to go non-capitalized) has been a SFFA brother for over 35 years. After the Chorus chimes in, Robert Kennedy supplies some painful jokes – literally so, in re the one about circumcision.

Warp 72 / Cathy Palmer-Lister, c/o MonSFFA, c/o Sylvain St-Pierre, 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7R 1Y6 / www.monsffa.com / cathypl@sympatico.ca / Cathy was the last *Challenger's* tributee for her help with the Montreal Fan-Eds' Feast. She also edits a dandy club-genzine. This issue features a funny cover – the *Enterprise* orbiting a green egg – and color photos throughout. The best pictures hail Forry Ackerman (and some movie props he leant MonSFFA) and the late film

producer, Charles Schneer. TAFF winner Steve Green greets the club before chapters of Nikolai Krimp's *The Last Mage* and Alice Novo's "Message in a Bottle", books and movies are reviewed, a concert of film music is hailed (by Cathy herself), as is the Salon de las Passion Medievale et Historique – an anachronist event, as you can guess. More good photos of creative SFnal Easter eggs, and a cool quiz involving alien women from the movies and the actresses who play them. Worldcon may be over but MonSFFA carries on.



WCSFAzine #20 / R. G. Cameron (a.k.a. "The Graeme"), Apt. 72G, 13315 104th Ave., Surrey B.C. V3T 1V5 Canada / rgraeme@shaw.ca / The West Coast (of Canada) SF Association's zine, promoting VCon 35, to be held next October. Theme of the event: steampunk, of which an explanation and history are given. Following, a list of Aurora nominees (a single overlap with the Hugos, Robert Sawyer's *Wake*), CUFF natter, a FAAn Awards ballot, a history of Canadian provinces' first conventions (all from the '70s, except Torcon), a VCon 34 report, and a very funny science section starring Mr. Science and his companion and mirror self, Mr. Guess-It-All. .

Westwind #276 / Karen van Brunt c/o NWSFS, PO Box 24207, Seattle WA 98124 / westwind@nwsfs.org / Karen, the new editor, announces that *Westwind* will soon be going exclusively electronic and on-line, saving thousands in both dollars and trees. *sigh* We paper trolls are a dying breed. Here we find a short interview with the Rustycon chair, an article urging new fans to read Jules Verne, a new outlet for unused MyCokeRewards points (Rosy and I have almost 4000), a contrast between *Stars Trek* and *Wars*, a review of a new Austen-esque novel, hopefully without zombies, forthcoming club events and nearby con listings. A gloomy poem – "Trapped in a Bubble of Eternity" – weights the last page. Cheer up, NWSFS!

Yclept Yarbrow #30 / Lindig Hall Harris, in transit / lindig17@gmail.com / \$1@, e-mailed twice-yearly, May & November / Lindig reports, at the outset of this November '09 issue, that she's being transferred to hot and flat Alamogordo, New Mexico – some change from verdant and mountainous Asheville NC. Hopefully the change – and the radioactivity – won't stop her reporting on Chelsea Quinn Yarbrow's career. News here is, of course, out-of-date, but there's an interesting interview with Quinnie about her GoHship at an Aussie convention. My God, if she could only come to Aussiecon 4 ... You know, with all the vampire media rampant, it's surprising some producer hasn't picked up on Count St. Germain and made my beloved fannish mama rich, rich, rich.

Behold! **HUGO NOMINATIONS**

When I first typed the above headline, I typoed "Hugo Ominations" – which read a little like "Hugo Ominous-uns". Read James Joyce enough and you start to notice such things.

First, I need to thank all our *Chall* pals for winning *Challenger* its 11th consecutive nomination. Hanging Rock and the Barrier Reef are all well and good, but our real reason for traveling halfway around the world is to get us to the Hugo Nominees' reception and the Losers' Party. (Any spare invites available to the Worldcon Chairmen's Bash?) Congratulations to *Chall*'s fellow fanzine nominees – *Argentus*, *Banana Wings*, *Drink Tank*, *File:770*. All those nominated have issues listed above. With one exception – the ominous factor I mentioned before – *StarShipSofa*.

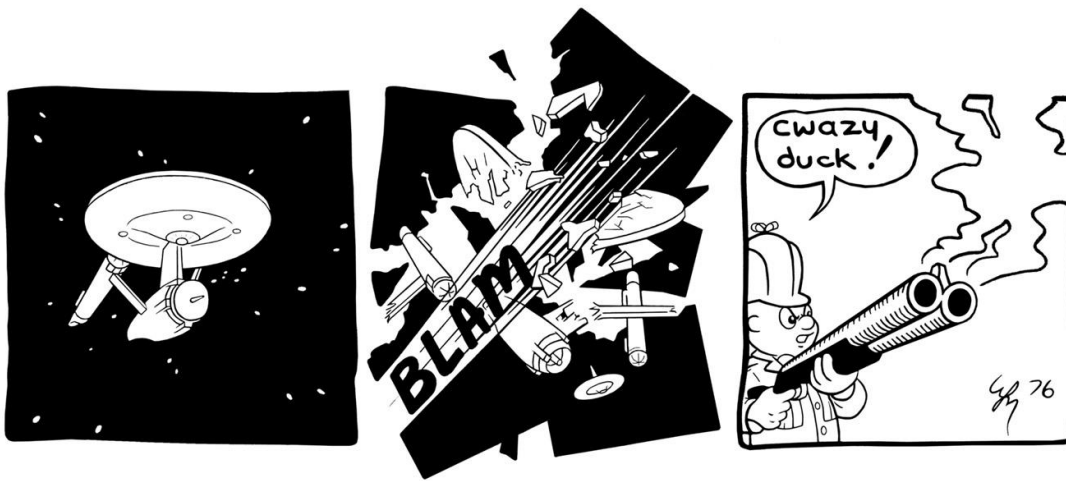
StarShipSofa is a podcast, an audio magazine broadcast on line. Its material looks interesting from a cursory examination, and though it's one thing to advertise – I've placed ads for *Challenger* in various program books, hoping to get people to read the thing – SSS's overt campaign for a nomination impresses me, as it does many others, as just plain crass. (I also cringe when its editors write about "the Hugo's". Guys, unless you talk about something belonging to a Hugo, or contracting the phrase "the Hugo has,"

you don't put an apostrophe there!) Such fanac deserves to be noted in the Hugo Awards. But why in the fanzine category? Why shouldn't worldcon mark such creativity with its own award? Why pick on us?

To repeat, and adjust, my plaint from last year ... If I lose the Aussiecon Hugo, I hope it's to a fanzine.

In any event, it looks good that *we will see you there*. Adjusting my vacation schedule – and the generosity of Rosy's boss at the university where she teaches – has made it possible for us to hit Aussiecon. Hanging Rock ... Alice Springs ... Ayers Rock ... the Great Barrier Reef ... perhaps Woomera ... Rosy and I are looking for fans to explore with, sup with, chatter with (and, maybe, crash with) all over. And of course, we're open to suggestions on places to visit, too. Please ... be in touch. Oh ... as for the *Fan-Eds' Feast*, founder Joe Major will be at NASFiC and promises to host our now-traditional banquet in Raleigh. At Aussiecon, our man **Murray Moore** has volunteered to take on organizing duties for the fan editors' chowdown.

Keep that third eye open for where-when announcements, and as I plan one more *TZD* before then, also watch this space.



Taral Wayne