

Me For Mayor: Chris Garcia in 2006 Report

The Drink Tank Issue 49: Less Smut This Go

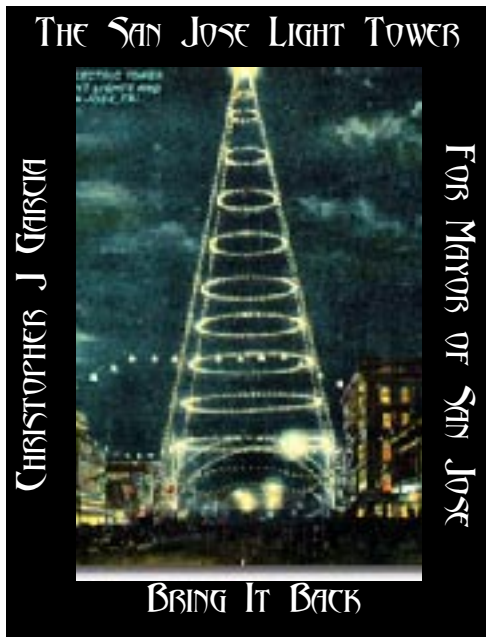
Another Week met with deafening silence for the campaign of the Crusader for a Lighted Intersection in one of the most light polluted towns in the US. The message that we need a light tower has started to seep into this city and its gentle citizens. I was twice asked 'Why the

Hell should we build an old Light Tower?'. I believe that the fact that they asked such a question is the answer to why we need one so badly.

The Cafe Press Shirts (with various logos, all with the Bring it Back Tower image and various other quotes) will be ready soon. I'm still looking for a web person to help me put up my site with all the reasons why they should elect a guy who isn't even a resident of the City of San Jose.

Some of the best news comes from the candidates who are actually running. They are not entertaining. This Cortese guy is Boy Scout, that is to say that he's the type that'd pass up a night of drinking for a night with the family. That's no good for this city of craziness and fun. The other one, I can't even remember who it is, makes no impression at all.

The first Christopher J. Gar-



cia Rally will be at the corner of Market and Santa Clara in Downtown San Jose on the 22nd, the day after I turn 31. There, on the site where this city REQUIRES a Giant Light Tower to be re-built, I will talk to a gathering of people, most of whom will drive with me, and outwardly announce that I'm coming to City Hall to become Mayor.

There'll be Punch for everyone who shows up, and a warm couch for anyone who comes from out of town!

In Non-Election News

Big fun will be had by all on October 22nd at my favourite Chinese Restaurant, The O'mei in Santa Cruz. I'm turning 31, though nobody tell Arnie Katz, he thinks I'm turning 29! I'm insisting on the Red Oil Dumplings, Wheat Gluten in Chili Oil and a big plate of Tea Smoked Duck Noodles. The place is great (any of the Vegas folks who have read Claims Department #5 will know that I've written wonderful things about it).

This'll be after my rally and the night before I'm going to the movies to see Serenity. It'll be a much more somber affair than last year (when we went to Disneyland and I then flipped out and broke up with Gen, which luckily didn't take) and it'll be a great time with my friends Krissy and Phil, who are getting married next year, Marin and Ryan, hopefully, and others.

If anyone wants to get me anything, fanzines from anywhere would be awesome!

I'll also be partying that following weekend with a trip to the Winchester Mystery House Flashlight Tour. You all know how I love that.

This issue of The Drink Tank is brought to you by the Friends of Christopher J. Garcia who aren't quite good enough friends to explain that there are perfectly valid reasons why he shouldn't run for Mayor of a City the He Doesn't Live in or Would Gladly Tell Him if it Didn't Seem to Make him So Damn Happy!

ZZZZOOOOO MMM BBBBBBIIIEEEEESSSSS!!!!

