

The Drink Tank

ISSUE 51

November Was a Short Month, Apparently...

November is National Novel Writing Month, as you can see by going to NaNoWriMo.com. I decided to take part and write a 50k novel within a month. I figured it would take a couple of weeks, which is what the fast people take. It didn't take that long.

It took about 3 days.

I started on the 1st a little after 1am. By 4, I got about 7k words. I added another 5k in the morning, and another 20k over the next 10 hours. I then managed to get a bunch more that night while I was watching Evelyn. I was up beyond 40k early this morning. By the end of work today, I was at 50,007 words.

Three days.

I'm a freak.

And the novel that I produced is, without a doubt, a terrible piece of work. That's right, God Awful. Full of cliches, both in-



tended and unintentional, along with non-sensical idiocy. It's awful, but it's done.

What's really sad is that as bad as it is, it's still better than the fiction that I was writing when I gave up on early this year. I sped through it, blasting past things like character and pacing, and still managed to do far better than the work I slaved over for years. It's sad, but at least it's done.

The story, you ask? What of the story?

It opens with the kidnapping of a programmer named Rutager Danelaw and his would-be girlfriend Leslie, who falls in with a man named Callas and his sexually adventurous bodyguard, the former Mossad operative named Kiely. They go on an adventure to rescue Rutager from Jank McCleary, a mobster turned software mogul, and get Callas' precious stamp, the Empire Red, back from the mobster too. As the story goes, it rolls through all the classic things that my fiction always features: lesbians, thugs, hot-fighting girls, mad action scenes, strange computer guys, and mumbo-jumbo about software that's not entirely accurate...or realistic at all.

So now that I'm done, what am I going to be doing? Well, I'll probably start doing the Drink Tank again, and blogging and so on, but mostly, it'll be back to normal. I'm making a movie this weekend, a short film that'll feature Jon Chapman, the lead in the Chick Magnet and one of the funnier guys in the fine 48 Hour film called Saving Pockets.

You know, I'm always doing things fast, writing my novel, making a 48 hour movie, watching DVD sets like Arrested Development in marathon sessions. I must be trying to cram a lot of living into as small a space as possible.





Jay Crasdan's Guide to Beautiful Women

It's not easy to do, but I recently made a list of the hottest things that a woman can do or be. It was a strange list, and when I showed it to M, she said that I should be locked up, though my tastes in ladies aren't much different from her own.

-Space Babes. No question on this one. I love the space babe, it's a genre that is still in the future that keeps me hoping for a long, long life.

-Musician girls. A chick on the bass gets me hot, but really it's the weird instruments, the acordions, the dobreau or the banjo. Those are the ones that'll get me to make stupid moves.

-Chicks on Motorcycles. All the guys love that, and she'll be hit on, and manage to ignore every guy that comes along. If they're skinhead girls on Vespas, that's just about the perfect thing in all of my dreams. I've not been to a rally in years, but Chris and I used to have no luck with the girls when we'd head down to them in the old days. So very sad.

-Then there's the perfect woman in all of history, and sadly, she's on TV



and her character is only 15. She's Maeby on Arrested Development. Played by Alia Shawkat, who will be a serious hottie when she becomes legal to be one. The character is wonderful, she's a liar, a smart girl who manages to get a job as a movie executive. She's perfect in the role, and I'm ashamed to say that I'm totally attracted to her character.

The other thing that rules about her is the fact that she's the daughter of Tobias Bluth, played by the greatest comedian/thinker of the current century, Mr. David Cross. While Chris thinks he's a left-wing nut, though I think he loves his movies, especially Pootietang. He's always talking about the Tippy-ties and what-not.

Ultimately, women are entertaining and I love them, and the one that I've found, a tall, former Goth Girl who is never without her brilliant connivances, and I'm glad, mostly because I know when I'm staring at one of those other types of girls that I love so much, M is right there with me. More than once, she's said that she's more attracted to the women I'm attracted than I am. Chris has also said the same thing, though he's never had any luck with those types, well, that's not true, but he's been lucky with all the other types.

So, if there are any of those type of women reading this, I am sad to say that I'm going to be off of the market,

so you'll be safe when I am around.

