

# ORLINK TANK



That there is a glorious cover from Mo Starkey, one of the best things about doing the Drink Tank has been getting art from folks like Mo out there where folks can see it!

This issue ain't got much to it. Why? Well, I'm beat. I've been laying out Journey Planet issue 2 for the last week and it's been a bigger deal than I thought. There was also a convention, Con-X-Treme, which was somewhat taxing. I thought it was a good time, a ton better than last year's CXT, but still it's got a long way to go and there were no more than 100 people who attended even a part of it.

It's funny, thinking about conventions, because I never think that the cons I go to are going to have long-term repercussions, but sometimes they do. I've never had the chance to go to anything as bad as Fedcon, but I've been to some rough cons where things were pretty bad. Con-X-Treme last year came closer than anything to being a killer, but even there I had a good time with people who were a ton of fun. The BArea is a place that runs strong with fandom and I don't think there's one event that could do it. Hell, if Con Jose couldn't totally kill it, nothing will!

This issue is features art from Mo, James Lincoln, Dann Lopez and the debut of the late Ann Green in our pages with a wonderful piece on the next page. Let us get right into it, shall we?



## *With Apologies to 'The Raven': A Site Selection Lament*

*by Barbara Haddad-Johnson*

Once upon a Worldcon weary, while I voted, getting teary,  
Over folded ballots and old rulings of site selection lore,  
as I decided, patience snapping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of fan boys gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.  
'Tis some true fan,' I muttered, 'tapping at my chamber door -  
Only this, and nothing more.'

Ah, remember this I must, for it was in a late August,  
As wildfires burned, their shadows bold upon the floor.  
Hot and moist I longed for weather cooler now, lest my last tether,  
Of civility would fade from heat that only soared -  
For the glare and radiant heat of summer only soared -  
Humid here for evermore.

Opened door into the hallway, peered I through throngs hard at play,  
Distracted, seeing costumes no mortal ever dared to wear before  
But the hall was overflowing, and the crowd there gave no token  
And the only word here spoken that I made out, 'Livermore!'  
This I muttered and heard fell voices shouting back, 'Yes Livermore!'  
Merely this and nothing more.

Back into my chamber turning, impatience within me burning,  
Saw in there a fan-boy standing who bad Klingon raiment wore,  
Startled me to see him, how had he entered through my door?  
'Tell me what you do here fan-boy, why have you come in the door?  
I sought solitude to make my choice of Worldcon's next shore.'  
Quoth the fan-boy, 'Livermore.'

'Fan-boy!' said I, 'site selection must be made by an election!  
By the membership who pays to do this solemn chore -

Let me know what hotel hosts it and what con committee ghosts it  
And I may consider voting for your vaunted Livermore  
In place of far better-known, time-tested Baltimore.”  
Quoth the fan-boy, ‘Livermore.’

‘Let that be our word of parting, fan-boy!’ I cried upstarting -  
‘Get thee back into the con suite or back to the party floor!  
Leave no ribbon as a token of your site selection spoken!  
Leave me here to vote alone, to make decisions as I moan -  
Take thy fliers - buttons too - and take thyself, I so implore!’  
Quoth the fan-boy, ‘Livermore.’

And the fan-boy, never leaving, still my temper he is peeving  
On the armchair by the TV, still inside my hotel door;  
And his eyes have all the seeming of a nerd that is now scheming,  
And the lamp-light o’er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;  
And my ballot for the election of my favored site selection  
Shall be filled out - nevermore!



**Letter Graded Mail  
sent to [garcia@computerhistory.org](mailto:garcia@computerhistory.org)  
by my loyal readers**

**You knew it had to be Mr. Lloyd Penney!**

Dear Chris:

Another pair of Tanks are what I'm dealt, and here's my loc...read it and weep. Or not...comments on Tanks 178 and 179 follow.

