

LIGHTNING AROUND

A somewhat more frequent fanzine in PDF format

CHAOS FOR DUMMIES...

You can probably tell from the amount of time elapsed between issues that there's been a great deal going on.

If you guessed so, you win the cement bicycle. Would you care to try for the all-expense-paid one-way trip to Wapakoneta, Ohio?

All seriousness aside...



IF I HAD HALF A MIND, I'D HAVE HALF A MIND MORE THAN I DO NOW...

Due to the vicissitudes of financial impecuniousness, I wasn't able to do more than think about going to Corflu back in March, or spend more than a few hours at Penguicon 2.0, and it now looks all but certain that Megan and I won't be able to make it to Worldcon in Boston this year because we can't afford the travel and hotel expenses.

(Note from January '05: We didn't make it.)

In addition, this will probably be the last Worldcon we'll be able to make it to, seeing as how the prices are shooting upward, the hotel rates are rising almost as quickly, and our income is becoming effectively lower each year. This is hardly the proper

No. Six
Jan 05

state of mind to attend a Worldcon in.

Truth to tell, I'll miss them... but I'll survive it.

I won't like it, but I'll survive it.



POLITICS AS (UN)USUAL...

It actually looked like Shrubby and his handler-types had a race on their hands for a while, but the pro-life nutballs got the electorate whipped up about a non-issue like "gay marriage corrupting our values", and the rodent's rectum got reelected.

Particularly gross and offensive epithet deleted...



WHAT'S GOIN' ON...

Bob Seger, hometown boy here in Detroit, got inducted (finally) into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on the 15th of March.

It's like he said when he recorded *Live Bullet* here at Cobo Arena back in '78...

He said "I read it in *Rolling Stone*... they say Detroit audiences

are the greatest rock and roll audiences in the world. And I said to myself, 'Shit, I've known that for ten years!'"



AND NOW, FOR SOMEONE COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT...

With our move into our new digs, Megan was able to get cable TV for a super cheap price for a time. Primarily what we watch are *Trading Spaces*, *In A Fix*, and *Clean Sweep* on TLC, *Inside the Actors' Studio* on Bravo, and Turner Classic Movies. HBO and Cinemax, which apparently come with the basic package, haven't had much of anything on worth watching, says I. Many of the series I see advertised interest me not at all, like *Overhauling* and *Rides*, or any of the plastic surgery shows (reality-based or fictionalized), Joe Schmuck-type dating shows, or much of what passes for entertainment today.

I'm discovering my inner curmudgeon.

Huzzah. Take a bloody number.

(Update, January 2005: The cable's gone, but we now have DSL. That's a much better use, in my estimation, than paying for cable..)



A Madness to My Method...

Since I began this publication with the hope of it being a more frequent fanzine, and thereby keeping my name out to the community of fen as an active and productive fanzine fan, I did really good for the first five issues.

The results of the time elapsed between issues five and six is not all encouraging — but not all discouraging, either.

There may be hope.

Financial issues came to a head, and we had to move out of the house we'd had since 1998, but we were able to move in to the house I grew up in, and my mother moved into a senior citizens' co-op.

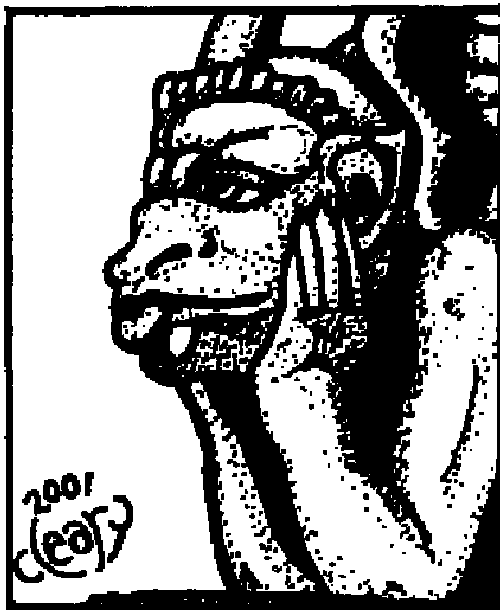
My ancestral home (built by my grandfather back in 1942) had quite a few problems with it... like plumbing, sewage leaking under the crawl space under the house, roof leaking, electrical problems, and things to that effect.

