

e-APA #30

October 2006



“There are three reasons for becoming a writer: the first is that you need the money; the second that you have something to say that you think the world should know; the third is that you can't think what to do with the long winter evenings.”

- Quentin Crisp

OE: Peter Sullivan peter@burdonvale.co.uk

Deadline for next distribution: Wednesday, 1st November 2006

Welcome to those who aren't members of e-APA and who have downloaded this “open” distribution from efanazines.com. We hope that what you see and read here will interest you in joining the APA and being with us each month. Becoming a member couldn't be easier – just e-mail the OE (address above) and say you're interested, then submit a PDF-format zine before the first of the month.

In this distribution:

Official Organ #30 (Peter Sullivan) – 2 pages
The Enchanted Placemat #5 (Chris Garcia) – 2 Pages
Boopledoggin' #7 (Chuck Connor) – 7 pages
Pleasantly Random #14 (Peter Sullivan) – 8 pages
Feline Madness #30 (R-Laurraine Tutihasi) – 8 pages
I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #30 (Garth Spencer) – 5 pages
e-APA Guidelines – 1 page

Missing, Presumed Fed: Eric Mayer, Jan Stinson, Steven Silver, William McCabe, Eunice Probert.
(Eric and Jan have both been in touch – I've not heard from the others.)

Front page picture: from The Quentin Crisp Archives, <http://www.crisperanto.com>
The quotation just seemed kind of appropriate somehow...

The Enchanted Placemat-cito

A tiny Contribution to eAPA

Ok, this'll be weird, but I've got a major headache from being all stuffed up and not having suitable ways of getting unstuffed without taking drugs that'll put me out for several hours. As such, since I stayed home from work, I started thinking, and I got a notice that said that one of my films would be in a Film Festival in November! Yay! I also found out that the TV Show that I'm up for won't know what's going on for at least another couple of days. That's eating me alive too. That got me thinking about a lot of things, including projects that I've failed to work on for ages. It's the one that I've always wanted to write and now that I've started, this brief note to eAPAns will be the only break I'll be taking.

You see, back in 2001 or so, I started reading up on Arthurian myth. I also started reading up on Post-Apocalyptic science fiction. What if the two collided with me at the help of the script? Well, I've started to make that happen.

I've played around with a lot of the mythology to make it more...well believable isn't the word, but more like a modern film I guess would be it right. I reimagined it, I'd say.

So, what am I doing with the characters? Well, Uther Pendragon seduces the wife of a British Duke who happens to have a lovely wife who Uther falls for...and she happens to be black. That makes Arthur half-black, which I like. I took a mash-up



approach to which versions I borrowed from to make my story. Arthur ends up being shuttled out of Britain and comes back to get Excalibur and conquer the isles. He gathers his knights and sets up his court and founds Camelot on the ruins of London. This brings him all the knights, like his cousin Gawain (who is a drug addict who Arthur turns around in one of those things that makes no real sense until you give it to a screenwriter) and Tristan and Palamides and Percival. They're all a little different, and the one that's most different is Lancelot...who turns out to be a French woman! That's the one thing I had from the beginning that I've always loved as a concept.

And of course, there's Merlin. In my version, he's a scientist in an age where science no longer exists. Oh, he's a MAD scientist, sort of DoC Brown meets Dr. Madvibe, but he's a scientist who combines what little material there is left for effect with good ol' SteamPunky goodness. It's an interesting way to get to play with this stuff. I just hope Diana Paxson doesn't get wind of me doin' it!

Of course, it'll never get made, I don't have that kind of cake, but I gotta finish it up and get it out there so that folks can see it. It's how these things work.

So, I'm writing the long-outline before I start to work with the limited outline to write the actual script. That'll be at least a month from now, but still, it's gonna eat a little of my time. I might make it into my NaNoW-riMo thingee.

Other than that, there's TAFE. I've been working on zines, waiting for a lot of stuff for the next issue of PrintZine and trying to get everything ready for the run. I'm hoping that EasterCon isn't cancelled, but I'm told that the odds are getting longer as we speak of it happening. Too bad, because it would have been awesome, but I had planned on doing the trip in the fall at first, so this works better!

That's all I got time for! Rock On!!!



BOOPLEDOGGIN' #7

Commercials came on
So I got up
Just to get myself a snack

You should-a seen
What was going on
By the time that I got back!

Down in the old
Abandoned mine
Sweet Sue was a-having fits!

The villain said
"Gimme ya Boopledoggin',
Or I'll blow ya all to bits!"

Then he grabbed her!
(And then...?)
He tied her up!
(And then...?!)

He lit the fuze to the dyn-o-mite!
(And then...?!?! **And then...?!?!**)

We'll be right back, after this....

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BOOPLEDOGGIN' is produced for **e-APA the all-digital Amateur Press Association (APA)**, and continues in the true tradition of Skate Press by being created via a menagerie of abandoned and obsolete technology revamped via the use of Linux and Open Source.

With over 15 years of servicing WANGs, contact Rudy A. Dionisio (rudyards@hotmail.com)

http://www.insidedhtml.com/Jobs/getResume.asp?u_id=29538 the next time you feel a need to perk up your peripherals! (*s'cuzzi?!!*)

And remember, Spitballing and Speedballing are *not* one and the same.

Thank you. And now, back to the regular deprogramming....

Fast Cars!
Fast Girls!
Fast Carrots!...
Fast Carrots?!

There's something about an August that makes me wonder what it's all about. Everything seems to happen in August. The car needs it's annual MoT Certificate (roadworthiness for our American readership), Den's birthday, our original anniversary, and both our mothers' birthdays as well. If you want to get freaky with fate and numbers, both mothers have the same birthday - 2nd August - but are 9 years apart (mine is 86, Den's is 77) - and there are 9 years between Den and myself. He is "Print that and you die!", while I am 9 years younger at "Fat chance, squared."

Of course, now that we have an official date (21st May - cards only, no presents, thank-you!) the unofficial date (27th August - Champaign & ice cream with candle light) sort of felt weird this year. Yes, we did what we usually do, but this time it felt less of an occasion. I

don't know why, but both of us felt that way - and the same happened on his birthday, but we had planned on going to a wonderful Chinese restaurant & noodle bar with two friends later in the week to celebrate, so that was probably why things felt a little skewed.

But the question I still wonder about, inside, is whether or not actually committing ourselves to a proper and legally binding contract has somehow taken some of the 'danger' out of what we were doing?

In order to help qualify that piece above, I should point out now that both Den and I are pre-1967, rather than post. 1967 is a landmark in that the UK finally decriminalised homosexuality (debatable at this point in regard to lesbians owing to the archaic laws - Queen Victoria refused to believe that such women existed, and so all 'anti-gay' law was purely male based.) Prior to 1967 it was a crime, punishable by terms of imprisonment, and with gay men treated as if they had some kind of mental illness - aversion therapy via electro-shock treatment (the good old Edison Medicine) was frequently applied in order to 'cure' the 'poor unfortunate perverts' (an interesting comment from areas of the Church, whose officials throughout time immoral have had more than a passing taste for choirboys...)

Post 1967 wasn't a bed of roses, but gradually things have improved over the years, to the point where both he and I were pleasantly surprised at other peoples' excitement and interest when they were invited to either the partnership ceremony or the reception afterwards. If anything, it surprised us that people accepted it and were treating it as a special occasion - we had both expected a more negative response. Yet this attitude and reaction was also noted in one of the National daily newspapers - a columnist had been invited to a ceremony in his local village, and was bemused by the fact that the village - rather than being up in arms and

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offended by it all - went out of their way to make things work, and turn it into an occasion.

There were a couple of things that niggled me a little bit (apart from some of the women trying to out-do each other with clothes for the affair):-

Firstly, both Den and I do not like the term "Wedding" (or "Gay Wedding") - it is a Partnership. People gave us presents (even after we specifically said we didn't want anything) and had a good time - those that were there for the ceremony itself thought it very tasteful (and even more up-market than several straight weddings they had been to) - but after a while both Den and I gave up trying to correct people - letting the expression "Wedding" stand uncorrected.

Secondly, and this is a general observation, all the official documentation, discussions, consultations (etc) in regard to the Registry Office had to be done during week-day working hours. In today's society where both partners could well be working, we both felt that this was a little bit out of sync with the real world. But, what capped it for us was the fact that the cost of a Registry Office ceremony (straight or gay) went from £100 (Monday to Saturday morning) to £500 (Saturday afternoon & Sunday.) Who the hell has time during the week to set up a wedding and all that it entails? We chose a Sunday because it suited us to get as many people off and down to us as we could comfortably manage (oh dear, oh dear, oh dear... what was originally going to be just 6 of us and an Italian lunch, turned out to be over 50 people and a full running buffet.)

