

# The Drink Tank

## Issue One Hundred and Four



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*Letter Graded Mail*  
*sent to Garcia@computerhistory.org*  
*By my Gentle Readers*

*This much delayed round starts with Mr. Lloyd Penney!*

Dear Chris:

Big assignment will start tomorrow, so I have to have an early night tonight, but I thought I'd catch up with The Drink Tank, so here are comments on issues 101 and 102.

*And we're always happy to have ya, Lloyd.*

101...Love to get to a Silicon some time...years ago, Yvonne tried running a relaxicon up here called Opuscon, but some people just didn't get the idea of a convention centred around the con suite. We had to refund money to irate people who demanded to see the artshow or actor guest, and we couldn't supply them with one. They just didn't read the flyer. We staged two of them, friends staged a third, and we all got tired of losing money on the deal.

*That's a rough one. I like Silicon because it's always around my birthday, which is just begin' for a Chris party some year.*

I've noticed that more and more conventions seem to be abandoning their traditional art show, and going more towards an artists' alley, which is something many anime conventions do. Which do you think works better?

*I kinda like the traditional art show because it frees up the Artist to be a part of regular programming. The Artist Alley is nice because you can get a chance to talk with them, but really, you can do the same thing in the bar at the end of the day!*



I hear the same complaints about Worldcons, that they are too expensive, but as you say, they would be less expensive if they could be half the size they are, or at least smaller. I had thought that with Dragoncon landing on the same Labour Day weekend as Worldcon, the media giant would draw a lot of people away, and then Worldcon would truly be a representative literary SF convention, but that doesn't seem to have happened. I am a generalist as well, but there are lots of things at a Worldcon I don't really take an interest in. My perfect convention doesn't exist, I know that, and knowing that there are plenty of people there to populate a fandom for something not my own interest is simply an expression of the diversity of fannish endeavours.

*I have to agree...there's no way my perfect con could ever exist, though that's more because I tend to change what I want from a con as often as I go to them!*

102...you've got the SAGE from North Bay? I think that was part of the DEWline, wasn't it? *In fact it was! There's a lot of video of their visit to the site that I can't watch for another five years because of an agreement with the feds they made.*

Mark Kelly might be right about there being more new writers than readers. There are suddenly so many authors out there who are writing SF&F, and getting it published, and the books themselves are now so expensive, who really wants to risk their cash on buying an expensive book they might not like? Zines like Emerald City helped make the choice easier, and it will be missed once the final issue is released. Most people will probably go with

known quantities, and I expect that over time, I will hit the used book store a lot more than I'll go to my local new SF bookstore.

***I really like review zines, though I tend to read old stuff that's known quantities...or stuff from friends.***

There is the annual Toronto International Film Festival, and I think just over if the Toronto Fantasy Film Festival. Guidolon would do well with that last festival, I think, but now, you've got to wait a year.

***I've always wanted to make the TIFF, and having a film in it would be amazing! I should go to the T3F sometime. I've heard about it for years.***

I mention Rusty Hevelin in my loc... found out he's feeling poorly these days, and is spending some time in hospital, suffering from a blood clot in a lung. We're all pulling for him to get over this. Found out he's in his early 80s, and still plugging away.

***I was very worried to hear about his health worries. He sounds like he's got considerably better now. I'll be asking him if I can get him to write something up for The Drink Tank at some point.***

The World Series? The Cardinals! Good to see cities that haven't won it in some time win it now, like the White Sox the year before, and the Red Sox the year before that.

***Yeah, it's kinda nice to see all of the great teams of the past winning...but what about my Giants?***

Hey, Chris, got anything in the museum from Commodore Business Machines? That's one of Canada's earliest contributions to the computer industry. In fact, Commodore started



out mailing business furniture before they got into computers. The filing cabinet right beside my computer desk is a Commodore.

***I love Commodore. Commodore calculators are the best and they look so cool. The computers were good, but the story of the fall is one of the true tragedies in the history of computing.***

Ah, yes, Those Damned Smofs...they don't rule the nerd world, they sucker others into doing so, and they take the credit or spread the blame, depending. Arnie Katz invented fandom? Really? Now we know who to blame! Let's get him! KILL! Oh...he invented another fandom? Oh. Well, let's tell them, and then they can kill him! Joyce, I hope he's well insured.

