



In this issue:
* A shameless exhibition of personal exposure * fanzine reviews *
news-like matter * RSN position papers * bad jokes * Girlfriend
Application Form

THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE #12, June 2004, is a personalzine from Garth Spencer, POBox 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC CANADA V6B 5B1, garthspencer@shaw.ca; RSNZ is available for letters of comment, fanzines in trade, contributed art or articles – the usual. This is a non-profit, non-commercial product, but I can set a nominal price of \$3 in Canada (\$2 in the United States).

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Art Credits

Cover Taral Wayne
pp. 7, 8 clip art
p 28..... personal photos

I need to get a much wider selection of *scanned* art! (Or I need to spend way more time at a copy centre or Internet café ...)

Growing Up at 47

I am tired of my life.
I have to find, or make, a new life.

I wasted my best opportunities in life.
But no amount of lamenting
Equals finding new opportunities.

I am tired of failing,
Especially failing invisible standards that no-one puts into words.
From things I believe beyond choice I can set my own standards.

I have no defences.
From detachment and my sense of humour
I make my defences.

I have no faith.
From things I believe beyond choice
I can build my own faith.

I have no goal.
Knowing now what I am and what I can do,
I can find or make my own goal.

I have no strategy.
By doing no harm and meeting some people's needs
I create my strategy.

I have no vocation.
Knowing now what I am and what I can do,
I can find or make my own vocation.

I have no plan for the future.
Knowing now what I am and what I can do,
Perhaps now I can plan a future.

I have no community.
If I get the hell out of the house, meet people,
Treat them like people and not aliens or something,
and stay in touch with family and friends,
I may build a community.

I have no woman in my life.
If I can simply approach women, treat them like people and not aliens
or something, I may have a woman in my life.

I have no housecat.
If I keep on sleeping fifteen and sixteen hours when I can,
I'm liable to *turn into* a bloody housecat.

These days I spend a fair amount of time imagining my own versions of the samurai-creed poem, or Kipling's "If", or trying to find a design for living. Must be a mid-life thing.

Outwardly the big deal, as far as I can see, is figuring out what I want to be when I grow up. (I'm 47.) Or figuring out, anyway, how to be a man, a fully-qualified person at least, a citizen in a society such as I inhabit. I honestly feel I somehow I missed a course *everybody else* seemed to get, back in high school.

In January I started holding monthly fan gatherings at my place, which I call Kaffeeklatsches. ("Salons" might have been more apt, but more likely not to be understood.) The basic idea I expressed was, bring a Neat Idea, something creative and offbeat and quirky and fannish, and we'll put the Neat Ideas into a hat, and draw them out one at a time and talk about them. This appears to be a good idea, as people keep coming back. I am building my own circle.

*

Inwardly ... About early March I passed some emotional turning-point, and felt I only need to be good enough for myself. This effectively means that a lot of what I've done since high school - at university, or in fandom, or with my family - was wasted motion, a futile attempt to *discover* and conform to what others wanted. The joke's on me.

Of course the new feeling didn't last. But at least I learned I can tell myself more positive, less crippling things.

Joe Devoy said something at the March Kaffeeklatsch that brought my chronic communication problem into focus. He referred to families like his or mine - with parents either from Britain, or from Ireland, moved to Canada - raising children they can't communicate with, because the English they speak and the English around them are not the same language.

That matches my experience. That appears to be the reason *why* my life was just going to be one petty humiliating snarl of miscommunication after another, until I gradually got better at understanding people, and making myself understood.

I have *almost* given up clinging to resentment of a problem I can't change, can't even understand most of the time.

Some of the most frequent thoughts on my mind, for years, have had to do with resentment; with communication; with the apparent failure of the people around me to tell me what they want from me.

Or, equally, my failure to understand accurately what isn't said.

Probably this doesn't convey anything to you. What I'm talking about is the situation where two different people, speaking very clearly in what each calls plain English, can't understand each other.

Nowadays, I know this is a sort of cross-cultural breakdown in communication, it isn't my mental handicap or a linguistic problem; but it has taken me two-thirds of my life to work out that it isn't necessarily anyone else's fault, either.

So I lost two or three jobs because co-workers didn't appreciate my constantly rechecking their instructions; *so what*. So two or three of my relationships went south because I can't tell when a woman is joking, and when she's serious, or when she wants to play some game like hide-and-peek; *so what*. So I don't dare speak to one family member again for fear we'll get into another ballsed-up snarl of miscommunication, so infuriating and frustrating I might end up killing her; *so what*. This is just how life was *going* to be, until the sheer passage of time gave me a smoother, more functional simulation of human manners.

*

I keep editing *BCSFazine* for the local club, and going to FRED, and hosting the monthly Kaffeeklatsch gatherings at my place stimulated by surreal conversation-starters. (There have been moments when I wondered if I had acquired a personality cult, drawn mostly from furry-fandom members and former UBC SFS members.)

BCSFazines have offered a number of feature articles since I took over, most recently on the Aurora Awards and the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. I may have successfully nooded people into deciding which convention holds the Aurora Awards this year. More likely Dennis Mullin in Ontario got things done, and they were going to get done without my nooding. Well, I could give the subject some coverage.

My latest activity has been nooding the current VCon committee into producing advertising flyers, in time for the Norwescon held this weekend. I have printed out and copied up some flyers at my own expense, and have started distributing them.

The negative way some people reacted to nooding - in fact, the bizarre off-base accusations of one or two concommers - made me decide I must be a frustrated Jewish mother: you know, the type of person who won't trust you to take care of your business, has no concept of personal boundaries, and doesn't realize the lack of respect they demonstrate. That's it, I should whip up a stupid Spandex costume and call myself Jewish Mother of Canadian Fandom. Or something.

I revived my citizenship application for the Kingdom of Talossa, but discovered that bizarre off-base accusations were flinging back and forth (again) in their message board. I have suggested that maybe it's all caused by a few targets having Evil Twins or doubles, and *they* are the ones who actually caused trouble. No-one responded, of course.

Recently heard of e-APA, an online apa, and decided to join. Started an apazine, *I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays*, and already went through two apa contribs.

Also took the plunge and started a Royal Swiss Navy Yahoo! group. Now I just have to advertise it.

Notice, by the way, the avocational, online and solitary emphasis of these activities. I guess I don't prefer to confront people face-to-face.

Follow-up to Last Issue's Fan News

Convention 2004, the con hosting the Canadian SF and Fantasy Awards, will be Boreal in Quebec in fall 2004. The Canadian Unity Fan Fund administrator is now Lyndie Bright of Winnipeg.

(*From my Blog:*) In the 1980s, I used to correspond with a number of fan groups across Canada, trying to keep them aware of each other and of the recently-founded SF institutions (the SF Canada writers' organization, the Aurora Awards and the Canadian Unity Fan Fund). That experience shaped some of my attitudes; but somehow relatively few of my correspondents bought the concept that they were supposed to contribute and share news, or reprint from each other and from my *Maple Leaf Rag*. Maybe I didn't communicate the concept very well. Maybe I misunderstood where people's motivations actually lay. Maybe I just have strange expectations about how many of us are driven to communicate, or what 80% of contemporary fans think the real issues are.

I acted on this fixed idea that fandom was a community – or that it should be; and you don't convey a concept by just assuming it. As, I guess, I did. And is there really any motivation for LARP gaming fans in Halifax or Lethbridge to give a damn about allegedly national "literary" awards in Toronto, or anime and media fans in Vancouver, to understand the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, or to care how a Winnipeg fan is trying to keep it going this year?

Well, I think we're going to find out. 2004 is (in effect) another experimental trial, in which we find out how these enterprises carry on in the contemporary fan environment.

*

Most of my life I've resented people who made wrong assumptions or omitted information I needed. I now discover I did it myself, in February or so; I could have made it clearer when I was paraphrasing in *BCSFazine* some newsbits which Ulrika O'Brien published in *Chunga*. And I could have attributed my sources more correctly.

The hell of it is that all this was while I was *trying* to display fanzines and fannish material to local "fans", BCSFA members, who apparently don't give a shit. Oh, sometimes somebody says they appreciate the work I put in, and I have regular fanzine and book

review contributions, but only two people are regular loccers, and only two people regularly contribute art.

Some time before VCon 28, last October, I learned about some changes in the Canadian SF market scene. Correspondence with Don Hutchison established that the *Northern Frights* anthology series was discontinued a while ago. Karl and Stephanie Johanson in Victoria have launched *Neo-Opsis* Magazine. At the con I was surprised to learn that Edge Publishing (Calgary) has bought Tesseract Books (the imprint formerly published out of Edmonton).

VikingCon veterans held a "VikingCon Search Party" at VCon 28. VikingCon (Bellingham, Washington) has been in suspension for a year or two, like Moscon in Idaho.

One more involvement on my part was to take a dealer's table at VCon, again, and to try to reduce some of the kipple burden, again. Got rid of about a paper-case-full of books and fanzines, but I doubt that I made back the cost of the table. Oh well – I made some money for the club by selling old BCSFAzines.

Undercurrents

Some people are less than enthusiastic about VCons. Len Wong, a local comics personality (now he supplements his income by holding semi-quarterly one-day comic swap meets), conceived the notion about twenty-five years ago that BCSFAns or VCon organizers were conspiring against him. The fact that he gained a reputation for stirring up shit at VCon venues, and nearly getting the convention tossed out, might have resulted in friends of mine giving him that impression.