Thankfully, the Registrar's Little Helper made a pig's ear of the initial offer and gave us a receipt for a Sunday slot at £100. That was how we found out it should have been £500 - a little bit of discussion in regard to contracts, and the breaking of, and the Registry Office

decided to honour the deal. But, it is a phenomenal amount of money for what is, basically, a 30 minute slot - £1,000 per hour, if you will.

What also bemuses me is that, one Christmas years ago (around 1997/1998) as I was pootling around the Internet, I became a member of the Universal Church of Mondesto California (I have the certificate somewhere to prove this) and as such I was (and probably still am) licensed in some states to conduct Affirmation Ceremonies (as they were called then) in regard to same-sex couples, along with legal weddings. For some time I used to joke about setting up shop in the UK (before the Civil Partnership laws came into being) and doing the whole Commitment Ceremony thing for a nominal fee. Sadly, now that things have become legal, it looks like that element of my retirement has been scuppered for good.

But, in closing this off here, and to answer Jan's comment about what to send - send what you feel is appropriate - it's the thought and the feelings, that count - and the peace of mind that being accepted by people brings.

"Fast Cars! Fast Girls! Fast Carrots!... Fast Carrots?! Fast Times At Ridgemont High!"
(An actual Cinema Trailer for the film, *Fast Times*, from a B-Movie galaxy far, far away...)

[*Later*] There was an interesting piece in the local newspaper just recently, which stated that, since December 2005 when the Partnership Ceremony was first introduced, Hertfordshire has had the most Civil Partnership ceremonies, with Hatfield Registry holding over 160 - about 20 a month as of August 2006 - bringing in around £70 - £80k.

What also surprised me was the comment "... with 6 couples being local to Hatfield itself." I made a

comment in regard to the fact that it read like some sighting in the RSPB magazine "And in Hatfield there has been several confirmed sightings of six pairs of Great Crested Queens, and one Flamboyant Nancy in a shade of orange that no one in their right mind would be seen dead in..." But Den thinks I'm just being a cynical old git. Who knows, maybe he's right for once...



MailComms

Placemat/Chris:- Swaggle, you say? I allus thought it was Swoggle - from the expression "I'll be hornswoggled" - as butchered with those horny toads. But, of course, it could all be Hollywood-speak, and hornswogging was not something that real cowboys did (mind you, I've not seen Breakback Mountain...)

Alas I know too well the fragility of fanzines - I don't even have a full collection of my own due to style over

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materials. One apa contribution I did (1989 - an early Lollygagging using a CP/M computer and a programme called Bradford that gave pseudo-24-pin quality on a regular 9-pin dot matrix) came wrapped in tin foil and had a large (A3 + A4 stuck together) wrapper that was a photocopy of a Wrigglys Spearmint Gum thing. The copy I had stayed in the archive until a couple of years ago, when moving forced a lot of clearing out, and the tin foil had actually decayed and bonded to the everything. It was fun at the time, and that was the important thing. The concept of working on things in the knowledge that they will be archived some day is a little bit daunting.

Having said that... I have found the original file(s) for a massive review of SF poetry done by Steve Sneyd that I published back in 1993. It will take a little bit of resurrecting but I think I can get it into an acceptable format for today's techno-freaks - plus I have been talking to Steve Green in regard to some slightly earlier articles from Steve on the same subject that Steve published in Critical Wave back in 1991 & 1992. It means a lot of retyping of dodgy/dotty print (CR was done using an Amstrad PCW machine and a terrible 9-pin printer), but you never know, it should get some more mileage before the end of the year (Ha! Famous Last Words!)

RYCT Peter about mentioning eFanzine entries to other people and getting blank looks - that's the sort of reaction that Garth was talking about, and one that I used to get heated about when fanzines were still things that came in the mail (to almost quote Ned Brooks)

And speaking of the man himself...

Random/Peter:- I have to admit that your comment about fonts was very brave of you, and there is no way I'm going to ask you what colour your anorak is...
Oooooops! Actually, your comment about going over

to an Apple and keeping with OS-X has me wondering if it is one of the new Intel chip machines? OS-X is really just a proprietary flavour of UNIX - SUN even has an almost-true Linux environment designed into Solaris, which you can download from their website in ISO file format. Yeah, and before you ask, mine is a dark Olive green... :)

One quick comment re compiling software. It is a lot easier than you think. `./make` `./makeinstall` (and if it's a really old set) `./makeclean` (`./` triggers the script off, `make` puts the file parameters together, `makeinstall` creates the installation, and `makeclean` used to be used for cleaning up any orphaned temp files or objects, etc.) Of course, if you really want some fun and frolix then work with Tru64, and find out that you have to recompile the whole kernel just to get a SCSI driver into it... "Kittens! Get your ginger kittens here!" After the first time there was nothing to it.

RYCT me in regard to the British Library. They were sneaky buggers, and I'm sure they used to read some reviewzines (though *not* Keith Walkers *Fanzine Fanatique* - it had a wonderful charm to it, but was almost totally intelligible due to layout and printing quality) and then run off the letters requesting copies - stating that it was a legal requirement to send them a copy so that it could be logged and recorded. The only one I ever really sent stuff to was some University in the USA - I'll see if I can find an old mailing list and get the address proper. They offered to pay for a subscription, which touched me as I've never charged for any of my productions, and so they got a copy of everything up to the close of Thingummybob back in 1996.

Ernest Hemmingway (a writer I cannot stand, regardless) always said that after writing your first novel you should take a sea voyage, and halfway between Port A and Port B, throw it overboard, and then start writing your first novel proper. It's something I think

should have been taken to heart by a lot of would-be writers, but as you say, vanity press is something that people get sucked into in many respects. In regard to lulu.com, I understand that a lot of people have been unhappy about the fact that they have to actively promote their own product before any kind of money stacks up (and usually not that much, when all expenses are taken out) - which leaves me wondering what people think a vanity press/on-line publisher will do for seed-money generation? There are still some interesting things out there in Internet Land regarding creative arts and writings, but they are still being published and promoted via personal web pages, rather than production companies.

Slow Blog/Jan:- I suppose I really gotta ask this, but the caption with the dragster stated that your brother "debuted it at the Joliet..." Now, having seen The Blues Brothers... ☺

Okay, onto the sensible stuff. Gallstones? Den had his gall bladder removed at the start of 2004 - keyhole surgery (4 small incisions - one for the camera, one for the micro-surgery tools, which are incredibly small, one for the gas they use to inflate you so they can work on the inside, and one to remove the debris.) Of the stones they gave him back in a tube (17 in all) some were fairly large and would never have been broken up or dissolved - hence the need for surgery. There were several tips on the Internet about homoeopathic remedies - one involved drinking a gallon of olive oil, or something like that, but we found that if you eat carefully - keep red meat and high animal fat down (though, apparently, Crispy Mongolian Lamb was highly recommended by the doctors, according to someone who enjoys his Chinese food more than he really should) - then you should be comfortable, though he also gets bouts of IBS which sometimes helps to mask any other symptoms.

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Please don't fall into the trap of doing homework for your son. Help him, yes, and keep track of progress, but as teacher friends of ours often recount in regard to coursework, style and construction irregularities do tend to stand out when assessing end of year achievements. As for learning difficulties? My elder brother is dyslexic and never really got over it (it was not considered or even vaguely understood in the 1950s & 1960s), so any testing would be a good thing in the long run, and most learning difficulties are surmountable these days.

At the moment I'm running a Brother printer that takes the LC-900 cartridges. I don't know if you can take those or not (I suspect the baggies don't work outside the USA, or it becomes financially infeasible? Do they have a UK outlet/depot that I can send them to and get it credited to your account over there?)

RYCT Eric - Snidely Whiplash? Love to know where that comes from - images of postcards in postoffice windows advertising "Music teacher seeks new students - strict tempo only! Apply Ms Whiplash, Box..." There again, I suspect that postoffice and sweetshop adverts are different in the US.

There was also a character from one of the Flintstones cartoons that the band, Screaming Blue Messiahs used for the start of their song ***I Wanna Be A Flintstone*** "Hey, look, it's our new neighbour, Mister Weirdly Gruesome!"

Whatever, I'm never too sure about the status of e-mail messages - it is far too easy to be aggressive/offensive, hit the send button, and then spend a lifetime regretting it all. Also there is now the modern habit of virtually publishing someone else's e-mail via other e-mailers. I suppose that, in the fan case, it would be easy to just prefix the subject header with This Is A LoC - or is it now an em-LoC? I know that some thought and construction goes into every letter I write, but when it

comes to e-mails I tend not to be so careful with how things are worded and presented. Again, old habits...

