

In A Prior Lifetime #20



Ge 02

The final issue

February, 2007

Welcome to the final issue of *In a Prior Lifetime, the #20*

February, 2007

This is not a good-bye, merely a planned fanzine metamorphosis timed to coincide with **Corflu #24**, held over the weekend of February 9-11, 2007, in Austin, Texas.

An e-zine from John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845

contact information

e-mail: j_purcell54@yahoo.com

homepage: www.geocities.com/j_purcell54/PriorLifetime.html

contents copyright © 2007 by John A. Purcell

All rights revert to original authors and artists upon publication unless otherwise noted.

This fanzine is available for free downloading by request, or by visiting www.efanzines.com where it reposes with a host of other wonderful fanzines. A special and heart-felt thank you goes to Bill Burns for providing this service.

Contents:

bemused natterings - 3; things to come - 4; earl kemp gets strange e-mails - 6;
figby, by bill fischer - 8; fanzines received and reviewed - 9; from the hinterlands - 11;
some closing thoughts - 20.

Art credits:

Christopher Gerber © 2002 - cover; image googled "jetpacks" - 3;

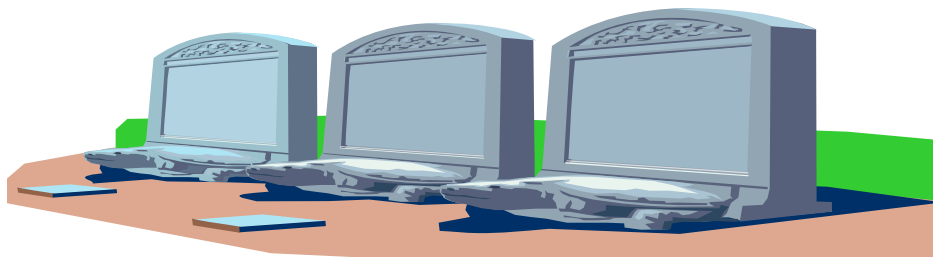
blog.modernmechanix.com/mags/ModernMechanix/5-1936/wells/wells_0.jpg - 4

www.efanzines.com/Corflu21/photos/EL1467.jpg - 6; Bill Rotsler - 10;

www.mimir.net/outlands/womanspire.jpg - 11; www.cartoonstock.com - 13;

image googled "log cabins" - 14; Mark Burginger - 15; clip art - 2, 14, 16, 17;

image googled "Gamera" - 18.



Bemused Natterings

I have had a lot of fun pubbing this fanzine for the past year or so as a monthly. It has been interesting, a bit of a bother – but not much – at times, and more than anything, I proved to myself that I could easily do a monthly zine given the desire and technology. There is no doubt in my mind that if on-line pubbing did not exist, I would never have attempted this since I usually have so many other things to do (family, career, and studies take a lot of time!).



And that is why the words “the final issue” appear in the bottom-left corner on the cover. Let me allay your fears, my gentle readers, for I have no intention of ceasing publishing fanzines completely. No way. It is just that my doctoral studies have gotten to the point of taking precedence (damn reality!), and I need to concentrate on that.

This Spring Semester of 2007, I am taking the last two classes on my degree plan: EPSY 641 (Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences) and EDCI 690 (Research Methods). The first one is going to be a bear, but my next door neighbor, Wes, is working on his PhD in civil engineering, and we made a deal: he'll help me with the stats class and I'll proof-read his dissertation. Wes just successfully defended his proposal on January 24th, so now he's hip-deep slogging through the dissertation mire. My other class is designed to give the 8-enrolled doctoral students a head start on writing their dissertations/proposals; by the end of the semester, we will all have the first three chapters basically done. Since I wrote a research paper last semester on my research field – aliteracy – which was mostly a review of the literature regarding this field of inquiry, I already have a running head-start on chapter two.

But even so, there is a lot of work to do. Therefore, as much as it pains me to do so, I need to slow down my fan publishing schedule in order to create the time I need to finish these classes, do my research, and finish the dissertation process. It looks like I'll be doing my preliminary exams in June – maybe September, if my chair will let me – and try to finish the doctoral process by December of 2008. We shall see.

In the meantime, no matter what may happen to me during this extended process, I am not dropping my fanac. Hardly. You can't get rid of me that easily this time. I plan on using fanac to help maintain my sanity.

A nicer segue than that into the next article could not possibly exist...

things to come



For those of you receiving this fanzine directly into your hot little hands at Corflu Quire, by now you may have heard my fan-publishing plans at present. For those of you reading this the following week on www.efanzines.com, allow me to elaborate.

As I am folding up shop on *In a Prior Lifetime* and ...and furthermore, I will be continuing on with my SNAPS membership; if anybody would like to receive my SNAPS-zine, *Nukking Futz*, let me know, and I will happily oblige. However, I have plans in the works for a new fanzine. A bi-monthly. Such a schedule – one zine every two months – should help free up a bunch of time otherwise spent on producing two e-zines, which tend to be 3 zines a month with lengths ranging from 6 to 24 pages apiece. No, a bi-monthly of approximately 25

pages or so sounds good to me right now.

It has a title. *Askance*. Why this? you ask. My reasoning, says I, is that most fans take a slightly sideways view of life, not really trusting things as they are, and can be a touch on the scornful side of things. In fact, some of the best fan-writing has such a bent, and a person who looks at life this way can be quite funny. I think this is what I love the most about the past writings of Terry Carr, Bob Shaw, Walt Willis, David Langford, Dave Locke, Bob Tucker, Lee Hoffman, and others. Some contemporaries of ours are like-wise fine practitioners of this viewpoint: Claire Brialey, Ted White, Andy Hooper, and Richard Lupoff all spring to mind. Good writers, good material.