Mike Bailey, a former BCSFAn, either lost a power struggle over BCSFA about five years into its history - I have to review my notes - or "served" as WCSFCCA secretary for several years, *and was almost impossible to find during that time*. (As I recall he was very snarky and superior about the financial irresponsibility shown by Westercon 44, which we ran in 1991. We subsequently discovered that this same Mike Bailey had *failed* to submit financial reports on WCSFCCA to BC's Registrar of Societies, so the non-profit society was defunct, and so was the limited-liability protection it afforded us. This is one of the reasons *why* the whole overseeing organization for VCon was revamped.)

Someone Had a Dream ...

Ray Sereidin was talking on the Northwest Con League listserv about Vancouver's recent Olympic bid, and somehow transmogrified to the mooted (meaning, only discussed) Vancouver bid for Worldcon in 2011. Apparently it wasn't clear to all readers which year was in question.

Some of you know that I'm a sceptic about the whole concept of Big Cons, say anything bigger than a middle-sized Westercon. That being said, I won't pursue my non-issue further.

What **is** an issue is, what does it take to run a Worldcon? Apparently there has been rather more documentation and discussion about running a Worldcon than local, annual conventions.

Some of you are going to think of the SMOFCon Game as soon as I ask what a really big con takes. I've already seen the game and I want to ask the *next* question: What are the intangibles that make or break a con's feasibility - things like goodwill, or credibility, or local enthusiasm and willingness to work - and what fosters them?

Time for a New Fan Book?

Last August there was some discussion on the SF Northwest listserv about the need for a guide to contemporary fandom - like, where the conventions are, and what the fannish terms of reference mean, for people just discovering the subculture. (The whole thing was kicked off by someone mentioning DragonCon, someone else going "eeeeww", and not being understood.) For a while there I was wondering about compiling such a guide, except I don't have most of the anime and gaming contacts. As far as covering basic lists of cons, fanzines, clubs and writers' resources are concerned, Jack Beslanwitch's Northwest SF Resources page does a bang-up job.

What should we reasonably expect relatively new fans to know, about conventions or fandom generally? or what explicit information **should** be made available to all? there have been "Fannish 101" or "So this is your first convention" **panels**, at numerous conventions. Unfortunately (in my experience) they tend to be scheduled only once, early on Friday evening, rather before the bulk of congoers have arrived. Also, these panels can be superficial or beside the point, addressing information that older fans **think** newer fans need, and not the newer fans' actual questions. This is *not* effective.

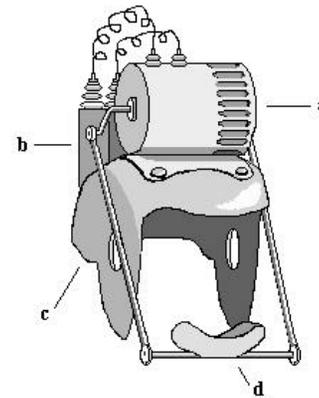
What kind of questions do you have, or does anyone have, the first time they run across SF or fantasy, in film or video or magazine or paperback format? What questions do they need answered about clubs, or fanzines, or conventions? What are the first entry points to fandom anyway, now as opposed to thirty years ago?

As I wrote at the time, "When I think of fandom, instead of anime and gaming, I think of clubs, fanzines, and conventions. This is one of the marks of a somewhat outdated view of fandom, and of the way a lot of fan guides are outlined."

Arguably there is scope for a new fandom guide, not just a reworking of previous ones - one with an emphasis on fandom as she are today, and explanations of the references to fandom as it once was. With impartial definitions of "fannish" and "trufan".

I *hope* any contemporary fan book would include factual surveys of apas, awards, conventions, fan funds, faanfction and fanthologies, fanzines, SF and fantasy publishing in Canada, writers' workshops, etc., with address lists and emails/newsgroups/URLs on each topic ... *followed* by brief opinion pieces.

LoCs



*Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue,
Louisville, Kentucky 40204-2040 USA,
jtmajor@iglou.com, November 20, 2003*

Ditto 16 and VCon 28 were "both held on the *same* weekend in October 2003." That takes planning. At least when Corflu 1995 in Nashville, Tennessee (three hours drive one way) was held on the same weekend as the Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium (three hours drive the other way) they had the excuse that they weren't in the same group.

*(Maybe I could have been clearer;
Ditto and VCon were held in different
cities, about six hours' drive apart, for rather different congoers.)*

"I think I would be . . . out of step with real fannish fans." Join the club. That was one reason we picked SH/ACD over Corflu. (See also Roger Sims's letter in *The Knarley Knews* 102 where he finds Corflu not to his liking. Says something, doesn't it?)

Since *Fancylopedia III* seems to be permanently RealSoonNow, perhaps someone should take the bull by the tail and just go ahead and produce *Fancylopedia IV*. But then, back when Fandom was a fairly high-connection culture (everyone knew everyone else or knew someone who did), it was possible to compile such information. Now it bogs down in quarrels.

I note, for example, that six years have gone by and there is no sign of the fan history of the sixties that Rich Lynch was overseeing the production of, and indeed the web page listing the contents has not been updated in Computer Eons. But then, I dropped off the Timebinders list because it became too embroiled in rerunning the sixties feuds, instead of describing them.

You've commented that the sort of conrunners (it's a more general complaint, but you are addressing running cons) who don't want to be burdened by being told the misfortunes of others do so because they want to make their own mistakes. Which would be fine if they would make new mistakes. However, they end up making the same old mistakes, made more unpleasant and uninteresting because they have been done so often.

What do you do if some marginally-connected group finds your con a good place to hold their get-together? The way this usually starts is that some congoing Fans who also like X get together at a con. Then they rope in their SF-reading but non Fan friends who also like X.

Then the people who like X but don't know or care about SF show up. The detailed example I saw was of the escapade that literally washed away DisCon but in fact this is a general model for such matters.

((Anybody here need that story explained to them? I didn't.))



The local convention runner retired about three and a half years ago, and a new con started in its place, run by the gaming department head. So far they have kept the con from being nothing but games but attendance is off.

((I have seen a similar evolution here. Maybe previous VCons were more in touch with local fans' interests than the last five; I have tried to canvass BCSFazine readers, without success.))

David Langford ansible@cix.co.uk,
<http://www.ansible.co.uk/>:
November 20, 2003

Your section about written convention guidelines reminds me irresistibly of 1980s bickering about a Charter for the British Eastercon. The trouble was that this was all in a context of feuding between Glasgow and Leeds conrunners, the former aiming for bigger and better organization and the latter laid-back almost to the point of anarchy. With Glasgow -- or rather, the chief empire-builder of Glasgow fandom -- repeatedly calling for a charter or constitution, one knew instinctively that the draft document would be full of stuff like "Correct Eastercon practice shall include [insert here any Glasgow preference not favoured in Leeds] while it shall be utter anathema, punishable by heavy fines and social ostracism, to [insert here any Leeds preference not favoured in Glasgow] ..."

((I guess that 'Charter' mentality, prescriptions for conrunning, is what some people read into my even asking for descriptions of how they worked their cons.

((Even I knew that only some things can be reduced to a formula, however much the formula takes variables into account. But it seems obvious, to my mind, that with a complicated event, you have to nail down every factor you can, in order to concentrate your attention on the most uncertain things. Why did I have so much difficulty communicating something so simple? Was I only arguing with a few airheads? Or is

every grown-adult fan I meet still, at heart, a teenager reacting against arbitrary high-school oppression?))

We escaped the Charter at the time, but it's looming again now that "Eastercon" has been nervously registered as a trademark, raising the issue of how to define which events are entitled to use it. At least there's no current equivalent of the Leeds/Glasgow feud to complicate things. I await developments with tremulous apathy.

((From my understanding of the convention titles that are already registered trademarks, they must already have defined the services for which the mark is registered: in the case of conventions, the trademark almost inevitably is registered in International Class 41, for educational events.))

John Purcell <jpurcell54@earthlink.net>: November 22, 2003

I was just glancing through your latest RSNG on the efazine site, and couldn't help but note the article on "The fine art of the con." I have the antithesis of that: the fine art of the non-con. Allow me to elaborate.

It was just another weekend at home with the family: the wife and kids, and the dogs, cats, fish, guinea pigs, bird, and the mole crickets.

Yup. Mole-crickets. Down here in the primeval swamps of Southeast Central Texas - or is that Central Southeast Texas? either way, it's the Land That Time Forgot - there are critters and beasties that are, without question, unchanged from the age of the dinosaurs. We had a couple of these mole-crickets jump into the house a couple weeks ago. One cat, Toulouse, snared one, and played with it for about half an hour because its armored head and thorax rendered it quite invulnerable to getting whacked around the dining room by said Toulouse. Marie and Cucumber trotted out to witness the game, slapping at this oddity of nature when it came close. The other mole-cricket had jumped into the trashcan by our computer station. My wife snared it with one of those science kit grabbers, plunked it into a container with a magnifying top, and we proceeded to examine it up close and personal.

Like I said, the head and thorax are armored, and the entire front end looks like a lobster, complete with pincers. Brown and thoroughly disgusting looking with black, beady eyes, the back half tapers into a sectional tail that ends with a scorpion-style stinger. The entire thing is about 2-1/2 inches long, comes out at night, has wings, yet can't fly very well, but makes up for that with a pair of powerful grasshopper legs that are two sizes too big in proportion to the body. Yes, it is one butt-ugly insect whose sole purpose - according to a website devoted to Texas insects (figures) - is to destroy grain crops, ruin lawns, especially those with St. Augustine grass, and migrated to the US by stowing away on ships arriving from South America.

