



**THE DRINK TANK ISSUE 111**  
**GARCIA@COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG**



### **THE NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY'S CLASS OF 2006**

My favourite days of the year are as follow: Halloween, WrestleMania, Cinequest's Closing Night, Opening Night of the Sonoma Valley Film Festival and the day they announce the new additions to the National Film Registry.

Typically, it's one of the last days of the year and I've finished my Christmasing and I've started using the new toys I've gotten for the big day (this year: new MP3 player) and I sit down at work and read them as soon as I get in.

The National Film Registry adds 25 films every year to the list of the most important films ever made in the US. Films must be at least 10 years old and show significant influence on some aspect of American Culture. The list is impressive, some 450 had been chosen up until the 28th of December 2006. Almost all the greats are there and they've got a good eye for both commercial and art film.

The 2006 class is a good one with two films that I absolutely called, one film that shocked the hell out of me and only one real questionable call.

#### Applause- 1929

If you didn't like The Blair Witch Project, then you should blame George J. Folsey. Folsey was the first Cinematographer who moved the camera from a locked position. It produces a strange effect, but you really notice what happens when the camera stops moving. The film itself is about a burlesque dancer who's aging and trying to stop her daughter from going into the business. It's on DVD from Kino and is only worth viewing if you're a serious Cinematography buff or like the early talking pictures. Helen Morgan gives a

pretty good performance too.

#### The Big Trail- 1930.

A Raoul Walsh picture based on a Hal Evarts story starring John Wayne. It's one of The Duke's early films and it's pretty good choice. While John Wayne's acting isn't quite where it would be about five years later, this is the first time you really see that he's going to be a serious star. Tyrone Power, Sr. is also in it.



#### Blazing Saddles- 1974

This is the one that I totally called. Mel Brooks' genius had shown several times already when he made

Saddles, The Producers and Young Frankenstein, but Blazing Saddles was the perfect complement to the times with its racially-charged comedy written by Brooks and Richard Pryor (along with others doing punch-up writing). Blazing Saddles is still fresh and damn funny, especially when you consider when it was being done. There was significant backlash against the film from groups like the NAACP about the way the film, despite it being one of the few mainstream films presenting an intelligent black man in a position of authority. The best cut line in the history of film was written for and then removed from Blazing Saddles.

“It’s twu! It’s Twu!”

“Lady, you’re suckin’ on my arm.”

The Curse of Quon Gwon- 1916/1917

This is the controversial one. The basic statement of the Registry is that films must be held in archives and not be lost films. One of the big discoveries of the last decade was The Curse of Quon Gwon, a Marion Wong silent made by one of the several ethnic cinema groups that made films catered to the various niche groups, in this case Chinese immigrants. They recovered about 34 minutes of the film, roughly 40%. Now, I understand wanting to list one of these films, and from everything I’ve read, it’s a helluva film, but with only 34 minutes surviving, I wouldn’t include it. In fact, I think that every

other film on the list is known from a complete print that’s at least 80% complete. It just doesn’t rub me right.

Daughter of Shanghai- 1937

One of Anthony Quinn’s early films and a damn good one starring Anna Mae Wong, one of the earliest Chinese-American film stars. In fact, there are those who say that she’s the only one that’s ever deserved that title. Robert Florey is one of those directors who had a great impact and never got the full credit he deserved.



Drums of Winter (Uksuum Cauyai)- 1988

This is a good choice. I’ve seen it a few times (most recently in college) and it’s a 90 minute piece of documentary based around eskimos based around the Yukon River near the Bering Sea coast. It documents their dance and songs and uses a lot of footage and photos from as far back as they exist as well as words of early missionaries to the area.



Early Abstractions #1-5,7,10- 1939-56

Harry Smith. Man, he was nuts. Here’s a guy who was an experimenter in the area of abstract film. He put punch-out pieces on the film and put paint and vaseline over it to create images. He did many other methods, but that was the one that’s best known.

Here’s a guy I would have loved. He was a folk music expert in the 40s and 50s and a lot of folks say that he ushered in the 60s folk explosion with his Folkways releases. He also had a huge collection of Paper Airplanes that ended up in the collection of the Smithsonian’s National Air & Space Museum.







