

THE ALL-NEW

LIGHTNING BOLT

VOLUME 4 SUMMER? I THINK THAT'S TOMORROW... NUMBER 3

I HAVE NOTHING AMUSING TO SAY... SO I'LL SAY IT HERE AND NOW

LITERARY VS. VISUAL

WHY IS IT THAT READING IT IS MORE PRESTIGIOUS THAN SEEING IT?

Because I've been interested in visual arts (drawing and film) almost as long as I've been enraptured by books, I have often wondered why black marks on a page have more "weight" (for lack of a better term) than lines and colors on a page, or flickering images on a screen? Is it the history of profound thoughts spelled out in print, or before that, in calligraphy? Is it that the representations of reality in visual media are not striking enough, or, perhaps, striking too close for comfort on the part of the viewer?

However the interpretations go, the literary forms seem to get more respect than the visualizations of those forms.

DON'T GET NO RESPECT AT ALL...

Yes, I am acknowledging the effort it takes to write a novel... or a novella, novelle, or short story. Long days staring at a blank sheet in the typer, or a blank screen on the computer, or a blank page on your legal pad (if that's your thing), struggling to get it done, flailing about in the dark trying to pin down fleeting inspiration.

But what about a movie or TV show?

The original writer suffers the same birth pangs of creativity the novelist does...

but then the task passes to a production crew who tries to make, within a set time and a specified budget, as faithful a translation of those written words into visual images. The cinematographer/Director of Photography, the lighting designer, the gaffers and grips, electricians, genny men, prop masters, wardrobe people, hair, makeup, set decorators and production designers, all the technical people down to the people at the Craft Service tables, bust their butts to do as good a job as they are able to in order to make the production as good as it can be.

Not to mention (but I will anyway) the sound man, the ADR (Additional Dialogue Recording/Automated Dialogue Recording) crew, the Foley crew, the editors, the sound mixers, the special effects crew (onstage mechanical effects), the visual effects crew (effects added in post-production), the colorists, and the people who keep the edit bays and render farms running.

In case you wonder, that's why the credits on many films, especially superhero films, can run almost twenty minutes of miniscule, barely readable type.

A thing I believe is an outgrowth of these lengthy credit sequences — the mid-credits and post-credits scenes that have become so common. They're a way to keep butts in the seats until the credits finish.



I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY BEFORE I SPEAK

I am not pleased to announce this, but Megan and I will not be at the Worldcon in San José this year. The issue has become an outrageous growth of medical debt, combined with no additional income.

We both know there were people who were looking forward to seeing us there; we were looking forward to seeing them, too.

Alas, 'twas not to be.

Also, because of the current "administration" policy toward Canada, it doesn't look like we're going to be able to do any sort of con across the border, either.

Seeing as a good bit of Windsor, Ontario is due south of downtown Detroit (look it up on a map sometime), this is not a happy thing.

I could, if I felt the need, go on and on about the "people" in Washington, D.C. (I try to be careful to differentiate them from the good people of Washington state), but I have neither the time nor the room to spare. (Besides, the entire state of Michigan is covered by the CBP "enhanced enforcement zone" [100 air miles from a national border], and I don't feel like getting busted by them.



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LOC'N'LOAD

Well, by the grace of Ghu, Foo, and Roscoe, we actually do have locs this issue! I am pleased to acknowledge the contribution of TAFF winner (now Administrator) John Purcell for this missive.

Hey, good to see this little fanzine rear its head again. Glad to know you're still producing it.

Yes indeed, sometimes fanzines go through a gestation period as the zine changes shape and content as it grows, eventually to emerge as the full-blown monster-child it is. I think I shall check out your YouTube channel and see what kinds of things you are putting on there. That definitely sounds like an interesting on-going project.

Like you, Valerie and I are limiting ourselves to just a few local conventions and events this year, leaving the San Jose Worldcon out of the mix. Our goal is to save up for the Dublin Worldcon next year, which is shaping up to be a good one. In the meantime we will be at ArmadilloCon 40 in Austin, Texas in early August and FenCon XV in Dallas in late September, maybe a Steampunk event toward the end of the year. We shall see.

Nice filler art and haiku by Denny Marshall. He did splendid covers for the latest issue of my fanzine, Askance, now on efanzines.com. It is very nice having an artist/writer sending material. I appreciate his efforts.

And that should do it for now. Thanks again for the fanzine resurrection. I hope the next issue won't be delayed as long.

All the best,

John Purcell
3744 Marielene Circle
College Station, TX 77845
USA

(note: 24 Mar 18)

John:

Yes, TANLR is still active, as the current issue should prove. The fanpubbing urge does rear its head from time to time, usually at a decidedly inconvenient moment...

I have changed the outlook, design, and purpose of my fanzine radically over the years, and the schedule (for lack of a better descriptive) has changed greatly as well. Such are the vagaries of life...