Our son Daniel decided he wanted to keep it as a pet. Fortunately it died within a week, but by then he had brought it to school, which

achieved two purposes: making him look totally cool by having such an ugly creature in his possession, and totally grossing out the teacher and all the girls in his class. Our next door neighbor, the head groundskeeper for Texas A&M University's sports complex, looked at it and exclaimed, "Oh, yeah! I know these buggers. They're nasty. They'll wreck your lawn by burrowing underground looking for water. This one's an adult." We then discussed how long they've existed, and concluded they haven't changed since God created them - for what reason, I don't know.

When I asked Leo about how to get rid of these buggers, Leo just sniffed and said, "Can't really do that. Gotta have a hard freeze, and down here, that just doesn't happen."

((We're having similar problems in British Columbia, and in other places at similar latitudes, where pine beetles are flourishing and whole forests are being eaten away; all because the winters haven't been cold enough to kill the buggers off.))

So, who needs to go to a con to watch prehistoric creatures run around on film or in masquerade balls? All we have to do is go out back on the patio, sit in our lawn chairs armed with gallons of bug spray, golf clubs, mosquito netting, baseball bats, and our cats (suitably armored, of course), and observe geckos, snakes, armadillos, prairie rats, gigantic beetles, and mole crickets traipsing around our yard as if we weren't even there.

And why not? They were there first, and probably will still be there long after we've blown up the planet. I'm convinced that these creatures are well-prepared to survive whatever we can throw at them. Who needs a film room with Harryhausen special effects? We have Texas: the REAL Land That Time Forgot.

((If we were more science-oriented here in Vancouver fandom, we might do Science World and Museum of Anthropology tours, or day trips to the site where the surreal Burgess Shale fossils were discovered.))

Ed Meskys <edmeskys@localnet.com>: Niekas Publications National Federation of the Blind of NH RR 2, Box 63, 322 Whitter Hwy Center Harbor, NH 03226-9708, November 23, 2003

At Torcon a Canadian space expert (I am horrible about names and have forgotten his) had several program items and I gathered he was active in fandom. He spoke very knowledgably about the Chinese space program and had been allowed to visit their launch site. Anyhow, he had mentioned that he hoped there would be another Canadian worldcon for Manitoba or British Columbia before too long, and I am glad to see your mention of a Vancouver in '11 bid. At Torcon a fan/space expert (I am awful about names and have forgotten his) spoke knowledgeably of various programs, especially in China, and had visited the Chinese launch site. Anyhow, at the end of his last talk he mentioned being one of the people looking towards a bid for Manitoba or British Columbia, and it is nice to see it is firming up. I have enjoyed

Canadian and the last 2 Torcons, and look forward to visiting your west.

((Could that have been Hugh Gregory? I grant that he may know his space news, but he is ... not really a part of the fandom I know, locally; and I really have to question whether Hugh would be allowed access to a Chinese launch site.

((Um ... I hope you understand that it's still pretty iffy, whether a formal Vancouver bid for Worldcon will be filed. Or when. We have yet to build up some of the necessities in Vancouver fandom, not least a base of willing and able fans, that is, both willing and able to see a Worldcon through.

((Or could that have been a Westercon under discussion? Calgary will host the Westercon in July 2005.))

Over the years many guides to fandom and/or fanspeak have been published. I wonder if one is currently in print and if its existence is widely known.

((There are several fandom guides in print and online, with varying degrees of fame. In November I sent both CascadiaCon and the SFNorthwest Resources webmaster a list of all the WesCan fan addresses - clubs, cons, fanzines - that I could track down, taken mainly from the BC SF Association members' handbook, but I expect to find some entries to prove outdated.))

Like you I think of fandom as oriented to books, magazines, fandom, and fanzines. I do not even think about cons which pay actors to appear and where that is the only real attraction as real cons. I do not think I would consider such a media-oriented show as something worth spending money and time on, even if I happened to be in the city where it is being held. I was in Atlanta for a blind convention 4th of July week in 99 and 00 while Dragoncon was being held. I briefly considered dropping in in 99 or going to the blind con in 00 a day or two early to drop in but didn't.

You did an excellent summary of what it takes to organize and run a con. I have never run a real con, but when I was teaching in a small college and running the Tolkien Society of America I put on a week-end long Tolkien Conference. The TSA paid for printing an advertising flyer and mailing it to the membership and others, and I mimeographed the program sheet, merely listing the schedule of events. I referred attendees to the local chamber of commerce, which put them in contact with local motels and tourist cabins. I do not even remember whether I charged a registration fee. (This was back in 1968.) I also had one-evening meetings in NYC with about \$1 or 2 admission in a rented hall. I also put on meetings at Boskone and Worldcon. I did this for the 5 years I ran the TSA. I have put on 10 weekend-long conventions for the local branch of the National Federation of the Blind, and helped put on some others. Admission was only \$2 but we covered expenses with ads in the program book. Some years we lost a little money, some years we made a little. (I was president from 1988 to

1994 and from 1998 to 2002, and had to put on the con at the end of each year.) The attendance and economics of all these were very different from those of SF cons.

Greatly enjoyed the Starwars spam and the evil use of the phone. In exasperation I pulled something like this a year ago, but nowhere near as nasty. Suddenly I started getting several calls a day for some person I never heard of. Obviously a wrong number was published somewhere. On the third day I started telling callers that I would like to call X to the phone, but the FBI just hauled him away. Two days later these calls stopped.

Rest of zine enjoyed, but no comments.

Eric Lindsay <fijagh@donotuse.xxx>: www.avalook.com Airlie Beach, Nth Qld, Australia ph +61 7 4948 0435 http://www.ericlindsay.com November 26, 2003

Thanks for RSNG #11 for November. I pleased to hear that you enjoyed that Orycon, even if it was some time ago. I'm less and less likely to attend conventions these days. Mostly distance, partly money, and partly I'm not very impressed with travel now everyone is so paranoid about security.

I guess I agree with most of what you have to say about cons, but no longer feel inclined to apply any of it. Mind you, being 2000km away from any likely con committee is probably also a factor.

The Princess Spam was pretty neat. I've seen way too many of the real thing (well, at least I've seen the first few lines of the ones my filters didn't kill).

Somewhere I had a book on getting even. Read very much like the troublemaker story, which itself sounds much like a Bart Simpson story.

Steve George: December 4, 2003

Received RSNG #11 with Christmas Card. Many thanks. Cute card. Enjoyable issue. I like the digest size. You didn't reduce the type to an impossible size, which kept the thing readable.

You asked if I was still fanpubbing. Hmmm. I'm not sure how to answer that question. Does anyone ever really stop? On the face of it, I not have published a fanzine in six or seven years but the thought crosses my mind once in awhile. I don't receive many fanzines, in fact the only ones I can recall in recent memory are yours and Arthur Hlavaty's, but judging by the list of zines in RSNG #11 there aren't that many to receive anyway. Rodney Leighton continues to send packages of fanzines and zines, many more of the latter than the former, so I'm still somewhat aware of the fanzine scene without actually being a part of it. It's actually quite nice to receive fanzines from Rodney, because I don't have to respond but continue to receive them whether I want them or not. In exchange I send him the few zines I get, books now and then. Fair trade.

(I discovered that your last known email address isn't working; that may be part of the issue.)

The strange thing is, and you may find this interesting, my closest friends are still a core group of the boys from Decadent Winnipeg Fandom. Mike Nichols, Tony Dalmyn and myself get together regularly for one activity or another... mostly cycling, but frequently food and drink. We all still read SF, and discuss it. Two of us have kids who read SF and Fantasy. We just haven't been part of fandom in many years. Although I still have an interest in fandom and things fannish, I can't say the same for Mike and Tony. Randy Reichardt was here in the summer and he and I visited Chester Cuthbert for an afternoon. That was quite interesting. I'm not sure how old Chester is. Eighty? Ninety? Still as active as ever. As we chatted, he would fly out of his chair can come back with boxes of magazines or books, just like he did 25 years ago, to illustrate what we were talking about or to introduce us to something new. I've got to make a point of visiting Chester more often.

Pictures of aging DWFers and an account of this year's cycling at: <http://www.glort.com/bikewithmike/>

Anyway, thanks for the ish. Hope things are well for you. Best of the season, Merry Christmas, all that. Hope to see more of RSNG.

Murray Moore <mmoore@pathcom.com>: December 3, 2003

Thanks for the Christmas card, and for RSNG 11.

We are very laidback here at Henley Road about Christmas. I believe that the Golden Age of Christmas, like the Golden Age of Science Fiction, is 12. Actually 12 is past-Golden Age for Christmas.

The truth of course is that I am now and have always been a lousy shopper for others.

Russell is 17 and Dennis is 13. The boys decide what they would like and tell us or we just give them money to spend as they wish. Mary Ellen and I are equally blasé. No mall-haunting present-searching ordeal for the Moores.

Are you a SMOFS subscriber? You seem an ideal candidate considering your great interest in convention running. I joined the SMOFS list because of my involvement with Torcon 3. Since Labour Day I have switched to digest mode. I peruse the digest version during breaks at work. I can't say that subscribing to the SMOFS list helped me be a better Facilities Division head. For me keeping up with SMOFS subjects-of-the-day is more useful as keeping abreast of news and developments in conrunning.

(I believe I used to be. Or was it Trufen? ... At any rate I lost interest. See, I'm not really interested in conrunning, but in battling a kind of entropy that attacks fans, and fan groups, and fan activities, sooner or later. Also I've had enough high-tension situations to last me the rest of my life.

(... So I'm tilting at windmills. Would you rather I spent my energies researching criminal cases against government cabinets, and posting them online?)

