

THE ALL-NEW

LIGHTNING BOLLING

VOLUME 3

APRIL FOOLISHNESS - 2017

NUMBER 9

TAXING ATAXIA IN A TAXI... WITH A BUNNY. IS THIS APRIL FOOLISHNESS?

ONCE AGAIN, SOMETHING OF AN EDITORIAL

IS IT BETTER TO BE LOVED OR TO BE FEARED?

The two months or so since the new guy took office as the President of the United States have been, to say the least, *interesting*...

As I see it (and remember the disclaimer, this is **my** opinion, and your mileage may vary), the primary interest of this administration is to make the entire world **fear** the US, rather than respect/admire/love us.

This is the sort of tactic that is used by nations such as the old Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, Italy under the Fascists, Argentina under Peron, and Haiti under "Papa Doc" and "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

And, in his attempt to fight the "war on Daesh", he dropped what is known as the "*Mother of all Bombs*" on a cavern complex in Afghanistan. The thing, which looks like a German V-1 "buzz bomb" without the engine, is reputed to be the largest

non-nuclear explosive in our arsenal.

The question now becomes, who is he trying to impress? The Russians, who don't impress easily (if at all), the North Koreans (who are so taken with their Herbie Popneckerwannabe that they don't impress, either), NATO, or his own "base" in the U.S. populace?

And does it matter?

Over time, I am becoming more and more concerned that the population of the United States is becoming (or being pressure-molded into) a replica of the citizens of the last days of the Weimar Republic in Germany, or the Japanese Empire under the warlord rule of General Hideki Tojo, who held the actual power while Emperor Hirohito was an isolated figurehead.

People are saying "Wait until the off-year elections in 2018!" They are hopeful that the Republican majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate can be overturned.

I don't think that we can wait that long.

I will repeat that for emphasis: **I DON'T THINK WE CAN WAIT THAT LONG!**

The longer these cretins stay in power, the harder it will be to root them out.

The only problem I have is that, given the present situation, there is no legal way to get rid of him that I can see.

I don't have an answer. I am just asking the question.



RACE RESULTS

TAFF DELEGATE SELECTED

John Purcell, noted Texan fan-writer, and publisher of *Askance* and *Askew*, as well as the one-shot *Shitgibbon: The Rant-thology*, has won

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the West-to-East leg of the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund, and will spend time in England as well as at Helsinki 75, the Worldcon.

According to his Facebook post, he has volunteered to edit the WOOF APA (Worldcon Order Of Faneditors Amateur Press Association) which will be produced, collated, and distributed at the convention and by mail to those contributors not fortunate enough to be there.

The idea of fan funds providing cross-pollination between various regional fannish enclaves was not new, but the first iteration that I know of was the fundraising effort to bring Walt and Madeleine Willis to the 1952 Worldcon in Chicago. Since that time, there have been many funds established, such as TAFF itself, DUFF (the Down Under Fan Fund, dedicated to bringing a fan from Australia or New Zealand to the US, or sending a US fan to the Australian National Convention [Natcon]), GUFF (the Get Up And Over Fan Fund, from Australasia [the AU/NZ axis] to Europe, called the Going Under Fan Fund for the reverse trip), CUFF (the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, which is supposed to bring a fan from Eastern Canada to the West, or from Western Canada to the East), and several other different one-shot funds that I don't have data on.

The previous winner is made the administrator of the fund for the next [year?][two years?], and passes on all administrivia to the new winner.

Links to more information and archived results for TAFF, DUFF,

and GUFF (not necessarily complete) are at the following site: <http://taff.org.uk>, maintained by Dave Langford (unofficially).



WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT I HAVE BEEN OCCUPYING MYSELF WITH

I believe it was T. S. Eliot who said "April is the cruelest month"... the promise of better days to come, the reality of worse days at hand, and the torpor of unrealized renewal hovering over the land.

The weather of late, here in the reaches of Southeast Michigan, has been perhaps one or two steps above abysmal, with long stretches of rain and sticky atmosphere clinging to anything it can reach like a starving, lovesick cephalopod. If the ground below you doesn't resemble an ice rink in lack of traction, it has the malicious will to try and suck the shoes and socks off your very feet. The temperature hovers somewhere between almost cold enough to freeze and humid enough to make you want to take off your skin for relief.

But another thing I found was a site that provides "stock footage", effects elements, and royalty-free music and sound effects. For unlimited access to their site for a year, I paid a modest sum; \$39.00. This was, to my mind, a quite reasonable sum.

This site is **productioncrate.com**. They have a large supply of pre-keyed (means they can be melded into footage quite easily without a lot of fuss) effects, like lightning, explosions, debris, smoke, ground tearing up, beams, and all that stuff. You want it, you need it, here it is.

