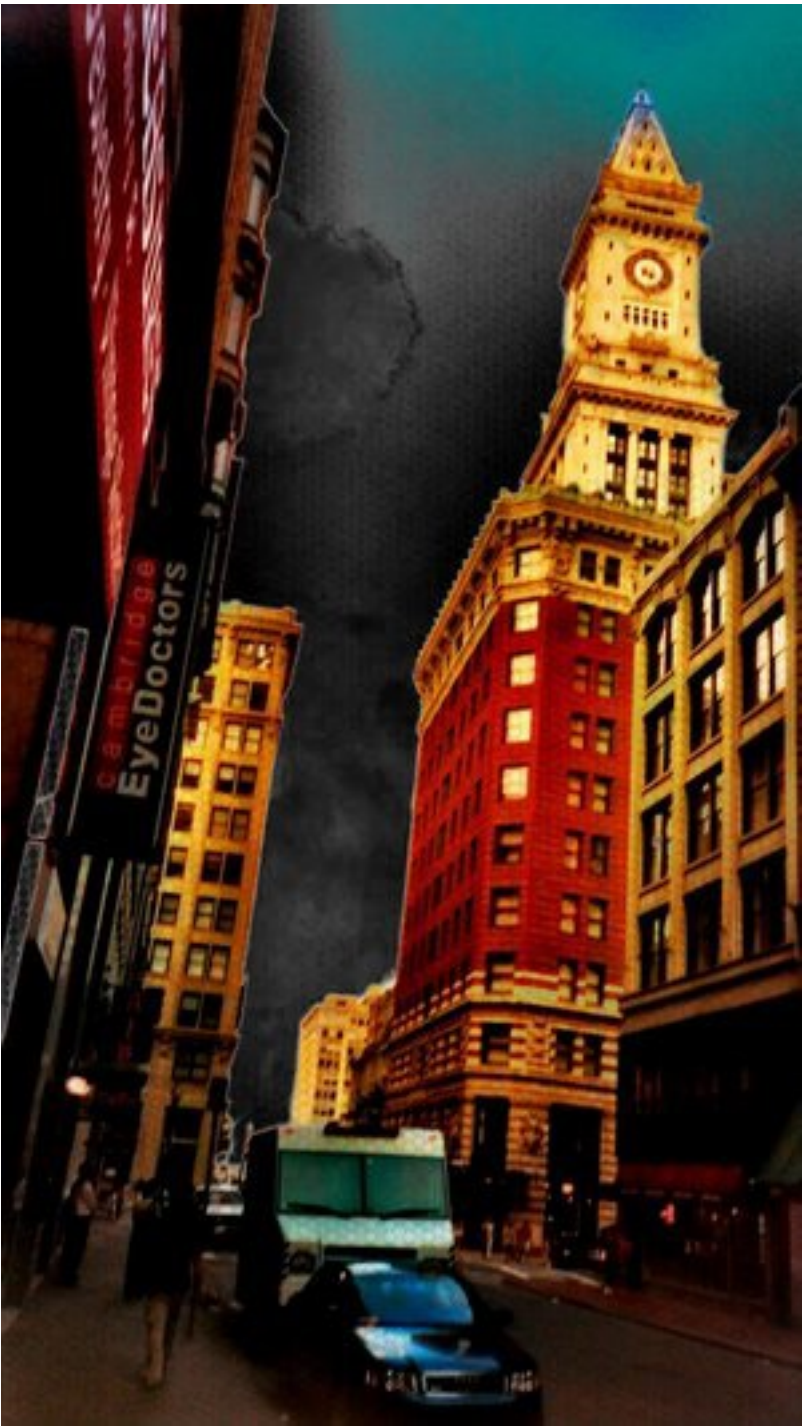


The Drink Tank

Issue 75



*Admit it... You thought I'd
be burnt out by now!*

**THE MOST INTERESTIN' THING ABOUT
THE WEST
PHOTOS BY ALAN WHITE**

I've driven up and down the West Coast. I've been to all the major cities between San Diego and Seattle (OK, I only briefly stopped in Portland, but I'm sure I'll be up there for a con sometime) and I've got a city that beats everything: Las Vegas.