The advice "Trust the hotel but get it in writing" is one of those simple statements that do not work when put into practice. The context I describe is outside of the con's contract with the hotel. If you have leverage, i.e. the hotel rep wants to keep you happy plus putting a statement in writing does not affect the hotel's ability to make money, you might get your document. Otherwise, if the hotel rep works for the hotel and I am not going to commit to paper a position for the hotel that could blow up and lead to me the hotel rep not being promoted or even fired.

However when the con has something the hotel wants, happy days! Torcon 3 wanted to negotiate with the Crowne Plaza an agreement that Torcon 3 could serve food and drink to its staff in the staff lounge. The staff lounge was a hotel function room. Until mid-August the hotel would not budge on its policy that you eat in our hotel, you drink in our hotel, you buy the food and the drink from the hotel. Then renovation of the hotel's restaurant began running late. The hotel would not have a restaurant during Labour Day weekend. Torcon 3 had all of the function space. We swapped a function room for the hotel to use as a temporary restaurant for the ability for our staff to eat in any of our remaining function rooms the food and drink we brought into the hotel. So we also immediately moved our Green Room from the Convention Centre into the hotel.

An example of not getting in writing a statement we wanted: our room block situation at the Royal York. Before the start of Torcon 3 enough of our rooms in our Royal York room block were reserved that we started free of having to pay a penalty to the hotel. But as each day passed people cancelled or did not show up. During Torcon 3 we slipped below the magic number. But the hotel rep told me, "Don't worry." I was asked to get a statement that Torcon 3 would not be charged a hefty penalty for unsold rooms and for function space that was free only on the basis that our people occupied more rooms than they in fact occupied. The hotel rep declined to sign it but repeated "Don't worry." The day after Labour Day, we have our official end-of-event meeting with the hotel: by the terms of our contract with the hotel the hotel could have demanded Torcon 3 pay for unsold rooms and the function space Torcon 3 used. Didn't happen: Don't worry was correct. The Royal York was happy with Torcon 3.

Treasurer and chair should be separate people, yes. I would add that the quality of your money manager should be equal to the quality of your bid/con chair.

As to why Worldcons are problematic to execute: they are bigger events. The more people involved in running the con, the greater the possibility of not everyone being perfectly suited to his task, the greater the possibility of everyone not working well with everyone else, the

greater the likelihood that key people will have to drop out because of real life (illness, job loss, accident, etc.)

One of the negative comments on SMOFS about Torcon 3 was that Torcon 3 was not much better executed than the infamous (among hard core Worldcon runners) New Orleans Nolacon. To which I thought of responding, but did not: "Then Nolacon can't have been that bad." (I am not a disinterested observer, obviously.)

All factors considered about Worldcons -- a different city each year (in three successive countries 2003 through 2005), all volunteer committees -- the marvel is that Worldcons occur as well as they do.

My attitude to convention volunteering is, "Take your responsibility as seriously as necessary, but no more than necessary. Keep your perspective. It's just a convention."

Cuyler Brooks <nedbrooks@sprynet.com>: December 4, 2003

Great Taral cover, and I like the digest-size format. If I wanted to do that I would have to fiddle with reduced page images and paste-ups as my obsolete typesetter will do columns but not landscape.

About all I ever had to do with con-running was to run the dealer's room at a couple of early SciCons. Now I don't even go to cons - maybe if there is ever another one in the Atlanta area.

I think you are right that Western Civilization is more a zoo of subcultures than a culture in itself. But these subcultures do not seem to have been invented, as you propose with the Frong. How often has this been done successfully? I guess it depends on how you count success - the Baha'is? The Scientologists? But I don't see how you can call it an ethnic group - that would require some level of common DNA. Do you get Wild Surmise? The editor there claims that there is an upper as well as a lower limit to the size of a viable gene pool, and that we are doomed - dropping sperm count will wipe us out within a few centuries. I'll start to worry about it when the population of the Earth gets back down to a billion....

I never wanted to be as evil as A. Nonymous.... I did get a call once from the phone company saying they would have to put a metal box in the lawn of the new house I was building. As I wasn't involved in any such enterprise, I told them that would be fine - but they must paint it purple to match the house.

John E. Bartley, III K7AAY" <john@503bartley.com>: December 5, 2003

Your essay in RSNG-11 "The Art of the Con" has brought a concept to mind.

You noted the insularity of ConComs and the way they embitter with age.

A solution might be to establish specific Con "teams", in the way the USN staffs their missile submarines. Alternating crews are assembled and take turns undersea. This was originally conceived to keep these expensive ships under water as much as possible, but had

an added benefit of reducing stress (as each crew was assured surface duty half the time).

My brother, who was a bubblehead and served in the Gold Crew of the /Woodrow Wilson/ and the Blue team of the /George S. Bancroft/ (both of which are mostly razor blades nowadays), has described the stress levels of sitting in the bottom of the Great Lakes or North Atlantic, dining on steaks and ice cream. I find them comparable to conrunning, if a little low.

Why not create alternating con teams? The Mauve Team runs V-Con one year, and the Puce Team the next. Team members would be forbidden to work on the other Team, so there's a chance they might actually Enjoy The Con.

At the end of a six year hitch, the Team is decommissioned (RENEW! RENEW! RENEW!) and an entire new team is assembled.

Or, maybe I've had too much, or not enough NyQuil, to deal with the Cold Which Would Not Die.

Brad W Foster <bwfoster@juno.com> PO Box 165246 -- Irving, TX -- USA -- 75016, December 6, 2003

Thanks for the copy of *Royal Swiss Navy Gazette* #11. I believe the last issue I received, at least according to all my records here, was #2 back in April of 1998, so nice to see your still doing the zine, even if I've missed out on the random issue here and there!

((Oh. I seem to have a nearly-complete run of back issues online, at the <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/sig/rsn> site, but I have to fix the link to them ...))

I see by one of your opening notes in "Interesting Stuff" that you have dropped the editorial duties on BCSFAzine, another title that came in bits and spurts here (Last I got was #345 & 346 in Feb and April of last year, and before that had to go back a ways to see got #333,334 the year before that.) My files show there are still four unused fillos I sent you for BCSFAzine, were those left for whoever is the new editor, or have you kept those for use here? (While going through notes, also see I sent 2 other fillos back in March of 1996 for "Sercon...Fanmag" after getting issue #5...but don't know if there were ever any more of those! I get the feeling I am on your mail list, but only on some sort of rotating, "send-something-every-10-months-or-so" listing! but hey, I'll be happy when whatever arrives... arrives!)

Interesting stuff in this issue about con running. I've never gotten too heavily into that end of fandom. do art and locs for zines, some small pubbing, art shows, dealer room and panel participant at the cons. But running the things? Wow, so much work! I'm always just grateful there are so many folks who want to do that, so the rest of us can enjoy it.

Oh, and loved "The Ultimate Spam?" article! I actually set up a fake email account to respond to a few of those Nigerian Spam things a year or so back, had fun goofing with them for a while, then got bored.

Scary to think there might still be people out there who believe that nonsense.

Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, AB T2P 2E7, Dec. 12, 2003

Re: a mooted bid for Vancouver to host a Worldcon in 2011. I've also heard rumours of a Calgary bid for the 2009 Worldcon, but my enquiries have not had any responses. Calgary will host Westercon in 2005, and did host a CostumeCon a few years ago, but one wonders if the talent exists for a Worldcon. We do have the facilities, but the critical factor is people who are willing to learn from past experience and a con chairman who will get things done, not just be a nice guy who doesn't like to bother his staff.

((Sounds familiar. Vancouver has facilities for anything up to and including a Worldcon. I suspend judgment on whether Vancouver fandom has whatever it takes: the numbers, the competence, the capital, or the specific conditions you state ... I won't narrow it down.

((There is time enough, surely, to build up these things. What will develop, in the next several years? That's the question.))

Re: conrunning guides for fandom. I may be a neo-Luddite (Long Live the Papernet!), but I think any conrunning guide should be on a website, because that is where the neos will look for advice. But as you say, people are determined to do things their way and repeat the errors of the past. We had an example here in Calgary at the 2003 Con-Version, which had a new committee. The previous committee had things so well organized that I was used to breezing in and getting my badge and goodie bag in less than 30 seconds. I do not exaggerate, it was less than 30 seconds to recite my name, show a driver license as proof of identity, have the badge picked out for me from the 'S' section, and be handed a pre-packed goodie bag. This year's lineups stretched well out into the hotel lobby, firstly because there was only one lineup for both pre-registered and at-the-door memberships. After a number of us in the queue made repeated suggestions to passing volunteers, they separated the two categories, as should have been done in the first place. Unfortunately the pre-registered people such as myself still had a delay because the badges were arranged by membership number, not alphabetically by name, so we had to wait while the staff cross-referenced the name to a membership number on a laptop. Then someone went to the back and filled a goodie bag for us. The Friday panels were delayed 30 minutes down the line by convention staff when they realized the problem. To be fair to them, I didn't notice any other major problems during the rest of the convention, and if there were any, they were invisible to me.

"... SF fandom ... distinguished ... by more annual gatherings of like-minded fans, than many other interest groups." As an active member of the Calgary Philatelic Society (bulletin editor since 1983 and ordinary member of Show Committee), I can tell you that stamp collectors are far more active than SF fans. In Calgary, besides twice-

monthly meetings and a monthly bourse, we have two annual shows a year (about 2,000 attendance) with competitive exhibits, dealer bourse, seminars, banquet, and all the other usual. Edmonton and other big cities are much the same philatelically. The big American national shows (many going for a century; stamp collecting started in the 1850s) will get 5,000 to 20,000 paid attendance with dozens of specialist societies holding their meetings and seminars, 200 dealers, and hundreds of frames of exhibits, all done by volunteer labour. Worldcon is small potatoes in the convention business of hotels.

