



***This issue is dedicated to Tim Lane.***

*The Zine Dump* is a science fiction fanzine devoted to *other* science fiction fanzines. We ask to see and review every English-language amateur publication devoted to the field and/or its fandom. Note: no fan-wrought fiction is ever critiqued; judgment in such matters is just *too* subjective. *TZD* appears on eFanzines.com and by e-mail. Please report all errors to the editor. Cut-off date this issue: February 28, 2021.

Like Linus and Charlie Brown, science fiction fans have been split asunder by the COVID pandemic. We're imprisoned in our abodes. Our conventions are on ZOOM and our in-person encounters, rare. Luckily for me, I've been part of one convention (ConTraFlow) and a terrific party (SFPA) by ZOOM, and an online panel on fan history by the wondrous Edie Stern. Gary and Corlis Robe, providing their own masks, down to watch a launch from the Cape. Best of all, Rosy, her father Joe Green and I are all hardcore SF people – and get along. Nevertheless, thank heaven in this past year for reading, TV movies, and *fanac*, without which I'd've gone absolutely out of my effing skull.

Besides, although the two events are not really related, two happenstances have brought fresh joy and hope. First. Joe Biden is now President of the United States. (See *Spartacus* for my ecstatic commentary.) Second, this household has gotten its shots. The vaccine courses through us. We must still mask, we must still huddle, *but* ... we feel safer, if slightly sore-shouldered.

And we wish the same for you.

Before we begin reviewing the last few months of fanzines, a few notes. Two, alas, are slopped over from the reprehensible conclusion of the reprehensible Donald Trump's reprehensible presidency – the right-wing attack on the United States Capitol on January 6. The insurrection – or riot, or what-have-you -- was designed to halt and reverse the certification of the American election. It was clearly instigated by Trump and his network of right-wing stooges operating through social media – including the sites Parler and Gab. Such sites have become anathema. God rot them, their venality has now infected science fiction fandom.

Two scandals have erupted in SF fandom in these early months of 2021, both over public forums (“fora”?) on which MAGA members have let fly with their signature QAnon paranoia, their fantasies of a violent uprising against the society, a second American Civil War. One such contretemps especially affects our hobby, zining. The other might damage the very fabric of fandom itself. I'll deal with the fanzine fracas here. Afterwards, and at greater length in my opinionzine, *Spartacus*, I'll go into the Baen Bar brouhaha.

Word came out recently that George Phillies, President of the venerable National Fantasy Fan Federation, had spread invitations to join N3F through Parler and Gab. Bill Burns, owner of the immense and vital website eFanzines.com, where you probably found this *TZD*, was offended by this unintended juxtaposition of fandom and fascism, and according to what I heard, booted N3F and its ocean of publications out of eFanzines. I asked both Bill and George WTF was going on, and received the following clarifying and very welcome replies.

*From Bill Burns [January 22, 2021]:*

I haven't published a statement, but there's a long story about my interaction with the N3F, most of it not related to George Phillies' great idea to promote the organization on Parler and Gab, and in fact they hadn't bothered to send me notification of updates of their site since May last year. This dates back to 2018, and some of it is in FADEAWAY issue 55 (page 2, with a number of false statements) and my response in #56 (page 30). <https://efanzines.com/Fadeaway/index.htm>

They had however been sending me emails with various fanzines attached, and the one last Monday had this request: "Are you a user of Twitter, Parler, Gab, or the like? Would you be willing to publicize us on whichever of those you use? if so, contact me (George Phillies, [President@N3F.org](mailto:President@N3F.org))"

I couldn't believe he was serious, so wrote back to him: "I assume you're not aware that Parler and Gab are the sites frequented by those who planned and executed the recent attempted insurrection at the Capitol, which resulted in five deaths."

I was amazed, to say the least, to then receive this from him: "Your assumption is simply wrong. I am entirely aware of the name-calling contests that have replaced political discourse in this country. Whatever their political inclinations -- I am mostly not interested in politics these days -- these people who use each of the sites I listed are also science fiction fans. If they have been banned from other sites, well, that makes it difficult to reach them using those other sites, now doesn't it? Curiously, while they are doing stfnal things, they are not doing political things."

I thought that this shouldn't go unmentioned, so made a post on the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/467954116579566/permalink/4926504637391136/>

George has kept doubling down over the course of the week, and I don't think he or the N3F has come off well from the exchange.

I also pointed Mike Glycer to the post, and he ran the story on File770 on Tuesday, elevating it a bit for dramatic effect:

<http://file770.com/efanzines-drops-n3f-zines-after-groups-president-seeks-to-promote-it-on-parler-and-gab/>

My dropping of listing N3F zines was actually not directly related to this social media issue, as it was actually them who had abandoned me as I mentioned above, but Phillies then told me I could take down any mentions of N3F and I happily removed an archive page with issues of four of their fanzines up to 2018, as well as a few old notices on my front page and the directory entry to their site. You're welcome to use any of the publicly posted material from FB and File770, which includes all the text of my email interchange with Phillies that I quoted above. Nic Farey has a short piece in

today's THIS HERE, which I'll be adding to the site soon. You can see it here:  
<https://efanzines.com/ThisHere/ThisHere38.pdf> (page 17).

*I contacted George Phillies for his point of view.*

The N3F is open to fen of all political persuasions, whether N3F non-member Bill Burns likes it or not. The N3F is here to enjoy and discuss science fiction in all media, not to engage in political flame wars. (As an aside, I have not promoted the N3F on any twitterlike as opposed to facebooklike media, whether right, left, or north-wing.)

Burns seems to take poorly to having people disagree with him. Does he think he is the emperor of fandom? To ease the strain on his blood pressure, I asked him to remove all reference to the N3F from his web site. I will be entirely happy not to hear from him again.

We started a publicity campaign for the N3F. I wanted to expand to twitterlike pages, so I named some and asked for members who might assist, writing

"Are you a user of **Twitter**, Parler, Gab, **or the like**? [Bold face added] Would you be willing to publicize us on whichever of those you use? if so, contact me ..."

I received from Burns a rant denouncing Parler (which, by the way, is currently defunct) and Gab. Burns wrote "Parler has a significant user base of Donald Trump supporters, conservatives, conspiracy theorists, and right-wing extremists." He ignored the references in my sentence to 'Twitter' and to 'the like'. Attacking a place for containing Donald Trump supporters is stupid (and guilt by association in best Joe McCarthy tradition). Trump and Biden supporters are each close to half the electorate, and many are fen.

Burns launched a rant against the N3F on the Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom Facebook site. Mike Glycer's *File 770* ran an attack on the N3F. Glycer did not contact me before publishing his article. I found out about it several days later from a comment originally to Jon del Arroz's web site, his video defending the N3F.

We have historically had fan feuds as to whether media fans are indeed fen. Those feuds were silly. Now Burns wants a feud about whether or not a person is a fan, depending on his or her political party. That's insane. People who think we should exclude fen because they are Republicans or Democrats or Revolutionary Vegetarians are wrong and dangerous. They should instead take to heart Mike Glycer's article <http://file770.com/is-your-club-dead-yet/>

Glycer noted that successful clubs do real stfnal work, the way NESFA does. The N3F in fact does what Glycer advocates...lots of activities. For example, we publish nine fanzines, run an annual short story contest, and avoid political discussions.

As an addendum: I actually went to GAB to see what was there. Of course, the site is huge, and slower than molasses in January, but I did find several stfnal sites and a large site in my other hobby, board wargaming. I went through articles and found no signs of alt-right folks on those sites, only people writing about SF&F and games. If you wanted to prospect for fen or games, with no

contact with political crazies, you would have no trouble doing so. I also looked for political sites, and found a large libertarian site that was full of Republicans, the 'Trump won' and 'we'll be back in 2022' sorts. If there were calls to illegal acts on that page I couldn't find them. However, the site is slower than molasses in January, so my sample space was limited. Also, the search function is in need of improvement, so I often could not find a site again once I left it.

