

THE DRINK TANK ISSUE 52

ONE FOR EVERY WEEK OF THE YEAR

Aren't you supposed to do a cover with the covers of every other issue of the year on it for the 52nd issue of the year? I dunno. This is the 52nd issue of The Drink Tank since January 31st of 2005. I feel like I should make it the anniversary, even though it's not that time, but I shan't.

If You Buy Only One Album of Lounge Covers of Rock Songs...

I'm a big fan of lounge music, have been since the mid-1990s, when bands like Love Jones, Combustible Edison, The Cocktails, the Friends of Dean Martin and so forth made it cool to grab a martini and hang around at hotel bars (and I love hotel bars). This wave sorta faded before 2000 hit and all the computers failed, so the thought was I'd have to live with the CDs that I had spent far too much money on during college.

Luckily, this turned out to be false.

You see, there was a comedian in LA who had an idea. What if you took the Lounge attitude, with all the booze and soothing instrumentation, and did covers of Rock tunes. This idea, which actually dates back to when Frank Sinatra and his buddies would play Vegas and do Rolling Stones and Beatles songs between the regular numbers. This singer took the name Richard Cheese and his back-up band was Lounge Against the Machine.

The first album was released back in 2000, and it was simply titled Lounge Against the Machine. It was an easy album to love, mostly because it featured such great



pieces as Rape Me (originally by Nirvana), Guerrilla Radio (by Rage Against the Machine), and A Limp Bizkit medley. It was brilliant stuff.

The second and third albums were a bit of a disappointment, with only a couple of songs really hitting like the entire first album did. Those were songs like Hey Ya (originally by OutKast).

The fourth Richard Cheese Album came out in 2005 and it's a blow-away smash that is right up there with the first. For starters, the song choices are perfect. Me So Horny by 2 Live Krew, You Oughta Know by Alanis Morissette, Let's Get it Started by Black-Eyed Peas, and Alice in Chain's Man in the Box. Those alone would make the album worth buying, but prob-

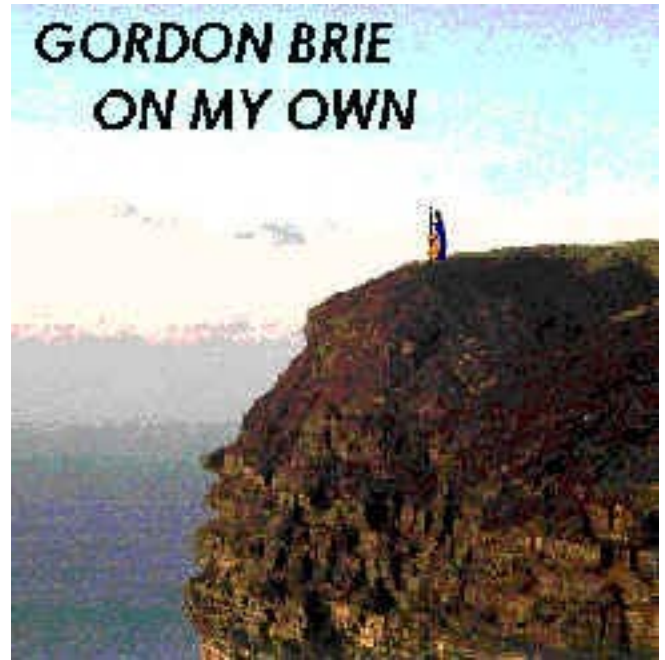


ably the best song that Richard Cheese has ever covered is Sunday Bloody Sunday by U2. He does it as a Mambo, which is brilliant enough, but then he throws in really bad Spanish (such as pronouncing y (usually pronounced as 'ee') as y (as

in 'why') and then breaking into 'Domingo Sangre Domingo. It's brilliant and it's a wonderful Mambo beat.

Richard Cheese has his own backing band, who rotate all the time though using the same names for everybody who plays the same instrument. They are Gordon Brie, Buddy Gouda (who retired and was replaced by Fred Feta), and Bobby Ricotta.

While I understand that there are a lot of folks who really hate lounge music, if you're a fan of Equivel or Martin Denny, you'll probably at least enjoy the compositions, which are almost always well-thought out. It's fun listening if you like the rock tunes they're based on too. I just keep hoping he'll do an album of Zeppelin or Black Sabbath covers. Now that's an album that would rock.