They also have monthly contests

to make a ten-second film on a specific subject. This month's topic, for May, is "Wish Gone Bad". [For an example, someone ends up with a twelve-inch-high pianist. The joke is left to the student.]

And make no mistake; telling a whole joke on film in ten seconds is no promenade in the park...

I recommend the site to your attention.



COLOPHON:

This is *The All-New LIGHTNING ROUND* Volume 3 Number 9, sometime in April, 2017. (Assuming I get my stuff together...)* Since this is a science-fiction fanzine, science and science-fiction WILL be mentioned, or even discussed in its pages.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

This is another Totally Superfluous Publication by Alexander Bouchard, who is a fan of real journalists as opposed to fake Presidents. Two spaces after a period (I'm old school, yo.). Edited by **Al Bouchard**. Published by **Megan Bouchard**. Resident mascot/distraction/cuddle kitty: **Babe Ruth Bouchard**.

eFanzines.com has copies, and others available by whim. (It should be noted, I can be very whimsical.)

Letters of comment, subpoenas, inheritance claims from Nigerian royalty, one-liter bottles of club soda, and artwork (I can handle most formats) should be addressed to:

AL BOUCHARD

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Email can be sent to :

ajlbouchard@gmail.com.

Yes, I can be bought. Prices available upon request. Volume discounts available! This offer may not be repeated!

No fans were killed or maimed in the production of this fanzine. (*Minor injuries don't count.*)

Requiescat in pace, Richard Tucholka.

* Since I haven't quite gotten my stuff together, this is coming out in early May. Oh, well...

LOC'N'LOAD

Apr 10 2017

Well, hello there, Alexander! First off, I want to thank you for your expressed TAFF support in the election soon to be completed. The deadline for voting is April 17th at midnight, so even though when this letter sees print that date will be long past, I hope that those who wanted to vote did so. Whether I am the recipient or not, the goal is promoting camaraderie among fans across the waves. In the immortal words of that great Canadian philosopher, Red Green, "We're all in this together!"

I saw several episodes of Red Green on our local area CBC station in Windsor, before they changed the direction of their broadcast. I miss Hockey Night in Canada and the CBC coverage of the Silver Broom curling...

*As for TAFF (as well as DUFF and any special one-off funds), all I can say is "Be well and happy!" I had not had another reaction for many years, since I figured I was logically precluded from winning. 1.) Not enough people know who the ***** I am. 2.) I have no disposable income to spare for adding to the (admittedly) Spartan arrangements the fund provides. 3.) My administrative skills in running a fund are, sadly, quite limited.*

So, you see, I am really quite handicapped in this instance,

No, I am most definitely not amused by the shenanigans going in Washington, DC, but I expected 2017 to be like this because the Toddler-in-Chief is simply the most uninformed, ignorant, and self-indulgent idiot ever elected to the presidency. Yeah, the USofA still exists (for now), which means the next three and half years are going to be very interesting, to say the least. It remains to be seen if the mid-term elections of 2018 will return a modicum of control to moderate and liberal democrats, or at least balance out the numbers in both houses of Congress. Who the heck knows? I refuse to hold my breath over this mess.

I would like to think so, I don't hold out a lot of hope for it,

Like you, I enjoyed the crap out of *Deadpool*. That movie was more fun than I expected. Some television shows I have begun enjoying the crap out of are *Westworld*, *Brockmire*, *Ash vs Evil Dead*, *Z-nation*, and *Taboo*. Not too many movies

recently have become favorites, but I did like *Arrival* and *The Martian*. Good movies. We definitely need some good escapism these days.

Especially now...

Yeah, humor is a funny and peculiar thing. I would add "quirky" and "personal" as good adjectives to describe what people find funny. It really is subjective, but admit it: watching Ash using his chainsaw hand to slice a Deadite in half is fun shit. Over the top, yes, and that's what makes it so much fun.

I also appreciate the wordplay...

"Your mother was a hamster and your father smelled of elderberries!" "Yes, it's true, Your Honor... this man has no dick." "We're defending her honor... which is more than she ever did."

Priceless.

I hate politics, too. You are not alone. In the meantime, thank you for pubbing your zines, and I look forward to reading the next one.

You're welcome!

All the best,

John Purcell

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April 6, 2017

Dear Al:

It's very soon! Quite unlike me, really, but I am locking your newest zine, only a few days old at most, Lightning Round Vol. 3, No. 8. Time for some commentary from the cheap seats...

Lloyd, I can say from experience that Canada is hardly cheaper than the U.S., but that's neither here nor there... So where is it? I don't know... Third base!