Hallelujah Honey! I could not agree with you more when you talk about the need for fanhistory, but not the need for it to be rammed down the throats of any and everyone in order for them to be called a fan. There are, also, elements of fanhistory that are so ephemeral that they only last as long as the creators care to keep them alive, or else they exist for the moment. I was of the same opinion back in the 1980s when it was considered to be sacrilegious to even think about criticising the fandom of the 1950s - flame wars with Ted White, Greg Pickersgill, Rob Hansen, Andy Hooper, some of the old Timebinders - all centring around my comments such as

"What did you do in the 1980s, Fan-daddy of mine?"

"Why, son, we looked back at the 1950s and declared them as perfect above everything else fannish!"

"An' what did you do in the 1990s, Fan-daddy?"

"Well, son - hehe! - we looked back at the 1980s looking back at the 1950s and thought that we had found paradise!"

If I ever find copies of Steve Higgins' ***Stomach Pump*** fanzine which ran one of the last pieces I did on that before I got tired of trying to question the seemingly unquestionable, then I'll see about reprinting the piece. This is also why I brindle at the mention of this Core Fandom (the return of the SMOF club.)

BTW, how do I get to see a copy of PN?

RYCT Moi. Have to admit that I left the horror novel genre when splatterpunk came in (David Schow was one author I remember) but I was at that time into John

Shirley and some of the proto-cyberpunk stuff (City Come A' Walkin' pre-dates Bill Gibson's material, as does another proto-cyberpunk novel called Cybernia from around the mid-1970s.)

The start of B3 came from a track from an album I'd recently been sent by a guy called Ron Clarke, lead performer in a band called Nightmare. Way back in 1984 they had come to a local club and the evening they went on stage I went in as part of the audience, and ended up fixing their tape decks (spool tapes in those days - now he uses mini-disks)

One part of the show was exceedingly dangerous by today's standards - it involved Ron dressing up in a rubber divers' suit that had a skeleton painted on it. That was then re-painted with the original green chemical glow-light (the stuff where you snap the capsule inside the tube, give it a shake, and you get chemical light produced) before he leapt back on stage throwing his arms wide.

Naturally, great gobbets of this green luminous stuff flew into the audience, the other members of the band, the stage wings... Years later the stuff was banned for being carcinogenic and also containing high levels of cyanide compounds. Mind you, for sheer disregard of health and safety you would have to go some to beat the last Lou Reed concert I went to back in the 1970s - he'd gone solo, Transformer had become a success, but he kicked off the set with a totally black stage, and when they opened up *White Heat*, *White Light* the whole of the stage back blazed with strong white halogen lights for about 3 or 4 seconds (the afterburn was still visible in my eyes for about 10 minutes or so.)

But one song Nightmare did, stuck with me from then until now, which was *Boogey-Woogey Bogey Man!* Some elements of that, provided the audience were suitably drunk - er, sorry! suitably as-one with the

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singer - Ron would scream out "Boogy-Woogey!?" to which the audience would shout back "Boogey-Woogey!!" and so on. Backstage, though, Ron was so like Alice Cooper - remove all the schlock-horror rock-horror stuff and he was a regular guy - we ended up talking about his fine porcelain collection, and whether or not he would let his (then) young son go into the theatrical business.

Several months ago I found that Nightmare were still performing, Ron doing the management and bookings, and so I rang him to see if he could tell me about the very few records they had released. We ended up chatting (his son is now at University doing something in IT and Forensics) and he kindly sent me the only album they ever released. Sadly, the song I remember best isn't really the same as the stage show, but they also did a very High Camp version of Great Balls of Fire, back in 1979, that managed to reach number 23 in the UK singles charts. Considering that the number of units shifted then to reach number 23 was far in excess of what is required to have a top ten hit today, he still considers it to be a success, and rightly so.

As for the clear plastic 'record' - that, dear lady, is not an acetate but a flexidisk, which probably makes that copy of the Yes album pretty collectable these days. Flexidisks in the UK used to be the stuff that was put on magazine front covers in order to help boost the sales, or else they were put out as promotional items. One of the most collected flexies was the Rolling Stones NME flexi, and of course, there were the Beatles fan club flexies, but they weren't really official commercial releases.

Acetates, on the other hand, were fast studio pressings/cuttings - the true demo disks of the day, in fact - usually with blank or handwritten labels, and a date and studio session number somewhere on it. Because of the very soft nature of the vinyl used (some

disks even had metal bases coated with vinyl in order to give the disks more stability) it would only last around 100 playings before the sound became too badly damaged. Agents and studios used to regularly dump old stock in the Sunday markets in London, which was how some of the 'very rare' material got into the wild.

Most prized flexi in my collection is a 10-inch Australian one that was one massive advert for an instrument called The Emulator (a brand of synthesiser) which has the classic line "...or if you only want to tell the world that there's a song in your fart!" (cue Barr Barr Black Sheep rendered via various breaking wind sounds.)

"Ubiomp"? I have always been of the opinion that computers should be available to everyone who wants one - and when working with civilian companies as the IT Manager, I always disposed of old/abandoned equipment via the charity organisations that sent them to Africa or South America - getting around the vicious MickeySoft licences by having a signed contract stating that the machines were on indefinite loan, with no recourse to recall, which meant that we could leave the OEM software onboard. Bill Gates has since put the boot in and stopped that loophole, but we did at least get some machines through so others could benefit from them.

As for new computers - you can get a decent all-in-one motherboard (aka mobo in geekspeak) that just needs a CPU, case, memory, keyboard, mouse & screen... And the 'grease' is probably thermal paste (acts as a better heat conductor for things like heatsinks that take the heat away from the chips (etc) and allow it to be dissipated into the surrounding air (hence the possible danger of hot pockets in a base unit.)

Plata/Steve:- Nice to see that \$900 was the final price (not having seen the quality of the finished product, but as long as you were happy with it.) But your comments

re Chicago Worldcon could be echoed by what happened in the UK in regard to an early Manchester convention - one of the first to use University facilities rather than hotels. It didn't go down too well with the London crowd of the day, and they did their utmost to keep reviving the old complaints every time someone mentioned Manchester as a venue. There again, I suspect that with conventioning now becoming big business, people are going to be more interested in other things other than old fannish values.

As I go through the old tapes I will see if I can get the old speeches and panels found - with a touch of luck I should get them digitised into WAV or some lossey format like MP3. Might not be for a while - partially because I need time to root the things out from the loft, but also because my soundcard blew up on me this week. Soundblaster Live Platinum - it was originally a pig to get working under XP but it finally went in. Now I'm waiting on a refurbished Audigy 4 Pro (sorry, but I do like my soundcards to be studio-ish quality, and at least have phono connectors rather than just mini-jacks.) [Later] Managed to pick up a refurbished Creative Audigy 4 Pro, that sadly puts the old Platinum Live to shame. Now, the next thing I need to do is get a good video machine before the PVR/DVD-Recorders take over, so that I can shift some videos over to DVD (one of which is the film, Hellzapoppin'! - never been out on DVD, but I do have an old VHS tape copy of it.)

RYCT Eric in regard to his comment to me - guess Eric and I are just a couple of old fanzines-first fans. We are usually fluffy and cute, but remember:- keep us away from bright lights, water - oh, and don't feed us after midnight...

More New Worlds/WAM:- "Planet, Shmanet, Janet!" - To be honest the whole business reeks of academic politics - and with better astronomical instruments the chances of finding more things increases by the day.

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Look at the way Hubble (now something of an antique) virtually revolutionised concepts, the way the deep probes produced detailed revelations (at one time the only planet with rings was Saturn. Now they're as common as muck! I tell you, the whole neighbourhood went downhill as soon as they let those Voyagers within photographic range...) - my one great sadness was for the failed Beagle mission. It would have been nice to have had that working and running around the surface of Mars, like some little chewing-gum&string concoction straight from the pages of a 1950s Boy's Own Annual (Harry Turner, if he is still alive, used to talk about getting arrested for testing rockets on some waste ground near where he lived as a child in the early 1950s - don't know if it ever made it to an article...)

Strange that there is a 4 year gap in the archive, followed by a solo year - would that have anything to do with photographers being off doing education or courses?

RYCT Eric about comics. Cost and the fact that, as you rightly point out, distribution problems, finally got the better of me. Mind you, I always had a taste for the likes of The Shadow (collected most of the DC stuff that came up in the early 1990s?) but then also the leftfield indies such as Gnat-Man, No Ducks!, It's Science With Dr. Radium! - that sort of thing - which sadly dried up when Knockabout Comics got busted for the last time.

Re HHGTTG radio show. I remember 5 regular episodes on Radio 4 in the 18:30 slot, which was followed by a Christmas special (which, I think, was where the Bug Blatter Beast mutated into an exact replica of the Heart of Gold?), with the second series pointing out that the word Belgium (there, I've said it!) was not very nice, and also defining God as a somewhat forgetful old man.