Given how the site works, if some evil minded person wished to create a group denying that The Gostak Dimms the Doshes (You know the reference) or whatever, and hide it from the hoi polloi, like me, they could undoubtedly do so. I see regular rumors that the more familiar social media sites have hidden locations for illegal pornography, or whatever, but I've never seen them, either.

You might consider the existence of monopoly capitalism. If you are Facebook or the like, and you want to avert commercial competition, you might circulate rumors that since the opponent's site is open to anything not illegal or obscene, it is full of Nazis, so that reading it will give you the cooties, so it should be banned. The N3F Treasurer, who also uses GAB, has had similar experiences. The site is not the same as Burns' description.

Okay, *my* take. First of all, *TZD* will continue to give note to every English-language SF fanzine it sees. That includes N3F zines. Their organization is quite valuable to a significant segment of fandom and indeed, generally stays away from politics or controversy. That's all to the good, especially nowadays, with maniacs on the prowl. Besides, some of their stuff is well worthwhile.

Nevertheless, I understand Bill's point of view. Ignoring politics doesn't erase it, especially in times of turmoil and peril like these. To *seek members* in media rife with right-wing nuts shows *terrible* judgment on the part of N3F, especially now that the scope and nature of their policies and ambitions is clear. Some of those posting on winger sites may be SF readers, but so what? Absent proof to the contrary, events have shown them also to be violent, irrational, QAnon brutes, and I don't want such people in my orbit. And let's not forget, eFanzines is *Bill's* rice bowl. He can run a pub therein or exclude it as he wishes.

As for what Burns says is his main objection to the N3F *vis-à-vis* eFanzines, that's between him and his contributors. I say, whatever Bill needs, Bill should get. Contemporary fanzine fandom owes much to and relies heavily on eFanzines, and anything we fan-eds can do to make Burns' job easier only begins to repay him.

And then ... the Worldcon fell in. I imagine *The Zine Dump* isn't the place to talk about the Baen's Bar/Discon III fiasco. It continues as I compose, and will find purchase in *Spartacus*, my zine of opinion, like *TZD* mainly available at **eFanzines.com**. Here I will say this: the psychosis of the American right-wing, demonstrated at Charlottesville and culminating (thus far) at the Capitol on January 6, is intolerable and I can't blame any organization, in this case the Worldcon, for separating itself from its aims and supporters as completely as it can. *However* – Discon III capitulated to pressure to hold the owner/publisher of Baen Books responsible for the postings on the forum – a forum over which she exercised no direct control. They removed that owner/publisher, Toni Weiskopf, as Editor Guest of Honor at their convention. I am among many who believe this unfair and reckless, and you can read *Spartacus* for my reasoning. (That Toni has been my friend and Southern compatriot for ten thousand years is beside the point.) Here and now, this: should any of us fan-eds be subject to such draconian reprisal should *we* publish a piece with such unpopular, or even repulsive views? Should a professional? Should *anyone*?



On a happier scribble, the inspired work of Joe Siclari and Edie Stern goes on ...

**Fanac.org** continues to collect and scan and post fanzines – even mine! I receive monthly updates on their outstanding efforts to preserve our product, and advise that you too keep up, either through the FANAC Facebook Group or Andrew Porter. Recent additions include zines from the sixties and seventies, FAPazines by Silverberg, 1952's *Space Diversions*, which I mention out of sudden curiosity over the title, and much more. Edie's activities aren't restricted to the published word, either. Hopefully you saw our ZOOM, or check it out on YouTube ....

February 20, 2021, "An Anecdotal History of Southern US Fandom", with Toni Weisskopf, Janice Gelb and Guy Lillian III. Get a perspective on Southern Fandom from the inside. Topics expected to include history and impact of conventions and Worldcons, clubs and fanzines, and bigger than life individuals. [If I do say so, the panel came out splendidly.]

And out of alphabetical order, a gasp of sheer awe ... which I was privileged to deliver to Pat Virzi live during the aforementioned ZOOM panel.

**Outworlds 71 / Afterworlds** / Pat Virzi, et. al., [outworlds2020@gmail.com](mailto:outworlds2020@gmail.com) / \$20 US through Amazon / An astonishing accomplishment, 506 pages, professionally bound behind a gorgeous Ditmar color cover, impeccably reproduced: this tribute to Bill Bowers is not only the fanzine event of 2020, it's probably the *science fiction* event of 2020. I never met Bowers nor read an issue of *Outworlds*, just heard his FGoH speech at Iguacon in 1978 – and recall a tall bearded guy in a blue shift chiding Pro Guest Harlan Ellison for his attitude towards fans. He was obviously a well-loved personality – the tributes here are breathtaking – and a splendid fan writer. By hailing Bowers so elaborately and successfully, Virzi et. al. are hailing fanzines, fandom, SF itself. *Invest the Tubman*. Awesome job, people.

And now, *in* alphabetical order, and *on* eFanzines (mostly) ...

**Acrophilia** Issue Two / Martin Pyne, [mpyne@cs.hmc.edu](mailto:mpyne@cs.hmc.edu) / eFanzines / <http://www.goobergunch.net> / A rare report on CoNZeland, last year's virtual Worldcon, with detailed breakdowns on panels viewed, Hugos and Retro-Hugos awarded (Pyne is quite critical of the latter; great panel viewed featuring Jeanette "Campbell was a fascist" Ng; he disses the RR Martin presentation), future sites decided (Chicago in '22 – good: probably my favorite convention city). Impressive convention, especially for a virtual event, and an impressive report, certainly the most comprehensive I've read. An evocative account of a trip through the Grayback Mountains follows – beautiful b&w photos – itself succeeded by a comet NEOWISE report (there was no comet; Martin's teasing us here). excellent LOCs, many book acquisitions, and colorful but baffling **Sankey Diagrams** of the Hugo voting. And we're off to a good start.

**Alexiad** #114 / Joe & Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville KY 40204-2040 / [jtmajor@iglou.com](mailto:jtmajor@iglou.com) / efanazines.com or trade / The Majors get 2021 to its own good start with the latest number of their consistent, and consistently readable and educational, fanzine. It's the usual *Alexiad*: polar explorer natter, monarchical news (a new Rumanian princess), eclipse info, reviews of works on history, espionage, and the like, a list of Worldcon bids (Tel Aviv in '27, for siatnce – *instance*, I mean), the requisite mention of James Bond, enthused LOCs, a funfanfic pastiche. Usual but excellent: *why* doesn't *Alexiad* enjoy the reputation and recognition of lesser zines like *Challenger*? It's sharply written, remarkably consistent with its publication schedule, and features interesting, unique stuff. Well, all I can do is write its name – and Joe's – on my FAAn and Hugo ballots year after year and hope that someday fandom catches on.

**Ansible** 403 / David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK / [news.ansible.uk](http://news.ansible.uk). / The indispensable British newszine rolls on, unstoppable, every bit as informative and witty as when David and his zine were winning Hugos upon Hugos. The February issue notes, among much else, the silly mistakes on the H.G. Wells two-pound coin, the avalanche of names to R.I.P., a brief, ghastly account of the loss of stock and space to publishers during the Blitz, and of course, Thog's Masterclass. It's amazing what terrible sentences fine writers can create.



