

e-APA #90

October 2011



Deadline for next distribution: Tuesday, 1st November 2011

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In this distribution:

- Official Organ 90 (the OE) – 2 pages
- I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays 78 (Garth Spencer) – 4 pages
- September 2011 (William McCabe) – 3 pages
- Plata 70 (Steven H Silver) – 7 pages
- Proper Job 10 (Christina Lake) – 3 pages
- Pleasantly Random 66 (Peter Sullivan) – 3 pages
- e-APA Guidelines – 1 page

Welcome to e-APA

Welcome to those who aren't members of e-APA and who have downloaded this annual “open” distribution from efanazines.com. We hope that what you see and read here will interest you in joining the APA and being with us each month. Membership is open to anyone, and there are no dues, and minimal rules (see the Guidelines at the end for details). At the moment there are spare places on the membership list, so it really is just a case of emailing an initial contribution by the next deadline.

Missing, Presumed Fed

Chuck Connor (who explained that he was in the middle of a house move *and* without internet access – if that doesn't count as extenuating circumstances, I'm not sure what does...); Ryan Speer; Michael O'Brien; Philip Ellis; Kat Templeton.

Cover Image

The “Pacman Nebula” (a.k.a. star cluster NGC 281). Image courtesy of the NASA Image of the Day website at:

<http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/iotd.html>

I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #78

An apazine from Garth Spencer

82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC CANADA V5W 1L4, garthspencer@shaw.ca

For e-APA 90 (October 2011)



My father was a wandering Englishman, and he went out to Canada with a few people and lived there and became a respectable man, prosperous and secure. But the mundanes mistreated me and made me suffer, pushing me into unemployment. Then we cried out to Great Ghu, the fannish Ghod, and Great Ghu heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So Ghu brought us out of mundania with a mighty van and an outstretched arm, with a great Shield of 'Umor and with many signs and wonders. He brought us to great conventions and gave us a Wonderland overflowing with imagination and even a bit of money sometimes; and now I bring the firstfruits of the calling that Ghu has given me.



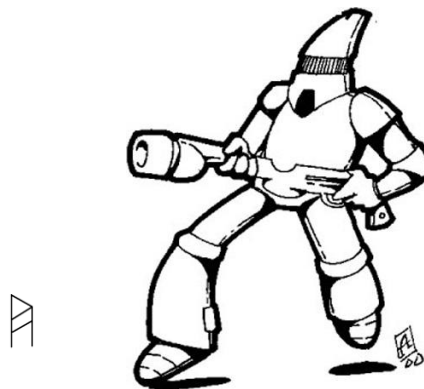
I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #78



There are those to whom Ghu has been gracious, of the prophets of the seed of Jophan, and of those whom we bore with FooFoo, and of those we guided and elected; when the signs of the Mirthful and read to them, they fall down giggling and peeing their pants.



“We shall not acknowledge that old stars fade or stronger planets arise
“(That the sere bush buds or the desert blooms or the ancient well-head dries),
“Or any new compass wherewith new men adventure ‘neat new skies.”



I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #78

Mailing Comments



August 2011 (William McCabe)

I, thus neglecting worldly ends, and dedicated to closeness and the bettering of my mind with that which, but by being so retied, o'er-prized all popular rate, in my false brother awaked an evil nature; and my trust, like a good parent, did beget of him a falsehood in its contrary as great as my trust was; which had indeed no limit ...



Pleasantly Random 66 (Peter Sullivan)

We may observe that, in displaying the praises of any humane, beneficent man, there is one circumstance which never fails to be amply insisted on, namely, the happiness and satisfaction, derived to society from his intercourse and good offices.



I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #78



Plata 69 (Steven H Silver)

So Los spoke. Furious they descended to Bowlahoola & Allamanda,
Indignant, unconvinc'd by Los's arguments & thunders rolling:
They saw that wrath now swaye'd and now pity absorb'd him.
As it was so it remain'd & no hope of an end.



It's Been An Interesting Summer (Kat Templeton)

This is the law of the Trufan, and ever he makes it plain:

“Send not your foolish and feeble; send me your strong and your sane -

“Strong for the red rage of loccols; sane, for I harry them sore;

“Send me fen girt for the combat, fen who are grit to the core!”

Hang in there.

September 2011
You can prove a lot with statistics,
Can't you?

Due to a serious lack of inspiration, I'm starting with something produced by one of my fellow committee members on the BSFG. Theresa Derwin has produced a fanzine called "Andromeda's Offspring" that seems to be aimed at the role of women in SF although I'm not entirely sure of her production schedule or whether this subject will continue in future issues. The piece that seems to carry most of the message includes this:-

"I am passionate about the perceived absence of women SF writers.

I say perceived and not actual, because in the last list produced by Ian Sayles at Eastercon 2011, there were 151 women writers who have had an SF book published in the last rolling century.