But back to *Askance*. The cover of the first issue is by Brad W. Foster, who is the only human being on the planet who has known of my plans. (Take note: he can keep a secret very well.) I haven't seen the cover yet, but my confidence in Brad's ability is unshaken. It should be wonderful. (ed note: I have it now [12 Feb], and it's wonderful!)

The fanzine review column will be written by Lloyd Penney. Personally, I can't think of a better person qualified for this task, and I am excited for it to begin. And a recent addition to *IaPL*, the cartoon series "Figby", will continue.

Letters of comment about ...*and furthermore* #26 and *In a Prior Lifetime* #20 will run in the first issue. After that, the lettercolumn - which will retain the heading "From the Hinterlands" - should be fine on its own.

Other plans for *Askance*: I will be asking for artwork and articles; with a decent lead-time, I can have specific articles illustrated. Feel free to submit interviews, book and movie reviews, articles of general fannish interest, humorous stories, convention reports, and so on. My goal is to make this a genzine with the feel of a personalzine. This appears to be the direction that *In a Prior Lifetime* has been heading, so I might as well follow that fork in the fan-pubbing road.

Oh! By the way, the first issue is coming out in March, 2007, and will feature my Corflu Quire report.

I am sure that those of you who knew me in my prior fannish lifetime are saying something right now along the lines of, "Yup. Here he goes again. Another grand plan from Purcell."

Well, given my past track record, I can understand that sentiment. However, the big difference this time is that I have learned my lesson: no sweeping statements, no long harangues, no desire to drop out of fanac. My reasons are really quite simple: I just want to produce one zine, not two, and slow down the frequency. That's all there is to it. I have accomplished what I wanted to accomplish with *In a Prior Lifetime* - do a monthly e-zine, write certain articles, and so on - and the addendum zine ...*and furthermore* was just an experiment for the hell of it. The truth is, I have had a lot of fun, and still am.

Now the question is, "what's going to happen after I finish my dissertation?" My answer to that question is also simple:

I refuse to worry about that at this moment. My plan is to just enjoy what I have got going right now, and that's that all there is to it.

In other words,

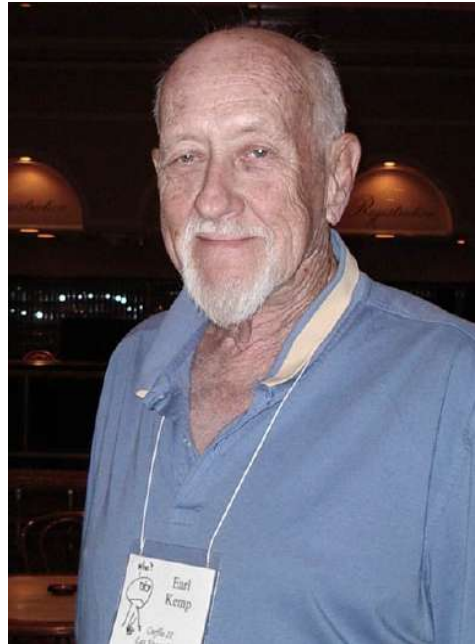
НИЧЕВО НЕ ЗНАЮ!

Earl Kemp gets strange e-mails

even from alternate me's!

At first I thought it was a loc. "Whow!" I whooped with joy. "Earl Kemp sent me a loc!"

False alarm. It turned out to be a forwarded funny that he forwarded on to me because of who apparently wrote/sent the original e-mail. That's all I'm going to say about the following so that all of you, my faithful readers, can judge for yourselves. Here's what Earl Kemp e-mailed me a couple weeks ago:



From: Earl Kemp <earlkemp@citlink.net>
To: John Purcell <j_purcell54@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Fwd: Fwd: MARKETING]

John, it's amazing how your popularity has grown. I just received this from a personal friend and old time sleazebook writer.

Earl

Note: forwarded message attached. Subject: Fwd: MARKETING

Date: Fri, 12 Jan 2007 12:25:22 -0500

From: <deleted address>

To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Subject: Fwd: MARKETING

The buzz word in today's business world is MARKETING. However, people often ask for a simple explanation of "Marketing."

Well, here it is:

1. You're a woman and you see a handsome guy at a party. You go up to him and say, "I'm fantastic in bed."

That's Direct Marketing.

2. You're at a party with a bunch of friends and see a handsome guy. One of your friends goes up to him and, pointing at you, says, "She's fantastic in bed."

That's Advertising.

3. You see a handsome guy at a party. You go up to him and get his telephone number. The next day you call and say, "Hi, I'm fantastic in bed."

That's Telemarketing.

4. You see a guy at a party; you straighten your dress. You walk up to him and pour him a drink. You say, "May I?" and reach up to straighten his tie, brushing your breast lightly against his arm, and then say, "By the way, I'm fantastic in bed."

That's Public Relations.

5. You're at a party and see a handsome guy. He walks up to you and says, "I hear you're fantastic in bed."

That's Brand Recognition.

6. You're at a party and see a handsome guy. He fancies you, but you talk him into going home with your friend.

That's a Sales Rep.

7. Your friend can't satisfy him so he calls you.

That's Tech Support.

