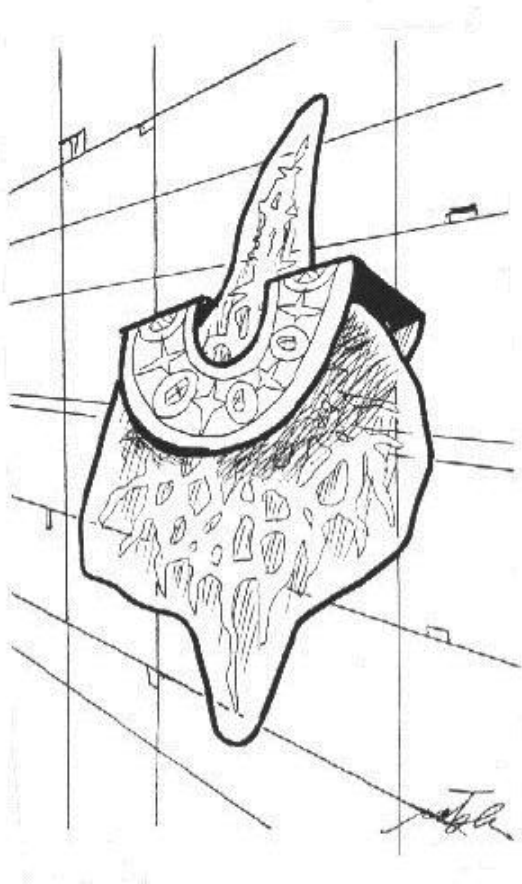


**No Time
No Energy
&
Not Much To Say
#7**

Editor: dwain Kaiser
P.O. Box 1074
Claremont, CA 91711
e-mail: dgkaiser@hotmail.com
(Please Put "No Time" in the
header so I don't delete.)
March, 2003
Artwork by William Rotsler
Photos by Lyn Pederson
Special Thanks to Bill Burns
& eFanzines



Death & Taxes

As "they" say these are two things you cannot avoid. Though I suppose that by dying one can at least avoid paying taxes, or at the minimum avoid worrying about having to pay taxes. Almost makes it worthwhile.

Dead. It's a uncomplicated four letter word, but one which many people find onerous to say out loud. So often it's "departed" ("our dearly departed"), which sounds like someone is off flying somewhere, or "expired", which is what happens when the warranty runs out (true enough I suppose).

Someone might be "no longer here", which could be confused with any convention of SF fans (or should that be "no longer **all** here").. (Don't get offended, I'm one of them too...)

Then someone could have "bought the farm", "have left us", "passed on" or even "passed over". Or: "After being passed over he left us because he bought the farm with the money passed on to him." Now that's fairly harmless, even if someone did die four times in the process.

Oh well, dying & death is rarely funny outside of Terry Pratchett novels. I **started** a piece of faan fiction, one starring Bob, 1st Assistant to Mort (Apprentice to the Grim Reaper on Discworld). The problem in **finishing** it? Simple, I just couldn't figure out how to make it funny.

"Late," like for what? Life? Nah, I like this better: "Hmmm, I'm late so it looks like I'll miss the last death train leaving the station." Looks like I'll just

have to survive yet another day. Sorry Mort.

-dK

The Bum

A bum, who obviously has seen more than his share of hard times approaches a well dressed gentleman on the street. "Hey, buddy, can you spare a couple of dollars?"

The well-dressed gentleman responds: "You are not going to spend it on liquor are you?"

"No, sir, I don't drink," retorts the bum.

"You are not going to throw it away in some card game, are you?" asks the gentleman.

"No way, I don't gamble," answers the bum.

"You wouldn't waste the money at a golf course for greens fees, would you?" asks the man.

"Never," says the bum, "I don't play golf."

"You wouldn't waste the money for fishing gear, flies, boots or rods, would you?" asks the man.

"Never," says the bum, "I don't fish."

The man asks the bum if he would like to come home with him for a home cooked meal. The bum accepts eagerly.

While they are heading for the man's house, the bum's curiosity gets the better of him. "Isn't your wife going to be angry when she sees a guy like me at your table?"

