

and furthermore #20



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Once again, here it comes out of the mind of John Purcell, that proud and not-so-lonely faned residing at the following address:

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Letters from intrepid readers

Ah, yes, and so all of you are.

Starting things off once again is our favorite TAFF candidate, that frantic fan-publisher from the far-flung state of Califunny, CHRIS GARCIA!

October 10, 2006

Seems like you're far better on course than I am as far as final degrees. I've been offered a good deal, everything waived except for the Thesis and Defense, but I've passed it up because the thesis will probably kill me. *{Well, I really don't feel like I'm really on course as far as earning my PhD goes; sometimes it still feels like I'm drifting along with the tide, and I'm not really sure whether it's an incoming tide or an ebb tide. So long as I don't get sucked down by the undertow, I think I'll be alright.}*

Good to hear that you're on track for QuireFlu. I'm all sorts of excited. I'm gonna have an issue of *The Drink Tank* with me at the con I'm sure, and whatever the result of the TAFF election is, I'm sure I'll be bringing a zine related to that. I'm actually kinda excited about *PrintZine*, which is going on regularly for the time being. I might even get another one out next week! *{Have you noticed that it is now 105 days until QuireFlu? My goal is to have the 20th issue of In A Prior Lifetime ready for handing out at that con. I may even have another surprise or two in store by then, too.}*

Wow! Great LetterCol. Ted, Lloyd, Matt, all great LoCers. I love the picture of Bob and Kelly. I knew Kelly for a while before he passed. He was another of those passings that really hurt.

Good stuff, but a short LoC!

Chris

{Kelly Freas used to be a regular at Minicons back in the 70s; he and Polly were so much fun to be around. Wonderful people.}

And now, in a return to a classic letterhacking format, pioneered by the innovator himself, here is a Lloyd-Penney style loc from the man himself, Lloyd Penney!

October 22, 2006

I see I'm far behind with Purcellzines, for there are now two ...and *furthermores* to deal with. I can see the worst has happened. *{Even worse, Garcia is ramping things up again. We're in for it now.}*

18...Bob Tucker has passed, to join the fannish legions who passed before us. We've lost some awfully big names lately, and his is the biggest. I only met Bob once, at a panel we were both on at Chicon

V in 1991. It was on fannish traditions, I think, or somehow it moved to that topic, whereupon Bob bade a granddaughter to go up to his room and get something to demonstrate one of those traditions. The granddaughter brought down a bottle of Jim Beam, and invited the panel and audience to indulge him with two fingers. We smooooothed, and the damn stuff just about slit my throat; smooth, nuthin'... Still, Bob was one of the gentlest figures I met at that Worldcon, and I wish we'd had more chances to meet. **{No question about it. He was greatly loved by all, and will be missed.}**



19...Aw, I wanna go to Corflu! I wanna go to the real thing, and see lots of fellow ziners, and dive right in. But, I can't not unless the provincial lotteries rain cash on my head. It's looking like I can't even accompany Yvonne to that space conference in May in Dallas. We produced the fanzine lounge for the 1994 Worldcon in Winnipeg, and

we had a great time, producing the never-ending party room with lots of good things to eat, drink and read. If you're afraid of Chris Garcia getting a television show, this is a change I might be in one myself. I was the winner in a voice audition with a group attempting to produce a children's show, and I might wind up as the kindly narrator/speaker to kids. As soon as we can meet, we'll find out more about what's going to happen. **{This is cool! Good luck and keep us informed. I have always wondered what doing voice-overs are like. Sounds like a fanzine article to me!}**

I've tried to bring people into fanzines, too. Two panels I was on at Con*cept on Montreal this past weekend were on fanzines, and then zines versus blogs. The audience was at least open-minded enough to realize that both can exist, and while blogs provide expediency and speed, fanzines provide a slow conversation that is much more light than noise, and perhaps a more permanent record of what was said and done.

The main reason why I think Dave Langford's Hugo streak may come to an end is that Japanese fandom, from what little I know of it, is large and detailed, and seems to have little contact with fandom elsewhere. (Much of fandom here has little contact with fandom elsewhere, too.) I think Japanese memberships will outnumber American members for the first time, and that will be reflected in the Hugo results. I shouldn't handicap this race so far out; Dave may yet surprise us all. **{Dave Langford is SUCH a good writer that it's humbling to be working in the same area as he is. Yes, he might just win again. Who knows?}**

Great photo of Tucker and Kelly. Both wonderful gentlemen, and both gone. We will honour their memories, but I hope we'll make some memories and legends of our own. They stepped forward and made their mark, and we can too.