**Askance** 50 / John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845-3926 / [j\\_purcell54@yahoo.com](mailto:j_purcell54@yahoo.com) / eFanzines / Congrats to the great Purcell for reaching his semi-centennial issue years before my *Challenger*! He celebrates with Ditmar covers and “The Sound of Fanac”, a clever and totally insane send-up of *The Sound of Music* featuring such fulsome ditties as “My Favorite Zines” and “Neo Going on Femmefan”. It is an absolute hoot. Retaining the theatrical motif, Purcell runs a one-act play *in Swedish* from Bill Fischer – my great-grandmother could read it! – and a thoughtful translation. Bergmanian “Bleakness” is its theme. When I transfer thoughts of Scandinavia to the good ol’ USA, I think of Minnesota, and here’s a name I haven’t seen in decades, Joel Thingvall, with a fond remembrance of the snowy state’s comics fandom. Ah – here’s an Alan White portfolio – a few of his great fanzine covers, including one or two from the GHLIII Press – a Fischer *Figby*, short pieces by Ray Palm and Lloyd Penney, and two sets of happy LOCs. As a dog owner who recently lost a longtime partner, John’s account of the passing of his furry friend is especially moving. Well, on, John, to the next fifty fanzines – the first half-hundred are the easiest!

**Askew** #32 / John Purcell, see above / What else did people talk about in December 2020 but the presidential election? Certainly John is no exception in *Askew*, his perzine, His thoughts center around the violence and psychosis of p.o.ed Trump voters, a concern time has borne out. Riding LOCs from Lloyd Penney, Steve Jeffery and Rich Dengrove, he touches on virtual conventions, the Corflu he chaired and the late Rodney Leighton, finishing with a brief heartfelt goodbye to Phyllis Eisenstein. (I only met her once, at St. Louiscon, after watching her smooch a dude; she wouldn’t kiss *me*.)

**Banana Wings** / Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES U.K. / [fishlifter@gmail.com](mailto:fishlifter@gmail.com) / (All italicized titles have gone missing since the last issue.)

**BCSFazine** #548 / R. Graeme Cameron, the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com / The British Columbia SF Association’s monthly clubzine. Club business mixed with Cameron’s commentary and reviews and articles from other members. The cover reprints the front of the original pb for *The Man in the High Castle*, and within we find a long piece on the novel and the TV show. No surprise: it ends up praising both (I disliked the end of the series). Garth Spencer adds a “superficial overview” of fan histories (it reads much better than that) and the “God-Editor” discusses club business at some length. There’s a bit of fiction and LOCs, capping a well-turned, interesting pub. Whoever compared Donald Trump to that defenestrated politico in *Robocop*, my special salutes.

**Beam** / Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted St, Las Vegas, NV 89142, [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com) and Ulrika O’Brien, 418 Hazel Avenue N., Kent, WA 98030, [ulrika.obrien@gmail.com](mailto:ulrika.obrien@gmail.com) / eFanzines

**The Blue Cat** #707 / John Boardman, 2548 Carrington Way, Frederick MD 21702 / A new title for Boardman’s venerable *Dagon*, morphing from an eldritch god to a new feline for the household. From the snowy-bearded photo on page 1, John seems to have bonded with the cat. One hopes he did not with the Canaanite deity. Many the topics discoursed upon: filk songs (fragging the KKK), the late election (this issue dates from before liberation), the tendentious issue of whether one space or two should follow a period. Most fascinating is the family history John reveals, a new topic for him, and a fascinating one, including some antique family photos (the effect of George Eastman on American culture cannot be overestimated) and an ancestor’s involvement with the Underground Railroad. This distant (I’ll say) cousin was imprisoned for violating the Fugitive Slave Act, and later joined John Brown’s militia. Boardman has always been known as one of fandom’s great liberals; we see here the genetic component to his convictions.

**Brooklyn!** #110-111 / Fred Argoff, Penthouse L. 1170 Ocean Pkwy., Brooklyn NY 11250-4060 / trade or \$10 for four issues / quarterly / An always entertaining love letter to the great city-within-a-city. Cool photos and maps, new and old, of sites around the town, new and old, familiar and unfamiliar, drawn from

history, known and unknown. The Brooklyn Lexicon brings clues as to what the people there are talking about – or tries; I spent days in Brooklyn when I didn't hear English spoken, at least as far as I knew – and tales of the borough are endless in number as well as in fun. My first lady-luv and my second therapist came from Brooklyn, and Rosy and I walked across the Brooklyn Bridge on a cold, cold day in the early 2000s in the company of the magnificent Charles E. Spanier. Can we ever hope to visit again? Until then, thanks, Mr. Argoff, for this unique and evocative zine.

**Captain Flashback #26** / Andy Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 / fanmailaph@aol.com / eFanzines.com / A zine for the Turbo-Charged Party Animal Amateur Press Association. (That's one the "omni-apans" missed.) Andy describes this hyper-entertaining pub as "devoted to old fanzines, monster movie hosts, tunnels through time and other fascinating phenomena of the 20th Century." Sounds good to me! This issue begins with a piece on Blake Crouch, an extraordinarily successful SF author (multiple media adaptations) and his novel *Recursion*; demonstrating his own potent wordsmithery, as well as his admiration for Crouch's, Andy writes: "His prose reads like a silky cocoa mousse, inciting ... feelings of gluttony, shame and delight." Wow! Maybe this fine ink will bring Couch Hugo recognition he obviously merits. True to his self-description, Andy next profiles a TV horror host (Bill Camfield), a.k.a. "Gorgon" of Dallas/Fort Worth's *Slam Bang Theater*, who seems worthy of the company of Elvira and Morgus the Magnificent (on whom my LOC follows). A *really* nice piece on the great Harry Warner, Jr. by a newspaper colleague ends the zine, appropriately adorned by Rotsler fillos, reminding us of a stellar age in fanzines. And shortly before this *Zine Dump* was to be completed, what appears in my inbox but the following message: "[*Captain Flashback*] #27 is ready for your perusal, with more about the curious young physician who tried to bust the Marquis de la Fayette out of jail, Horror Host Dr. Sarcofiguy, and a reprint by Jon Singer on the art of being a sushi fan. I hope you find it diverting!" I do indeed. The spy tale of Justus Erich Bollman is highly entertaining; George Smiley would have loved this guy. Dr. Sarcofiguy is a suitably insane compatriot of the abovementioned Gorgon – it rots one's mind to watch these horror hosts; I don't know how Hooper has held it together – and the Singer reprint is fun even for one who, like me, regard sushi as one step up from *bait*.

**Christian New Age Quarterly** Vol. 24 No. 4+ / Catherine Groves, P.O. Box 276, Clifton NJ 070150276 / 4/year, \$12.50/year / "A Bridge Supporting Dialogue" is Catherine's description of her zine, which combines her faith with a strong creative wit. The issue centers around her excellent essay on the strains CORONA social distancing has on the innate need of people to Belong. Of particular interest is her insight that this period in human history may be better able to handle the isolation than others because of our new – and mostly unfortunate – reliance on our phones and other gizmos for basic communication. However, she says, isolation blocks us from the *knowing* that we are part of a greater existence that would sustain us through the era's stresses. It's a terrific piece of writing. Reprints on fasting and "the void" and a funny Ten Commandments of the Pandemic add to this unique, always stimulating zine.

**Claims Department #30** / Chris Garcia / Journeyplanet@gmail.com / eFanzines / The "Old School Punk Rock" issue of Chris' ... well, is this his perzine, or what? ... features portraits and critiques of some of his favorite groups of that era. ("That era." I'm so old music that made me feel like my grandfather is long past its height.) A great podcast is also paeaned, along with an interview with a creator. Hey – here's a piece by James Bacon and poetry inspired by the music. Must mention the illustrations: lotsa concert placards and photos, truly energetic, even if the musicians look 13 years old.