***Hey, you can't kill my Nominator...wait, there's no race anymore. Then, go to it?***

All done, at least for a few hours, I'm sure... Bill Burns just hasn't told us that 103 is there on eFanzines already, right? Well, save this for whenever you can. Take it easy, and see you next ish, any second now...

***This one took a little longer than I expected, but I'm sure if you close your eyes and whistle, another one'll show up. You do know how to***

***whistle, Lloyd...don't you?***

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

***Thanks much Mr. Etobicoke.***

***And now, making her Drink Tank debut with something she claims is not quite an LoC:***

***Claire Brialey!***

Dear Chris,

I've been bad. Indeed, while I've been contemplating quite how bad I've been you've probably published another fanzine or two. And I've been bad because I can't keep up, and I can't keep up because I feel I should be starting at the beginning rather than ploughing in at whatever point we've now reached. But I've finally admitted to myself that I'm not going to manage to do that any time soon -- although you'll note my lingering optimism that one day I might -- and that I should, at least, make a start on things by writing to tell you that I do appreciate what you're doing!

So this is not a proper letter of comment. You'd probably have spotted that quite quickly, mind. One day, sometime soon with any luck, I'll start writing you some of those. In the meantime, I have a vision in my mind of the 'Son of *Warhoon*' with which you teased Frank Wu in *Drink Tank* #103; I've always confidently asserted that there will never be a Fanzine as large as *Warhoon* #28, but the collected Chris Garcia seems like the sort of volume you really wouldn't want to drop on your foot.

Do you have clones, producing a fanzine each...?

While I'm here, I'll indulge myself by

taking the opportunity to comment briefly on a recent *Drink Tank* back issue (although 'recent' may mean different things to you and me). I enjoyed reading the contributions in #94 ('This Were Worldcons') but I do have to confess that I was disappointed by the small number of contributions that you received. I would cheerfully have volunteered to write something for it when you launched the project except that, as usual, I was failing to keep up and by the time I realized what was happening all of my (seven) Worldcons had been snaffled, along with all the rest, by more with-it and enthusiastic fan writers. Of whom all but five then apparently failed to deliver. I would have loved to have read a more extensive collection of Worldcon memories even if I'd had to write one of them myself.

I did enjoy the various bits of synchronicity inherent in the cons you were able to cover, though: like having John Purcell, Mark Plummer and James Bacon all writing about their first Worldcons, while Ted White wrote about the one he chaired and Steven Silver -- now a regular nominee for the Fan writer Hugo which Ted instituted at that Worldcon -- writing about the one he programmed. From a British perspective, I was fascinated to note the many parallel experiences and reactions that Mark and James recounted from 1987 (Brighton) and 1995 (Glasgow) respectively (both Worldcons that I attended, and at which I knew and spent at least a little time hanging out with the writers at each of their first Worldcons). All the more so since -- whilst of course both being fine upstanding members of fandom now, and indeed being friends -- Mark and James still seem more likely to be described in reference



to one another by their differences than by their similarities. Maybe it's just a generational thing. And on that point, I also particularly enjoyed the presence of your father in this fanzine. I guess he's always a presence in your fanactivity to some degree, since he shared with you the experience of being a fan, but it was great that you were able to include his recollections of Worldcons here.

Some day, maybe even some day soon, I will write you the LoCs you deserve -- not just responding to *The Drink Tank* but engaging with your other fanzines too. I just don't want to waste any more time waiting to have the time to do that.

So thanks, and best wishes,

Claire

***Thanks much for writin' in, Claire. I'm always enjoying Banana Wings whenever it arrives (and I must admit and apologize that I've started an LoC to the latest issue twice and never found the right hook for it, sadly) and it's always good to get response from the UK. There's only one of me (though there was a claim by Dave Burton that I was really a series of strange clones operated by rich brown. I really liked that WorldCon issue. I've already got***

***two more submissions for next year's issue. If you're interested, you can send me one of any WorldCon you like. Pops'll always play a part of things in my FANAC. He might have been a helluva fan writer if he'd had the confidence. He had a way of turning phrases that just makes me smile. And don't you worry about LoCing, I'll take a single scrap whenever I can get it!***

***Thanks, Claire!***

***Ladies and Gentlemen...Ted White!***

Dear Chris,

A quick read-through of #102 turned up a couple of comment-hooks.

