



and furthermore #11

July 19, 2006

My Sci-Fi Channel rant

Along with Arnie Katz and others who share this sentiment, allow me to make the following statement:

This channel is an insult to the SF community. If the Powers That Be at Sci-Fi Channel would remove the questionable programming from its schedule – *ECW*, *Law & Order: SVU*, and some of the psychic/supernatural stuff (keep *Ghost Hunters* and the occasional documentary about UFO's and *Countdown to Doomsday*-type stuff (a decent show)) – this channel would regain some credibility with the SF community. Some of the fantasy shows and movies are fine, but they really need to try to improve the quality of their “Sci-Fi Original” movies; most of these are laughable at best. There was a very good reason why George Takei had his character killed off 13 minutes into the movie “starring” him: it was *bad!*

However, I do have some suggestions to make instead of just spewing my wrath at a cable channel that I do enjoy watching from time to time. After all, Sci-Fi Channel doesn't really have to be terrible all the time, just more consistent with its programming selections. So here goes:

First off, bring back some old television series that haven't seen the light of day in ages:

* Cartoons like *Space Ghost*, *Roger Ramjet*, *Jonny Quest*, *Rocky & Bullwinkle*, *Underdog*, *Superman*, etc. Problem here

is that some of these are on Cartoon Network and Boomerang, but maybe a deal could be struck.

* Series like *Addams Family*, *My Favorite Martian*, *Tom Corbett: Space Cadet*, classic and other versions of *Star Trek*, *Blake's 7*, *Red Dwarf*, and even re-run *Mystery Science Theater 3000*.

* Keep bringing back decent and stupidly fun movies;

* Run a Ray Harryhausen festival and other themed movies

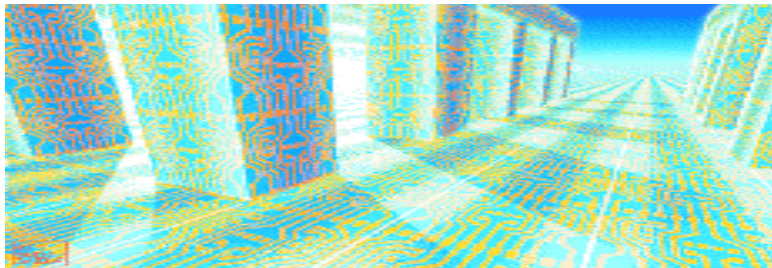
(post-apocalyptic visions, for example).



Also, with SF&F being such a mega-buck industry, and with the next WorldCon zooming up on us, plus all the major regional conventions, national and international awards, etc., I don't see why Sci-Fi Channel should ignore the newsworthy

side of the genre. In other words, the channel should start up a weekly SF & F news program; 30 to 60 minutes should do it. Have it cover the WorldCon and major regional conventions; run movie and television series reviews; interview writers, actors/actresses, producers, directors, prominent fans. What's the fannish spin on the ISS and Shuttle missions? Cover news on Space exploration, manned and unmanned; the Science in Science Fiction; the latest in CG and special effects; and so forth. This could be kind of an SF News magazine program. There is definitely enough going on in the SF & F community to warrant such a program, and I think this would be a welcome addition to the channel's schedule. I've noticed some stuff on their website that would easily fit into such a program, so to paraphrase the words of Captain Jean-Luc Picard: "Make it so, Number One, or you're Number Two."

We science fiction fans should write to those responsible for programming to suggest – nay, *demand* - these changes. As it stands now, Sci-Fi Channel has little respect in the SF community, and it's understandable why this situation exists. Just try to watch this cable channel sometime on a regular basis, or go to its website and scan the program listings. It is pretty pathetic. Changes must be made.



how's about a brief letter column?

*Well, since he figured so prominently in the previous issue, here's a loc from our favorite TAFF candidate, **Chris Garcia**:*

Is it egotism if I respond to a zine where a bunch of the content is about me? I'm not sure if it is or not, but I'll respond anyhow.

I think the best reason to vote for me for TAFF is simple: I'll give an entertaining speech. That, and I'll have my trip report done within thirty days of my return. Oh, and I can tell the good people of Europe all about the fine traditions of BArea fandom. Oh, and I'm a Libra so I'm well-balanced.

