

# This Here...

*"...has gone on long enough." (A P Hooper)*

## EGOTORIAL

### COST OF LIVING

We've had a bit of discussion in this here tabernacle of bakers about housing and other requirements of existence, prompted in no small part by **Kim Huett** and added to by others arriving at a consensus of sorts that we're getting rather a good deal on our rent in Las Vegas.

So, of course, we just got hit with an increase, didn't we. Having moved here in July six years ago, taking a full week with help from friends to shift everything a mere one and a half miles up the road, this is the time of year when the contract comes up - we got two years to start with, but now it's an annual thing. I'd previously mentioned that last year we were told "no increase, but we've fired the useless yard guys so that's now on you", and we found a nice local bloke and his crew who come round when we ask (about every 6-10 weeks depending on the season) for a basic \$80 a pop. We (well, especially me) are of sufficient decrepitude not to want to attempt much yard work ourselves, so that was and is an effective upping of the dosh, albeit less than it might have been.

We get the call from the landlord's agent, the pleasant but rather scatterbrained Lisa, who calls my phone, answered by **Jen** since I'm napping at the time. She tells Lisa that it's a much better idea to call her in any event, since I'm not good on the phone being *sans* hearing aids for most of the day and am also emulating **Leigh Edmonds**zzzzz for significant periods.

The news is relayed that the rent will be going up \$100 (8.2%), which is actually \$102 since they tack on the water & sewer facility charge which has also gone up from \$38 to \$40. This puts us on the hook for \$1340 a month starting

October 1<sup>st</sup>, which if I roughly factor in the yard costs and the doggy poop patrol guy puts us at about \$1400 or so, a scary-ish 54% of my monthly income. A bit over the usual 30% guideline, innit?

This is still at the low end of Vegas rents for actual houses, not apartments. Hoses average at around \$1850 for similar (2 bed 2 bath) properties here in The Meadows and at the high end can top \$4,000 (eek!).

The good bit, at least a softening of the blow, is Lisa asking if we're happy enough here, which **Jen** assures her we are with no plans to move (unless a magical implausibly large amount of dosh drops in our laps, but we're not saying that) and in fact we'd like to stay here for the duration,

thanks. We'd offer to buy the place (pictured) if we could (currently valued at \$322,900 per Zillow, so no). The cheering response is "Back atcha!", since we are apparently regarded as model and reliable tenants, and, most happily, no inspection will be needed this year - always a plus since that means a load of tidying up, airing rooms out ect ect which is as stressful as you'd expect.

Despite the smell of tobacco smoke round here (mostly but not entirely

concentrated in the FanCave), our friends do seem to like coming over. Recent pal Kris Ayer who attends the Writers' Group gatherings and EntWives Book Club (and parties!) made an observation about our digs which we considered quite lovely: not so pristine that you're afraid to touch anything, nor so filthy that you're equally afraid to touch anything.

If that isn't charmingly fannish I don't know what is...

It's all good.

**August 2024**



# CORFLUX

## 42 NEWS

Chairperson **David Hodson** writes: "Some people are worried about the hotel bookings. I'm aware of it and will have a print-out of the current bookings with me in Glasgow, so will check that what people have asked for tallies with what they're booked into and will error trap anything that doesn't tally when I visit the hotel at the end of August just before I type up PR2. Anyone not in Glasgow, I'll email them with the details on record in the week after Worldcon. Have no fears though, plenty of time to error trap all this. I emphasise again, none of the ground floor rooms have been allocated yet, this will happen when we know what people with disabilities are attending." ...

[corflu.org](http://corflu.org)

## TRAVEL PLANS (2025)

Some of this is still well provisional, but I'm thinking out loud here about filling in the gaps...

April 2<sup>nd</sup> : Arrive Gatwick

April 3<sup>rd</sup> : First Thursday Fandom drinks, the Bishop's Finger, Smithfield.

April 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> : see below

April 7<sup>th</sup> : TBA

April 8<sup>th</sup> : Watford v Hull City at Vicarage Road (7:45pm)

April 9<sup>th</sup> : Hitchin?

April 10<sup>th</sup> : Arrive at Chequers hotel, Newbury for Corflu 42

April 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> : Corflu 42

April 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> : TBA

April 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> : Reconnect (Belfast Eastercon)

April 22<sup>nd</sup> : Return flight(s)

I reckon the first weekend in (April 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> as noted above) will need to be the one where we're actually doing the ketchup with the blood family, since most of them are working, and the grandkids will be in school on the weekdays. This is going to depend as well as my son Sean's work schedule, but I'm thinking he can book a day off if required (and given enough notice).

It'll all involve a bit of ducking and diving I'm sure, since Sean and the kids are out in Kent, and my brother Peter has told me that most of the fam are in and around Plymouth. It may or may not make sense to remain "based" in London until we're ready to fuck off to Newbury, although a one-night stopover in Plymouth (if required) might be the thing, especially if we can leave most of our expected luggage with some friendly fans. If we assume evenings will be get-togethers of various stripes, that does leave the days mostly free for **Jen** to satisfy her touristy desires.

April 9<sup>th</sup> could be set aside for a quick in-and-out of Hitchin, and Pirton (the nearby village where I actually grew up).

The four days between Corflu and Reconnect could end up dedicated to fannish visitations with anyone (who even wants us) that we haven't seen at 42 and won't see in Belfast either. This could involve Scotland and other points on the way. Suggestions/invitations welcomed.

Additional fundraising efforts will be announced, maybe as soon as next month. We shall see...

## RADIO WINSTON

### WE GOT YOU COVERED

Regular readers will understand my deep disappointment when I hear approving noises from **Leigh Edmonds** (see locs) about any given RW column when as any fule kno one of the primary purposes of any entry here is to induce either abject horror or swift somnolence from points adjacent to Ballarat. I must therefore return to one of my favorite genres to achieve the desired effect, also possibly resulting in a certain amount of appreciation from **A P Hooper** as a counterbalance.

What's known as the second wave of ska bands aka "Two-tone" (whether they were on that record label or not) began in the second half of the 1970s, adjacent to punk, and it was notable that just about all of them felt obliged to include a cover version of a classic slice.

As has been mentioned here previously, Madness took their name from a [Prince Buster effort](#) which they also [covered](#) very early on.

The Specials, arguably the *other* top name of the time (not to denigrate other fine outfits), had a big hit with [their version](#) of Dandy Livingstone's 1967 slice originally titled "[Rudy A Message to You](#)". Livingstone's cautionary tale was really considered rocksteady rather than ska at the time, but there's



plenty of blur in the definitions, and indeed actual different versions of the same tunes (see next paragraph). The big goshwow with this'un is that both the Specials and Dandy featured legendary trombonist Rico Rodriguez to fine effect.

The Selector picked what was considered by the less well-informed to be a more obscure slice: "Carry Go Bring Come" a 1963 recording from Justin Hinds and the Dominoes, which got released over the years in [rocksteady](#), ska and reggae versions. [The Selector's interpretation](#), by contrast, is kick-ass faster and bouncier, especially in the live version linked. As a side note, there used to be a thing in the music press about a so-called "curse" on bands whose names ended with "-er", who were deemed to be either or both of (a) shite and (b) doomed to fail. At the time The Selector were considered to be the exception to this dubious rule.

The (English) Beat were also hitmakers, early on with thumping good remakes of "Can't Get Used to Losing You" and especially Smokey & the Miracles' "[Tears of a Clown](#)", neither of which (DoBFO) are known for their roots in Jamaica. The Beat's influences, while largely Jamaican, weren't ever limited to ska, especially with Ranking Roger's toasting which is only in evidence right at the end there. So far, all these covers were also single releases for the various bands. Possibly the best slice the Beat punted as a single was their no holds barred political remake of Prince Buster's naughty one "[Whine & Grine](#)" which segued via a sublime Ranking Roger toast into "[Stand Down Margaret](#)". For the uninitiated, the original refers to dance styles: "Whine" is a hip rotation (ie "wind up mi waist" as described by Althea and Donna in "[Uptown Top Ranking](#)", which I'm linking merely to annoy **Graham James** who loathes it) whereas the "Grine" is - er - basically a standing simulation of the sex act. Buster's style adapted itself very well to the Beat's arrangements, and if you want to talk about deeper cuts (and it's all right, you can, because **Leigh** has been asleep for ages at this point) the debut album 'I Just Can't Stop It' included their slightly slowed-up take on "[Rough Rider](#)". The original is [here](#), and note the similarities to "Whine & Grine" while you're at it.

It seems a shame that the all-female group the Bodysnatchers, fronted by ageless beauty Rhoda Dakar, have to appear as almost an afterthought, but then they had a pretty short shelf life, the band evolving into the Belle Stars while Rhoda went on to be a guest vocalist with what was then called the Special AKA. Rhoda is still active - check out her recent set '[Version Girl](#)' which is all covers, many of them unexpected and interesting. Anyway, *their* first single was a nicely joyful "[Let's Do Rocksteady](#)", another borrow from [Dandy Livingstone](#).

If **Leigh** hates all this enough, we could well move on to "third wave" (American) outfits, because I'd love an excuse to bombard him with The Mighty Mighty Bosstones...

## MOVIE NIGHT

### RANDOMNESS

We've been clocking much more episodic TV than movies lately, so there's not too much to bang on about in this's movie column. If **Jen** is working away on stuff (lately a bunch of transcription) or packing up sale items in the garage I'll bung on a movie almost at random, though typically it'll be Stuff Go Bang which doesn't require close attention.

I did a rewatch of 'Mission: Impossible, Dead Reckoning Part One' for not much reason other than reminding myself that per two is dropping at some point next year, and on this second viewing I noticed bits that jarred somewhat, mostly the *very* extended car chase with Tom Cruise handcuffed to Hayley Atwell which is silly enough to have been in any mid-period James Bond flick. There's also a (quite decent, actually) confined space fight scene straight out of the Jason Statham playbook.

Speaking of Our Jase, I rewatched 2013's 'Hummingbird' (retitled 'Redemption' in the US) which is genuinely loaded with pathos more so than action, and Statham shows what he's able to convey about a character who has much more complexity going on behind the usual stoicism. "Oh, this one's very sad", comments **Jen**, and she's not wrong. Ticks my box of having a London setting, an'all...

Stoicism returns us to that Cruise bloke, and I will now admit to having clocked his two 'Jack Reacher' movies back to back the other night. Well, he's DoBFO no Alan Ritchson, and given that Reacher is mostly a charm-free character, this hardly plays to Cruise's normal strengths. That having been said, neither of these movies are actually bad - I found it helpful to imagine that he's playing someone coincidentally named "Jack Reacher", although there are moments where you can't avoid hearing Ritchson delivering the lines more effectively...