8. You're on your way to a party when you realize that there could be handsome men in all these houses you're passing; so you climb onto the roof of one situated towards the center and shout at the top of your lungs, "I'm fantastic in bed!"

That's Junk Mail.

9. You are at a party; this well-built man walks up to you and grabs your ass.

That's the former Governor of Arkansas.

10. You like it, but twenty years later your attorney decides you were offended.

That's America.

john purcell

navybluekangaroo@yahoo.com

Honest, folks; that ain't me! But I did enjoy this and had to share it with y'all. Consider this a mass-forwarded e-mail.

Since I am always receptive to funny things, if any of you have read or written anything fannishly funny and would like to share it with others, please feel free to send it to me. My snail mail address and e-mail address are on page 2.

regional convention calendar

ConDFW 2007: Feb. 23-25, 2007 = Richardson, TX

Guests: Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, Harry Turtledove. / Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton.

ChimaeraCon 2007: March 9-11, 2007 = San Antonio, TX

The Annual South Texas Gaming & More Fest

RevelCon 18: March 16-18, 2007= Houston, TX

media fanzine convention; no announced GoH's at the present time

Aggiecon 38: March 22-25, 2007 = College Station, TX

Writer GoH: Gene Wolfe / Comic Artist GoH: James O'Barr

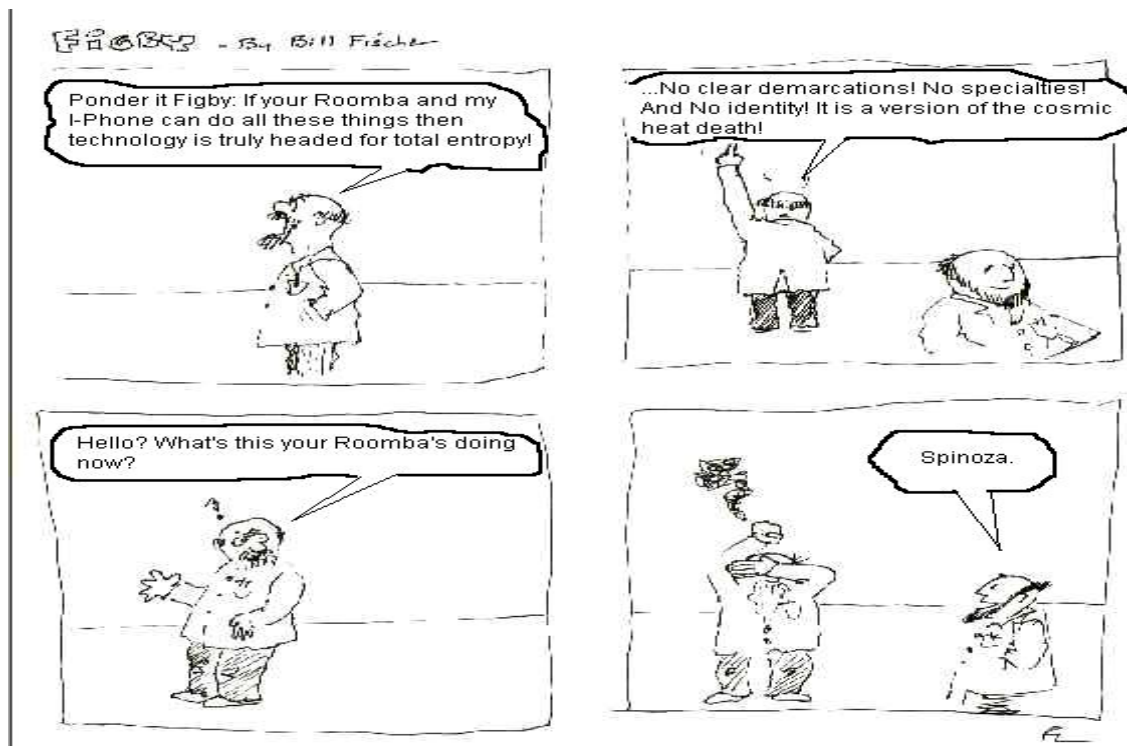
Artist GOH: Ruth Thompson / Major Guest: Jana Oliver

ApolloCon 2007: June 22-24, 2007 = Houston, TX

GoH: C. S. Friedman / Editor GoH: David Hartwell / Fan GoH: A.T. Campbell III

There are also quite a few Animé cons on the agenda this year: Anime Matsuri (Houston, 4/27-29); A-Kon 18 (Dallas, June 1-3); San Japan (San Antonio, 7/13-15); AtsuiCon (Houston, 8/3-5); Realms Con (Corpus Christi, Sept).

Other area cons of note: Conestoga 11 (Tulsa, OK, 7/20-22); ArmadilloCon 29 (Austin, TX, 8/10-12); Bubonicon 39 (Albuquerque, NM, 8/24-26); ProtoCon 9 (College Station, TX, Sept – gaming con); FenCon IV (Dallas, TX, 9/21-23)



fanzines received and reviewed

I really haven't received many fanzines in the mail recently or seen them posted on-line since last issue, but there has been a trickle. My suspicion is that the floodgates will be thrown wide open at Corflu 24 and I will be coming home with my book bag full of zines. I have no problem with that prospect. In fact, I look forward to it.