Fargo- 1996

This isn't even my favourite Cohen Bros. film, but it was far more recognised than any of their other films. Still, it's a good movie with a fun plot and some really brilliant acting. Fransec McDormand won Best Actress, and if it hadn't been for Geoffrey Rush's brilliant turn as David Helfgott in Shine, William H. Macy would have won for Best Actor. I believe that this is also the first film starring Peter Stormare to make the Registry. I think the same is true of Stee Buscemi, which is strange since both Reservoir Dogs and Pulp Fiction should be in.

One thing about Fargo that I think everyone should remember is that it was one of the three films that really made Miramax a major player. The others were Clerks and Pulp Fiction, neither of which are in the Registry. I'm of the belief that both of those films had a bigger impact, but Fargo was the more beloved of the three to mainstream viewers...though I think it made about 1/2 as much as Pulp Fiction did with a smaller release.

### Flesh and The Devil- 1927

BrAngelina wasn't the first screen couple to get boffo box office because of a real life affair. Garbo's affair with John Gilbert and the intensity of their love scenes sold lots of tickets. I can't say that it's the best of Garbo's films, but it's right up there.



### Groundhog's Day- 1993

Here's the shocker. I had no idea Groundhog's Day would ever make it onto the Registry. It's a funny movie, probably the film where Murray's at his funniest, but it's not a legendary film. Hell, the funniest film of 1993 was probably Dave with Kevin Kline, but it has aged very well. This is one of two films that got in this year featuring Andie MacDowell.

### Halloween- 1978

At one point the most successful non-studio film ever released and probably the best of that early wave of slasher flicks. John Carpenter is at his best as a director in the sorry of Michael Myers and Jamie Leigh Curtis

was suitably frightened. It's also the only real horror film that I love and will watch again and again.

### In The Street- 1939

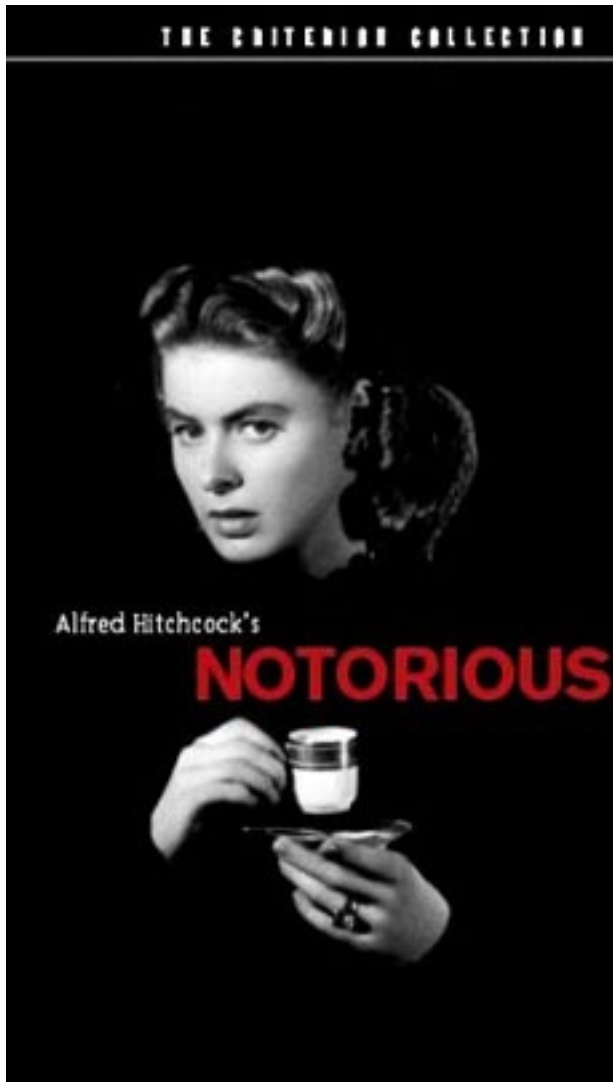
Helen Levitt is one of the heavyweights of American Photography and she did a short film about Harlem street life, especially kids playing in the Street. She shot it verite style, which gave it a reality that was damn grim. Even today it feels gritty, which is amazing after films like Kids.



The Last Command- 1928

One of my favourite trivia questions ever: who won the very first Oscar? The answer: Emil Jannings. He won it for two films, one of which was The Last

Command. So expressive was Janning that when Murnau made The Last Laugh, he didn't need title cards. The Last Command is a very good picture and one of the last great silents. Much better than Wings and Chaplin's The Circus, both of which were up against it for the first Best Picture.