That's pretty impressive by any standards, but I challenge you to name 20 of them without using

Google. How many are on your bookshelves? How many have you read? Conversely, how many Urban Fantasy and traditional fantasy women writers can you name? Probably more than the women in SF you can name. "

I tried checking the figures. I used a CD ROM version of "The Encyclopaedia of SF". By their listings 151 is a bit conservative. I found almost that many in A-H so I figure the real number is something between 300 and 500. Sounds "impressive"? For every female author listed in that range there were 10 male ones. Not so "impressive". So why haven't people heard of them? For a start there's the "last rolling century". By my reckoning most writers will disappear from bookshops and library up to 10 years after their last book was published. I could be wrong here but it sounds reasonable to me. A lot of these writers only wrote the one book. Very few made a career out of it. The list also includes wives who somehow disappear behind their husband's name and writers who are prolific in other genres or mainstream fiction. While the likes of Doris Lessing might be taken with the idea of being an SF author, P D James doesn't seem to care and nobody seems to have noticed the likes of Erica Jong and Kathy Acker. So try whatever source of reference you can find and see if you can come up with a list of 20 female SF authors. By that I mean SF rather than anything else (fantasy, mainstream etc.) and a significant career (say a couple of decades worth of novels). That does cut out some of the famous ones but you do get names that people should know. Even with the encyclopaedia, I don't think I could. By the way, I'm not really sure what "Urban Fantasy" is or if I care and I don't think I've got a reference book for fantasy anyway.

"E-Publishing". Not a lot of detail about the job but you have to send a standard application form taken from the job centre's site and send it to an email address that ends usa.com. I assume this is a network or service provider rather than a company. If this was a major US company why would they be taking on people in this country for preparation and formatting? Device profiles should be constant internationally and there's no reason to contract outside of the country. I suspect a scam or some other vague illegality here. Trouble is that there's no detail on the internet as far as I can see.

My father's out of hospital now. I phoned him at the weekend and he tells me he's in temporary accommodation. He says the window of his flat had been open for the 15 weeks he was in hospital and a plague of moths got in. He was talking about selling the flat because it's in such an awful condition. That's odd because I remember him asking other family members if they wanted to buy his flat so that he'd have something to leave the family when he died. He's asking if I want a lodger. I don't think that would be a good idea at all.

It all sounds very reasonable. Doesn't it? So

There was an advert in the local job centre for

Mailing comments

Peter Sullivan

The oddity about the Connie Willis thing here is that, apparently, the book was published in one volume some time back but now they've sold out the publishers have decided that these are two separate novels and consequently they've re-issued "Blackout" with "All clear" to come in a few months.

Some time back the programmers at the BBC decided that "Doctor Who" had become more adult than the new game shows they were bringing in on Saturday evenings. So it got moved back to 7 rather than 6 pm. Obviously, the show had to be more "adult" than previous and actually have characters dying. So it stopped being fun. Not that it had been much fun since the revamp anyhow. Because it wasn't really out of the kid's show range it couldn't be that adult either. So they just say it's "darker". They're now saying the same sort of thing about a new series of the kid's show "Merlin" which will start after the last episode in the series of "Dr Who". This stuff could get really turgid before they realise their mistake.

The BBC's latest product is "The Fades" a supernatural thing about flesh-eating ghosts. I get the feeling there's a long plot to this one but it's deadly dull. Oddly, they seem to be dumping major characters a serious rate. It looks like the start of episode 3 will have 2 major characters

William McCabe

left from episode 1.

Garth Spencer

"Magic" screws up a lot of people. It's not just the "mundanes". There was a strange case in the BSFG archive. In late 1980 they invited a dowser along to give a speech and demonstration. I wasn't a member at the time but I saw the write-up the following month and it seems to have been taken as a fun event although the next newsletter carried a more serious piece about the subject. 10 years later the same guest came back with a similiar event. This time around we had one newish member that had brought their own little "experiment" to test the guest's claims (i.e. to prove that dowsing doesn't work) and one long-term member who had been at the original event but this time felt the need to argue with the guest. The newsletter for the next three months carried about 5 pages of "debate" on the subject (the biggest debate for any single meeting). The complaint was that this has "nothing to do with SF". After this there were no more guests speaking on such things. There had been previous speakers on ESP and UFOs that would not be considered now. This ban only seems to involve people who take this sort of thing seriously not those who write fiction. I'd be amazed if we ever saw a speaker on ritual magic but that wouldn't stop us getting Graham Joyce if he wrote a book about it. I think it's just that these fans can't consider this sort of thing seriously. On the other hand I've had a seminar on an government sponsored

employment programme that urges clients to practise visualisation on the grounds that it "really works".

Steven H Silver

Surprising how things don't work the way people expect. In the early 1980s the National Union of Mineworkers was one of the most powerful in the country. Then the tabloid press swung to the right. The Conservative Thatcher government was elected with a serious majority. They embarked on a programme of exterminating the left wing. This included all kinds of new regulations for the trade unions. Coal was no longer a vital resource and mines were being closed and there were massive redundancies. A strike was called. The union should have won easily but the leadership felt the need to knock heads with as many people as possible. The government decalared the strike illegal because there hadn't been a proper secret ballot. The union leaders didn't care. The mineworkers in Nottinghamshire did and created the Union of Democratic Mineworkers then went back to work. Other mines were still open although not really producing anything and the NUM decided to picket sending in thousands from other mines (and possibly some that weren't miners). The government declared "flying pickets" illegal. There were massive confrontations with police which gained the NUM a little more support but then there were violent attacks on lorries delivering supplies to mines and stories of violent intimidation from the union on possible

September 2011

defectors from the cause. The strike went on for months. By the time it was over several mines had been lost because of lack of maintenance and the country's coal industry was all but dead. It seems likely that the NUM killed the coal industry.

