

Drink Tank 225



"September Bunny"
by Taral Wayne

That's a Taral Wayne cover there, that is! I love this one. It's just about the perfect expression of fall to me. I could easily write a long and obviously terrible poem dedicated to the bunny standing in the water in the valley. I don't know when the last time I had a Taral Wayne cover was, but this one makes me happy.

What's this issue all about? Well, there's a bit of business to be done with a notice from the Hugo Csar (or is is Tsar?) and a piece from Taral and a piece from me about how hard it is to get some words. Plus some comments.

Let's go, shall we?



SEMI-PROZINE HUGO AWARD COMMITTEE

CHRIS M. BARKLEY, PRESIDING CHAIRMAN (AND TEMPORARY HUGO CZAR)

PROGRESS REPORT ZERO
9-10 SEPTEMBER 2009

So, summer is OVER! Time for everybody to get outta of the pool!

Including me. Dammit!

It's been a month since the Worldcon in Montreal and the time has come for the Best Semi-Prozine Hugo Award Committee to begin it's work.

To those who don't know, a controversial amendment to eliminate the Semi-Prozine Hugo Award was introduced and passed at the Worldcon in Denver (Denvention 3) last year. It was introduced by myself and a fellow fan, Ben Yalow. We felt, at the time, that the award was unneeded, mainly because fan voters repeatedly awarded it to one winner, Locus Magazine.

The late Charles N. Brown, the founder and publisher of Locus, took exception to this, thinking that this was aimed directly at depriving the magazine of an award. This was not the case; the actual intentions of Mr. Yalow and I were a) to fire a shot across the bow of voters who seemingly were rubber stamping a Hugo for Locus every year, b) eliminate a badly outdated award and c) to stimulate discussions about what should be done about the award.

The passing of the amendment last year shocked the Semi-Prozine community. Editors, writers and fans turned out in record numbers to vote down the proposal. Those who spoke against the amendment stated that the category itself was nebulous and conceded that the language of the amendment (found here: <http://www.wsfs.org/bm/const-2008.html>) was arcane but insisted that their works needed this award and that it could be salvaged. In turn, I was convinced by them it could be done.

Hence, this committee was formed at my request. Over two dozen people then stepped forward to volunteer.

Over next the eleven months, what we will accomplish, has never been done in the history of fandom, or literature for that matter. We will change a Hugo Award category publicly. In doing do, it is probable that a few other Hugo categories will change as well.

I have my own thoughts on which categories will be affected and will let them be known through the course of discussions that will follow. I don't want to prejudice the proceedings in advance of any discussions.

There are a few things that will make this process that are more than a little unusual.

At the World Science Fiction Business Meeting in Montreal last month (Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention), I promised that this process will be open and transparent. Some of you reading this now may know that I had been involved with the splitting of the Best Dramatic Presentation Hugo (passed in 2002), the Long Form/Short Form Best Editor award (passed in 2006) and the freshly minted Best Graphic Story category this

year.

I am willing to wager that not more than ten percent of the fans who either vote on or have heard of the Hugos or the WSFS Business Meeting, have any idea how Hugo Award categories are created or deleted. This, despite that fact that anyone can google the Constitution of the World Science Fiction Society (which governs these matters at each convention) or that the Constitution is printed in every edition of the Worldcon souvenir book.

All of the new Hugo Award categories were argued about, hashed over, torn apart and constructed by fans in a semi-public way; first over the Secret Masters Of Fandom (SMOFs) email server (which anyone with an interest can subscribe to) and finally at (and sometimes during) the Worldcon Business Meetings.

This time, things are going to be a little different.

Our main discussions will be taking place on an email server, just as the same as SMOFs discussions do. The difference is that these discussions will be made public, in the form of Progress Reports that I will write, edit and be widely distributed by me, as widely as possible throughout sf fandom.

Distribution points will be my Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/chis.barkley>), my Live Journal page (<http://cmzhang42.livejournal.com/>), emails directly to committee members and electronic submissions to all of the major sf fanzines and semi-prozines.

