

# LIGHTNING ROUND

## ANOTHER FINE MESS...

Welcome to the second iteration of *Lightning Round*, a smaller, more frequent fanzine from Ye Humble Editor (and boy, do I have a lot to be humble about). With what I've learned in the effort to put out #1, and the way the world situation is developing, this may be my primary form of fanac for a while.

How long that while will last is not something I know.

## TAFF, DUFF, AND THE WHOLE FUND THING

I wish to offer my congratulations to Randy Byers for his TAFF win, and to Guy & Rosy Lillian for their DUFF victory. I would think that both, from what I've seen, would provide insightful trip reports reasonably soon.

This is a Good Thing, in my opinion.

Now, I'll probably never win a TAFF or DUFF trip. The primary reason for that is I sincerely doubt I'd ever get the backing to stand for candidacy.

This is not necessarily a tragedy.

Were I (and not Megan and I) to find the support to stand for one of these races, and if I had the time, the money angle would probably be the deal breaker. Insofar as I got no money, that would break many deals.

The main thing in my estimation, though, is that Megan's health is at a point where she couldn't handle flying... and I would be hesitant to go some-

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where farther away than a short drive without her. This condition isn't likely to change, and neither is my decision.

Such is the way of things.

## DETROIT AREA CONS

What once was "the Nine Days of Confusion" (three Detroit area conventions, ConFu-sion in January, ConTraption in April or May, and ConClave in October) has become one -- Con-Fusion in January. You can't really consider 'Clave a local con anymore, unless you live in Lansing, about an hour's drive from here (*here* being Detroit. Hold up your right hand, palm facing you. Detroit is about at the base of the thumb, and Lansing is about in the middle of the palm.)

*{Side note: How many states can you use your hand to approximate a map for?}*

However, there's a new kid in town... PenguiCon, a combination SF con and Linux expo. That one'll be the first weekend of May, and it may fill a niche in the fannish ecology here in Southeast Michigan.

Hard to tell at this point, however. We'd have to see what the synergy is between Linux geeks and regular fen (if I have-

n't just invented a new oxymoron).

## THE JOYS OF (FANNISH) EMAIL

There are three email lists which are concerned with fannish topics; I subscribe to two of them. (I suppose I'll get around to MemoryHole sooner or later.) There are many educational discussions on both Trufen and Timebinders, and some are even on-topic.

It seems to me, though, that many on the Trufen list are concerned a bit too much with the concept of a "focal point fanzine", and the search for what may be the current one. I think some zines just "get it"; they publish frequently enough, and attract good enough writing, to be renowned and respected in the fanzine microcosm. This is not entirely at variance with the theory of a "focal point fanzine", but the theory just doesn't "set right" with me for some reason.

I think I'll need to look into that a bit more deeply... or into myself, which may end up dovetailing with the other thought.

## LETTERS, WE GOT LETTERS...

Well, at this point, we got *letter*. Not too shabby, first shot

out of the box. But we can see what gives as we go along. Thanks, Lloyd.

**WE NOW RETURN YOU...**

Well, more *stuff* follows this... just like I know what I'm doing. *Shredded paper packaging material!*

@

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**THE END OF THE WORLD (CON) AS WE KNOW IT?**

With the tougher "security" (I use the term under advisement) at our borders, and the costs of travel, lodging, and facilities escalating to the point of being unaffordable to the "average" fan, is the institution we've come to know as the "modern Worldcon" on its way out?

I know this: Any foreign travel (with the possible exception of Canada, which is a few miles due south of us\*) is a questionable venture, with Megan's health, reduced ability to breathe, especially on airplanes, mobility problems, and our financial situation. Even small conventions more than a six or seven hour drive for us -- think Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Columbus, or Toronto as limiting factors -- would seem to be out of the question.

And, lest we forget, President Shrub is bound and determined to force us into war, maybe on two fronts at once. This would make travel outside our borders a highly chancy thing. I'm even told that the *Geheimstaatspolizei* -- sorry, the Department of Homeland Security -- wants to set up checkpoints at state borders, making the continental United States a series of forty-eight separate

principalities, much like the U.S. under the late, unlamented Articles of Confederation.

Alaska and Hawaii don't even figure into the equation, being separated by geography.

Nonetheless, we have our memberships for Boston in '04... but that may well be our last Worldcon. (Unless, maybe, Columbus wins the bid for '07; but with the sentimental support of the Japanese bid, this may not happen.) What happens to fandom in general if this phenomenon comes to pass, I hesitate to say... in fact, I hesitate to think about it. But, as they say, needs must...