Kat Templeton

It's years since I went to a convention. That was one of the early luxuries to go. What with travel costs and accomodation going up and no prospect of such things coming back to Birmingham, I doubt that will change. I think the only "Hugos" I've been close to have been unlabelled blanks that Pete Weston brought along to something.

And that's it for another month

Bye now

WAM

Plata 70

Steven H Silver

Plata is written and published by Steven H Silver's *Argentus* Press, a division of Argentus, Incorporated, for e-APA. Steven can be reached at shsilver@sfsite.com or via his website at <http://www.sfsite.com/~silverag>. If you prefer more traditional means of contact, you can reach Steven at 707 Sapling Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015-3969. ©2010 by Steven H Silver. ISSN 2159-8002. You can read my blog at <http://www.livejournal.com/users/shsilver>.

In Which I Try to Kill Myself, Twice in One Day

On September 11, I started a load of laundry and was working in the kitchen when I heard a blurble noise from the downstairs bathroom. R. was upstairs, Elaine was at a meeting, and M. was out of the house. I didn't really think anything of it until I heard rushing water. Somehow, when the washing machine (which is on the other side of the wall from the bathroom) started draining, it drained into the toilet.

Ergonomics tells us that a washing machine full of water will not fit into a standard toilet. So, I rushed in and used a pitcher to bail the toilet into the sink. This was ineffectual since the toilet was filling up faster than I could bail. I tried calling R. (who couldn't hear me) and began bailing into the garbage can and dumping the garbage can into the sink when it got full. This allowed me to gain a little on the overflow and a) reach over to turn off the water to the toilet (no effect) and b) run to the laundry room and turn off the washer (also no effect).

Back in the bathroom, drips from my bailing effort and water from the overflow made the floor and the toilet rather slippery. Working in such confined quarters also was rather tiring and not too good for my back. At one point I slipped and my head came within an inch, an inch-and-a-half of the toilet, leading to rather unpleasant images of an unconscious Steven drowning on the bathroom floor. Accidental death #1 avoided (well, in this universe, at least).

Eventually, the water stopped and I was able to stabilize the bathroom.

However, there is a vent near the floor in the bathroom and we know that if water enters the vent, it winds up downstairs in the crawl. I went downstairs and found that there was a little water near the hardware for the phone and the internet, but not that much, just a few drops. I went to pull the plug from the wall and discovered there was more water than I realized and it

had spread further than expected. A horrifying tingling sensation shot through my body and I let go of the plug, returning with some rubber gloves. Accidental death #2 avoided (well, in this universe, at least). Unplugged everything and went to move it, finding water pouring out of the wireless router. As of now we don't have internet or phone (which is Vonage) and haven't determined which hardware will need to be replaced before we can get everything working again.

FenCon

The weekend of September 23-25, I was the Fen Guest of Honor at FenCon, an eight-year-old convention in Dallas, Texas. This year, FenCon also was hosting DeepSouthCon 49, which meant that it was the largest FenCon so far and several people from across the South, who normally wouldn't attend were there.

I had a wonderful time at the convention. The concom I dealt with, including Tim Miller, who I've known since I worked for him at Denvention 3, and Rhonda Eudaly Simpson, who contributed to *Argentus* 10. Other concom I got to know were Tim Morgan, Russ Miller, Chair Julie Barnett, and many more. They all ran the convention efficiently, making sure people were able to have a wonderful time.

There were a few minor glitches. When I awoke on Thursday morning, I went to print my boarding pass to fly down to Dallas. Before printing, I noticed that my

name was spelled "Steven H Sliver." I fired off an e-mail to Rhonda, the guest liaison, and then decided to call United on my own. United informed me I'd have to call Continental, where the clueless woman I spoke to claimed that the TSA wouldn't be bothered by such a minor error. At that point, I decided to let Rhonda and the FenCon people handle it. They eventually did, apparently having to deal with the same moron I did (who also kept thinking that I was saying Dulles when I said Dallas), and I was able to get through security at O'Hare without problems.

Over the last year, I've also been putting together a series of guides on how-to run various aspects of conventions. I let Rhonda know that I would be updating the how-to be a guest liaison guide with some of the things she did this past weekend. And I have already suggested at least one of those changes to another convention.

So, a great big thank you to everyone at FenCon for being on the ball and producing a great con, and for giving me the confidence before hand that when something did go wrong, that they would be able to fix it.

Living in the Future

At work, today, I received a project for the United States Air Force Space Command. I worked on a project for them several years ago when I was with a different company and just think it is so cool that there even is a USAF Space Command.

