

THE DRINK TANK ISSUE 166



THERE'S NO WAY TO EXPLAIN



Things seem to be changing all over the place. The latest thing is BayCon, which made a change that is really a return to some kind of normalcy. Grizz, a great guy who would have made a good con chair, was removed and that led to Michael Siladi, a friend of mine and a guy who I think knows how to run a BayCon better than almost anyone else. He founded the thing so I guess that really says he should have a solid way to do it. There are people who have trouble with his management style, but I've always thought he does a good job. BayCon's hitting a new hotel, which is stressful, but not impossible to go through as they managed to do a good BayCon last year in the Escher Marriott in San Mateo (future home of Con-X-Treme Two: The Shocking Sequel). The funny thing is I think it's a good idea to move around the chairmanship of any con, but sometimes you need to shore up and put the mantle on someone who's been around. The press release listed the reasons as unresolvable differences, which is a bad thing, but they happen sometimes. I've heard nothing, but I'm hoping that it was one of those cases that a single point stuck and they couldn't reach a compromise and this was what happened.

BayCon is my home convention. When

I think of cons, it is highly colored by what I've been through at various BayCons. It's a well-run con, most of the time, with all the problems that every con has at one time or another having happened at one time or another. It's always been a fun con for me, with few major problems that have ever affected me. I've been to cons all over the place, and it's one of the most fun cons I've ever been to.

And this year, Tim Powers is the Writer GoH.

And to me that's a big deal. Tim Powers is a great writer, a guy who I think gets too little credit for the way modern fantasy has grown and who sometimes gets left out of discussions on good SF-tinged fantasy fiction (I'm thinking of books like *Expiration Date*) and is really one of the great writers of urban fantasy. That's a genre that is so wonderful, but often takes a backseat to books by mainstream authors that happen to have elements of fantasy to them. Think Letham and Chabon on those matters.

I am working on a tribute zine for the Fanzine Lounge. I need to work on it shortly and try to make it a fantastic zine. I'm hoping that I'll get to use his art that once ran in *Amra*. It's always good to get to use lesser known art. I know that he drew a Christmas card in the Green Room at LosCon in 2006 (Selena, my favourite fan artist, got it, I believe) and I need to find a way to get back to him shortly.

And of course, that brings up my other passion: wrestling. There was *WrestleMania* a couple of weeks ago and sadly I missed it. I also missed the Frank Shamrock vs. Cung Le match held in San Jose that was called one of

the best MMA matches in history. I watched Ric Flair's retirement ceremony on YouTube and I got myself a little bit teary-eyed. He was such a big part of wrestling in the years when I got into wrestling in the 1980s. I totally thought that he'd die in the ring at 75, never having retired, performing in front of 200 fans in some National Guard Armory in North Carolina. Now, I know that wrestlers seldom retire and stay retired, but everyone seems to be saying that Ric's out for good. And they gave him a great way out with the entire roster coming out to play tribute. Way to go.

And of course, there's *Dancing With the Stars*. I love *Dancing With The Stars*, but I seldom get to watch it since they moved it off of Wednesday, which I still think is the perfect day for it. I have to say that they referenced Sheryl Crow songs (and by extension, the *Talking Heads*). I do have to say that I think they should try and release a Cd of the versions they've done of Popular songs. They did a fun version of *Blue Monday*.

They also had a commercial for vitamins with Larry Seil (I think that's his name) one of the guys from the old *Square 1 TV* and that was awesome. He works a fair deal, but seldom does he get much to do. I always liked him.

And I should also mention that having a non-cable TV now is kinda nice. I was happy to get to watch some *Psych* on NBC. *Psych* is a great show and the first season was so good and the second season started good and ended up even better. I've only seen one episode of Season 3, but it was a good.

You can see, I've been kinda scattered.