"Probably," says the man, "but it will be worth it. I want her to see what happens to a guy who doesn't drink, fish, gamble or play golf."

(Thanks to Donna for this.)

Why Not?

A ditzzy blonde, wanting to earn some money, decided to hire out as a handyperson-type and started canvassing a wealthy neighborhood.

She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had any jobs for her to do.

"Well, you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?"

The blonde said "How about 50 dollars?"

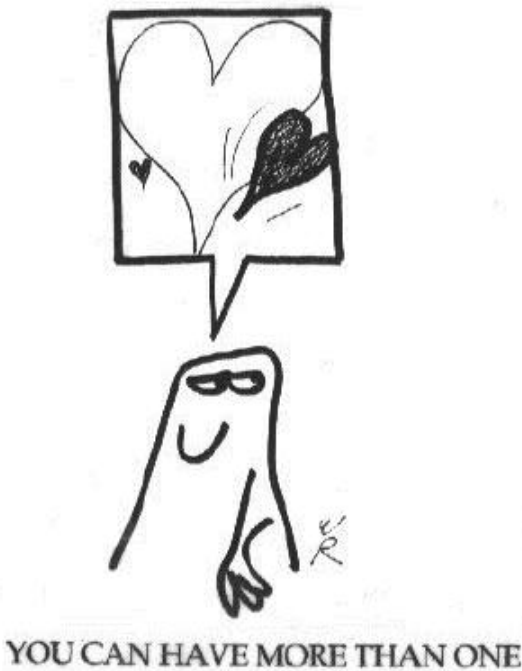
The man agreed and told her that the paint and ladders that she might need were in the garage. The man's wife, inside the house, heard the conversation and said to her husband, "Does she realize that the porch goes all the way around the house?"

The man replied, "She should. She was standing on the porch."

A short time later, the blonde came to the door to collect her money. "You're finished already?" he asked.

"Yes," the blonde answered, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats." Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the \$50. "And by the way," the blonde added, "that's not a Porch, it's a Ferrari."

(A Tip of the Hat to Jim Schumacher)



Good-bye Moose Lake

by
Larry Parr

Chris, Kate and I have just moved from Moose Lake up to the tiny town of Proctor, just a few minutes outside of Duluth.

Both Chris and I hated leaving Moose Lake; it is such a quaint and charming little town, and the name is a lot more appealing than Proctor. The problem was, we'd moved Kate to a high school in Duluth, and I was having to drive 200 miles each day taking her to school and then picking her up again after school.

The drive was becoming way too much -- plus the fact that Kate was becoming exhausted from getting up at 5:30 or 6:00 each morning.

We moved last weekend. We did the majority of the move ourselves. Four U-Hauls full. Plus one American Van Lines truck with the bigger furniture, too heavy for me to move.

That was an experience that I hope to forget. I do not recommend American Van Lines -- at least not the Duluth branch.

We are still tripping over boxes, and we still can't find half of what we need. But at least I don't have to drive 200 miles each day getting Kate to and from school; we are now about 15 minutes from her school.

As if moving isn't bad enough, 3 days before escrow closed on the house in Moose Lake, one of the electrical circuits went out and I couldn't find the cause. Chris was going to be at the house cleaning and made arrangements for an electrician to come and fix the problem. The electrician read the work order wrong, came on a day when no one was home, and then said he couldn't come on the proper day -- so the problem still wasn't fixed at the time of the closing.

Fortunately the new owners agreed to get the problem fixed after moving in and bill us....

The house in Proctor is on the very last street in Proctor. Technically it isn't even in Proctor, even though our mail comes through the Proctor post office and we are serviced by the Proctor fire department. We have 5 acres of land.

We have our own well and our own septic system. And that's where the fun started for us. Our very first morning in the new house and I'm awakened by a shrill alarm. It's the alarm telling us

that the septic tank is full and is not working right.

I call the former owner who claims no knowledge of what's going on; he claims the alarm went off only once, seven years ago, when a fuse burned out.

Fuses weren't the problem this time. I called a septic company and the very harried-sounding guy informed me that because there wasn't enough snow covering and insulating the ground, the frost table had gone from its normal 3 feet deep to more than 6 feet deep, and that our septic system, and virtually everyone else's septic system, was frozen.

