

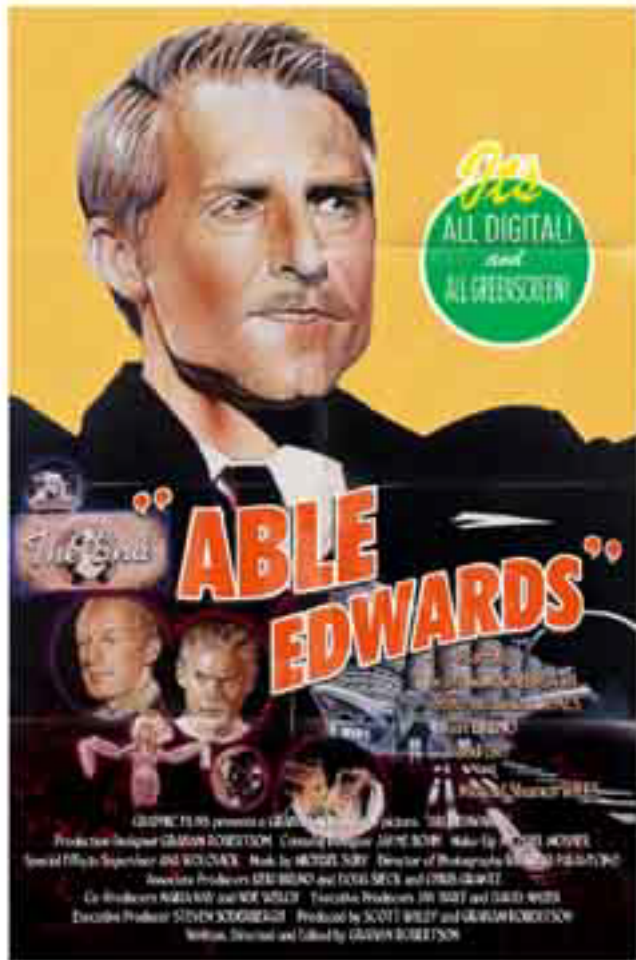


The Drink Tank



THIS ISSUE GOES TO ELEVEN

CINEQUEST THOUGHTS
AND OTHER FUN & FROLIC EDITED
BY CHRISTOPHER J. GARCIA



Able Edwards Reviewed

There are science fiction films that fly like Wonder Woman's plane over the film world. They tend to hit festivals and are usually highly thoughtful and make a wonderful impact on those who manage to crane their necks at exactly the right time. At Cinequest, the film *Able Edwards* is that film.

The concept of *Able Edwards* is a fun one for us film geeks: what would *Citizen Kane* had been like if Welles had turned against Walt Disney instead of William Randolph Hearst. *Able Edwards* was an entertainment magnate who had a rough childhood and eventually grew up to be a majourly important person in the US. He is Walt all the way down to the razor-blade facial hair on his upper lip.

And he also died in 1960, but that's OK because the Earth was contaminated and made unlivable, but that's OK, because they managed to build a massive orbiting space station comprised of hundreds of CiviPods. They also brought along Able's corpsicle. I've had a theory for a long time: If you have a frozen human body, you damn well better clone him! That's just what the *Edwards Corporation* does.

Able, the clone, is brought up to take his place at the head of the *Edwards Corporation* and starts a theme park on the *Civilization Station*. The film then follows his rise and fall, including a run for Senate. The clone dies, or so they say, and they have to figure out who gets his money: the *Edwards Corp* of his wife.

The movie uses the same techniques as *Kane*, except they are witnesses testifying in a trial instead of talking to newspapermen. The story unfolds very nicely and it throws a couple of wrenches at ya (not literally, like in *Dodgeball*).

The film used the same cinematography ideas as *Sky Captain*, but instead of everything being sfumado-covered, they use Noir lighting methods. It does get a little repetitive to see the Green-screen background with the generated sets, but there is enough strong acting to make up for it and then some. Where *Sky Captain* relied on action and thrills, *Able Edwards* uses the acting and the script that made me smile.

If you get a chance to see *Able Edwards*, you must do yourself the favour and make it happen. It's a rewarding experience and it might be the signpost leading to good composite films of the future. I'd say it's the best Science Fiction Feature film I've seen in a good long while. It's played at a bunch of fests and it still has more to make on this leg of its tour.