And I want to state here and now that any activity regarding this; the writing, editing and distribution of these reports, should NOT

be construed as either fan writing or editing. Any nominations I am given in connection with my work on this project will be declined.

We will follow a schedule along these lines:

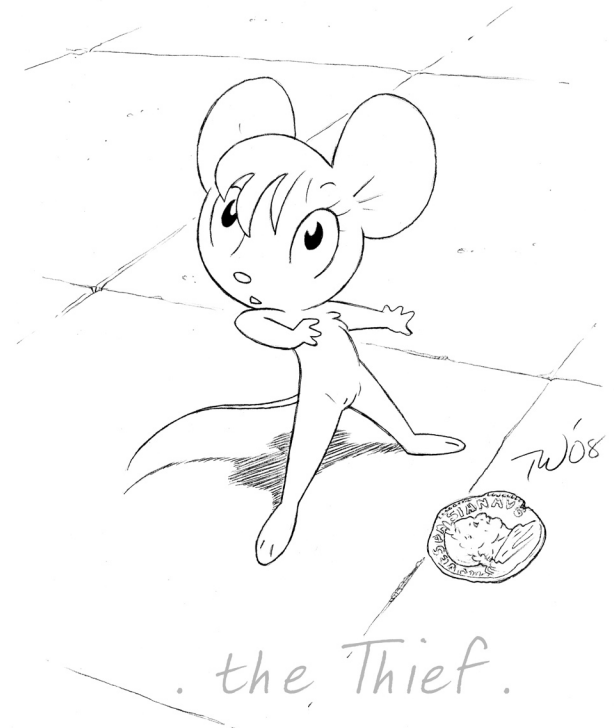
- a) There will be at least one report a month for the duration of this project.
- b) I am setting an initial deadline of June 1, 2010 to have a preliminary amendment ready for the public, followed by 30 days of public comment on the amendment.
- c) This will be followed by 30 more days of final deliberation, with the final version of the amendment to be presented at the Aussiecon IV Business Meeting by August 1, 2010.

I want publicly thank all of the Committee members in advance for their time and consideration to help solve this problem. There is no easy fix for this. The discussion of solutions will be complex and difficult at times.

But I am confident that we will all see this through to a satisfactory conclusion.

In my next report, I will introduce all of the members of the committee to one another and the public and set an agenda.

Chris M. Barkley
Temporary Hugo Award Czar
Cincinnati, OH
USA



I was one of those who thought that it wouldn't be a bad thing for the Semi-Pro to go away, though better would be a re-alignment. I tend to be a work instead of a person thing. Nominate the magazine or the anthology, not the editor. I know, that I'd love for there to be Bet Magazine and Best Anthology, a breeding ground for pro and semi-pros alike, but that doesn't seem to be popular.

I hope Chris B. can lead the group forward and make sure that a great discussion that the public gets to see and comment on. Openness is always the ey, no matter how much more difficult it can make things.

There was once a girl named M. Heil.