So my intention this time is to merely list out the zine, contact information, and where it can be found by you, the eager reader. Also included is a format note, such as PDF, HTML, or DT (Dead Tree, a.k.a., paper). A brief comment shall follow this info to hopefully pique your interest. Remember, most fanzines, including the online ones, are usually available for the Usual: in trade, letter or e-mail of comment, contributions (written and drawn), and **gasp** money. Fans are really not into pubbing for the money, so none of these people expect to see greenbacks in return for their efforts. I mean, come on...

As a quick side-note, note the issue numbers on all of these zines. What do they have in common? I will give you three guesses, and the first two don't count.

Ansible #234-235 - David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU / <http://news.ansible.co.uk> / WEBZINE / HTML / probably PDF and DT, too

The monthly British newszine, Dave has been running this sucker forever, and has maintained a quality unsurpassed in accuracy, style, and humor, keeping up with the doings from the eastern side of the Atlantic, also items of general interest to sf fans around the world. I love Dave's zingers; each issue always has a nice assortment of these. I just wish he'd do more actual fan-writing, but Dave keeps a busy schedule.

Drink Tank #113-116 - Chris Garcia / garcia@computerhistory.org / hosted at www.efanzines.com / PDF

Always a lively fanzine displaying its editor's eclectic tastes and boundless energy. Mega-frequent, too; issues appear whenever, sometimes in rapid spurts, but the average time between issues last year was 8 days. Essentially, Chris dares his readers to keep up with him. It may seem overwhelming, but *DT*'s a lot of fun.

The Knarley Knews #120 – Henry Welch, 1525 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017 / welch@msoe.edu OR <http://people.msoe.edu/~welch/tkk.html> / also posted to www.efanzines.com / DT, PDF, or HTML

The 20th Anniversary Issue, with the theme of “Why We Do Fanzines” covered by Henry himself and Sydrous, Jan Stinson, John Hertz, and that conglomerate fan, Various Readers. A very enjoyable read, highlighted also by a re-print column by Terry Jeeves and a wonderful lettercolumn. I recommend this zine.

MT Void #1424-1426 - Mark and Evelyn Leeper, mleeper@optonline.net or eleeper@optonline.net; also hosted at www.fanac.org / E-MAIL SUB, preferred mode of conveyance.

Appearing bi-weekly, the best way to get this personal newsletter is via e-mail subscription. This is one of those handful of zines hiding out on the fanac.org website, and it usually covers current movies and books, plus other bits of information that Mark and Evelyn want to share. I like its chatty, informal style.

Vanamonde # 663-667 – John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., # 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057 / DT

John’s Apa-L zine. Usually a two-pager, and tends to be mostly mailing comments; however, John also includes some interesting little natter and tidbits of information, like birthdates of composers and weird holidays. Send this guy to Japan!

Vegas Fandom Weekly #91-92 - Arnie Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145 / crossfire4@cox.net / hosted at www.efanzines.com / PDF

One of the most fannish zines available on the web today, not exactly weekly anymore, but always filled with news, reports, and photos of Vegas Fandom doings, plus a strong fan-historical bent. *VFW* also features probably the best lettercolumn of all the fanzines that I read on a regular basis; “Chatback” is the heart of the zine.

Trap Door #24 (January, 2007). Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, CA 94611-1948. locs2trapdoor@yahoo.com /DT /eventually PDF at efanzines.com

Bob Lichtman’s long-running fanzine is back after a two-year hiatus with wonderful articles by people not often seen in current zines: Grant Canfield, Carol Carr, Gregg Calkins, and Bruce Townley. It is a wonderful zine, full of terrific writing and illustrations, and worth reading. I hope Bob can get this back on a sort-of regular schedule.



From the Hinterlands



Well, for last time in these pages, here is the lettercolumn. Remember everybody, locs sent in response to this issue will appear in the first issue of Askance, starting in March.

So to start things off, here's a long-time fan who has thoughts about why we enjoy reading old-time science fiction or books we read as kids.

Date: Sun, 14 Jan 2007 19:04:53-0500

From: Robert Sabella <bsabella@optonline.net>

Subject: In a Prior Lifetime

To: John Purcell <j_purcell54@yahoo.com>

I enjoyed *In a Prior Lifetime* #19. In the past year I too have been reading more sf of the type I read in my youth (mostly stuff written in the 1960s) than anytime in the past thirty years. I don't know if this is because it "reminds me of my youth", but it has definitely been giving me the same rush of excitement that I got from sf in my youth. Your talk of "attempting to relive my past" might indeed be true, but like you I don't think I would do it if the stories were not so darned good. And considering how many men in our peer group are buying motorcycles, having affairs, or generally miserable, I'll choose the lure of good ol' fashioned sf anytime.

Keep up Bill Fischer's "Figby" cartoons. As you can guess, I enjoy humor in fanzines.