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Chunga Reviewed

How many fanzines make you happy to be alive? Probably a few a generation. Chunga, winner of the FAAN award for 2004's Best Fanzine, is one of those that may well make it true. Somehow, I'd never read an issue of Chunga until Randy Byers handed me one at Corflu. I must have been missing out.

Chunga is one of those few fanzines that combine nearly perfect layout and design with great art and fantastic writing. Andy Hooper writes better than almost every writer I regularly read, and in this one, he's at a level few fanwriters could ever hope to attain. The series of articles that are mock-movie pieces killed me dead, since I've written a long series of these on various subjects and thought that they'd never show up anywhere because you can't do that. OK, it would appear I was wrong. The Calls of Cthulhu piece had me laughing because even though it was far from reality, it was still the best written piece of film criticism I've read in ages. The Little One liked the article called A Brief Survey of Musical Werewolves in Cinema. She read it all by herself, then asked what Homoerotic meant. I told her to ask me again when she turned 13.

I can't think of a better read than Chunga at the moment. Even if it's the type of fanzine I have to carry around (it is bit-deficient in its atomic-ness), I'd still love nothing more than to get to read a bunch more issues.

12 Point Courier New by Jay Crasdan

Ralph Baer is a stud. You might know some of his work, but you've never heard of him, most likely. He invented the home video game console. He invented SIMON and Merlin and MANIAC. He's got hundreds of patents and he's seldom recognized for his accomplishments. I met him a few months ago while working on an article for another magazine and he told me 'I never expected to get credit, but it would have been nice.'

I can't think of another human who created something that big who isn't widely-known.



Inventor Ralph Baer with a bunch of his inventions

A Very Short Story

The Ticket

"You can't give me that ticket."

"I can't."

"Nope."

"Why not?"

"Physics."

"Physics?"

"Yeah."

"What part of physics says I can't give you a ticket?"

"That tickets has a place for speed, right?"

"Of course, you were going 90."

"And it's got a spot for location too, doesn't it?"

"Yeah."

"Then you can't give me that ticket because of the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. You can either know where I am or how fast I'm going."

"I can't?"

"Nope."

"You're sure you've got it right?"

"Yep."

"You watch a lot of Star Trek don't you?"



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What I Did This Saturday

or

How to Hijack a Protest

On the day your first film is debuting at your first film festival where your entire family will be in attendance, nothing should get in the way...not even a few well-meaning protestors. At Cinequest, my first film, *The Chick Magnet*, was going to be showing with all my friends and family in attendance. We were the opening act for a feature-length documentary called *The Search For The Captain*.

You see, if you lived in San Jose in the late 1980s or early 1990s, you'd know the story of the statue of Thomas Fallon. The statue was despised by many Mexican American advocates because it depicted a man who was thought of as a conquistadore. Many of the protestors back in the day were tireless, protesting once a week. They had gone away since the statue was finally installed more than fifteen years after its scheduled installation. That is, it died down until Erin McEnery, the daughter of the mayor of San Jose who tried to get the statue deal done, decided to make her documentary. This led them to schedule a protest. They did make one mistake...They let me know they were gonna do it.

You see, I'm not particularly a political guy, though I had more connections with Fallon than most being that I'm Mexican, Anglo and Ohlone. I figured what better way to drum up interest in our film and sorta stick it to the protestors than by having our own comedy protest. I figured that if we did something almost entirely un-political, it would get a couple of laughs and maybe a few more people to see our movie. I bought us 106.89 worth of art supplies and we made tonnes of signs. The guys made so many signs that we were able to rotate and have different signs up all throughout the day. We got there before the other protestors and I started walking around with my first sign: No Opinion. That set the tone.

It quickly became apparent that we were better organized than the other protest. They had more professional-looking signs than we did, though theirs were more than a decade old. We had folks walking around with various signs, only one of which (Free Mumia* *=with every purchase) could have offended anybody. One of the real protestors called the cops to make sure we stayed in-line, which we did.