I'll deal with the error first: in Arnie's piece he refers to "My reviewing style owed at least as much to Mari Wolff, the egg o'boosplashing giantess in The Enchanted Duplicator, as to the proprietor of Amazon's "Clubhouse." Either he or you typoed "Amazing" into "Amazon." Rog Phillips' "Clubhouse" was in Amazing.

***I'm fairly certain it was a spell-check problem. I've done Amazin and had it turned into Amazon more than once myself.***

But earlier you, or someone named "Frank" (Frank Wu?) wrote about film festivals -- which do indeed seem to have turned into scams, at least some of them -- and compared them with the number of stories submitted to prozines.

"Thus we calculate that Analog magazine buys one story out of every 143 submit-

ted.” And, “Clearly, most magazines aren’t as picky as Analog, so I’ll guesstimate two dozen stories submitted for each published.”

***I’d say that 1 in two dozen is incredibly low, but I would also say that 1 in 143 is just about right. I’ve only run one mag, and we were 1 in 23 or so, but we also weren’t terribly picky.***

Those numbers strike me as unlikely, although I’ll admit my experience is dated in this respect. But in the ‘60s, when I read F&SF’s “slush pile” – the unsolicited stories from unknown authors – I dealt with about 600 stories a month, of which exactly one would be purchased by the magazine. F&SF was monthly, and one of “my” slush pile stories would be in each issue. Now, F&SF also received stories from known authors. These were not considered “unsolicited,” but not all of them were purchased, of course. So add in maybe two dozen stories more, per month, of which around one-quarter, or half a dozen, would be purchased for each issue.

***What’s interesting is that a lot of mags aren’t going with Slush Pile work anymore. I remember talking to someone at NASFiC who said that she’d never seen a story emerge from the slush pile and appear in the mag. Strange times.***

Clearly this adds up to a lot more than “two dozen stories submitted for each published.” And I seriously doubt things have changed all that much in the last forty years.

Reading #103 assures me that it was indeed Frank Wu who wrote the piece I commented on above. What happened to his by-line?

***I’m actually not sure. I think I was scratching***



***for space and I erased it and didn’t go back and replace it. It’s hardly the worst layout sin I’ve perpetrated.***

You know, Dogme 95 could be applied to fanac. You could have all these strictures which would boil down to “do your fanzine as a one-shot.” You know, write it In The Moment, use no production values – straight word-processor text, single-columned, without any layout or art – and Leave Off By-Lines. That would, if anything, make your fanzine production even more immediate.

***That’s a interesting idea. I’ve always wanted to lead a movement...even if it wasn’t my idea.***

Back around 1980 a group of Glasgow fans unknowingly reinvented fandom. They called themselves The Cretins, or Cretinfandom, and they did some really good fanzines, like Indian Scout. They ran off only around 50 copies and circulated them mostly among themselves, and because they all knew each other so well, they didn’t bother with by-lines. They knew who had written what. The best-known

of the Cretins was Jimmy Robertson, and when he moved to London and the others also left Scotland, Cretinfandom more or less broke up. (I was lucky; I was shown and allowed to read a file of those zines in 1985, after I’d met Jimmy.) ***Interesting. I gotta try and figure a way to see some of that stuff. Who might I try and finagle?***

I saw Italian for Beginners, and I enjoyed it. But like most of the other Dogme 95 films I’m aware of, it apparently defied “10. The director must not be credited.” For some reason that doesn’t surprise me.

***I’ve seen maybe 15 of them, and IfB is my favourite. A lot of directors have followed the rule on the initial cut, but rules for the Director’s Guild in the US means they’ll add it in for the US release. Just another reason the Director’s Guild is evil.***

The collapse of Convoy does not mean there will be no Eastercon. There is much behind the scenes maneuvering going on, and I suspect something will occur at the proper time. So concentrate on winning TAFF and don’t worry about your destination.