(I stand corrected. Fandom isn't distinguished from other interest groups by the size or diversity of its conventions. Is it distinguished by fanzines?)

Interestingly enough, stamp shows do share some similar problems with SF conventions. In Calgary, both rotate every few years from hotel to hotel as the management finds out that stamp collectors and SF fans would rather spend their money on stamps or books instead of overpriced booze. Like SF fans, philatelists are given to standing in hotel lobbies and loudly discussing which restaurant they should go out to eat [at], instead of dining in the hotel. In the last few years, Calgary's stamp shows have been held at a community centre because it is so difficult to find a reasonably priced hotel.

(When John Hilton was chairing Calgary conventions, he commented that hotels in Calgary were an odd selection for the purposes of fans running cons – or , you could put it differently, fan-run cons fall between two stools: too big for some modest hotels, too small for the four- and five-star hotels. But that was thirteen or fourteen years ago he was saying this.)

Lyn McConchie, *Farside Farm, R.D. Norsewood, New Zealand, December 12, 2003*

First up, and in reply to Eric's comments in RSN #11: I think I said in a previous issue that our culture is more violent than it used to be, and Eric doesn't agree with that.

(Do you mean New Zealand, Australasian, or Anglo culture?)

Well, we're both right, it depends on how far back you're looking, and in this case I may not have made it clear I was looking only at my childhood in the 1950s. Eric is right, in that if you return to, say, the 1900s or earlier, then our current society is no more violent, but compared to the 1950s/early 60s in New Zealand, I think it very definitely is.

I recall one murder here in 1962; I remember living in a small city and walking home after dark without fear; playing alone in the large local park without anyone worrying I'd be attacked; going to buy things at the shopping centre a mile away on my bike, without anyone fearing I'd be mugged for the errand money or my good jacket or shoes. And earlier, when I was about 7 – 9, playing with several friends of similar

age in the huge semiwild area at the back of Auckland, which was Cornwall Park in those days. Four of us, up there most of the day alone, no adults, and no expectation that any of us would be attacked, raped, murdered, or indeed that any other mishap would occur. The only time it did, Billy decided to ride his bike down the inner crater of the One Tree Hill volcano. He broke his ankle when he hit the bottom. As the fastest of us four, with Billy out of action, I ran for help, and what the ambulance guys had to say about stretchering him out of there ...! But no-one worried about that either. It was the sort of thing kids did, and it had always been assumed that if something like that happened, one of us would have the common sense to get help.

But of course, if you go back some time, then even our culture isn't as violent as earlier periods. I suspect New Zealand in the early 1800s was a hell hole, and I'm damn glad I'm not living then. Of course, if I'd had the accident I had, then instead of now, I wouldn't BE living anyway; so I'm even happier about living now.

(Interesting. I've always taken for granted when I was living, but I've tried not to take for granted where I was living, and what difference it made to my convenience. In any place but the industrially-developed world, I gather, "civilization" is just something to pay lip service to, or to use against developed countries in the United Nations.

(Bear in mind that, at least by reputation, New Zealand treated Maoris and Anglos as the same before the law, while British North Americans quite explicitly regarded anyone but Anglos as "lesser breeds without the law". I can't say the same for my own country. Canada's early history is dotted with incidents like infecting blankets with smallpox and giving them to aboriginals – in British Columbia, I believe, as well as in eastern Canada. I could go further and point out that South Africa's "homeland" system for their aboriginals was patterned on Canada's native reserve system, but you get the point – by our own standards we are not without sin.)

Henry L Welch welch@msoe.edu, December 30, 2003

Thanks for the latest *RSN Gazette*.

The only con notebooks I have ever seen are the ones I put together. I still have them for the entire run of First Contact here in Milwaukee, but no one else will probably ever read them. I offered them to the gaming/anime/sf club on campus to help plan their event and in fact rather pointedly implied they were mandatory reading (I am the club advisor), but they still didn't read them. Fandom is doomed to repeat the failures of its past and reinvent the wheel again and again and again and again.

(I was going to say this is more evidence that fans want what they want and don't want to hear they can't have it that way; then I reconsidered, and wondered if they quite understood what you were telling them, though you made it never so plain. But I've talked about invincible, relentless communication failures before.)

Despite the lack of SF conventions here in Milwaukee (I don't count the university event as one since it is more a media event) I keep the not for profit corporation active with a little help from a local charity program sponsored by a large grocery store chain. If you use your frequent shopper card they will donate 0.5% to up to three charities of your designation. My family buys enough to meet the \$50/year minimum requirement and the annual filing fee is only \$10. I'll use this eventually to dodge all the hotel taxes when I sponsor a Ditto sometime in the next few years. More than worth the hassle of a bank deposit every nine months and a one page annual report to the state.

Until next issue...

((The benefit of Being Prepared will be made plain one day, I am sure. One thing the Cub Scouts taught me.))

Dwain Kaiser, P.O. Box 1074, Claremont, CA 91711,
<dgkaiser@hotmail.com>, March 14, 2004

Another excellent issue...they're getting better and better. Somehow the "editorial" voice in this issue seems "looser" to me, more personal and more interesting. The question of the graying of fandom is one which I've brought up in my zines editorials a number of time...the end result (okay, one of them) seems to be the increased homogenous nature of fanzine fandom. The average zine today is certainly an improvement, I feel, over the "average" issue of yesteryear...maybe not so many Lighthouse's being published, but then neither are there so many of the crudzines of yore (a shockingly large number published by me, so I do know of what I speak). It has also produced a mixture of fans of whom, for sheer enjoyable fun, are hard to beat. Fan lounges are the center of that mixture, quality zine publishing and quality zine publishers...fans well worth spending an extra hour with.

Of course the mixture is a bit scary too as it's always a bit easier to get to know and identify with newcomers to the field than some of the "legends" still around and active...will I fit in, am I an addition to this group' is the question many of us ask ourselves. As you did in your editorial. The answer to that can be discovered at the "hardcore" conventions themselves, the Ditto or Corflu's ... are there fans there who want to meet me in person, buy me a drink, or discuss fandom...and certainly in your case there are. Hell, for whatever it's worth, I'm sorry you're not going to be at Corflu (four days away and counting) this year, I would have liked to have met you and put a "real" personality to the paper one I've read over the last few years. I know others feel the same.

Every few years there should be a new fan guide...the problem is defining which rooms of fandom are we going to discuss, which is the brightest and well-lit, which is the small room hidden away at the back (where all the good liquor is stashed), even more so what rooms make "up" the mansion? The classic set of "rooms" made up of clubs, conventions and fanzines certainly makes up an "outdated" view of fandom, but those were the rooms many of us older fans grew up in,

partied in, lived in for all those years...other rooms just seem less, hmmm, real to us than they would to new fans. It maybe a small universe but it damn well is OUR universe. Maybe it's more time for a "incomplete guide to fandom" rather than any attempt to cover everything which might fight under that title...fandom for fans like myself, the rest need to find their own road map.

Eric Lindsay: Deadlines certainly become harder and harder to meet as the years go by. I'm happy with my eZine *No Time, No Energy & Not Much to Say*; however, I just work on it until I reach a reasonable number of pages then I have Bill Burns do his wonders turning it into a PDFfile, and a few days later I'm already at work on the next issue. I don't try to do the "perfect" zine...just one which I'm fairly happy with and I think of the zine as a "series" of issues rather than one issue at a time...if it's not in this issue, or even mentioned, it will be next time. And the price is right.

A lot of valid points in "The Art of the Con"... and much I need to think about. I'm just not a con runner even if I have "helped" out a few times over the last forty years. Your suggestions and advice all seem sensible and logical to me.

Hell: Even with a few hundred conventions under my belt, I'm not sure exactly what I'm looking for, when I even just attend a convention. I would guess it has to be summed up as "friends", "good company", and that, "damn, where did the last three days go to" feeling at the end. Of course my problem is that I tend to be a bit anti-social if I'm not careful, tending to watch, rather than to jump in and "do". Maybe I would be better off if I worked on conventions rather than just attend. I do know that I enjoy cons more when I'm more active publishing as that adds to my universe as far as those fans I want to visit with and talk to.

I work with a lot of volunteers during the political season, running campaigns can be tricky when you have to depend on volunteers instead of professionals to do the work. Those who volunteer are all too often not the person who should be doing "that" type of work...just because someone wants to do a certain project doesn't mean that they should be allowed to do it...too often volunteers need someone to supervise them...and often it's less work just to do it yourself than to supervise.

Thanks for a delightful issue...I'm already looking forward to the next one.

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2,
January 22, 2004

I've been sitting on RSNB 11 long enough, and I finally have some time to catch up with some zines. I have a six-week proofreading assignment starting on Monday, so I have a couple of days to do what I need to do.

I am finding more and more that when it comes to the heady world of fanwriting, especially the exclusive world of fanzine fandom, I am out of my league. I want to go to Ditto and Corflu, but find that this group

has its established relationships, perhaps like any other group, and that I may be seen as an outsider looking in. Yvonne and I are thinking of focusing our efforts away from international fan interests, and simply staying with local fandom and its own projects. It will be more affordable, and I think more rewarding.

