



The Drink Tank

ISSUE EIGHTEEN AND LIFE TO GO

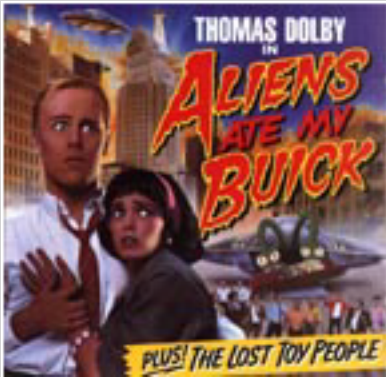


Watching The Detectives...

Over the years, I've grown fond of detective stories. When I was at Emerson, I thought I wanted to be a Noir writer, working like Spillane to get the atmosphere right in a world of hard-boiled jargon. When I announced that I was giving up on fiction (as a gift to Gordon Van Gelder who no longer had to keep rejecting me) I realised that the odds of me ever doing anything detective-related seriously diminished. It's not easy making a detective movie, or any movie for that matter, though my script for 5 Suicides was more or less a detective script.

5 Suicides was the story of a young woman reporter who goes to a small town to find the connection between five seemingly unrelated suicides. It uses all the detective tropes. Sadly, it looks like the project has been scrapped for the time being.

Another Detective thing I once wrote was about a detective who was trying to find out who killed a writer of detective movies on the set. That ultra-Post Modern beast will never happen.



Thomas Dolby

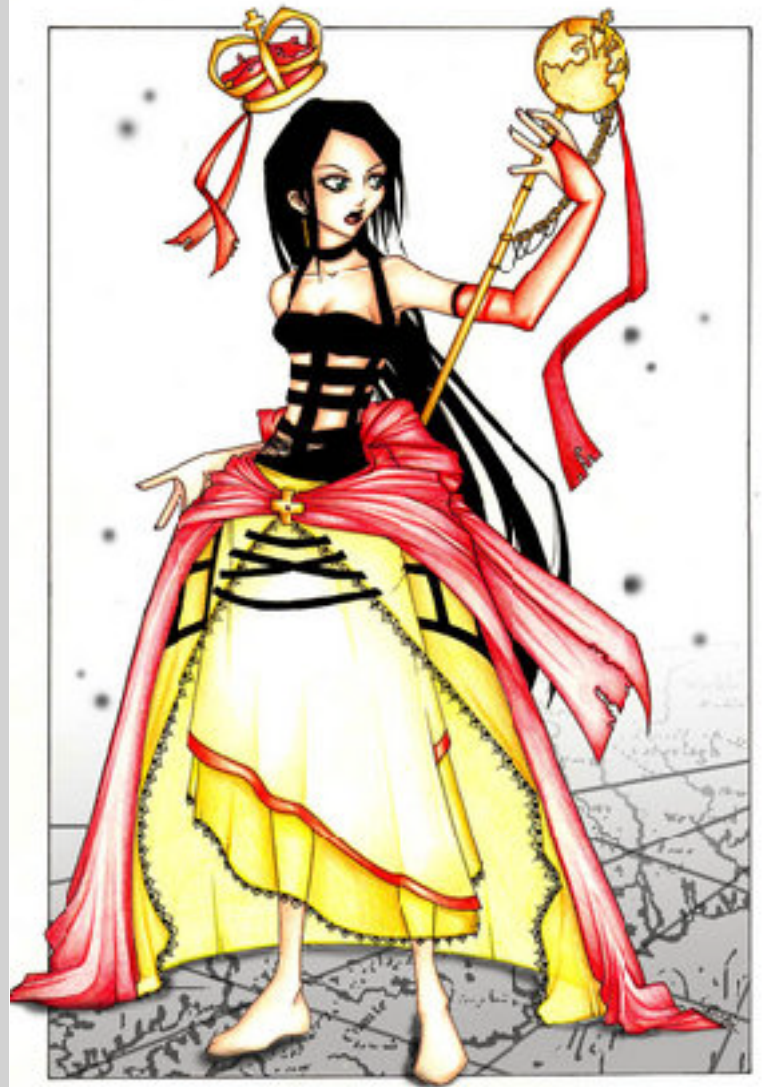
There's a company in San Mateo, CA called Beatnik. You can find them at Beatnik.com. They do music software that has been called very impressive by

folks who have used it regularly. I've even taken to it. The interesting thing is Beatnik is headed by a guy who SF Music fans will know: Thomas Robertson, aka Thomas Dolby.

In the 1980s, Dolby had a major hit with *She Blinded Me with Science*. He was one of the guys who was using the synth in most unusual ways. I was a huge fan back when he was at his peak, mostly because he was making funny music. It seems quite natural that he would go on to be the head of an internet company.

Sadly, most of the music-types out there now are so deadly terrified of the internet taking away their profits that they steer clear of it almost altogether. Robertson has embraced it, even going so far as to put out an all net album! To me, that shows he understands the future better than any of the others (except maybe Chuck D of Public Enemy).