The TV series was a right mixture of good and bad, with the most disappointing being Marvin. In the radio series there were such lines as "...it gives me a headache just thinking down to your level" not forgetting the terrible pain in all the diodes down his left side. In the TV it was terrible costuming, and in the film you had someone of Alan Rickman's quality (see Dogma, and also Galaxy Quest) doing a really crap job and some pretty bad CGI.

Well, I think I'll stop there on that subject, except to say that I thought Adams had gone back over the books and re-worked some pieces, cleaned up some 'loose ends' and generally spruced them up for re-publication in the knowledge that someone would buy it all again.

Whatever, the best thing on R4 at the moment is The Museum Of Everything. Though, what with Badgerland now a radioactive wasteland, Stoaeworld not a roaring success, and the wonderful send-up of Sci-Fi convention members in the "To Infinity & Beyond" episode - "As you wander around the convention you may come across strange life forms that you have never seen before. These are **girls**. Try not to stare at them too much..." - I'm beginning to wonder if all that will be left will be The Gift Shop...

Amryfath/Eunice:- Was surprised to see you in the Missing Presumed Fed section (fed to what, exactly?) - and don't tell me that Llanfarian is Welsh for Land of the Fairies?

One quick word in regard to your recent computer problems, get several USB memory sticks - say some cheap 64Mb stuff that people are literally giving away now - and use them to back up your documents on. I've been using an old Reflex 128Mb I got free on a course, and it has been miles better than any briefcase full of paperwork, believe me!

Hope everything is working out okay with the new house, and that family and cats are settling in okay?

Feline Madness/R-Laurraine:- RYCT Me - Wonderful to see 'cheques' rather than 'checks' - but I have to admit that paying someone with a cheque here in the UK means a quick trip to the bank to see if it's good or not. And also, for small businesses, cheques mean traceable funds that the Taxman can easily get his horned claws into. With cash, it's straight into your pocket and who can complain about that? I usually keep around £150 on me for emergencies and general weekly shop running/petrol, etc, because that way I know what's exactly in the bank account at any one time, without the fear of a large bill coming in that needs to be paid at the end of the month.

Not quite sure I follow your problems with ISPs while on the move. Do you mean that you cannot connect physically to an ISP when you go "outside their service area" - or is this something to do with Wi-Fi/Wireless support?

As to the dentists - I just detach myself from the fact that he is working in my mouth. I trust him, and in return he stops immediately if he feels me twitch at something. He's never let me down in 9 years, is professional, a perfectionist, and he doesn't talk down to me or even dumb down information. I only wish that some doctors were as honest when I have to see them, rather than having me explain that I might not own a copy of Grey's but I do have a very good idea of what happens in regard to the human body.

And having said that, I hope all goes well with the Doctors and the Vets.

Thursday/Garth:- To the question, I have to answer that it is your apazine, and it is your Ghu-given right to put in it whatever you think should go in. You wanna put in

BOOPLEDOGGIN' #7

fanhistory, then do so. I'm fishing around my old zine collection to find an article I wrote about body piercing, updating it, and then running it by this readership (you wouldn't believe what you can stick bits of metal through, or even what they're professionally called.) There's also a piece on how to become a werewolf (which I used as a 5 minute lecture for a Navy leadership course, prior to being dumped up on the Black Mountains for a weekend of fun and frolix known as Survival Training) and possibly - just possibly - I may get around to putting up my dynamic (rather than static) Top Ten Amusing Records (Daphne & The Tenderspots - Disco Hell, The Brians - My Brother's Famous, Trimmer & Jenkins - I Like Parties) The point is, it doesn't matter what goes into your apazine - use it as a floating soundboard for articles that you then put up somewhere else, use the apa for feedback (but not in the Jimmi Hendrix way, please) I put up the old Too Orangey For Crows section - it didn't fly, so it got shot down. Just go for it!

RYCT Peter about meeting "newcomers at the door" - there used to be a group called the Knights of St. Fanthony (the likes of Terry Jeeves, Eric Bentcliffe, etc) that were there to introduce new fans to fandom of the time. This was allowed to fall by the wayside because others (Ted Tubb, etc) went to create the BSFA (British SF Association) which was designed to fulfil that role, but like all National groups, it was prone to in-fighting, fannish politics, and all sorts of other crap. I know it's still going, but I couldn't tell you anything about it - except that when I joined it, I was member #2000 (back in 1974 I think), and Keith Freeman immediately stiffed me by selling us some coloured duplicating paper that turned out to be tabletop litho paper instead (that was back when I had paid a massive £50 for our first Gestetner 105 unmodified "The Schoolie", from a company who delt in reconditioned duplicators and advertised in the Exchange & Mart.) I left in the early 80's on several points of principal and the fact that the

Leeds Group had taken it over for their own plaything for a while. Also, I suspect, I had outgrown it and didn't want to be blinkered by it in many respects.

To move on, and the question I have here is, what do you teach the 'children'? Does anyone really give a flying fig who sawed Cortney's boat (or whatever the old in-joke expression was), or what happened in the TAFF Wars, or who grokked what in regard to Ghu or Foo-Foo?

Way back, when Vince Clarke was still alive and I was more mobile, I used to stop over at 16 Wendover Way from time to time. We used to natter into the evenings, and at one point I almost had him agree with me that what we really needed was for the whole of fandom as we knew it then to completely disappear overnight. No trace, no memory, no history, no nothing. And then see how things mutated and evolved. The concept is flawed in that we would have to be external of the whole thing in order to be able to compare pre with post. It also gave us both an insight into how we perceived things as being important in our Fan environment. Play along with me on this - if you had to lose everything fannishly close to you, except one 'thing', what would you save? For me it would be my Sensa Wunda (and maybe, if I could recapture that first 'wow' I had on reading my first SF piece then I might return to the genre, rather than bemoaning the masses upon masses of reprints and the way the authors have gone these days.)

What say you?

Well. It got to be 02:30 on October 1st and it's about time I called this in. Still, whilst doing this I have also been working on a Christmas present for an old friend - 60 different versions of the song *La Bamba!* - from speed metal to dub-ish reggae. All I need now is to run up a cover and add the title:- *Ay Caramba! It's La*

Bamba! My only real concern is just what the hell he's going to send me in return...

This has been another enthralling episode of *Mutant On The Bounty!* - "Max has been stranded in hyperspace for 23 years, but when he materialises onto the good ship USS Bounty with half his face missing, and finds that they've lost his luggage, we're talking serious depression city! Unfortunately for Max, his troubles don't end with the free cosmetic surgery that leaves his face looking as though he's been bobbing for french fries in the deep fat fryer..." also known as BOOPLEDOGGIN' #7 - from Chuck "Nope, I'd have to loose a shed-load of pounds before it was a slim chance..." Connor, who can now be found inhabiting assorted e-mail boxes - the best of which would be chuck@boople.force9.co.uk - snailmail on request.

All that's left to say is:

Goodnight out there,
whatever you are...

Pleasantly Random 14

HELLO, good evening and welcome to the 14th issue of Pleasantly Random, written for the October 2006 issue of e-APA It is written by Peter Sullivan, of 1, Englemann Way, Burdon Vale, SUNDERLAND, SR3 2NY, England.

E-mail: peter@burdonvale.co.uk.

Website: <http://www.burdonvale.co.uk>.

Livejournal: <http://www.livejournal.com/users/ceemage/>.

Sweepies on e-APA 29

The Enchanted Placemat 4 (Chris Garcia)

Dave Burton was indeed the founder of e-APA – actually, I've just noticed that the front page of www.efanzines.com still lists us as “Dave Burton's e-APA” - must get that fixed. I agree with you about Pixel – got to be one of the best genzines out there at the moment. Of course, given that we are both regular columnists therein, I guess neither of us are exactly disinterested observers when it comes to it.

I'm not sure that I would agree that copyright is entirely a bad thing. I suspect that copyright is a bit like nuclear power – it can be used for both bad and good. Actually, the basic copyright law as it stood before the electronic age was basically fine, with the fair use provisions providing a sensible counter-point to the rights of the creator. The problems seem to be that new technology has changed the practical implications of fair use. And wherever there is a conflict between fair use and the rights of the copyright holders, the legislators always seem to side with the copyright holders (who are not, typically, the actual content creators). It would have been just as legitimate, for instance, to say that a DRM scheme that didn't fully protect the content consumer's fair use rights was illegal.

Your point about the National Fantasy Fan Federation needing to bring information about what's out there in “bigger fandom” to its members is pretty much what I would expect it to be doing. Would it be worth doing, for instance, a regular fanzine reviews column in the N3F fanzine?

CHRIS GARCIA FOR TAFF!

Your mention of “Cthulu for TAFF” reminds me of one of my oldest (and, you’ll be pleased to know, rarely revived) jokes, viz. :

Q) What kind of crisps does a shoggoth eat?

A) Cthulu-hoops.