Operation Grandma Sally

While in Texas, I wound up having dinner with my cousin on Sunday after the convention. I haven't seen him in several years and finally got to meet his daughters, aged 5 and 3. He did tell me about something really cool.

My cousin is the editor of *American Way* magazine, the title of which makes me think that it should be a Tea Party news letter,¹ but it is really just the American Airlines in-flight magazine. Back in May, he wrote an editor about our grandmother, Sally. In it, he noted that she always had food with her for the hungry. This is true. When she would fly from Cleveland to Los Angeles to visit my uncle, she would bring a brisket and chicken, just in case they didn't have a butcher in southern California.

After the initial article appeared, the magazine ran a letter from a woman named Lori Briggs, who started what her family calls "Operation Grandma Sally." Whenever they fly, they buy a meal for a serviceman at the airport. My cousin showed me the current issue which has three more letters from people who have decided to follow in Mrs. Briggs's footsteps. I think it is quite cool that people are buying meals for soldiers in my grandmother's name.

¹ The Tea Party reminds me of the John Birch Society, which isn't surprising since the one is bankrolled by the Koch Brothers and the other was founded by their father.

Argentus

I'll be publishing *Argentus* 11 on November 14, 2011, which is the twenty-fifth anniversary of my entering into fandom (first con, Windycon 13, November 14-16, 2011). Anyone who wants to second a congratulatory note on either *Argentus*'s tenth year or my twenty-fifth year should send it to me by October 15.

I'll have the Danish

I managed to acquire a copy of *Sky City: New Science Fiction Stories by Danish Authors*. I have two reviews up, one at SF Site's main page and one on my own review site (which is hosted by, but independent of, SF Site). Some stories were quite good, some rambled, some suffered from poor translation. One, the last, Lars Ahn Pedersen's "Interrogation of Victim no. 5" was quite good and I have called it to the attention of a major USAAn editor.

October 19, 1987

The stock market crashed in New York, causing the DOW Jones Industrial Average to plummet 22% (508 points) to end up at 1738.74. Only five days earlier the DJIA had hit a record high of 2412.70.

The Results

These will be personal results rather than macro results. In the fall of 1987, I was living in a small village in

Lincolnshire, attending school. One of my friends suggested that the two of us take a trip to Israel for a few days. As I had never been to Israel, I agreed. We figured we could stay with my cousin and her husband, who lived in Petah Tiqwa.

On the morning of October 19, I went in to the nearest town, Grantham, and purchased my airlines tickets. Dave was going to get his that afternoon.

I returned to the manor where I was living/attending school and went to my afternoon classes. During a break in classes, I went into the television room where the news was on and the announcer was discussing the stock market crash. Dave was frantically scribbling on a piece of paper and looked up at me. With the new rate of exchange, he really didn't think he would be able to go on the trip he had proposed.

So, I wound up going to Israel for a week on my own. As I mentioned, I had a cousin in Petah Tiqwa, a suburb of Tel Aviv, and I sent her a note about my travel plans. She wrote back that I could stay with them and asked for specific details, when I needed to be picked up, etc. I sent a follow-up with the requested information.

And I flew to Israel.

And there was nobody to pick me up at the airport. At the time, my cousin didn't have a telephone. I did have her in-laws' phone number and eventually managed to call them, which wasn't as easy as it sounds since, at the time, Israel had special coins only for the phones and all the cash counters were closed for the evening. I found a cabbie who was willing to sell me one. My cousin's in-laws told me that they had just seen my cousin, who hadn't said anything about me coming, but they gave me the address and the cabbie and I were off.

I knocked on her door and waited. Eventually, she opened it up and expressed surprise at seeing me. She hadn't received the second letter (it arrived the day before I flew back to London). Not, perhaps, the most auspicious start for a trip, but it wound up playing out well. I spent the trip in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem (where I stayed at a youth hostel) and gave me the background for my second trip to Israel about eight years later for a friend's wedding.

You Write, I Wreply:

August 2011

RAEBNC.

**It's Been an Interesting
Summer**

It was good to see you at Worldcon and I'm glad I managed to pull you back into these pages, even if only briefly.

Sam Jones is your cousin? Didn't he play Flash Gordon in the ghodawful 1980 movie best known for its soundtrack by Queen? I suppose that must have been a different Sam Jones since he would be around 57 years old now.

I've had friends who have undergone bariatric surgery

and it has made a huge difference in just about every aspect of their lives. That isn't to say that bariatric surgery is a panacea, they've had to really work hard to retrain themselves, especially with regards to food, but it can be done. You mentioned the Garcia moment. It is his story, so I don't want to spill it, but definitely ask Chris about his plane ride down to FenCon. He may have experienced one of the coolest personal moments ever.

The business meeting in Reno was somewhat surreal for me. I usually don't attend and suddenly found myself helping to usher through the revised proposal. I mostly knew what was going on, but

the debate got so convoluted that at times both Kevin and Mark lost track of where we were in the proceedings.

Obviously I missed the deadline for Dreaming of Rockets, but given my somewhat unique position (13-0), I generally avoid discussing the Hugo in public.