#### Notorious- 1946

Yet another RKO Radio Picture that made the list. This one's a good one too, in my opinion the best of Hitchcock's films. Cary Grant is wonderful, but Ingrid Bergman is amazing. She's better here than she was 5 years before in Casablanca. Buy the Criterion Collection version.

#### Red Dust- 1932

The pre-Hayes Code days of Hollywood were easily the best for talkies. Films like Red Dust and The Sin of Nora Moran pushed the envelope and ended up getting razed by social critics. The film is real good, with Cary Grant turning in another awesome performance. If you've seen Mogambo, take the exact same story, transplant it to Indochina and you've got it down.

#### Rocky- 1976

The newest Rocky Balboa movie is said to be the second best Rocky film, which isn't hard to believe. What's incredible is that the fictionalized story of Chuck Wepner became such a great movie written by Stallone. It was an awesome achievement and most folks seem to forget that he won the Oscar for the screenplay.

#### sex, lies and videotape- 1989

Stephen Soderberg bust onto the scene with this classic. It really did turn around a lot of what had been going on in film. This is the other Andie MacDowell film. It's darn good and an early 20s Soderberg was better than almost any other filmmaker at the time.

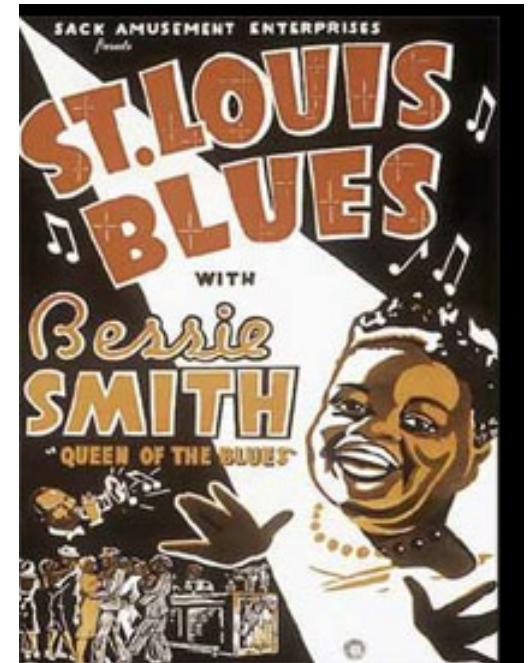
#### Siege- 1940

This is a film that's hard to get ahold of unless you know where to look. This is a ten minute short made during WWII. I've seen it at the UCLA

archives when they did a WWII Retrospective. It's an RKO short which tended to be the best of their kind. Marvellous combination of reenactment and actual war footage.

#### St. Louis Blues- 1929

Another short and this one's really more important for the sound than the film. It's an all African-American cast headed up by Bessie Smith. This is the only recording of Smith's stuff that's not controlled by Columbia, which hasn't been kind to her estate. It's a great short and the first place to start for the tradition of Black American Musical Cinema that includes films like Castle in the Sky and The Wiz.



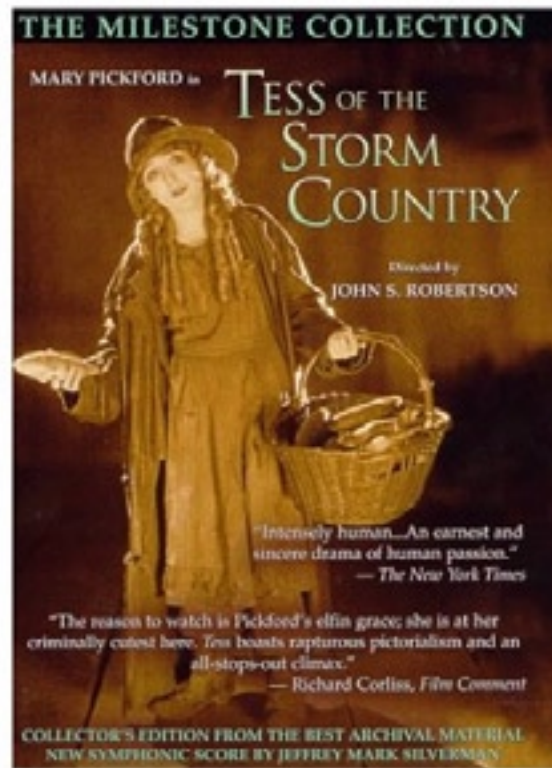


## The T.A.M.I. Show- 1964

There aren't a lot of concert films I'd say were worthy of being on the National Film Registry. The T.A.M.I. Show (either standing for Teenage Awards Music International or Teen Age Music International) is certainly one of them. It includes performances by numerous popular rock and roll and R&B musicians from the United States and England like The Beach Boys, Chuck Berry, James Brown, Marvin Gaye, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, The Rolling Stones and The Supremes. The concert took place at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium on October 28 and 29, 1964 with Jan and Dean MCing and performing "Here They Come (From All Over the World)" which was the theme song. Jack Nitzsche, a legendary arranger, was the show's music director. The other concert film that needs to be in sooner than later is Stop Making Sense by The Talking Heads.