**Comics Review** / Rick Norwood, Manuscript Press, P.O. Box 336, Mountain Home TN 37684 / \$19.95@ / I don't know how Rick does it – but does it he do. Every month a huge, professionally bound collection of comic strips past comes forth from his Manuscript Press. *Rick O'Shay*, *Buz Sawyer*, *Mandrake*, *Alley*

*Oop, Modesty Blaise* (special collections available), *Gasoline Alley* ... a nostalgic garden, a virtual feast ... oh, make up your own metaphor: the *Review* is glorious, well worth the price.

**CounterClock** / Wolf von Witting, *Dia dei Vanduzzi* 6/4, 33050 Bagnaria Arsa (Ud), Italia / [wolfram1764@yahoo.se](mailto:wolfram1764@yahoo.se) / No issues of this normally excellent genzine in 2020, or so far in 2021. You OK, Wolf?

**CyberCozen** Vol. XXXIII, No. 1-2, Jan.-Feb. 2021 / Leybl Botwinik, [leybl\\_botwinik@yahoo.com](mailto:leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com) / Monthly publication of the Israeli Society for SF and Fantasy, colorfully-fonted, announcing in January a new Hebrew-language SFzine and beginning the editor's history of Yiddish SF "over the last century or so" which he continues at great length and depth in the February number. A saver indeed. Loads of links to sites readers might enjoy completes the zine. One complaint: Leybl prints a couple of nice LOCs but only gives the writer's *first name*. I think I know who "John" and "Gary" are, but only Botwinik knows for sure.

**DASFAx** Dec. 2020 – Jan. 2021 / Jeanne Jackson, 31 Rangeview Dr. Wheatridge, CO 80215 / [DASFAEditor@HotMail.com](mailto:DASFAEditor@HotMail.com) or [sourdough.jackson@comcast.net](mailto:sourdough.jackson@comcast.net) / Clubpub of the Denver SF group. The pandemic and its isolation seems to have taken a toll on DASFA; the co-directors of the club open this issue beseeching suggestions for stuff to do. Sourdough has no problems; here's a neat essay on the heroes from Doc Smith and C.S. Lewis – an intriguing contrast. In the January issue, Jackson turns an eye to the delicacy of space colonies, more intriguing work. Should hit up Jackson for a *Challenger* contribution ... Anyway, courage, mountain-bound brothers and sisters: the vaccine is on the way.

**De Profundis** #574 / Marty Cantor for LASFS, 11825 Gilmore St. #105, N Hollywood CA 91606 / [martyhoohah@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martyhoohah@sbcglobal.net) / [www.lasfs.org](http://www.lasfs.org). / \$1 for domestic mail / The main appeal of this "unofficial" publication of the great Los Angeles SF club has always been the group's printed "menace" – or minutes. In addition to appealing for a successor as *DeProf* editor and lamenting LASFS' continuing lack of a clubhouse, Marty pleads for months' worth of meeting accounts. When they're On, they're hilarious, so loosen up, whoever's holding them.

**The Drink Tank** #424-7 / Chris Garcia, Alissa McKersie, Chuck Serface, not "Surface" fergawdsakes / [journeyplanet@gmail.com](mailto:journeyplanet@gmail.com) / eFanzines / Long ago, when it won its Hugo, *DT* was a perzine for Chris; his co-editors now have caught his lively spirit. *Always* something different in *Drink Tank*. Look at the last issues of 2020 and the first of this year: #424 deals, entertainingly, with old time radio shows. (Three memories come to mind: my friend and fannish mentor Meade Frierson, who collected tapes of such programs; the huge vinyl records of 1940s *Superman* episodes at DC Comics I listened to, at the request of Bernie Kashdan; Dad bringing forth the old console radio from his father's Birmingham barn so he could pretend to give a broadcast for the amusement of his first-born.) #425 steals one of the ideas I had for the next *Challenger*, Universal horror films, and doing a better job than I ever could. #426 hits Broadway shows, *Sweeney Todd* (of course) and others, and at the last minute comes #427, misnumbered as the previous issue, is bedecked by a somewhat terrifying photo of a theatre-ful of Baby Boomers in Mickey Mouse masks. Within, chillingly, *cults* are the topic, scrutinized by a series of writers. (Kristy Baxter's piece on the founder of the Children of God and Steven Hassan's analysis of "The Cult of Trump" are especially impressive.) Relevance to our genre comes from articles on the cults in D&D, comics and SF – and yes, I see that cover illo from *Stranger in a Strange Land*. (Leslie van Houten told me that was the only science fiction she'd ever read; Charlie made them scan it. Perhaps it *is* a horror novel.) Good stuff: great theme: fine contributors; keep tuned to eFanzines for more, any minute.

**Ethel the Aardvark** #207 / LynC, [lyn100@optushome.com.au](mailto:lyn100@optushome.com.au) / MSFC, [melbsclub@yahoo.com.au](mailto:melbsclub@yahoo.com.au) / eFanzines / Clubzine of the Melbourne SF Club, with the title girl right on its charming cover, surrounded



by word balloons hailing the new year. The chairman reports that he celebrated the coming of 2021 by being chased from *Wonder Woman* '84 by a fire alarm, which is a better fate than actually seeing it (worst clunker of 2020) and notes the sad passage of an old clubmate and friend, David Cyber. His piece is immediately followed by a Dennis Callegari Christmas illo inspired by a John M. Ford poem – delightful and whimsical. Reviews, announcement of the A. Bertram Chandler Award for 2020, club biz, a Penney LOC – *Ethel* was silent for years, it felt like; good to hear from MSFC's anteater again.

**Event Horizon #7** / John Thiel, 30 N. 19<sup>th</sup> St., Lafayette IN 47904 / [kinethiel@comcast.net](mailto:kinethiel@comcast.net) / eFanzines / December issue – there will probably be another soon – of “an original 9<sup>th</sup> Fandom fanzine, a vanguard of the coming age of science fiction progress. An event horizon exists around a singularity in space, where a black hole may be located. The event horizon is perceived in returning from the vortex.” So John says. It's actually the N3F's fiction zine, featuring stories by Jeffrey Redmond, Will Mayo, John Polsell and others. I won't critique the fiction, but this zine does sport great energy and good color art!

**Fadeaway** / Bob Jennings, 29 Whiting Rd., Oxford, MA 01540-2035 / [fabficbks@aol.com](mailto:fabficbks@aol.com) / \$25/6 issues / *A SFPA bro's genzine, usually top-drawer.*

**File:770** / Mike Glyer, 1507½ S. Sixth Ave., Arcadia CA 91006 / [mikeglyer@cs.com](mailto:mikeglyer@cs.com) / If one had to ask where fans should go to find the state of their community – its controversies, losses, arguments and concerns – the answer for decades would be *File:770*. Excellent contributors abound – I single out John Hertz – and the holds are seldom barred. The latest issue as I write deals with crime writing awards, but you'll also find superb con reports, eulogies, actual debate over controversies – the Discon III brouhaha hahas loudest here. Hey, *File* is an essential, a focal point, a whatever-you-would necessity for anyone involved in the 'dom. Check it out, and keep checking.

**Films Fantastic 11** / Eric Jamborsky, [mrsolo1@comcast.net](mailto:mrsolo1@comcast.net) / *The N3F's Film Bureau.*

**Fornax** / Charles Rector, [crector@gmx.com](mailto:crector@gmx.com) / *Haven't heard from Charles since last June. Whuzzup?*

**Inca #18** (December 2020) / Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8UH / [robjackson60@gmail.com](mailto:robjackson60@gmail.com) or [jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net](mailto:jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net) / Sprawling, photo-rich genzine, opening with a splendid aerial view of Greenland ice and ocean and a hopeful editorial on what good stuff fandom can glean from the coronavirus. (The major: ZOOM.) After announcing a new date for his daughter's wedding and publicizing the next Corflu (Nov. 5-7 in Bristol; Rob is chair), Jackson turns *Inca* over to his contributors: Taral Wayne (bubble gum cards – cool illos), Curt Phillips (a touching teaching experience) and Sandra Bond (a sterling paean to fan history). Rob returns to introduce a group report on Corflu Heatwave by himself, Murray Moore, Sandra and others. I haven't often seen such a treatment for a fan event; the multitude of voices reminds me of the happy hubbub of a consuite. Cool photos, mostly of fans at feed, but we also see admiring shots of a railway bridge over the Brazos River, a pink Cadillac, a neon BBQ sign, all from deep in the heart of Texas. The Brit-rich lettercol brings *Inca* home again.

