



ISSUE 155

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Cover by Alan White
To Taff, Perchance to Dream
Logos from Steve Green

Preparations are coming together and things are more definite. I'm excited in a lot of ways, though terrified in others. Flying is the big problem. I've got to take a direct flight because having to take-off and land more than once each would probably give me a heart attack-ack-ack-ack-ack-ack. That raises prices slightly (only about 7%) so there's my starting point. I'm landing on the morning of March 15th in Heathrow.

I'm going to be worrying about money a lot on the trip. I'll have about a grand of my own to play with while I'm out there. It's funny that I get a paycheck right in the middle of my trip. I love that! I've decided that at most I'm spending 3k of the Fund money. The flight will take up right around 1,100 dollars, leaving me 1.9k for the rest of the trip. Britrail pass? 400 from the fund (for the cost of a basic pass) and 260 out of my own pocket so I can do the First Class thingee since I don't

think the fund should be paying for my luxury, though the train pass is something that's useful. That brings me to 1.5k for the rest of my trip. *Note* I'm using k to equal 1000 and not 1024, so don't mention that, Mr. Smart Guy!

So, there's 1500 to work with on various things. At most. You see, I'm always trying to spend as little as possible. The less I spend the less I have to raise. I'm determined to leave the fund better off than when I was elected. That's the absolute minimum that I'm willing to do. The less I can spend on the trip to the UK the better. The more I can raise at Eastercon the better as well. So I'll be scrimping and saving on the trip. There's no way I'm going to let myself spend like a Saudi prince in Beverly Hills.

Which brings up another matter. Let's say I manage to make it out of England alive and have spent only 1500 or so TAFF dollars. As administrator I've gotta do a TAFF newsletter, which I'm going to call President TAFF's Bathtub (a name

conjured by the magical Andy Trembley) and that I'll produce somewhere

around 4 times a year. Now, I'm not a huge fan of sending out printed newsletters, it's a waste of paper and money, so I'm going to send out the first one a few weeks after my trip (after I've completed my report) with the full details of the TAFF expenses for the trip and a question: would you be willing to accept an electronic version of this publication rather than a paper version. Hopefully, every single person on the list will say 'Yeah, I'd much rather have an electronic version than a paper one, thanks!' but I pretty seriously doubt that'll happen. Electronic versions save money for the fund and allow for more folks to get a look at what TAFF does and how we work.

And on the subject, there's the matter of the Report. In a few weeks I'll be starting the pledge phase of TAREwriMo, the TAFF Report Writing Month challenge. I'll be sending out questions to every group I can find asking them to support TAFF by pledging a multiple of 30 and if I finish the TAFF report in less than 30 days, the Fund gets the full pledge. For every day over 30 I take, it's 1/30th off the total. Of course, some groups will just want to give a flat bounty (like SCIFI does) and that's fine too. The bounties on the Report are probably going to be the biggest source of fund replenishment I do. If you'd like to be a part of the fund, write Garcia@compute



rhistory.org and make a pledge!

I did get some push-back from folks who think I should print and sell TAFF reports. I'm not a print fan, I'm not very good at doing print publications, and the costs, especially for what I have in mind for my report, are just too high. This may be a problem because I've been told that one of the groups requires a printed copy, and doing one printed copy isn't that hard, but trying to do 50 of them would be a major expense. I want to do colour, with photos, and it could end up being somewhere around 100 or so pages. Doing a printed version wouldn't be a good idea, but I now have to convince folks that an eReport is acceptable. I know there are folks who will not be happy with such a thing, John Hertz and Milt Stevens come to mind, and there will be others who will be happy with that path. The one reason I'm not going to change my mind on it is that I want every single person in fandom to be able to read the report if they want to. TAFF needs more exposure, and while a lot of folks might not seek out and buy a printed TAFF Report, there are a fair deal of folks who would read one for free on-line. Maybe it's exposure to casuals vs. expectation of hard cores and I'm leaning on the exposure side, but that's probably too easy an explanation.

There's a lot of decision making to be done and a lot of ways to do

them. I'll be looking for advice from previous administrators and from folks who care about TAFF over the coming weeks and months. I'll also be looking for art because hey, I've got a newsletter to do, these TAFF musings to fill The Drink Tank with and fliers to make up for auctions! This is an art-intensive process! If you've got stuff, send it my way!!!



**Letter Graded Mail
Sent to garcia@computerhistory.org
by my loyal Readers
Art from Lane and Rotsler
And Now, Mr. Lloyd Penney**

Dear Chris:

The faster I go, the behinder I get. A familiar refrain from me these days. I have five issues of The Drink Tank, and while you pause, I will get caught up...right NOW!

Someday, behinder will be in the dictionary! Five issues is a lot to LoC at once, but here we go.

150...Ah, the corset issue. Dita von Teese was in Toronto a short time ago

to promote a fundraiser against AIDS with Elvis Costello, Criss Angel and Sir Richard Branson. She didn't look as good in the paper as here...

She's a sweetheart too, though she never looks as good as she does in her photos.