## Tess of the Storm Country- 1922

Mary Pickford wasn't quite the big name she'd be a few years later, but here she's fantastic. I've never seen this entire film, though I've seen the Janet Gaynor version made about ten years later a few times. I've always been a big Pickford fan and the thirty minutes or so of this I've seen I thought was great.



## Think of Me First as a Person- 2006

OK, here's a wonderful addition and one that's slightly controversial. In the 1960s and 70s, Dwight Core Sr. started making home movies of his son, Dwight Core Jr. who had Down's Syndrome. Core Sr.'s grandson found the footage and edited it together into Think of Me First as a Person and showed it in early 2006 at a Home Movie festival. It was no question a significant piece of film, but it was only shown this year and while it was made ten years ago, it hasn't been ten years since it was shown. I still think it should be in and if you ever get a chance to see it, do so!

## A Time Out of War- 1954

This is another short and one of the the real greats. based on the story The Pickets which was a great success. It tells the story of two Union Soldiers who are firing across a brook at a Confederate Soldier. This goes on for hours and with no one making a hit, they call a truce, swim and do some fishing before they find a body and the three of them share a great deal of respect with each other. There are a couple of films about the truces of World War I, but this one is so much about the pain of war and is so brief that it really packs a punch. The only Anti-War function I attended in 2003 was one where they showed A Time Out of War.

## Traffic in Souls- 1913

This is one of the earliest feature films. It's a fun little movie, though far from what features would become even two years later when Griffith started making his spectaculars. Traffic in Souls dealt with forced prostitution in New York and was a complex story for the time. There were lots of subplot and characters. Universal even claimed that they spent 200k on the flick and had 800 players in 700 scenes, all of which were lies, but it's still a sensational film and probably too complex for audiences of that generation. It was once remade, and I think remade again in Germany. It's one of those films that not perfect, but hugely innovative.

## My Visit to LASFS and Hollywood...Or How Iggy Pop Nearly Killed Me

I'd never been to a Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society meeting. It's not easy for me to make them since Thursdays are the night the Gen works late and I have to watch Evelyn. Evelyn's Dad decided to take her for a few extra days, so I managed to make my way down south to a meeting.

And I flew.

Long-time readers will know that I hate flying, but I've got two flights coming up next year (one to Texas for CorFlu and one to St. Louis for NAS-FiC), so I wanted to get myself at least slightly accustomed to flying. I made it through, though the flight down to LA was full of bumps.

As soon as I got there, I grabbed a cab. I had wanted to go to the Griffith Observatory, but I hadn't gotten reservations for the shuttle, and taking a cab to Hollywood and Highland would have cost a lot. So, I went to Universal Studios.

It had been 20 years or so since I'd been there and I remember enjoying the tour when I went as a wide-eyed ten year old. I arrived and paid the 61 buck entry fee! That was nuts, but it turned out to be worth it. I immediately went down a ton of stairs to the lower section where they have the real thrill rides. The first one was one I'd been wanting to ride since about 1995 or so:



The Jurassic Park ride. It's a water ride with a ton of animatronic dinosaurs. The weird thing is that it's not the best kept of rides, as there was a lot of stuff broken or just looking like it needed an updating. Still, the ride itself was fun and the splashes and drops were really great. I followed that up by going across the way and visiting the Mummy ride.

The Mummy ride was a rollercoaster that I hadn't heard much about. As I was walking through, I was enjoying the Preshow entertainment, including the projected film. These things are all called theming in the Theme Park biz, but it really got me thinking and a future issue of The Drink Tank will come out of my time in that line.

Oh yeah, the ride was fucking awesome!

It's a rollercoaster that takes you through some story stuff about Imhotep and then ends up blasting through a dark room at high speeds until you get slammed by a stop at a

wall and then do a second track backwards. just a lot of fun. I rode it twice it was so great. I really think it's the most entertaining roller coaster I've been on in ages (though I haven't been on the new Space Mountain yet).

