



The Drink Tank

ISSUE IN THE THIRD



MORE THOUGHTS AND STRANGENESSES
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
CHRISTOPHER J. GARCIA

Stacked Decks

It's been five plus years since the last edition of Stacked Decks appeared. The brainchild of Jay Crasdan and M. Lloyd, then known as M. Heil, was a zine dedicated to Poker, Porn and Punk Rock. Seems odd how far ahead of the curve they were in 1997, when the whole thing started.

Wednesday nights were the weekly Poker, Porn and Punk Parties at Johnny Regular's place. It was a rowdy and attention deficient group. While we played poker, we had a muted porn video on the TV and one of Jay's random Punk compilations on the stereo. No one but M ever seemed to pay any attention to the videos, but she's like that. After a few weeks, Jay and M started talking about doing a fanzine, something that the two of them had tried in High School.

The first issues of Stancked Decks were pretty much party reports. Jay would talk about the records he'd play, M would write about the porn and maybe drop a piece of erotica in, I'd do the full game report, putting to paper the amount won and lost by the various players. The pretty much accounted for the first three issues.

Issues 4 and 5 were all M and Jay, since I was in Cali. The poker stuff was minimal, but they did some great stories on Porn and the Album reviews were fantastic. Issue six featured my review of the 1989 World Series of Poker that I saw replayed on ESPN one weekend. It's amazing how much the coverage of the WSOP has changed, as

now the world cares about poker and there are hundreds of reporters all talking about it. Back then, we got a letter from Binion's after we sent them a copy.

I moved back to Beantown and issue seven was the biggest thing to hit the pizza parlors and coffee shoppes that surrounded Boston University. Ok, that's a lie since we only printed about 20 copies, but issue seven was amazing. Almost 80 pages and all of it was gold. I had a decent sized story and M wrote a piece of filth that was so dirty that Jay put a warnign note on the front. Honestly, we all thought that issue seven was going to be the last issue.

M had decided that she wanted to follow her boyfriend, a bloke named Carl, back to Australia, where he was from. Jay took a job in Chicago and I was about to get hooked on the Computer History Museum out here in Cali. Right after the three of us moved, I got a package in the mail from Jay. It was issue 8 of Stacked Decks. A couple of stories that M and I had left with Jay that he had never used. It was a good issue, though obviously it was a publication of remainders.

I always thought that Stacked Decks was very stylish. No photos, just 12pt Courier text. The cover was a blow-up of a Bicycle-brand playing card blown up depending on what issue number we were on. It was a solid zine that I hope we'll make again



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What means this thing called love?

- I'M IN THE MIDST OF WRITING A LOVE STORY ALL ABOUT A GIRL WHO SETS OUT TO FIND THE WEST COAST IN THE 1790S AND TAKES A FEW FOLKS WITH HER AND SHE FALLS IN LOVE WITH ONE OF THE WOMEN. IT'S A SORT-OF STEAMPUNK LESBIAN ROMANCE. BUT MY ISSUE BECOMES THIS: CAN A LESBIAN ROMANCE STORY, IN GENRE IN THIS DAY AND AGE, REALLY WORK WITHOUT A TORRID GRAPHIC SEX SCENE?
- I KNOW PEOPLE WHO WOULD SAY NO, AND I KNOW FOLKS WHO WOULD SAY YES, BUT I CAN'T COME UP WITH AN EXAMPLE OF THE POSITIVE STANCE. I THINK WE'VE HONESTLY ATTACHED TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE CONCEPT OF HOT GIRL-ON-GIRL ACTION IN STORIES THAT COULD CERTAINLY WORK WITHOUT THEM...IF IT WEREN'T FOR READER EXPECTATIONS.

Another Little Story

Zombies

- Controlling them proved more difficult than the books and Sunday Matinees had made it seem. They kept falling to pieces even before the busty/buff teens were trapped in the house, and their creation more formaldehyde than fizzing herbals, more arc-welding than arcana. This batch would have to quickly be replaced before they came to pieces on his dead mother's good carpet.
- How did Vincent Price always manage to make it look so easy?