The only thing to be done is to have it pumped out every 10 to 14 days at a cost of \$175 each time.

Once we moved in, I discovered that the basement of this house had been very hurriedly remodeled by the previous owner and his son, and everything was so slipshod I'm going to be spending every spare minute over the next year repairing poor electrical outlets, plugging up leaks in the walls, fixing bad plumbing and who knows what else.

I thought life was supposed to get easier as you got older? Right now the temperature outside is 12 degrees below zero and there is a fierce wind, bringing the wind chill to 30 degrees below zero. For those of you who may be unsure -- that's **cold**.

1968 Revisited

by Jim Schumacher
(with web sources)

1968 was the sociocultural 'big one' all right. As a public service to those of us to whom acid did a little more messing and a little less etching to our brains, here's a partial breakdown (by no means complete). Just take a few minutes to note the staggering number of events which occurred which would have been the 'major' event of any normal year all by themselves:

January

January 5

Dr. Benjamin Spock; William Sloan Coffin the chaplain of Yale University; novelist Mitchell Goodman; Michael Ferber, a graduate student at Harvard; and Marcus Raskin a peace activist are indicted on charges of conspiracy to encourage violations of the draft laws by a grand jury in Boston. The charges are the result of actions taken at a protest rally the previous October at the Lincoln Memorial.

The four will be convicted and Raskin acquitted on June 14th.

January 10

The 10,000 US airplane is lost over Vietnam.

January 17

President Lyndon Baines Johnson (1908-1973) (an LBJ Library photo by Kevin Smith taken this day) delivers the State of the Union Address.

January 23

North Korean patrol boats capture the USS Pueblo, a US Navy intelligence gathering vessel and its 83 man

crew on charges of violating the communist country's twelve-mile territorial limit. This crisis would dog the US foreign policy team for 11 months, with the crew of the Pueblo finally gaining freedom on December 22.

January 31

At half-past midnight on Wednesday morning the North Vietnamese launch the Tet offensive at Nha Trang. Nearly 70,000 North Vietnamese troops will take part in this broad action, taking the battle from the jungles to the cities. The offensive will carry on for weeks and is seen as a major turning point for the American attitude toward the war. At 2:45 that morning the US embassy in Saigon is invaded and held until 9:15AM.

February

February 1

During police actions following the first day of the Tet offensive General Nguyen Ngoc Loan, a south Vietnamese security official is captured on film executing a Viet Cong prisoner by American photographer Eddie Adams. The Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph becomes yet another rallying point for anti-war protesters. Despite later claims that the prisoner had been accused of murdering a Saigon police officer and his family, the image seems to call into question everything claimed and assumed about the American allies, the South Vietnamese.

February 2

Richard Nixon, a republican from California, enters the New Hampshire primary and declares his presidential candidacy.

February 4

Martin Luther King Jr. delivers a sermon at his Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta which will come to be seen as prophetic. His speech contains what amounts to his own eulogy. After his death, he says, "I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody... that I tried to love and serve humanity,. Yes, if you want to, say that I was a drum major for peace...for righteousness."

February 7

International reporters arrive at the embattled city of Ben Tre in South Vietnam. Peter Arnett, then of the Associated Press, writes a dispatch quoting an unnamed US major as saying, "It became necessary to destroy the town to save it." The quote runs nationwide the next day in Arnett's report.

February 18

The US State Department announces the highest US casualty toll of the Vietnam War.

The previous week saw 543 Americans killed in action, and 2547 wounded.

February 27

Walter Cronkite reports on his recent trip to Vietnam to view the aftermath of the Tet Offensive in his television special Who, What, When, Where, Why? The report is highly critical of US officials and directly contradicts official statements on the progress of the war. After listing Tet and several other current military operations as "draw[s]" and chastising American leaders for their optimism, Cronkite advises negotiation "...not as victors, but as an honorable people

who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy, and did the best they could."