Good luck on writing fiction. That is the one thing I wish I could find more time in my schedule to do, but I have not found anything I am willing to cut back yet. In fact, during the recent holiday I agreed to work on another book project with a photographer friend of mine, so my future has gotten just a tiny bit busier. *{My doctoral dissertation on aliteracy and reading motivation studies is my big book project staring me in the face. Good luck with yours!}*

The current fanzine field is as rich as it has been since I revived *VoP* exactly 20 years ago (which is when I basically gave up on trying to sell fiction professionally and decided to

put the bulk of my free time into fanwriting instead), which is probably due to the convenience of publishing fanzines online (aided a lot by the existence of efanzone.com). There are more sources available for discussing sf now than at any time I can recall, including several sfal blogs as well. All those fans who decry online publishing in favor of hard copying are missing a lot of good reading. *{I agree; there is so much good material floating around in the ether that it's hard to find it all. But I like both online and paper zines; both have their merits and very enjoyable. It all depends on how traditional the editor sees himself/herself.}*

The list of potential Best Fanzine choices is a strong one, indicative of what I said above. Those are the zines whose quality are an inspiration for poor VoP. If I keep trying, hopefully someday it'll be good enough to get at least a few votes for a FAAn award. I would be thrilled if VoP made the bottom of the list of also-rans. *{I am sure Visions of Paradise will receive some votes. The main thing is, you're enjoying what you're doing, and that is all that really matters. Plus, I love the joke pages. Keep 'em coming!}*

Are you soliciting open contributions for *In a Prior Lifetime*? If so, I will try to think of a topic to write, but if it is invitation only, that's fine, too.

Take care, and enjoy Corflu.

Bob

{Oh, yes, I am quite receptive to open contributions. Feel free to send any book/movie/television reviews related to science fiction and fantasy my way; interviews are wonderful, too, as are articles of general fannish interest. Thank you for asking.}

As the baseball off-season trades taper off and the free agency market dwindles, here's a loc from one of my favorite correspondents that talks about reading and writing, mainly because he's one of those Feelthy Pros himself! But we love him anyway.

Date: Sun, 14 Jan 2007 22:34:40 -0500

From: Eric Mayer <maywrite2@epix.net>

To: John Purcell <j_purcell54@yahoo.com>

Subject: In A Prior Lifetime 19

I mentioned on my blog some time ago rereading *The Stars My Destination* which I found every bit as enthralling as when I'd first read it. Science fiction lost me when too many of its writers got sunk in literary pretension, or, perhaps more precisely, what they seemed to think might be characterized as Literature. Of course, that's my perspective. Mind you, *The Stars My Destination* is far from being pedestrian writing. I've dipped into the

modern sf available on the web but almost invariably it just doesn't feel right to me. Something about the style maybe. I'm not sure.

More likely than not, it's me. I've read a lot more and experienced a lot more, so the new sf I encounter is being viewed in a different context. Any particular thing can only be new to us once. Whether it is a particular book, or a particular style of book, Whether it's hearing "You Really Got Me" for the first time, or a Kinks' song, or a rock n' roll song. We become harder to please when the novelty and surprise and delight at being surprised are no longer there. *{SF&F have grown and matured as literary fields, which means sometimes the fiction works and sometimes it falls flat on its collective arse. When it's a good story – solid ideas, original viewpoints, believable characterizations, and interesting plots – that makes me happy as a reader. I don't I'm harder to please as a reader now that I'm older and I teach college English (rhetoric, composition, and literature), but I do know that I'm much more selective about what I read because I have a much better idea of what interests me. I am not as omnivorous as a reader as I used to be. Then again, I have been reading stuff that would bore the average reader to tears. Oh, well.}*

I enjoyed "Figby." Good stuff. It reminded me not of fanzine cartoons but more of small press mini-comics work.

Thanks for the mentions in your thoughts on the state of Fandom. I'm basically a trick being played on you, Chris Garcia and David Burton. You guys think I'm active but mostly I just read and respond to your zines (or some of your zines) This is my ensmalled Fandom. *{Ahah! A ghod in a microcosm. Say, wasn't that a Sturgeon story: "Microcosmic God"? }*

If I were really active today I would want to publish a perszine, which is pretty much what I did with *Groggy*. I simply wouldn't have the desire to do the hecto/ditto art, though. I'm way out of practice with my drawing and I don't have time. So my perszine would be just writing. Which is not unusual. Mostly the kind of short bits I most enjoyed doing for *Groggy*. I'd hope to get a few comments back.

But wait. I do just such a perszine. My blog on JournalScape. I even get a fair number of comments. But rarely from fans. David Burton does mine it for my column in Pixel (in addition to some original material I do for that) and knowing that he looks it over for the column does influence quite a few of the entries. However, it doesn't seem like a fanzine, I guess. For awhile I tried mirroring it at LiveJournal where, I know some fans hang out, but it struck me that LJ is much more about community and back and forth discussion



and in print at least I tend to be one of those people who soliloquizes rather than carrying on a conversation. So I felt like it didn't fit and ditched it.



My stuff isn't really faanish, I guess, but fans are broadminded enough to accept it as faanish if it's presented in a faanish context or pushed at them through faanish distribution channels! But no one's going to seek it out as part of their fanreading.

Hmmm...have I commented at all on the issue or am I just rambling about myself? I'm thinking somewhat of your

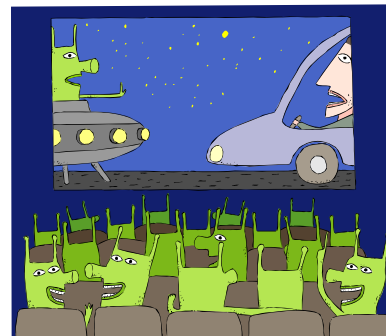
mention of the different ways we can produce zines today. And I wonder about attracting new fans. A lot of the things fanzines did are done by, and maybe done better by, blogs.

One thing I'm pretty sure about is that the way you attract new folks to any endeavor is *not* by preaching at them or explaining to them how it is done but rather by inspiring them to do it because, as you say, it looks like fun. Having the opportunity to be classified as a promising neofan with the right to sit at the feet of one's elders and learn is not something most people are going to view as fun. I suspect, as a teacher you already know that, but some fans don't seem to.