We were able to qualify for a Community Development Block Grant from our county government to help us fix things, and the process is under way at this time.

We are coping, we are adjusting, and we (and I) will be trying to get more things done.

In the meantime...

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R. B. Cleary © 2001

Artist: Randy Cleary

Who to Blame...

This is *Lightning Round* Number 6, dated January, 2005, and is a not-quite-as-frequently-as-I'd-hoped fanzine from @lexander Bouchard.

The primary means of distribution for this zine will be on *efanzines.com*, that monumental contribution to the fannish ghlood from Bill Burns, but, as I've said, I will not rule out sending deadtree copies via snail-mail. **Ask me.**

My e-dress for electronic LoC's is *ajlbouchard@yahoo.com*. If you wish to send postal-type letters, mail to **P. O. Box 573, Hazel Park, MI 48030-0573.**

This fanzine is available for The Fannish Usual — letter of comment, article, artwork, trade for your fanzine, and the catch-all category, Editorial Whim.

Trust me — I can be *quite* whimsical.

If you insist on sending me money, I'll not turn it down.

T-shirt of the month: "Four out of the five voices in my head tell me to call in sick."

Do good, avoid evil, pub your ish.

LOL BACK

1706-24 Eva Rd.
Etobicoke, ON
CANADA M9C 2B2

October 19, 2003

Dear Al and Megan:

Hello! I printed out a copy of Lightning Round 5, and I finally have a chance to read it, and see what's been going on. Man, you two need a break.

We survived the big blackout, and were unsurprised when some minor US official instantly blamed Canada for it. Usually happens, blame Canada, works for South Park... I think you may have been disappointed in Torcon, so perhaps it's just as well you didn't go. Save your bucks for Boston, and I hope you got to go.

There's got to be some recourse Megan has for this travesty of justice you're both suffering under. Some kind of representative or regulatory body? There must be something to be done to reverse this.

Yvonne is working, but has sent out an exploratory resume or two to test the market. I was laid off in March, and as of now, I still have no work. My employment insurance runs out in a few months, and I'm not sure what I will do. I have been able to sock away some cash for emergencies for recording descriptive sound tracks for movies for the blind, and I've done a little proofreading on the side, but overall, my prospects seem very dim. There's so much I can do, and so much I can offer, and these days, I figure I'm just too old. At least, that's what I'm told. I'm 44, and I'm just try-

ing to make a living. I've sent out over 50 resumes so far this month, and I got one interview. Didn't get the job.

Twenty years of marriage? Congratulations! Same for us. Yvonne and I celebrated our 20th anniversary this past May 28. We might have celebrated more, but money is tight. We're aiming for our 25th for a big blowout, and maybe I'll be working by then.

One of my greatest frustrations is to see so much happening in fandom, and not being able to participate in a lot of it because of lack of money. Yvonne and I are going to Montreal next month for a convention, but it's something we can barely afford. We need to get away for a while, so we'll be with friends. I expect in the future, though, we will be going only to local cons, and commuting back and forth. Right now, air fares are too expensive, and hotel rooms are getting there. We needed room mates at Torcon, and I think that will be the end of that.

I wish us all luck. I hope Megan gets some justice in all this, and legal aid can help get it. I hope we are all making at least some money by the time the next issue arrives. Take care, folks, and best to you. You deserve a change in fortune.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

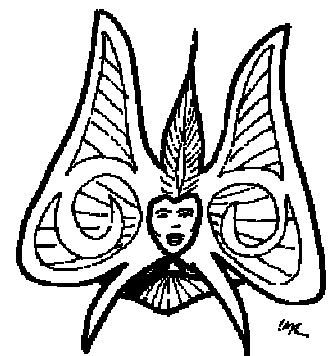
{It's a shame that someone with your skill set can't find somebody to put it to work. As you may have read elsewhere in thisish, Megan and I didn't make Boston. A shame, but Life Is... Deal With It.