March

March 12

The New Hampshire primary election brings shocking results. The Eugene McCarthy campaign, benefiting from the work of 2,000 full-time student volunteers and up to 5,000 on the weekends immediately preceding the vote comes within 230 votes of defeating the sitting president Lyndon Johnson. These students, participants in what McCarthy refers to as his "children's crusade" have cut their hair, modified their wardrobes, and become "clean for Gene" to contact the conservative voters in the state.

March 16

Senator Robert Kennedy, former Attorney General and brother of former president John F. Kennedy (1961-63) ends months of debate by announcing that he will enter the 1968 Presidential race.

March 16 (same day)

Although it will not become public knowledge for more than a year, US ground troops from Charlie Company rampage through the hamlet of My Lai killing more than 500 Vietnamese civilians from infants to the elderly. The massacre continues for three hours until three American fliers intervene, positioning their helicopter between the troops and the fleeing Vietnamese and eventually carrying a handful of wounded to safety. View the BBC Special Report on the incident.

March 22

In Czechoslovakia Antonin Novotny resigns the Czech presidency setting off

alarm bells in Moscow. The next day leaders of five Warsaw Pact countries meet in Dresden, East Germany to discuss the crisis.

March 28

Martin Luther King Jr. leads a march in Memphis which turns violent. After King himself had been led from the scene one 16 year old black boy is killed, 60 people are injured, and over 150 arrested.

March 31

President Lyndon Johnson delivers his Address to the Nation Announcing Steps To Limit the War in Vietnam and Reporting His Decision Not To Seek Reelection. The speech announces the first in a series of limitations on US bombing, promising to halt these activities above the 20th parallel.

April

April 4

Martin Luther King Jr. spends the day at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis working and meeting with local leaders on plans for his Poor People's March on Washington to take place late in the month. At 6pm, as he greets the car and friends in the courtyard, King is shot with one round from a 30.06 rifle. He will be declared dead just an hour later at St. Joseph's hospital. After an international man-hunt James Earl Ray will be arrested on June 27 in England, and convicted of the murder. Ray died in prison in 1998.

There is a photograph of King, Ralph Abernathy - who will take over the leadership of King's Southern Christian Leadership Coalition - and Jesse Jackson, standing on the Lorraine balcony the previous day.

Robert Kennedy, hearing of the murder just before he is to give a speech in Indianapolis, IN, delivers a powerful extemporaneous eulogy in which he pleads with the audience "to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world."

The King assassination sparks rioting in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Newark, Washington, D.C., and many others. Across the country 46 deaths will be blamed on the riots.

April 11

United States Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford calls 24,500 military reserves to action for 2 year commitments, and announces a new troop ceiling of 549,500 American soldiers in Vietnam. The total number of Americans "in country" will peak at some 541,000 in August this year, and decline to 334,000 by 1970.

April 23

A rally and occupation of the Low administrative office building at Columbia University, planned to protest the university's participation in the Institute for Defense Analysis is scuttled by conservative students and university security officers. The demonstrators march to the site of a proposed new gymnasium at Morningside Heights to stage a protest in support of neighbors who use the site for recreation. The action eventually results in the occupation of five buildings - Hamilton, Low, Fairweather and Mathematics halls, and the Architecture building. It will culminate seven days later when police storm the buildings and violently remove the students and their supporters at the Columbia administration's request.

May

May 3

The US and North Vietnamese delegations agree to begin peace talks in Paris later this month. The formal talks will begin on May 10.

May 6

In France, "Bloody Monday" marks one of the most violent days of the Parisian student revolt. Five thousand students march through the Latin Quarter with support from the student union and the instructors' union. Reports of the ensuing riot conflict, either the police charge unprovoked, or demonstrators harass them with thrown stones.

The fighting is intense with rioters setting up barricades and the police attacking with gas grenades. Over-night the battle will subside, but only after engaging the sympathies of large numbers of French unionists.

May 11

Ralph Abernathy, Martin Luther King Jr.'s designated successor, and the Southern Christian Leadership Corps are granted a permit for an encampment on the Mall in Washington, DC. Eventually, despite nearly a solid month of rain, over 2,500 people will eventually occupy Resurrection City. On June 24th the site is raided by police, 124 occupants arrested, and the encampment demolished.