Eric

{Now that you mention it, I think that if you converted your blogs into Word or PDF versions complete with illustrations snagged from the Internet, you might find that you enjoy the creation aspect again. Fanzine production is no longer is the labor of love that it once was, but that's up to you. I remember your ditto and hecto Groggy well. In a sense, what you are doing on your web log is a logical extension of your old fanzine. This is not saying one is better than the other. Blogging may indeed be a lot easier and less time-consuming, but it still all boils down to whatever the individual desires. () Presented right, spending the time to illustrate and work with "a promising neofan" could be a lot of fun. As a teacher, I do enjoy imparting my Wisdom to students, but the students need to be receptive to what they are learning. Gaining knowledge is such a two-way street; I love the give and take of the college classroom.}*

But I'm rambling here, mainly to get to the bottom of this page. So now that it appears that this editorial tactic has worked successfully, it is time to move onto the next loc, from a cinephile who just happens to be my QuireFlu roomie – man, it's gonna be a loong weekend...:



Date: Mon, 15 Jan 2007 09:36:17 -0800

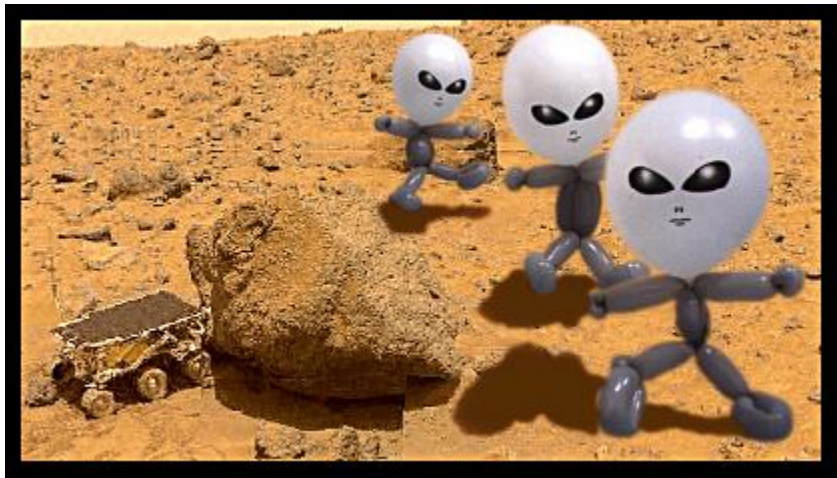
From: "Chris Garcia" <garcia@computerhistory.org>

To: <j_purcell54@yahoo.com>

"Oh, Johnny-Boy, your zines, your zines are calling, on eFanzines, the home of FanEd's pride..." I'll stop there before I commit full-fledged filk. *{Oh, brother... Actually, Chris, this isn't bad at all! Finish the filk and I'll pub it.}*

Those are great recommendations for zine to read. All three of them ended up on my Hugo ballot. The return of *Who Killed Science Fiction?* is a hugely important return to the SF Fannish conciousness.

You turn to Classic SF to remind you of your youth. I turn to old fanzines to do the exact same thing. I found myself tearing up reading an issue of *Granfalloon* that had been one of the issues that I learned to read with. It was kinda weird. *{Oh,*



how it would be so wonderful if Linda Bushyager revived Granfalloon. Wouldn't that be the cat's pajamas?}

I read a bunch of classic-type stuff for a couple of years, and I'm still trying to finish my second reading of *A Canticle for Leibowitz*. It's a great book, but for some reason, I'm having trouble on the reread.

I love the way the net allows old people to shock the hell out of you. My friend Alisa Libby (whose new book *The Blood Confessions* is really a good YA read) wrote to me after having not spoken in more than a decade. The same thing happened a day later with a girl from Elementary School writing me and seein' what was going on. Right after I did ABC News in the Summer I got a bunch of old folks contacting me. Then again, when you've got a MySpace, Friendster, Tribe, Yahoo and GMail profile, it's pretty easy to find ya. *{Modern technology continues to amaze me. Did you watch that show on Discovery Channel, "2057"? A bit silly and hopelessly optimistic in many spots, but still presented many interesting possibilities that our technology is just around the corner from.}*

I WANT MORE FIGBY!!!! That's a wonderful little cartoon. If you've got any of the older ones layin' around, I'll take 'em off your hands and rerun 'em in *The Drink Tank*. I

love Roomba, by the way. I'm fairly certain that they're going to band together and conquer us at some point.

I'll mention this here: in less than 3 hours, I'll be going to a grown-up's trampoline place and playing trampoline Dodgeball. I'm Very excited.

You goin' to RevelCon? If you are, I'll give you some old Leonard Maltin fanzines to make them all jealous. *{It's a possibility, but not a definite. I'm still thinking about it.}*

I have a strong association with Conestoga. Steve Sprinkles and I won the Best Science Fiction short in their film festival for "The Chick Magnet" and Frank Wu on Best in Fest for *Guidolon*, where I did the lead's voice. Strong connections, even though I've never attended it.

Believe it or not, there's a Bob Bergstrom and a Bob Burnquist. Burnquist is a young dude, while Bergstrom was an old school skater who was a notch below the level of the guys you'd see on the old SkateWorld tv show. My all-time favourite straight to video release is Bones Brigade II: Future Primitive. It's a wonderful view of 1980s skating.