What I learned From writing my latest script

I'm working on a short that'll probably be the last one I do before I try a feature film. It's ambitious, about 20-25 minutes, full of adult humor (like my last two films weren't) and it's got an ending that I think will be a laugh to all who make it through. While I'm still working on short docs (hopefully the Cactus Club doc will be done around the first of the year, and then I've got one that Fanzine Fans may find quite interesting), I think short narrative films are likely out of my system, for a while at least.

The story is pretty simple: Boy meets girl, Boy loses Girls, Girls comes back in unexpected form. It's been done a thousand times before, but this time, it's done in a wild way that will appeal to the crowd that likes the Wedding Crashers/40 Year Old Virgin films.

I made a bunch of mistakes...on purpose. I throw away show don't tell in favor of a post-modernist narrator who is also in the story itself. I've always liked stories where the main character talks to the camera, with Malcolm in the Middle and 24 Hour Party People being excellent examples. In fact, the story is basically what would happen is 24 Hour Party People's sensibilities crossed with Wedding Crasher's comedy

and John Hughes' better high school comedies. It's basically a comedy in which a guy gives a girl a gift and it comes back to him in the most unexpected way.

I'm still working on who I'll get for it. John Chapman, who did the shoot with me this week for my crazy freeway story, is one option I'm thinking about. I'd love to work with my pal Steve Sprinkles again, even though he moved to LA, and there's Mike Flores, Sean Becker and Lon Lopez who I've worked with lately and I'd love to have another chance to work with. We'll have to see.

If anybody wants a screen credit, lemme know and I'll make it happen.

This Saturday, I go to the city of Newark...

I don't usually go in for wrestling nostalgia on a big scale. I study wrestling, I watch old tapes, I write history articles about wrestling, but I don't go to the Old Timers Wrestling Shows like a lot of fans hoping to see their old faves in the ring again. I just don't wanna relive those times by having the guys go through the motions and try when their bodies are broken down and beat. It's kinda sad. But...

This Saturday there's a big show at the Pavilion in Newark, CA that I'm all hyped to go to. It's not really for the old-



timers, though with the ticket I bought, I get a free autograph from all of them, but because there's a wrestling show only using two of the old-time wrestlers (Greg The Hammer Valentine and Brutus the Barber Beefcake teaming up as the reunited Dream Team) and a few young guys who are cool. There's also a Lucha



Libre match! I'll be more excited for the dealers tables (hopefully lots of tapes and old programmes for sale) and meeting some of those strange members of wrestling fandom. Attending stars (from upper left to right) are Rick Martel, Jim Neidhart, Roddy Piper, RVD, Bret Hart, Capt. Lou Albano and the Iron Sheik.

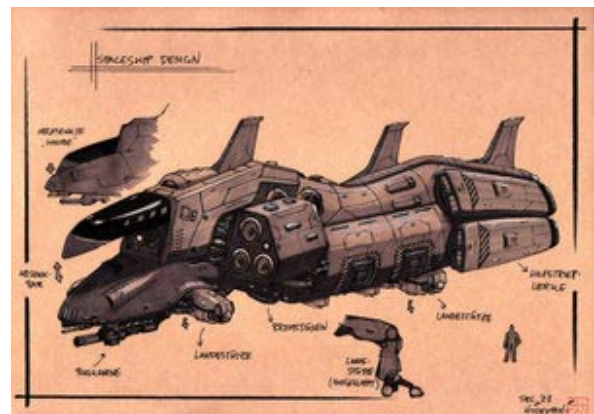
My Spaceship by M Lloyd (now in Moscow)

Chris told me about the panel he was on about building a spaceship. G David Nordley was on the panel, which makes me think that it was probably a great scientific panel to be on for Chris, who may be the least scientific person on Earth. But, I got to thinking, and here's my thoughts about spaceship design from a girl who has worked as a journalist in the aeronautical sciences as well as an office monkey for NASA.

