

**Letter Graded Mail
sent to garcia@computerhistory.org
by my gentle Readers**

Let us start with Lloyd Penney!

Dear Chris:

Two more issues of the Drink Tank, one more loc from me. That seems to be the exchange rate these days. Here come comments on issues 174 and 175.

Wow, the US-Canadian exchange rate hasn't been that favourable in a while!

Great cover to it...cats in space? I plan to monitor this steampunk convention around Halloween...there will be a similar event coming up next year here. It will be interesting to see what happens. I've also heard about a Québec steampunk event in September of this year via Facebook. We're also doing our research about steampunk costumes, and it shall be interesting to see what we can come up with. Haven't costumed since the late 80s.

It should be a good time. It's weird that it's taken the better part of 25 years for a SteamPunk fandom to grow out of the writing.

I look forward to the American presidency being redeemed by Barack Obama, but I am also afraid that he's

going to be assassinated, which will plunge America and the world into more crises, and especially American into a racial war. Please, let me be wrong...

I've got the same fear. I want Obama to be President, but there's just a bit of JFK in him that worries me.

My loc...work is wonky. Just let me win the lottery...Yvonne's contract came to an end at Diageo, so she's looking for work. However, I have now found a day-time part-time job, and I am being trained to be the new membership and publications clerk at the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. It's crazy time, but at least if I can't find a full-time job, two part-times will have to do for right now.

Good for you! No good for Yvonne. Give her my best and I'm sure she'll end up with something soon.

Snakes! You do the rest of the Indiana Jones line... Snakes are neat. I've been near covered by boa constrictors before,

and I know snakes love the water. Around here, we get mostly garter snakes, little guys, while Massasauga rattlers are not far into the bush, and they're poisonous.

Rattlers are tough snakes. No fun usually.

Not all the reports on the Vegas

Westercon were positive, but I'm glad you had a good time. If just over 300 people went to the con, a regional convention which draws large numbers, or is supposed to, does Westercon have a future outside of the big cities with the big fannish populations?

That's the big question. Maybe it's a small con waiting to admit it's a small con (in the vein of Midwestcon) or some such. Time, and me convincing folks that's the case, will tell.

175...Ah, someone's on ICanHasCheezburger.com. Great stuff lately.

Apparently that Breakdancing Panda thing was less than a day old!

I can sympathize



with Lee Lavell on the condition of her eyes. I can tell that a cataract is forming in my right eye, based on slight changes in my vision, and I expect to have to have another operation, sometime in 2009.

Ouch! That's not good. I've gotta work on my vision too. I've lost a fair bit of clarity in my right, which is worrying.

Yeah, these annoying Canadians...with wrestling, what are you going to do? Much of the WWE started as Maple Leaf Wrestling in Toronto, with Sweet Daddy Siki and the like...

Well, at least Siki has slowed down. He was wrestling a few years ago about 100 dates a year...in his 70s!

All done, and off it goes. Preview of SF/SF...you're presenting a Hugo in Denver? How lucky can you get? Wish I could be there to heckle! Hope you're having a good weekend, I sure am, and Denver is in just over a week? Do us all proud, and see you soon. A Denvention report is eagerly awaited.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

I'll have a full report for ya'll just as soon as I recover.

Thanks, Lloyd!

And now, Mr. Eric Mayer!

Chris,

The heavy metal doom panda on the cover is pretty neat. Not exactly the same feeling as those lolpandas inside. Maybe it needs a caption. "I can Has Apocalypse" Hmmm...I doubt a cat could spell apocalypse. I love LolCats, though. They crack me up every time. Have you seen the LolCat translation of the Bible?

No, but it must be awesome!

And that comic strip looks promising. Love the animated logo on the Dork Knight's costume. Poor Bat Man. He was always my favorite but he gets a lot of stick. I recall Mark Martin had a comic hero called Gnat Rat who reminded me of a Bat Man evolved on the same world as Ren and Stimpy.

You can't make jokes about Superman, he's too much the symbol of good and light in this country, but Batman's a psycho (I believe it was Lech Walesa who once said "Batman is super-spiffing cool!") and you can make jokes about psycho. I love what Dann's done with the strip (and has turned it into full pages after the first 20) and I'm ultra-pleased to be able to run them!

So even in wrestling people compete at different levels. I can see how they might be more human, less polished, less drug aided and gym molded, particularly if they weren't doing it full time. (Or are they?) A lot



of people for unknown reasons develop interests that consume all their time and effort, no matter that it makes no real sense, financial or otherwise (like me and writing). I like that sort of fanaticism in a person.

Very few indy guys wrestle full-time. The few that do tend to travel a lot. There was a joke back in the 1990s: How do you know if you're a full-time indy wrestler? You died in a car crash. That's actually a sad truth, as a lot of guys would drive all over the place, and while steroids and such aren't as big in the Indies, meth, coke and booze are huge and that don't help none.

Glad you saw that rattler and not me. I don't like insects, but smallish spiders are tolerable. Mary and I never kill them. We figure when they're in the house they are controlling worse pests. The exceptions are the spiders the size of my palm -- honestly -- that we see every so often. One I had to beat to death with a shoe.

I try not to kill insects...except for ants. Fuck those guys!

Anyway, hard to believe you would every find yourself stalled with your writing. I hate to say it but have you got out that dipstick lately and tested your inspiration level? (Did that sound right? Hey, it's late!)

Best,
Eric

Well, I seem to have gotten my groove back...at least a little!

Always good to hear from ya, Eric.

That's it from here. The Games issue should be done by Wednesday and that'll lead to a short break until I come back with my WorldCon report. I'll be posting a few other things for folks to read on my Scribd.com account (johnnyeponymous). Art this time from Brianna SpaceKat, Mo Starkey, Frank Wu and Dann