178...Ah, the feeling you get when you've had a great time and you've indulged yourself in a whole lot of your favorite activity. Know it well, and don't get to know it nearly often enough. **I know that feeling and live off of it until I get to have that sort of fun again!**

Technicolor fandom sounds like they know how to have fun. Fandom is graying, it is getting older, but nothing says it has to grow up. Fandom and its fanac have changed since its beginnings in the late 1920s, and it will continue to change and evolve. Fans from the 1930s and 40s would probably look at us and say we were not fans, and I don't like us following this unfortunate tradition with future fans. I've always written about how I feel the wealth of fannish interests we enjoy is like a smorgasbord, with the opportunity to sample from each, or chow down at one or another. Yvonne and I

have gone where our interests have led, and we've run cons, and operated green rooms and con suites, and we were Worldcon masqueraders decades ago. Hey, Warren! I'm 49! Can I be more than an honorary member, or are we thinking like Timothy Leary here? I suspect a lot of this is reaction to the Core Fandom discussions, and the feeling of exclusivity. Some years back at a Worldcon, I received a sheet of paper detailing a Neofan's Manifesto. I'll send it to you, Chris, under a separate e-mail.

**I have to read that! It's really a reaction to the panels you always see at WorldCon about The Greying of Fandom. I just don't buy it! Technicolor fandom has a plan, it seems. I can't wait to see what Warren and crew come up with!**

The German Army, 1/32nd scale. Well, it would have been a lot easier to defeat in WWII, hm? Never was into gaming or modeling or toy soldiers. **I had the little green plastic guys, and a few Cowboys and Indians, where I basically had teh Indians win 9 fights out of 10.**

Mention of a continent-wide SF convention... who remembers talk years ago of ContinentalCon, a successor to NASFiC, or at least a regular continental convention that would move through the US and Canada, and Mexico if fans there were so inclined. I think I remember Ben Yalow and Andre Lieven were involved in this idea...Kevin Standlee might be able to remember more, and better.

**I'll have to talk to Kevin to see what he remembers. It sounds like the kind of thing I should know about, if only so I can write about it in sarcastic tones!**

179...Saw lots of your Yelp reviews on my Facebook page...not sure I could do that. I am spending far too much time jobhunting, and not doing enough writing. I have some hopes for a proofreading job at



a printing plant that just bought a couple of ad agencies, and it's not far from home, either. Fingers crossed.

***I've written a lot of stuff for Yelp. I'm enjoying it, though I've gone through all the obvious places that I hang out at. I'll probably do a few more. I get to practice various forms of fun reviewing, which is always nice. I hope you find another gig soon. If you wanna practice your proofreading, I know a guy in the BArea who does a bunch of zines and can neither spell nor grammar well...***

A few people here went to the San Diego Comic Con, but on right now as I type is Dragon\*Con in Atlanta, and more people from here are there. I would guess that the Expo James wrote about is something similar to those other two shows, and possibly as large. James, what was it about the Free Hugs? Lots and lots of really lonely girls? Locally, we've got the big SFX, but it just doesn't compare to SDCC or Dragon\*Con. I should pester those friends about D\*C, and how it was.

***I've never been to either of the 500 pound gorillas. I doubt I'll make it to Dragon\*Con anytime soon since it's always too close to WorldCon for financial comfort. COmic-Con will happen someday.***

I want me a box of Taral's Airfax Fanart Figures! That way, no matter



what you're doing at your computer, you'll be surrounded figures like a 3D Atom or Schirm or Bode. If there are fannish books on the shelf, like mine, they'd create a truly fannish atmosphere.

***I totally want the Rotsler and ATom pieces. I'd have them fight it out for page space in File 770.***

We're hitting the vintage clothing shops today, working on our steampunk costumes. Looks like local people are creating a local steampunk society, but there seems to be fannish steampunk and non-fannish steampunk, and I haven't seen any of the latter yet. Yvonne will be an aviatrix, and I have settled on a train conductor. Got the vest and pocket watch, plus assorted metallic thingies to wear. I need to buy a dress shirt that has doublecuffs for the wearing of cufflinks, and Yvonne said she will make me the long jacket to complete the look. I also need the conductor's cap, and of course, the de rigeur goggles to wear, and I should be ready to party with the best-dressed of them.

***Steampunk's big, and might be getting bigger!***

Anyway, as I try my best to stretch this loc, I hope you're enjoying the long weekend, my best to the Lovely Linda, and I look forward to more Tanks. Tanks, ever so much.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

***For that pun, you should pay!***

***And now, my main man in the UK,  
the Young Fan of the 2000s...His  
Technocolor Self...Mr. John Coxon!***

Yes, finally. This one's on #176, and I'm apologising now for being shit at writing LoCs, but you're my favourite faned in the whole world who bought me icecream in San Francisco, so I owe you one. First thing I notice about the ish is that the artwork is precisely my kind of thing - it has purple in it. Loving the rayguns lying on the bed next to the two scantily-clad alien females - that's attention to detail!