I love zombies. I'm a fan of many zombie films, though some of them make my stomach a little queasy, I'll still stick it out with many of them. I also love Burlesque. That bump-and-grind fun from the previous century that's made a comeback in recent years with the growth of groups like

The Velvet Hammer and the Fat Bottom Review. If only there was a way that you could combine the best aspects of those Zombie movies with the sexiness and dance of the Burlesque world.

Hmmmmm...

In fact, someone has, and where else would such a thing happen other than the city of San Francisco. The Living Dead Girlz are a group of dancers who groove and shake it like epileptic seizure while they're playing the roles of various zombies. That's right, Zombies, and let me tell you, they're every bit the zombie along with everything else. They've shown up at some fun events, and are usually around when there's creepy BArea fun to be had. They're showing up at The Chainsaw Mafia's Independent Horror Film Festival, which I may get to go

and check out.

The interesting thing is that zombies are everywhere nowadays. Every year, while we're screening for Cinequest, we get three or four zombie movies, and seldom are they put in, but they are usually entertaining, at least to me. There've been a

bunch of zombie movies over the last couple of years, including 28 Days (with the great tag line in some areas 'The End is Extremely F*cking Nigh') and various of the Dead films. There was that great Zom-bieMob event in SF that was detailed in one

of the original editions of SF/SF. It's a Zombie World, we just live in it long enough to provide BRAINS!!!

While scanning the Living Dead Girlz Website, I discovered my first ever Zombie crush. She's Pippi Long-Zombie. She's a gorgeous redhead with long braids worn in long, buttressed pigtails. She just adorably done up like a creature that has returned from the dead to wander the Earth in search of brains, Brains, BRAINSSSSSSSSSS..... How often do you find yourself admiring a girl who dresses up as a zombie?



Photos by Murray Kucherawy

THE STORY OF HARVEY BIRDMAN AND WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

There are cautionary tales for every generation. Theda Bera did one where she said 'Kiss Me, My Fool' and then there was Easy Rider telling us of the dangers of the open road in the 1960s. Then, you had Deliverance. In the go-go 1990s, you had many of them, the best of which was probably some of the early 1990s TV Series like LA Law. Now, in the early part of the New Century, we have a new example of what might be. It's called Harvey Birdman, Attorney-at-Law.

In the 1960s, Birdman was a superhero on the level of any of the Justice League (or their TV equivalents: The Superfriends). Birdman disappeared and he wasn't heard from again until the Cartoon Network started to do a programme based on his later

work as a lawyer defending the various members of the cartooning world. Going by his real name, Harvey Birdman, he defends the legendary figures who have gone too far. Fred Flintstone, who got mixed-up in the Mob Game, Shaggy and Scooby-Doo with their fondness for the herb, and others. The TV series detailing all of this features the greatest intro ever, done by Primal Screen.



The series teaches us many lessons, such as how far someone can fall. Birdman went from being one of the most powerful being on Earth to a lawyer is just a little bit incompetent. He defends everyone equally (and crappily), but he has also surrounded himself with craziness. He has lost all ability to judge who to listen to. So often he has listened to the advice of Peanut, his anti-social clerk, and gotten into trouble because of it. Birdman proves that you can do well, but fall so far that you'll never get enough self-esteem to properly rebuild yourself.

Harvey Birdman, Attorney at Law is well worth watching, even if you already understand the lesson. Stephen Colbert and that guy from Best in Show are both in it and are hilarious. If for no other reason than the theme song, you should buy the DVD Set.



SOME THOUGHTS I HAD

When I was down in Vegas, Arnie, Joyce and I had a tonne of exceptional conversations, one of which has gotten me thinking. The topic at one point swung around to the 1980s TAFF Wars. I made the statement that I didn't think anything like that could ever happen again, and Arnie disagreed, saying it could happen anytime. Thinking about it, I'm more sure now that I don't think anything like that could happen again, mostly because of what fandom is now.