I had a tough time with my FAAn Award ballot. Best Fanzine's always a tough one (*eI*, *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, *Banana Wings*, *Pixel*, *Challenger*, *The Knarley Knews*, etc, etc...) all battled in my head. There were a lot of names I went over for Fan writer and LetterHack. It took me about an hour to make the final decision on both. The Fan Artist has a bunch of folks I'm big fans. Dan Steffan (who I'm hopin' will get a Hugo nod this year), Stu Shiffman, Craig Smith, and so many others. It was a long thought process, but I'm happy with my overall ballot. *{This is a great year for fanzines and the FAAn Awards. No matter what happens, I will be extremely happy with whoever walks off with the awards this year. So many good zines, writers, artists, and new fans. Oh! Here are some worthy folks in this last category:}*

Best New Fan has a lot of BArea folks and John Coxon, Teresa Cochrane and James Taylor. From *SF²* alone, you've got Jean, Espana, David Moyce who does our proofing and calendar, Eva, layout queen, and Howeird (writer/photog). Add *Drink Tank* folks like Jason Schachat and Leigh Ann and you've got a good bunch of folks.



Can't wait for Lloyd's review column. Should be entertaining!

Good ish, as usual.

Onward to Austin!!!

Chris

{Man, and I thought the anticipation I felt for last year's Aggiecon was high. I just hope that my expectations aren't as astronomical as before. () Lloyd's column should be great reading. He is an insightful reader and has been loccking zines for so long that he has an excellent eye – sorry about the puns, Lloyd! I just can't help it sometimes – for what makes a fanzine pop and sing, if not snap and crackle.}*

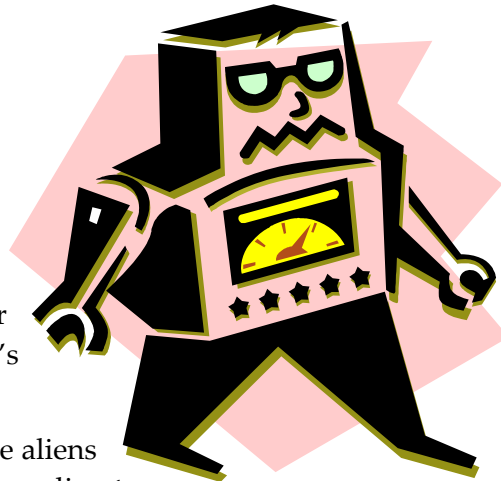
Speaking of the devil, here he is – our man from the frozen north, Lloyd Penney!

From: "Lloyd Penney" <penneys@allstream.net>

To: "John Purcell" <j_purcell54@yahoo.com>

Subject: In A Prior Lifetime 19

Date: Thu, 25 Jan 2007 14:28:19 -0500



Seeing you're planning to have *IAPL* #20 out for Corflu, I thought I'd better get my bit in, so here's a loc on issue 19.

What is it with the *Weekly World News* about space aliens and Bigfoot? Bigfoot is Hillary's running mate, according to an issue I spotted the other day. This publication makes the *National Enquirer* look like the *New York Times* in comparison. *{Which takes a little bit of doing, but not that much.}*

In many ways, SF reminds us of our youth, our desire to look outside our limited lives, and to look for new ideas to give us our goshwow. Our lives aren't as limited as once they were, so perhaps we shy away from SF for a while, but should memories of that goshwow rise to the surface, sure, we're going to return to that reading material that gave us such adventures. Our wives will probably say that we never grew up in the first place, so who are we to disagree with them? I want to be literate, so I'll read what I like.

So many people start cartoon strips, and I find them online. There must be tens of thousands of strips, and I've stumbled across websites that carry so many of them, you'd never read them all. Anime cons are cropping up everywhere...besides the gigantic Anime North convention in Toronto every May, there are also anime conventions east in Oshawa and south in St. Catharine's. I expect a small one will crop up soon in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area within the next couple of years.

If this is going into next issue, Greetings to all at Corflu Quire! I wish I could be there with you all. I am expecting that the 25th Corflu might be a special event...I hope it's a little closer to where I am. *{We shall let you know. Maybe we can coerce someone from the Upper Midwest to host next year's Corflu. I for one certainly wouldn't mind Minneapolis or Chicago hosting the con.}*

One of my additional jobs is a for-hire registration clerk at local trade shows and conferences. There are a lot of American-based associations and groups that will have their national show in Canada, especially in Toronto. It's strange, and in some cases, Canadian members are not invited. Often as a clerk at one of the front desks of the convention, I get asked a lot of questions that only show management can answer, and I also get asked the stupidest questions, like does the subway go to Niagara Falls, is the

top of the CN Tower in a different time zone, do you guys have electricity, etc. I think in order to lighten their luggage, some of these people leave their brains at home. *{What brains?}*

Yes, Worldcon is a monster, but man, I had such a good time at LAcon IV. I wish I could jump in the time machine and do it all again, finances notwithstanding. Good times, good folks...I just wish there wasn't so much geography in the way.

I have some hopes for the FAAn Awards...I know a lot of it comes down to a popularity contest, but still, it is good to get some recognition for your efforts. The competition is tough, but that's what keeping the zine field vital and hopping. Our FAAn Award ballots were paper-mailed to Murray Moore...archaic and silly, perhaps, seeing Murray lives about a five-minute drive away from us, but at least our votes are in. I wonder if there will be a Corflu Online going on at the same time...it would be great fun to jump in electronically, and chat with those lucky enough to actually be there.