May 13

The actions taken by the students and instructors at the Sorbonne inspires sympathetic strikes throughout France. As many as nine million workers are on strike by May 22. President de Gaulle takes action to shore up governmental power, making strident radio addresses

and authorizing large movements of military troops within the country. These shows of force eventually dissipate the French revolutionary furor.

June

June 3

Andy Warhol is shot by Valerie Solanis, a struggling actress, and writer of the S.C.U.M. Manifesto in his New York City loft.

June 4/5

On the night of the California Primary Robert Kennedy addresses a large crowd of supporters at the Ambassador Hotel in San Francisco. He has won victories in California and South Dakota and is confident that his campaign will go on to unite the many factions stressing the country. As he leaves the stage, at 12:13AM on the morning of the fifth Kennedy is shot by Sirhan Sirhan, a 24 year old Jordanian living in Los Angeles. The motive for the shooting is apparently anger at several pro-Israeli speeches Kennedy had made during the campaign. The forty-two year old Kennedy dies in the early morning of June sixth.

June 8

Robert Kennedy's funeral is held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Senator Edward Kennedy, the youngest brother of John and Robert delivers the eulogy. After the service, the body and 700 guests depart on a special train for the burial at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

June 27

In Czechoslovakia Ludvik Vaculik releases his manifesto "Two Thousand Words". This essay, criticizing Communist rule in Czechoslovakia and

concluding with an overt threat to "foreign forces" trying to control the government of the country was seen as a direct challenge to the Soviet Administration who extended ongoing military exercises in the country, and began planning for their invasion later in the summer.

June 28

A bill adding a 10 percent surcharge to income taxes and reducing government spending is signed by President Johnson. The president effectively admits it has been impossible to provide both "guns and butter."

July

July 7

Abbie Hoffman's "The Yippies are Going to Chicago" is published in The Realist.

The yippie movement, formed by Hoffman, Jerry Rubin and Paul Krassner, all committed activists and demonstrators, is characterized by public displays of disorder ranging from disrupting the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange to the destruction of the Clocks at Grand Central Terminal, the main commuter station for workers in New York City. The Yippies will be in the center of action six weeks later at the Chicago Democratic National Convention, hosting a "Festival of Life" in contrast to what they term the convention's "Festival of Death."

July 24

At the Newport (Rhode Island) Folk Festival singer Arlo Guthrie performs his 20 minute ballad "Alice's Restaurant" to rave reviews.

August

August 8

At their Party convention in Miami Beach the Republicans nominate Richard Milhouse Nixon to be their presidential candidate. The next day Nixon will appoint Spiro Agnew of Maryland as his running mate. Nixon has been challenged in his campaign by Nelson Rockefeller of New York, and Ronald Reagan of California.

August 20

The Soviet Union invades Czechoslovakia with over 200,000 Warsaw pact troops, putting an end to the "Prague Spring," and beginning a period of enforced and oppressive "normalization."

August 26

Mayor Richard Daley opens the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. While the convention moves haltingly toward nominating Hubert Humphrey for president, the city's police attempt to enforce an 11 o'clock curfew. On that Monday night demonstrations are widespread, but generally peaceful. The next two days, however, bring increasing tension and violence to the situation.

August 28

By most accounts, on Wednesday evening Chicago police take action against crowds of demonstrators without provocation. The police beat some marchers unconscious and send at least 100 to emergency rooms while arresting 175.

Mayor Daley tried the next day to explain the police action at a press conference.

Eighteen years later, when the Democrats next held a convention in Chicago, some police officers still on the force wore T-shirts proclaiming, "We kicked their father's butt in '68 and now it's your turn."

September

September 1

Democratic nominee Hubert Humphrey kicks off his presidential campaign at New York City's Labor Day parade.

September 7

Women's Liberation groups, joined by members of New York NOW, target the Miss America Beauty Contest in Atlantic City. The protest includes theatrical demonstrations including ritual disposal of traditional female roles into the "freedom ashcan."

While nothing is actually set on fire, one organizer's comment - quoted in the New York Times the next day - that the protesters "wouldn't do anything dangerous, just a symbolic bra-burning," lives on in the derogatory term "bra-burning feminist."