**The Incomplete Register 2020** / Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142 / [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com) / eFanzines / An annual guide to zines eligible for FAAn honors. Nic cites *TZD* as a source for information; I'm both honored and chastened, as well as mortified that there was no *Challenger* in 2020 to contend as a Genzine.. Anyway, Nic not only lists the publications and their editors (and letterhacks and fan artists) but provides a blank ballot, to which I shall immediately turn.

**Instant Message** / NESFA, P.O. Box 809, Framingham MA 01701-0809 / [info@nesfa.org](mailto:info@nesfa.org) / *Received by mail. / Monthly newsletter of the New England SF Association, the most business-like and widest-ranging SF club in America.*

**Ionisphere** / John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904 / [kinethiel@comcast.net](mailto:kinethiel@comcast.net) / The official publication of the National Fantasy Fan Federation Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau. Or as the cover

reads (beneath a nice painting of a shuttle launch), “Ocial Publicaon of the Naonal Fantasy Fan Federaon’s Fan-Pro Coordinang Bureau.” Hire a proofreader, John! Embarrassing subtitle aside, good contents here: an interview and article of and by Somtow Sucharitkul (the latter most valuable), another interview with Glenn Damato, a piece in SF film by the reliable Jeffrey Redmond, several pages on the bureau by Thiel, a bit of fiction, a deft verse by Will Mayo.

**iOTA #19** / Leigh Edmonds, [leighedmonds01@gmail.com](mailto:leighedmonds01@gmail.com) / “This little efanzine is produced as a progress report on my project to research and write a history of Australian fandom, focusing on the period between 1956 and 1975. *iOTA* is a research tool and document, containing some of the material and thoughts that will be used in writing the history. It is also a place where I publish bits and pieces of the writing and art from Australia’s fannish past to help introduce you to the rich vein of material that previous generations of Australian fans have left us.” Fronted with a reproduction of a 1952 fanzine, *Forerunner*, Leigh’s February ’21 issue prints a draft of his exhaustive chapter on Sydney fandom, with notes on previous attempts to encapsulate the national fandom’s glorious story. I love fannish history and Edmonds’ efforts are fun to follow. Good writer, too.

**John Bangsund: Eightieth Annish** / Sally Yeoland, eFanzines / Ms. Yeoland started to put together this tribute to the great Aussie fan to mark his 80th birthday in 2019. Is a labor of long affection, featuring squibs from such magnificences as Robin Johnson, Joe Haldeman, Eric Lindsay, Bruce Gillespie and many more. The anecdotes and good wishes (Rob Gerrand includes a poem) flow not unlike a mighty torrent; they enlist you in their heartiness even if, like me, you’re too unlikely to have met the man. Belated happy 80<sup>th</sup> – and 81<sup>st</sup>, and 82<sup>nd</sup> RSN – to John from the Greenhouse!

**JoMP #44** / Richard Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Dr. #302, Alexandria VA 22306 / [richd22426@aol.com](mailto:richd22426@aol.com) / A.K.A. *The Journal of Mind Pollution*, a set of personal anecdotes concentrating, this time, on Rich’s early days as a bureaucrat/librarian/field slave in our nation’s capital. Informative and occasionally quite amusing, such as when he describes the squeak made by Carl Albert’s loose dentures and his experience as a trial witness in a civil case. Good lettercol! Received almost simultaneously with

**JoMP Jr. #37** / Richard Dengrove, see above / Another Dengrove journal here, and I do *not* get the difference. Unless the general subjects covered are the differentiation. Here Rich talks about popes and sculptors and witchcraft in the Ozarks, quite interesting and amusing stuff; like its paternal zine (above), *Jr.* attracts a good lettercol I envy.

**Journey Planet 57** / James Bacon, Chris Garcia, Chuck Serface / eFanzines and [journeyplanet@gmail.com](mailto:journeyplanet@gmail.com) / The latest issue – and editorial lineup – of a multiple Hugo winner, ever-changing, ever-adapting, and always enthusiastic and well-done. The beautiful art in this number signals its theme: the Arthurian legend. Staff and friends approach their “favorite” Arthur, from *Le Morte d’Arthur* to *Camelot* to *Excalibur* – Chris even discusses the Vegas hotel so named – but none seem to second *my* favorite, the parodic nobility of *Arthur Rex*, Thomas Berger’s brilliant successor to *Little Big Man*. It’s a blisteringly comic look at Arthur, “who was never historical, but everything he did was true.” This *JP* is a 93-page masterwork, shiny with great color art and joy in its subject. The previous issue dealt with the *Star Wars* universe and there were many different topics before that; as you see, many are the *Journeys* of *Journey Planet*.

**Knot a Fanzine #2 2020** / Marc Ortlieb, P.O. Box 215 Forest Hill Vic 3131 Australia / [cramynotbeiltro@gmail.com](mailto:cramynotbeiltro@gmail.com) / A “compendium” of writings done originally for ANZAPA, an amateur press alliance which, like my SFPa, seems to be booming along despite the pandemic. Marc’s first page natters compellingly about an apa’s unique value at such a time. Then ... he visits his mama, reflecting on his visits to a place that is familiar, but no longer home. I have similar thoughts whenever I hit one of my old haunts. Shifting gears – to say the least – Ortlieb analyzes a Lewis Carroll poem, discusses knots (and why ... knot?), describes a scouting venture (I missed this – is he a Scoutmaster?), returns to Lewis Carroll with a piece on the science in *Lewis and Bruno*, discourses on Aussie amphibians, mourns buddies John

Bangsund and Phil Ware ... If everything in the Australia/New Zealand apa is so well-written and interesting, I'm beginning to think I ought to join!

**Lofgeornost** #141-2 / Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction VT 05001 [fred@fred-lerner.org](mailto:fred@fred-lerner.org) / FAPA and eFanzines / Fred begins this latest issue of his intellectually stimulating perzine with a topical essay on American government, pondering the efficacy of a parliamentary system, the origins of the electoral college, the untapped value of states as an experimental laboratory for the country as a whole. His "Topics" section opens with a hilarious list of the various whackadoodle political parties running candidates in last November's election. Sign me up as a Boiling Frog! He recommends Becky Chambers' Hugo-winning Wayfarer Series and enjoys vivacious repartee with Bob Jennings, David Thayer, Ruth Berman and other correspondents. The succeeding issue opens with an appreciation of the novels and aesthetic ethics of Guy Gavriel Kay and applies them to the current miniseries, *The Crown*. I'm glad the Queen hasn't had Olivia Colman beheaded. Wise discussion of novels (*Good Morning, Midnight*, *Titus Alone*, Philip Pullman's *The Subtle Knife*) leads to as sharp a lettercol as fanzines offer. Bob Jennings' LOC is of special note.

**Mangaverse** 5.0 / Patrick Ijima-Washburn, [patokon.com@gmail.com](mailto:patokon.com@gmail.com) / The "maiden voyage" of an enthused publication centered on Japanese pop culture – or did you guess? Patrick opens with a squib on manga creator Shirato Sanpei, Jim Reddy takes us on a tour of Tokyo, emphasizing its comics shops, some reviews, some neat art. Good first zine! A bit out of *TZD*'s line, but the delight it takes in its subject is infectious.

