

# THE (FAB FOUR-TEENTH) FORTNIGHTLY FIX



“What is the meaning of life? Same as the meaning of cheese: make the most of it, because once it’s gone, it’s gone. Of course, you *could* go out and get more cheese.” -- Olga Kay

## News From Planet Me

Turns out May wasn’t exactly my most successful month this year. Not only did I fail to be elected to the local council (not that I actually expected to beat the incumbent in her party’s heartland), but the editorial post I interviewed for ended up in someone else’s lap. I was told afterwards the magazine was looking for someone with more recent newsdesk experience than my own (fair cop: I quit newspapers around the time of the Los Angeles Olympics), but there is a slight possibility that I may get a few freelance assignments waved in my direction, so it wasn’t a total loss. (Meanwhile, my old mate Chuck Connor just sent me several recent editions of *Writer’s News*, which is an awfully kind gesture.)

My film ‘career’, on the other hand, is maintaining its glacial pace forwards. I’m seriously considering dusting off a script I wrote circa 2001 and turning it into a short movie, whilst the award-winning Spanish director Pablo Millan is still hoping to involve me on the English subtitling of his next project (that, I’m *really* excited about).

Which means, of course, that I’m still looking to cut back on my basic living expenses. Most of the obvious luxuries have already gone (a balanced diet, income tax), so I’m pretty much down to the life and death necessities (cable tv, alcohol and porn -- though I guess I should probably cut back on the television).

In other news, I’m proceeding with Evil Plan No.1, corrupting my teenage brother Mikey by introducing him to as much weird and whacky cinema as he can handle (the latest batch of movies ranged from *Blood On Satan’s Claw* and *Witchfinder General* through the first two entries in the *Hellraiser* series into *Bubba Ho-Tep*). Last week, we switched to a smorgasbord of 1960s telefantasy -- *UFO*, *The Prisoner* - and still found time for another episode of *Firefly*. I’m fortunate to have such an eager student, though he was already a fan of *Doctor Who* and *The Big Bang Theory*, so it’s not as if I was working with a blank slate. Tomorrow, I’m hoping to start introducing Mikey to a few 1950s classics, with *Forbidden Planet* top of the pile.

## Lies, Damned Lies and...

Heard a rather bizarre statistic on the radio the other morning. Seems my particular house number is (according to research by a publicity-hungry UK insurance company) significantly more likely to suffer from burglary, fire or flood, though I assume the last two would cancel each other out (and maybe even dispose of the burglar). It’s a nonsensical inference, anyway:

there was no hint in the coverage that any control comparison was made between similar roads in similar locations, just that one particular numeral has edged itself to the top of the pile. I was reminded of my suggestion when it was pointed out to me that most serious accidents occur in the home: rent yourself a room in the house next door.

## Down The Loccol

- Lloyd Penney: “I have tried and tried and tried to get on with a magazine publisher or book publisher here, but I’ve had no luck at all. Publishing of any kind is difficult here, and there’s lots of other people who’d like to work for a publisher as well. In effect, the publishing capital of Canada is New York City.”

Similarly, the UK industry is focussed on London, hence my pleasure (albeit temporary) in meeting with a magazine publisher on my doorstep. Last time I worked for a local imprint, it was back in the days of Pegasus, which went bust after little more than a year.

“Are you thinking of a full paper fanzine for your TAFF report, or sales of a CD? Whatever you choose, save me one.”

The plan is to collate the various chapters (all of which will appear in fanzines first) onto a single CD, along with photographs, video diaries and other fannish material.

“Canadian party politics is a full-contact sport, one party on the right, two on the left, and one Quebec separatist, and the Green Party. We have quite the selection. The natural thing, you’d think, is that the Liberals and New Democrats, the two parties on the left, might join forces, and that has been discussed in the past, but the New Democrats are further to the left than the Liberals, and they’re not likely to coalesce any time soon, even if doing so would give them power over the Harper Conservatives.”

- Andy Luke: “Hello fellow Night Owl and thanks for the latest *FFix*. Loved Pete Lyon’s fantastic page three illustration.

“I can’t recall the dream narrative continuum has ever occurred to me as you describe it. I sense memories of some story threads being picked up on, but not conclusively enough to consider the continuity as ‘story’. This probably says a lot about my life-journey and I suspect it may change in years to come. I look forward to what your other correspondents say on this matter.”