September 29

This date marks the thirtieth anniversary of Neville Chamberlain's Munich agreement ceding Czechoslovakia's Sudatenland to Hitler. This action widely seen as a major contributing factor to the devastation of World War II.

The domino theory which underlay so much of American action in Vietnam can be seen as a direct response to the failure of international response to the German dictator.

October

October 2

Police and military troops in Mexico City react violently to a student - led protest in Tlatelolco Square. Hundreds of the demonstrators are killed or injured.

October 3

George Wallace, who has been running an independent campaign for the presidency which has met significant support in the South and the Midwest, names retired Air Force Chief of Staff Curtis E. LeMay to be his running mate.

At the press conference, the general is asked about his position on the use of nuclear weapons, and responds: "I think most military men think it's just another weapon in the arsenal... I think there are many times when it would be most efficient to use nuclear weapons. ... I don't believe the world would end if we exploded a nuclear weapon."

October 11

Apollo 7 is launched from Florida for an eleven day journey which will orbit the Earth 163 times.

October 12

The Summer Olympic Games open in Mexico City. The games have been boycotted by 32 African nations in protest of South Africa's participation. On the 18th Tommie Smith and John Carlos, US athletes and medalists in the 200-meter dash will further disrupt the games by performing the black power salute during the "Star-Spangled Banner" at their medal ceremony.

October 20

Jacqueline Kennedy is married to Aristotle Onassis, a Greek shipping magnate on the private island of Skorpios.

October 31

President Johnson announces a total halt to US bombing in North Vietnam.

November

November 5

Election Day. The results of the popular vote are 31,770,000 for Nixon, 43.4 percent of the total; 31,270,000 or 42.7 percent for Humphrey; 9,906,000 or 13.5 percent for Wallace; and 0.4 percent for other candidates.

November 14

National Turn in Your Draft Card Day is observed with rallies and protests on college campuses throughout the country.

November 26

After stalling for months, the South Vietnamese government agrees to join in the Paris peace talks.

December

December 11

The unemployment rate, at 3.3 percent, is the lowest it has been in fifteen years.

December 12

Robert and Ethel Kennedy's daughter, Rory, their eleventh child is born.

December 21

The launch of Apollo 8 begins the first US mission to orbit the moon.

-Jim Schumacher



Cover of ValAPA #14
1966
Artwork by Terry Romine

A Few Thots

1968 was certainly a classic year. For some reason my 21st birthday that year (Aug. 19 for those inclined to send gifts) was left off the list.

It was a busy year for fanac. I was hyper active in two clubs (LASFS & ValSFA), spending the weekends playing poker with fans and I was publishing my genzine (co-edited with Al Snider), *Nimrod*, plus pounding out a half dozen or more different zines for the same number of apas. It was during the great apa boom and fandom was defined by the written word.

Thank Ghu they were mainly ditto'ed and ditto ink fades with age.

All in all it was a great time to be active in fandom.

And to think that at twenty-one I was beginning to feel "old"...little did I know!

dK

Thots...

After poking fun about it I still have to admit that it isn't easy to talk about friends who have died.. The following photo is that of one dear, extremely close friend (Fred), and another fan (Bill) that I got along extremely well with (my sercon streak showing up there). Both very interesting characters, I will write about them one of these days.

Material is always needed for future issues...feel free to contrib.

dK



(L to R:
Fred Whitledge & Bill Clark
Photo by Lyn Pederson, early '70s



New Year Fireworks 2003 (Las Vegas) -
Photo Lyn Pederson

LoCs and More LoCs

Ned Brooks:

Great jokes, and I loved the report from India!

Larry Parr:

Before Ev left she told me that the province she was going to was also the only Communist province in India--so perhaps the conditions she describes are NOT universal to India, but are peculiar to that particular region. I don't know. I wouldn't be *too* harsh on Indian religious beliefs, Jim--from certain perspectives ALL religious beliefs are absurd, the beliefs in India no more so than the beliefs held by most people in this or any other country. I'm not sure how many of their customs are religious in nature and how many are simply hold-overs from times which are probably not as relevant today as they once were. As for Ev helping with the decline of animation work in this country...that ship sailed ten years or more ago. NONE of my friends who were riding high in animation in the 80s can find work today. Part of that is ageism, but the biggest part is that most animation work is no longer done in this country.