Christopher J. Garcia and a Piece of UNIVAC

- The biggest trouble with being a guy who loves movies and knows his technology is that they never get the tech right in movies. You always knew a computer was thinking when the tape drives were spinning. In fact, this is quite often the opposite, that the machine is searching for the data that it needs to do what it does. There's the frequent problem of GUIs on screen, that you'll never see a system that gives you a full-screen You've Got Mail blast. Hell, I don't even think I've ever seen a password entry point that looks like any of the ones I've seen in spy thrillers.
- I've written an article for CORE on Computers in Movies, and I said that I wouldn't put it anywhere else, but the issues been delayed for more than a year, so this will have to suffice as me writing on Computer in the Movies.



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REVIEWS AND STRANGENESSES
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Broadcast 23 by Tom Putnam

- I'm very interested in short film as an art form. I got myself on the shorts selection committee at Cinequest because I really wanted to explore the depth of the rarely seen form. There is some great stuff, especially when you think about how much crap teh studios are putting out. I came across a program that one fo those studios uses to gather new talent, Fox's SearchLab. They produced one of the better Science Fiction shorts in years: Broadcast 23.
- Director Tom Putnum really came to my eyes with his 2003 film Tom Hits His Head, which was an uber-trippy film of a guy fighting his anxiety. Broadcast 23 isn't the same, but it is a science fiction story of a researcher in the grand tradition of In Search Of, out in teh wilderness to record a Yeti-like creature. There's a Senior Curator type who is explaining the significance of the twenty-third broadcast while the researcher is panicked, including going so far as to apply Crisco to his butt.
- Yep, it's one of those kinds of movies.
- This was one of the most fun shorts I saw all year, and easily one of the most memorable. It'll be at Cinequest for those of you in the Bay Area, and on the fest circuit for the next year.

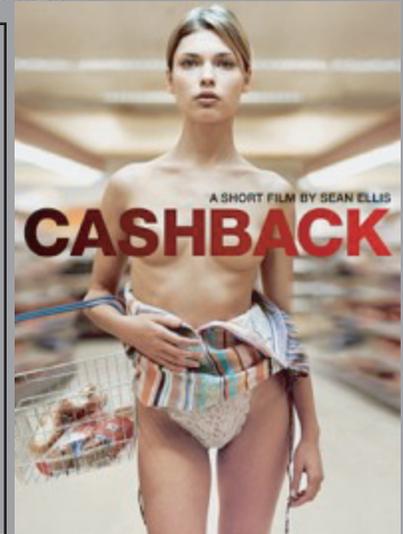
Cashback by Sean Ellis

- There are a lot of ways to get a festival programmer to notice your work. Great music, amazing acting, all of them far less effective than good old fashioned skin.
- And Cashback provides it.
- Cashback stars Sean Biggerstaff of Harry Potter fame as a clerk at a supermarket. He narrates the situation of working the over-night, explaining how the various members of the staff make the time work for them. He reveals his secret, which is brilliant and gives us the chance to see a whole lot of female flesh.
- Now, don't think that the nudity is all this film has going for it. It's beautifully shot and very smart. The supporting cast is good, though they don't have much to do. Sean Ellis makes full use of every angle and shot and the direction is as solid as they come.
- This is another film that will be at Cinequest, and a few other places. Try and see it at a festival near you, because these films tend not to end up on DVD.



The Incredible Morgan Rusler
in Broadcast 23

This Years'
Top Shorts
include
Broadcast
23 and
Cashback
both
showing at
Cinequest
March
2nd -14th
in
San Jose




CINEQUEST FILM FESTIVAL



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MORE COMPLAINING
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Standard Fandom Complaint

There's not a lot of ethnicity in fannish circles, outside of anime and media fandom. I've been to three cons where mine was the only last name of Hispanic derivation in the programme. According to my dad, there were a half-dozen Mexican fans lurking about Bay Area fandom in the 1970s. They loved El Santa movies and had a good time. There were more African-American fans, and there still are, but really, with rare exceptions, fandom's a lily-white population. Well, there are lots of Jewish fans in First Fandom, so at least there was some diversity back in the day.