The other night's random look around alighted me on 'Robocop 2' (1990), which I'm reasonably sure I hadn't seen, since unlike the original I remembered o about it. Again, a fair enough watch, although undoubtedly weaker in parts than the first'un. Director Irvin Kershner takes a few leaves out of the Verhoeven playbook by interspersing mock tv ads, and even in this watered-down version of Frank Miller's script, there's plenty of corporate malfeasance to go around in the rewrite by Walon Green (screenwriter of 'The Wild Bunch'). One of the best turns is from Gabriel Damon (14 years old at the time) as Hob, the boss gangster, a role he attacks with relish. Genre fans will recall him from the previous year's 'Star Trek: The Next Generation' season 3 episode "The Bonding" where he was also well good...

Speaking of them on the USS Enterprise, having finished 'Person of Interest', a gap arose in the slob in front of the tv schedule, and I alighted upon 'Star Trek: Beyond', the third (and so far final) entry in the J.J. Abrams reboot. This turned up a bit of an odd reaction, since I was convinced I must have seen it previously yet remembered very little, only having occasional vague thinks that I'd seen bits like the motorcycle zoom around. **Jen's** theory, to which I give proper credence, is that we *had* watched it, either at the cinema or on the telly, but I had slept through most of it in homage to **Leigh Edmonds**. What struck me was how well good the main cast are at interpreting their ToS equivalents, rarely succumbing to lazy impersonation (YMMV, of course). The other coo er gosh was having *seriously* smokin' hot aliens in Jaylah (Sofia Boutella) and Kalara (Lydia Wilson). Phwoar! ect (very blokeish of me innit?)...



## TV GUIDE

### BATMAN: CAPED CRUSADER

Devotee of the various forms and versions of the DC Animated Universe (DCAU) that I am, I was actually taken by surprise by this new effort which just dropped on Amazon Prime - not HBO Max, the usual home of DCAU - with it's initial slate of 10 episodes.

Aficionados will nod with approval that Bruce Timm (the originator of the acclaimed animated "Timmverse" beginning with 'Batman: the Animated Series waaaay back in 1992) appears at the top of the executive producer credits. Perhaps less so the following name of J.J. Abrams, but ey...

This is another "reimagining" of the mythos, which I suppose we aren't even bothering to call "Elseworlds" or whatever any more, are we? I'm coming to engage with "alternate continuity" as a preferred term meself.

This is early Batman, set in the 1940s in an appropriately noirish and corrupt Gotham City and (mercifully?) absent a load of bat-gadgetry. Bruce Wayne/Batman is voiced by Hamish Linklater, and while he's DoBFO not Kevin Conroy, he does a well decent job. Worth a note that a previous

holder of the gig, Diedrich Bader, gets employed in this'un as Harvey Dent.

We get both changes and twists to "canon" which yet manage to incorporate nods to the history. For example, this Alfred is shorter and portly, as he was drawn in the comics at first until changed to more resemble Alan Napier from the Adam West tv series. The Penguin (featured in the first episode) is gender-swapped (and voiced by Minnie Driver!). Commissioner Gordon and daughter Barbara are black (so what?), Harvey Dent is pretty much a shit to start with, Jim Corrigan is a bent copper, as is Harvey Bullock, although that last one isn't an entirely novel portrayal.

Renee Montoya is a regular (and properly one of the few honest police officers in town) as is psychiatrist/therapist Harleen Quinzel who turns out a bit different to Timm's original (trying to avoid spoilers). Eel O'Brien (no relation to **Hal** or **Ulrika**) is a newspaper photographer. Other blink-and-you'll-miss'em name drops include Julie Madison and Jack Ryder. If you're not as fairly steeped in Bat-lore as I am, a lot of those names won't necessarily mean much, and I don't want to imply that you need to know any of it to enjoy the series, though you may well get a bit more out of it in terms of fan service if you do. Like spotting the blink-and-you'll-miss-it mention of "Professor Crane" as Harleen Quinzel's college tutor.

Oh, and did I mention Christina Ricci voices Selina Kyle / Catwoman?

My dear departed old mate Dave Holmes was the biggest Batfan I ever knew, and I reckon he would've liked this a lot, as do I. Episode 10 sets up a continuation, and I can't wait...



## THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY

It does seem like fuckin' *ages* since the previous season (as it does for "Rings of Power" due in at the end of the month), so you don't skip the "previously on" bit. Netflix dropped all 6 episodes of this final season on August 8<sup>th</sup>, on which evening we duly binged it. I'm dubious on how much use the recap actually is, since we're dumped into yet another alternative timeline which is a DoBFO do-over of sorts. Still, most of the expected funny bits are still funny, but it does seem to me that the depictions of the violence (and a couple of scenes of graphic puking) owe as much to 'The Boys' as anything else.

Good bits: the concept of the inter-timeline subway, and the actual wrap-up ending. Not so good bits: some very noticeable plot holes, and that in general it's a bit of a mess, but ey...

I might as well repeat my original observation from when the series began in 2019, sort of borrowing from Big Audio Dynamite's slice "[I Turned Out A Punk](#)": "I wanted to be a Diego but I turned out a Klaus"...

## HEALTH DIARY

### MERCIFULLY SHORT...

I'll be brief with the inevitable bollock™ update, since all seems mostly well. The monster scar is just about healed up, albeit with some residual soreness which I hope (and expect) will abate, although it's taking its sweet fuckin' time to do so.

Oncologist appointment yesterday (July 31<sup>st</sup>), and I've never seen the waiting room so jam-packed. Dr Gollard is running "30 minutes late" we're told, but it ends up being about an hour after the appointment time that he rolls into the exam room, so we amenably promise not to keep him long, and he does the same for us.

The WBC is at 20, and whatever other number it is that he wanted to drop below 50 is indeed under that mark, so no phlebotomy! We hand over a copy of the bollock™ pathology report for his perusal (he goes "Oo!") and we're done until the end of this month.

There isn't much else to tell, except it does seem my mobility is getting worse, which while it won't kibosh too much of the 2025 travel plans (we hope), everyone's going to need that heads-up. I tend to feel a bit guilty about it all, since Jen has been living with rheumatoid arthritis just about her whole life and is a fuck of a lot less whiny than me, although these days she actually gets around a bit better than I do. Between us and the dog Lulu, who at an estimated 17 years old is no longer spry, we are a creaking household of the infirm...

## GIVE US A CLUE

Lastish:

"Distort tenor's music, somehow (11)"

**Steve Jeffery** : I got "customise" out of this but that left me with a n and r left over which I couldn't fit back in, so I started looking at beginnings and endings, so MISCONSTRUE.

**Eli Cohen** : Let's see, "tenor's music" has 11 characters, so presumably "distort" means some anagram of it; unless I MISCONSTRUE the clue's meaning...

*[[In fact "Distort" is the definition, "somehow" is the anagram indicator...]]*

"One vicar struggles to find famous American Lake" (8)

**Steve Jeffery** : I can come up with Superior and Manitoba for 8 letter lakes, both containing an i (which I'm taking for "one" on the clue) but damned if I can get the remaining letters to suggest a man of the cloth.

**Eli Cohen** : Since "one vicar" is 8 letters, I'm going to assume "struggles" means make an anagram of it (it's always an anagram, isn't it?). Unfortunately, I've never been much good at geography, and the U.S. has a zillion lakes... but if we ignore bodies of water, and focus on something else like, say, movie stars -- VERONICA Lake seems like a distinct possibility.

*[[Correct! It's not always an anagram, though, and you've thus prompted me to attempt to provide an anagram-free set of clues for thish - or maybe not [evial cackles]. I deduce you have Googled an anagram app (of which there are several)...]]*

And the requisite fannish one: "We hear what drops in a realization for a frequent loccer (6)"

**Eli Cohen** : Well, "frequent loccer" made me immediately think of **Lloyd**, but how does he fit the rest of the clue? Then the PENNEY dropped...

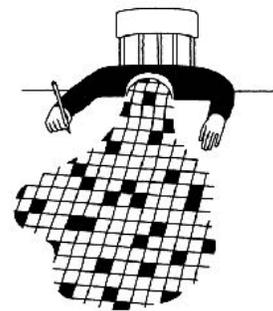
*[[3 out of 3 Eli! Not that Lloyd has locced this here batch of burnt muffins in a fuckin' age, but yes - "We hear" suggests a homophone for "what drops in a realization" ie "penny" which thus becomes PENNEY...]]*

Thish's efforts:

"Prophet, rube material? (10)"

"Wes Anderson camera technique with a bit of leg gets to a Hugo-winning fanwriter (7)"

"Dodgy metaphor for Tom Cruise. Really? (8)"



# ANORAK

## A SONG FOR THE UNSUNG

One thing missing in rail simulation games (at least that I know of) is the presence of shunting engines, or switchers as they are known in the US (shifters on the Pennsylvania Railroad). Having said that, I might get inundated with examples from bigger anoraks than me that this isn't the case, and as usual I'm willing to be corrected.

These darlin' little locos really were the unsung Eugene Judds of the rail system (Alpha Flight comics reference there). You might wonder *why* you'd need switchers at all, since locos are DoBFO powered themselves, so surely they could also move themselves around as needed, couldn't they?

Well, yes but no. Consider the somewhat equivalent tugboats and tankers. Each is what's termed as "optimized for purpose", which for tanker ships and big ole locos is to haul large amounts of whatever long distances, whereas the little'uns are the hod carriers. I mean, try to imagine a British Rail class 43 (aka "InterCity 125" or colloquially the "Flying Banana") having to fuck about in a railyard assembling its own consist.



The British Rail Class 08 (pictured above) entered service in 1953 and would be a regular sight all over - nearly 1,000 of them were manufactured between then and 1962. You won't see many these days because things have changed in that freight consists are now typically fixed rakes and passenger trains are mostly multiple unit setups, so now there's only 100 or so still in service, not counting the ones operating on various heritage railways.

Switchers on the other side of the pond were typically bigger and more powerful (because Merka!? I dunno) but were more multipurpose, seeing action on main and branch lines for passenger traffic. These are known as "road switchers" eg

this modern triple-engined NRE 3GS21B ("Genset") which entered service in 2006.