In 1989 an animation producer told me that when you figured in all the union pensions and whatnot it cost just over \$9 *per cell* to produce animation in L.A. He gleefully told me that by shipping it to China, even when he figured in shipping costs and the cost of keeping one American at the Chinese studio to make sure everything was working right, his cost per cell dropped to *under* \$1.

Ink and paint disappeared from the U.S. years ago, except for certain small commercials and possibly a few other limited uses. Writing, however, is still mostly done in the U.S.--or Canada.

What is killing me and my animation writing friends is a combination of consolidation (there are now, basically, four places offering writing work: Disney (the most unhappy place on Earth to work), Warners, Fox Kids, and Nick. There's some work at UPN but they don't use *animation* writers, they use live action writers mainly. Right now, Saban (Fox Kids) and DIC (now a Disney-owned studio) are importing so many cartoons from Japan that both studios have been laying off what few American workers they have left.

It's really a desperate situation. These places hardly use freelance writers any more. They use a very small number of staff writers who hand out VERY few freelance assignments.

Another problem is that CBS, for example, has ALL of its shows written and produced in Canada, at Nelvana, saving them about 30% in production costs. Even PBS has much of their animation done in Canada, and much of it written by Canadian writers. And what *looks* to the outside world as a lot of animation on TV is actually filled with reruns.

A side note: for Saturday morning and syndication there are no animation *writers*. Animation "writers" belong to the Screen Cartoonist Guild, NOT the Writers' Guild. As such we are not "writers", we are "story persons". Since we are not writers we get no residuals. I picked a hell of an industry, didn't I?

Lloyd Penny:

You're churning them out fast and furious, and I can barely keep up, but I have a printed copy of NT,NE,&NMTS 6 with me. (Not the best abbreviation, but...) Some comments to keep ahead of issue 7... **(dK: Try "No Time" for an abbreviation.)**

I don't really connect music with many parts of my life...some I do, but for the most part, music provided background noise only. A shame, for there is great music out there I do stop to enjoy. I have always liked folk music, especially protest music. I think that when (not if) the US attacks Iraq, there will be a resurgence of protest music.

It used to be the US who would protest when unjust wars were being waged in other parts of the world...next year is an election year, thank Ghu, and perhaps then the US can once again become the beacon of reason the world needs, and expects.

I have lived in all sizes of community, from the big city of Toronto to the village of Qualicum Beach, British Columbia.

I spent a summer working on one of the two district newspapers in Qualicum, and I was their sports/entertainment/court reporter. At the time, Qualicum Beach was a village of about 180 (I gather it's several thousand by now), the main street was two blocks long, the restaurant was a small café with a limited menu, and the single screen theatre was about four months behind the multiplexes in the cities of Nanaimo and Victoria to the south.

While I found living in QB to be restful and quiet, I also found it quite boring. Give me the big city any day, I'm afraid.

Evelyn Gabai's tales of living in India just show how much culture shock is possible no matter where you go.

The Indians she met simply can't imagine what kind of society she comes from, and while she got to see Indian society, I imagine she can't imagine living there. I may have not commented on this column in the past two issues, but I did enjoy reading them.

The LoCs on the future of animation and animators sound horrific. Many of the top CGI artists are being churned out by Sheridan College of Oakville, Ontario. It's a community college with a world-class animation programme just west of Toronto.

I know there's plenty of Sheridan grads in the field, but I must now wonder how fast those grads are getting work today.

Disney operated a small animation studio in Toronto for a couple of years, but got out as quickly as it came in, and I have no idea of the Toronto studios actually completed any projects.

Time to fly...thanks again, for something interesting to read. I hope this will help fill issue 7, and it'll be here soon. See you then.

--Lloyd Penny.

Dean McMillan:

I never made much use of my training in animation. There's no money in it!

(At least, I never believed there would be, for one of my temperament -- within the Disney organization or anywhere else.) I may have been wrong about that.