I then had lunch and hit the Studio Tour. It was a lot like I remember it, though they've incorporated a lot of video, which improves it greatly. I also liked the way they used Whoopi Goldberg as the host for some sections. The shark popping out, the King Kong Set, the Earthquake, all of it was a lot of fun. I remember the Universal Studios annual Holiday video that Trey Parker and Matt Stone did that made fun of the ride, but it was a lot of fun.

I finally went to the Terminator 2 ride which was also a bunch of fun. The interactivity of the show coupled with a great actress doing the intro made it a good time.

At the end of that all, I was hungry and I had a hunkerin' for another place I hadn't been in ages: Bob's Big Boy.

When I was a kid, we'd go to Bob's before the movies on almost every Friday night. Sadly, they closed all the ones around here by 1989, so I lost my tradition. I used to get the Fisherman's Combo and an Ice Cream cake for dessert, which was a lot for a kid of 7 or 8. I figured I'd go and relive some of my childhood. They didn't have the combo anymore, so I got a steak and

shrimp, but I finished it off with the Ice Cream Cake, which while slightly different than I remember it, was still AWESOME!!! Seriously, that's the taste memory that I hold the strongest from my childhood and it still brings back memories of movies like 9 to 5 and Foul Play.

After that, I walked to the LASFS Clubhouse. Now, Big Boy is in darkest Burbank and the Clubhouse is in North Hollywood. They looked so close on a map that I thought I could walk it. I managed, but man it was a hike. Took me all of 90 minutes to get there.

As soon as I arrived, I ran into my pal Ed Green. He's a good fellow and he gave me the full tour, bless him! I saw all the stuff that I'd heard about over the years and though there was a full hour before the meeting started, I set myself down at the meeting area on the couch. I ran into folks I knew from the minute I got there. There was Len and June Moffatt, two former TAFF winners and good folks. In the sideroom off of the meeting room was Marty Cantor, who was working on finishing APA-L. With him was Australian fan Ken Ozma, a very nice man with a great beard! After a while, Scratch came by and we chatted. Then in came George and Vanessa Van Wagner, who were putting me up (and who I thank greatly!), Christian McGuire and Jerry Pournelle and others. Sadly, no Selina, no Martin Young, no John deChancie



at first (though he showed up later), nor Chaz Boston-Baden, though I ran into him at the After-meeting at The Coral. I chatted with folks, but I had to sit down because I'd just walked a lot further than I had expected.

There was a display case with all sorts of memorabilia dedicated to the history of the club and I was fascinated by the fact that Bill Rotsler, despite having passed away in 1997, was such a big part of the feel of the place. Of course, it didn't hurt that his ashes were in one of the display cases.

The meeting itself was more structured than a BASFA meeting,

but still had its moments. I'm a fan of fans getting their due, and the act of honouring LASFS Patron Saints is a good one. I was very impressed. After the main part of the meeting it, it was my turn to talk about what's going on in Fanzines. There was a good crowd, more than usually attend fanzine panels at most cons I talk at (except Silicon where the SF/SF panel went over big!) and I passed around a few of the ones I had traveled with. I never go anywhere without at least one fanzine. After I said my bit, we went to the Coral for a little after, and then George and Vanessa put me up for the night (and I again Thank them muchly for all the great hospitality!) and then I took the LA Subway. It was awesome! I'd never been on it and it was clean and fast and cheap. Why WHY can't BART be that good? It was a nice ride and short too.

I made my way to Hollywood and Highland to meet folks, but plans fell through since folks were working and such. It happens. I then headed off to the Hollywood Roosevelt, my favourite hotel in the world, as I've done a full issue on it in the past. I wrote a bit for the idea I had at the Mummy ride and it happened that I had a nice chat with Leiv Schreiber who was there in the lobby. He's a damn fine actor and if you've seen RKO 581, you've seen that he's a better Orson Welles than Vince Dinoffrio.



Then I went walking. I went to my favourite Hollywood movie bookstore. I was looking for Hollywood Babylon 2, but they didn't have it. I discovered a box of old film fanzines and bought a lot of 1960s/early 70s Film Fan Monthly, which was then edited by my man Leonard Maltin. It was called Film Fan Monthly and it was one of the most impressive little film zines of all time. I have the second Maltin issue (bought at the CorFlucisco Auction in 2005) and that got me jonesin' for more. I got several from 1967 and the one from the month I was born. They're good issues, and I also found issue 2 of Film Dope, a famous 1970s film zine that mostly did Filmographies of various folks. It's a great reference, especially for stars who died before 1973. I also picked up the Complete Listing of Columbia Serials that will make for an interesting article at some point.