Given the antipodean content of the readership of this here bubbling cauldron of questionable curry sauce (at least those of them who remain awake at this point), I should also give a nod to the Aussie railways, also given previous mention in these pages, so let's give a tip o' the *chapeau* to the Victorian Railways W class. These entered service in 1959, and it tells you something that of the 27 built by Tulloch of NSW, 22 have been scrapped, and of the remaining 5 only 2 are still operational. Unfortunately these little buggers were considered pretty shit for various reasons, including but not limited to engine unreliability and transmission issues. They got booted off into purely shunting duties, which wasn't that ideal either since the positioning of the cab meant that the drivers had to stick their heads out the window to see where they were going to or coming from. One of the still operating shunters works on the Yarra Valley heritage railway when it's not under repair, which Wikipedia sez it currently is, at (wake up **Leigh!**) Ballarat, where another retired one is preserved and stored at the Newport Railway Museum.

The photo is of a couple of class Ws on works trains in Melbourne from 2006...



# THE OLD SOD

BY DAVID HODSON

Well, that's been a busy month.

There's no clever list of events or activities to follow that statement and sandwich what Nic calls the "WorldThing"<sup>™</sup>, it's just a statement of fact. The WorldThing is a big, sprawling, energy sapping monster of an event, with lots of rare visitations from exotic overseas fans in colourful plumage, otherwise known as Australians.

I like Australians on the whole; they make me feel comfortable with the notion of wearing a real hat, with a brim and all that. I have some hats with brims, I shall buy more; they are good to wear when you're a spectacles wearer and it starts to rain.

Having made the mammoth trek to Las Vegas earlier this year, I was determined not to spend hours and hours trapped in a confined tube for the second time this year, so avoided the 6-hour plus train journey from London to Glasgow and opted for the 1-hour flight from London City Airport instead. I've been to Glasgow more than a few times before, but mostly as one-day commutes for various reasons or to go to Albacon III, the 1986 Eastercon, in the Central Hotel, which is housed in the Central Station building. All I can remember about 1986 is getting on the train in London on Friday evening, getting off the train in Glasgow, crossing the concourse, entering the hotel, getting shitfaced for three days, leaving the hotel, crossing the concourse, getting on another train, and arriving back in London. I never got the chance to see anything of Glasgow itself and the subsequent visits were so intensive that there was never an opportunity to see the centre of the city (one was to visit tower blocks that were being refurbished by the local authority to see how it should be done. Our delegation from Haringey Council was shown around with another group from a recently reunified east German city). I made sure to walk from my hotel to finally see what the outside of the Central Station looks like.

Whilst in Glasgow, I stayed at the Holiday Inn at Argyle Street and, after finding the hotel, I decided to learn where the nearest station was. The route took me straight past The Scotia Bar, established in 1792 and proclaimed the oldest pub in Glasgow. Returning to the hotel on Wednesday night, after having collected my con badge and other gubbins and drank several pints of liquid refreshment with various people that I

can't even remember now, I walked past a long queue of vape and other smokers outside the pub. The last person in the queue was outside the boundary of the smoking cordon and, as I got closer, I could see she was wearing very few clothes; in fact, she was only wearing a skintight yellow dress that finished just above the knee and no obvious underwear. She asked me if I wanted a blowjob for thirty pound and, as I refused and slightly staggered back to the hotel mere yards away, my abiding thought was to question where on earth she kept her cigarettes and lighter in that dress (I was going to say fags and lighter, but I don't want to cause a diplomatic incident).



Most of my evenings after the first involved staying in the fan bar later than the final train ran and being delivered to the hotel door by cab, thus avoiding any further temptation.

I think I only attended about twenty minutes of one programme item, other than going to the fan auction. I've found, since my return to the fannish fold, that the programmes of most large conventions don't really address my needs anymore, and I enjoy my time to being spent in the bar talking to people I haven't seen in a long time or meeting people I haven't met before. I did go along to the Newcon Press book launch with Dave Tamlyn, Jim Burns, and Chris Baker (Fangorn), as Chris had produced the cover art and internal illustrations for Ken Macleod's first collection of short stories "A Jura for Julia". I had not intended to buy books in Glasgow because they would have to go in my luggage for the flight back to London, but weak willed me ending up buying Ken's book along with "Birdwatching At The End Of The World" by G.W. (Gary) Dexter, about a girls school that shares an isolated Scottish island with a bird sanctuary when the end of the world arrives in the form of nuclear war (the blurb on the back says: "If Lord of the Flies

had featured girls...”, but the idea seemed more Ballardian to me after the author reading described the girls ritualistically eating their way through the menu of the bird sanctuary until they got to the puffins), and Ian Watson’s “New Adventures Of A Chinese Time Machine”, pretty much typical territory for Watson. Now, if only I could get back into the habit of actually, you know, reading the fuckin’ books rather than just buying them!

Although I had an entertaining time, I don’t enjoy WorldThings; they’re too big with too many people milling around in the equivalent of aircraft hangers in these days of conference centres. I got to see all the people I wanted to see and more by staying in the safe confines of the fan bar and the fan lounge in the centre of hall 4. I don’t think I’ll be going to any more of them; I prefer something smaller where I can hear clearly what everyone is saying. I was fortunately able to get the Corflu business done early.

Back in London, I continued the daily Covid test regime and, luckily, seemed to miss that particular party, although I did have a few days of more generalised con crud mixed in with hay fever due to the lushness caused by a wet, warm summer. Another reason to prefer smaller cons over larger ones; fewer exotic germs to attack the system.

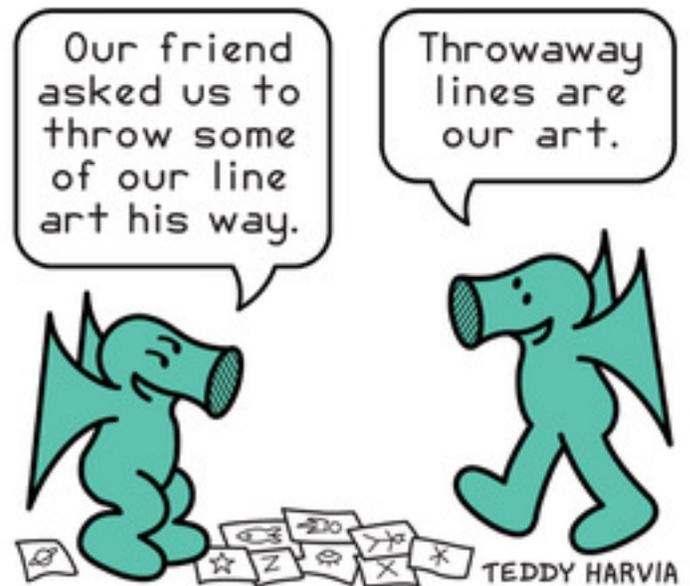
The most entertaining parts of the whole endeavour: Seeing Scotland spelt with two t’s on the cover of the souvenir book; seeing Mark Plummer’s name spelt with only one m in the guest list in the front of the same book (other spelling mistakes abound, but these were the most amusing); catching up with Jim Burns and meeting his lovely wife Sue again for the first time since 1987.

The Premier League kicked off a new season on Friday August 16<sup>th</sup>, as Manchester United fluked a 1-0 win at home to Fulham. Spurs played on Monday August 19<sup>th</sup> and, despite bossing the first half, only gained a single point from a 1-1 draw. Every pundit this season is tipping Arsenal to beat Manchester City to the title, but City will do just enough again and probably save enough energy for better tilts at the F.A. Cup and Champions League than they had last season. Nic’s Watford are currently joint top of the Championship (the league just under the Prem) and unbeaten in three games. Nic’s itinerary for his and Jen’s Corflu trip next year includes a visit to see Watford play on April 8<sup>th</sup>, which just happens to be my birthday, so I may well accompany him and start the convention season hangovers early.

That’s it for this month. A shortish column because life has been throwing me a few lemons recently, so I’m off to make some lemonade and to try to change the mood.

## LOCO CITATO

*[[“Why don’t they pass a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting anybody from learning anything? If it works as good as Prohibition did, in five years we will have the smartest people on earth.” (Will Rogers) ...]]*



From: phillies@4liberty.net

July 28

**George Phillies** writes:

Brilliant political advice.

As always, that was a fine zine. Extreme sympathy on your medical issues. Perhaps you will now enjoy good health for a change. Of good health, I shall certainly wish this on you, not that I have any control over it.

The N3F put into practice [**Dave Hodson’s**] recommendation on fiction awards, namely that there should be a novel award and a shorter works award. For a novel, the length cut off is a hundred thousand words. Shorter works are works with less. We do have more fan awards than that, but after all we are a fan organization.

With respect to APAe consuming orthodox fanzines, and limiting the circulation of writers, I note that APA contributor **Heath Row** found a solution, namely he binds up a bunch of his contributions to some of the APAs he is in and sends them out as a genzine. The comments on other zines are sometimes opaque, but he also writes a great deal of interesting travel and review material.

Your description of puzzle clues was amusing. Once upon a time, I was at a scientific conference on the island of Crete. For the several weeks the conference went on I was with some regularity able to buy copies of the London Times.

News coverage at that time was very good. Then there were the crossword puzzles. When I was able to get two issues on two sequential days I tried comparing the clues with the solutions. Knowing the answer, I eventually figured out how one clue worked: Trooper; medicos (7 letters). The other clues were quite opaque, even as compared with the solutions. You may recall the horror-romance film 'The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane' in which the heroine, at age 13, is seen to be solving the London Times crossword puzzles in ink, working from the top down, leaving no blanks. There is a hint here.

**[[Yeah, I'm lost...]]**

The N3F does have an APA, which has now hit its size limit, namely we send it out by email and find that at least one member — I've lost count — has a hard size limit on email attachments of 10.6 MB. The last mailing was larger. If the APA grows further, which of course we hope will occur, we will have to split into segments sent separately. With respect to other zines, our zine count — different titles — wanders between eight and ten. The most recent dropouts are *Origin* (fannish history) and *Ionisphere* (mostly interviews with authors and fen). *Films Fantastic* is returning on a quarterly basis. *Mangaverse* has the slight challenge — though it does still come out — that its editor and lead contributor also holds down, at last report, four jobs. On the other hand, we have a news zine, a review zine, a fiction zine, *The N3F Review Of Books* (Incorporating *Prose Bono*) which covers several dozen or more novels each issue each month, the *FanActivity Gazette* with fannish news of all sorts, the longest single bit being the current list of science fiction and related conventions which goes on for pages, and most recently *FrankinZine*, published by the N3F Franking Service. This binds up in a zip file the fanzines we have received to circulate in the last month or so, including *This Here...*, and announces its availability as a downloadable zip file on our webpages. Why *Frankinzine*? We were simply forwarding zines to members, which after all was the original purpose of the N3F, but the number of mailings got too large, spam blockers on multiple attachments got too vigorous, and finally the amount of material we were shipping became somewhat large in terms of file size. We found an alternative solution. We tell you the zine is available, we tell you

which fanzines are included, and you are welcome to download *Frankinzine* from N3F.org at your leisure. Most recently, we started receiving PDFs of the fanzine *Sonder*, whose graphic arts content and quality would be greeted with disbelief by prozine publishers of the 1950s, leading to truly large electronic files.