As much as I like Worldcons, I am also finding big cons to be a little much. Perhaps future fans will take over this project, but after the debacle of Torcon, and the way we were treated by senior committee, other projects look better. I believe there may be Worldcon bids by Calgary in 2009, or even, as I've read, Vancouver in 2011, but I won't be a part of them, nor do I think I'd attend. Boston may be my last Worldcon, or given my finances, Torcon may have been it.

I believe the Internet demands instant response because there are so many other messages streaming in, it's difficult to keep up with everything and keep everything straight. I will be taking Jean's advice, and reducing the number of lists I am on. The noise level is approaching 100% in some of them.

The Art of the Con: another things that Torcon has done to me is made me care less about how fans screw up conventions. They usually fail to think of how they themselves would enjoy the convention if what they intend to do is done. These people are not businessmen or have any idea of customer service, and I've spent a lot of time trying to tell people this, and now, I am largely on the outside looking in. Yvonne and I will be working the green room at Ad Astra this year, doing a few panels at Eriecon in Niagara Falls, and we will be running the autograph room at Bouchercon 35, the World Mystery Convention in October. Yvonne has pretty well had it with many fans, and is moving on to space advocacy; she is now on the board of directors of the Canadian Space Society, and is hoping to attract another International Space Development Conference to Toronto.

We Also Heard From: Beth Miller; Bobbie Dufault; Tim "Line Noise" Smick, J.M. Passey, Chester Cuthbert, Steve Forty, Faith & Jon Magwood, Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, Cheryl Gonnason & Vic Samoila, Allan Burrows, A. Macintyre

Faux Robbie Burns from the alt.fan.pratchett group

Original by "Megamole"

Wee, sleekit, cow'rin, timorous pointer
Whit puts ma fingers outa jointer,
Ye needna click awa' - ye're goin' tae
Lose me ma focus;
I wad be laith to end up throwin' ye
Wi' screams atrocious;

Ye wee bit heap o' trial an' trouble,
Built up wi' naught but cruft an' kibble,
Ye've cost me monie a weary nibble
An' panic drear,
Wi' cowpit click and loosen'd cable,
An' scabbit sphere;

So Mouse, God strike ye with the pox,
For cursin' me wi' hangs and locks:
The best laid plugs of Mice to Box,
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but aches an' knocks,
For promis'd joy!

(forwarded from alt.fan.pratchett to Timebinders, April 30, 2004)

More Royal Swiss Navy Position Papers - in preparation -

#343: "A Modest Proposal: Regularizing Near East, Mid-East and Far Eastern Conflicts by Establishing Sand-Hockey Leagues, Using Exploding Pucks"

#400: "Replace War Correspondents with Sports Newsreaders!"

#437: "Arguments for Re-organizing English-Speaking Representative Democracies, not by Regional Representation, but by Corporate Representation: with Case Studies based on the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and other Commonwealth Nations since the 1970s"

#500: "Replace Political Pundits with Theatre and Film Critics!"

Fanzines Received

Let's see: what fanzines have I received in the past six months or more, since I last listed my trades?

Alexiad, Vol. 2:6, Dec. 2003 to 3:3, June 2004, c/o Lisa & Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040 USA. Email jtmajor@iglou.com. Many book, fanzine and movie reviews, horse racing, and letters. I was particularly enchanted with Joseph's satire in December of *Lord of the Rings*, as cocked up by Cabell's character Jurgen; but I'm also sitting up and paying attention to A.L. du Pisani's continuing tales of contemporary life in South Africa.

ANSIBLE 201 & 202, April & May 2004 From Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU. ansible@cix.co.uk, <http://www.ansible.co.uk/> ISSN 0265-9816 (print) 1740-942X (online). "Available for SAE, or The Formula for the Transmutation of Borax Without the Use of Cockatrice-Egg." For the past several years I have only seen *Ansible* online, except when I go to fanzine rooms as at Orycon. David Langford presents the most fan news in the least space, physically, and gets away with the most impudent humour about fan and writer friends alike, of any faneditor on the planet. I think. It must be a Welsh thing, I don't understand it ...

Banana Wings #19, March 2004, Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, 14 Northway Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 6JE, U.K., new email: banana@fishlifter.demon.co.uk. I love the retro Victorian illustrations in this issue. Mark discusses the British Library request, well, demand for all BW's back issues (standard practice for national libraries; don't sweat it). Several well-known fans describe their descent into fandom, including Claire Brialey, Peter Weston, and Greg Pickersgill.

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter, 6584 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7, tel. 604-421-4931, lonewolf@portal.ca, www.bws.bc.ca. This legal-length bimonthly newsletter lists a great deal of interest and importance to its members, writers in British Columbia and abroad; sometimes it lists market news we might benefit by noticing.

Challenger #19, autumn-winter 2003-2004, Guy H. Lillian ed., POBox 53092, New Orleans, LA 70153-3092, online at www.challzine.com, email GHLIII@yahoo.com; available for trade, contributions, \$6

This has to be one of the remaining genuine genzines in circulation, featuring Hugo-winning authors and artists like Sue Mason. Guy Lillian writes about the Hugos presentation; GREG BENFORD rereads *At the Earth's Core* and finds it good; Ned Brooks weighs in on H.G. Wells' "Cavorite"; Richard Dengrove writes on "Evil Aliens and H.G. Wells"; Craig Hilton examines the "Doctor Watson" of the Sherlock Holmes canon in his context, and finds him "the good doctor"; and Mike Resnick publishes his "Torcon 3 Diary". Like *Memphen*, this issue of *Challenger* features a tribute to P.L. Caruthers-Montgomery, who recently passed on. For my taste this issue is capped off by Joseph Major's satirical piece, "Why TV Detectives Couldn't Catch the Unabomber".

Chunga #5-7, Aug 2003, to May 2004; 3 cc to fanmailaph@aol.com, rbyers@u.washington.edu, cjuarez@myrealbox.com or to 1013 North 36th Street, Seattle, WA 98103.

Andy Hooper observes that #5 set a new record for number of participants; Randy Byers found that after winning the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, travelling to Britain and attending his first con there, he was worn out and missed half of Corflu by retiring early; Andy Hooper reviews the *Cities in Flight* trilogy, both in the context of Potlatch and in

the context of Blish's life and times; Graham Charnock submits "The Cartledge Files: Essays in Alternative History" (how much of this is counterfactual?), and Ulrika O'Brien features local and regional fan news.

In #6, Randy Byers talks about the great changes in the past two years of his life, most importantly involving Sharee Carton; Andy Hooper discourses on World's Fairs, most notably the 1893 (Chicago) and 1939 (New York) expositions; Stu Shiffman writes (and illustrates!) on Haggard's darkest-Africa fantasies (how much of this is factual?); Ulrika O'Brien does it again, and the editors review fanzines.

In #7, Randy Byers visits Australia; Lesley Reece says something sensible about the level of public-issues discourse (I think she's still alive out there, somewhere); Luke McGuff describes Seattle traffic; Lilian Edwards describes her Mexico experience; Ulrika O'Brien does it again (and I'm still resisting the temptation to quote her fan news verbatim); and Andy Hooper segues from Potlatch to an extended consideration of *The Shockwave Rider*, as viewed again from the early 21st century after the Internet experience.

I wish I knew enough to lay out my fanzine creatively and still keep it readable, as the *Chunga* triumvirate do.

Emerald City 101, Jan. 2004 to 105, May 2004, Cheryl Morgan ed., Cheryl@emcit.com, www.emcit.com. Eventually I understood that EC is about book reviews, some con and fan news, and a little SF publishing news. Latest issue was prepared at Wiscon, "the World's Only Feminist Convention".

Halcyon Days #98 & 99, Jan. 2004 & April 2004, the letterzine of Robert Michael Sabella, 24 Cedar Manor Court, Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023, bsabella@optonline.net (mailed with *Visions of Paradise*)

It Goes on the Shelf #25, Nov. 2003, Ned Brooks, 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn, GA 30047-4720, <http://home.sprynet.com/~nedbrooks/home.htm>, nedbrooks@sprynet.com. Book reviews, and short letter acknowledgments - I thought at first this was an apazine.

The Knarley Knews #103, Dec. 2003; #104, Feb. 2004; #105, April 2004; Henry & Letha Welch, 1525 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017, <http://people.msoe.edu/~welch/tkk.html>, welch@msoe.edu.

#103: Henry Welch editorializes about Life, specifically home building contractors and Home Depot, and Sue Welch editorializes on more external matters, specifically a Breast Cancer benefit walk; Rodney Leighton reflects on the publishing run of *FOSFAX*; letters, and fanzines received.

#104: Among other editorial news, Henry has decided to study intellectual property; Rodney Leighton writes about *Alexiad*; and stuff.

#105: Henry discovers the bureaucratic barriers to self-development; Rodney Leighton on *The Zine Dump*, Guy Lillian's zine-

review companion to *Challenger*; Sue Welch on The Cold Drawer, and family skiing; and stuff.

Littlebrook 3, March 2004, Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins, 3522 NE 123rd St., Seattle, WA 98125, littlebrooklocs@aol.com. Jerry reviews the year since issue #2; how he got into river rafting; Terry A. Garey on a hoax hummingbird ranch; Teresa Nielsen Hayden on forms of auctorial insanity; and letters.

Made in Canada newsletter, c/o Don Bassie, 25/12 Lankin Blvd., Orillia, ON L3V 6T2; current email canadian-sf@rogers.com. Don seems to have his attention fixed primarily on Canadian SF writers (primarily in southern Ontario). If that's his brief, great; I just wish someone were still doing Canada-wide coverage of fan groups and their enterprises.