**MarkTime** 135-6 / Mark Strickert, PO Box 1171, Rialto CA 92377 / [busnrail@yahoo.com](mailto:busnrail@yahoo.com) / trade, e-mail / \$2, trade, LOC / As usual, Mark's end-of-year zine surveys his family for their favorite moments, movies, songs, trips, life lessons and the like of the last 12month. Mark also recounts a couple of family trips, concentrating (as usual) on transit. It's extremely refreshing to see 2020 given an *affectionate* farewell. Two letters from Lloyd Penney and one from Bob Nelson, and off we bus'n'rail into 2021 ... where we find *MarkTime* #136, tripping – literally – to the Palm Desert. More Palm than Desert, it seems; the family visits loads of restaurants in Palm Springs (I recommend that crazed movie, by the way; *Groundhog Day* for millennials) and the adjacent graves of Frank Sinatra and Sonny Bono. Listen to WFMU's Sheena's Jungle Room, on April 9, those in the area; Mark – or his voice – will magically appear!

**MT Void** Vol. 39, No. 35 #2160 / Mark & Evelyn C. Leeper, [leepers@optonline.net](mailto:leepers@optonline.net) / <http://leepers.us/mtvoid> / free subs via email / Every week *MT Void* pops up in one's e-mail inbox, indefatigable, with sharp essays on ... well, you name it. This issue, films, with a mention of an unfamiliar flick I now *must* see, *The Vigil*. In an earlier number, a film about Escher; in yes another. Lest one think that reading is given short shrift here, another previous issue praises *The Oppenheimer Alternative* by Robert Sawyer, which I bet ends up on the Hugo ballot. Evelyn even comments on *The Great Gatsby*, whose presence on the Hugo lists is questionable. Good fun.

**My Back Pages** 25 / Rich Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg MD 20885 / [rw\\_lynch@yahoo.com](mailto:rw_lynch@yahoo.com) / More epic journeys and anecdotes from the co-editor of *Mimosa* and my SFPA bro, to NYC and Broadway – *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Oklahoma*, *The Jim Henson Experience* – sampling beers, eying the elusive NEOWISE comet (I could never find the thing; obviously a hoax), reminiscing on Chicago 1968 (a piece also reminiscent of Rich's frequent belittling of right-wing hacks by the unwarranted expedience of acting them tough questions). Rich's dry wit and incisive observation are on constant display. The cover and bacover photos range over decades of his life – I'd forgotten that beard – and include a shot with the last Torcon Hugo that I swear I took myself (the picture, not the Hugo).

**The National Fantasy Fan** Vol. 80 Nos. 1-2, Jan.-Feb. 2021 / George Phillies, see below / The National Fantasy Fan Federation business-oriented zine. The January issue hails the N3F's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its new lifetime member, David Speakman, mulls a group newszine, and, through the ever-reliable Jon Swartz, relates the career of the Green Lama, a pulp character of the early forties whom I had hitherto

ne'er heard of. The February issue spotlights the N3F's annual Fanzine and "Neffy" Awards, the group's surfeit of bureaus, the Worldcon Guest of Honor contro, a good Jon Swartz piece on a *Boy's Life* series, a proposed amendment to the N3F constitution, a FAAn Awards ballot is enclosed, the annual short story contest. Busy, busy, busy! Again, neos should give the N3F a strong thought, while also looking beyond.

**The N3F Review of Books** August 2020 / George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill, Worcester MA 01609 / [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) / The N3F's reviewzine.

**Nice Distinctions** / Arthur D. Hlavaty, 205 Valentine St., Yonkers NY 10704-1814 / [hlavaty@panix.com](mailto:hlavaty@panix.com)

**OASFis Event Horizon** Vol. 33 Nos. 8-9 #396-7 / Juan Sanmiguel, P.O. Box 323, Goldenrod FL 32733-0323 / [sanmiguel@earthlink.net](mailto:sanmiguel@earthlink.net) / \$12/year, includes Orlando club membership / Brief issues of the Orlando SF Club newsletter, concentrating on awards – very helpful list of prime 2020 SF, just in time to help me with my Hugo ballot. Juan also memorializes Dr. James Gunn, boosts the local Playwrights' Round Table and keeps the krewe moving with ZOOM meetings.

**The Obdurate Eye** #7 / Garth Spencer, 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5N 3X5 / [garth.van.spencer@gmail.com](mailto:garth.van.spencer@gmail.com) / eFanzines / Garth's perzine turns its eye, obdurate though it may be, on matters fannish in Canada, including the new Rainshine Awards created by BCSFDA chairman Moss Whelan, to focus on "First Nations" – Canadian indigenous – writers. He congratulates Graeme Cameron on his recent Aurora Award, mulls on editorial issues confronting eApa – should they allow nekkid pictures in the apa? Should the mailings be password protected? What are the proper standards of politeness? – problems with his fiction attempts, a parodic poem and, of course, photos of his cat. His "Night Thoughts" section on various nocturnal worries is probably my favorite part of the zine. I'm insomniac too. Solid review/article on "patron-client systems" with many historical examples adds a bit of depth, but *Obdurate Eye* is a fun, varied read at whatever declination.

**Opuntia** #494-5 / Dale Speirs, [opuntia57@hotmail.com](mailto:opuntia57@hotmail.com) / Though Dale's latest issue (as of this writing, he has more by now) opens with a pretty wintry scene (what *is* that funny white stuff?) his text begins with COVID, and how the virus has affected Speirs' home province of Calgary. (Among other horrors, it carried away a 97-year-old Spitfire pilot, who helped knock fascism out of the skies over Europe.) Never one to rest on one subject, Dale offers Part 6 of his series on alien invasions, opening with a treatment of Edmond Hamilton's "The Space Visitors" – itself 91 years along. You can never tell what will turn up next in *Opuntia*; radio and TV ranging from *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* to *Our Miss Brooks* earn space in this eclectic and highly entertaining pub. And as we compose, issue #495 appears, a brilliantly colorful photo showcase from Calgary's Chinook Blast, a "winter lights festival," at the head. A piece on a 105-year-old parodic novel leads to another burst of color, this one of stamps. More Martian invasions are covered, old-timey radio (is there any other kind?), seashell horns ... *Gad!*

**Origin** 36 / N3F c/o John Thiel, 30 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, [kinethiel@mymetronet.net](mailto:kinethiel@mymetronet.net) / E-mailed / "Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation's History and Research Bureau," this is one of the N3F's most successful publications, with interesting pieces by good fan writers. Jon Swartz pens an article, colorfully illoed, on early paperback SF publishers. Jeffrey Redmond reviews several variant definitions of SF, and does his usual good job, although he gets the title of *Rendezvous with Rama* wrong. Judy Carroll talks about the N3F, and introduces Alan White's nifty new emblem for the group. He did the cover, too, again and as always justifying his place on my FAAn and Hugo ballots.

**Pablo Lennis** #398, Jan. 2021 / John Thiel, see *Origin* / A rarity for *PL* covers – a gorgeous color illo, "The Rapture", by Edmund Prior. Doggoned if I don't miss Peter Zenger's weird pen-&-ink drawings of issues past. As usual, Thiel's personal zine concentrates on fan-written fiction, some of it pretty well done; more than that I never say about amateur writing. There's also a free-wheeling lettercol in which John Purcell and Will Mayo play significant parts.