***Well, I think we’ve seen where this has led. I’m still pretty bummed that the race won’t happen, but I’ll be running in 2008! I’m excited to see what that race’ll bring with it. I’ve heard that the ReplacerCon is a go. The one good thing about the Race being cancelled is I’ll have enough money to do both CorFlu and NASFiC next year without having to worry about jeopardizing the trip to the UK. Silver lining and all!***

All best,  
Ted

OK, so I watched the election returns on Tuesday. It's never fun to watch your party get creamed (and of course it's not always fun to watch your party make several years of mistakes), but I was glued. As I watched it, I started thinking about how cool it would be if the races on the thing were the fannish races.

Think about it: all the fannish races, TAFF, DUFF, GUFF, WorldCon, WesterCon, EasterCon, DeepSouthCon site selection all at the same time and covered with results as precincts report in and exit polls and stuff. It'd be brilliant.

"I'm here at CBS Election Central and we're starting to get returns from the East Coast where Boston is currently holding a slight lead over Chicago and LA in the WorldCon site selection. We're predicting, based on exit polls and actual returns, that LA will make a race of it while Chicago is running a deep third."

There'd be a ticker running across the bottom of the screen showing that, as expected, WesterCon is going to Portland with Toas and some strange bid for the LASFS Clubhouse running third. The reports are slowly updating.

The announcer calls in an analyst to decipher the results of the voting patterns for TAFF. Some unknown American fan name of Schachat has done far better than expected in the US and is within 5 votes of having 20% in the UK. The front-runner, a long time fan who no one thought could fail, has stumbled because of a scandal involving selling ad space in his race zine to the Illinois Nazi Party. And there's Lloyd Penney, comfortably in the lead.

See, wouldn't that be awesome! I could probably even get the analyst job!



*And Now a Series of Comments From Peter Sullivan about the Replacement to Convoy, the 2007 Eastercon.*

Looks as if the 2007 Eastercon is back on. After a series of discussions at Novacon this weekend, Contemplation (<http://contemplation.conventions.org.uk/>) has emerged as the replacement for the canceled Convoy as the 2007 British Eastercon. The aim is to have something rather less than a full Eastercon, but rather more than a pure relaxacon, with the committee requesting volunteers to do guerrilla programming items. (Hmm, interesting semantic point - if the committee are actually \*requesting\* this, does it cease to be guerrilla programming?)

Chris 'hero' O'Shea was hoping to get the Docklands Britannia International Hotel in London, but they wanted too much money. But a suitable venue should hopefully be tied up Real Soon Now. Ironically, doing things at such short notice may actually work out easier, in that if a hotel \*doesn't\* already have a conference booked for the Easter weekend yet, the prospect of one at this late stage should hope-

fully warm the cockles of their manager's heart and drive down the room rate...

As far as legitimacy goes, Contemplation has been officially 'blessed' by the outgoing Convoy committee as the replacement convention, which means that, given the informal basis that Eastercon works on anyway, Contemplation can consider itself 'THE Eastercon' as opposed to 'a replacement convention that just happens to be taking place at Easter,' as it were. More practically, Contemplation will be given the Convoy mailing list. This also means that it inherits Convoy's duty to consider and vote on bids for the 2009 Eastercon, for which I understand that there are already two in the works. One of whom wouldn't have actually been able to bid if the site selection had been held over until 2008, as their hotel apparently wanted a commitment well ahead of time.

*Thanks, Peter! I was very keen on keeping up with the ReplacerCon news since I was running for TAFF, and even now that it's over, I've been keeping up. I hope everything goes well, and Chris O'Shea deserves some sort of fannish medal for riding up and saving the day. I hear Fran Dowd (forgive me if I got that wrong!) stepped up to Co-Chair. Good for her!*

*OK, more LoC from my Man in Texas: John Purcell!*

I think I'd better loc this zine before any others I get to today and tomorrow, otherwise I'm gonna fall way behind on Garcia-zines.

*I don't put them out that fast...do I?*

Once again, you've produced quite an e-zine, buddy. I do like your theme-zines, this

one being about computers. Even the Guidolon segment fits in since it's a cartoon series that is computer animated, or maybe is better described as computer augmented animation. You know, when Frank has that sucker completed and in the can, I think he should shop it around to SF cons to get a reasonably intelligent response to it.