Slow Blog 2 (Jan Stinson)

I seem to remember reading that, for personal letters, the normal rule of copyright was reversed, and the copyright belonged to the recipient rather than the author. So I would guess that the same applies to e-mail. However, there’s a difference between legalities and expected common courtesies. In general I would agree with you that quoting to third parties is pretty bad form.

Of course, letters sent to fanzine editors which are (or are interpreted as being) letters of comment are somewhat different – I think most fanzine editors would assume these are publishable unless marked “Do Not Quote” or “Not For Print.”

Not that DNQ isn’t capable of abuse as well. I know that, as part of the Great Feud in the early 1980s in the North American postal gaming hobby, there was at least one example of a round-robin letter being widely distributed to all known editors, but marked “Do Not Quote” in an attempt to stop anybody else discussing the contents

afterwards. This worked about as well as you might expect.

It’s interesting, isn’t it, that the etiquette of recognising civil partnerships is still developing. Most people seem to treat them like conventional weddings, which is probably a reasonable starting point. As you say elsewhere, human beings are pattern makers, and I guess it’s the obvious pattern to follow.

Oops, in my list of positions, the ‘=’ sign stands for ‘equals.’ For example, 1st Fred Flinstone 10 points, =2nd Barney Rubble 7 points, =2nd Pebbles 7 points. Guess it would have been a bit clearer if I’d spelled it out.

It is, of course, well known that Barney the Purple Dinosaur is, in fact, Satan. The logic goes like this:

- Barney is, indisputably, a CUTE PURPLE DINOSAUR.
- In Latin, the vowel U is represented by the same letter as the constants V, so replace all Us to become CVTE PVRPLE DINOSAVR.
- Remove all letters that are not valid Roman Numerals, to leave C-V- -V--L- DI----V-.
- Add up the remaining digits: C + V + V + L + D + I + V = 100 + 5 + 5 + 50 + 500 + 1 + 5 = 666
- Therefore, Barney = Satan.

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(No, I didn't make this up myself – saw it on the internet somewhere.)

I think the important thing to remember about the Hugos is that they are, ultimately, just a private set of awards given out by a particular private members' club. OK, so the members of the club are anyone attending or supporting a particular Worldcon. But in principle, the Hugos are no different to, say, the Neffies handed out by the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Any credibility that the Hugos have over and above other awards (and, to be fair, I don't ever recall a publisher's blurb saying "Now a Neffy-Nominated Author") comes from the credibility and resonance that previous years' results have had with the fan community as a whole. This is a potentially perishable commodity.

Plata 16 (Steven Silver)

The Pluto controversy continues to rumble on. My personal preference would be the suggestion I've seen to recognise a new category of objects called "Plutons," with Pluto, Charon, Ceres and Eris (a.k.a. Xena) as the founder members. We'll see what the International Astronomical Union decides. I know it's purely emotional (something that doesn't really belong in science), but the idea of treating Pluto as 'just another asteroid' rankles somewhat. I hadn't appreciated that the centre of gravity

of Pluto and Charon was actually just above the surface of Pluto.

Condolences on losing the site selection for 2008. With such a close vote, I suspect just about anything and everything will have been a factor. In some ways, it would have been better to lose by a country mile, since then at least you could have felt that there was nothing you could have done about it. Anyway, as you say, at least you get the next three years of your life back "in advance."

In some ways, competitive bidding for Worldcon site selection is unsatisfactory, because of the wasted effort expended in unsuccessful bids. But I can't see any alternative that doesn't have even more negative consequences. Wasn't it Winston Churchill who said that democracy was the worst possible system ever invented – "apart from all the others"?

I know that both DUFF and GUFF had races in 2005 (DUFF's was southbound to Australia, GUFF's was northbound to the British Worldcon), but I'm not aware of any activity since. To be fair, unlike TAFF, the two Australasian fan funds don't always have a race every year in any case. In particular, I'm guessing that both DUFF and GUFF will want to manipulate their timetables to ensure that they both have a southbound race in 2010, if Melbourne gets the Worldcon for that year.

I think you're right to say that fandom is much more open than a lot of social groups, but equally right to say

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that this doesn't mean it is completely free of cliques or closed minds. A certain level of cliquishness is fine – it's inherent in the human condition, and often goes under its other name of 'making friends.' I suspect that part of the problem is that new people will assume that the initial clique they connect to fandom through is all that there is. So if they don't like that clique, then by definition they don't like fandom. Whereas the reality is that All Known Fandom these days is such a disparate entity that there is almost bound to be some part of it that any novice can fit in somewhere – if only they can find it.

More New Worlds (William McCabe)

The Pluto controversy seems to have gone quiet for the moment, but I suspect more shenanigans around the time of the next IAU meeting.

Like you, I sampled a few Marvel comics as a teenager (mainly The Fantastic Four). For some unknown reason I even had a spell reading the distinctly militaristic Warlord¹ for a while. But, as you say, most British comics were fairly light-hearted, in the tradition of the Beano and the Dandy. I remember reading Krazy², and its later spin-

off Cheeky Weekly³, as well as more traditional titles like Roy of the Rovers.

I wasn't aware that Pieces of Eight was still running. The only other British APA I'm aware of is Maureen Kincaid Speller's Acnestis, but this hasn't released a distribution since last summer.

I appreciate your point that Doctor Who has an awful lot of extras these days. But there's actually no need to watch these! Even though I do watch the Doctor Who repeats on BBC 3, I never pay much attention to the Doctor Who Confidential programmes. The ones I have seen proved to be a distraction more than anything else – I don't need to see how the special effects are done, for instance. What I like about the new series is that, like Tolkien and (on a completely different level) Harry Potter, they've gone to the trouble to think about back-story. And use this to set up potential future flashbacks and storylines. Bad Wolf and Torchwood are the most obvious examples, but probably more important long-term is the Time War, referred to in several episodes to date. Most recently in the Doctor saying “I was there at the Fall of Arcadia.”

¹ [http://www.wikipedia.org/Warlord_\(British_comics\)](http://www.wikipedia.org/Warlord_(British_comics))

² <http://www.wikipedia.org/Krazy>

³ <http://www.wikipedia.org/Cheeky>

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Boopledoggin' 6 (Chuck Connor)

Unlike you, I actually spent very little time on bulletin boards. I guess I was just half a generation too young for them. Most of my early time on-line was spent with Compu\$pend, before I signed up as one of the first non-founder members of Demon, the first real UK dial-up internet service provider.

Thank you for sharing a picture of your 8-inch floppy Wang with the rest of the APA...

Like you, I feel a conflict between wanting people to be fairly compensated for their efforts writing and developing software, and the inherent unfairness of many software licences. My own main field of expertise is/was finance and accounting systems. Piracy is almost a complete non-issue here. Any private company or public sector body large enough to need the sorts of systems I work with also has the public profile to not want to get caught pirating it. And in any case, the big revenue earners for the software suppliers are the consultancy and bespokeing, not the software itself. Yet we're still stuck, in most cases, with per-seat licensing costs, which often get in the way of using the system at its most efficient or effective.

I don't know about the nostalgia bug fading away – I can see people in twenty years time getting all nostalgic about 'the early series of Big Brother – you know, back before

they started having simulacra on all at time.' Or is this just a set-up for the old line about “Nostalgia's not what it used to be?”

Interesting thoughts on fannish humour. I suppose that fannish humour falls between two stools. At the one extreme is the sort of humour you get in a family or office situation, where everybody knows everybody else, is something that can be very funny indeed even if it “only stood up for 30 seconds and no more,” as you say. At the other extreme, less perishable humour, such as books or TV, tends to be longer-lasting, but you can't rely on everyone having the same frame of reference to understand it. What's unusual about fannish humour is that it tends towards the first in style, but the second in terms of non-perishability. Or, in other words, we tend to write our jokes down.

There was an interesting article in a recent Banana Wings about the plays of Aristophanes – suggesting that much of the humour in these plays came from the fact that the author would know which Athenian politicians would be in the audience and could target the humour accordingly. Although this wouldn't work with politicians in today's society, it might work, for instance, with references to fans at an Eastercon.

I don't feel that fanzines are necessarily doomed. Paper-based fanzines, maybe, although there will be people still producing on paper for a good few years yet, and more

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power to their elbow. But an electronic fanzine is still a fanzine – nobody talked about 'the death of fanzines' when mimeo took over from letterpress, or photocopy took over from mimeo. It's a more radical shift than in the past, but it's still the same end-product in a different medium.

And the electronic fanzine has enough differences (and, in some cases, advantages) over blogs and mailing lists that it should survive. Unlike mailing lists, there is a single (or collective) editorial voice. Unlike blogs, there's a concept of an issue being finished – electronic fanzine editors still 'pub their ish.' After all, TV didn't kill radio – it just allowed radio to concentrate on what it was really, really good at, and leave the things it wasn't too hot at (e.g. radio ventriloquism acts⁴) for TV.