The Only Thing Cooler than Zombies...



When I was a kid, I loved *In Search of*. It was my favourite show. They would investigate the world of the Weird and then we'd get to hear the strange hypotheses that they'd concoct, all narrated by Mr.

Leonard Nimoy! It was a great show and there was one episode that stood out from the rest: *In Search of Sasquatch*.

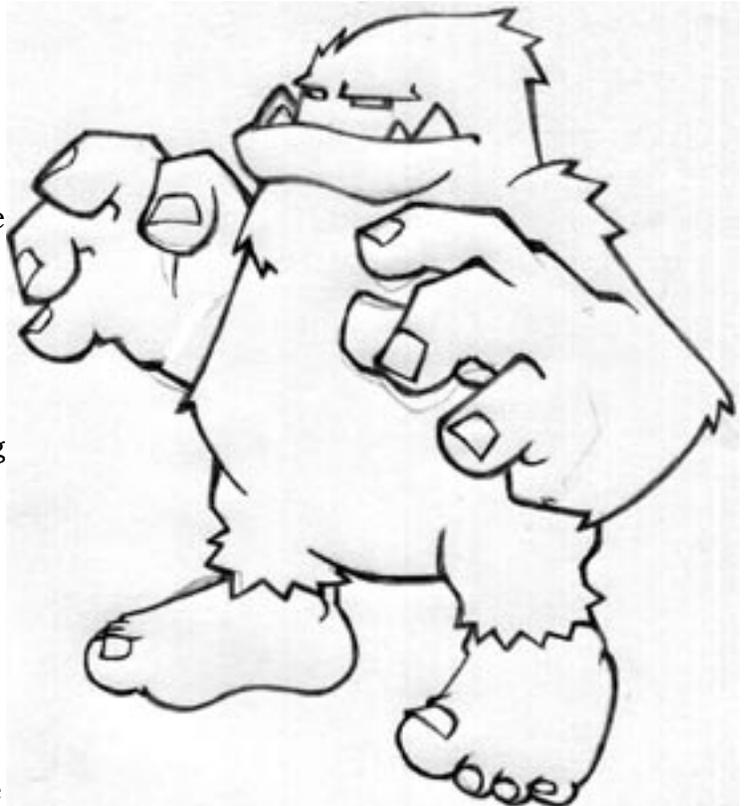
You see, Bigfoot is the legend of the hidden man, the beast that remains hidden, though popping up when only those who won't be believed are watching. There's a story in some feminist pub (I don't remember which one) that puts the story of sasquatch in with the story of the husband who is tender and sweet in public, with the monster only showing up when he's alone with his wife who will never be believed. It's an interesting theory.

I've never seen Bigfoot, but I do believe in its existence. I know, there'd have to be a pretty large population to sustain itself and with a population of that size, there'd be more sightings, but I still believe that we know so little about our world that there are probably things like Bigfoot out there, hiding just out of our sight. The things also fit the description of *Gigantopithecus* and at least one other early humanoid, so there's that too.

There are controversial videos and films of Sasquatch creatures. The first is the most famous. The Patterson-Gimlin film. Taken by Mr. Patterson, the story goes that a Bigfoot momma walked out of the tree

across a stream bed in the fall of 1967. That film is the source of the classic image you see over there <----. It's the iconic film, and it's either the best evidence or the greatest hoax ever. And it stretches! There are people that say that the main make-up and costume guys for *Planet of the Apes* were involved. There were people who say that the outfit was still around and that at one point you can see a tag.

The other major video is the Redwoods tape. A film crew went out to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park to do some filming. They end up seeing what they think is a bear, but turns out to be a Sasquatch. This one is even more debated, as there's a thing that sticks out that might be a penis and which others claim is some sort of strap. It's a good video in that it's of OK quality, but not clear enough to provide any real evidence. It's a good film though



Sasquatch!!!

and the people react exactly like I would.

There are other videos, some known to be fakes, some that are still debated, and there are photos, including many that are just too fake to even consider.