Metaphysical Review/SF Commentary, Bruce Gillespie, 59 Keele Street, Collingwood, Vic 3066, Australia. There's more book reviews and critical, intellectual analysis in Bruce Gillespie's thick, infrequent sercon fanzines than I see anywhere else in the course of a year.

So of course I misplace these prime fanzines somewhere where I can't find them later.

MOZ 1, an apazine for ANZAPA (Feb. 2004) from Murray Moore, 1065 Henley Road, Mississauga, ON L4Y 1C8. Murray starts by listing Australians he has known (all fans), then segues to a self-introduction, and a description of his environs. I find his writing style a bit cryptic. Short paragraphs with short sentences, that is. Not verbose. We learn that Mississauga is the banana belt of Ontario. We learn what the top Google queries were in 2003, for selected categories. Murray describes a Christmas tea held by the Friends of the Merrill Collection of SF, and local theatre, and film showings.

Neither Rain, Noir Murder #4, March 2004 (in PDF, via email), Bill Bowers ed, 6000 Townevista Dr. Apt. #114, Cincinnati, OH 45224-1762, fanac@one.net; for DAPA-Em. Bowers' interesting times moving into a one-bedroom apartment, and dealing with social services; letters from familiar names such as Sheryl Birkhead and Richard Geis; with lists of zines published, cons attended, books read and films viewed.

Nice Distinctions 4-6, winter – summer 2004 roughly, Arthur Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers, NY 10704-1814, hlatvaty@panix.com. Arthur Hlavaty is well-known for a kind Discordian smartassed opinion-editorial writing, on any and every topic, ranging from sports through fandom to politics and pomo decon artsy-fartsy subcultures. He keeps proving that his reputation is deserved.

Opuntia 53.1A, January 2004, Dale Speirs ed., P.O. Box 6830, Calgary, AB T2P 2E7. As he writes, "whole-numbered *Opuntias* are sercon, x.1

issues are reviewzines, x.2 issues are indexes, and x.5 issues are perzines." This issue is mainly a fanzine review issue, with some letters. Dale's interests range from native cacti, stamp collecting, cyclid fanciers, and alternative history, through fanhistory and the parallels between technologies introduced in the 19th century and the reception given the Internet. Keep reading this and you, too, will be convinced that All Knowledge is Contained in Fanzines. Also: a report on the University of Calgary Library, which recently received a palaeofan's SF pulp and book collection – and to which Dale has donated \$10,000, over the last two years, for maintenance; a review of *In the Blink of an Eye*, a 2003 work on the Cambrian speciation explosion.

53.1B features letters, more zine listings, and a critical review of a recent anthology of Prairies SF.

Rodney's Messy Zine-Like Thing #1, winter 2004, Rodney Leighton, RR#3, Tatamagouche, NS B0K 1V0. What can I say?

Sansevieria #60, March 2004, for Point of Divergence APA from Dale Speirs (address above). In this issue, after discoursing on how Canadian political parties got to their present state – and variety – Dale imagines the Canada that might have developed had Henry Hudson made it back to England, and had colonization proceeded from Hudson Bay, rather than the St. Lawrence River corridor.

Steam Engine Time, Bruce Gillespie (as above) and Maureen Kincaid Speller and Paul Kincaid (60 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5AZ, U.K.) I would like to see us Canadians produce something like *Steam Engine Time*, I really would: a fascinating, time-consuming genzine that goes into in-depth SF criticism, but also features entertaining fannish writing. Appears only too infrequently.

Thyme, Alan Stewart ed., POBox 222, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vict. 3005, Australia. I keep being confused: is this, or is *Ethel the Aardvark* the newsletter of the Melbourne SF Club? They look nearly the same, have nearly the same address, and I'd swear Alan is editing both of them. *Thyme* always seems to be dated a year behind its actual date of production, or the dates of the letters in the loccol. Go figure.

TommyWorld #60, Sept. 2002, Tommy Ferguson, 30 Ava Park, Belfast, BT7 3BX, Northern Ireland, tw@tommyworld.net, <http://www.tommyworld.net>.

Vanamonde (many issues), John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057 – the most erudite and, at not infrequent moments, the most opaque fanzine I have seen. I first heard of John Hertz when he was soliciting materials toward *Fancyclopedia III*, a project which never came to fruition. Perhaps entries in the Wikipedia will best serve the purpose today?

The View From Entropy Hall #33 & #34 for APA-Q from Ed Meskys, RR #2 Box 63, 322 Whittier Hwy, Center Harbor NH 03226-9708, edmeskys@localnet.com. Back issues at www.geocities.com/entropyhall and www.efanzines.com website.

Visions of Paradise #97 – 99 (Oct. 2003 – Apr. 2004) by Bob Sabella (address above). Your basic personalzine, including diary-like trip reports, occasional letters and fanzine listings, and humour columns.

Warp 56, Winter 2004 (cover made up to look like “MONSFFAL WARPOGRAPHIC”), occasional newsletter of the Montreal SF and Fantasy Association, POBox 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, QC H2X 4A7, www.monsffa.com, editor: cathypl@sympatico.ca. A very media-oriented SF club’s newsletter, with some retrospective on recent local doings.

The Zine Dump #2, Guy H, Lillian III * P.O. Box 53092 NOLa 70153, 504/482-7083 * GHLIII@yahoo.com, GHLIII Press Pub #947 * Oct. '02 - Feb. '03



What I’m Looking For in Fandom

I’ve been kvetching quite enough about Fandom Not Being What It Was; time I admitted what it seemed to be, back when, and

why it mattered, at least to me.

About the time I encountered fandom I had decided to quit being a loner. This posed an immediate problem: I had to have some pretext for being with people, so I joined a bunch of clubs – an amateur theatre group off-campus, and on-campus, an NDP club and a student-newspaper gang and eventually an evangelical group – and then I stumbled across an SF club in my home town.

A funny thing happened when I dropped out: the student friends I had made sort of drifted away; the only gang that endured, and stayed in town, were my fannish friends. (The fact that my student friends were simply graduating and getting on with life didn’t register on me, at first.)



Two or three conceptual sorts of things happened to me at the same time, when I first ran across a club’s fanzine library. For one thing, there was the kind of wit and humour I was exposed to on a student newspaper. For another thing, there was the kind of wit and humour I was exposed to in fanzines. (This, despite what Steve Forty says, defines the term “fannish”.) Mostly, I was exposed to the idea that fandom was some sort of *community*, not just a leisure interest group.

Granted, I was prone to invest a personal stake in “community”; still, I think now, there was something going on with the fans who cranked out the late-1970s fanzines I read. Call it “false consciousness” if the term means something to you; or a very slow appreciation of contemporary reality.

You may be aware that the population of fandom in general really ballooned about 1970, just a few years after *Star Trek* made a splash on network television. Until then, fans could view themselves as a geographically-distributed sort of small community, and they often acted like it – *both* in the positive and negative senses we attribute to small-town life. But after Trekkers arose in fandom, and the population of Worldcons shot up from less than 2000 to nearly 7000 in most years, it was impossible for fandom to be one community. Naturally it broke up into smaller groups, defined by narrower interests.

Smaller groups, but not necessarily communities. A contemporary gamer or Goth or costumer has no reason to know much about other fandoms, or previous fandom; no reason to model his definition of “fandom” on 1960s intentional communities. No reason, actually, to invest quite the emotional stake that I did. Maybe this explains why conventions are always pleading for volunteers.

I had an idea that if I focused on one special interest group, and paid attention to patterns of behaviour, I would well ... learn how to act like a real person. So I got kind of intense about putting together Vancouver fanhistory, and later all sorts of Canadian fanhistory.

I talked about pinning down what it is that keeps screwing up fan groups, and their activities; but I guess I was really trying to study fans and fanhistory for my own reasons: I wanted to find out how to behave like a real person. *Something* kept screwing up my jobs, my relationships, even my family. But my abortive attempts to imitate other fans, and fit into toga parties and hot tub gatherings, haven’t worked; maybe the setting for them changed faster than I appreciated. Honest, I wasn’t just trying to get laid.

But I guess that *was* part of my deal. For a while I tried to delve into the local SCA, with equally unsuccessful results. There’s a saying that “if you can’t get laid in the SCA, you can’t *get* laid,” which at the time must have described me. Now, I’m not ugly or offensive, and I’ve seen homelier guys enjoying female company – even guys being real scumbags – so I am logically driven to only one conclusion:

I was kidnapped from a band of travelling space gypsies. I just don’t give off the right pheromones.

Or maybe I’m just slightly autistic ...

Personally, I have to be wary of some abusive personalities. Here, for example, is the favourite wall chromo of my last girlfriend:

17 FEMALE RULES

1. The female makes the rules.
2. The rules are subject to change by the female at any time without prior notification.
3. No male can possibly know all the rules. Attempts to document the rules are not permitted.
4. If the female suspects that the male may know some or all of the rules, she must immediately change some or all of the rules.
5. The female is never wrong.
6. If the female is wrong, it is because of an egregious misunderstanding which was the direct result of something the male did, said, did not do, or did not say.
7. If rule 6 is invoked, the male must apologize immediately for having been the cause of the misunderstanding without any clues from the female as to what he did to have caused the misunderstanding. See rule 13.
8. The female may change her mind at any time for any reason or no reason at all.
9. The male is never permitted to change his mind or under circumstances without the express written consent of the female which is given only in cases where the female wanted him to change his mind but gave no indication of that wish. See rules 6, 7, 12, and 13.
10. The female has the right to be angry or upset for any reason, real or imagined, at any time and under any circumstance which in her sole judgement she deems appropriate. The male is not to be given any sign of the root cause of the female's being angry or upset. The female may, however, give false or misleading reasons to see if the male is paying attention. See rule 13.
11. The male must remain calm at all times, unless the female wants him to be angry or upset.
12. Under no circumstances may the female give the male any clue or indication whether or why she wants him to be angry or upset.
13. The male is expected to read the mind of the female at all times. Failure to do so will result in punishments and penalties imposed at the sole discretion of the female.
14. The female may, at any time and for any reason, resurrect any past incident without regard to temporal or spatial distance, and modify, enlarge, embellish, or wholly reconstruct it in order to demonstrate to the male that he is now or has in the past been wrong, insensitive, pig-headed, dense, deceitful, and/or oafish.