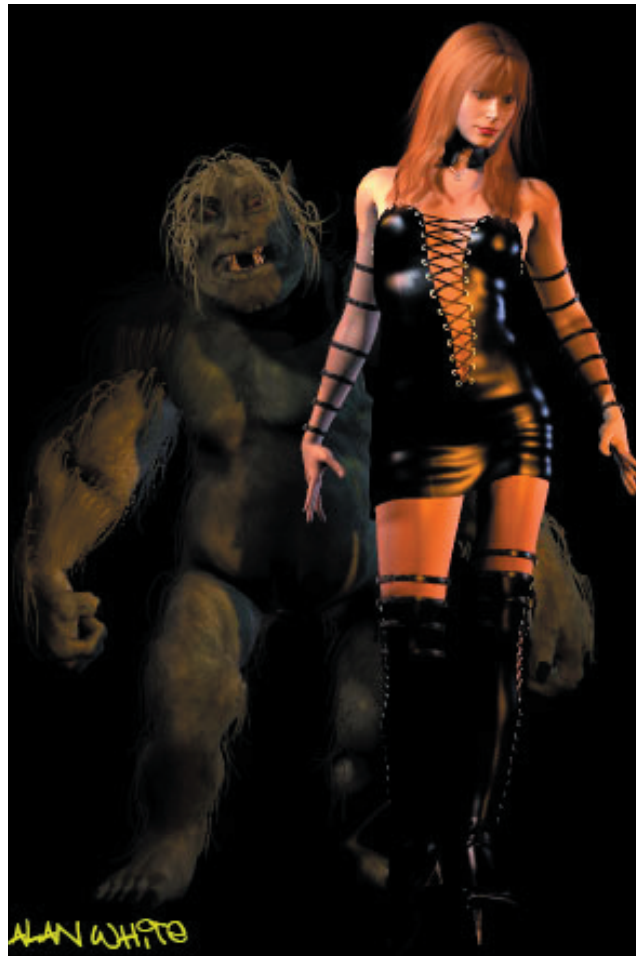
She was beautiful, sexy as hell, and rich. Now, she's known as M Crasdan, she's still beautiful, sexy as hell, and though slightly less rich due to a pattern of donation that has helped causes ranging from small technology museums to cancer and AIDS research. Here's a girl who knows she's had the world handed to her, knows that for the first twenty-something years of her life she squandered her life, and now she's decided to make a big move.

She's working on her autobiography.

Now, this will be, without question, one of the hottest things to ever be put on paper. She's been places, she's done stuff. She has a memory that puts mine to shame. She's also not shy about writing about it. While SaBean's probably the more blunt writer, M's always been willing to write about both her conquests and her emotional shortcomings. It should be an interesting book to say the least. As her own cancer has been in remission, after more scares than I care to recount, she's moved on to being a loving mother to her kids, some sort of aunt or something to SaBean's, kid and a loving wife. It was good to hear from her the other day, we spent about an hour catching up, and she was very excited. She even said she'd be using a couple of things she'd written for The Drink Tank!

Also, speaking of SaBean, she's finishing up her final touches on her Michael Sugar theatre piece *Trying to Fuck The Furniture*. It's supposed to be a dark and comedic look at Mike and SaBean's often strange relationship. I've said I'd play Michael if SaBean played Judith and let Judith play SaBeab, but she turned that down in favor of pro actors. Go figure?

And it's not like Jay's just sitting around, either. He's been working with Judith on stuff, including a new magazine, though they won't tell me more about it. Judith's getting married, which is nice. She's moved back in with the Crew until the Wedding (which is in March, I believe) and she's been happy to be back with them. Her fiance, Bruce, is a nice guy who happens to be a Java Engineer for Sun, as I understand it. He's apparently very traditional so they ain't living together. Still, she's very excited about the whole thing.



Macabre: An introduction to Don Hutchison's 40's zine.

Taral Wayne

A little while ago, (early July 2009 to be precise) I attended a book launch for an old friend, and bumped into Don Hutchison as well. This is not uncommon. Don gets out – he's a spry old cuss – and we've known each other for years. In fact, if it wasn't for the fact that I photocopied his old fanzines, he wouldn't have them himself. On the spur of the moment I blurted out, "Would you mind if I scanned both issues of Macbre to post on the internet?" He answered, "I am not a spry old cuss! But, sure, go ahead and post the Macabres."

Don only published two issues – I know not why. Nor am I acquainted of his activities in the years immediately after 1948, when he published them. But when I met him in the 1970's he was an accomplished cameraman for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and had traveled the world with his camera, documenting lions on the prowl, postal strikers on the picket line, nekkid teenage girls swimming out to touch Pierre Elliott Trudeau on the beach, and hockey players drinking cheap champagne out of the Stanley Cup... and other history making events of similar comport. Don retired from all that sometime in the early '90s, I believe. In any case, he returned to an old interest in the macabre, and edited at least five volumes of Northern Frights – collections of Canadian dark fantasy.