The other thing I love about Sasquatch is the Culture. Over the years, Bigfoot has seeped in to our thoughts, becoming bigger and bigger. The first times I can think of that Bigfoot was really huge was the 6 Million Dollar Man. Andre the Giant, then probably the number one wrestler in the World on the basis of drawing money, played the Bigfoot in question. For years, this was Andre's highest profile appearance outside of wrestling, until he was in the Princess Bride. That episode came out around the same time as the In Search Of about Bigfoot.

More recently, there's been a Bigfoot Monster Truck, which was THE monster truck of the 1980s. Bigfoot is one of the better-known graffiti artists in the US (actually, he's better known in Japan than he is out here, but that's a fact about a lot of graffiti artists).



Probably my favourite Sasquatch in the world is that of the Tenacious D episode entitled Death of a Dream. The guys go to Capt. Ed's Records and The Cap'n tells them that the 'whole rock star mythos is a lie. It's like when you believe in the Easter Bunny or the Sasquatch.'

They're convinced to give up rockin' and they go to burn their guitars, but while they're doing it, they come face to face with the Sasquatch. This convinces them to sing a song about Sas and have him play drums for the band.

The song is great

"there were some scientists/trying to figure out the sasquatch riddle/until they found he was the missing link/ In Search of Sasquatch/ that was a kick-ass in search of/ with Leonard Nimoy kicking out the jams"

That is as fitting a tribute as Sasquatch will ever get.

So, I am a believer, and I understand that puts me in a minority, but hey, I'm half-Mexican, so I'm used to it by this point. Long Life Bigfoot! All Hail Sassafrassquatch!

 **Letter Graded Mail** 
 **Sent to Garcia@computerhistory.org** 
 **By my gentle Readers** 

I'm Glad to be able to present my Man:
Lloyd Penney!

Dear Chris:

BOO! Hah! Did I scare you? Count Lloyd here... Blah, blah! In a bad Transylvania accent, too! If I recall, you're about to embark on your November novel project, and you said in one of your zines (DT49!) that it would give me and other lochacks a chance to catch up with your zine output. What a good idea! Here's a loc on issues 48, 49 and 50 of The Drink Tank.

48...Further generations didn't give much weight to Don McLean's song...when Madonna re-issued the song, it was missing some vital lyrics. I think I said in a previous loc about a fannish version... <http://www.boston-baden.com/smofs/88lines.44fans>. Check it out. It has been revised...at one point, I appeared in it twice.

Ha! Wonderful. I see a bunch of my favourite people get represented. It makes me want to be a SMOF just too...what the hell am I saying!

It's been a long time since I heard this song; I don't have the album. There's some raw personality left exposed here by the contributors, and I know them now a little more than I expected. M. Lloyd, I wish we could sit down and get into each other's heads. My most memorable evenings with female friends are when we sit down, talk, get into each other's heads, and know each other like brother and sister. I dated a big girl before meeting Yvonne...she was six inches taller than me, but I didn't care. Even with the hormones raging, you learn to look beyond the boobs and the promise of sex, and learn to look inside to the hidden

person, and perhaps beyond that if you are fortunate.

The one thing this group of my friends have in common is our emotional honesty. We're all a bunch of people who really see the mistakes we make and fess up to them. M will tell you all her dark secrets, as will SaBean and Jay. I'm actually one of the more reserved of us. M's one of those tall girls who loves the fact that she's taller than her guy. I hope she'll either make it to TorFlu or to WorldCon.

Went past the Gardens the other day...it's being redeveloped, into either a supermarket or a Home Depot, can't remember. The old Forum in Montreal was redeveloped into some kind of shopping mall. Come see it during Corflu Toronto! (Colin doesn't like TorFlu. Says it sounds like a disease.)

I've gotta call it TorFlu. I understand that y'all up there are kinda touchy about reminding people about SARS. I have to remember my gas mask for my trip!

49...Vote for Chris! A Hobbit for City Hall! Did you just have a birthday? 31? Just a kid! Me, I'm an oldphart at 46, and I'm waiting for Glicksohn to chime in to call me a kid, seeing he's almost 60.

I shall rule the Shire! My Pop and Moms are both 50 this year. That fact has freaked out more than one fan friend of mine.

I wasn't sure if I told you, probably forgot, but there was a zombie event in Toronto a short time ago. Got the usual press, look at the geekshow, etc., etc.