There are a number of (occasional) corset-wearing young ladies in local fandom, and while they enjoy wearing them from time to time, they do say they are the most uncomfortable when they aren't properly laced up. Too tight here, not tight enough there... Some conventions could use a primer on how to get into them, and how to do them up. They look good at Renfaires, too, but there, there is the expectation of something a little looser and lower cut. If I recall, the ladies who could trim themselves down to a 14-inch waist did so through artificial means, namely, I believe they had one or two pairs of their lowest ribs surgically removed. ***Some did that, but others simply had the right genes.***

I can see anyone wanting to look good in clothing in their own peer group. Years before getting heavily into fanzines, I was a costumer, and there was a community of people who cared. That community frayed at the edges, and when the politics got thick and heavy and smelly, that's when we got out. I remember masquerades where the dressing rooms were full of partially and mostly unclad costum-

ers, getting into their year-long or more creations. Some of the costumes looked they were applied with a brush, but we remembered Rotsler's Rules of Costuming to get us through and make us look good.

I was reading old Costumers Quarterly and there were some great old costumes in there. Looking at the old WorldCon Masq photos, I wondered how some of those were legal!

I am certain that the lovely Linda found other ways to get her revenge with you, Chris...

I am certain she's going to get me back someday...but when?

151...well, if you won't do them in order, I will! I've always had a good time with Spider and Jeanne, and have been to a few Beatles singalongs at conventions with them.

I like his singing. I've heard him sing at a couple of cons.

Hey, a short issue, so this might be a short response. The Smart cars are everywhere around here, but seeing we're supposed to be on the edge of a massive winter storm (even though the calendar says it's not yet winter), we'll see how these little cars do in a foot or so of snow.

I love the SmartCar and saw one on the road yesterday. There is a Not-So Distant Future vibe to them that makes me think they'd not do well in those environments.

We pervert religion and the



words of our holy books to suit ourselves. This explains our hatreds, our jihads, and our attitudes towards people we don't like. Christianity and Islam are books of love, yet some promote death, and others "hate fags". Nothing will show them the perversion of their beliefs, and we must tolerate them, but not give them the open forums that allow them to promote their beliefs as we say the same time those beliefs should be pushed aside.
It's the classic 'I have to let you say

what you think but I don't have to let you take the big stage' problem. Still, they'd probably learn a thing or two with a good beatin'

152...Once again, congrats on a solid TAFF win! You know, I never did see that Eveready bunny cartoon until now...

I like that one too. Espana does good stuff!

Of course you thought you'd win. You had campaigned longer than anyone, and a number of potential voters know most of the other candidates, but not all. Interesting how few knew that Christian McGuire was the chairman of LAcon IV. It will be interesting to see how you do...I think one thing that keeps some people from going for a fan fund is not having a clear picture of what to do and how to manage the fund. That may not stop some people I know...Murray Moore is going for DUFF, and Yvonne and I are two of his nominators.

I campaigned and had the distinct advantage of having run the previous year. I hope the race for DUFF happens as I haven't heard of anyone else running. I'm all for DUFF.

153...I remember seeing Evel Knievel's jump across the Snake River canyon on ABC. I never really saw the reasoning behind this, and after a while, he just began to look like a tired old man who was still reaching for a little more stardom, and never quite making it.

But then, I never made ramp jumps on my bicycle the way so many of my peers did. They broke a few legs and arms doing it, and they were seen as heroes, at least for a little while. Guess I never saw the point. Maybe Robbie Knieval will take over and kill himself the way his father probably wanted to go.

I'm one of those crazy folks who loves the Daredevils who risk their lives for no good reason. The peak for my kind was the 1920s and 30s, though Evel did make a comeback in our numbers in the 1960s. If only there were more dumb cowboys out there willing to risk it all.

The photo of Taral and Paul Wilson was taken at Corflu in Toronto a couple of years ago now. I'd say Anticipation's choice of Taral as FanGoH is inspired, and I hope will signal a change in Taral's luck. I am sure that Anticipation's Hugos will have a fleur-de-lis in it somewhere...Torcon's was beautiful, and I'm sure Montréal's will have the same élan.

I wish I could have been at that Cor-Flu. I can't wait for the Anticipation call for Award designs because I've got an idea...

154...Oooohh, shiny cover... Greetings to Kristina Kopnisky, and I hope you're enjoying Consonant Enigma, but I'm enjoying reading it and responding to it. When it comes to Hugos, I think I'd go with something a little retro, and

THAT'S YOUR
LETTERCOL:
MY GOD, IT'S
EVEN-EDGED!



just place a rocket on top of a handsome wooden plinth. Sometimes, I think the design of the base actually takes away from the centre of the whole thing, the silver rocket that symbolizes excellence in science fiction.

I like a little crazier design. I have to admit that Don Simpson's 2002 design was pretty cool too. I think Kristina deserves the Best New Fan FAAn award for this year. And Mo's cover was brill too!

I'm going to wind it up here, and jump into some other news...you probably saw in other locs that I had started at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind on September 24, and that I was looking forward to a good long career there. I finally got my hands on a full-time job again, I had lots of incentive to do my best there and get through the three-month probation period. Well, I didn't. On December 12, I was called into a meeting room and was given my walking papers. According to my boss and his boss, I wasn't working fast enough (BS), and there was cutbacks coming for the new year, and last one in, first one out. More BS, because the job is already up on several jobhunting websites. I'm not sure what I did or what I didn't do, but I got a crappy present from the CNIB, and I am on the job-hunt again. I am determined not to let this spoil my Christmas or Yvonne's, and the resume is already out there to