We marched, got interviewed and made a few folks laugh. The amazing thing happened to be that while the other group made their way around passing out fliers and chatting with folks, we were yelling 'Come see *The Chick Magnet*' and walking all over the place. We got far more attention than the real protest and managed to annoy the guys who had a real beef. Still, no real harm and we were very respectful to them. They kept it up after we went into the theatre, but no one stopped for them like they did for us.

So, the moral of this story is if someone decides to protest something you're peripherally involved with, you must resort to smart-assery.

Signs We Made for the 'Protest' Include

- I am Not Protesting
- This is A Publicity Stunt
- Where's My Elephant?
- Free Mumia* *=with every purchase
- Chick Mag-NOT!
- I Am Not a Chick!
- I am Not a Magnet!
- Blue (written on a blue piece of poster board)
- Goth (written in black on a black posterboard)
- I'm Cute! (carried by Evelyn)
- No Opinion
- Steve Sprinkles is the Devil! (carried by Steve Sprinkles)
- I got run over by a giant ball of people and all I got was this lousy sign
- No More Magnets!
- Bright (on a Bright Orange Sign)
- Bring Back Sheriff Lobo!



The Drink Tank



THIS ISSUE GOES TO ELEVEN
COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS
SENT TO GARCIA@COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG
BY MY GENTLE READERS

"Dear Mr. & Mrs. Fandom,

"Chris Garcia attended Corflu 22. His presence was much appreciated and he wore great shoes. He works and plays well with others and only ran a few steps with scissors.

"Signed,

Ms. Benton, principal of P.S. corflu.org."

Never let anyone tell you that given the principal an apple won't help you get a good recommendation. And I swear that Frank Wu tricked me into running with those scissors!

I continue to like the wildly conflicting elements of the Drink Tank.

The zine has a really energetic flavor that is fully explained upon meeting you in person. The review of X,Y is fully detailed enough to explain to me that I wouldn't care for the film; the "Burning Moon" short is a cool thing to run across in a fanzine. And having heard what you already can for future Drink Tanks, I can only say: cut back on the caffeine, buddy.

I'm off the Caffeine pont for good...except during cons or at film festivals. Too much that I need to stay awake for to avoid coffee. The wildly conflicting elements of The Drink Tank are more a product of my addled mind than anything else...though again, I could blame Frank Wu for everything.

I enjoyed your Corflu 22 report. I'm glad you liked the Magnetic Resonance theory of fanzine staples, though you might not have enjoyed the obvious extension -- that ezines must be Stamped Out because they have NO staples in them. You'll need to sacrifice your typos on May Day at Stonehenge to appease the Ancient Faneds for your sins.

Ah, raspberries! That's just ancient mumbo-jumbo. Soon, all will learn of bit-deficiencies, where the lack of bits in a zine actually leads to downfall. Don't come crying to me when all your participles are dangling off the page!

Incidentally -- I was in an apa with Andy Hooper for years and the zine titles in "Read and Enjoyed but No Content" are merely the tip of the iceberg as far as he's concerned!

See, I keep a running list of fanzine titles and band names, often they are interchangeable. Among the planned fanzine titles I have are The Beering House, Death to the Infidels, They Died with Their Boots on Golden Pond, Yon Tumblers, Now With Less Content, Junta Virus and Claim Department. Andy's were much better than any of the ones that I've managed to come up with over the years.

And by the way, you're right. Juices should never be first in the brunch line.

Damn Straight!

Regards,

Tracy Benton



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Harry Warner Jr. Award Winning LoCer Lloyd Penney- Etobicoke, Ontario Canada

Dear Christopher:

The pressures of work have kept me away from locking fanzines lately, but with the arrival of the weekend, there's a little time to get caught up. So, here's a loc on issues 5 to 10 of The Drink Tank.

5...Can't disagree with you that Mimosa was a great zine. Every issue was a trip in time and an education in fannish memory. Issue 2 was my first issue; I wish I could have gotten issue 1. I wish I'd gotten the chance to write for them, but much of the fannish history described was outside my experience. I am eagerly awaiting Richard Lynch's book on fandom in the 60s. I believe there's a new movie about one of the chess masters who lost to an IBM computer, and how the events was actually a conspiracy to make the master look bad. Don't know more about it than that.