I heard about that. I'm working on an article on Zombie Culture that will probably show up somewhere in teh next year or so.

I saw two episodes of Harvey Birdman on Teletoon a couple of weeks ago, back to back during a sleepless morning. The animation traditionally sucked, the characters were rejects from cancelled cartoon shows, and the writing must have been inspired by too much booze and white powder. The result is surreal; at least, it sure was at 1:30am. I'd rather have him on the US Supreme Court than some of these winners Bush keeps picking.

I like Judge Roberts, but the Alito guy is a loss. I want a Mexican on the court dammit. As a huge fan of both Ska and Birdman, I found this image to be perfect. Surreal is probably the best word for it.



Fandom, at one time, was comprised of young men with lofty ideals and political desires. For them, it was a way of life, and being political animals made them a little hotheaded,

and ready to debate and feud. Today, we have the concerns of family, children, bills, and going to Worldcon. Long gone are the days where we could just pick up, leave with a car full of friends and drive across the country in a rickety car. If there will be a reunification of the fandoms, it will come about as hotels become too expensive to hold small conventions in, and after the Balkanization of fandom into smaller groups in the 80s and 90s, they will return to rejoin themselves to save money, and hold conventions for more than one interest. Fandom has been changing since it started. The first fans in the 30s and 40s were not only expected to have read all extant SF

(possible at that time), but also have a zine on the go, and have a chemistry lab in the basement. The definition of a fan has always changed over time, and will continue to do so. I just want to communicate through fanzines...that may change, and most of fandom will start up a LiveJournal, but many Ljers fail to remember that not only do you need writers, but you also need readers. If you're tough to find, or writing under a pseudonym, you will be tough to find. I know of some who are already giving up on their LJ because no one's reading their writing. Maybe an LJ anthology of good writing is what's needed. Put it on eFanzines.com, and let lots more people see it.

Well, I'm tough to find (johnnyeponymous on LJ, but I only do fanzine reviews...mostly) and That anthology idea is a good one. I might have to get on it.

Jay, M and SaBean all have stories, hm? Well, there's a Drink Tank anthology right there. If they're willing to spill their guts, they've got readers, I'm sure of it.

I'm thinking about doing an anonymous issue where all the contributions will be anonymous. SaBean, M and Jay would all have great things for that one, especially if there's no fear of reprisal. SaBean has been working on her story that rivals anything M has written (and if you think I'm a writing workhorse, M puts out somewhere North of 20k words a day) when it comes to honesty with one's own failures. I've seen the first part, about three pages and she opens with the saddest thing I've ever read: I tried to kill myself once, slowly, through the accumulation of dirty spirits in my blood. I called that attempt the early 1990s. She's promised me the right to put it out there, but I don't think it'll end up here, more than likely I'll put out a special issue of Stacked Decks.

50...Hey, you're welcome! I like Peter

Sullivan's idea of the elvish lending library, left behind when Elrond and company boarded their ship. I wonder which of the races of Middle-Earth were the writers, historians and bookbinders?

Well, Gollum would make a good Special Collections Librarian, I can say that much.

My Perfect Place was Victoria, British Columbia. I left behind a small town that judged people on who their fathers were, but Victoria was a fresh start. New friends, fresh starts, a job, my first girlfriend, and an introduction to fandom. Victoria represented everything I needed, and then received. If I had to choose a mythical place, then I would choose Middle-Earth, and a little place of my own in The Shire. It's quiet and cozy, and perhaps a little insulated from the harsh world around it.

The more I think about it, the LA Story LA is probably my new fave. It's been years since I've been to BC. I really should by to make it up there sometime.

Yvonne and I share our good times and bad, we help each other aim for their dreams (Yvonne's is to get her pilot's licence), we console each other in the bad times, and party in the good. We travel together, flirt outrageously with others, and always return home together. We make each other laugh, and we still act like we're dating. Maybe you should start calling us Morticia and Gomez! We do have that kind of relationship and more. We're very lucky.

You're a lucky man, Lloyd. Too many people have been drawn into heartbreak, and too many men have caused the same.