Both issues of Macabre were *co-edited* by Jack Doherty, mimeographed on fuzzy white paper, and stapled.

Issue one, March 1948, weighs in at 24 pages. Among the contents listed are articles by Joe Kennedy, and Forrest J. Ackerman. The later was a review of some long and deservedly forgotten story about a post-Atomic War future in which the Americas are obliterated. Frankly, since no-one is ever going to read the story, the review is every bit as badly dated. There are two works of amateur fiction, a piece of poetry ala crappé, and several “departments” provided by Don, Leslie Croutch, William D. Grant and Jack Doherty. Illustrations are by Bill Rotsler and “the editors.”

Issue two, dated June 1948, has a blue cover, runs to 36 pages, and is also mimeographed on inexpensive white paper. Articles listed include one by David H. Keller (“Animals or Gods?” – could that be about the dual nature of Man, you think?), and a bit of putative humour by Joe Shaumburger. There are two more amateur stories, one by Art Rapp. And a “fantasy crossword” by Redd Boggs. (Get out your pencils, crossword fans!) “Departments and Features” are as before – rhubarbing by the editors, Les Croutch doing his best to appear well read, film reviews by Bill Grant and letters (appearing for the first and last time). Art is by the editors entirely.

Why scan and preserve Macabre for posterity? It isn't a landmark fanzine, nor terribly well known. It is, however, one of the higher-such profile Canadian zines of the 40's, and it is (if nothing else) representative of fanzines of that era in general. From humble beginnings do mighty Energumens and Simulacrum grow.

And I had them, so was able to scan them – an important detail, often overlooked.

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Wrestling isn't exactly the cleanist sport in the world. Folks would argue it's not a sport, but anyone who denies that these guys are athletes is seriously over-looking what these guys go through and what they can do with their bodies. They're nuts! To deal with the pain of leaping ten feet in the air and hitting a spin-loaded metal plate covered by four layers of heavy canvas, typically, guys come up with their own cocktails. Some are booze and pills, some take to the weed, and others get huge number of perscriptions for Somas and others turn to heroine, coke, or what have you.

Let's add to that the troubles of the travelers. Folks who make their living on the road as personalities tend to have troubles. I've known many comedians, sports stars and singers who have had nothing but trouble over the years because they feel rootless and thus try to fill the holes with drugs, partying, more drugs, meaningless companionship and so on. It's a tough life. A tough life often full of huge amounts of money and fame. God I feel sorry for those poor, rich, famous bastards.

In wrestling, there are a number of people who are known for their partying ways. Kurt Angle is the current gold standard, replacing Scott Hall as the leader of the Soon To Be Dead party. There are many hard living tragedies in the world of wrestling, Curt Hennig, Chris Benoit, Eddy Guererro and Brian Pillman probably being the worst of them, but many expected that another name that would be added to that list would be Jeff Hardy.

Jeff and his brother Matt started out working in a small fed in North Carolina and ended up getting a shot in the WWF around

1997. They were small by the standards of the WWF at the time, but they could do things that were incredible in the ring. Jeff was the most spectacular wrestler in the US from about 1998 through 2002. There were reports all along those times that he was a hard partier and that there were several close calls with him and drugs. He was fired from the WWE and went to TNA, where he was also fired for no-showing, and many reports were it was due to his partying. He got back into the WWE and while there was some partying, he certainly cleaned himself up. He had a set-back, some folks blame it on having a very bad month and partying to get his mind off of everything, but he was mostly seen to have had his head on his shoulders. Recently, he decided to not re-sign with the WWE so that he could take some time off and let his injuries heal, work on a Reality TV series and work on his music. He'd stopped wrestling to work on his music before and never really took off. In a side note, the Hardys manager, Lita, has done pretty OK with her band The Luchagores. Jeff was looking at some nice relaxing times. He finished up about three weeks ago.