**[[I'll add a note here on your behalf that FanActivity Gazette could still use a fanzine reviewer, a role previously held by the much missed Justin Busch. It's something I briefly considered offering to do before deciding I don't have quite enough time to do it proper justice - exceptionally longtime friends who are still possessed of faculties (M Strummer) will recall that I did a few fanzine review columns for the BSEA (at the urging of Jenny Glover iirc) in my very early days (which, upon re-reading, I judge to have been moderately fuckin' awful). Interested parties should contact the editor, Mindy Hunt : [mindyhunt@scifi4me.com](mailto:mindyhunt@scifi4me.com) ...]]**

\*\*\*

From: jabberwocky2000@hotmail.com

July 30

**Brad Foster** writes:

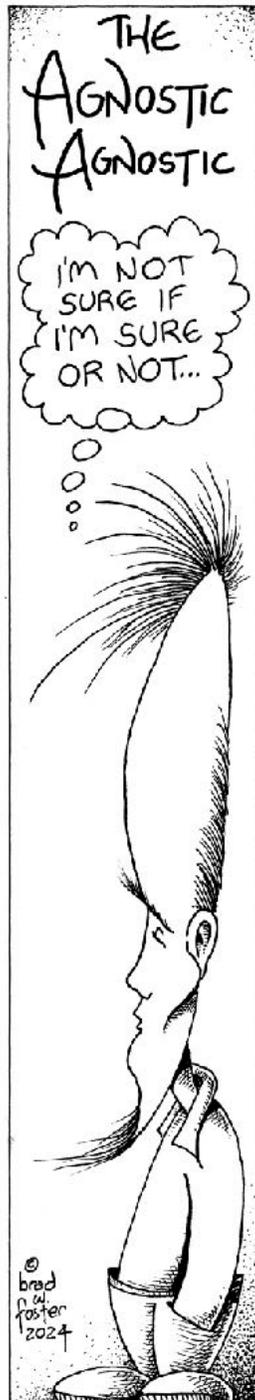
I'm amazed at how you can get these out so often. Don't you waste 90% of your time scrolling through Facebook like the rest of us? Your output is making us look bad, man!

**[[I spend less time on FBF now than when I was working and passing the time on cab stands, although I do perhaps a bit more of other scrolling (mostly news) and going down rabbit holes. I'm not the only fanned who keeps up a monthly schedule: Andy Hooper, Perry Middlemiss and Heath Row spring immediately to mind, and then there's John Hertz, of whom it has been said...]]**

Since you used two fillos in this one, you will find attached two more, so now you still have three to pick from. And, speaking of FB, I see you do get in there once in a while, as I noticed you "liked" a recent little toon I posted, "The Agnostic Agnostic", so figured that should be one to send your way for possible use.

**[[I'd better punt that'un right here, then...]]**

As far as your opening comment that the phrase is not "the proof is in the pudding", but more correctly "the proof of the pudding is in the eating", I can only offer that years ago, after a feverish dream, I awoke and



quickly scribbled out a proof solving the Birch-Tate conjecture on the relation between the order of the center of the Steinberg group of the ring of integers of a number field to the field's Dedekind zeta function.

Unfortunately, in my groggy just-awake state, I dropped the slip of paper into my morning pudding, where the writing quickly melted away. Leaving the proof... as it were... in the pudding...

So, there's that.

*[[Go to your room!...]]*

Anyways....

I find I see less and less new movies while they are still technically "new" the last few years, just kind of wait for them to stumble on to free tv now and then now. But I kind of keep up with the stuff by watching short YouTube video series like "Pitch Meeting" and "Everything Wrong With..." that manage to both encapsulate, and eviscerate, new movies in a very short time, saving me much personal effort.

*[[I rarely go out to a movie theater, for reasons including but not limited to (a) not being able to smoke and (b) distaste for the smell of their popcorn. I did get dragged out for a re-screening of 'The Mummy' a month or two ago via the good offices of Chris Clay and Lorraine Forbes who have approx 4 million ticket points they want to use. It was uncomfortably loud, so I took out my hearing aids and thus managed to sleep through quite a bit of it...]]*

My own post-surgery adventures this past year involved wondering just how long it was going to damn well take until I no longer looked like Wolverine had taken a swipe at my midsection. Interestingly enough, now I just look like I have a series of small red marks around my lower torso, as if, the next time they need to get in there to take something out, they need only "tear at perforations" to open me back up.

Oh, and thanks for giving that weird little piece I did with Teddy a home in the previous issue. He has now sent me a new one to play with, but this time leaving more room for me to draw, and he shall rue the day he gave me such freedom!

\*\*\*

From: kim.huett@gmail.com

July 31

**Kim Huett** writes:

Platt!

I must admit defeat with this issue. Nothing in it inspires me to offer an opinion and I don't see the point in writing without inspiration as all that achieves is mere word

assemblage. So I don't care to bore you, or more importantly, bore me.

Instead I'll get back to working on "A Long & Winding Road Science Fiction Fandom in Australia Part 1 1939 - 1969". I really would like to get this project done as it has rather got away from me. I think it's going to be at least 140 pages and 85K words long. Somewhat more than what I expected when I began.

I'm also enjoying the recently arrived to Netflix series, 'The Decameron'. Not your cup of tea I expect and not usually mine but somehow I have been finding the extravagant posturing of the characters hypnotic. Of course it helps that I like to imagine this gathering as a Corflu and ponder who matches the various characters,

*[[Ah, fannish casting of tv shows and movies certainly used to be A Thing, but I haven't seen one in ages - it's an idea for an occasional column in this here bastion of scurrilousness, so I might put some thought into it, although perhaps not 'The Decameron' which I haven't seen yet. I recall doing a couple back in LiveJournal days, one being 'The Powerpuff Girls' and the other 'CSI' (original series). Contributions welcomed...]]*

\*\*\*

From: fanmailaph@aol.com

August 1

**Andy Hooper** writes:

I wanted to reply to your conversation with **Bill Breiding** in TH... #76, but delayed sufficiently that #77 arrived, allowing me to see other responses to the debate, The question of apas pulling energy and readership away from general distribution fanzines has been a popular topic for about sixty years now; perhaps the most remarkable thing about your exchange with **Breiding** is the great zeal with which he pursues an argument that is as old as we are.

You both made a few points I thought worth responding to: You wrote "My conception of apas is that they are (or were?) intended for the private audience of their members." It is true that the great majority of apazines are distributed only to their membership, but is that audience necessarily "private?" FAPA and SAPS came to include fanzines distributed to a general audience within their first decade of operation. Fanzines distributed to SFFA, APA-45, Minneapa and a dozen other apas routinely show up in fanzine collections and were clearly distributed to people outside their "home" apa.

In the 1970s, the late Terry Carr had a habit of contributing one issue of his fanzine *Diaspar* to FAPA every year, usually in November but sometimes delayed to February. These issues were largely composed of Carr's report on the most recent World SF Convention and thus of considerable interest to people outside of FAPA. And Terry always

distributed several dozen copies in trade to non-FAPA zine publishers, to help him stay on various mailing lists. This was far from “ballsaching” labor of producing a genzine, but it was less insular or private than writing solely for apa members.

I’m not sure when the first explicitly “private” apas began operation, but my sense is that they became important in the wake of the Breendoggle, when a number of fans wanted to express opinions without sharing them with all of fandom. The germ of privacy propagated widely and inspired apas devoted to subjects once explicitly forbidden by the US Mail. These attracted such notoriety, particularly in the 1980s, that today there is a sizeable fraction of corresponding fandom that believes work written for any apa is private and should not be quoted or exposed to a wider audience, without the consent of both the author and anyone mentioned in their work. Some apas have had policies that called for the destruction of mailings in the event of a member’s gaffiation or death, but my sense is that these are seldom followed.

But when an apa doesn’t have that sort of policy, or if it simply fails to address the issue, there is no reason to assume that the material published in it is “private.” Indeed, the act of committing words to paper and duplicating them several dozen times rather removes any possibility of real privacy, regardless of the “rules” applied to the process.

Some fans – Carr, Fred Haskell, Bruce Pelz, John Hertz – shared so many of their apazines that they form large slabs in the collections of fans from the eras in which they were active. For some fan writers, apazines are the bulk of the iceberg, with general distribution fanzines forming only the rugged bit seen above the surface. Should this material have appeared before a wider audience? Depends on whether you were on the mailing list or not.

*[[Much ta for all this valuable history and context. As I think is apparent, I’m personally not well-versed in apa lore, hence I suppose my phrasings of the question end of the Q&A with W<sup>m</sup> which were purposefully from a position of studied ignorance. I was certainly hoping for a response from you in particular, and you have delivered admirably...]]*

This leads -- somehow -- to my question about **Mark Plummer’s** output in 2023 at Corflu 41, which the delightful **Leigh Edmonds**, among others, has interpreted as an indictment of Mark winning the FAAn award for Best Writer. I

didn’t want to question **Mark’s** qualifications for a second, but I genuinely wondered if he was writing a column somewhere that I was not reading or had done another brilliant anthology only given to Eastercon members, etc., things which have surely happened in the past. I’ve never assumed that I could read or receive everything published by fandom; apas are just one reason for that. But my question regarding **Mark** arose from a genuine fear that I was missing out on something cool.

*[[I fully accept your reasoning here, but the remarks did come across as a grumble at the time...]]*

I might also point out that confirming if a FAAn recipient actually did anything in the previous year was your idea to begin with, so you can’t be surprised if it comes up now and again.

*[[Point taken, but the original format of The Incomplete Register (2017, for the 2018 awards, so six fuckin’ years ago) which included lists of writers, artists and loccers was subsequently abandoned in favor of a determination of categorization (genzine / perzine / one-shot or special) after the cross-category confusion of the 2020 awards which for some observers made that year’s fanzine winners invalid. Then, as now, votes are recorded in good faith and while I rarely question any individual category votes, I have admittedly done so a couple of times where I’m reasonably sure that the recipient hasn’t done any qualifying work. Which is to say that I’ve asked for the occasional citation rather than summarily rejecting a vote...]]*

I feel like I have said all of this many times before, possibly even in a previous LoC to *This Here*... If there is anything more than déjà vu at work here, I do apologize.