My second trip to Vegas in the last year was a majorly fun happening, as I had expected. The last time I had visited I stayed with Arnie and Joyce Katz, wonderful folks who were generous enough to open up the spare room for a night. While I was there, I met and got along famously with the Andersons, Luba and Merric. They invited me to stay with them and I took them up on it. It was a wild ride on Easter weekend: up at 3:30 to Vegas, then hang around and head home at 1 or so on Sunday. Considering it's an eight-hour + drive, it's not a lot of time, but I do love driving.

I arrived and immediately I discovered that Yahoo! Maps is not the way to go. They told me to take a street that didn't exist yet, and so I

got lost. It meant I was about fifteen minutes later than I expected. Merric and Luba greeted me quite warmly, which I had fully expected. They really are great folks. Lovely, wonderful people. We talked a bit, they showed me the room where I slept and then we went to meet up with David Gordon.

Dave's another good guy, a lot of good old fashioned fun that boy is. We all headed off to the Strip. Now, I love hanging on the Strip, but usually I'm gambling if I'm there. We decided to get some food at Treasure Island and then walk around from Casino to Casino. It was a good time, but it was hard not to plunk myself down at a seat of an available Pai-Gow table. We walked through the majors: the Bellagio, the Venetian, Caesar's, Paris, Bally's, and even the Aladdin and we stopped at a Hawaiian market. I got the feeling that they were getting tired from the walk. Now, I'm a big guy, and it was hottish, but I could have kept going without a stop for a few more hours but 1) they seemed to need a breather, and 2) there was the Vegrants meeting I had to get to. We turned around and ended up back at the car (at the Wynn) and headed over to Arnie and Joyce's.

The Vegrants are a very different group, and I'm sure I've written. They're an invitational group and they have meetings that are actually parties. I don't get how it can be a meeting without having minutes. All sorts of





good folks attend and they've always been really nice to me.

The first people I run into when I enter are Joyce and few others who I didn't recognise. I would learn more about them later. I headed in and said my hellos to the folks I did know. Sadly, one of my favourite fans from my last visit, the inimitable John deChauncie, had in fact moved out of the area. Such is the way of things. I headed into the office to give my warmest regards to Arnie. In the room with him were Bill Kunkle, Ross Chamberlin, James Taylor and Teresa Cochran. I happily started chatting away with folks. I've only had a few minutes to ever chat with Mr. Kunkle, but his work has been a part of my life in two different fandoms. We talked a bit and then I noticed the Bill James baseball stats books on Arnie shelves and me and Bill talked about that for

a minute. Nothing I love better than Bill James...except the fact that he's wrong about Clutch hitters not existing. After that, I wandered back into the living room where I met David DeValle.

I had no idea who he was, the name just slipped away from me, but when I figured it out, I realised that I'd been reading him for years. We started in on various old movies, especially genre films of the 1970s. This led to an hour where we just chatted and chatted about films. He writes for mags like Video Watchdog, which is a personal favorite magazine. He used to work with John Stanley and Bob Wilkins, the hosts of Creature Features, and we talked about that. Since I've been lucky enough to chat with Bob and John over the last few months, it was good to meet someone who had worked with them so long ago. I'm working on getting him in touch with the guys.

I must admit that David and I spent about an hour chatting just between the two of us, which wasn't the best of ideas since I had come to visit all of Vegas fandom. Sadly, I didn't get to meet Ayesha Ashley on the trip, though she was on the couch across the way. One of the reasons for the visit was to do the Audio One-Shot that Bill Mills put together. I left my conversation with David and headed in to be inter-

viewed about how I came to fandom (or in my case, it came to me) It was a lot of fun and I always enjoy talking into a microphone. We talked a bit about the N3F, a lot about my Dad and some other fun stuff. I really don't remember a time when I didn't know of fandom, so it's a hard thing for me to talk about. Roxanne Mills' Mom was around fandom back in the days of my Dad, though I've only met a few fans who knew him back then.