On Friday, Jeff Hardy was arrested for possession and trafficking. That would indicate more than just a few things laying around that he had forgotten to use back when he was still a regular user. In fact, here's what the Wrestling Observer had to say -

The Moore County Sheriff's Office confirmed with us moments ago that Jeff Nero Hardy was arrested today on charges of trafficking in controlled prescription pills and possession of anabolic steroids.

During a search officers located and seized approximately 262 Vicodin prescription pills, 180 Soma prescription pills, 555 milliliters of anabolic steroids, a residual amount of powder cocaine, and items of drug paraphernalia.

Hardy has been charged with felony trafficking in opium, two counts of felony possession with intent to sell or deliver a Schedule III controlled substance, felony maintaining a dwelling to keep controlled substance, felony possession of cocaine, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

At the time of the press release he was being held on \$125,000 bond in the Moore County Detention Center.

Hardy, a multi-time WWE/World champion, left WWE at the end of August to heal up injuries and pursue a reality TV project and work with his band.

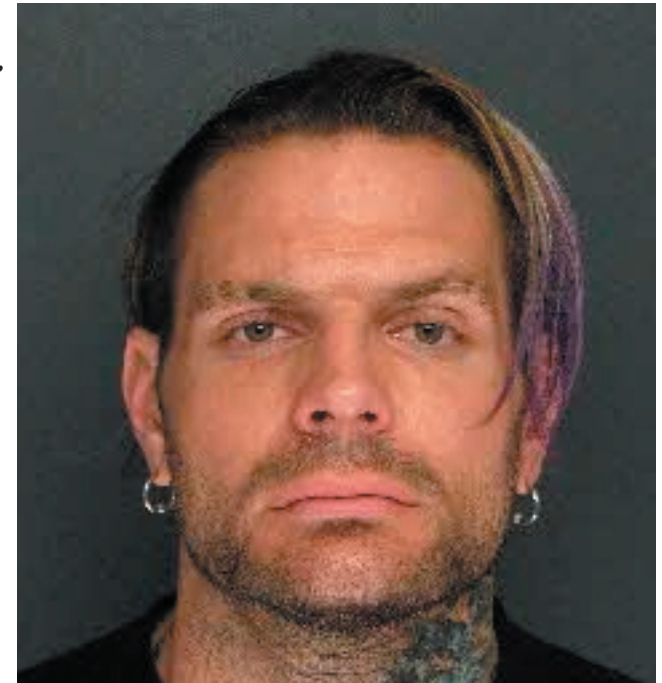
OK, that spells out a bit of it. I believe Jeff had been twice suspended for violating the drug...I mean Wellness, Policy. Three strikes and you're out. Now, as he was no longer under contract, it's likely that they will give him one strike when (and not if) he comes back to the WWE. He's a great wrestler, was probably the single most over babyface wrestler in the WWE at that time. He was one of the biggest stars, though even when he was on top, he was treated kinda like a secondary star because of his size. The only smaller guys who are treated as top-notch stars are the little guys who are cut up like Eddy or Benoit, and those bodies come from heavy doses of steroids.

What's this mean for Hardy? Well, if he's a supplier, he's going to jail for a while. There's probably been some documented sales and

he could be in real trouble. He's probably not going to get off with merely rehab. If he claims personal use, then that's another story.

It's a shame, and there are more than a few guys in wrestling who have been wrestlers first, but dealers a very close second. If that's Jeff, and there were rumors, then that's sad. Watch The Wrestler. The guy who is the wrestling dealer in the movie was also dealing in real life. Think about that.

I like Jeff Hardy. He's a flyer and a charismatic star, but sadly, he's been caught up in a wheel that I've known too many people who've got caught up on. It's a shame.



The Cover, pages 2 and 3 are from Taral Wayne, and I thank him greatly. Page four is Alan White. I like that guy too!

The next two issues will be regular, and then it's the Trains issue, so send me stuff!