It makes a man hungry to drop so much cash at one place, so I went and got lunch at The Grill. There's got one in San Jose, so I knew what to expect. I had the Pastrami Dip, which I enjoyed and followed that up with Creme Brule. Delicious stuff.

I walked back to the Roosevelt for more writing (there's a very fun future issue of The Drink Tank coming) and then another walk up Sunset and back up Hollywood Blvd...which is where the nearly getting hit by Iggy Pop happened.



I was walking with my bright yellow backpack and leather case full of zines when I made it across a small street off of Hollywood. As I was 1/2 across, I heard screeching tires. I looked and saw that a PT Cruiser had been on a course to turn me into road pie. Luckily, the reflexes worked well enough to stop the car before I died. I looked at the guy behind the wheel to give him THE EYE, but when I saw him, he was a leathery old dude who I instantly recognised as Iggy Pop. I did a little wave and he gave me a grave nod. It would have been worth it to get hit by Iggy if it wouldn't have done any serious damage, but I'm glad he didn't make contact that time because I'd

have been scattered across that street. I always said that I'd die in Hollywood if I ever tried to live there again, and it almost happened when I was just visiting!

I did some more writing, went to a few more shops and took in the Hollywood History Museum in the old Max Factor building. That's a neat place, though they have no idea how to properly display artifacts like a museum. Maybe they need a curator...

I then headed back to the airport and wrote some more there. A lot more there, in fact. The flight was easy and only bumpy for a minute or two. I was very pleased to be home...though exhausted.

**Letter-Graded Mail**  
**Sent to [garcia@computerhistory.org](mailto:garcia@computerhistory.org)**  
**by my gentle readers**

***I'm playing catch-up, so here's a couple on issue 109, first from Eric Mayer!***

Chris,

Dangerous toys! Those which don't actually kill you are way cool! I didn't have that belt cap gun but I owned lots of other cap guns and rifles. We had to make regular trips to the dime store to replenish our ammo supplies. We'd be checking each day to see how many boxes of caps we had. But they didn't make enough noise. What you had to do was wad up as many caps as possible to drop the hammer on, then you'd get a satisfying explosion. I guess cap guns are outlawed today. Heck, none of us ever got killed. A little ringing in the ear for a day after seeing what it sounded like up close, an occasional spark in the eye. Hell, we were more likely to get hurt collapsing on the ground pretending we were shot. Funny though, I never got into real guns. ***I had a cap gun that I loved very much. I went through a lot of caps back in my day.***

Then I recall the rocket set I got once year. The rockets were hollow plastic tubes. You filled them partly with water, then clamped them to the launch pad and proceeded to pump air



into them with a bicycle pump. When the locking mechanism was released the pressurized air/water whooshed out propelling the rocket practically out of sight. Once. The second time the plastic cracked in the winter cold and that was the end of my space program. I thought of that years later when the first shuttle blew up thanks to a frozen O ring.

***I totally remember those rockets! We used to shoot them at each other...you know, for fun!***

While I realize some toys are dangerous I think too much is made out of it. How about bicycles? We used to see what we could get our speedometers up to pedalling down the steepest hills we could find. And what is more dangerous than a batted baseball. I got whacked in the head a

couple times when I didn't react fast enough. Well, maybe that's why I'm writing a Loc to a fanzine.

***I'm sure Arnie Katz would agree that a baseball can be among the most dangerous of inventions!***

Have a good Christmas. Hope you find lots of killer toys under your tree.

You see this about Jesus' brother?

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/061223/139/6ajmq.html>

Hey. Maybe the devil is Jesus' evil twin.

***Oh that is delicious! I must find more!***

Also...yes, the NY Dolls and Devo should be in the hall of fame.

***If Bill Mazerowski can make it into the Baseball Hall, there's hope for Devo and The Dolls.***

Best,  
Eric

***Thanks, Eric!***

***And another on 109: John Purcell!***

Well, here we go again; another day, another Garcia zine, another loc to that Garcia kid.

***Yep, you're stuck LoCin' me for another year, John!***

On to the zine at hand.

Interesting lists herein, young man. The top 10 worst toys was funny

and bizarre. That Johnny Reb Cannon reminded me of one of my favorite TV shows when I was a kid, “The Rebel” starring Nick Adams as Johnny Yuma. Great show. I even had one of the books, too!