One of the cool things I got to do at Fencon was present Brad W. Foster with a Rebel Award for his contributions to fandom.

**I Never Did Get the Hang of
Thursdays**

RYCTRyan: One of the high points, or at least cool points, at FenCon was at dinner on

Saturday night. About 19 fans went out, many of us fanzine eds. I was sitting between Guy H. Lillian III and Warren Buff. Guy was commenting that the next issue of *Challenger* would be devoted to romance. I pulled a paper towel off the roll in front of me ('cause it was that kind of restaurant) and wrote the first line of what was clearly meant to be James Bacon/Christopher J Garcia slash. I passed it down the table and it made the rounds, each fan ed adding to the piece until I received it and tacked on the ending. It is truly gruesome, but I believe Guy is planning on running it in his next ish. Mr. Garcia, by the way, was at the table and later

attended a reading of the *magnum opus*.

Pleasantly Random

In point of fact, I've gotten to say more than "It's an honour just to be nominated" on two occasions. First was "I accept this award for *WALL-E*" and second "I accept this award for *Inception*." And, as far as I know, the appropriate people now have those Hugo rockets. Of course, while the fan winners didn't stir up fuss, Andrew Trembley, Kevin Roche, and Richard Lynch did that at the business meeting, where I found myself called in to combine their efforts to create a Best Podcast award. It passed in Renovation and needs to be ratified at Chicon to go into effect.

I rather agree with the critics who are unhappy with *Doctor Who*. My gut feeling is that I just don't think that Matt Smith has the chops for the role, especially the way the Doctor has been portrayed by Eccleston or Tennant. At FenCon, it was suggested that given really good material, rather than what he is getting from Moffat, Smith would be able to better show off his talents. Not sure this is right, at least not in my opinion, since I have liked (at times) Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill and they have the same material to work with.

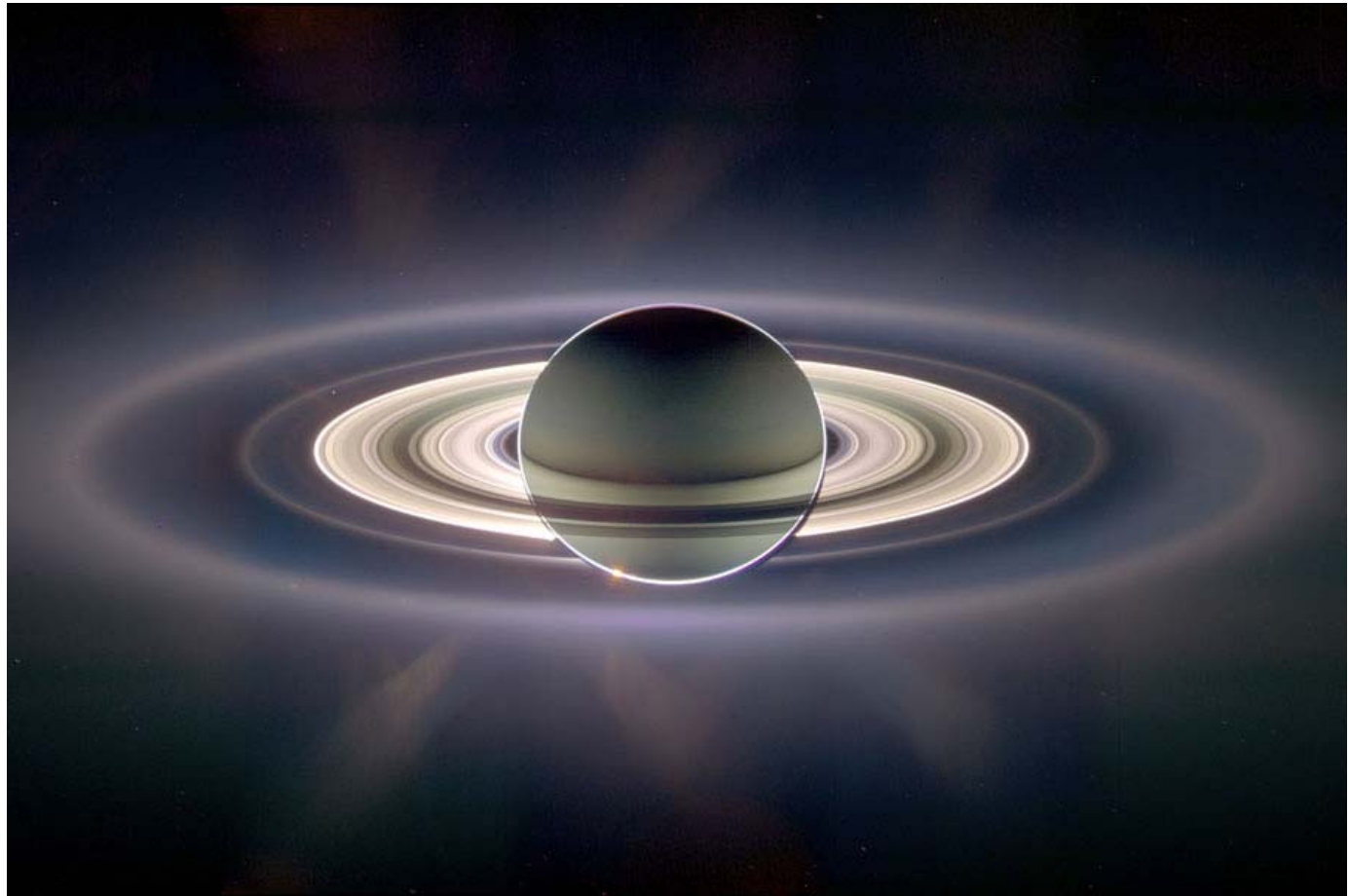
RYCTWilliam: Paul Cornell tends to be the designated acceptor for *Doctor Who*