Mention of the Zagreb Worldcon bid...yes, it did happen. Bid chairman was Krsto Mazuranic, who lived in a suburb of Zagreb. We met Krsto, and he was looking for some North American presence for his bid, so we joined up with him. We were the Canadian agents for the Zagreb in 1993 bid.

I'm still saying there needs to be a Finnish Bid before the Moscow in 2018 bid. I want an excuse to go to Finland (which will probably end up costing me 6 months pay!)

Well, I am caught up DT-wise...I still have the newest issue of Claims Department still to read. But now, I am up to date with DT and SF/SF. Have fun the campaign and the novel, and I hope the next issue is soon. You say you'll do a November issue anyway...go for it, and you'll get a letter for that as well. See you then.

And here's that November issue!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Thanks, Gomez!

And now, Mr. Pete Sullivan!

Interesting to see you mention Adobe inDesign - I've never heard of this before. I was fairly sure that you were using an "official" Adobe product of some sort, as your hyperlinks work "properly." These days, the Adobe Acrobat reader is capable of turning things that "look like" web addresses into hyperlinks anyway. So even cheapskates like me who use the freebie PDF Creator can get clickable links of a sort. But Adobe inDesign appears to actually properly embed the hyperlink in the document - you can tell, because the cursor changes to a "W" with a big hand when you hover over it. This means that you can split hyperlink text over more than one line, or even have link text that's not the actual address, like `this`.

I've never noticed that . Work gave me an entire Adobe suite, minus inDesign, which I bought on eBay. It's great and as I've been going through my past issues (I've been writing an index to my 2005 writings), it's obviously changed my work for the better, and it's much easier now.

Ruth mentions the Steve Jackson game, ZOMBIES. One of the few postal games fanzeens that I still get had a piece about

that game a few issues back. The general consensus was that the theme was great, but that the play mechanics needed some work. Because the players get to move the zombies, they tend to get moved aimlessly backwards and forwards. I wrote in to point out that, in terms of the *theme* of the game, this was perfectly legitimate, no matter how frustrating it was in terms of gameplay.

I can see that from a game design standpoint. I once got a chance to chat with Mr. Game himself, James Earnest, and we talked about movement concepts and he said that there are some games where the idea of the game is far better than the play, but the reverse is very seldom true. I personally like the game play. You know, I've also designed a few games myself (all in the vein of Cheapass Games) that I really should try to get other folks to play so I can see how they work.

Of course, you've got me spotting zombie references everywhere now. Even the shirt sponsors for the Welsh Rugby Union team (see <https://wru.officialshop.net/product.php?productid=2&cat=48&bestseller> or picture 2 at

http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/rugby/union/photo_galleries/4410480.stm).

I mean, I can understand that the team management want to give the players that little extra incentive to play well. But pre-labelling them for zombie consumption if they lose seems a little extreme. And I'm not sure zombies can read anyway.

Zombies can read, I mean, why else would they be looking for brains?

I am assuming that your comment "I'm at least as good as a donkey!"

should have been "I'm at least as good as a monkey!" Actually, if the original *is* what you meant, please don't feel the need to explain...

No, I'm as good as a Monkey, because Donkeys are both useful and tasty, something that I'm not sure I can say about myself...

Me For Mayor Update!

Nothing too big to report. I shot a film this weekend, so that got most of my attention. I did have a chat with a friend of mine who gave me a great slogan: Screw The Right Choice, for once, make a choice you KNOW is wrong. I liked that one.

My next big thing is going to be my TV commercial. It'll be tongue in cheek and weird and it'll get shown on my friend Lon's TV show. Trust me, fandom will like it far more than anyone else will.

I'm also working on a 'Fun'-d raiser. Basically, I wanna get a couple of my friends' bands to play and give the money to some cool pair of charities, like Jews for Jesus and The Jewish Anti-Defamation League. I dunno, I gotta think about it.



The Drink Tank is written by Christopher J. Garcia and Jay Crasdan with layout help from M Lloyd, LoC's from Canada and the UK and a lot of friends around DeviantArt.com. Buy Aparitif for Destruction. I'll write more about it next issue.

The anthology, The Year of the HyperActive Typing Fingers, will be out at LosCon, and will be available a few other places too. The INdex will be out on January 2nd, 2006.