First off, materials. I want something that is shiny. Maybe it's the Flick concept rubbing off, but I really do think that spaceships should be shiny and metal and prettified. It just makes sense. Now, I know there are issues with that about heating from the sun, but a mirror-bright finish will probably

help in the collection of solar power, right? Even if not, it still need to shine like a pair of shoes that you'd use to look up a lady's dress.

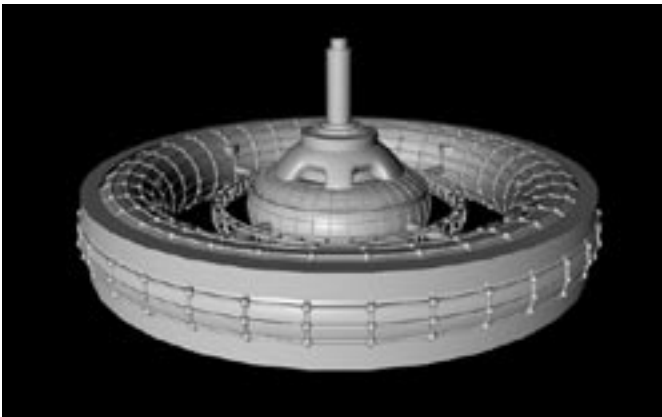
Once you've got the exterior decoration scheme settled, and it IS settled, one must think of materials. I like aerogel, but they'll have to find a way of making it strong enough to hold people and stuff while still keeping its light properties. It also happens



to look really cool. For the area I'm thinking, you'll need several thousand square miles of space in the ship.

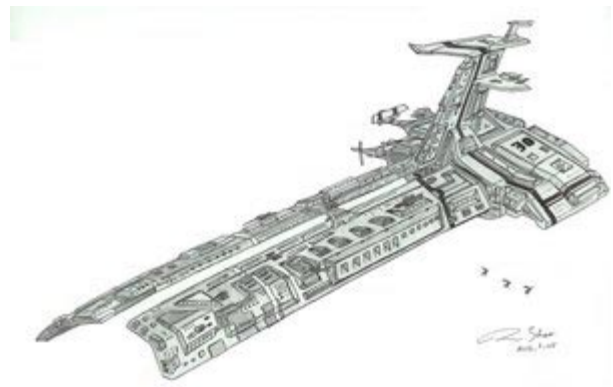
What! I hear you cry. Why would you need several thousand square miles? Well, it's easy. According to Chris (and I know I've seen a similar number somewhere) you need about 1 square mile of growing space per 500 people for food requirements. You really can't go into space without at least 100,000 or so people. There's a good reason for needing so many people. It's called sanity.

You need to make sure you have every possible sexual deviation covered. The only way people aren't going to go all Reaver on you is if you encourage sexual openness and set-up lots of time for it, but you also have to make sure that it's the kind of sex that people'll want to be a part of, so you'll have to have all the bases covered or you'll just see so many people go plum crazy, so you need a huge ship. More on that later.



For 100,000 people, you'd need a ship about 200 square miles (or a ship of 100 miles by two, or ten by twenty...well, you can do the math) and doing it as a Ring would be one good idea (false gravity from spin and all that) but if it were flat, you could do cool things. Still, a ring is probably the best idea.

Now, with 100k people aboard a ship, you need all sorts of food options, especially if you're going to be there a long time. If this is just a fast (less than ten years) trip, you don't need much more than the basics. For a long haul, something that might take generations, you'd want as many options as possible to fill all sorts of needs. Soybeans would be essential, and animal protein



would likely have to come from fish and perhaps chickens and maybe pigs (animal fertilizers are very useful and pigs make excellent garbage and body disposal system). Fruits are important, and at least a few specialties will be essential. NO DURIAN! There'd need to be wheat, rice, barley, hops, and probably corn. Rice for Sake, barley and hops for beer, wheat and corn for whiskey. Yes, you'll need alcohol for space travel by large numbers of people. Peat would also be nice to keep Irish Whiskey alive, but alas, not possible.

One thing that is ultimately going to decide the success of any mission is the ability to breed a new generation, and for that, special screenings must be done. First-off, there need to be beautiful people on board. The Space Babe is not just a cliché, but a vital part of keeping any long-haul ship alive. She's needed because pleasing sexual conquests must be available to keep the guys (and a select group of girls) sane.