What I feel about the future of this, our happy few, our band of brethren, is of import only to me, but I can (and do) wish the rest of fandom well, and pray to whatever Deity I hold dear this week that it may continue at least as long as it has endured up to now

\*If you check a map, a good bit of the City of Windsor, Ontario is due south of the City of Detroit, Michigan. One of those odd geographical anomalies that drive cartographers nucking futs.

**LOCCABACK**

*{Greetings, all! Lightning Round has its first LoC, and here it is!*

@}  
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February 18, 2003

Just got the notice that a new zine of yours is on the efanazines.com website, so I thought I'd check it out, download it and see what you've got. So, here's a loc on *Lightning Round* 1 to get started.

More than ever, I am thinking that it's high time I should do another zine, and I will definitely do it through Bill Burns and his website, with some paper copies available. Looks like you might use QuarkX-Press, and I probably would, too. I have the software to make .pdfs, but I am not experienced with it.

*{<TECHIE NERD ALERT>I write the main text in .RTF, pour it into MS Publisher 98, and print with the PDF995 print driver. Seems to work so far.</TECHIE NERD ALERT> As for doing another zine,*

**THE INDICIA**

*(or, Who's Responsible?)*

This is *Lightning Round* #2, March, 2003. This more frequent fanzine is from AlexanderPress, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bouchard Unlimited, who disavows any knowledge of anyone's actions.

If the Good Ghu's willing and the creek don't rise, this may begin being put out monthly. (Who'da thunk it?)

This is a science fiction fanzine. This means that science fiction and/or science fiction fandom may be discussed at any time.

***You've been warned.***

Editor: *Alexander* {@} Bouchard. Publisher: *Megan J. Stirlen Bouchard*. Official mascots: *Ada Jane, Gabrielle, Gigi, and Mimi*. Office of publication: **P. O. Box 573, Hazel Park, MI 48030-0573**. Email: *ajlbouchard@yahoo.com*. Available for "the usual" (arranged trades, LoC, article, artwork, cases of Hostess Cupcakes, filthy lucre, mineral rights, a greenlight committment, ten gross points from first dollar, or a first-look deal). This includes editorial whim -- and I can be **quite** whimsical.

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*I say to go for it! You have nothing to lose... except for your sanity, I should think.}*

I'm a cat person, and we certainly enjoy the company of cats when we visit with friends, but we have no cats of our own. We just figured it wouldn't be fair to them, as we're often out, or at cons, and they might also resent being left alone, and take out their resentment on the apartment.

*{The thing about that is, they tend to do that anyway, just because they want to sharpen their claws. But we both refuse to declaw a cat; would you like having your fingers cut off at the first knuckle?}*

I'd like to think that good things can come from bad, and so with the Columbia tragedy, I hope that the money can be found to properly fund research into the next generation of orbiter after the shuttles. (A fraction of one per cent of the defense budget would do just fine. Don't know why that's not possible.)

*{I can think of a couple of reasons why not, such as Shrub (excuse me - **President Shrub**) doesn't want to take any money away from defense, so he won't look like a wimp. Congress won't do it either, because in the atmosphere of paranoia that is being pumped up by the administration, it would look unpatriotic, even traitorous.*

*Tail Gunner Joe McCarthy would be envious.}*

I think you'd have had a good time at Ditto this past year, if you'd been able to go.

*{I would really have liked to do that. I think Henry Welch ended up going, IIRC, and if so, I should expect the next Knarley Knews to feature a report.}*

Today is my three-month review at DBRS...had my review, and management has decided that three months isn't sufficient to make a decision about me, so they have increased my review time to five months. I'm not happy, but at least I have a job to go to tomorrow.

*{There is that, isn't there... Performance reviews are a pain in the glu-*

*teal musculature, but, as you said, at least you have a job to go to tomorrow. Some justification, at least.}*

Well, two pages of fanzine can only generate so many comments, so I'll hang it up for the moment, and hope that there will be more *Lightning Rounds* to grace the efanzines page. Just let me know when the newest version arrives, and I'll get a copy for myself. Many thanks, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*{Thanks, Lloyd. I look forward to seeing you and Yvonne at Worldcon this year, assuming we can make it. -@}*

#### WHERE TO WRITE

Letters of comment can be sent to either [ajlbouchard@yahoo.com](mailto:ajlbouchard@yahoo.com), or to our physical mail address:

**P. O. Box 573  
Hazel Park MI 48030-0573**

Thanks ever so!