I ended the night chatting with Lori Forbes and David and Ross Chamberlin. We closed up shop around midnight and headed back to Merric's. The next morning, I ended up heading over to Arnie and Joyce's again for a chat. As always, we talked about wrestling and the nature of fandom. Sadly, I only had an hour or so before I had to head to Merric and Luba's again and then another hour before I had to fly down the highway home. Good times.





**THE BALLET BUSINESS
BY SABEAN MOREL**

I'm not exactly the best of people to write about office life. I work as a ballet instructor and spend far more of my time in the studio than I do in the bullpen downtown. I do, however, have a story to tell about being in an office for an afternoon.

The dancers always get Wednesday's off. Along with Tuesday (when the dancers go through weight and flexibility training) it forms my weekend. Sadly, I had to come in on Wednesday to do a little bit of work on the next set of dances since the dancers were having such trouble with the considerably easier one we'd been working

on. While I was rumaging around for charts and position guides, there was a meeting going on. The heads of the company, Lori and Dennis, were in a meeting with a bunch of potential donors. I had half-wondered why there was so much coffee around and why the joint smelled like Costco danishes. I was going through the supply closet and listening in on the pitch they were making.

"I see the company doing more and more original dances in the third quarter, followed by a series of traditional works for the end of the fiscal year as a way to increase revenue and bring in more potential donors" Dennis said.

Now, for some reason there was one of those pads of paper and there were lines and figures and little numbers. I'd never physically seen with my own eyes these sorts of things. They were actually breaking down ballet into what draws and what doesn't. I understand that the office staff have to do that, but seriously. It's the strangest thing I've ever seen a company do aside from the one I used to dance for that used to have 'dress-less' days when the dancers would work out in a studio with a giant window and we were told to wear skimpy outfits.

I realise that the Arts are getting more business-oriented, but still, it kinda hurt to see the thing I love so much broken into lines on a graph.

AN LOC SENT TO GARCIA@COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG

**BY LLOYD "THE MAN OF A THOUSAND LOCs"
PENNEY!**

Dear Chris:

Beware the Ides of April! (Better late than never.) In an interview, Calpurnia said, "I told him, Julie, don't go! But does he ever listen? I told him, Julie, don't go!" And on that early note, I will apologize to you for being far too busy, for I have let four issues of The Drink Tank pile up. This making a living is for the birds. I have issues 71 through 74.

Every month has Ides, but only March's ides have so much baggage attached to them. And if you'd have managed to respond in short order to the issues I've dumped of late, I wouldn't have the Lloyd Penney Style LoC!

71...In Search Of with Mr. Spock was one of my favorite shows. Tracking Amelia Earhart and crystal skulls were enjoyable, even if they weren't really good investigative journalism. They were sensational and good stuff to catch from time to time on the Discover Channel. I also remember Mysteries of the Bible, which still shows up on A&E occasionally. I can't remember the narrator, but Jean Simmons would quote from the Bible to illustrate the history lessons within.

The episodes of In Search Of that I used to have on tape included Amelia Earhart and The Crystal Skull. I think I also had Jesse James and Sasquatch and maybe Divining, I'm not 100% sure. Mysteries of the Bible is a good show that I've seen several times.

Of all the documentaries you list that I'd like to see, I want to see the one on WalMart. I hope that WalMart's attack on unions in Quebec would be highlighted. When one WalMart in Quebec finally did get unionized, Canadian head office simply closed the store, and got away with it. I worked with one printing company that made the flyers for WalMart Canada, and I lost my job when WalMart flexed some corporate muscle, and moved some of their own staffers into the printing company's offices.

Big evil corporation WalMart is bad...but they do have low prices. I liked the doc, but I found myself rooting for WalMart a little bit. It's a shame that they're evil, because I like paying less than market for things.