Ah, DT45 is as slick as WD40, but much, much worse for you. Satire has lost its punch on DT45 because you can't go much further over the top than he and his cronies have. His daughter has an office in the White House? Why? A place to conduct her own business? If DT45 has broken many laws, especially conflict-of-interest laws, why hasn't he been hauled off to jail? Being the president should not make him immune from those laws.

Richard Nixon found that out, back in

the day, but that was because Democrats in the House Judiciary Committee under the leadership of Peter Rodino from New Jersey got off the dime to debate articles of impeachment against RMN after Senator Sam Ervin of North Carolina led the Senate Select Committee on Watergate.

I remember watching those hearings the summer after I graduated high school... Advanced American Civics, post-graduate level.

Can those days come back again? Well, one never knows, do one?

Comics movies? Nope, not for me. I've seen none of them because I've never been a comics fan, and neither has Yvonne. Besides, \$13 a ticket is a bit much these days. The last movie we saw was *Fantastic Beasts*, especially for Yvonne the Harry Potter fan.

*We haven't been to a movie theater in years, because of the prices, as well as the cleaning products they use triggering Megan's breathing problems. We have been taking advantage of our subscription to Amazon Prime to watch many interesting shows; *Fantastic Beasts* may well be coming to Prime soon. We'll see...*

Thank you for mentioning Isaac Asimov. I met Dr. A. twice, one in NYC and again in Philadelphia. I am sure there are some fans who have no idea who he is or was. By coincidence, I saw on Facebook that today, April 6, is the 25th anniversary of his death.

The Good Doctor, whom I never met, but saw (at a distance) in Boston in 1989, has always been a favorite author of mine.

Between he, "Doc" Smith, and Robert Heinlein, my literary tastes were canalized early. (When I met Verna Smith Trestrail, Doc's daughter, at a Detroit con, she chuckled at that.)

When he died, I thought a shining beacon of rationality was snuffed out for this section of the cosmos in general.

My loc...with one exception, all the mentioned irons in the fire have brown cold. So, I am forced to stay with the evening work. Yvonne likens Betsy DeVos to Dolores Umbridge, the Voldemort-backed headmaster of Hogwarts in one of the later books/movies. (How many are seeing the parallels between the story of Hogwarts, and the current US administration?)

Worst of all...the Koch Brothers are setting up an organization to completely rewrite the US Constitution to suit their own nefarious purposes. Time to rise up,

Continued from "Loc 'N' Load", previous page

America, or you really will be the sheeple they think you are.

What a happy note to end this with, hm? Anyway, thank you for this issue, and I hope there will be happier things to discuss in the next.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Lloyd, I always hope for happier things. Sometimes they even happen... what do you know about that?

At least one of us lives under a reasonably intelligent and sane government. The second generation of Trudeaus may well prove to be as progressive and rational as the previous one, Ghu willing.

**FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH
LESS THAN MEETS THE EYE...**

I have been working on more filmwork the past month [April], and I intend to work on still more in this month of May.

It's an intention I put out into the Universe at the beginning of every month. And, somehow, some way, it ends up being postponed, kicked down the road like a Republican budget balloon.

And yet, I maintain hope... is it that I am renewed in my intention, or just a victim of my own delusions?

Hard to say...

My writing of fiction, be it short story, novella, novel, or script, seems to be what is delayed, denied, doubted, depleted, and deleted each time. This is not a good thing.

And yet, I keep pressing on... following the advice my late uncle gave me—"Shut up and soldier."

It worked for him. Maybe it'll work for me... one of these days.

One never knows... do one?



{NOT QUITE} THE LAST WORD...

I've been trying to keep this zine on a fairly regular schedule since I restarted it just over a year ago.

Sometimes I've made it work, sometimes I've screwed the pooch.

Those of you who've been regular readers and loccers, I thank most humbly and sincerely. If you've dipped in to one ish or another, welcome back! Hope I've done something to pique your continued interest.

I suppose I can't be accused of pandering to the lowest common denominator; I don't think I have a concept of what that is.

I try to put a great deal of thought into what I do here; calumny, slander, libel, defamation, or other such forms of expression are not a Good Thing. I can't afford them.

I still would like to showcase the work of others here, but if I don't get it, I can't print it.

So, until that happens, I just keep on keeping on...

*Shredded paper packaging material!**

*My long-time homage to Stan (The Man) Lee, whose catchphrase was "Excelsior!" In addition to its Latin meaning (loosely translated) of "ever upward", it is the state motto of New York, and is also defined as "finely shaved softwood used to package furniture", so "shredded paper packaging material" is a rough equivalent.

So there.

**Congratulations
JOHN PURCELL
2017 TAFF Delegate!**