As I understand it, the various “bounty payments” for TAFF and similar fan-fund trip reports were/are not an intrinsic part of TAFF. Rather, it grew up organically as a mechanism for other fannish organisations which had spare funds to (a) show support for TAFF but also (b) provide a mild incentive for people to finish their trip reports, something that was almost becoming 'more honoured in the breach than the observance.' I think it's still expected that trip reports get published through various fanzines first, but that it's the “collected edition”

⁴ <http://www.whirligig-tv.co.uk/tv/children/other/archieandrews.htm>

that triggers the bounty payments. However, don't take me as any kind of authority on TAFF – most of what I know I cribbed off the unofficial TAFF website⁵ run by Dave Langford.

I know what you mean about the old ethos of always finishing with an even-numbered page count. One postal games zine I saw had the perfect solution to this. The editor was a bit of a medieval history buff, and did a series of single-page articles entitled “Back Page Pope,” a populist guide to some of the more shady or interesting (or, often, both) occupants of the throne of St. Peter. He would normally aim for an odd number of pages for the games, so that he could run that issue's Back Page Pope. But, given that most of these gentlemen had been dead for at least 500 years, if he ended up having to drop the Back Page Pope for that issue, the material could easily wait until next time.

Amryfath 4.5 (Eunice Probert)

Commiserations on your computer problems – but congratulations on your move! Must admit the sorts of security issues you mention are part of the reason that most of my website have always been static HTML – I'm always afraid that a dynamic web site might have unintended consequences.

⁵ <http://www.taff.org.uk>

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Feline Madness 29 (R-Laurraine Tutihasi)

Sounds as if you had a good time at the Worldcon – looking forward to the report. I haven't heard anything back from any of the e-APA CDs that were available from the fanzine lounge.

It's interesting that you mention paying for things by check. I know that American shops were never that keen on checks, mainly because there was never the equivalent of the Cheque Guarantee Cards that we had in Britain. However, cheques seem to be on the way out over here as well, now. Several large retailers have announced that they will no longer accept cheques – just cash, or debit or credit cards.

And even cash is a bit dodgy if it's for too much – I believe that all cash transactions over £9,999 have to be reported for anti-money-laundering purposes these days.

I Never Really Got the Hang of Thursdays 29 (Garth Spencer)

“Why do I keep running out of time?” I know this feeling all too well. My own theory, which I quite like, is that there are some wicked pixies living in this house playing with the clocks. The idea being that, whenever my attention is elsewhere, they go on a mad dash around the house and adjust all of the clocks. The problem with this

theory is, if it's correct, they also seem to have adjusted the clocks at work to match. Plus the Greenwich Time Signal on the BBC. That's one bunch of very busy pixies.

I'm not sure whether it's fair to say that fanzine editors and contributors were the minority in 1970s fandom. I suppose it depends what you mean by fandom, but the impression I get is that it wasn't really until the late 1970s that fandom started to explode. With media fans becoming the majority, and conventions becoming the focus of fannish activity in themselves rather than (as they had been until then) just an opportunity for fanzine fans to have face-time together. But then you were there and I wasn't, so why am I arguing?

And overleaf...

I had several ideas for articles, but ran out of time. So y'all will just have to wait until next time for my thoughts on why science fiction fandom is like green tennis shoes, or why the Pippini Sisters' first CD is excellent, as long as you ignore all of the media hype.

Instead, overleaf is something halfway between a formal index to the distributions so far, and a piece of whimsy done for my own amusement...

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| Distribution No. | Date | Dave Locke | R-Laurraine Tutihasi | David Burton | Jan Stinson | Garth Spencer | Steven Silver | Anna Davour | Ruth Davidson | Chris Garcia | Lawrence Soehnel | Peter Sullivan | Eric Mayer | Eunice Probert | Chuck Connor | William McCabe |
|------------------|--------|------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | May-04 | Arc 1 | FM 1 | Pil 1 | NR 1 | Thu 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Jun-04 | Arc 2 | FM 2 | Pil 2 | NR 2 | Thu 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Jul-04 | Arc 3 | FM 3 | Pil 3 | | Thu 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Aug-04 | Arc 4 | FM 4 | Pil 4 | NR 3 | Thu 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Sep-04 | Arc 5 | FM 5 | Pil 5 | NR 4 | Thu 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Oct-04 | Arc 6 | FM 6 | Pil 6 | NR 5 | Thu 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Nov-04 | Arc 7 | FM 7 | Pil 7 | NR 6 | Thu 7 | Pla 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Dec-04 | Arc 8 | FM 8 | Pil 8 | NR 7 | Thu 8 | Pla 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Jan-05 | | FM 9 | Pil 9 | NR 8 | Thu 9 | Pla 3 | ScW 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Feb-05 | | FM 10 | Pil 10 | | Thu 10 | Pla 4 | ScW 2 | RCS 1 | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Mar-05 | | FM 11 | Pil 11 | NR 9 | Thu 11 | | | RCS 2 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Apr-05 | | FM 12 | Pil 12 | | Thu 12 | | ScW 3 | RCS 3 | | | | | | | |
| 13 | May-05 | | FM 13 | Pil 13 | | Thu 13 | | | | AW 1 | | | | | | |
| 14 | Jun-05 | | FM 14 | Pil 14 | NR 10 | Thu 14 | | ScW 4 | | AW 2 | | | | | | |
| 15 | Jul-05 | TB 1 | FM 15 | BJ 1 | | Thu 15 | Pla 5 | | RCS 4 | AW 3 | TNF 0 | | | | | |
| 16 | Aug-05 | | FM 16 | BJ 2 | | Thu 16 | Pla 6 | | | AW 4 | | PR 1 | | | | |
| 17 | Sep-05 | TB 5 | FM 17 | BJ 3 | NR 11 | Thu 17 | Pla 7 | | RCS 5 | AW 5 | | PR 2 | | | | |
| 18 | Oct-05 | | FM 18 | BJ 4 | | Thu 18 | Pla 8 | | RCS 6 | AW 6 | | PR 3 | | | | |
| 19 | Nov-05 | TB 7 | FM 19 | BJ 5 | NR 12 | Thu 19 | | | | AW 7 | | PR 4 | WY 1 | Amr 1 | | |
| 20 | Dec-05 | | FM 20 | BJ 6 | NR 13 | Thu 20 | Pla 9 | | | CJGC | | PR 5 | WY 2 | | | |
| 21 | Jan-06 | TB 8 | FM 21 | BJ 7 | | Thu 21 | | | | AW 8 | | PR 6 | WY 3 | | | |
| 22 | Feb-06 | TB 9 | FM 22 | BJ 8 | | Thu 22 | Pla 10 | | RCS 7 | AW 9 | | PR 7 | WY 4 | Amr 2 | | |
| 23 | Mar-06 | TB 12 | FM 23 | BJ 9 | | Thu 23 | Pla 11 | | | TEP 1 | | PR 8 | WY 5 | | | |
| 24 | Apr-06 | | FM 24 | Leg 1 | NR 14 | Thu 24 | Pla 12 | | RCS 8 | | | PR 9 | WY 6 | Amr 3 | Bp 1/1.5 | |
| 25 | May-06 | To 1 | FM 25 | B&W 1 | | Thu 25 | Pla 13 | | RCS 9 | | | PR 10 | WY 7 | | Bp 2 | |
| 26 | Jun-06 | | FM 26 | | SB 1 | Thu 26 | Pla 14 | | | | | PR 11 | WY 8 | Amr 4 | Bp 3 | |
| 27 | Jul-06 | | FM 27 | | | Thu 27 | Pla 15 | | | TEP 2 | | | WY 9 | | Bp 4 | Unt |
| 28 | Aug-06 | | FM 28 | | | Thu 28 | | | | TEP 3 | | PR 12 | WY 10 | | Bp 5 | CoS |
| 29 | Sep-06 | | FM 29 | | SB 2 | Thu 29 | Pla 16 | | | TEP 4 | | PR 13 | | Amr 4.5 | Bp 6 | MNW |

Key to Fanzine names:

Arc = Archaism, TB = Trial Balloon, To =Tops, FM = Feline Madness, Pil = Pilcrow, BJ = Blue Jaunte, Leg = Legerdemain, B&W = Bob & Weave, NR = Northern Raptor, SB = Slow Blog, Thu = I Never Really Got the Hang of Thursdays, Pla = Plata, ScW = Scattered Words, RCS = Ruthie-Chan's Station, AW = Alternate Wildly, CJGC = The Christopher J Garcia Conspiracy, TEP = The Enchanted Placemat, TNF = The New Flesh, PR = Pleasantly Random, WY = Woolly Yarns, Amr = Amryfath, Bp = Boopledoggin', Unt = Untitled, CoS = Carnival of Sorts, MNW = More New Worlds

FELINE MADNESS #30

is a zine created for e-APA #30, October 2006, by R-Laurraine Tutihasi of Rolling Hills Estates, CA, who can be reached at Laurraine@mac.com. I have a web site at <http://www.weasner.com/> . © 2006 by R-Laurraine Tutihasi. This zine is formatted for viewing on screen. Illo on p. 8 by Bill Rotsler.