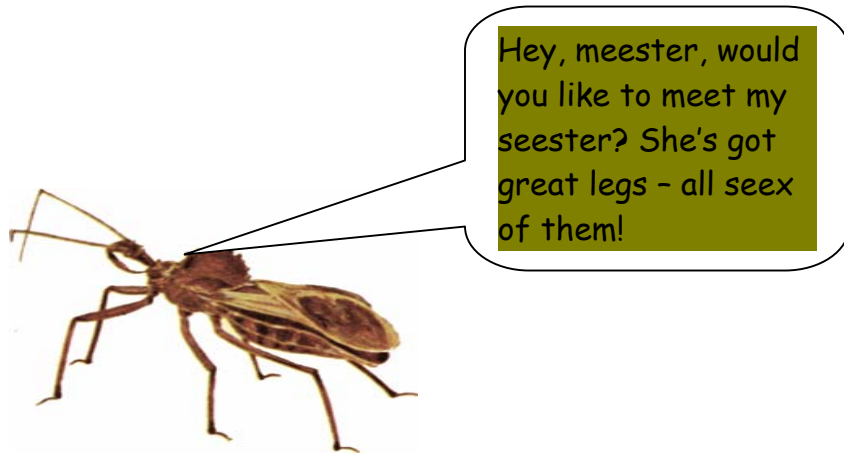
Gotta say, Lloyd makes a lot of sense when he says we should wrangle up a few of those bugs and make a movie. It'd be like *Them*, only creepier. In Downtown San Jose for the Fourth of July, the lovely Alana and I were walking to the car and came across a cockroach the size of a hamster. "I thought those things only lived in Florida?" says I.

"They did, once. Now it's all a part of the great immigration debate." says she.

Chris

Somehow, I am not surprised about a hamster-sized cockroach. Maybe you and Frank Wu could do a "Wheelbug vs. Mega-

Roach” movie, and have Lloyd do some of the voice-overs. Do you think a gigantic cockroach with a Scottish brogue would carry with an audience? Seems to me the wheelbug should have an Hispanic accent, or maybe even some Polynesian ancestry.



Hey, meester, would you like to meet my seester? She's got great legs - all seex of them!

It really needs to be mentioned here that I haven't had my medication yet today.

*And now, keeping up with the south of the northern border Joneses, here's **Lloyd Penney** with a handful of commentary.*

*I've got issue 10 of *and furthermore...*, and I am slowly but surely doing the catch-up thing I've been promising. Time to whip up a quick loc. (Don't be too disappointed that I'm just commenting on one issue...) *{Disappointed? Stunned, is more like it!}**

*First of all, the LiveJournal experiment seems to be doing okay...you're the only one to respond to it so far. I'm just going to keep putting my loc on that LJ and see what happens, if anything else. *{Track away. I have a LiveJournal account, too, but I rarely use it. It's going to go bye-bye very shortly.}**

*Chris Garcia should know that in the weeks since he announced his Hollister in '08 hoax bid, I have seen literally dozens of t-shirts in the Toronto area that say Hollister on it. What is in Hollister, anyway, that makes it seem so popular? I might buy a supporting membership to Hollister just for smiles 'n chuckles, and to pay for the party, once I get to the LA Worldcon. Yeah, I support Chris for TAFF, too. Lots of good reasons. The Europeans won't know what hit them. *{My thoughts exactly. Paybacks are a bitch.}**

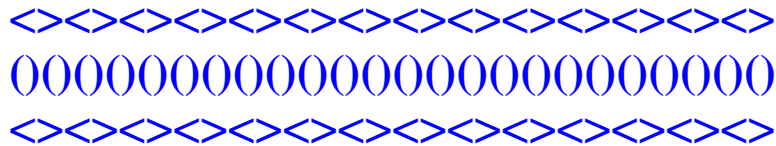
*My apa days are gone, too, I expect. I did things in reverse; I started in apas in the early 80s, and graduated to fanzines. I was in small apas, too, apas you've never heard of like TAPA, Final Frontier and APAPlexy. *{TAPA I know, but not the other two. I got into apas because Minneapa was usually a monthly event at club meetings, and one thing simply led to another. Next thing I knew, I was in not only active in Minneapa, but also Lasfapa and Azapa while lurking in the depths of the FAPA waitlist.}**

Short zine, short loc, that's what you get. Yvonne and I are busy making our last preps for the LA Worldcon and a few places to go to just before the convention. I think a lot of people are doing that; there hasn't been too many new zines

just lately. I'll have some comments to make on our good time there when we get back and recover a little. Take care, and see you next Purcellzine.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

{Thank you, Lloyd. It's good to see you staying up on things right now. Things have definitely slowed down over at efanzines.com; I mean, even Chris Garcia hasn't pubbed a zine in eight whole days!}



And so no sooner do I make a comment like that that I look over at efanzines.com and here are two more Garcia zines: *Drink Tank #89* and *Print Zine #0*, his TAFF promo zine.

It figures.

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And with this cartoon captured from the Internet kind of expressing a mentality that I sort of have at times about the human race, I bid you all a fond and fine adieu.

I have no WAHF listing this time around, but that's okay; this zippy little fmz is designed to fill a hole while I finish off the next issue of *In A Prior Lifetime*. The thirteenth issue of that zine should be done later this week (it is Monday, July 17, 2006 as I finish this zine).

So I shall see y'all in a few days. Take care and have a merry one. – **John Purcell**