Oh, well...no use faunching for something you can't have, so everyone have a good time in Austin next month, and please make sure I've got lots of zines to work on. Take care, John, and have a great time. I'll be looking for lots of trip and con reports.

Lloyd

{By the time you read this on-line, Corflu 24 – a.k.a, Corflu Quire, a.a.k.a, QuireFlu – will be history, and you'll know if parts of it or members of it were online at any time. My Corflu report will obviously be in the first issue of Askance next month.}

When I told Mark Leeper in a loc that I am an unabashed lover of gawd-awful Godzilla films, he sent me the following, cluing me in on a couple other celluloid gems from the Far East.



From: "Mark R. Leeper"

<mleeper@optonline.net>

Subject: Re: loc on MT Void #1424

To: John Purcell <j_purcell54@yahoo.com>

CC: Evelyn Leeper <eleeper@optonline.net>

I am also, though on the first series I am not interested much past the introduction of

Ghidorah. After that they got a little too juvenile. But I enjoyed many of the films in the second and third series. If you like Godzilla films, let me recommend to you the new Gamera films:

Gamera daikaijû kuchu kessen (1995)

Gamera 2: Region shurai (1996)

Gamera 3: Iris kakusei (1999)

Daiei Studios' Gamera films were always a lot tackier than Toho's Godzilla films and the series died. In 1995 they decided to start it again and they are making better Kaiju films than Toho does. The scripts are better and visually they are really very nice. I think they took a hint from the *Dr Who*. They knew the idea of a flying turtle was not playing well and decided to give a reasonable sci-fi-ish explanation to rationalize why there should be such a thing. Toho never had decent scripts after the first film. Daiei has actual characters. No notice I am not saying these are actually good films, but they are not bad. Netflix carries them, by the way. The best Kaiju film ever was *GOJIRA*, but the next three I claim are these three Gamera films.

Mark

{Schlocky movies are a guilty pleasure of mine. Thanks to you, now I can easily track down these tacky flicks to add to my meager Godzilla collection.}

Then I also heard from, in the following order,

Greg Benford – who sent me a loc that started “Liked the new issue.” As I kept reading, it dawned on me that he was writing about somebody *else's* fanzine, namely Chris Garcia's *Drink Tank*. Now, I do understand that Chris and I produce on-line fanzines at a rate that would have driven Harry Warner, Jr. into stage three apoplexies, but has it gotten to the point where it is hard to distinguish us? Bad enough we're rooming together at Corflu Quire, but geez... So I enjoyed the misdirected loc and then forwarded it on to Chris.

Earl Kemp – who forwarded the e-mail that had been forwarded to him (see page 6).

Greg Benford – again, this time to make a brief comment about the stats text I'm using in one of my last two doctoral courses this semester, *Applied Multiple Regression/Correlation Analysis for the Behavioral Sciences*, 3rd edition, by Jacob & Patricia Cohen. I had said: “(does this one come in comic book format?)” Greg responded, “I liked that...” Brevity.

Mike McInerney: who informed me that old issues of *This House* (the 11th and 13th) were up for sale/bids on eBay, at \$3.99 each. How nuts is *that*, folks?

So I made a deal with the seller – a long-ago fan from Richmond, Virginia, Roger Reus – and bought those and three other old zines of mine he had – *Bangweulus* #1 through #3 – for \$20 total, and he paid for the shipping. Life gets more surreal by the day.

Matthew Appleton – who answered a question I had asked about Elizabeth Bear in a loc I had written to his wonderful zine, *Some Fantastic*. Thank you for the clarification, Matthew. Much appreciated.

Dave Langford – who told me the following about John Neilsen-Hall's 'estate' where the British site of World In the Bar Day was held: "Actually his place is the converted coach-house of a small but impressive Stately Home, where the actual estate owners live!" This makes me wonder if "coach-house" is the British equivalent term for "garage."

John Neilsen-Hall – thanking me for the loc, and making funny little comments about same.

John Hertz – who asked me if I liked the new Rotsler Award website, and boy, do I! It's posted on efanazines, but here's the URL: <http://www.scifiinc.org/rotsler/>

some closing comments

Maybe I should add the words "of farewell" to the above phrase, but if I did, then it would not be an accurate assessment of what's transpiring. In a nutshell, all I am doing is pulling a pseudo-David Burton: blending the two e-zines I have been producing at a breakneck pace for the past fourteen months into a new fanzine that will come out on a regular bi-monthly schedule. It sure sounds simple enough when I put it that way.

However, I have to admit that it still makes me feel like an eagle watching his little eaglets take wing as they leave the nest. I am proud of what I have accomplished through *In a Prior Lifetime* and its addendum zine, ...and furthermore. If anything, I have proved that electronic zine publishing is fairly easy, not very time-consuming, and a lot of fun. I have said that before and I'll keep saying it until you stop me: this *has* been a lot of fun, dammit! Why else would I do it?

So with that, here is the last page of *In a Prior Lifetime*. This has been an interesting incarnation of my fannish lifetime, and was sort of like a second childhood. (Or third, maybe a fourth... I lost count.) More than anything, pubbing these two zines has been a healthy reminder of why I enjoy fandom and came back to it after so many years away:

Fandom is a good place to be. The people involved are intelligent, interesting, and funny looking. I enjoy fanzines and all of you nutzoids, and that's all that really matters to me. Let us all meet again in March in the pages of *Askance*.

John Purcell