It's become so obvious that in the older times, people identified themselves with and through fandom. This isn't a knock, as it would be nice to have people whose passion was FANAC, but that seems to have largely died out. Now, fandom is an association of folks who are also into other worlds, with friends of all sorts. Few are the modern fen who do not roam a wider Earth. This lack of Fannish identity to me says that you're not going to start blood feuds because people aren't attacking your whole world, they're simply cutting at one of your tethers.

I just don't see another 'Us vs. Them' feud any time soon. There's been too much difusion, too many splinterings that have isolated some communities, actually keeping them out of contact with much of the rest of fandom. While one community might have a giant battle within it, I don't see one that'll throw multiple groups into conflict. There's little that cuts across anymore. Isolation may actually be a healthy thing in this case.

Sadly, history shows that we're due. It seems every twenty years something massive happens to shake up fandom. In the 60s, it was the Breen Situation (and my article is almost done on it after almost two years) and in the 80s it was Topic A. We're sitting on the edge, waiting for the next one, and I'm pretty sure we won't see it happen, at least not until a reunification of Fandoms happens.

A Few Faster Thoughts

I'm a big fan of Fighting, but I really think there's too much UFC on Free TV today.

I love SteamPunk, but even I think I'm writing too much about it right now.

Vegas Fandom may be my Spiritual Home.

I only have a large shelf full of fanzines, but I have 1G of eZines on disk.

Pitt the Elder is probably the greatest of the British PMs.

San Jose should concern itself more with the preservation of its classic buildings. They should consider buying the old Burbank Theatre and perhaps even the place that used to be Polly-Esther's and refurbish them into the condition they were in in their heydays. There's parking issues with the Burbank, but there's space for a parking lot if they get rid of some of those crap business around it. They should also find a group to buy the Capitol Drive-in and start the World Drive-In Museum to preserve the history of the Drive-In Picture Show.

The International Wrestling Museum is expanding. Could I get a job as a Curator there?

How does one prepare a child who is having trouble reading at the same speed as the rest of her class for the fact that they are thinking of putting her in a special reading catch-up class?

Which is better: To have Loved and Lost or Two in the Bush?

If Mike Resnick reads this, your next Anthology should be Alternate Campbells, which explores what would have happened if John Campbell had taken over different Magazines. (Credit: Andy Trembly and BASFA)

Will my weird French style film ever be made?

Just Another Meaningless Milestone

Issue 50 of the Drink Tank will be the last one before I go off and write my novel for the month of November. It'll be another themed issue with a theme that I've been wanting to write about for ages. In fact, I debated which would be issue fifty: 88 Lines About 44 Women (which ended up being issue 48), The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel (which I did a long time ago), the Rosicrucian Issue (still waiting) or Perfect Place, Perfect Person, Perfect Partner.

That last one is a game we used to play (along with Movie-Splicing, where you take multiple names and put them together, like They Died With Their Boots On Golden Pond) while having long late-night dinners at Denny's or the like. Here's how it works: you come up with the perfect fictional world in which you'd live. The answers here range from Riverworld to the Star Wars Universe. The Perfect person is who you'd want to be. You would not believe how many guys say Han Solo until you explain the troubles with being him. The Perfect Partner isn't what it was originally called and is the oldest version of the game that I know of. Basically, it's who you'd want to be with romantically/sexually (there was another P-word used when I first encountered the game being played at a poker game). There are great answers (Six from Blossom, Nikki Cox from her show Nikki, Face from the A-Team) and strange answers (Drew from The Drew Carrey Show, Fanny Flagg from Match Game?) and it's a fun little game that we played a lot of. So, I've asked my regulars to send me theirs, and now I'm asking for yours. If you've got an idea for it, send it my way and it'll go in the next issue (probably out about November 1st or so). I've already seen M's first one (she says she's doing two) and SaBean's (that girl...) and they are both great!

Letter Graded Mail
sent to

garcia@computerhistory.org
by my Loyal Readers

Leading Things off: Pete Sullivan on Issue #47

Ooh, a history "what-if," and one I can even talk about vaguely authoritatively, too - the bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984.