*[[I’ve got no problem at all with you or anyone else FAAnWanking, since I interpret that as actual interest in the awards, and I wish there was more of that. I continue attempts to disabuse the notion that TIR listings are in any way “definitive” as to what you can vote for, despite your previous assertions that people will act as if they are. I don’t know how many times I have to state clearly that they’re merely a guide, and latterly serve to define the category a zine falls into...]]*

Like **Steve Jeffery**, I have often used the regular deadline of an Apa as an opportunity to write a first draft of something that eventually reaches a wider audience. Some of the columns I wrote for *Portable Storage* appeared in an early form in *Captain Flashback* or *Henchman*, my SAPS<sup>zine</sup>, Now **Bill** is contributing a column to *CF*, an alleged apazine; alas, it appears there’s no



genzine appearing frequently enough to provide a more elevated second home for his output. By this conduct, I think **Breiding** provides a final refutation of his dichotomy between fanac in apas and that in genzines. Both forms of activity are mutually reinforcing and tend to begin to resemble one another as they gain attention. Genzines become more intimate as certain letterhacks maintain a regular and personal exchange, while apazines can attract senior contributors content to exchange mail with one or two friendly editors and ignore the rest of the field They will gradually turn your apazine into a focal point of the doomed and forgotten, a glorious condition indeed.

*[[Points again well taken. The only (?) regular genuine that currently comes to mind is Inca, although Idea may also be getting there. BEAM is coming up on two years since its lastish, and there hasn't been a lot of Banana Wings of late, but you never know with the Fishlifters. Perzines seem to be where it's at, even though that categorization has become elastic as far as being less than solely the efforts of a single person. Vibrator was considered a perzine despite my own regular column therein, as is This Here... featuring Dave Hodson and occasional other contributors. The latest Perryscope has multiple contributors, and it's perhaps worth revisiting some discussion about the point at which a nominal perzine might "cross the line" into genuine territory. I've tended to apply an interpretation of Pareto in the categorization, but not necessarily strictly so. I've only slightly idly mooted whether it might be timely to recombine the perzine and genzine categories for the purposes of the FAAn awards, but I continue to hold the belief that this might likely restore the advantage of the latter. Opinions welcomed as always...]]*

I read about your granuloma surgery and its aftermath with grim fascination and enormous sympathy. (I noticed I was unconsciously squeezing my legs together while reading it.) I had a perineal abscess drained back in the 1990s, also due to a yuge fucking infection, but my recovery was a lot less difficult than yours from this surgery, Of course, the fact that I was barely 32 years old might have had something to do with my resilience. Just hoping things have continued to improve since you wrote this.

The General Electric GG1 was a magnificent machine; back in the day, when I wasted many a happy hour playing Railroad Tycoon, it was a major turning point when the GG1 became available; I would run several passenger lines driven by GG1s late into the game, long after faster and more efficient engines had become available.

Once we start talking planes and trains, the LoC has gone on long enough. Thanks for another handsome issue and best wishes for more comfortable days ahead.

\*\*\*

From: portablezine@gmail.com

August 1

**W<sup>m</sup> Breiding** writes:

That was a hella fuckin' health diary. Excruciating. (Gail said she was cringing all the way through your mighty opus!) While reading all about your long healing process I kept thinking, "What exactly did this doctor do to you?". It doesn't sound like you got an excision of vasectomy scar tissue but rather you were the victim of an insidious bollock slasher. When I was administered my vasectomy the doctor made a very small incision, cut a section of the vas deferens out, cauterized both ends and sewed me back up. I can't imagine this left much scar tissue.

*[[Apparently the scar tissue can (and DoBFO does) build up over the years, but the infection seems to have been the more serious problem...]]*

I hope the healing is now at a headlong pace with the continued strong antibiotic kicking ass on the operating site as well as the apparently "hidden" infection causing the big numbers on the Whites.



I somehow missed Humble Pie. I was aware that Steve Marriott and Peter Frampton were in the band but I don't know any songs by them. Your links proved entertaining. "Natural Born Bugie" was nice 'n' tight blues rock and the post Frampton "I Don't Need No Doctor" was a fine example of a million bands of the era doing "midnight specials" at live venues in San Francisco. Took me right back. I was having acid flashbacks. I couldn't listen to much of this though - I'll take the Allman Brothers for my shot of blues rock. I don't know if Marriott was the best English rock singer of the period but he certainly had it going on, laying down a vocal style that would become the standard for hard rock and metal bands to follow. With "Road Runner" and "30 Days in the Hole" boredom set in. I may have to join **Leigh Edmonds** for a nap. Frampton obviously made the right choice in leaving the band, turning more to pop and making the single best selling live album of all time, *Frampton Comes Alive*. Do you feel like we do?

*[[See Leigh's loc below for his astonishing reaction...]]*

It was interesting to see the rare appearances of **Skel** and **Bruce Gillespie** in the locs. I think the apa-genzine issue has run its course, though it's a darned shame that there are so few genzines being published these days. (**Perry Middlemiss** is doing interesting things with *Perryscope* and I look forward to its continued morphing.) It's fascinating to me that **Steve Jeffery** reuses apa-bits in his locs. I assume he reimagines mailing comments where appropriate?

*[[Again, see comments elsewhere, but especially Andy Hooper's excellent loc above. I wouldn't have tagged either Skel or the Archbishop as "rare" loccers. Infrequent, perhaps, but ey...]]*

**Kim Huett** is always coming up with odd facts. I'm wondering if he can give us an example of who it might be that's doing anal bleaching? It would seem rather odd, even for a porn star to do such things. Does the bleach also give it an extra pucker in the process?

*[[I don't want or need to know...]]*

On that note, I better leave it.

*[[Agreed...]]*

\*\*\*

From: leighedmonds01@gmail.com

August 2

**Leigh Edmonds** writes:

This latest issue of *This Here...* had me laughing and crying. No, I wasn't laughing at your long and painful reportage of your operation and its aftermath. Well, I must admit that the way you worded some of the descriptions of your experience were amusing but, I suppose, no laughing matter.

Particularly your off-hand comment, "... I also hate being ill". I think most of us would agree with that one.

For example, **Dave Hodson's** description of the Olympic Games opening ceremony. I'm given to believe that some folks in Australia either stayed up late or got up early to watch the opening ceremony, but I was not one of them. I did, however, catch some of it on replay, being down in Melbourne for Rose Mitchell's big birthday party and staying overnight in a hotel and not having a great deal of success in getting to sleep. So I turned on the tv and there it was. I watched and watched, waiting for something exciting to happen and finally it got so unexciting that I went to sleep. *Quelle surprise!*, I hear you exclaim!

Then there was **Dave Cockfield's** admission that the Tories had done something good by increasing the pension but he'd rather be fucked with a baseball bat than vote for them. For some reason the idea that the UK might try proportional representation also amused me. In theory it's a noble idea but in practice not so much so. They've got proportional representation for the Lower House in Tasmania, and a rather strange system at that, which makes working out who won and lost rather confusing for us lacking a higher degree in mathematics. We also have proportional representation in the Senate (of the Commonwealth) and that has worked very well for the conservatives for many decades in stymying reformist governments. Unfortunately giving the small states an equal number of seats with the larger ones in the Senate was the cost of creating the Federation in the first place so we're stuck with that.

*[[Like the US Senate, then, where each state elects two senators, meaning that each senator from Wyoming represents less than 300,000 people whereas for the two from California it's 19.5 million yet they have equal clout...]]*

On the other hand, **Lee Wood's** story of George's final moments had the tears rolling down my cheeks. The way he died reminded me so much of the way that our Charlie died. And then of how our two after that, Lily-Belle and Jo-Jo, particularly knowing that Lily-Belle was about to die and taking her to the vets to have her lovely little life extinguished. This, of course, makes me appreciate how much my current two have helped me through the past year. They are often very demanding, and annoying at times, but then that's what cats are for.

I had completely missed *Star Trek:Prodigy*, partly because I wasn't looking for anything animated when I was cruising Netflix. I will give it a go and see what I think. On your other recommendation, I don't know about *Supacell*. The ideas behind it are interesting and makes me think that somebody watched *The Umbrella Academy*. I understand that it works for you partly because of your lived experience but, for me, there is too much of the character's individual problems and not as much about how their super powers

work. At the moment I'm not into movies and tv about people having problems so I'm much more prone to Stuff That Goes Bang kind of movies. I do get sick of so much violence at times, but that's the price you pay for watching those kinds of movies - and it does worry me that these kinds of movies tell people that violence is the solution to problems. We all know what Salvor Hardin (the book, not the tv show) said about violence, but that's not the case according to all those movies.

[[See also Jerry Kaufman's comment on 'Supacell'...]]

Skel is absolutely right in reminding me that I haven't reminded him to look up the latest issue of *Ornithopter* (yes, I do have the next issue in progress, in my mind at least). Fans like **Perry**, the **Archbishop** and you do, so I must too. Next issue for sure.

I hate to disappoint you but your latest instalment of 'Radio Winston' gave me a great deal of pleasure. You can write about and include links to blues-rock until the end of time as far as I am concerned, so I really enjoyed this one. At the moment life is a little tough but the tracks you included links to really lifted my spirits. I have to admit to never having listened to Humble Pie, which I attribute by having been really put off by the depths that the Small Faces descended to with tracks like "Lazy Sunday". Now I know better and I will have to do some serious listening to Humble Pie RSN. That "I Don't Need No Doctor" is serious high voltage music, thanks for pointing me in its direction.

[[Dammit...]]

Finally, what with various problems in the Western World including elections, the economy and all that, I'm just reminding my overseas friends that the housing market in Ballarat is very slow and cheap at the moment. Ask me how I know.

\*\*\*

From: srjeffery@aol.com

August 2

Steve Jeffery writes:

Thanks (I think) for the copy of *This Here...* #77

Especially for the much needed trigger warning a few paragraphs in to Health Diary which, I'm squeamish enough to admit, caused me to bail out somewhere in the middle of the next page. (At the same time, comedian John Holmes is hosting a C-word radio show intended mainly for male listeners of a certain age chatting to various celebrity guests who've all undergone "down there" cancer diagnoses and therapy, and which is all very well meaning and laudable up the point where they start talking about biopsies and the aftermath ("more pain than you have ever imagined") at which point my brain wants to start singing "la la not

listening" very loudly (and tunelessly) in an effort to distract me and I wonder just how far I would want to go to preserve the lads downstairs (though I gather the aftermath of orchidectomy might be just as painful). However, it is an unfortunate and undeniable fact that the older we get the more the odds are stacked against us.

[[For me the pain was probably the least of it due to my usual high tolerance levels...]]