***I’m a list whore (as this issue will attest). I’m the leading bidder on one of them cannons on eBay. Let’s hope that it stays that way!***

Now bands to get into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is always a good discussion starter. Of the nine acts listed out, the only three that I think deserve to get in are The Dave Clark 5, for exactly the reason you gave, and The Stooges, mainly because of Iggy Pop’s influence, and REM, simply because Alternative Rock would not have become mainstream without them. Oh, eventually it would have, but REM definitely speeded up the process. Patti Smith could sneak in, too, if people would understand her over-arching influence. However, I don’t think any of the others listed deserve the honor.

***My guess is that Smith won’t get in until after she passes away. I’m afraid that’s the case with a bunch of performers. The Dave Clark 5 is probably the number 1 vote getter...after Van Halen \*grumble-grumble\****

Now, that Stephen Lynch album



sounds really bizarre and outre, something that appeals to my warped sense of humor. The song lyrics are hilarious, and make me wonder what the rest of the album is like. I also like the concept behind “The Gospel According to Biff.” Interesting that it casts another angle on the devotion of Christ’s apostles, so “Lamb” might bear checking into. You most definitely have eclectic tastes, Christopher.

***Yeah, one of the nice things about dating Gen was right after our first date she dropped off a copy of Lamb at my place. That was a good sign.***

I have a little thing to say to Eric

Mayer: Your recent writing endeavors both fannish and professional indicate that you have lightened up quite a bit since your high school days, Eric. When I taught two years of high school a few years ago, there were kids who fell into the category you describe. My heart always went out to them, and I really tried to make them feel as though their opinion was important, to listen to what they were saying. For the most part, as psychiatrists and family counselors will tell you, more than anything, that is all a lot of these teenagers want: someone to listen without preaching.

***I’ve witnessed that exact thing many times in my life. It was one of the reasons why younger kids always turned to me when I was a senior in school.***

I went to only two of my high school class reunions, the fifth and tenth year ones. I don’t wanna go now since the obituary list has been growing exponentially in recent years, even though all of my classmates are in their early fifties. I have no desire to return to those days of yore. Thinning hair, battling bulges, and proudly displaying pictures of GRANDCHILDREN ( WTF?!?) is not my idea of an evening of fun. No frickin’ way! I would much rather listen to a funerary violin player in concert.



***I went to my Ten Year for a short, one circuit visit. It was a fair amount of fun. I reconnected with a few folks I hadn't seen in years and I talked and walked and left. No one was a Grandparent yet, but it'll happen the next reunion.***

Thanks again for another zine, laddie. Have a happy holiday season!

All the best,

John

***Same to you, pal!***

***And now...Eric Mayer on Issue 110!***

Chris,

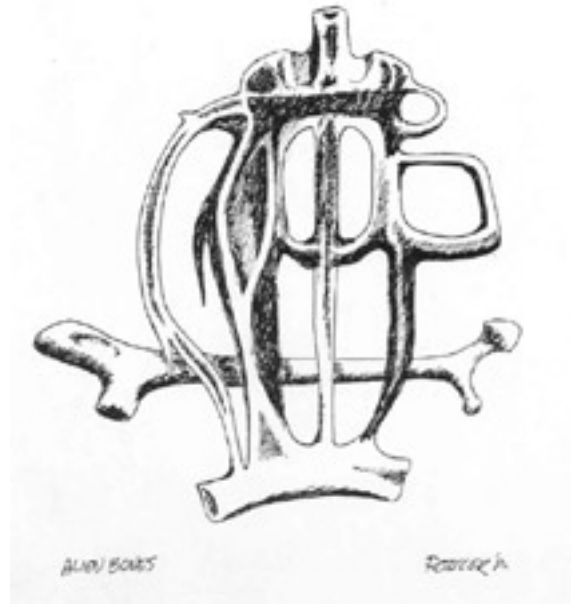
This ensmalled issue fits my ensmalled fandom. Though I don't get around much, even electronically, I doubt I would've given a long enough look at fandom to see enough to convince me to stick around except you and Drink Tank showed me there was still some life in the old goddamned hobby.

Best,  
Eric

***Thank You much! This issue's slightly larger, but still feels light and fluffy, like a good frittata!***

***And Now...John Purcell on issue 110!***

Well, you did it! A 110th issue out before the end of 2006. And it



really isn't that weird of an issue. It is simply another Garcia zine! What more do we need to say?