In terms of both Norn Iron and general domestic politics, probably not a great deal would have changed, in the short term at least. Acting Prime Minister Willie Whitelaw was too much of an old hand in Northern Ireland matters (having been the first Secretary of State for Northern Ireland after the suspension of Stormont) to think that responding militarily would be a good idea (against whom? For what military objectives?). And by the mid 1980s, it was clear that internment as a policy had failed in the 1970s and would fail if tried again. Once Whitelaw handed over to the winner of the leadership contest (probably Norman Tebbit, adopting the "what-if" that if the bomb blast had caught Thatcher, it would have missed him), there might have been an increased level of covert operations against the Provisional IRA, but then there was probably quite a lot of that going on generally already.

I see what you're saying, but I'd be surprised if there wouldn't be a Bushian offensive against the IRA, at least on a short term.

I don't think that there would have been any general anti-Catholic backlash on the mainland. You can never rule out the odd loony who thinks it's clever to smash a few church windows. But the British public had shown an ability to distinguish between Provisional IRA and the vast majority of law-abiding Catholics (Irish or not) really since the start of the mainland bombing campaign in the early 1970s. Maybe I'm being over-optimistic, but I hope not.

Yeah, it's harder to completely vilify Catholics than Muslims (as we in the States did), since at least they pray in the same language since Vatican II: Electric Bugaloo. Strangely, I think the public would have called for a political settlement and that would have certainly changed a couple of elections that were to come.

The Conservatives might have had a slightly larger majority in the 1987 General Election than they actually did but (a) the difference between a 102 majority and 120 majority is pretty irrelevant and (b) I'm not sure that "waving the bloody shirt" does actually work with the British electorate - see the Eastbourne by-election in 1990 for example.

In a bizarre way, the removal of Margaret Thatcher might have had more impact on the world scene. The impression I get is that she was the key link between Gorbachev and the USA, in terms of recognising "this is a man we can do business with." Had Gorbachev not had such a positive response from the West, the counter-revolution/coup against him might have succeeded, which would have changed much of the 1990s. But this isn't really my field of expertise, so I may be off base here. ***I'd say it would have a much bigger effect internationally than in the UK. Reagan wouldn't have had his best buddy anymore. There were many elements in Parliament that opposed working so closely with America on many of our zany schemes (Libya being a best example). The Russian business still would have gone down, but more likely in Clinton's term than in Ronnie's or Bush the Elder's.***

And now, here's Eric Mayer with a good point on Issue 48

Hi Chris,

Issue 48 is probably the least fanzine-like Drink Tank. I'm not sure what makes a zine fanzine-like. Mostly it's being from a fan. From the editor calling it a fanzine.

Putting it up on eFanzines goes a long way towards making something a fanzine. Subject matter doesn't necessarily count against it. But the subject matter in this issue strongly reminds me of non-sf zines I got for awhile back in the late eighties, the sort of zines you could find listed in Factsheet Five.

That is all true. I'm a fan, it's my zine, therefore fanzine, but even I don't buy that argument. The roots of Issue 48 were in zines like Xplosion, Meat-Grinder, HappyDead and the other punk zines that I saw over the years. In fact, it's probably closer related to Sniffing Glue than to Le Zombie. I'm so glad they are bringing back Factsheet Five.

It made for a fascinating read but awfully hard for me to loc.

I often regret Harry Warner's not with us any more. Man would I love to see how he'd loc this! Harry was great. He wrote me a letter on every issue I ever published and usually his was the first loc. And not weedy little things like what I write these days. Maybe he'd start rambling about what is a fanzine and loccing. Naw. I think he'd come up with something better.

I'm fairly certain that Harry would have hated everything I've done so far with The Drink Tank, which is a shame since he's really my fannish hero. I'm just from a different generation and have completely different ideas from what he would have appreciated, but still, it would ahve been sweet to put a Harry Warner LoC in one of my zines. I started too late.