- Andy Neilson: “Interesting point about dreams continuing from the exact point at which they were left -- it has happened to me previously, though in my experience the likelihood of it happening seems to be in direct inverse proportion to the pleasantness of the dream being experienced. I still recall a dream I had over two decades ago in which I was enjoying an agreeable bout of physicality with an unidentified young woman -- having been momentarily awoken and then having managed to resume sleep, the dream picked up again exactly where it had left off -- though disappointingly (and slightly uncomfortably) the girl had been replaced by Jeff Goldblum.”

- Chris Holmes: “Summer is here again and it is very hard to believe that almost a year has passed since you were here in Toronto. Time really does fly.”

Getting together with you after three decades was a definite highlight of my TAFF trip.

“I am amazed at your stamina and dedication to movie watching. I find that most of the film makers of today don’t have any idea about how to make a decent, logical story and they try to substitute dazzling CGI effects instead. Tim Burton’s *Alice in Wonderland* is a case in point, absolutely breathtaking visually and lacking in most other ways. I did enjoy a very well

made little film, British, called *An Education*, since it had all the ingredients that the Hollywood Blockbusters lack.”

- John Purcell: “That painting by Lesley Ward is very evocative. She works in oils? My wife Valerie is an artist (drawing, painting, craftwork, etc) and has done some paintings in oils, always commenting how tricky it is. If you're willing to ship Lesley's e-mail address to me, I will happily contact her. You know how faneditors work: always shilling and groveling for art-work. Again, it would be quite the honour to have more quality work displayed in my zine.”

- Dave Hardy: “Re. Lesley (nice stuff): yes, canvas can cause moire patterns in printing, but there are screens that can be used during scanning that minimise that.”

- Jonathan Cowie: “Ahh, Barry Norman... His distaste for sf was so evident that you could actually employ reverse logic to his sf film reviews. I remember when he reviewed *Back to the Future II* and said it was overcomplicated with all the time travel and loops stuff -- I knew at once I would love the films.

“Best ants film, *Phase IV* (but I'd go with *Them* for super-sized ants).”

- Pablo Millan: “I'm really enjoying *The Fortnightly Fix*, I read them slowly because of my low level of English, but when I understand the sense... jejeje, the chapter of the wasp, sorry, I know it hurts but I couldn't stop to laugh, or your description of the elections... the advertisement... jejeje, I totally agree... or your opinion about the horror movies... I know I don't get all the subtleties but I really like it very much. I really like your writing style and your 'open mind', it's fantastic to know people like you in this frivolous grey world.”

Coming from the director of *The Spell* and *Fatum!*, Pablo, I feel deeply complimented.

- Brian Stovold: “Having [re]connected with you via Facebook, I am finding this all rather surreal, having disconnected myself from cons, apas, etc, etc, now seeing many familiar names appearing. Must explain to the kids who created the artwork hanging on the wall in the house, ie. the Dave Hardy prints and paperweights (ah, what memories of Novacons past)... and I must dig out from storage my favourite Dave Mooring artwork...”

If you do, and can scan that artwork, I know Sarah Mooring would certainly appreciate a copy. Unfortunately, Dave didn't really keep file images or notes on who bought his work.

- Markus Thierstein: “An entertaining read, as always. And the Pete Lyon illustration is fabulous. Proper poster material (which would require a high-res copy, though).”

I've been delighted to carry new illos by Pete and by D West in the past few issues. Must renew my efforts to lure their contemporaries Jim Barker and Harry Bell here at some point.

- I also heard from: Charlene Shea (“I agree with Markus!”); Caroline Mullan (“I am enjoying these, though reading time is easier to come by than writing time. Keep them coming!”); Jim Barker; Joel Lane; Geoff Hill; Jeffery Boman; Taral Wayne; Chuck Connor (with a copy of last year's *Writers' & Artists' Yearbook* - thanks, boss!).

This has been the one and only fourteenth issue of *The Fortnightly Fix*, dated Monday, 5 July 2010. Complaints should be addressed to Steve Green, for all the good *that* will do. Artwork by Colin Langeveld. My usual thanks to Bill Burns and *eFanzines.com*. A Gutter Press fanzine.