Filmmaking has been a passion of mine since I learned, back in the mists of time, that people

COLOPHON:

This is *The All-New LIGHTNING ROUND* Volume 4 Number 3, sometime in the alleged spring of 2018. (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 sad he was too young to be one of Murrow's Boys, and too old to be one of the Mercury 7. 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, threats, invitations to be Guest of Honor at conventions, salacious propositions, letters of commendation from Justin Trudeau, one-liter bottles of club soda, and artwork (I can handle most formats) should be addressed to:

AL BOUCHARD
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ROCHESTER HILLS MI 48309

Email can be sent to :

ajlbouchard@gmail.com.

Yes, I can be bought. If you have to ask, you probably can't afford it.

No fans were killed or maimed in the production of this fanzine. (Better you shouldn't ask...)

actually wrote and filmed things. When I received my first Super 8 movie camera as a Christmas/birthday present (the two dates are separated by a mere nine days), my fate was sealed. I actually managed to get my Bachelor's degree in Film from Wayne State University a few years back.

Our limitations when it comes to conventions are few, but mighty... money, and money. The local cons we could go to offer us limited choices... anime, steampunk, or older cons warping themselves into "multimedia" events to draw new blood. None seem that appealing. Archon, in St. Louis, was a con we attended in 2007, when it hosted the NASFiC. We enjoyed it then, and returned this past year, where Megan (my Dearly Beloved Wife) made a costume from clearanced Wonder Woman microfiber draperies at Wal-Mart and won two awards at the Archon Masquerade—Best In Class, and a Workmanship award for Best Use of Materials.

Needless to say, this was a surprise.

We only have two cons on the schedule this year; the Worldcon in San José, and Archon, both of which we've already paid for. (Now to get the wherewithal to get there...)

I agree it's a very nice thing to have a contributor other than one's self; it takes some of the pressure off.

I look forward to hearing from you.



And now, another loc from a familiar name...

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April 4, 2018

Dear Al:

Many thanks for Lightning Round Vol. 4, No. 2. It is indeed that science-fictional year 2018! (insert echo effect here). Indeed, things keep getting stranger. I don't hear much from The Onion these days. They just can't compete with our weird reality, I guess. I have never thought to make movies, and I am not sure where I would start if I wanted to. I rarely see anything on YouTube or any other video channel. I guess I am having my creative fun with making jewelry.

No locs? I know I sent one in. There might not have been much in it, which isn't much to base a locol on. If you did not receive it,

let me know, and I will send it again to you. Ah, Murrow's Boys... I was a journalism grad, but in spite of my best efforts, I was never able to work in the industry. The closest I ever got was working at The Globe and Mail, one of our local papers, but not in the news room. I worked evenings doing data entry on their website for 8 years until they figured out how to automate the process, and then they kicked me to the kerb. I was a pretty permanent temp all that time.

No fans were killed or maimed in the production of this fanzine? Well, I'll bet you had some mixed thoughts about some. Aren't there some you wish were at least injured? Hmm? Well, I am nasty enough to think of a few people...

When Yvonne and I were in Romulus last year for the steampunk Motor City Steam Con, we talked to some of the people with Continuum/Conclave, and they said they wanted a fresh start and a fresh audience. For many, Conclave was a convention of the past, and all literary, while Continuum will have comics and anime and gaming and Doctor Who and SW and ST, and all that stuff. This year, we plan to return to Motor City Steam Con, but it will be held in Novi. No more about Dolt45. The more he blethers, the less power he has. The more he picks on the Florida students, or Amazon, the less presidential he looks, especially with no potable water in Flint, and no help for Puerto Rico. If there was anything that might cause people to look at independence for Puerto Rico, it is being cast aside by the government, and left to rot.

Over the next few months, we have a few craft shows to go to, plus Anime North, and one June is done, we have some steampunk events to attend and have fun at. Thanks for this Lightning Round, and I hope it will strike again soon.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Lloyd, I hadn't found one... but then I made a diligent search in my back files, and, lo and behold, I found yours of 24 August! Mea culpa...

In the interests of international friendship, and being less of a whinging bollock, I include it here and now.

1706-24 Eva Rd.
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August 24, 2017
Dear Al:

Thanks kindly for Vol. 4, No. 1 of Lightning Round. There's so many zines to respond to... who says paper zines are old fashioned? More catching up to do, so here's a loc for you.

I'd agree with the headline on page 1, but we really haven't gotten that hot a summer here. We have been so lucky with our car, a 2010 Hyundai Elantra Touring Wagon, a model no longer in production, but I see them everywhere. It may not be a van, but it is the closest thing to a station wagon we've been able to get. And, we've named it Penney Dreadful V.