But it's these emerging technologies, as much as any studio's reliance on foreign workforce, that is forcing the change: the so-called New Media, of which we now see so much (...Macromedia's Director, Flash, and Shockwave representing the tip of the iceberg). More on this in a moment.

In 1989 an animation producer told me that when you figured in all the union pensions and whatnot it cost just over \$9 *per cell* to produce animation in L.A. He gleefully told me that by shipping it to China, even when he figured in shipping costs and the cost of keeping one American at the Chinese studio to make sure everything was working right, his cost per cell dropped to *under* \$1.

What is so disappointing for Larry and his friends is no different from that which Tech Illustrators and other species of draughtsmen faced, once the gov'ment team Project Engineers had come to realize CAD/CAM could (and would) deliver them -- at three tenths the cost -- 90% of what of what the pictorial professionals had been offering qualitatively and quantitatively, all these years. But I digress.

Ink and paint disappeared from the U.S. years ago, except for certain small commercials and possibly a few other limited uses.

Well, yes. It's been at least that long since the commercial businesses you've cited had their graphics programming

and ink and paint animations *answered* digitally, exploiting the full range of input devices, scanners, graphics tablets, and video digitizers. More's the pity! Although I don't miss that particular skillset anywhere *near* as much as I (daily) mourn the passing of conventional IPB. Also known as "Iso" pictorial rendering, which included line-contrasted, inked finals (requiring a specialized competence).

A pure craft that was cruelly frogmarched to pasture before its prime. One that I had grown exceptionally fond of, after a fashion, though I never expected it could be quite so absorbing as drawing freehand can be, when it's done right.

But it's no good lamenting the demise of the pure craft; I understand this.

The skills I developed on the compound table of an Oxberry are now largely superseded by the advent of SGI computers and my noble Oxberry animation camera stand is now relegated to shooting final animations. Much as the airbrush has been pushed WAY back, by the photorealistic machine-paint of Bryce, and a few other (only slightly less expensive) software "solutions."

Not that the Oxberry, that grand old John Henry of animated filmmaking, could ever be expected to compete with the 3D VAS IV stop-motion animation systems (that are at the cutting edge, with their computerized 35 mm motion control as standard). Except in the hands of a master craftsman.

But, even by conventional methods. What is the point of using the Oxberry to test pencil drawn animation? When

digital pencil test systems such as Video Lunchbox -- or any of the Crater applications for NT platforms -- use a digital frame buffer that permits not just the digitizing, but the editing, and playback (in a fraction of the time, at a fractional cost)?

The companies Larry mentions either own outright, or share time at, facilities that provide dedicated 3D Computer Animation Labs, Multimedia Labs, Digital Imaging Labs, and 2D Animation Computer Labs to their talent pools. Work product originating from contract professionals typically involve inputs from animators using SGI Indigo2 Impacts, SGI Onyx equipment, or the Intergraph TD-225 workstations I favor (for ray-traced 3D technical drawings).

Either that or the various Motorola StarMax, Perception PVR systems, Quadras, Dell 610 workstations -- or maybe the PowerMac and SuperMac systems I don't think so much of.

Avids dominate the nonlinear editing arena, just in front of the Intergraph StudioZ RAXs (with DigitalStudio software). Lightworks are popular. Dell 610 workstations cut well, by means of the ubiquitous Adobe Premiere software, and I gather Mac-based firewire editing workstations get a lot of use, with Final Cut Pro.

I'll move on now, as a service to the drowsy....

As for Ev helping with the decline of animation work in this country...that ship sailed ten years or more ago. NONE of my friends who were riding high in animation in the 80s can find work today.

Can't argue with that. And please realize, Larry, that your achievements in writing for animation (much like John Welsh's, in live-action features), are a source of pride to me. Just as are most of the good things I've learned about ValSFans in recent months.

But these animation friends of yours. Tell me, are all of them animation writers?

I ask because, despite what you've reported, I get the impression most of my own fellow animation school alumni appear to be doing fairly well.

Evidently, writing for animation is as much a **ghetto** in the world of film entertainment as Science Fiction is, upon the *stepladder* of category fiction.

My 2 cents.

--LT3