Well, how is your N3F presidency going? For many years, I have put together a list of all Canadian conventions I could find, for SF, fantasy, horror, detective-suspense, gaming, toys, anime, etc., and for some

years, it appeared on a website called Made In Canada. Now, I send it to the few remaining SF clubs in Canada, and post it on a few message boards, and put it on a few Usenet areas.

I haven't thought of USENET in ages. It's a tough task and I think we'll start it up by late next month, hopefully.

I keep seeing shows on television about what modern male fantasies are. One seems to entail getting beaten up by a female bodybuilder, or getting squeezed between her muscular thighs or arms. Others seem to involve giantesses or similar dominiatrices. If modern men are wimps, there's reason why they've become that way, I guess.

All right ladies, no hitting Chris with a mallet! However, Chris, watch out for those dropping anvils...

What's strange is that particular fetish dates back more than three decades. There was a big bust in the 1960s in SF dealing with a group of female wrestlers who would act as dommes forcing guys into submission. Christa Faust's book Hoodtown has a little section about that. There was a fad called Apartment Wrestling which focused on that tradition during the 1970s and early 80s.

72...I was a pallbearer at my

grandfather Joe's funeral. While the grounds were peaceful, they creeped me out because just below that peaceful surface...well, you know. Michael Jackson's Thriller video didn't help, either. One of the saddest scenes I remember was at the death of a little girl through attack by a group of marauding boys. I can't remember why they killed her, but they went even further, and killed her precious doll. They destroyed it, and impaled its head on a tree branch. Not sure why this is so sad for me, but it hints at a discarded or disrupted love.

That might be the most emo thing I've ever heard. Stories like those make me worry that I'm on the verge of becoming a goth. I've never been to a proper funeral, though I've attended wakes and such. I've just never been there when someone gets put in the ground.

When the original Battlestar Galactica was on (how 70s), I remember that the gods of the fleeing tribes were the Lord of Kobol. Of course, most of us thought of the computer language, laughed our heads off, and sat back to enjoy some corny but still fun TVSF. I have always liked the pizza place Tombstone Pizza, when you're looking for a big slab...

The main reason I've never watched the new Battlestar is that I loved

the old one so much. Without Lorne Greene and Dirk Benedict, it's not BSG.

73...One of the best restaurants in downtown Toronto, the Keg Mansion, is haunted by the former owners, the Massey family. I've never seen anything, but she says she's seen ghosts on the stairwell, and in one of the public bathrooms. Not much more to say about ghosts except that if they do exist, I hope we can come up with a logical explanation for them.

I've seen that on one of the Travel Channel shows. It's much like the haunting of the Moss Beach Distillery.

74...my Gen was actually a Joanne. I loved her, she liked me, I was too much in love to know the difference, she trailed me around to see what I'd do, I was accepted by the university I applied to and left the west coast to go to Toronto, and she waited about ten days before calling me up, wished me luck on my studies, and promptly dumped me over the phone, with no intentions of waiting for me to come back. She had the reputation of being a ballbuster, and when I returned for a visit, she was on the arm of my best friend out there. Two horrible days, a day of dumping and a day of horror. Last I heard from her, she was a professional registered nurse, and very

single. May she be so until the end of her days...but I'm not bitter...

We all have that one. A Phone Break-Up is harsh, I've had a few of them (and sadly had to do one because of the timing of the thing) and it always sucks. But ten days is just cold.

Not far from where I work, there's one of many condominium projects going up. The concrete's been poured on the final floor, the main floor has a bare bulb burning here and there. However, one corner of that main floor has been fully wired and furnished, and is a Starbucks, doing great business. Worst thing is, their coffee is crap, sorry, Judith, and this comes from our own resident coffee expert, Yvonne. The better coffee comes from The Second Cup (Canada's largest coffee chain), Timothy's Coffees of the World, and even the Tim Horton's chain has better coffee.

Now, I like Tim Horton's, but I've never had The Second Cup. In SoCal, there's the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf. That's the place that I love the most. We only have two in NorCal (both in SF) and I'll be making it my mission to go to all of the ones in SoCal over a few visits. I believe there's one in Anaheim, so I'll visit it during WorldCon.

