



**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 1/30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Garcia@compute)



[rhistory.org](http://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](mailto: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-



