episodes. He was only nominated in 2006 and 2008 (losing both times to other *Doctor Who* episodes). I don't believe he is still actively attached to the show.

RYCTMe: We've tabled the discussion of whether to do a special Fancast Hugo category until a Division Head meeting on October 21. There is also a proposal from one member to do a Young

Adult Hugo and at least one of the decision makers seems to

be leaning toward no special Hugo category.



Proper Job 10

*A contribution to e-apa from Christina Lake, 35
Gyllyng Street, Falmouth, Cornwall UK or
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Just when I thought summer was all over and I'd have to switch on the central heating, high pressure has moved in, and suddenly it's hot and sunny again. While I'm pleased for all the new students who have arrived in Falmouth to start their lives of student debt and dwindling career prospects – sorry, I mean academic achievement and creative development – I'm not really getting the benefit as I'm stuck inside a library, failing to shift enough of my workload to get outside and enjoy it.

This year we've given the Freshers an online library induction, which has reduced the necessity of talking to them in large and largely hungover cohorts in a lecture theatre, but it has left us with coordinating a mixture of activities and bookings for meeting them face to face. One of these was the Library Fayre which took a huge amount of organising (not by me, thankfully!) and needed a lot of staff time to keep it going between 11 and 2 for

a whole week. But it was a lot of fun, and although attendance wasn't massive, the students who turned up seemed to enjoy it. There were lots of freebies and competitions, and a badge making machine which they seemed to really like!

It's going to be a difficult year in the library this year as there's building work going on on the other side of a flimsy fake wall (so flimsy that a digger broke through it the other week. Luckily no-one was standing near it at the time.). The new building will be an extension to the library which will give us more study space and more light, but maybe not much extra room for collections, and certainly no decent space for staff. We lost our old staff room over the summer in the preparations for the building work, and the new staff room is a tiny windowless room with space for about two chairs. The campus as a whole has very few social spaces and despite Personnel insisting that we take an hour for lunch, there is never enough time in term-time to get away from campus, so having a student-free space to eat your lunch is essential at busy times of year. If you eat it at your desk you get interrupted to help find

books or solve database problems, then you find you've run out of time before your next helpdesk shift or library training session. If only I were one of those human being designed not to need food halfway through the day!



Architect's impression of the new library extension

This year the student intake is higher than ever as students try to avoid the fee rises by abandoning gap years and getting on the education treadmill as quickly as possible. Exeter University keep boasting about the high percentage of AAB students they have recruited, that is students who got high grades in all their A Level exams, which probably means we will land up with a rather higher than

usual proportion of rich kids. Meanwhile the more diverse and creative selection policy of University College Falmouth for its art design media and performance courses will, I hope, give us a broader mix of social backgrounds, learning styles and academic ability.

What will happen next year is anybody's guess! We'll just have to hope that there's enough students left to enjoy our brand new library extension.

Mailing Comments

WAM

I still haven't processed what the riots were really all about, but found the government's punitive attitude really depressing. When politicians and bankers set the tone for being out to get all they can from society, then can they be surprised that other people do? I suppose the answer is that they want to make sure that others can't get away with it. The have-nots must stay have-nots to maintain the wealth of the rich. Or am I being overly cynical?

Garth

I think you're right about normal life as our parents and we knew it not being sustainable any more. I hadn't thought about how that might feed into a sense of personal inadequacy. Though because my parents had their early lives messed up by the Second World War and never lost a sense of having to save and not waste resources, I've not had this problem. We were never particularly well off so I haven't needed to live up to someone else's ideal of what success might look like (apart from my mother's frequent insistence that I spend my time writing fiction rather than fanzines or academic work!)

Your Facebook posts are far more erudite than anything I see from my friends. Did you get much by way of response?

I think the UK had several golden ages of fanzine publishing. When I got involved in the early 1980s there was a sense that it had all been done in the 1970s, but also a huge enthusiasm for fanzine publishing (and apas) connected most likely to the growing availability of photo-copying. The early 80s were certainly a vibrant time to

be involved in British fandom and produced some excellent work from the likes of D West, Simon Ounsley, Dave Bridges and many others.

Peter

I'm still enjoying the Steven Moffat Dr. Who even if the stories do get quite convoluted at times. I thought the mid season break worked well, but would have liked more episodes after the break to get back into it.