***Well, Guidolon isn't fully Computer Animated, but it does use computer as augmentation which makes your description apt. APT! He's been showing it at cons and I'm sure it'll fit more of the circuit.***

So our initial defense system was based on the same principles as what drove really good guitar amps? I can get behind it. Once again, rock and roll saves the world! Right on, dude!

***Yeah, it's wild. Old TVs and Radios too. It was an impressive system, and absolutely HUGE!***

You know, I kinda like the idea of a Kitchen Computer. It makes it sound like the Jetson's kitchen wasn't that far off, to say nothing of the galley computer on the USS Enterprise. What a great idea! But the Honeywell 316 sounds like it was the precursor to today's microwave ovens. I am reminded of an old Alan Sherman song, called "Automation" with the line that goes, "There's an IBM 503 / standing next to me, dear, where you used to be. / Doesn't have your style, doesn't have your shape; / just a bunch of punch-cards and light bulbs and tape, / dear." Computers replacing the housewife. We can only hope.

***I love Alan Sherman. I might have to add that to the Computer Filk issue of The Drink Tank.***

Lloyd, I agree with you: Chris is indeed



nuts, and that's fine by me. I am looking forward to meeting him in Austin. Too bad you can't attend Quireflu. Imagine what kind of damage the three of us could inflict if we were together at the same time! What we all do is hoist a fair number of cold ones in your direction during the course of the weekend, eh?

***It would be amazing if the three of us were together. I'm fairly certain that we'd make a strong dent in the space-time continuum.***

Oh, well. Lots of fun reading stuff in here, my friend. And if you're counting down - which you may or may not be doing - it is now 93 days until Corflu.

***Can Not wait for QuireFlu! It'll be a blast. It should be an awesome time and I'm planning on debuting a new zine which will change the idea of what a GarciaZine is. Wait...I've said too much!***

All the best,  
John

PS: I have been very remiss in finishing off my locs recently with the following lino:

## chris for taff!

There. now I feel better.

***Thanks much, but alas, it'll have to wait.***



***Where Did the SMOF "Secret" Bit Go?  
by Robert Hole***

I've had it. I just can't take it any more. The SMOF community has gone too far.

Convention planners have started posting staff meetings on their websites. They're posting them on blogs. They're even \*shudder\* sending out emails to announce them.

They've started posting information willy-nilly all over the place. Making everything up-front and in plain sight. They're even making their financial records public! What self-respecting non-profit does that?

This really disgusts me. How can the ordinary fan like me even HOPE to become more involved in the conspiracy theoretics of fandom if nothing's kept a deep dark secret anymore? How can we blame others

for the rotten time we had at a convention if it's so easy to take on a role and help out?

How can we say we've been left out of the loop if they keep making this information public? How can we claim ignorance when all you have to do is use your favorite search engine for the name of any convention and come up with loads of information?

This is really frustrating.

I'd like it to stop. I want to live in ignorance and blame others. I want to not be responsible. I want to complain bitterly over things I can control.

I want information to be hidden and unavailable. I want my ignorance back.

*Alright, Alright! That's all for this week. Another 8-pager that'll have to keep y'all in Chris Garcia love for another week. I'm working on various issues so far (like I'm joining ANZAPA, the Australia-New Zealand APA) and other things to take care of before I put out the next issue.*

*I'm working on the Computer Filk issue, which'll be interesting, and then it's back to the grind. It might be two issues from now, but it'll be soonish. There's also a plan to do a big LosCon review following LosCon, though I did think about doing one before. Of course, those things can go sour. I was thinking of doing a pre-emptive TAFF Report and look where that got me!*



## *Art in this issue*

*Cover- That one's Called Queen Awesome by Perfect1*

*Page 1- That's Untitled by Karin Coma*

*Page 2- Black & White by Babrus*

*Page 3 by some guy named Rotsler*

*Page 4 by Inkmanexe*

*Page 5 is Charles Collingwood at the UNIVAC 1 during the 1952 Election from the collection of The Computer History Museum*

*Page 6 is from Entropicalia*

*Page 7 is a photo from HoWeird and from MoonlitFantasy*