One of the first albums I got (via a white label pressing from a neighbour who worked at A&M) was the eponymous Humble Pie lp (their third studio album but first for A&M) though unfortunately without the spectacular Beardsley cover and artwork. One of the tracks on the album was the "One-Eyed Trouser Snake Rhumba" which took me a little while to work out. (I was still in short trousers and I suspect it would have been confiscated if my parents had every heard the lyrics.)

[[Thanks for the excuse to bung in that album cover...]]



I'm not going to open the "what is a fanzine" debate again. And as you say, labels only become significant when it comes to which award category you want to vote for something in. You already know I have enough trouble distinguishing

between a perzine where the editor invites articles from other writers and a supposed genzine where the editor's stamp is all over it.

I've just got to **Kim Huett's** letter. Anal bleaching?? WTF??

I'm not even going to Google that.

In the wise words of some 1950s sci-fi film, "There are some things that Man was not meant to know."

[[Indeed...]]

\*\*\*

From: eli.cohen@mindspring.com

August 2

Eli Cohen writes:

No, Nic, I'd never heard that joke about the duck hunting statisticians. As such things go, I'd say it was about average.

[[Groans...]]

My favorite stats joke is the definition of a “posterior distribution” (a real thing in Bayesian statistics) as “the application of an elegant mathematical formula to what is basically seat-of-the-pants reasoning” (actually a pretty accurate definition). I’m not mean-spirited enough to continue to inflict statistics jokes on you, though. Anyway, I haven’t done any statistics for decades, ever since I was out of work for six months (after I moved to Vancouver) and forced to change careers to become a \*shudder\* computer programmer (I always add the \*shudder\* whenever I say this where my younger son can hear it; he’s a — you guessed it! — computer programmer. Not that he’s listening to this, it’s just become a habit.). And we know there are no good jokes about computers. (Aren’t you glad they’ve made our phones as easy to use as computers?)

\*\*\*

From: gsmattingly@yahoo.com

August 11/13

Gary Mattingly writes:

[TH... #76] Well, even though this is after the fact I thought I would send this separately and then send another email for 77. This one is even shorter than usual.

‘Egotorial’ : Politics is always so much fun. Has any country in any time period ever got it right (admittedly different people probably have different interpretations of what “getting it right” means) for an extended period of time?

*[[That’s really quite a loaded question. Classic Marxist/anarchist solutions would likely only be feasible in localized agrarian collective constructions, and aren’t well tailored to supplant the highly industrial globalized late-stage capitalism which presently exists. It’s arguable to a certain extent that the closest to “getting it right” might have been the original Kibbutzim...]]*

‘Corflux’ : Hm, decisions, decisions. Still don’t know if I’m going to go. Want to go to see people who live over there and are not in good health.

[...]

‘Movie Night’ : Hm, not familiar with ‘Upgrade’ or the new ‘Freaks’. So many shows out there . . .

‘TV Guide’ : I did watch the final episode of ‘Discovery’ and all of the current season of ‘Dr. Who’. I liked the wrap up of Discovery. Yes, this season of ‘Discovery’ was basically a quest series. And yes, nobody gets the door prize in the end. It is quite a wrap up finale. Not entirely sure whether or not I think the bow was too neatly tied but I’m still happy with it overall. I wasn’t so impressed with this season of ‘Doctor Who’. I agree this season people other than the Doctor are making things right and the finale was a bit of a let down.

*[[Is it possible to have the bow “too neatly tied” for a series conclusion? Well, yes, I suppose it is if they cheat with a deus ex machina, for example, or the old favorite “it was all a dream”. I’d suggest ‘Discovery’ did it right...]]*

‘Health Diary’ : Glad you got the Calquence for 2024 and good luck with 2025!

‘Anorak’ : Interesting words and photos. On July 12 I went to Roseville, CA. to see Big Boy No. 4014. That was interesting. Unfortunately it the weather was hot and there were a lot of people there. However Saturday was even more crowded, I’ve been told, so I’m glad I went on Friday.



‘Loco Citato’ :

**Kim Huett** : I’ve thought about moving but Patty wants to stay here. I’d like to move someplace where I don’t have to pay earthquake insurance, flood insurance and high home and auto insurance. Taxes are high in California. Actually I think most things are high in California compared to the rest of the United States. No, I don’t want to move to North Dakota but I’m sure I could find someplace acceptable that is less expensive.

I haven’t seen any news on renewal or cancellation for ‘Dead Boy Detectives’. I hope it continues. I just watched the last season of ‘Umbrella Academy’. I enjoyed that series. Still thinking about the relatively quick wrap up of things in this last season.

**Wm Breiding** : I too had a vasectomy many years ago. Fortunately for me, no after surgery issues then or now.

Relative to various and sundry comments, I’m not in any apazines currently. Many years ago I was in quite a few. However other than a few LoCs here and there I also don’t contribute to genzines, other than maybe one or two pieces in the last ten years (or more). I used to do my own fmz but haven’t for ages. Maybe I should write more but I’m no great writer, no entertaining quips for the most part from this corner. I may occasionally write about interesting topics but I definitely have never considered myself to be even a good writer, just okay, some of the time. Of course, in fandom, there are more than enough other people who consider themselves great and witty writers. Whether that is reality or not, um, different topic.

*[[I must point out that for several conreps & such you’ve contributed a lot of photography eg most recently for oXLIp (<https://corflu.org/Corflu41/oXLIp.pdf>) ...]]*

**Dave Cockfield** : I think I watched two episodes of 'Manhunt'. Haven't watched any more. Haven't watched 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' although it does sound interesting.

**Gary Mattingly** : I've done a couple of Cologuard tests over the past few years but they're not as effective in finding polyps and tumors as is a colonoscopy. They're good, just not as good.

Related to the Clipper App on the phone, I've put a number of credit cards on my phone also and they too are supposed to act just like a credit card when you pass it over the reader. Haven't tried them yet though.

'Indulge Me' : As to the list of unaffordable cities I see San Francisco and San Jose. The prices in all of the Bay Area are very high. Of this I am aware.

Enjoyable photos throughout the issue. I also enjoyed the artwork by **Sara Felix,**

**Teddy Harvia, Brad W Foster and Jose Sanchez.**

*[[Sara was nominated again for this year's fanartist Hugo but missed out, the winner being someone I'd never heard of. She did win in 2021, presaged by the Best Fanzine Cover FAAn Award the same year...]]*

Images from my excursion to see Big Boy. The last one is a scan of me. One of the cars had an exhibit about Big Boy and the history of railroads and it had a working scanner that was used for something having to do with the railroads. I just thought it was a cool scan.

[TH... #77] :

'Egotorial' : I don't get too upset about common phrases or aphorisms that have been corrupted. I think for the most part, if I can understand what they're trying to say, that's fine with me.



'Corflux': Curious about 2026 secret plans. I assume something about Northern Bay Area but I could be wrong. I'm not kept in the loop on such things, possibly because of, well, my opinion of that location.

'Travel Plans' : Good luck with those. I keep putting off finishing off all my planning for my Patagonia trip in November/December. I really need to wrap that up.

'Radio Winston' : I vaguely remember using Pandora in the past but haven't used it in many years. Can't remember listening to Ian Hunter's "Who Do You Love" before. Listening to it now. Wait, I recognize it, but not something to which I listen frequently.

*[[I'm good with Pandora because I know how to work it after many taxi shifts, and it helps that it's basically "press play" not involving a lot of fucking about that would irritate my internal Luddite (cf podcasts)...]]*

I listen to the Small Faces ("Ogden's Nut Gone Flake" CD is on my shelves but that's it) now and then, although "Lazy Sunday Afternoon" certainly wouldn't be one I'd choose as a favorite. I don't seem to have any Humble Pie on the shelves. I could rectify that with their A&M CD Box Set. They don't seem to have a lot on vinyl available. Is it amusing that there is a compilation album of Small Faces and Humble Pie with a cover that has Small Faces in big letters and Humble Pie in small letters?

*[[An absolute fav slice of both mine and Mark Plummer's is "Song of A Baker" off the "Ogdens" set (lead vocal by Ronnie Lane), which apart from being covered rather well by several other outfits (eg a pretty faithful [version by Screaming Trees](#)) was parodied as "Song of A Plummer" in one of the occasional "secret song" performances at an Unusual Suspects room party. I'm also a fan of "Afterglow" off the same album...]]*

Ah, now back to "Jungle Love" by The Time.

'Movie Night' : I do not believe that I have ever seen "Blitz". Maybe one day . . . My to-be-watched shelves puts that some 30 or 40 years after I have died.

*[[I'm surprised, since you seem to clock approx 10,432 movies a month...]]*

'TV Guide' : Haven't watched 'Star Trek: Prodigy' either. Watched a couple of episodes of 'Supacell' but haven't gone beyond that and it has been months. I do believe I'll return to the second season of 'Outer Range' but just haven't done it yet. Now I did watch all of the last season of 'The Umbrella Academy' over the last week. I've watched every episode of 'Sunny' which I find entertaining. Finished off watching this season of 'House of the Dragon'. I've watched two episodes of 'Time Bandits' and maybe will return to it.

*[[I've avoided 'Time Bandits' so far due to shit reviews. Is it any good really?...]]*

Actually I want to watch 'Joko Anwa's Nightmares and Daydreams' but haven't gotten around to that either. Started to watch the new season of 'We Are Lady Parts' but haven't got back to that one yet either. I will get around to the return of 'The Old Man' which is supposed to come back on September 12. Hm, I've also been watching 'The Ark' which really isn't that great but I keep watching.

*[[Thanks for the reminder about 'The Ark'. I quite like it, despite scathing criticism from Ian Sales, but then my old mate and former best man and I often disagree on such things. Ian comes down very hard on scientific inaccuracies (or indeed actual scientific nonsense) whereas I can usually let that pass. 'The Ark' is really more of a character study which happens to have an sf setting...]]*

Of course I am still watching 'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver', 'CBS Sunday Morning' and various and sundry news shows. Watched all of 'The Last Airbender', 'Beacon 23', and just watched part of the first episode of 'Lady Jane'. I will at least complete the first episode.

*[[Hadh't heard of 'Beacon 23', and it looks like something I might like to check out...]]*

'Health Diary' : OMG. I hope you get much, much better soon. I hope the pain and seeping and all the not good stuff decreases to 0 soon. I'm surprised you're able to actually write all this down while dealing with that. The pain and all sounds really, really unpleasant.

'Anorak' : Great pictures. Interesting description. Thanks!

'The Old Sod' : Sorry to hear about your ear infection. I hope it did clear up before Worldcon.

'Loco Citato' :

**Bruce Gillespie** : 826 pages?? This is why I'm not in an APA. I have problems getting through a 20 or 30 page fanzine.