We have got to make some

plans for some good times at the Worldcon this year. Looks like we will definitely be there. This will be the second time she'll be in LA, for while I'm at Corflu here, she'll be in LA for the International Space Development Conference. Take it easy, and I gotta save some more money if I want to go to LA...

I'm planning a couple of dinners, which of course you've got an invite to. One of them is gonna be at the best damn Mexican spot in the world. I might be doing Disneyland on Monday after con, I'm not sure. I do know that I'll be rolling heavy and hard through the con and am so looking forward to it. Remember to make the Hollister in 2008 party!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Having worked on all sorts of zines, and having worried about my potentially having to do the layout for SF/SF, but luckily I will not have to now!

The real winners in all of this are the readers. I'm not the best layout guy in the world, so this'll be a much better choice. It'll also allow me to write more articles and try and get more from other people. It's an interesting path that SF/SF has taken. I still love it a lot and I can't wait to see the new one.



CASA DE WORLDCON STUFF

The hoax bid for Casa de WorldCon is going swimmingly (check out hollister2008 on lj for more details) and I've been working on the Regress Reports called Pacheco Progress. Basically, it's a little comedy thingee that is meant to make fun of everyone and everything.

The hardest part is being funny. I've never been a guy who could just write funny. It's why all my shorts are twisted and not laugh out loud funny. I get a good idea, I ride it to its fullest, but it never seems to work out right in the end.

This next issue of the PP, I'm doing a bit where we get an endorsement from an unusual place. It was a lot of fun pretending that I could talk in the same mode as this guy whose patterns are well known to just about everybody. Big fun, but laughs?

ANOTHER LOC, THIS TIME FROM JOHN PURCELL
SENT TO GARCIA@COMPUTERHISTORY.ORG
NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN ACTUAL LLOYD PENNEY
STYLE LOC, BUT I FORGOT TO PRINT HIS LAST
TWO AND HERE THEY ARE NOW

Issue 73

Sorry to see that you feel the need to drop two of your APAs, but sometimes this is something that one must do. Face it, young fella, even though you have a lot of time and energy to do a lot of fannish things, there is such a thing as fannish overload.

Indeed there is, but it turns out that I will likely be returning to eAPA shortly as the layout work it was looking like I'd have to do for SF/SF is probably going to go to someone else, and so I will be back!

I remember dropping my memberships in all of the APAs that I was in back in 1982, or something like that: MInneapa, Lasfapa, and Azapa. Plus, I was producing THIS HOUSE at the time, conning, and so on. I got too involved with doing fannish stuff that I eventually O.D.'d on fanac and dropped out for a year or so. Of course, I came back again, only to eventually dafia (drift away from it all) by the time the 1990's rolled around. It happens. The man thing is to remember that Fandom Is Just A Goddamned Hobby and just enjoy the crap out of it while you're in it. This is what I keep telling

myself lately. It really does help keep me centered, too. There's more to life than fanac.

Quite true. I'm firmly in the Fandom is a Fucking Hobby (FiaFH is much easier off the tongue than FIJAGH or whatever the accepted spelling of the acronym is). I'm not nearly burnt out yet, give me time for that one. I'm am blocked as a writer a lot more now than I was last year at this time. Of course, back then The Drink Tank wasn't even a drop in the bucket compared to what it has managed to become.

Like ghost stories.

Hollywood Ghost Stories are famous; I think History Channel or Sci-Fi Channel just did a show on this subject, but I could be mistaken. My favorite ones are about the Barrymores and Valentino. Your retelling of John Belushi's ghost stories and sightings is interesting. A powerful figure in life like John is most likely going to be a spirit. Interesting reports on Harpo Marx, Rachmaninoff, and Peter Finch. Fun, fun, fun. Your interest in things paranormal is a source of much fun material for Drink Tank. Keep it coming.