I wish I could get a good run of the early printed editions of Mimosa. My trading network is always on the look-out for me, so it'll happen someday.

The movie is called Game Over and will be reviewed in my Chess Issue. It's supposed to be very good and controversial.

6...I met Jack at a MidWestCon some years ago, and he didn't look at all healthy back then. He may have been the victim of something long in the making. He'll have his great writing to remember him by. Few pros come from the fannish ranks here; last one locally is Robert Sawyer. He was the convenor of the last major SF club Toronto had back in the early 80s.

I love Robert J. Sawyer. He was going to be the writer guest of honour at Baycon while I was Toastmaster, so I read most of his books. Sadly, he had to cancel.

I don't watch any of the Iron Chef shows, but I did find out that Rob Feeney of the Toronto area was this year's champion. I think he has a show on Food Channel Canada.

Good on yer for the good review on Trufen.net. I always prefer the serious but constructive reviews of fanzines. Tell me what I did wrong, tell me how to do it better, and tell me what I did right so I can keep doing it. KTF do nothing for anyone, including the reviewer. And, you got an honestly good letter out of rich brown...good for both of you. This is the benefit of the fanzine over the e-list...the fanzine allows time for sober second thought and the exchange of ideas through the issue-by-issue conversational mode. The e-list demands an instant response, and that response can easily be off the cuff with little forethought.

I'd say that will be looked at as the highlight of the first ten issues...that and finally settling on a font. There's a zine, I can't remember what it was called, that did nothing but reprinted long strings from 1980s e-lists. Some of them were hilarious.

7...I've written about the disposal of fanzine collections in other zines. Some impressive collections have made their way to universities who have fortunately, for many of us, taken an interest in our kind of ephemera. In 20 years, I'll be retirement age. I probably won't be able to keep my zines anywhere. Who do I give them to? Will most universities be so bogged down in paperzines, they won't care if I compost my collection? I have close to 20 Banker's Boxes of zines...how many will I have by 2025? Will they even exist? Will fanzines exist at all?

Hopefully, in Twenty years or so, there'll be a full repository for fannish artefacts. There's too much out there that should be managed and preserved for the future. I'd say there are only two and maybe three more universities that will be interested in starting fanzine collections (Boston University is one that has talked about it in the past) and maybe the Science Fiction Experience or the House of Elsewhere will be interested in acquiring one, but I'd love to see a dedicated place for the preservation of Fan History.



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Just saw a portion of that Westminster Dog Show on television earlier today. Beautiful dogs, and I'd like that Norfolk terrier myself. The Pekinese I called a walking wig with a face. Yvonne's a good audience.

They remind me of Banthas from Star Wars. The way they walk is so cute though.

The FAAn Awards were announced, and thank you, Chris for your support. Murray Moore took my award back home to Toronto, and presented it to me at our pubnight this past First Thursday. There's also good news that Corflu will be in Toronto in 2006, so I hope there's the opportunity to meet a lot of people I can only apply names to.

T-dot winning means I get to head out and hang around the City, talk to my film friends, and maybe catch a Blue Jays game. I'll certainly go (it'll be my only flight of 2006, if I can help it. Again, congrats on the big win.

8...I read that a journal kept by Ilan Ramon on Columbia was found, and taken home to Israel for study. I think its contents will be released soon.

I'm pleased to see that Ryan won the Oscar it was nominated for, don't remember the category, about a National Film Board of Canada filmmaker who had fallen upon hard times, and was now a panhandler in Montreal. The film itself was a marvel to hear, but thanks to animation students at Seneca College, which has provided Hollywood with more than its share of animators, it was absolutely brilliant to see. Otherwise, I really didn't care much about the Oscars...they are as overhyped as possible.

It's actually in Cinequest this year. It's a great film, bizarre on one level and a documentary on another. I watched it and tried to get it in our doc programme but we settled on animation. Then we found out it was nominated and later still that it won. We were so happy, but it also meant that he wouldn't be joining us for the fest. Seneca is a great school. It's the CalArts of the North!

I read that Corflu in San Francisco was a great time, and tons of zines will be coming out of that con eventually to those of us unlucky enough to miss it.