Due to the delay on my part in getting this number out, the anniversary number is now past 21 on the 21st of

August, in point of fact. I hope you and Yvonne stay well and (reasonably) happy, and I assure you we'll try to do the same. }

WAHF:

Henry & Letha Welch (who sent a nice Christmas card with a picture of the whole Welch crew), Mike Glicksohn (whom I spoke to for a moment at ConFusion), Larry Tucker (whom I also spoke to briefly at ConFusion), the amazing Freon (a/k/a Mike Andaluz, Detroit area fan, aspiring POD author, ghodfather of Radio Free Fandom, and Sick and Twisted Genius), Guy & Rosie Lillian (change of address to 8700 Millicent Way #1501, Shreveport, LA 71115). I also keep up (barely) with Timebinders, Trufen, and fmzfen, the three main fannish e-lists. (Sorry I haven't been more attentive, guys, but it's all rolling downhill... and I catch it.)



Art credit: William Rotsler

**onward and upward...
(or at least, just onward...)**

A FEW THINGS BEFORE I GO...

(REVISED EDITION)

Fanzines received since the last time:

Challenger from Guy & Rose-Marie Lillian, 8700 Millicent Way #1501, Shreveport, LA 71115 (**Change of Address!**) An account of Guy & Rosie's DUFF trip, and several other adventures.

FOSFAX from Tim Lane, P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7081. Apparently, Tim and Liz got some kind of financial sponsorship, because here's FOSFAX again.

Peregrine Nations by Jan Stinson, P. O. Box 248, Eastlake, MI 49626-0248. With the title referring, in its own way, to journeys, Jan continues her own journey to find herself in northwestern Michigan, near Manistee. Thoughtful and thought provoking.

The Knarley Knews from Henry Welch, 1525 16th Ave, Grafton WI 53214. More of the saga of the Family Welch, and their hilarious adventures trying to be fannish and yet appear reasonably sane to the rest of the world.

No Award from Marty Cantor, 11825 Gilmore St. #105, N. Hollywood CA 91606 . Another ish from the sultan of smartassery.

Trap Door from Robert Lichtman, P. O. Box 30, Glen Ellyn, CA 9xxxx. A long-time veteran of the fanzine circles puts forth his excellently designed and well-thought-out zine. A must.

For now, that's all from here.

See them at your DeSoto—Plymouth dealer...

tell 'em Groucho sent you!

THE SPOT

What's going on that I know about...

The listing of essential websites I would recommend for fans:

www.stilyagi.org/cons: The Stilyagi / AASFA listing of conventions around the country, with a decent search engine.

efanzines.com: Bill Burns' superlative hosting/archive of fanzines, especially for luring Earl Kemp out of the glades of GAFIA and back into fanpubbing.

www.sflovers.org: Saul Jaffe's site of resources.

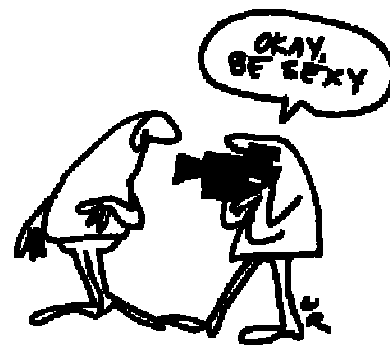
www.sflovers.org/SFRG: The Science Fiction Resource Guide, maintained by Chaz Boston Baden.

wsfs.org: The home page of the World Science Fiction Society, the oversight organization which presents the Worldcon™ and sanctions the Hugo™ awards. There are links here to current Worldcon committees, and past committees too.

www.penguicon.org: The website for PenguiCon 2.0.

www.corflu.org: The website for Corflu, one of the two fanzine cons.

See you next time! (*Whenever that turns out to be...*)



Art credit: William Rotsler

Next Ish:

If all things cooperate, I should have the next issue out within six weeks, making it around the first week of March.

Just don't bet the rent money on it, or anything you can't afford to lose.

Aloha!

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