

Chris Garcia's Little Thing



A long overdue apology to
Leigh Ann Hildebrand for
the many wrongs I done her

That's right...I done done her wrong. Too many times have I failed in my duties as a Fan Editor in one particular area. That area is named Leigh Ann and this is my apology for all the little disasters that led to her ceasing her writing for the various Chris Garcia Fanzines. I've got to make it up to her and how better than with an issue of a fanzine dedicated entirely to my failures as a human and her exceptionalism!

And what were my crimes? Well, it all started at Westercon. You see, I had set up a fanzine in an hour and Leigh Ann sent me an article. Sadly, I never got it. That was strike one. Strike two made it across the outside of the plate when Leigh Ann sent me an article for the Cocktail issue, still my favourite issue of The Drink Tank ever! She sent it early and I misplaced it, along with another piece, and that led to me having to run those two pieces in the following issue. Again, I felt bad. Very bad.

And that's when she stopped writing for me.

You see, one mistake is fodgeable. 'Oh, he's just a bit flaky' one could reason. After the second, it was failure as a FanEd. I must accept that.

I consider Leigh Ann to be one fo the best things about the Drink Tank. Her stuff is rock-bottom awesome! I enjoy having her entertaining takes on things in the pages of The Drink Tank and this apogy, though understandably underperforming in the level of which my Apology must attain, should serve well.

The following is Leigh Ann's take on the whole thing!



Alright, this is how it happened; this is how we got here. I don't care what Mr. Garcia tells you, this is the *real* story.

Many months ago, Mr. Garcia put out a request for writing for the Cocktail issue of the Drunk Think. *ahem* Because I felt guilty for having sent in something else I'd promised late, I stepped right up and sent in a nice long bit o' prose, complete with recipe (as requested). I sent it on June 21, 2007 -- before Westercon, even.

When the Cocktail issue finally arrived at efanzines.com on August 27, 2007 -- more than two months later -- I popped on over to check it out, only to discover that my contribution was missing. Hmmmm. When I inquired of Mr. Garcia about the bit, he told me that he'd forgotten it and would be posting it in a later "mistakes" issue. Sure enough, in DT #140, there's my Five Cocktail Things. (Oddly enough, there's also a picture of Mr. Garcia and Someone Who Is Not Me on the first page of the bit; given the placement of the picture and the lack of caption, you might assume the picture was somehow related to me, but no, it's not.)

Thus began the my silent boycott of Mr. Garcia's fanzine.

Sure, it didn't have the grindingly reiterative gravitas of the core fandom debate, or the whimsical precision of the quark taste vs. flavor feud -- but it has endured for more than six months. No LoCs, nothing. Since I don't write for any other 'zine but Mr. Garcia's little thing, I have been entirely absent for these past six months.

In November at Loscon, the Cocktail Issue Matter came up during one of the long afternoons in the Lounge. I commented offhandedly to the other Lounge Ladies (we're like booth babes, only with liver damage) that I might ask Mr. Garcia to fulfill some suitably arbitrary feminine whim in order to get back in my good graces and expiate his guilt. I threw out the idea of demanding he rename his little thing to, well...*Chris Garcia's Little Thing*. (I considered asking that all true believers clap hands if they believe in booze fairies, but it's so *done*.)

Anyway, at Loscon, I proposed it, and Mr. Garcia agreed. Can a Little Thing Annual be far behind? Further, to show there are no hard feelings, I'm pleased to announce a TAFF fundraiser I'm undertaking on Mr. Garcia's behalf. Just this week I've begun knitting a Doctor Who scarf (season 12) to raffled or auctioned or something similar at an



You see, Leigh Ann wasn't just one of the writers for The Drink Tank, she was one of the biggest Local Supporters I had for the TAFF Race. She knitted a Jayne Hat (you know, the ear-flappy kind worn by Adam Baldwin in Firefly) that fetched the second-highest price of all the objects in the BayCon Silent Auction in benefit of TAFF. That was a nice touch. She was talking me up every time anyone mentioned TAFF. It's always nice to have such a great supporter.

And another thing: without Leigh Ann the Fanzine Lounge concept wouldn't have worked as well as it did at BayCon and especially Westercon. We had fun in there, but with Leigh Ann around, it was a blast. She brought people in and kept them around. It was her that done the introducing of the booze that turned the Lounge into the party that took over the floor a couple of nights of the con and that changed everything for those of us who like zines and love to party all at the same time.

And so, I was wrong to have not paid more attention and I can only hope that this Little Thing can make things a little better. That picture on the cover, by the way, is the international symbol for Chris' Little Thing. You should make it whenever talking about any of my zines, though it specifically is designed for The Drink Tank.

And so, I hope Leigh Ann will accept this public apology for failing her so. I'd also like to make the following apologies: To Steve Green for forgetting to thank him in the end of year issue, same with Steven Silver, to anyone that I offended over the last year, and to Frank Wu...but I'm not going to say why yet!



event of Mr.

Garcia's choosing this spring or summer. In recognition of the global nature of fan funds, I'm using New Zealand wool purchased from Australia, knitting needles made in Germany, and a very accurate pattern documented by a British fan. I'm sending Mr. Garcia periodic progress report pics so that everyone can see the scarf grow.

In closing, I'd like to take a serious moment and repeat something written recently by Andy Trembley:

"Chris [Garcia] made fanzines exciting for me, and for many other California fans. Chris has made our local fanzine lounges the happening place to be. Chris, with the support of Bill Burns and efanzines.com, is responsible for me reading more fanzines."

Before meeting Mr. Garcia, it had been almost 25 years since I last read a fanzine. What's his secret? It may just be his ability to build bridges by making fanzines relevant for the rest of us. Because of that, I'm glad to be returning to the pages of his little thing.

Leigh Ann Hildebrand