***Well, I can't say I don't agree with that statement...***

Yes, indeed, you are surrounded by strange people -- and none of them are in fandom! Well, maybe sort of, and their interests are as varied as any other fan's, so they're most definitely fannish in interests. Strange people make life interesting, don't they?

***The ones that don't stand on the corner screaming about the radio in their head make life fun, that's true.***

Your year-end ruminations are interesting reading. You have had an

up and down year, my friend, and that's life, sad to say. Like you said, "most years are like that." Mine has been similar, but mostly because of dealing with health issues of family and battling with insurance issues. A pain in the toucass - is that how it's spelled? - one can say. Thank you for mentioning me as being one of the high points in your year. Come Quireflu, that will either be a high or low point of 2007. We shall see what transpires.

***I'm sure it'll be more the prior than the latter, John. I'm not the one to ask about spelling anything!***

Your 2006 index might very well come in handy as a quick reference for something or other, such as tracking which zines pubbed locs and/or articles of mine. Who knows? Maybe some year in the far future some fan historian may use this information as part of their dissertation.

***I see it as a way of explaining what's in the head and not on the page. And at times, that's more important!***

And so I bid you a fond adieu. See you -- really! I will actually *SEE* you - in 44 days!!!

Oh, boy. . .

All the best,

John

***And of course, I will end with my man...Lloyd Penney!!!***

Dear Chris:

Two issues behind with SF/SF and now two issues of The Drink Tank behind. Here's some words on issues 109 and 110 to finish the year.

109...Years ago, I used to be a senior editor for the regular Sears Canada catalogues. When we started working on the 25 catalogue, code for the Christmas Wish Book, around July or August of the year, we used to see pictures of the gawdawfullest toys like popguns, lawn dart sets, packages of coloured goos and sharp-edged things that would certain take someone's eye out. There's also a group in Canada that usually announces which toys they consider the worst...didn't hear them this year.

***The top worst this year were heealz, the shoes with wheels in the heel. They're responsible for a lot of injuries, though more to non-wearers than wearers!***

I seem to remember a song, probably from the Dr. Demento Show, about a brother of Jesus' named Bill? His brother Craig is a riot. Hallelujah!

***I'd convert if Craig ran the show!***



I know the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame is in Cleveland (because Cleveland rocks!, says Drew Carey), and it's about a day's drive away, having been through Cleveland once, but seeing how political the whole situation is in getting into it, I really think I'll pass on it.

***I've never been to the three Hall of Fames I've always wanted to go to: the Baseball, the Rock 'n Roll and the Country Music Hall of Fame. I gotta make those sometime. Maybe when there's a WorldCon in the***

***area!***

High school...five years of sheer hell, and I still went to my high school reunion. I have the yearbooks for all five years, and I worked on two of them. Maybe that was the beginnings of my wanting to work on publications of some kind, and it taught me that I could work on them to get away from the jock and musclehead types.

***I didn't do any publishing in high school. I was an actor more than anything.***

110...Weird issue ahead? And it's different from the previous 109 issues because.....? We all have strange friends. That was in the fine print when you joined this bunch, donchaknow... And there's Chris, pointing and grimacing for the camera, as always.

***Well, I have to maintain appearances!***

We never get all that we want, and we get a lot of what we would never need. We all go through this, but 2006 was really good for you. I think you attracted a lot of attention because you were honest in your emotion and enthusiasm, and in a field where there can be a lot of negativity, you were nothing but positive and fun, and you were a breath of fresh air in a field where if fans are aware of it, and many

aren't, they think old fans go there to die. I let Yvonne see what you had to say, and she was happy. (Just for the record, I'm 5'4" and she's 4'8", so we definitely qualify for that division.)

***I had a fun year and one that made me love fandom even more. We've gotta get you two to another CorFlu too!***

So now that we've gushed all over each other, 2007 will probably see me with fewer letters to write...not only because you say you'll be keeping The Drink Tank down to about 40 issues in the new year, but also because I have to spend more time finding more work. Yvonne's pulling the majority of the financial load, and that's not fair to her. She's got some more leads to pursue, and I do, too. We have to get back on our financial feet.

***Of course, everytime I say I'm going to cut down, look what really happens!***

Take it easy my friend, and I hope you've got a helluva good New Year's Eve party to go to Sunday night. We sure do, just up the street. Party hearty, and write about it in issue 111. See you then!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

***New Years was great and I'm loving 007 a whole lot already...even though it's only two days old!***