I had met both Richard Tucholka and Jordan Kare along the way... I believe Yvonne met Jordan at a space conference, too. We don't travel much anymore, at least not long distances. You might have seen pictures of our adventures on my Facebook page, pictures from the Coldwater Steampunk Festival where Yvonne was dressed as Queen Victoria. We were also at Motor City Steam Con in Romulus earlier this summer, and Queen Victoria was a hit. They might ask her to return in 2018. This weekend, we do have a distance to travel, up to Cache Bay, Ontario, for Yvonne's mother's funeral and interment.

The locol... the Purcells should be back from their TAFFish travels by now. My loc... I have been making a few inquiries, and Paul Carreau was last year's CUFF winner, and as the last few have done, they have not taken on administration of the fund. It falls back on Deb Yeung, who won the fund some years back, and is the only source of responsibility for the fund, IMHO.

I know what you mean when it comes to Worldcons... I am not sure Worldcons reflect our interests these days. Steampunk has become for us the magic combination of affordable costuming, creativity, lack of politics, and events that are relatively close by. Fandom is big and encompassing enough to say that while we have moved out of conrunning, and into steampunk vending, we are still fans. There are so many interests to enjoy. We now can say that each of us have

{NOT QUITE} THE LAST WORD...

been involved in fandom for 40 years, and it is what's keeping us alive and vibrant, and busy doing meaningful things, and having plenty of fun, too.

I am still at home right now and STILL job-hunting, although I have my resume in for some great-looking jobs. I will do some preliminary packing today, and we will be leaving for Cache Bay tomorrow morning. I don't know what else is happening on Friday, but we will be going to the funeral on Saturday morning, visiting with one of Yvonne's elderly aunts, and then heading straight home. We hope to pull in at home before the sun drops on Saturday. Take care, and have a great weekend!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

I do hope, Lloyd, that you obtain some sort of permanent employment soon. Temping and contract work can wear on the nerves right enough...

As you may have read in the reply to John Purcell's loc earlier, Megan did do costuming for Archon, and won awards! We are exceedingly pleased. We will be trying to get something together for San José, perhaps for me as well. Since we do not fly, because of Megan's health, the fact that we carry Babe, our kitty, with us, and we have so much gear, we have to figure out which of our vehicles will be the best to drive to the West Coast, especially since we have people we want to see in Washington and Oregon on the way to San José... and we still haven't picked our route to come back from the Bay Area to the D.

We are both happy to hear that you and Yvonne are enjoying what you're doing, as we are trying to, and hope that you two will continue to live life in your own fashion for as long as you're able.

To quote an unnamed Klingon philosopher, "Survive and Succeed!"



I'm pleased to see that there doesn't seem to be anywhere near the level of drama and kerfuffle that obtained the past few years about the Hugo nominating and voting problem.

(At least, if there **is** anywhere near the level of previous years, it hasn't leaked out this far. Shows what being "out of the loop" can do for you.)

Megan and I have almost always enjoyed Worldcon, except for Boston in '89, when her sister was in hospital, dying from a brain tumor, but she insisted we go anyway. Sure, there were problems... but there always are, especially when you've got a convention as big as Worldcons get.

No, that's not the issue.

Because of what Worldcon committees see themselves as obligated to provide, and what many fen request (or even demand) be provided, the costs go up. Some of this cost recovery must needs be passed on to the fan attending; it's unfair to assume a con committee is going to suck it up and pay out of their own pockets.

Here's the thing; the last time Megan and I attended a Worldcon, MilPhil in '01, we were both working, and had been saving up for what we anticipated the costs to be. We were very nearly right.

She and I lost our jobs shortly after that, and her health did not allow for her to find permanent out-of-the-house work. My own health issues have been up and down, and I have been scratching by with a few bucks here, and a few there... All in all, not a recipe for Worldcon savings.

Sure, we got to the NASFiC in '07, but that was a low-budget thing, that we managed because we had a one-time inheritance. The NASFiC in Detroit in 2014 was one we could drive to each day and drive home from each night. (Hotel costs can be a royal bitch sometimes.)

We don't consider anywhere we can't drive to, which means trips to Hawaii or Caribbean destinations are off the table. And flying is Not A Good Thing for Megan's breathing. Especially since, if we go somewhere and stay overnight, we have medicines and machinery we must bring along.

And, of course, we can't forget our beloved cat, Famous Babe. (She earned that from the Facebook posts Megan and I have made about her.) She's traveled with us to St. Louis for last year's Archon, and we're hoping to make it there this year; it's about six hundred miles, and we can make it in one day if we have to. We'd rather not have to, of course...

We're selling things on eBay, Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist, and by word of mouth, we're both looking for home-based jobs we can do, and scrambling to bail out the boat more quickly than the water is coming in to swamp us.

Ain't that the way?

So seeing that less drama and less kerfuffle at the Worldcon level is happening, however illusory it may be, is a Good Thing.

So we'll leave it at that.

Shredded paper packaging material!

(my version of "Excelsior!")



This

Space

Intentionally

Left

Blank

CHECK MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL

alexanderfilmworks

**TO SEE WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO
LATELY!**