**Perryscope** #7-8 / Perry Middlemiss, 32 Elphin Grove, Hawthorn, Victoria, Australia 3122 / [perry@middlemiss.org](mailto:perry@middlemiss.org) / Produced initially for ANZAPA (the Australian and New Zealand APA), *Perryscope* has quickly evolved into a fine perzine. #7 begins with a nifty portrait of the editor – at least, I guess it's him – by W. H. Chong, and goes on to list Perry's favorite reads from 2020, broken down by genre. (One hopes Perry's praise for Stan Robinson's *The Ministry for the Future* is heard far and wide – I'm into it now, and it's spectacular.) He reviews – quite intelligently – the early Nebula winners, literary works (praising *The French Lieutenant's Woman* to the skies) and some TV. I'll bet he hits on *The Queen's Gambit* next time. I also recommend *The Dig*. Give *Your Honor* a hearty skip, however. The 8<sup>th</sup> issue, featuring Perry on the cover looking like a Gloucester fisherman, was actually taken in Iceland (thoughts of *Trapped*) in 2019. He begins with a survey/paeon to his various hats – I wear baseball caps and, when cold, a pullover FDNY cap I bought at Ground Zero – and moves on to continue his detailed list of 2020 favorites. He *did* see *Trapped* – and another of my faves, *Des*. And yes, *Queen's Gambit* ranks as the best TV he saw all year. I agree with him about *Outbreak* – no match for *Contagion* – but to me, *The Outsider* was padded junk. Anyway, to repeat: fine perzine, my favorite new find of this issue.

**Portable Storage** / William Breiding, 3507 N. Santa Rita Ave. #1, Tucson AZ 85719 / [portablezine@gmail.com](mailto:portablezine@gmail.com)

**Purrsonal Mewsings** #77 / R-Laurraine Tutihasi, P.O. Box 5323, Oracle AZ 85623-5323 / [Laurraine@mac.com](mailto:Laurraine@mac.com) / t.u., \$5, Stipple-Apa / Of late Laurraine's covers seem to be alternating between original photos by Mike Weasner – a talented nature and astronomical photographer – and original art. This latest issue features a cute Taral Wayne female skunk; Pepe Le Pew take note. Within, good art, homey natter about gardening, a report on virtual CapClave, Stipple mc's, and red-letter LOCs. Among her correspondents is Tim Lane, possibly his last published fanac. The congenial editor of *Fosfax* and my favorite conservative debate partner, Timmy passed of recent.

**Ray X X-Rayer** #152-3 / Ray Palmer, [raypalmx@gmail.com](mailto:raypalmx@gmail.com) / e-mail & eFanzines / Ray's a former journalist whose writing style doesn't get the praise it deserves: he's quite funny. Reading his piece about the porn star who doubled as a Republican Party official in Kansas City shows an able dry wit. It carries over into mini-articles in defense of lemmings – I was among those disturbed by those scenes in Disney's *White Wilderness* – and in oppo to early Christmas marketing, especially in as painfully lonely a time as last fall. #153, coming forth on Christmas day itself, opens with a shot of Santa astride a retired USAF bomber and in this week, when a cylindrical is seen buzzing an airliner, an appropriate tale of a UFO hoax perpetuated by a jilted lover. He warns against copyright scams afflicting new writers – valuable links here – and prints old cigarette ads featuring that noted smoker, Santa Claus.

**Scientifiction** New Series #66 / John L. Coker III, 4813 Lighthouse Rd., Orlando FL 32808 / [jlcoker3@bellsouth.net](mailto:jlcoker3@bellsouth.net) / Quarterly / The newszine of First Fandom, “the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction,” of which I am now proudly one. Alas, eulogies fill the first pages for some all-'round class acts: Ben Bova, Dick Lupoff, Susan Ellison, Phyllis Eisenstein, James Gunn, Roberta Pournelle and my fellow letterhack David Paskow. It was that kind of autumn. But then sweep in birthday lists and awards news, reviews, antique photos – forgive me for calling them that – and a cool account of a *Forbidden Planet* premiere, restoring the joy. Accompanied by an invaluable *First Fandom Membership Directory*, with all kinds of helpful lists. Keeper!

**SF<sup>2</sup> Concatenation** / [office@concatenation.org](mailto:office@concatenation.org) / eFanzines / “**The Science Fact & Science Fiction Concatenation** is the seasonal review of science fact and science fiction. Loads of links to most anything you can think of in the field.

**SF Commentary** #104 / Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard Street, Greensborough, VIC 3088, Australia / Phone: 61-3-9435 7786 / Preferred means of distribution: PDF file from <http://efanzines.com> / email: [gandc001@bigpond.com](mailto:gandc001@bigpond.com) / I've said for years that Bruce's genzine is the best such being published, and the latest number – from last November – does nothing to counter that conclusion. Anyone sampling an



issue on eFanzines will see the quality of the content, but the product itself is superlative: saddle-bound, slick color cover, prime paper stock, excellent repro on the many photos and illos. And content, mentioned before ... poetry by Jenny Blackford, con reports (Dublin and virtual New Zealand), many *superb* reviews, personal natter ... contributors like Michael Bishop, Paul di Filippo, Cy Chauvin ... Quality, people.

**SideTrek** #63 / Stephanie Hanna and Mark C. Ambrogio, [ScienceFictionLondon@gmail.com](mailto:ScienceFictionLondon@gmail.com) / The Official Journal of Science Fiction London, Ontario, Canada / Sadly, this issue opens with a memorial for past member Doug Blake, obviously a fine fella much missed by his comrades. Doug had heart problems, but God grant this wretched time doesn't carry more of us away.

**Spiritus Mundi** 300 / me / Distributed to, by, in and for the Southern Fandom Press Alliance / I mention my own zine, which dawdles over great events and great people of my first 50 years in the rebel apa, to brag. SFPA is a bimonthly apa. I joined in January 1971. I have never missed a mailing nor owned pages. In this volume – 120 pages! Jeez! -- I try to wax honest about the feuds and follies of my membership – I've been both an exemplar in SFPA and a pariah, though not at the same time – and I hope it makes for a decent read. I include law stories from *Challenger* and *Beam*, a gory piece of Civil War fiction and lots of good art stolen for covers over the years. Of course I can supply PDFs. Gad! *Fifty years* ...

**This Here** ... #38-9 / Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142 / [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com) / Issue #38 of Nic's congenial perzine opens with a hopeful quote from Joe Major, to wit, "Not as bad as last year." So say we all. *This Here* (pardon me if I skip the ellipsis) is never bad – to segue clumsily – balancing skillfully between fannish stuff and personal. For instance. Both of these issues sport a lively discussion on the nature of a *focal point* fanzine, a question of some interest here. (*Is there such a critter?* If the standard is fannish news, then *File:770* is obviously the strongest contender.) Nic also spends much carbon discussing the FAAn Awards, which he administers (my ballot is in). But here we also find a "footy" column by David Hodson, music natter (at last I know what a "skittle band" is), and a righteous lettercol ranging over an encyclopedia of topics. A delight to read.

**Tightbeam** #316-7 / National Fantasy Fan Federation c/o George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609. E-mail [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net); Jon Swartz [jon\\_swartz@14otmail.com](mailto:jon_swartz@14otmail.com) / E-mailed / A fresh look to the N3F genzine, published "approximately monthly": a splendid Alan White cover, bound to bring new life to any fanzine. Within, interviews – novelists D.M. Wozniak and Douglas McKim, both by Tamara Wilhite – and reviews, including John Thiel on Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* and Jason Hunt on the movie that gave 2020 a bad name, *Wonder Woman* '84. Beginning a fanzine review column, Justin Busch admits that he lacks internet access – bad news; that will doom him from the start. Jon Swartz's piece on the life of Henry Kuttner is definitely the star of the issue – it's grand to see this superb craftsman, who passed at 43, getting such attention after so many decades. But a life's influence doesn't end with the life: Julie Schwartz told me that he still dreamed about Kuttner, and this in the seventies. My favorite pages in the subsequent issue, #317, deal with my favorite SF subject, *me*, an interview by George (an interview! By George!)/ Fortunately Tamara Wilhite's conversation with John David Martin is more interesting. As is the article on Manga which follows: I never knew!