Time to go. It's late, and I have a long week of work to get through, both day and night. Wish me luck, I have an issue of IAPL to get

through, too, soon, I hope. Take care, and probably see you in a week or so. Yours, **Lloyd Penney.**

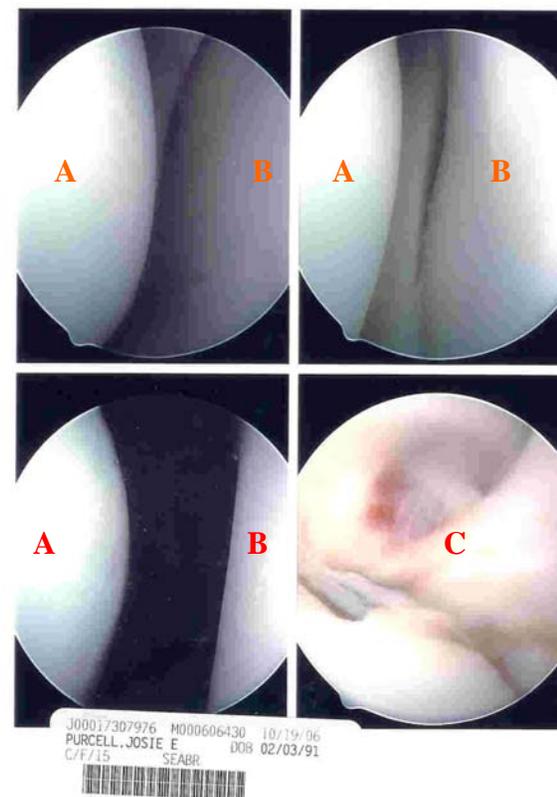
{The week has passed, and here we are again. Long time, no see, old, never-met friend.}

+++++

OH, SO *THAT'S* WHY IT HURTS!

On October 19th, Josie went under the knife once again to fix that fersh-lugginer right knee that's been bugging her for many a year now. I first wrote about this back in *In A Prior Lifetime* #7(January, 2006) shortly after Josie had arthroscopic knee surgery to correct her tipped right patella (knee cap). It sort of worked. Unfortunately, her problems returned, as in more pain, still giving her grief, and so on. So, once more into the breach she went – along with our medical Insurance.

This time Dr. Seabolt – a sports medicine specialist, who treated Penny's wrist problems – opened up the offending area to surgically correct her Right Patello Femoral Syndrome (RPFS); translation: tipped knee cap. This entailed chipping off a small bit of the end the femur (**B** in the images on the right) to realign her patella (**A**) with the bone, insert a couple screws to hold things in place while the bone heals, clean up some scar tissue, and also mend tendons that had torn. (**C**) The whole process took a little less than one hour, but it sure seemed like much longer to us. The photos here are from after the procedure and show excellent results, or so we are told.





When they let us into the post-op recovery room, the poor kid had her right leg in three machines: a CPM (stands for Constant Patellar Motion; we have since dubbed this the “Chronic Pain Machine”), which Josie gets to use at home for the next six weeks, an icing machine (that’s the cooler in the picture at left) which pumps ice water up through the blue tubes into a vinyl wrap that contains tiny veins that keep the entire knee area cooled to keep swelling down, and a full-length leg brace to keep her right leg immobilized. She has her own pair of crutches from this past December, so the kid is getting good mileage out of that investment, at least. Josie spent one night in the hospital before being discharged before noon on Friday the 20th.

The pictures on this page were taken at home on Sunday the 22nd. It has now been one week since her surgery, and she’s getting a little better every day. Her range of motion on the CPM is now up to 36-38 degrees (started at 30 degrees), and the Ice-Man doesn’t need to cometh as often as previously needed. All of her friends have been making pilgrimages to visit her, which makes our dogs go nuts all the time, so then all the cats hide at the incessant barking. The fish don’t seem to mind the commotion, and Sunny, our cockatiel, continues to masturbate up in his cage. And Josie takes it all like a trooper. The poor kid has gone through a lot of pain here, and we really hope that all of this is worth it so that her knee pain will eventually be gone for good.

My head hurts just thinking of what’s going to happen to our insurance premiums.

So until next time, I remain fannishly yours, and at Josie’s beck and call for the next five weeks,
John (where’d all our money go?) Purcell