Dolby is probably my favourite of the heavily science fiction-oriented rock stars...as long as you don't count surf rock as a whole in that category.



The Queen of the World by Kyme-Chan.

You can find her stuff at <http://kmye-chan.deviantart.com/gallery/>

She's one of the more impressive illustrators I've seen on DeviantArt.com.



The Drink Tank

ISSUE EIGHTEEN AND LIFE TO GO



Turn up the Bass, Turn up the Treble...

As most folks who read this will already know, I'm a huge music nut. Honestly, it rarely matters what kind of music it is, I'll tend to listen and enjoy it. Of late, I've taken to thrash, speed metal, and funk. In the past it's been bluegrass, ska, punk, jazz and comedy. But, come right down to it, I've always had a thing for Rockabilly.

To most hard core fans, Rockabilly is less about the music and more about the lifestyle. Greaser style reigns supreme with guys, while girls hit everything from 1950s party-girl to what I refer to as Hillbilly slut garb. There are the cars, which tend to be amazingly painted, and the bikes. It's a giant lifestyle, but there's always the music, and since I don't go in for lifestyles (I'm pretty much in the F[or anything else]AGDH camp), I simply hang for the music.

Maybe it's the fact that I listened to so much 1950s and 60s country when I was a kid, but I love the fast lick guitar and the slam-pluck bass. I've really gone to many Rockabilly shows, mostly groups like Rev. Horton Heat and Hayride to Hell, both of which could be called PsychoBilly. Still, I love the music.

Why do I mention this? Because I've got a bite on a script that takes place at a Rockabilly show in the UK in 1989!



The View From Higher Up Sheila Finch, May 4th, 2004

My first three novels were laboriously composed on an electric typewriter, and I counted myself lucky not be writing with a quill pen. In those days, the work in progress seemed to me like an unfolding road-map, a forward-moving narrative that I pursued determinedly. The story didn't allow itself to be seen from more than one angle at a time-going back to change or fix things while I was still in the middle of forging ahead threatened to seriously derail the creative process. I'm not referring to the difficulty of inserting and deleting stuff in a typed manuscript, or the number of times the complete manuscript had to go through the typewriter before it was finished (one novel had to be typed seven times), but to the way I thought about the work. Serious revisions happened only after the first draft was in place; anything else would've killed the story for me. Asked to draw a representation of my thought processes, I would have given you the one-way arrow of time.

When I came to write the fourth novel (which was published as my "first"), I had purchased an Apple II with a whopping 64k of memory. And almost from the start, the way I thought about the story began to change. I vividly remember the day when I realized for the first time that the story existed in my head "in the round"-as if its future lay in front of me, its past at the back of my head, detours on either side. I'm not following a road-map; I'm embedded in the landscape. Some of this is probably due to the ease with which I can switch from file to file (and thus scene to scene) on the the computer, but it makes for a complete revolution in my thinking about the story I'm writing. The sudden insight for chapter one that occurs while I'm dealing with chapter twenty no longer sabotages the process; instead, it's as if a myriad little lights flick on all over that interior landscape, illuminating the connections. No longer a one-way arrow, the story exists in my mind as a hologram, each part connected to and reflecting the rest.



The Drink Tank



ISSUE EIGHTEEN AND LIFE TO GO

COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

SENT TO GARCIA@COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG

BY MY GENTLE READERS

Matt Appleton- Editor of Some Fantastic

I'll call your "Lame" and raise you an "Ignorant" in regards to unread sf. A few notable books I haven't gotten around to reading yet:

-Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Dispossessed*.

-Joanna Russ' *The Female Man*.

-Many of Heinlein's major novels, most notably *Puppet Masters* and *Have Spacesuit...* (I spent most of my teenage years trying to read the entire body of Asimov's sf&f output, which by that time was substantial.) -Robert Silverberg's *Dying Inside*.

-George Stewart's *Earth Abides*.

And I have the nerve to publish a sercon! :-)

Well, the ones I listed were the ones I felt bad about not reading. On the list you sent, I've managed to make it through Have Spacesuit, Puppet Masters and The Female Man. I just plain don't enjoy Le Guin most of the time (there are exceptions) and Earth Abides has never really been on my radar.

There are plenty of others I could list, but you get the general idea. I wouldn't sweat not finishing *Dune* -- it took me four tries before I was finally able to plow my way through it.

I'm thinking of going at it again shortly, after I finish Howard Hendrix's The Labyrinth Key and a couple of other books I need to review. Either that, or I'll try and make my way through Finnegan's Wake again!

A Few Notes on up-coming plans

The Drink Tank is still going to be coming out weekly until the middle of June or perhaps early July. Then I'll take a two week break and ship out the Chess issue. I've got some great stuff lined up for that issue and I hope y'all'll have a chance to read it.