Steven

Fascinating story about the hoax issue and Campbell's response to it. What a pity no-one tracked down Hoen before he died.

What an amazing if frustrating record to have been nominated for so many Hugos. I'm sure your time will come! I was pleased to see Claire Brialey win, not just because she is a good writer, but because she is very careful not to publish online due to her work position, and so it felt good to know that there are still people out there reading traditional paper fanzines (or at least talking to people who do!)

Kat

Sorry to hear about your health issues and your sister's accident. The surgery you mention sounds quite drastic, but if it sets you up for a healthier future then it's certainly worth considering.

I loved the enthusiasm of your account of Renovation. Sometimes I get a bit blase about conventions and do the sums like you did, and wonder if it's all been worthwhile. But I would like to get to another US Worldcon sometime, though it will take a bit more investment than driving over the hill! If not, I'll just have to wait till London in 2014 if it wins the bid.

Great to hear all your plans for fanzine publishing. There is a new issue of Head! out on e-fanzines if you want to see it, but there are no plans for future issues until we've finished working on the Eastercon fan programme!

Ryan

Welcome to the apa! Good to see another librarian in these pages. I'm very envious of your job curating SF and fantasy books and magazines. I nearly managed to start a fanzine special collection at my library

because the journalism students study alternative media, and used to have to publish a fanzine as one of their projects. But that all fell through. We do run an SF unit on the English with Creative Writing course (well, we did last year) so I was able to buy lots of SF for the library.

I wonder if the move to the University of Liverpool will help revive Extrapolation? If it's only about helping academic careers rather than promoting debate on science fiction, it seems pretty pointless.



Cornwall today – sunshine and views from Pentire Head over Crantock. 1st October 2011

Pleasantly Random 67

HELLO, good evening and welcome to the 67th issue of Pleasantly Random, written for the October 2011 issue of e-APA It is written by Peter Sullivan, of Sunderland, England.

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News, Gossip and Scandal



A couple of years ago, people were asking “Is it all over for the Nova?” The answer was clearly not, in that the panel session to discuss this was probably the best-attended of any at that year's Novacon, and indeed probably exceeded the actual number of voters that year.

As a result of the clear interest in continuing the award, the decision has been made to expand eligibility for voting from just the members of Novacon who are fanzine fans. For the 2011 Awards, anyone resident in Britain or Ireland can vote, as long as they have read at least six different British or Irish fanzines during the year of eligibility. Given that there are at least 14 eligible fanzines available for free download on the web these days, this is scarcely a very limiting franchise, and will hopefully result in significantly higher levels of participation going forwards.

The deadline for votes by e-mail or post will be sometime early November, although I assume there will be on-site balloting at Novacon (over the weekend of 11-13 November) as usual as well. A ballot form will shortly be available at the website at http://www.novacon.org.uk/nova_candidates.htm This also includes the Nova Awards “long list” - the traditional list of fanzines 'brought to the

notice of the Nova Awards administrator' and definitely eligible. (Other fanzines which meet the eligibility criteria may also exist, of course.)

It's worth noting that, according to my reading of the rules at any rate, APA zines, such as those produced by British fans in this fine publication, aren't eligible, as they don't meet the "generally available" test. This reflects the practice of print APAs, where only fanzines that were also circulated outside of their parent APAs were considered "generally available" and hence eligible. It's not that there's anything preventing people from circulating e-APA fanzines externally as well – in fact, the e-APA guidelines explicitly mention this practice. But, in practice, I'm not aware that anyone has ever done so. Why this is the case would be an interesting topic for discussion. My initial theory would be that most e-APA fanzines are so mailing-comment-heavy that there's a perception (rightly or wrongly) that they would be of limited interest outside of the context of the APA.



Nominations for the latest TAFF race – to Eastercon 2012 – closed on September 30th, and an official announcement about the candidates has been made already. So we already know there will be three candidates looking to take the trip from North America to the Heathrow Radisson Edwardian Hotel. (The hotel has been nicknamed the "Radisson Non-Euclidian" by fans due to its seemingly impenetrable layout of conference rooms, where stairs never seem to come out quite where they logically should. But I suspect our American guests will be too jet-lagged by the time they arrive to actually notice.)

- Warren Buff is a longtime science fiction fan, whose "Bragging Rights" listed on his Google+ profile include "Ran the 2010 NASFiC, won a bareknuckle boxing match once, totalled a car without doing any panel damage."
- Kim Kofmel has been chair of Apollocon, a Houston-based regional convention. Kim was originally from Ottawa, and has been active in fandom since the 1970s.
- Jacq Monahan won the 2011 FAAn Award for Best New Fan, and is an active members of the Vegrants, the Las Vegas fan community, and writes for the "Las Vegas Round the Clock" website.

Part of the Joy of TAFF¹ is that, so often, we end up with a slate of candidates any of whom would make an excellent delegate. And it looks as if that tradition has been maintained again this year. (As opposed to Real World elections, where a Hold Over Funds option is often seriously needed, yet mysteriously unavailable.)