I'm sure people will take pity and send ya some.

9...I have speculated in another zine that perhaps Hunter Thompson offed himself because death was the only thing he hadn't tried yet. You must have doing some copying and pasting in this section, because some of your copy appears twice here.

D'oh!

Over the years, I find that if media fandom is where you find your first opening to fandom as a whole, as I did, eventually you shift your interest to something else that is more in line with the fandom we inhabit these days. Even the hard core Trek fans give it a break, and just enjoy the party atmosphere at cons and parties. I guess the actor-worship loses its appeal after a while. I think Richard Lynch will keep doing his research, and should his focus be too ambitious, will trim off some areas in which he wasn't able to find much information, and just go with what he could find. He still has the option to focus the book by trimming, and I think he will do that, and still finish with an informative book.

A lot of writers start on a grand track and end up with a slimmer volume. I'd love to see a thorough examination of the 1960s. I forgot that gaming fandom started back then.

M. Lloyd has discovered the secret towards this kind of fandom...once we've established science fiction and fandom as the common interests, we're off discussing every other topic we can think of. If SF and fandom don't appear as topics in one issue, c'est la vie, and maybe we'll skip those topics next issue, too.

Very true. I try to have a little bit of SF and at least a touch on fandom in every issue...though I don't always make it. I'll run your issue 10 LoC next issue.



The Drink Tank



THIS ISSUE GOES TO ELEVEN
COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS
SENT TO GARCIA@COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG
BY MY GENTLE READERS

Eric Mayer [maywrite2@epix.net]

Hi Christopher

Enjoyed DT 10, oddly enough. I say oddly enough because I hardly ever read sf, the new wave (for example Dangerous Visions) washed my interest in the genre away, and I've never been to a con...but I recalled most of the folks you mentioned from my days in sf fandom and so was interested by your report, and I found the cover amusing, and the general ambience (if such a word may be applied to a fanzine) quite pleasant.

I haven't been involved in fandom for years, but I still snicker at the mention of staples so I guess I'm not out of the woods yet.

I wouldn't be too quick to feel you have to write longer and longer articles. Some subjects do benefit from a more thorough treatment but I got in the frame of mind at one point where I didn't want to produce essays that were too "slight" and kept lengthening them, "putting more into them" as I thought. A few years later I had the chance to reprint quite a few on a newspaper op ed page but because of space restrictions I had to cut. I found they were a lot better at half the length.

Besides, write too long you won't be able to keep up with Arnie Katz and his weekly publishing schedule. If you have such aspirations, I have to warn you, I recall receiving his weekly Wooden Nickels for a year back when it had to be stencilled, mimeoed, stuck in envelopes and stamped. The man is a publishing beast. Mind you, he wimped out on the staples.

True, it was only a single sheet, but still...

As for Corflu, all I can say is while theoretically I like the idea of choosing a GOH by lot, for someone like myself, the idea of showing up at a place where one might be "lucky" enough to be required to give a speech...well, it just leaves me speechless with horror.

Best,

Eric

Trying to keep up with Arnie would be nuts. He's had a lot more experience with a fast sched than I have. The length thing is a matter of taste. I actually like small, pointy articles. Jay Crasdan is one of the guys who can write some incredibly tiny and make it sing, like his bitty piece in this issue. I like one page. To me, that's a solid length. I was sitting with Frank, not having asked him for any art, when he hands me the cover picture that I ran in issue ten. He also gave me another one that I'll be running in my All Chess Issue.

The New Wave had its pluses and minuses. You're not the first I've heard say that it tarnished the genre and took them away from reading SF. I grew up with a lot of that stuff (I read Moorcock at far too young an age) and still prefer the work from the 1950s. Given the choice, I'll take Farley over Ellison any day.

The Drink Tank is Produced and Directed by Christopher J. Garcia and posted by Bill Burns to efanzines.com. Anything you've got to say to me can go to garcia@computerhistory.org, especially if it's a recipe for Pumpkin Spice Cookies. Evelyn is currently asking for me to help with her puzzle of the US States. I'll be right back.... OK, I'm back. Anything you'd like to send snail mail can go to Christopher J. Garcia, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA 94043. Danke schoen, baby!