It has been a relatively quiet month for us. We needed the rest after all the travelling we did in August.

The fitting process for the night-time contacts has finished. My reading glasses were adjusted, and I have a spare pair of contacts. My vision seems to fluctuate a bit from day to day, but basically my distance vision is okay.

We got a new cable modem from Cox, since they are offering a higher speed now. Unfortunately it didn't work; our speed with the new modem was even slower than with the old, so we returned it and are back to using the old one.

We saw a play this month called *I Have before Me a Document Given to Me by a Young Lady from Rwanda*. Despite the somewhat ridiculous title, the play was excellent. It took a complex topic, that of the genocides in Rwanda, and crafted the story in such a way as to have maximum impact without sounding like a political tract. Basically it is about a young lady from Rwanda, who escaped to Britain. She has a manuscript of the history of the genocide that she wants to get published. Her mentor helps her reshape the rather dry book

into a personal story that would be much more likely to be published and much more likely to appeal to readers. It is a very touching story, and the audience gave it a standing ovation.

My father is still trying to recover from *Clostridium difficile*. The first antibiotic did not effectively knock it out, and he is on a second antibiotic. My sister hopes to move him to a nursing home closer to her house. It is a private facility that does not accept Medicare, but he has apparently exhausted his Medicare benefits for nursing home care so makes no difference. Nursing homes are very expensive. At least this experience has motivated my sister to get long term care insurance. We did this ourselves a few years ago.

My parents' house is in escrow now and expected to close by the end of October. It sold for a lot less than zillow.com thinks it's worth, but the housing market in Bellingham seems to be quite depressed. My sister's new house is expected to close at the end of September. She will take a couple of days to make a few changes – new carpets, etc. Then my sister and mother expect to move. After they vacate her current house, she will

put that up for sale. She is making the purchase with two mortgages and a home equity loan. When she gets the money from the sale of the Bellingham house, she will pay off the second mortgage and the home equity loan.

Our two cats both came down with colds. Fluffy didn't have it very long, probably because of the antibiotics he's on for his abdominal inflammation. Mercury had it for two weeks when I took him to his vet, who prescribed some antibiotics for him. He seems to be over the cold finally. Fluffy had his follow-up ultrasound. It showed that his pancreas appears normal now, but the inflammation has spread to his stomach and gall bladder. He also has a problem in his liver and his heart. He is currently scheduled for an endoscopy in mid-October. I had made one attempt to get it done, but they couldn't do it safely because of constipation. He is back on a laxative now, and I will keep him on it, at least until he gets his endoscopy.

Mike went to Oracle from 22-24 September. Unfortunately he didn't get a lot of astronomy done because of wind and cloud problems. He did take a lot of photos of birds, animals, and plants.

While he was away, I went to an orchid show at the local botanical gardens. Here are a couple of photos.





I saw two movies recently that had their endings cut off. I have to be more careful when recording movies on TCM and Sundance. They sometimes end at odd times, and the DVR seems too stupid to handle this. If any of you have seen either *Go for Broke* or *Belle de Jour* and can tell me the ending, let me know. I probably only missed five or so minutes.

Mailing Comments on e-APA #29

Chris Garcia (Enchanted Placemat): The gluten-free diet has succeeded better than I'd hoped. Most of my gastrointestinal problems have gone away and only show up when I accidentally ingest gluten or when I forget to take my lactase enzyme. I also have lactose intolerance.

The SF Museum is a bit pricy, but they've done a good job.

There used to be someone in N3F who recycled fanzines that fans were finished with. No one is doing that these days. I don't keep all the fanzines I receive. Our house would be much more crowded if I did. I have managed to find people to pass them on to, but a more formal programme would do a better job.

Peter Sullivan (Pleasantly Random #13): The SF Museum is a bit pricy, but they've done a

good job.

Welcome to the Mac world.

Unfortunately my father came down with another infection in mid-August – *Clostridium difficile*. I believe the second part of the name is quite descriptive. It took until late August to find an effective antibiotic. Unfortunately this didn't work. See above.

Worldcon was very enjoyable. I just wish there hadn't been so many things happening at the same time or that I'd been able to clone myself à la David Brin.

You'd have to have been blind to not recognize Chris Garcia's name after attending worldcon.

Jan Stinson (Slow Blog #2): Sorry to hear about the gallstones. Do you have to have

surgery?

Sorry I won't be able to help with your fundraising, as we no longer use an inkjet printer. Boy those cartridges were pesky. Our Staples provided recycling. Toward the end, they even gave us discount coupons for each cartridge; but I usually ended up giving away about half the coupons.

It's not necessarily the PDF process that made the photos not so sharp. Those photos, if I recall correctly, were taken with my video camera. The still photo function on the camera is not that great. I think even a cheap digital still camera will take better photos. Of course, sometimes the photos lose some sharpness when I have to crunch down their size.

I don't think there is any majority faction in fandom. You can probably talk about a "core" fandom, though.

I have another fan friend who likes her Neuton electric lawn mower.

A spider in my hair would have freaked me out, too. In fact a spider fell down on me once when I was reading in bed. You never saw anyone move

so fast. My worst experiences with spiders have been in the northwest, where they seem to grow their spider really large. They're almost as large as tarantulas. I used my parents' rarely-used downstairs bathroom once, when they were living in a different house. I was about to wash my hands in the sink when I noticed a very large spider sitting on the bottom of it. I'm sure the neighbours must have heard my scream. Another time I went downstairs in my sister's previous house to retrieve my purse, which I'd left in the living room. There was a very large spider sitting under my purse. After jumping back several yards, I believe I threw a book at it. If I have plenty of warning, a normal-sized spider won't bother me too much, especially if it's outdoors.

Steven H Silver (Plata 16): Sorry to have missed seeing you at the worldcon. I talked to Alice Bentley at your table, but you were elsewhere.

You're not the only person who was disappointed that Chicago did not win the site selection for 2008. I spoke to a Denver fan who said he was sorry Denver had won. It seems the driving force for the Denver bid is a fan from Colorado Springs, and Denver fans are split on it. He said he thought Chicago would have put on a better con. I'm

happy Denver won. Under the current flying conditions (which have changed since I wrote that), I wouldn't go to a worldcon in Chicago. Denver, on the other hand, is close enough that we will drive. There are a lot of neat places to stop along the way. We will probably take at least two days to drive each way. We also have friends in the Denver area that we'd like to visit.

In trying to analyze Chicago's loss, I wonder whether the fact that Columbus was also bidding split the votes of the East Coast fan.

I only once took money out of a local ATM where I had to pay a fee. This happened accidentally. It asked me whether I still wanted to make the withdrawal knowing there would be a fee, and I must have hit the wrong button. I have used ATMs when out of town even where there was a fee. I understand this may be problematical these days, as some banks will make it impossible to withdraw money in some geographical locations for security reasons. When going out of country, it is advised that you take at least some money in travellers' cheques.

Thanks for the photo. You certainly were a cute kid.

William McCabe (More New Worlds): You must have misread what I wrote. The food I ate thinking it was safe was eaten in a restaurant. I didn't realize that cheese sauce is made with flour, and that fact didn't occur to the waiter either. When I had symptoms, I asked around to see if the cheese sauce might have contained flour. Several people confirmed that cheese sauce is routinely made with flour.

To give you some background information, in the US the only tests currently used for celiac disease, which I'm not sure is exactly the same as gluten sensitivity, are so insensitive that some people undergo testing for over a decade before they come back with a positive test. Basically the test will not come out positive unless a person eats a lot of gluten regularly. I was already on a low carbohydrate diet, so the amount of gluten in my diet was already low. There is a test available that is apparently used in Europe, not sure about Britain. This is available here if the patient himself pays for it. After asking the advice of people with more experience with gluten sensitivity, it was decided that cutting gluten out of my diet made better sense than paying for another test.

Anyway my gastrointestinal problems are all but

gone. I usually have problems only when I accidentally eat something that contains gluten due to my relative ignorance about food preparation. At no time have I had problems if something came in a labelled package where there were no problem ingredients listed. The incidence of eating something accidentally should decrease as I become more educated and also become more capable of explaining my problem in restaurants. When you consider that I had almost daily gastrointestinal problems before this diet, I think this pretty much confirms my diagnosis.

I do also suffer from lactose intolerance, so I will have problems if I forget to take my lactase enzyme. This happens infrequently.

I also am prone to motion sickness, and the gluten-free diet does not have any effect on this.