Once the official TAFF ballot form has been released, it will be available both at the semi-official TAFF website, www.taff.org.uk, and in many other fine fannish emporiums and websites.

¹ Available in a plain brown wrapper from various seedy-looking bookshops. Remember to pay cash.

Sweepies on e-APA #89

July 2011 (William McCabe)

The problem with ascribing “eat the rich” factors to the riots is that it doesn't really match the events. If it really was intended to be a protest against the corruption and greed of the rich in our society, it was a highly ineffective one. The main victims seem to have been small shop—keepers who, in many cases, are only marginally better off than the looters themselves. I suspect that the main motives were simple criminality, for all that this makes me sound like a Daily Mail reader.

[I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #77 \(Garth Spencer\)](#)

Your thesis that “The world already ended several years ago, but we've been put in a cosmic waiting room, a sort of Matrix-like virtual reality, while someone up there finishes the documentary paperwork” would go down well with John Mason, an English clergyman who predicted that the end of the world would come in 1694. Afterwards, he claimed that it had, but that no-one had noticed.

The idea of a university science fiction society as a *de-facto* dating agency is a somewhat unusual one, although I suppose it matches the basic principle that “whatever two or more fans do together counts as fanac” (fan activity).

[Plata #69 \(Steven H Silver\)](#)

Congratulations (I think!) on just losing out to Claire Briarley in the Best Fanwriter Hugo. Hopefully your “0 wins out of 13 nominations” record will be coming to an end eventually.

You ask “Is it better to stand by your principles and gain nothing or to compromise and get part of your agenda?” This, I suppose, is the fundamental question at the heart of the formation of the current coalition government in the UK. At the moment, my only answer to this would be a decisive “I don't know.”

[It's Been An Interesting Summer \(Kat Templeton\)](#)

Glad that you had a good time at the Reno Worldcon – hope it helps to make up for some of the other not-so-good things happening in your life at the moment.

This has been a Startling Press Production.

e-APA Guidelines

e-APA is an Amateur Press Association primarily for science fiction fans, and is an attempt to bridge the format and style of traditional paper-based APAs with newer digital publishing formats.

Publication format: Each fanzine will be in Adobe .pdf format.

Distribution frequency: Distributions are made once each calendar month. Deadline for submitting a fanzine is the first of the distribution month. The OE will compile the distribution and make it available as soon as practical (generally on the 2nd), and will notify members by e-mail when the distribution is ready for downloading. Bill Burns has generously agreed to provide server space and bandwidth for e-APA at eFanzines.com.

Activity requirements: Members are expected to contribute activity at least once every other distribution. Missing three consecutive distributions will cause the member to be dropped from the active roster; he or she will no longer be able to contribute to distributions. The OE may waive activity requirements for a member for serious reasons. Each fanzine must have a maximum size **no larger than 500K** in size (the equivalent of 4 to 6 pages, depending on content and graphics); there is no minimum size requirement. This is to keep the distributions at a reasonable size for members using dial-up connections. Activity may consist of either written or graphic material primarily by the member. Fanzines are e-mailed to the OE for inclusion in distributions.

Official Editor: Elected for a one-year term by ballot by eligible active members in January. The OE is responsible for receiving, archiving, and making distributions available for downloading, and for keeping track of member activity requirements. The OE will publish in each distribution an “official organ” (OO) with a table of contents of the distribution, a list of members, and any other official information required.

Membership: Membership is open to anyone. The active roster will consist of no more than 15 members. Prospective members should let the OE know by e-mail that they want to join, and will be expected to contribute to the next distribution. If the active roster is full, a waiting list may be started. Those on the waiting list may download distributions, but can’t submit fanzines for distribution. Distributions will be password protected at the eFanzines site; members may, at their discretion, make their e-APAZines available to the general public at eFanzines as well, or through any other medium.

Dues: There are no dues for e-APA. At the moment, Bill Burns is providing free server space at eFanzines.com for e-APA. Should it become necessary or desirable in the future, members will be assessed dues to cover server space and bandwidth costs.

Amendments or changes: These can be made to this set of guidelines at any time after being voted on by the active members. A simple majority by active voting members is enough to amend or change the guidelines.

Miscellaneous: If members don’t have or can’t afford the Adobe Acrobat program for generating .pdf files, a free program called PDFCreator is available. This does an excellent job of creating .pdf files from virtually any word processor or text editor. It can be downloaded at:

<http://www.sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/>

Another less complete alternative is a small program called AcroPAD. This creates .pdf files from plain text files, using either its built-in text editor, or from text files created in other applications. It can be downloaded at: <http://www.dreamscape.it>

Another alternative is PDFProducer, a very small program (the archive is only 29K) that will convert plain text files to PDF. You can control the page size and rotation, along with choosing one of three fonts for text.

Very easy to use. URL for downloading is <http://naramcheez.netfirms.com/pdfproducer.html>

Note that these are PC programs. While I don’t claim to be an expert on creating PDF files, I’ll be more than happy to help anyone with PDF problems if I can.

For further information or to join e-APA contact the OE, Peter Sullivan, at peter@burdonvale.co.uk

Last Revised: December 17, 2007