I'm not saying there don't have to be hot guys, there certainly have to be, but hot chicks will help the process. Sex, and a variety of sexual options, will be the single most important thing for keeping people mentally healthy, not to mention the



positive physical health it will promote.

That leads us to religion. It's gotta exist. There's little way of keeping a social order in check without a solid religious movement to get behind. It's an easy way to keep people in order and promote unity. But what religion? It has to be one that allows for a lot of freedom, a non-literal interpretation of any text. A Christian sect would be incredibly hard to pull off, mostly due to the restrictions on sex for pleasure. Something based on Heinlein could work, but it would have to be contained to a certain dimension. In fact, Buddhism offers a lot of pluses, but a few minuses. Islam is probably a no, though there are sects of Islam that would do well in that environment. Hinduism would be my personal choice, and perhaps Jainists would work too with the concept of little or no property.

This brings me to the most important thing: the way you mark time. On my ship, there is a set time when lights go on and lights go off. A Twelve-up, Twelve-down system like we have (mostly) here on Earth would be OK, though a 14 and 10 would be more advantageous for productivity and still allows for a sense of organization. A slow fade starting about an hour before 'Dark' would be a smart idea. The seasons would also be important. Keeping the place colder in the "winter" and warmer in the "summer" could also be a good plan. Though, if we have information enough on the place where we're going, we should do everything we can to simulate those conditions.

I'd also make sure there were slums on the ship, just to keep folks striving to



work their way out of places like that.

Oh, you thought there would be no class difference on a spaceship? You thought it would be dangerous to have haves and have-nots. Think again. It is only the desire to go from one state to another that keeps people trying, either that, or the fear that if you don't so you're part you all die. I much prefer the idea that you can work your way into fame (and in a world of 100k, there's room for fame) and into a better position. It may also lead to riots and thefts, but it'll keep people trying.

So, that's my idea for a space ship. Get buildin'!

The Story of My Spaceship by Mike Swan

It's easy. It's gotta be a giant saucer, rotating the same direction as the Earth, and it has to make a whirring sound when it's in the atmosphere. Other than that, I don't care what's in or on.

Christopher J. Garcia Presents: The Garcia Ship

I've thought about this a lot. While food is the most important thing on any trip, and I'd like to think of it like this: fish and shellfish.

I picture a spacefaring culture that produces giant middens like my ancestors the Ohlone did, as places to mark graves, allow for ancestor worship, even places to get building materials as the centuries go by. That would also mean building ships that were truly huge, like 100 sq. miles for thirty thousand people.

And That Is That!

That's another issue of The Drink Tank. Me for Mayor continues with the planning of a major stunt in the coming days (let me say this: Media) and I'm actively courting the Goth vote (if there was ever an underrepresented group, it's the Gothic community) and I'll be writing a story about this part for a small paper in Gilroy.

As for my next things on The Drink Tank, it's going to be an interesting few weeks. I'll be editing The Fan, the official organ of the N3F, so that'll take a little bit of attention away, so I probably won't have one until I'm done with that, though I might do a single issue. My index is coming along, with my 75 issues of various things so far all written up, now I'm just going through and finding the various zines where my articles have shown. Supposedly, I put out more than the entire fandom of the United Kingdom. I had no idea...

I'm doing another themed issue in late January on the theme of Anonymous (confessions and so forth) where no names will be used. I want to do an issue of just 100 word articles. It'll take forever to get enough articles together to fill an entire issue, but I'm going to start doing it as of now.

The next few months will be planning for shooting the new short and doing a strange project that a friend of mine and I came up with ages ago. I really wanna shot a bunch of still photos of an academic who goes into the mountains in search of traditional mountain culture and ends up finding...Z O M B I E S ! That'll be a fun project, I jsut need to find a still photographer!

The Drink Tank is edited by Christopher J. Garcia and written by M Lloyd, Mike Swan, and Christopher J. Garcia. If you wanna send in an LoC, write to garcia@comput.erhistory.org or 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd. Mountain View, CA 94043. The Year of the Hyperactive Typing Fingers is going to be released at LosCon. I'll be playing Guidolon in Frank Wu's up-coming staged reading!