*[[I believe ANZAPA to be exceptional in terms of its volume...]]*

Hadh't heard of Katie Melua. Stopped listening to Ben Webster's "Soulville" just now so that I could listen to her. Nice. However I've recently been listening to Eva Cassidy and I guess I'm biased a bit.

"Wonderful Life" by Katie Melua is definitely enjoyable. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abGe6uM9Ias>

Interesting, the following web page shows 100% similarity of Katie Melua to Eva Cassidy. And just below Eva Cassidy on the list is Norah Jones who is wonderful too. List link: <https://www.lyrics.com/similar-artists/>

[641058/Katie-Melua](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8id4QZIOxPM)

Eva Cassidy - "Fields of Gold" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8id4QZIOxPM>

Eva Cassidy - "Over the Rainbow" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rd8VktT8xY>

Unfortunately Eva Cassidy died in 1996 at the age of 33 from cancer.

Norah Jones - "Don't Know Why" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO4dxvguQDk>

'Indulge Me' : Sorry to hear about George the Cat.

I enjoyed the photos and artwork by **Brad W. Foster**, **Teddy Harvia** and **Jose Sanchez**.

So this is still a bit short but it is early. I could include a long list of the films I've seen lately. Okay, just the last two, "Seven Samurai", which I've seen numerous times at home but saw at the Roxie Theater in San Francisco last night. I enjoyed it. Today I saw "Borderlands" at the local theater. It's been getting many bad reviews. I certainly didn't think it was great but I was amused in numerous places.

Going to see Khruangbin, a musical group if you didn't know, at the Greek Theater in Berkeley on Thursday. I saw them once before in San Francisco at a place called The Independent a number of years ago.

Early song:

"Calf Born In Winter" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My2q6F0Dprk>

Something off their current album "A La Sala : "Pon Pón" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=askosd3l8w>

And some concert footage. I must admit I rather like watching the bass player, Laura Lee Ochoa. Their black wigs are, um, amusing. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1Kg9NqFEb4>

The band has been together since 2010. Obviously they mainly do instrumentals. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khruangbin>

And final music while I finish off this LoC is "Right Place Wrong Time" Dr. John <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4PjWgiH-LQ>

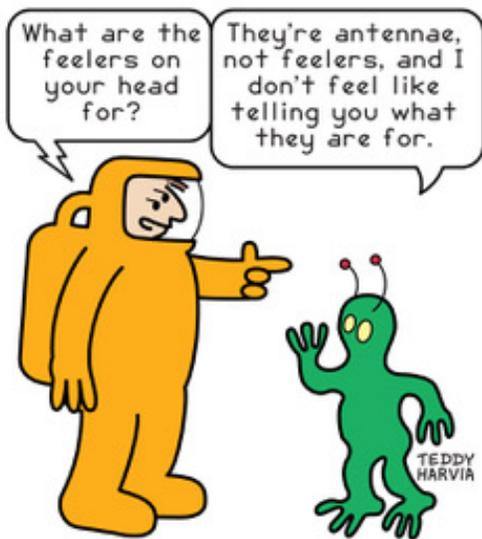
\*\*\*

From: [jakaufman@aol.com](mailto:jakaufman@aol.com)

August 15

**Jerry Kaufman** writes:

Regarding phrases that get muddled because people don't understand their meaning or origin, one of my favorites (in a negative sense) is "palmed off,"



which I believe is meant to suggest a sleight-of-hand move in which one is tricked into taking something of less value than expected. Sentence: "He palmed off a lead slug on me when I expected a silver dollar." People now think the phrase is "pawnd off." That makes no sense.

*[[Given my interest in lexicology and etymology you'd expect me to look into this, as indeed you've prompted me to do. Merriam-Webster more or less says the terms are equivalent - and you're right that "pawnd off" is the later entry. However, I'd contend that whereas "palmed off" directly implies "trickery or guile" (per M-W), even though they suggest the same for "pawnd off", my analysis would be that the latter is more strongly about getting rid of something you'd rather not be responsible for. Deception in doing so may still be involved, of course, but I deem that "palming off" involves more skill...]]*

As for Worldcon, we've seen a bit of it via Zoom or YouTube, and I intend to watch more of it from the convention's website. It looked like a good time on the ground, but still I wish we could have been there.

We now expect we'll use our Aer Lingus vouchers to go to Corflu and Eastercon, so we'll see you next year. I hope that adds to your anticipation.

*[[Indeed it does, Killer...]]*

We watched a bit of *Supacell* (on your recommendation), but quit partway through the first episode when it appeared that every main character would go through some major trauma, including but not limited to injury and heartbreak. We were not in the mood for that, though I may go back and give it another try.

*[[Fair enough being "not in the mood", but I still encourage you to get back in when and if you are...]]*

Your 'Health Diary' was a rough read, though obviously not as rough as living it was. My own genitorial problem was urinary, not testicular, and lasted less time. But the amount of blood I was pissing was spectacular and so a trip to the ER became an all night stay with surgery the next morning. Much better now, and hoping you are the same.

*[[Glad we're both sorted...]]*

We had arranged to meet **Teddy Harvia** at Worldcon to talk illustration or spot illoes, but that plan, like so many others, fell apart. I'll drop a note to him as soon as we have firmer plans to publish the next issue of *Littlebrook*. Probably we'll once again weigh down our suitcases with enough copies for Corflu attendees and random other folks in Belfast. (And this will be our third visit to Belfast, starting with the Eurocon the weekend after the Dublin Worldcon in 2019.)

I have trouble imagining being a member of Anzapa and having time to read anything else for a month. It would also take me quite some time to write my own zine with appropriate mailing comments. So I'm impressed that other

people can do so without giving up all their other activities.

\*\*\*

From: daverabban@gmail.com

August 19

**Dave Cockfield** writes:

You are my hero.

How you have survived your health problems I'll never know. I thought that my Vertigo / Long Covid issues were awful but reading your account makes me feel like a puffball.

Quite harrowing but the upside is that you are getting better. Looking forward even more to meeting up next year.

*[[I'm already practicing cries of "fat fucker!"...]]*

In my younger pre-fan days I drank about 40 bottles of Newcastle Brown Ale a week. Needless to say that Tyne water chemical infused bilge eventually drove me nuts. Pink elephants and giant hairy spiders on the ceiling were the least of it.

I ended up in Newcastle General Hospital having my stomach pumped and being experimented on with various drug cocktails. Two days later I was home and became a Federation Best Bitter drinker. Total piss water. Ended up on Newcastle Exhibition Ale which was marginally better. Many years later I discovered Real Ale which is my staple now with the odd Single Malt. And I guess Lager when I drink with the Old Sod. I'm now an 8-10 pint a week man.

*[[Newky will still be a go-to for me here on occasion, although most of the time I bow to economy and stick with what some friends named "O'Brien" derisively deem "cheap pish", although I do get the Good Whiskey (Bulleit). No Tyne water in the stuff these days. Back in my student days the bars had Newky Amber which I favored, and also Sam Smiths Old Brewery Pale Ale which was fairly prevalent back then...]]*



Cider is also on my danger list. Visiting a Cider farm in Devon I should have paid more attention to the drunken dogs roaming around the yard. I took back to London a couple of gallons of their best Scrumpy.

I drank 4 pints that night with some friends who were filling the room with expelled dope smoke. I don't indulge because

weed gives me bad headaches. The combination of smoke and Scrumpy ended up with Mad Monks hitting the Bells of Notre Dame with sledge hammers in my head. To counter this I head butted my bedroom wall a few times.

Needless to say, I never drink Cider that is more than 6% alcohol. Usually Rhubarb.

*[[One of my old LSE mates, Colin Anderson, had a lovely story about the cider bar in Newton Abbott, where he's from, which only sold their product in halves with a 2 pint limit. A couple of visiting Scotsmen insisted on getting pints, and in that occasionally belligerent Scots fashion insisted on having a third pint, a request that the landlord felt unable to refuse, for his own safety. After sneeringly remarking that they couldn't see what all the fuss was about, the Scotsmen left the bar, and as soon as the air hit them they both instantly fell face down on the pavement. "Fortunately", Colin concluded, "Newton Abbott Hospital is right across the street"...]]*

PS. TH... was great as usual.

Watching "House of the Dragon" and "Mayor of Kingstown". Both excellent.

\*\*\*

#### WAHF

**Bill Burns** ; **Graham Charnock** (via FBF), who immediately spotted the typo(s) I fessed up to ; **Tommy Ferguson** re: Eastercon memberships ; **Archbishop Gillespie**, with links to the most recent 3 ishes of SFC, in case I hadn't seen them ; **John Nielsen Hall** ; **Teddy Harvia** mentions meeting **Cuddles** in Glasgow, and adds : "The only solid new commitment I made at Worldcon was to create a mascot for LAcon. Of course if they like my idea, I am committed to drawing it for the next 2 years. I also got drawn into defining what a fan artist is for the WSFS Constitution. I know what I am but how do I put that into words?" *[[I hear that the "fan artist" definition is supposed to be retooled to the effect that if the contender received any payment for work the previous year (even \$1), they'll be disqualified...]]* ; **Perry Middlemiss** ; **Heath Row** ;

#### FANZINES RECEIVED

With gratitude as always...

**THE STF AMATEUR #11 (Heath Row)** - His regular APA bundle ...

**PERRYSCOPE 46 (Perry Middlemiss)** - If you're tired of **Perry**, you're tired of fanzines. Several comments on **Leigh Edmonds'** prior observation that *Perryscope* has "matured", to which I respond that I reckon he's always been this good. A good section with multiple contributors on what they

must pack for a trip, and all the usual sections on what the old larrikin has been watching and reading. I'm always a bit envious of how organized it all is. Highly gobsmacked by seeing Lilian Edwards named in the WAHFs, perhaps her first recorded interaction with a fanzine in decades...

**LOFGEORNOST #156 (Fred Lerner)** - "Incas and Tortoises" is the title of **Fred's** lead essay, and it probably says something about me that the first thing I think of is fanzine titles by **Ron Jackson** and **Sue Jones**. But nooooo, it's an account of another *National Geographic* cruise trip to "Galapagos + Peru's Land of the Incas", and typically interesting. Also: musings on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his move to Montpelier, VT and much erudition from correspondents...

**THE TYPO KING #90 (Bob Jennings)** - Political satire, New England weather and Nielsen radio ratings. Odd formatting with large gaps, unless I'm suffering from **Jackson's** Disease (qv) wherein illos/photos go missing. Always nice to hear from **Bob**, mind, who also heads up his email with a quote, in this case "No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible" (Voltaire). Naturally, almost as soon as I write this, **Bob** sends a pdf rather than the original Word file which has all the illos in place, increasing the general amusement...