15. The female may use her interpretation of any past occurrence to illustrate the ways in which the male has failed to accord her the consideration, respect, devotion, or material possessions, he has bestowed on other females, domestic pets or barnyard animals, sports teams, automobiles, motorcycles, boats, aircraft, or coworkers. Such illustrations are non-rebuttable.
16. If the female is experiencing PMS, Post-PMS, or Pre-PMS, the female is permitted to exhibit any manner of behaviours she wishes without regard to logical consistency or accepted norms of human behaviour.
17. Any act, deed, word, expression, statement, utterance, thought, opinion, or belief by the male is subject to the sole, subjective interpretation of the female, other external factors notwithstanding. Alibis, excuses, explanations, defences, reasons, extenuations, or rationalizations will not be entertained. Abject pleas for mercy and forgiveness are acceptable under some circumstances, especially when accompanied by tangible evidence of contrition. :-))

Is anyone out there *surprised* that I didn't find these rules funny?

After my last girlfriend, I took ten years out to re-evaluate what I wanted in a relationship, and what I tended to get instead. And you know, I don't think I *ever* understood what kind of relationships I got into. Or when they were one-night stands. But then all my liaisons were in fandom, and most of them at conventions.

Why I Don't Mess With Older Women

An older lady gets pulled over for speeding...

Older Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Older Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Older Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Older Woman: Lost it, 4 years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Older Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Older Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see.

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasp his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please! The woman steps out of her vehicle.

Older woman: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older Woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car, please.

The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Older Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers.

The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer.

The officer examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Older Woman: Bet the liar told you I was speeding, too.

Girlfriend Application Form

This was a failed attempt at Internet humour, partly because it's just too long, partly because the point either goes past some recipients, or (like a certain legally-accredited fan) they honestly don't find it funny. But it might remind you of some introduction-service questionnaires ... or of some people you've dated.

A) What kind of "introduction" most appeals to you, or most offends you?

"Hello. May I join you?"

"Hi. My name is _____. What's yours?"

"May I ask your father's permission to see you socially?"

"Hey baby -"

"Hey dollface -"

B0) What are you looking for in a

Male

Female

Other

Houseplant

Hyper-intelligent shade of blue

Yeast-like sporulating creature

B1) Physique:

Small, slight - a pushover

Average height and weight

Goombah/schlub

Basketball/crew physique - a sparring partner

Middleweight

Linebacker - a dominator

Bodybuilder

B2) Occupation:

High-school student

Professional student

Skilled trades (unionized/non-unionized)

Clerical assistant

Legal/medical/parliamentary intern

Professional agitator

Ecowarrior

Stage/Film/television actor

Professional (lawyer, doctor, CGA, stockbroker, etc.)
Civil servant
Elected representative
Drain on society

B3) Favourite leisure activities:

Crossword puzzles, and translating out-of-print novels into Esperanto
Staying home and watching sports on television
Restoring old computers
Surfing the Net and downloading .WAV files
Viewing live theatre
Participating in amateur theatre
Foreign movies
Dinner and salsa dancing
Volunteering, manning phones/running kitchens/herding kids for charity
Swimming, biking, hiking
Dressing in medieval clothes and going to SCA weekend events;
dressing in medieval armor and flailing away at other sweating
idiots with bamboo-and-duct-tape "swords"
Gathering in abandoned building to whisper sedition around guttering
candle flames
The perfect partner for my bridge champion ambitions
King of the Jungle Gym
Volunteer work for political parties
Dressing up in furry-animal suits
Slaying nasty demons in very messy ways
Writing, editing and publishing zines, on paper or online
Dressing in weird clothes and going to science-fiction weekend events
Dressing in spandex outfits and hunting down psychotic drug lords
Surfing the Net and building criminal cases against public figures
Surfing the Net for hours and hours for obscure porn
Releasing email worms against corporate and religious targets, signed
with the names of public authorities
Catty (Persian, Russian Blue, or Turkish Van)
Catty (Alley/Mixed Breed)
Catty (Maine Coon Cat)
Catty (Sabretoothed Tiger)
A slice of lemon wrapped around a large gold brick
Feeding the neighbourhood vermin on the sly
Solving all the problems Paul Erdos left prizes for

B4) Temperament:

Nebbish, a pushover
Naif, easily led
Divinity student
Slacker
Mountain man
Good ol' boy

Not quite visiting this planet
Four-eyed computer nerd propeller-head geek
Aggressive salesman/entrepreneur/lawyer/CGA
Surfer dude
Aging hippie
Disco victim
Jock
Goth
Moody Byronic romantic hero
Extreme sports adrenaline junkie
Shadowy sinister power broker
Expensive, but worth it
Economical, diligent, and commanding
Allergic to vegetables

B5) How would you summarize your future ____friend?

A life partner
Dominant Charismatic Cult Leader
A fully self-realized individual
A sugar daddy
Husband material
A father for my children
A meal ticket
Toy boy
Sex buddy
Strong like tractor, smart like ox
Like adopting a child/big dog, only one who costs more, eats more and
sleeps in my bed
Independently wealthy entrepreneur philanthropist
Pirate capitalist

C) How would you describe yourself?

C1) Physique:

Pixie/gamine/petite
Model (anorexic/bulimic)
Average height and weight
Basketball/crew physique – a sparring partner
Female bodybuilder
Statuesque
Zaftig
Bodacious
Earth Mother

C2) Your Occupation:

Professional student
Skilled trades (unionized/non-unionized)
Clerical assistant

Legal/medical/parliamentary intern
Professional agitatrix
Ecowarrior
Stage/Film/television actress
Professional (lawyer, doctor, CGA, stockbroker, etc.)
Civil servant
Elected representative
Drain on society

C3) Your favourite leisure activities:

Crossword puzzles, and translating out-of-print novels into Esperanto
Staying home and watching soaps television
Restoring old computers
Surfing the Net and downloading .WAV files
Discussing your relationship
Viewing live theatre
Participating in amateur theatre
Foreign movies
Dinner and salsa dancing
Ballroom dancing
Belly dancing
Volunteering, manning phones/running kitchens/herding kids for charity
Swimming, biking, hiking
Dressing in medieval clothes and going to SCA weekend events;
dressing in medieval armor and flailing away at other sweating
idiots with bamboo-and-duct-tape "swords"
Gathering in abandoned building to whisper sedition around guttering
candle flames
Shopping, and/or eating the clerks, and/or trashing the stores
Volunteer work for political parties
Writing, editing and publishing zines, on paper or online
Dressing in weird clothes and going to science-fiction weekend events
Dressing in spandex outfits and hunting down psychotic drug lords
Sullyng the suburban aural landscape with Handel's "Royal
Fireworks" played at high volume through the open windows of
my Rolls Royce
Surfing the Net and building criminal cases against public figures
Releasing email worms against corporate and religious targets, signed
with the names of public authorities
Feeding the neighbourhood vermin on the sly
Solving all the problems Paul Erdos left prizes for

C4) Your Temperament:

Japanese college student
Alice in Wonderland
Divinity student
Slacker
Four-eyed computer nerd propeller-head geek(ette)

Aggressive salesperson/entrepreneur/lawyer/CGA
Not quite visiting this planet
Surfer dudette
Valley girl
Jock
Goth girl
Warrior princess
Extreme sports adrenaline junkie
Catty (Persian, Russian Blue, or Turkish Van)
Catty (Alley/Mixed Breed)
Catty (Maine Coon Cat)
Catty (Sabretoothed Tiger)
A slice of lemon wrapped around a large gold brick
Expensive, but worth it
Economical, diligent, and commanding
Allergic to vegetables

C5) How would you describe what /you/ bring to a relationship?

I am:
Passive/aggressive
Submissive
Addictively supportive
Low-maintenance
A cougar
A Jewish-American Princess
Sex buddy
A Mountain girl
Queen of the Jungle Gym
Aggressive, a dominatrix
A Femme fatale
High-maintenance
Needy
Wanty

D) How do you prefer to be addressed?

(CENSORED)
"Number ___"
"Hey, girl ..."
"Eh! Jolie!"
"Good sheila"
"Yo, lady!"
"Baby" / "Honey" / "Sweetheart"
"Snookums" / "Sweetnums" / "Diddykums"
"Bellissima!"
"My first and only love"
"O Giver of pain and delight"
"She Who Must Be Obeyed"
"Feared and Destined Heiress of the World"

E) What is your ideal relationship?

One-night stand

Westchester weekend

Friendship "with benefits"

Lasting affair

Career-in-a-cottage

Looking for a large warm nap

Positive nurturing enduring basis for home, family, and long life

Las Vegas marriage

Dysfunctional codependent cycle of abuse

Satisfies my inner need for dominance/submission

I don't know anymore why I worry about these things, anyway; I have unemployment and stuph to deal with. Maybe I should just form a Liberal Secular Humanist cult devoted to sex in hot tubs. Think I should advertise for co-eds from the campuses?