It is interesting to note that I am now really sensitive to gluten in my diet. I've had to cut out some things that didn't used to bother me.

It would be really nice if you could put your name someplace in your zine.

Chuck Connor (Boopledoggin' #6): Would it be too much trouble for you to increase the size

of your font a bit? Some of us don't see as well as we used to.

Although I do take my laptop to cons, I rarely have the chance to do anything on it. The bigger the con, the busier I seem to be doing convention stuff.

I've shed my trifocals for night-time contacts. I wear them while I sleep, and my corneas are moulded so I have my distance vision back. I just have reading glasses now. I learned that multifocal lenses are now available for cataract surgery, so I will get those when the time comes. Some people are now going in for preventive cataract surgery just to get those lenses. I'm not that much into surgery.

Vanity presses do have their place even before the current boom. For instance a family friend published a small book just for her friends and family.

Eunice Probert (Amryfath 4.5): Sorry to hear about all your computer problems. Good luck with your move.

Moi (Feline Madness #29): I should clarify that I can receive Weasner.com mail at home. I

just cannot send out.

October should be another restful month for us.

Laurraine

See you all next month.



I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #30 (October 2006)

By Garth Spencer, PO Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC
garthspencer@shaw.ca

Dear Guys,

The insurance adjusters who let me go in February asked for some heavy moonlighting work starting August, and finally asked me to come back to work for them in mid-September. This was a relief. The temp. agency kept giving me data-entry jobs, rather than word-processing or secretarial ones, and I was becoming more and more certain I had neglected to keep updating my skill set to be employable. (I plan to gain some

proficiency with basic bookkeeping, even some accounting, at least entering data into Simply Accounting.) In fact the last data entry job was so boring, I had trouble staying awake in the mornings. Or maybe I was running short of sleep.

At least I wasn't short of work, and I could look forward to paying off a chunk of my debt load. In fact for a fortnight I was working every day – full days at the temp. assignment, evenings

and Sundays at the insurance adjusters,
and Saturday afternoons at an
independent trademark agent's.

In my fannish life, I managed to
get out the jazzed-up Vcon/October
issue of *BCSFAzine*, with minimal
glitches. Between issues 400 and 401 –
and the (probably oral) complaints and
corrections I will receive – there ought
to be enough collected material for a
club members' handbook later this year.

But I haven't produced RSNG 15,
or started a fanzine about mundania, as I
daydreamed.

In my secret, inward life, there
have been some pretty odd projects and
ideas taking shape.

A couple of years ago, when I got
into contact with a micronation
then called the Kingdom of
Talossa, I started the project of
translating *The Gospel of Thomas*
into Talossan, just to master the
invented language. I haven't
completed the translation, but I
have found myself reading a lot of
other works on Gnosticism, and
resumed reading Baigent and Leigh
and other cryptohistories. Much
more contemplating on this and I
could start my own cult.

I've revived my crank theory of
sociology, mainly as my
contribution to a new *BCSFAzine*
feature: competing to make up

absurd crank theories. The point, as I will state going in, is to demonstrate why some theories are unworkable, even on their own criteria.

Occasionally I've reread across my remarks about doing my own kind of filk, or starting a Royal Swiss Navy Chorus, and thought "oh, yeah, here's something fun I could write ..." only to get overscheduled again. Past time, I guess, to start sharing the fannish workload I take on.

Mailing Comments

Enchanted Placemat:

Thank you. Actually your memory duplicated *one* award win into *two*. (I did win an Aurora Award once before, but that was in 1986.)

By 43C I meant 43 degrees Centigrade. I am very grateful that I haven't experienced temperatures that high ... if Vancouver's climate keeps changing, I may have to move north, up the coast.

Pleasantly Random / Peter Sullivan:

Yeah, I'm partial to Palatino, myself. One of my current contributors talks occasionally about typefaces, and the previous *BCSFazine* editor talked about practically nothing else, when he did a serialized article on fanediting.

When I couldn't find Palatino on the PC, I settled for using Bookman for fanzine text.

Slow Blog 2 / Jan Stinson:

Thank you for responding to my ruminations!

I'm still working out my original crank theory of sociology, based largely on my experiences in fandom. Just picked up a new pop-science/self-help book, titled *Social Intelligence*. (Remind you of anything? It should, *Emotional Intelligence* was by the same author.)

Thank you for the congratulations. I realized rather belatedly, though, that I put off actually *mailing* RSNG 14, snail-mailing hardcopies, that is – for like 18

months. Now I've got some income, I have to correct that.

Plata 16 / Steve Silver

I was interested by your account of nearly getting interviewed face-to-face about Pluto. I was also interested by your account of the Chicago in '08 bid.

Evidently people have Attitudes about Worldcon selection, regardless of any facts (and they may or may not have anything to do with Chicago).

I decided 25 years ago not to be involved with the Worldcon thing, even as a congoer. After a debacle in 1991, I also decided that being involved with Westercons just wasn't worth it.

Reycts to as of mailing #27: bang on. And thanks for the Steve Goodman lyrics!

More New Worlds: RAEBNC

_Boopledoggin' 6 / Chuck Connors:

Everything you say is interesting.

What you say about *BCSFazine* being excluded from award consideration because it's a clubzine almost hits the nail on the head. I've seen a lot of average clubzines. I've seen club publications that obviously ought not to be considered fanzines. But I'm still uninformed as to why, in 2004 or so, the Canadian SF Association – that is, whoever shows up at the Convention Business Meeting – made a

point of ruling out clubzines for the Aurora Awards. Frankly there aren't a whole lot of Canadian SF zines to choose from, of any description.

Feline Madness 29 / R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Do you think cats should run for public office? I want to start a political party that vows to elect a cat to the Prime Minister's Office.

e-APA Guidelines

e-APA is an Amateur Press Association primarily for science fiction fans, and is an attempt to bridge the format and style of traditional paper-based APAs with newer digital publishing formats.

Publication format: Each fanzine will be in Adobe .pdf format.

Distribution frequency: Distributions are made once each calendar month. Deadline for submitting a fanzine is the first of the distribution month. The OE will compile the distribution and make it available as soon as practical (generally on the 2nd), and will notify members by e-mail when the distribution is ready for downloading. Bill Burns has generously agreed to provide server space and bandwidth for e-APA at eFanzines.com.

Activity requirements: Members are expected to contribute activity at least once every other distribution. Missing three consecutive distributions will cause the member to be dropped from the active roster; he or she will no longer be able to contribute to distributions. The OE may waive activity requirements for a member for serious reasons. Each fanzine must have a maximum size **no larger than 300K** in size (the equivalent of 4 to 6 pages, depending on content and graphics); there is no minimum size requirement. This is to keep the distributions at a reasonable size for members using dial-up connections. Activity may consist of either written or graphic material primarily by the member. Fanzines are e-mailed to the OE for inclusion in distributions.

Official Editor: Elected for a one-year term by ballot by eligible active members in January. The OE is responsible for receiving, archiving, and making distributions available for downloading, and for keeping track of member activity requirements. The OE will publish in each distribution an "official organ" (OO) with a table of contents of the distribution, a list of members, and any other official information required.

Membership: Membership is open to anyone. The active roster will consist of no more than 15 members. Prospective members should let the OE know by e-mail that they want to join, and will be expected to contribute to the next distribution. If the active roster is full, a waiting list may be started. Those on the waiting list may download distributions, but can't submit fanzines for distribution. Distributions will be password protected at the eFanzines site; members may, at their discretion, make their e-APAZines available to the general public at eFanzines as well, or through any other medium.

Dues: There are no dues for e-APA. At the moment, Bill Burns is providing free server space at eFanzines.com for e-APA. Should it become necessary or desirable in the future, members will be assessed dues to cover server space and bandwidth costs.

Amendments or changes: These can be made to this set of guidelines at any time after being voted on by the active members. A simple majority by active voting members is enough to amend or change the guidelines.

Miscellaneous: If members don't have or can't afford the Adobe Acrobat program for generating .pdf files, a free program called PDFCreator is available. This does an excellent job of creating .pdf files from virtually any word processor or text editor. It can be downloaded at:

<http://www.sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>

Another less complete alternative is a small program called AcroPAD. This creates .pdf files from plain text files, using either its built-in text editor, or from text files created in other applications. It can be downloaded at: <http://www.dreamscape.it>

Another alternative is PDFProducer, a very small program (the archive is only 29K) that will convert plain text files to PDF. You can control the page size and rotation, along with choosing one of three fonts for text. *Very* easy to use. URL for downloading is <http://naramcheez.netfirms.com/pdfproducer.html>

Note that these are PC programs. While I don't claim to be an expert on creating PDF files, I'll be more than happy to help anyone with PDF problems if I can.

For further information or to join e-APA contact the OE, Peter Sullivan, at peter@burdonvale.co.uk

Revised Friday, December 2, 2005