I've often wondered what it would take to get more Hispanic folks into fandom. It's a similar question to the one posed on panels I've seen on getting more African-Americans into fandom. The answer is more printed books targeted towards Hispanics.

There is a rich variety of MesoAmerican cultural-infused fantasy and science fiction, and most of the great Magical Realism is in Spanish (hence the joke Magical Realism is Fantasy with tildes). Alex Irvine's *A Scattering of Jades* comes to mind, but it certainly does not seem to appeal to Hispanic readers. The need for new Urban Presses, like Right Books of the 1960s and early 70s, is obvious in this situation. If only we could encourage targeted fiction towards young Latino and African-American readers.

There aren't a lot of Hispanic writers. I was actually asked to do an interview because I was one of the few Hispanic writers of English language science fiction. When I explained that my stuff had hardly been published, they asked if I could recommend someone. I could not.

I'd love to see my cousins reading science fiction, but they haven't been able to grab onto any of the things I've shown them. My half-sister loves vampire fic and high fantasy, but I couldn't get her reading MZB when I tried. We've got to try and bring La Raza into fandom, if for nothign else then I'd not be alone on Hispanics in Science Fiction panels

Here's to You, Mister Robinson



Some people have very strange hobbies. Tim Robinson, a volunteer at the Computer History Museum takes my Oscar for strange hobbies. He has made several calculating machines out of old British Meccano! He's working on Babbage's Analytical Engine, which will be the first complete AE ever!





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SENT TO GARCIA@COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG

BY MY GENTLE READERS

Jay Crasdan, Evanston, IL.

Chris, so, you put out another ish. Great stuff. I like this one way better. I didn't know Jordan was existant. Slap his ugly mug for me when you get a chance.

I never quite understood your love of ABC. NBC was always better. Weigh the Cosby Show and Night Court against The Wonder Years and Perfect Strangers. No doubt who wins. I will say that Lost is pretty good, but I've never been an Alias fan. Desperate Housewives is too boss to explain to the likes of you. -J

Hey, you'll get no argument that Night Court was brilliant, but how could you not love Perfect Strangers?

I'll knock Jordan around a little for ya when next I see him.

Shelly T.- Arizona

Love your hair.

Crazy kid.

You are neat.

This is the best email I've gotten in ages because it comments on my luxurious head of mighty curls

Alec de Mey, Montreal, Quebec

□ Yours is a fun little zine. I liked the reviews of the shorts. I make shorts and maybe you'll review. I hope the next issue is even better

Alec

I'd love to review your short, just send it to 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. MT. View, CA 94043, USA. If you know of any others from up your way, have them send in too.

M. Lloyd- Geelong, Australia

The pendulum swung pretty far back, eh?

You have always loved your TV, but you'd probably die for some of the shows out here. Dr. Who with Tom Baker, Aussie Rules, and several transplanted Brit shows on too.

When are you going to settle down? You should be married and hating every minute of it by now.

Courage and Stupidity is a fine little film, but I'd much rather watch that Conan Doyle film and there's nothing when I Google it.

I couldn't find a site for it either. I wanna invite it to my fest. Aussie rules alone would be enough to get me watching far too much TV if I lived out there. Go Geelong!

Manny Sanford- Santa Clara, CA

I don't know why, but I liked number one better. More pictures that were fun. I hope you'll keep up the level of writing. It's solid and on the lines of some of the best stuff that I'm reading right now.

Thanks, I'll try my best. I'm working on it and trying to get more in.

Just wanted to say

thanks to Jan Stinson for the great advice on how to improve The Drink Tank. I'm trying to keep file sizes down and still have a few pictures. If anyone has a tip using the Adobe Suite of products (since I get them free) let me know. Like Grace Hopper, I'm still working out the bugs!

John Garcia- Milpitas, CA (transcription from part of a phone message)

I guess I taught you right. You wrote a good fanzine. I remember you used to read my copies all the time and I'd yell at you for getting them all dirty. At least I rubbed off on you a little more than your Mom thought I would. You should write about the Winchester Mystery Con idea I had. Maybe someone will try it.

I wrote it up for Peregrine Nations a few months ago. Folks like it!