Claims Department issue two is just waiting for my artist to get me his cover art and then it'll be out and about. It's a fun one. I'm doing the final design work on issue three and writing an issue that will probably come out in October, since I've written the next few already.

As far as BayCon goes, there'll be two special issues, one before and one after, and my new work LISP will debut. That will be in a run of about 100 issues, far more than Claims Department will ever do!

So, keep you eyes open, folks!

The First Ever Claims Department LoC!!!

Barbara Johnson-Haddad- Secretary BASFA

Hi Chris,

Enjoyed the fanzine, thought your reaction to 'Donnie Darko' was great - and your assessment of what makes a good sf bookstore was spot on. However the most amusing thing [to me] was that the guy on the cover art looked remarkably like Geo W Bush (& if so, then I hope he likes his job at the reception desk for hell :)

The bookstore theory took dozens of years to formulate. It also probably cost me thousands of dollars in impulse buys at less-than-worthy shopping establishments. Still, I gotta love cheap books.

I've revisited Donnie Darko a bunch of times, but the settign of that campground may have ruined it for me permanently.

Yeah, I kinda see how you might think the guy on the cover would look like George the Lesser. I didn't realise it until just now and feel kinda dirty.



The Drink Tank

ISSUE EIGHTEEN AND LIFE TO GO



A Very Short Story

The Fall of The Californian Government

The crowds never dispersed, even when the hoses were turned on full blast. Rubber bullets were greeted with the mob's real bullets, batons with switchblades. The battle raged and rolled, consuming more and more real estate until it broke free, became a general riot, engulfed the city, the Bay Area, the state itself. From one single spark had this fire bloomed, and by the fifteenth day, the governor had fled, the State House burned, the Senate packing papers hastily, though many were far too late.

And still, even as all this destruction spread north and south like burnt dinner smoke, the rioters remained clothed in their Silver and Black, cheering the Raider's SuperBowl victory while tearing about the State of California.

The Little Hurt Girl

by M Lloyd

I had a doll and her name was Sarah. Sarah loved me, most deeply I'd say. She showed more devotion than the Giving Tree, offering me solace and love in exchange for nothing more than sitting with her and playing pretend tea party.

But I outgrew those activities.

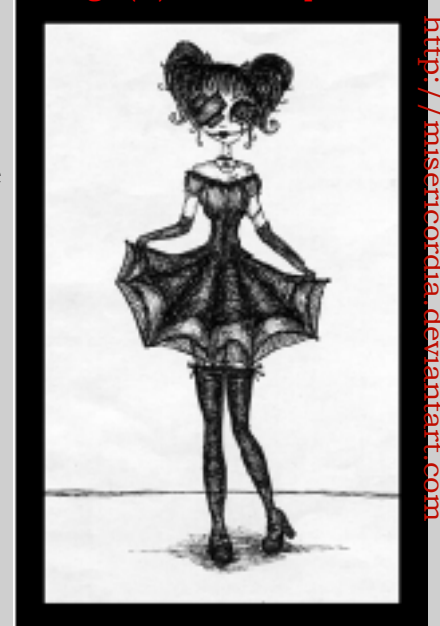
At first I asked if she would mind if I took her eye and tried it on. She said nothing, but you could tell my dolly didn't care, she put up no struggle as I took the scissors and cut the string that held it there. My brave little doll didn't even cry.

That afternoon I fixed the hole that remained, I showed her happy times on the swings and slide out back. The next day, I carved off a piece from the back of her head and made it into a small coin purse. That night I made her a new dress that she loved.

The next morning was school and I put my doll in my backpack. It had been a long time since I took Sarah to school, but this time she did not come out to play as she had when I was in elementary school. Now she stayed on the bottom of my bag. I don't think she cared, since she didn't say anything. I brought her to the bathroom with me, and put her on top of the back when I fished out my cigarettes. When I heard a teacher opening the bathroom door, I stubbed it out on Sarah's belly. She must not have been bothered since she didn't even scream.

And now, I sit on the bedroom floor, having tripped over an old kitchen playset that I had buried under my dirty clothes in my closet. I can see that Sarah has come around, limping slightly, but smiling a smile as she comes to me, the playset knife sharpened and ready to do her work.

Image (C) Aisha Roper



<http://misericordia.deviantart.com>

The Drink Tank is Edited and Directed by Christopher J. Garcia and posted to eFanzines.com by the Immortal Bill Burns. Everything in here you might wanna use you'd have to ask the writer/artist, save for things written by Me, which are free to use. If you've got a comment or want to correct my spelling, you can send a note to garcia@computerhistory.org or using the quaint regular mail at 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View, CA 94043. If you want to get on the list for Claims Department or LISP, let me know and I'll set you up. Keep an eye open for my up-coming works in other Magazine and more. Art from the issue belongs to the artists and you have to ask them for specific usage rights. You can find Aisha Roper's work at <http://misericordia.deviantart.com> and DL Norton's at <http://dlnorton.deviantart.com>.