**THE MEGALOSCOPE #13 (David Grigg)** - Compilation of reviews from *Through the Biblioscope*, at least I *think* that's the case, and if it isn't I'd like **Pope Grigg** to correct me with appropriate sternness. Mostly books with a bit of tv, and an admission upfront that he'd been wavering about whether to continue the title, but decided "Oh, all right then" after a redesign of the interior, which I have to observe is well fuckin' good...

**ALEXIAD #135 (Joe & Lisa Major)** - It seems rather shameful that I hadn't really been wondering where *Alexiad* was, but **Joe** reminds me and everybody else that this is late because of his sadly perennial health issues. I can shurely identify. A thinner effort than usual at a mere 12 pages, but still good to see the ish back in the inbox...

**WEEKEND WEETABIX 6 (Claire Brialey)** - Just when you thought it was safe ect ect, **Claire** revives this title for *WOOF* as the alleged final wrap-up, honest guv. Armadilloes abound. Well, really the same armadillo in a variety of poses likely to get this banned from entering Australia. Post-WorldThing, this is sent out to those on the mailing list ("collect the set!"), and received round here with much ta...

**CAPTAIN FLASHBACK #69 (Andy Hooper)** - Well coo er gosh, what's this then? A substantial guest column from the legendary **Wm "X" Breiding**, that's what! He ought to do a fanzine one of these days, ey?...

# INDULGE ME

✘ **DREAM WEAVER** : I'm still getting a fair number of nights where I don't sleep so well, in part because of weird dreams, although they're mostly fairly typical anxiety dream scenarios. One thing I've noticed recently is that people I actually *know* are popping up in them, albeit mostly in walk-on or cameo roles. Also "real people" that I don't actually know are appearing. This is a new thing for me - I've always been slightly crogged by dreams recounted by others that almost always seem to have "real people" in them. Until now, that is...

✘ **AGELESS BEAUTY (1)** : A young boy's SHADO crush who was not named "Ayesha": That would be **Gabrielle Drake**, of course...



✘ **NOSEBAG ALERT 2025** : Not that I follow any of them, but FBF puts quite a few posts from UK fish & chips fan groups in my feed, and I note that many of the offerings boast that they're fried in beef dripping. This won't do for me, having not ingested anything red meat related since 1977, so I expect I'm going to have to vet any chippies on the itinerary for next year or, perhaps embarrassingly, ask and expect derision and contumely...

✘ **PiNGed?** : *File770* reports the [First Fandom awards](#) (serious 'boo for **David Langford**, **Bill & Mary Burns** and **Joe Siclari & Edie Stern** in particular) and I append a comment noting the Big Heart Award going to dear old friend **Cuddles**. My remark doesn't appear, although the award is duly noted in the [pixel scroll](#) later that day. It is, of course, quite possible that I fucked up the form-filling somehow when adding my comment, rather than assuming an uncharitable explanation. (Definition of a term I use occasionally: "PiNGed" = rendered *Persona Non Grata*). ETA:

my comment magically appears three days later. I really must stop reflexively attributing grudge-like behavior to **Mike Glycer** and I proffer apologies with this fess-up. As is my wont, I rarely if ever retcon any nonsense that I may write, considering it all a record of the moment, and this is a salutary example of me getting it wrong, innit?...

✘ **ROUND UP** : I've signed up with the class action lawsuit against Monsanto re: Roundup weedkiller, which I did use every couple of months at both Cape Cod Drive addresses, and given that I have leukemia. Not expecting fortunes, of course, but I'll keep you posted...

✘ **WORLDTHINGWANK** : More Smileys For Friends, as the 84<sup>th</sup> WorldThing is ratified (or whatever they do) for [Anaheim in 2026](#), and the Fan GoH is **Geri Sullivan**, to whom DoBFO 'boo...

✘ **AGED BEAUTY OLD SCRUFF** : Despite outrageous claims reported lastish that **Jim Burns** was planning to undergo a visit to the barber's as well as dry-cleaning his jacket for the WorldThing, photographic evidence suggests otherwise...



✘ **FERMI'S FAREY'S PARADOX** : My general aversion to (and occasional derision of) WorldThings doesn't prevent reportage of nice honors going to friends who deserve it (see above and below), nor does it cause me to necessarily mock those who attend and enjoy it all, especially this year since there's a fuckload of people

attending Glasgow whom I do like, respect and admire very much. Given their presence, I suspect even I might have had a good time. As I write, we're mere hours away from the Hugo ceremonies which I might, for once, actually bother to watch at least some of - there's supposed to be a free stream - since there's actually a Few Good People up for the cup in both Fanzine and Fanartist categories...

✘ **CONGRATS!** : To *Octothorpe* for winning the "Best Fancast" (I think that's what they call it) rocket. One of these days I might get past my Luddite inability to figure out podcasts, though since **Mark Plummer** has already tried in vain to Explain It All I suspect there's little hope. As for the rest of the fan categories: "Who?", "Who?" and "Meh"...

✘ **PLAYOUT** : Occasionally when I wake up from one of my typically odd dreams, playout music enters what's risibly described as me 'ead. This morning, somewhat distressingly, it was "The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended". **Jen** has about the same reaction as me when I tell her. "Was it a nightmare?", she asks. "Not exactly", I reply. "But **Hooper** was in it"...

✘ **AGELESS BEAUTY (2)** : Inevitably one has to contribute to the continued and complete indifference of the **Killer: Jacki Piper**...



✘ **MATH(S) JOKE FOR ELI** : I won't regale you with the one economist joke I remember (at least, not right now), but for now: An infinite number of mathematicians walk into a bar. The first orders a beer, the second half a beer, the third a quarter of a beer, the fourth one eighth of a beer, at which point the bartender loses patience and says "Oh fuck off! Here's two beers"...

✘ **ANORAK EXTRA** : Another photo of the 'Big Boy' loco by **Gary Mattingly**, just because...



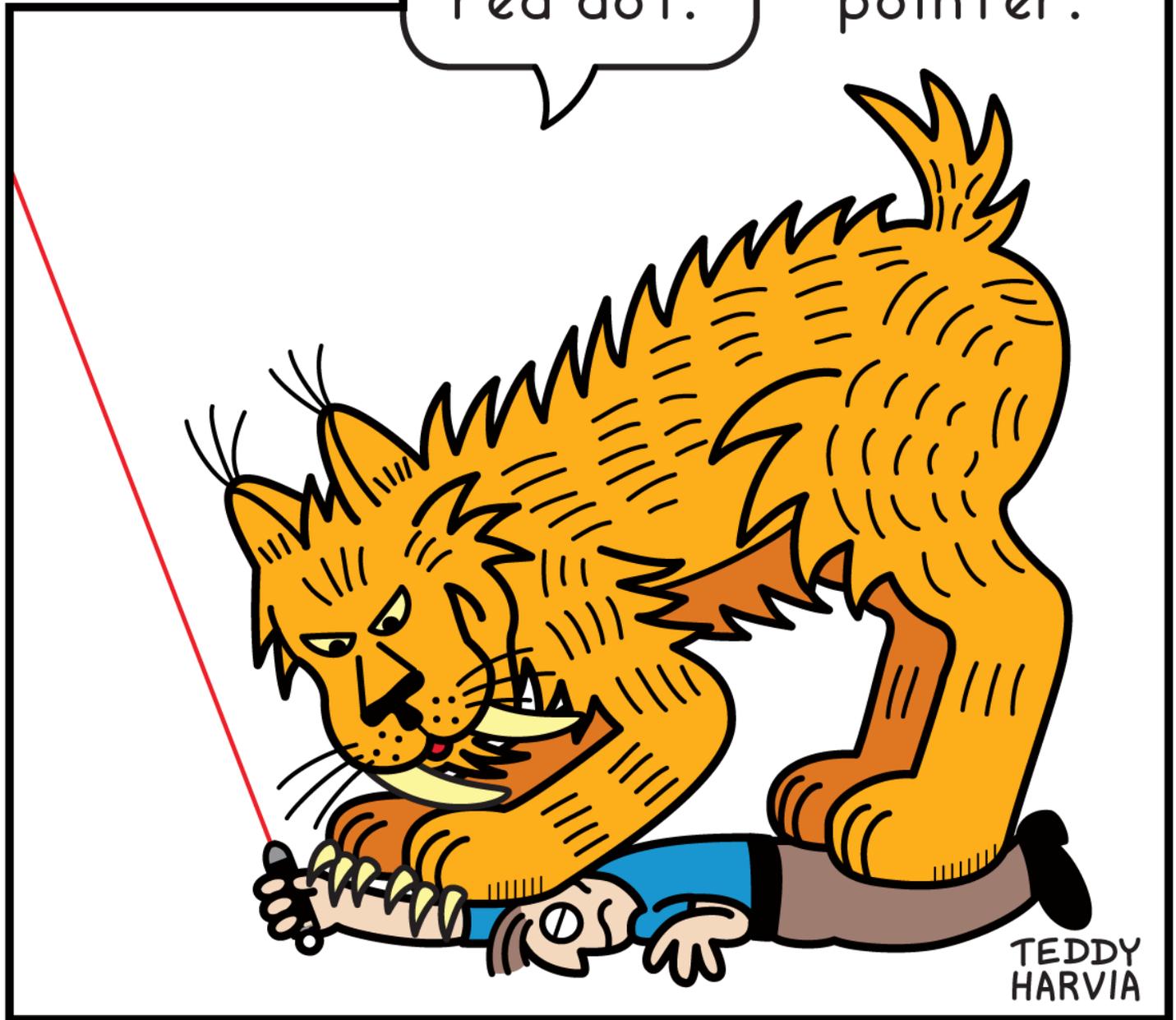
✘ **FOOTY EXTRA** : Me and dear old **Dave Cockfield** are well pleased that the only teams with 3 wins out of 3 so far are his Black Cats (Sunderland FC) in first place and my own beloved Hornets (Watford FC) in second on goal difference only...

✘ **NEXTISH** : September 28<sup>th</sup>? Yeah, that'll probably do...

# Chat

I never caught a red dot.

But I have caught the pointer.



## MIRANDA

*THIS HERE...* is (mostly) written, edited and produced by:  
Nic Farey, published on efanazines.com by the Grace of Burns.

Locs & that to: 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or  
Email [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com)

Art credits: Brad W Foster (pp 9, 14); Teddy Harvia : (pp 8, 17,  
22) ; Jose Sanchez (p 11). Photography: Gary Mattingly (pp  
15, 16, 21)

"This here song might offend you some  
If it does, it's because you're dumb  
That's the way it is where I come from  
If you've been there too, let me see your thumb"