On a side-ish note, there was a place in Boston that John used to visit back in the day. It was the closest thing he ever saw to the

diner on Saturday Night Live. I think it was called the Paramount. Now, many people, before I grew my beard, would comment that I looked a bit like Mr. Belushi. It was the nose and maybe the crazy eyes and general roundness. I walked in and the guys saw me and they all broke into Cheeseburger-cheeseburger and everyone was laughing. I was taken aback, to say the least. The burgers were good though. A note, I found a think on Netflix called Hollywood Ghosts and Gravesites and watched it while I was home sick the other day. It's terrible.

Thanks for the word on "V for Vendetta." The trailers look good, so it's good to hear from a cinephile like you that it's a fun movie. We usually wait until current flicks hit the DVD shelves - four months or so down the road - before seeing them. The last movie our whole family went to was "Revenge of the Sith." Great fun on a big screen. What Lucas really should do is issue the whole series in Imax 3D format. What a visual treat that would be!

I loves me some 3D! I used to go to the Towne everytime they'd have a 3D festival and they'd show Dial M for Murder, House of Wax, Bwana Devil and Kiss Me Kate. I'd never get to see KMK, which is sad as I hear it's one of the best of them. I love House of Wax (as I said in the

2nd Claims Department) and I'm a huge fan of Dial M.

Hey, is that Judith in those ghostly pics accompanying her contribution? Or is it M? I can't keep your women straight. Either way, whoever this is, she's a cutie! I really like the pic by my loc. Very nice, indeed.

It's not Judith, and it's certainly not M. Judith sent the images along and I'm not sure who they're of. The easy way to spot M is this: if the boobs are filling the entire screen, that's M.

Thanks for the offer of doing a special DT issue around that song. Once this semester is over I am hoping to do some serious recording on my 4-track, mixing up some good tapes to eventually convert to CD. It would be most cool to release a CD of my own tunes. I have about 45 songs out of the 300 or so I've written that I think are really good and would love to get them out. We'll see how it goes once I start playing around with the machine.

I'm telling you, do an issue printing some. It'd be like my issue on the Cardimums, only with decent lyrics instead of the crap we were always dropping. If you need a guy to do liner notes, I've done them before!

Thanks for the issue, and I'm looking forward for more. Of course, this is after Bill Burns returns from Eastercon in England. *fout!* Sure

wish I could afford to make such a trip. Some year...

All the best,
John Purcell

"Minneapolis in '73."

Anonymous, ca. 1969

"Great ideas never die. They just become greater parties."

Nate Bucklin to John Purcell, ca. 1983.
Issue 74

Smallish issue, smallish loc. Sounds like a fair trade off.

Yeah, time was getting cruchy. This one isn't much bigger either. Don't fear, I'll be back up to twenty pages of crap in no time!

I dated a girl named Jennifer once. She was very cute, but neither one of us really wanted anything serious, so we kind of just hung out together during one semester at the University of Minnesota, and that was it. I wonder whatever happened to her.

Well, there should be a database of all Jennifers. That would be interesting. That way everyone who ever dated a Jen could look up what they're up to.

Interesting films you watch. Sure wish I could get out more to stuff like this. Usually, Texas A&M University has interesting films and events happening, but family and career usually get in the way of getting off to more intellectual pursuits that do interest me. Thus I have to content

myself with cheering on my son's little league team (they won again tonight, 9-6, so his team, The Red Sox have now won 3 in a row after losing their first game) and chaffeurung my 15 year old daughter around to various sporting events at the high school, where she's the student athletic trainer on the high school baseball team. But, we might all go to see "Benchwarmers" this weekend for a mindless bit of cinematic fluff.

The Benchwarmers has John Heder, who is a hoot and a half (more fluff, albeit of Romantic Comedy, is Just Like Heaven).

Ah, Starbucks. For your information, the local grocery store, Kroger, just remodeled big time, adding a bunch more square footage, new coat of paint, very nice decorations, moved most everything else around (kind of like punishing Helen Keller: move the furniture), and added a Sushi Bar and a Starbucks. According to Lewis Black's thinking, this is a clear indication that the end of the world is near.