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Here's to Bill Burns, an excellent gent...

Who puts fanzines up on his space...

The faneds get noticed, their views they do vent,  
And they argue all over the place.

What 'boo he is given, aside from the thanks  
Of people whose zines he does show,  
I'm not too aware of, but this from the ranks  
I must say, I salute him; he go.

He da man, I aver, and I also proclaim  
He is one of the giants of here.  
May his gaze never wither, his fortunes the same,  
And be lauded for many a year.

— doggerel by Ye Humble Editor

**ALSO AVAILABLE AT  
EPANZINES.COM:  
SCOPUS:5007  
<MY OTHER FANZINE>**

### WHAT'S THE FREQUENCY, KENNETH?

This number of *Lightning Round* is coming out about where and when I had hoped when I started the project. If I can keep up the pace, and get it all together, maybe I can keep up to every three to five weeks.

This would be a way to soak up a lot of my writing that would otherwise lay around, clogging up my creative outlets.

And there's nothing to stop this activity from being creative, also.

### OTHER THINGS THAT HAPPEN...

I may have mentioned it here and there, or now and then, but I'm getting back into things I was enthused about in college, what seems like many eons ago. Things such as the creation of motion pictures.

(The other things I was interested in at that time aren't things I think I should be picking back up - namely, the intemperate swilling of bheer and the lusting after 18-to-22 year old females. Lusting after them didn't do me much good back then, anyway.)

I am concentrating, since it is the least expensive in the way of monetary outlay, on screenwriting. For those of you who write, it is really a different discipline than writing narrative fiction. The restrictions of the form force you to be more creative in your writing.

As an example, you cannot show someone's interior monologue. Using a voice-over (someone talking and explaining things in the scene) is either a *film noir* detective cliché or the hallmark of a hack writer. There is probably another way - a *visual* way - to have the character put across what's going on.

Example: The main character has just broken up with her boyfriend. She looks at a framed picture of him in her room. If she were to take the picture, look at it for a moment, then fling it with all her might into the wall, that would say a few things about her emotional state, wouldn't you say?

There are almost always alternatives to voice-overs, or to writing "on-the-nose" dialogue (dialogue that says exactly what it means, without leaving the audience - or the actors, for that matter - any room to appreciate the propensities of human beings to say nothing of what they really mean during a conversation.) The seemingly unconcerned accomplice, who keeps quickly looking out the window, and who jumps out of her skin when the phone rings. The hesitations, the omissions, the attempts to misdirect questioners... these are what bring subtlety to the writing.

### HI, HO, AND AWAY WE GO...

That's about all the time we've got for now, so, until next time, good night... and good luck.

## THE SPOT

*What's going on (that I know about)*

<b>25-27 April 2003</b>	<b>Corflu Badger</b> - Fanzine convention - Madison, Wisconsin
<b>2-4 May 2003</b>	<b>PenguiCon</b> - SF convention & Linux expo - Warren, Michigan
<b>5-8 June 2003</b>	<b>Bead &amp; Button Expo</b> - large bead, button, and fashion art trade show - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
<b>28 Aug - 1 Sep 2003</b>	<b>Torcon III</b> - the 61 <sup>st</sup> World Science Fiction Convention, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

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### GENERAL REFERENCE WEBSITES

The Stilyagi Con List [stilyagi.org/cons](http://stilyagi.org/cons)

An excellent reference list of science fiction conventions happening around the country.

The World Science Fiction Society [wsfs.org](http://wsfs.org)

The site for the unincorporated literary society that is the official sponsor of the annual Worldcon.

If you were a member of the last Worldcon, or are a member of the next, you're a member of WSFS.

The SF Lovers Site [www.sflovers.com](http://www.sflovers.com)

Home for a varied assortment of fan-based links.

FANAC, Inc. [www.fanac.org](http://www.fanac.org)

The brainchild of Joe Siclari, chairman of the '92 Worldcon, this is attempting to be a compendium of all fannish links you might need. If they don't link to it, they might know who does.

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*If there's an event you want mentioned here, mail details to P. O. Box 573, Hazel Park, MI 48030-0573, or email [ajlbouchard@yahoo.com](mailto:ajlbouchard@yahoo.com).*