**Trap Door** / Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland CA 94611-1948 / [trapdoor@rocketmail.com](mailto:trapdoor@rocketmail.com)

**Vanamonde** Nos. 1388-1401 / John Hertz, 236 So. Coronado St. #409, LA CA 90057 / John's one-sheet Apa-L zine, running weekly since the dawn of time, a steady input of wit and wisdom. Often opening with *haiku*, usually continuing with a mini-essay on one of John's huge repertoire of interests, from the genesis of paper to the music of Kenny Rogers to the massive influence on popular culture of Alexander Woolcott to the ends of the Earth, always concluding with comments to other

Apa-Lians. I am aghast that the printed copy of WOOF 2020 I sent John last *September* has yet to reach him! As soon as I can afford it, this friend to all fandom will be shipped another.

**Vita Transplantare** Vol. 2 #5, whole no. 14 / John Neilsen Hall / eFanzines / “A diary and a journal of opinion, speculation and diatribes as pertaining to the thought process of John Nielsen Hall.” Says “Uncle Johnny” at the outset of issue #14: “New Year, Old Problems.” For this conclusion, he relies on LOCs from Gary Mattingly, Nic Farey and Jerry Kaufman, mostly on questions of movies and TV. I am surprised and pleased by the many references to *Five Easy Pieces*, a movie >50 years old (*do you believe it?*) whose message of alienation and confusion sounded clearly in the late sixties and, in a way, still resonates. The final natter on *Pirandesi*, which I gifted to Rosy at Christmas, is illuminating. Good to see an able perzine reflect on something other than the past.

**Warp** #109 / Cathy Palmer-Lister, via MonSFFA, c/o Sylvain St-Pierre, 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7R 1Y6 / reachable through [http://www.monsffa.ca/?page\\_id=6915](http://www.monsffa.ca/?page_id=6915) / Rare these days is the *club genzine*, even more so in these (let’s-pray-waning) days of COVID, but here is *Warp*, from the able Montreal group, edited by the wondrous and ever-able Cathy Palmer-Lister. It’s a lovable pub: how could a zine with a snowy gerbil on the cover be anything else? Inside, a photo of a snow-covered street – that *is* snow, isn’t it? I’ve lived in Florida long enough to forget – fiction and reviews by clubsters (I particularly like Sylvain St.-Pierre’s piece on the hitherto-unknown *Piloot Storm* and the treatment of *For All Mankind*), clever ‘toons by Cathye Knapp ... ah, cheers for the whole spirit of the zine, and the club, and its editor/ president, and all of those snow- and COVID-bound who refuse to submit to either!

**The White Notebooks** / Pete Young, [peteyoung.uk@gmail.com](mailto:peteyoung.uk@gmail.com) / editorial whim / COA for Pete as 375 Walton Lane, Walton, Liverpool, Merseyside, L4 5RL.. Says Pete: “Real life has rather taken over since last Spring and I’ve not been doing much fanzine activity other than an essay for William Breiding’s ‘Portable Storage’, so no new White Notebooks is currently on the horizon. At least I’ve managed to keep my job but on a reduced salary and less security, and was furloughed for 8 months. Also probably caught Covid back in May, which was pretty uncomfortable.”

**Wild Ideas** #7-8 / Henry Grynnssten, [grynnssten@hotmail.com](mailto:grynnssten@hotmail.com) / A dark but gorgeous and evocative cover to the December 2020 issue of this iconoclastic perzine, whose “wild ideas” often venture outside of SF. In this issue, for instance, Henry deals in depth with “secret messages” in the works of Shakespeare, reminding me of a dinner where Greg Benford forcefully argued that the plays were authored by another; for one who loves Shakespeare but knows too little, this is exciting stuff. The subsequent number continues its skeptical look at established genius, dealing with Mozart so-called child composition and even alleged plagiarism from other composers. I don’t want to believe it but the long article is irresistibly readable and *extensively* footnoted. *Wild Ideas* is unique among fanzines these days, and though upsetting, we say more ideas, Henry: the wilder the better.

## LOCSLOCSLOCSLOCS

**Opuntia polyacantha** <[opuntia57@hotmail.com](mailto:opuntia57@hotmail.com)>

aka: Dale Speirs

Calgary, Alberta

Firstly, one correction on your review of my zine *Opuntia*. You mentioned my “detailed account of the virtual Worldcon and the panels he attended”. This should read “When Words Collide”. WWC is Calgary’s annual readercon, held on Zoom this year for the obvious reason. Hopefully we’ll meet again face-to-face some sunny day next August. Details from [www.whenwordscollide.org](http://www.whenwordscollide.org)

Alberta had a beautiful summer, hot and dry from July to September, so I did a lot of walking and photography. Plenty of smartphone photos for *Opuntia*. It would be nice for other zinesters to pep up their zines likewise. I’d like to see more of other places, the ones that aren’t necessarily shown in the tourist brochures.

*A superb idea.*

Your comment "Vote blue" threw me as I thought you were a Democrat. *[I am!]* It appears the Americans are opposite to Canada regarding party colours. Up here, the Conservative colours are blue, the Liberals are red, the New Democratic Party are orange, and I need not tell you who uses green. Nicknames are Tories, Grits, Dippers (from their initials), and Greenies, respectively.

**Lloyd Penney**  
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Congrats on 50 issues!

Many of the zines I get, but not all, and that's okay. Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed by the zines I do get, so I really am not looking for more. Should the numbers of zines dwindle, I will keep going by asking for the others I wasn't getting before. Moderation in all.

Noticing some entries here weren't finished? The one for *Banana Wings* ended with Since they're h ... Same with *Bunyip and ayotochtli*, *CounterClock*, maybe *De Profundis?*, *Inca*, *Polar Borealis*, *Ray X X-Rayer*, *Skyliner*, *Synergy*, *Tightbeam?*, *TBS&E*, *White Notebooks*. I get the feeling your own deadline came up and bit you. No matter...I am sure the publisher will have a stern word with the editor.

*Methinks I somehow sent you a draft copy, i.e., incomplete. My copies of TZD50 show no such lapses.*

Graeme Cameron also has a weekly Zoom gathering on Monday nights...I have been there a couple of times. Graeme seems firmly ensconced in the town of Nanaimo, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island. It's a beautiful area, and I know because I lived and worked in what is now the twin towns of Parksville and Qualicum Beach, British Columbia, just to the north of Nanaimo.

I think there is one N3F fanzine, edited by John Thiel, I believe, that is closing down because of lack of response. I do comment on what interests me, but I will admit there have been some zines over the past couple of years I look at, and the contents are completely foreign to me, and I do not respond. What do I say? RAE BNC? Don't want to do that. I miss *File 770* as a fanzine, but given the news Mike covers, perhaps (heresy!) this news is better as a blog.

I haven't received any more *NASFA Shuttles* in more than a year...not even sure if it still exists. A change in editor seems to mean no issues at all, at least to those outside of club membership. And, welcome, fellow First Fandom member! I've been enjoying John Coker's publications, and I even had a loc in the previous issue.



See what I mean? Drive a fan-ed indoors, and stand back: the zines will flood out. If by any chance yours drifted past me, let me know and I'll snag it next time, and of course if you find an error, I'll fix it at once. And please do chime in on the controversies referenced at the outset of this zine – they're too important and too topical to let slide. My own opinion? *Toni Weisskopf for Hugo!*

Read, write, publish!