***Yeah, I'm glad I get to run  
Brianna's stuff. I'm gonna have  
another cover from her shortly!***

But onto the article about Worldcon, which has been and gone! I am very much in favour of my Eastercon fund for Christopher J. Garcia, however, I need a snappy acronym - the EFCJG just doesn't have the right ring to it (how would you pronounce it, for instance?). We'll have to brainstorm on that next time we see each other. Secondly, I have only just found out who Guy Lillian is - a chap e-mailed me today asking whether I'd do an interview as part of an article he's writing for Challenger (a fanzine I've only just found, to boot, but might have to start a trade for...). You'll have to tell me how the pushing went for the EFCJG some time. Sounds like a good

panel, so I hope you guys had a good time!

***It was a great panel and I'm glad I was on it. The Guy guy is a good guy. I've only met him a few times, but he's a class act.***

The mention of me, Seph and Flick being upcoming young fans is hilarious in part because to me, you and Flick are from a whole different generation to me and Seph (not at all in a bad way, but I still haven't finished education and gone to get a real job, and to me, mortgages and salaries and paying taxes are really things that happen in fantasy worlds and far away lands).

***Well, I've never had a mortgage, thank the fates. Yeah, we're in different eras, you're actually the same age as my half-sister who's 14 years younger than me.***

Also, I really should mention that I haven't yet gotten around to reading your trip report properly (I have no excuse, I just plain suck for this). However, two things about it: Firstly, the Max = Steve line from the persona dramatis was hilarious, and secondly, I had totally forgotten the passage I wrote at Orbital due to being drunk.  
***Take your time. It's not worth rushing.***

I'm currently working on issue six of Procrastinations which will be printed tomorrow night (I still haven't finished editing the thing, but if it

ain't printed tomorrow, it's going to be hell to get it to Zombiecon for various reasons), so look out for it in the mail, old chum. Steve Green very kindly agreed to come out of his hiatus to write a little something for my humble organ, and James Bacon's also got some space, as well as my take on some zombie films. And then I'm onto working on issue seven before LX (a hectic schedule, to be sure...!).

Hope you're well!

--

John Coxon

***Can't wait for the next  
Procrastination! It's always great!***



The political season has begun and as usual, I'm afraid. I don't think McCain would be a continuation of the Bush presidency, but I still don't want him to win. Sadly, there's a lot of stuff going the way of John McCain.

First off, he made both a terrible and a perfect choice in Sarah Palin. She's young, and would be one of the few VPILFs (along with Dan Quayle) and is everything that the Far Right wanted in its candidate and didn't get enough of from John McCain. The Democrats will hammer on her and that'll give the Republicans more grist for the mill saying that they're picking 'on poor Governor Palin' (as one commentator said last night). She's not ready to be President, that's cer-

tain, but she's the perfect choice to get many single-issue voters.

There was the poll that said that almost 30 percent of those who supported Hillary Clinton said that gender was the biggest matter in their choice. These voters could be swayed, though who knows how many were taken in to the Obama fold with his DNC. There are those who will never vote for any Pro-Choice candidate, and Palin certainly shores up that crew.

The fact that Obama has lost ground is worrying. He hasn't handled the entire 'Forfeit in Iraq' thing very well. He needs to strike back harder and honestly, he needs a bit of priming on how to go after groups that support the war (and yes, they exist and yes,

they vote). She's also got a rep as a reformer, which folks who lean Republican but don't always vote that way tend to like.

And most years McCain would be seen as a Maverick, and I think that's attractive to a certain percentage of Independent voters, but who knows how effective it will be against the Messiah that is Obama.

OK, that's all for this issue. I'll get another done in a week or so and I promise I'll have more of what you expect! I'm looking forward to Silicon and I'll be doing some pre-reporting in the next issue and I'll finally reveal my grand plot! Trust me, it'll be another fun little thingee...

# Tales of the DORK KNIGHT