Our Safeways have Starbucks in them now, but I refuse to go there.

Oh, well. It had to happen some time.

See you next issue. Now it's back to working on IAPL #10. I want that baby done this weekend! All I have left to do is finish the Aggiecon report and polish up the lettercolumn.

And as always it's a good issue (now up on eFanzines.com)

All the best,
John

ANOTHER GREAT GONE TV SHOW

When I think of great TV shows of the 1990s, I think of the ABC comedies. Yeah, there was Roseanne and Home Improvement, but there was also Drew Carrey, Whose Line, SportsNight, Dharma & Greg (which was funny the first season), and probably the funniest of them, it's like, you know...

it's like, you know... was a comedy that made fun of LA life. Now, I've lived in LA and have witnessed it first hand (in fact, the first episode of it's like, you know... was shown the day after I returned home to NorCal). They get the little things right, like in

teh first episode when a guy tells the story of playing softball in the park and then pausing to realise that it's January. Those things happen all the time.

The story is pretty simple, a fish-out-of-water writer (played by Chris Eigemen from Malcolm in the Middle and the like) moves out to LA to write a book. He moves in with his friend from back East (Steven Eckholdt) and he runs into his crew of friends. They are Shrug, a Kramer-like millionaire who has never had to work a day in his life and played by Evan Handler, Lauren, a process server/masseuse, and Jennifer Grey. Yes, Jennifer Grey of Dirty Dancing plays Jennifer Grey in it's like, you know...

Now, it's the cast that makes it shine. Eigemen is great, as he is in everything. The first line of the show that had me laughing was a very



simple exchange on an airplane.

Random Plane Passenger:
Excuse me, you're blocking my vision.

Eigemen: Sorry, I didn't realise
you were having a vision.

Yeah, it's that kind of show.
Chris is so funny and at the same time
so dead pan that he could easily have
carried the show long-term, had they
given him the chance.

Evan Handler as Shrug was
Kramer-like, but very very funny. He's
a guy whose work you might not know
(he was on last week's Lost) but he's
a real talent and is as funny as you'll



ever find. He was on several episodes
of Sex & The City and he also did a
few cop shows. He was once a brilliant
stage actor and after chemo, he
decided to keep the head shaved.

The ladies are even better. AJ
Langer as Lauren is adorable and her
wit plays well, but it's Jennifer Grey
who really made the series. Playing
herself, Grey was as funny as you'd
find and she plays the part of a star
who got the nose job and lost parts
because of it so well. Like Tori Spelling
in So NoToriOus, she mocks herself
gently and firmly. I wish she'd work
more, because she's really good.

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS MOTHER-LOVIN' WEEK

I'm gonna be spending the
weekend playing in a charity casino
and then being regaled with free food
and films for the Cinequest Volunteer
Appreciation event. I'm excited for both,
since I have a chance at winning the
Casino party (I usually do pretty well at
tournaments, even though I was bounced
first in the last one) and I'm going to
play it all hard.

Next Week is Gen's store's party
and I'm MCing, and I'll be following
that with a trip to a BayCon meet-
ing. Sadly, there's a big ole meeting
the weekend of my Work-sponsored
LA visit that'll keep me from the part
where all the contingency plans are
gone over. It's a shame, as I was at
that meeting last year and it was very
entertaining.

I'm off to work on the Pacheco
Progress #3 so that I can distribute
it at the next BASFA meeting. I'll be
missing the one after that because it's
the week that Gen has her staff meet-
ing and I watch Evelyn until 10 or so. I
usually try and drop off a Drink Tank,
but there'll be more of those after teh
Hollister in 2008 bid is through.

The Drink Tank is written by
Christopher Garcia, SaBean MoreL,
John Purcell and Lloyd Penney. And
even though he's living it up in the UK,
Bill Burns is still putting it up for pub-
lic consumption.

YEEEEAAAAHHHHHH!!!!