My own life has been very sedate. My acquaintances limited. As averse as I am to regulating the lives of others, I have lived my own conservatively.

Among my old group, as you can tell from the issue, I'm the wet-blanket conservative one!

Well, I broke my leg in gym class. Wrestling! (Not ballet) My sneaker was planted on the mat. Leg moved, foot didn't. The sound wasn't like balsa wood breaking though. More like a big old dry stick. A very

distinct snap. Now that was real wrestling not *wrasslin* like the gym teacher used to call it.

I was fairly good at wrestling, and the period where I did 'rasslin' was a different story. I delivered a mean dropkick, I had a few good suplexes and I threw means kicks, but I also snapped my collarbone, broke various toes and fingers and had my share of black eyes.

Buy By Ghod was it fun!

I don't write sex. There was a sex scene in the first John the Eunuch novel (yes, that's right) and it convinced me. No more writing about sex. It was lame. I'd edit that sucker out if I had the chance.

I have trouble writing sex, though I have done it in the past (yes, there is some erotica written by Christopher J. Garcia out there). I just get uncomfortable writing about it sometimes. I don't know why, perhaps it's that I feel like I'm putting too much of my real experience into it and that gets ooogy. I dunno.

I know something about sex. Enough to understand what this issue's all about. I even had sex during my first marriage hard as that is to believe in retrospect. Well, I'm paying child support so I must've, right?

From now on, that's my test if someone is a Virgin. 'Are you paying child support?', 'Yes.', "Ah, then you aren't a virgin.' I'm a bit of a prude, certainly compared to Jay, M, and especially SaBean. They have great stories, and I have a few, but none of them on their level. At once I feel sad about that, and also a bit of pride. I managed to hold out, it would seem.

I shouldn't be facetious. As I said this was fascinating, all the little snapshots of human interreaction. (or grainy polaroids) And intereting art too. I'll have to check that site out.

Grainy Polaroids is certainly the best description I could come up with. The art is wonderful and the place is ultra-useful.

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Eric

That's another Drink Tank which has left the building. One more for October (probably at the end of the month) and then I do NaNoWriMo for all of November. It'll be a lot of fun, but as I've started outlining my novel, it's shown that it'll be a tad bit of a stretch to make it 50k words, but if there's anyone who can pad a 30k story into a 50k story, it's a guy who's been reading Samuel Delaney lately!

Like I said, if you've got a Perfect Place, A Perfect Person or a Perfect Partner, send it my way. I'll have at least ten people doing it, and a couple of long ones (Jay has said that his three will be amazing, and I know he used to come up with the best ones back in the day).

And then I'll be back in December. Holiday festivities will fill those issues. There'll be one about my trip to Hemet for Thanksgiving and LosCon that same weekend, a look at shopping, some talk about what I'm gonna do for Evelyn (trust me, it's ultra-fannish) and other fun. Plus, there are at least three Christmas parties that are a bunch of fun that I'll talk about. Plus, the break will give Lloyd Penney a chance to catch up on LoCing me, and everyone else a reason to go back and see what it was that I wrote long ago!

And that's all for this issue. I got into a car accident on Sunday (nothing serious, just some cosmetic damage and the other car actually hit me while cutting across three lanes of traffic) and I saw Wallace & Gromit and Capote on Sunday afternoon (Capote features adn amazing imitation of Truman done by Phillip Seymour Hoffman and W&G is just a grand old time) and I got free Chili's dinner from the folks whose wedding I performed. It was a good day with a rough middle!

The Drink Tank Issue 49 was written by Christopher J. Garcia with help from M Lloyd, Jay Crasdan and Mike Swan (if you call heckling over the Internet helping). It's put up to eFanzines.com by Bill Burns, the Man with the Midas Touch. Next issue is a week+ away.