

# Fanactivity Gazette

Volume 1 Number 4

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Fannish News of Interest to All Fen

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## Editorial

Trying again. I forgot to insert Fanfaronade in the issue. Sorry about that. News submissions should be sent to George Phillies, [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net), who will forward them to the appropriate N3F fanzine.

## Letters to the Editor

Editor,

I'd like to thank Justin Busch for his extensive review of Pablo Lennis. The review and the others show that he is a serious reviewer with attention to the serious-constructive approach to reviewing; indeed, I am not ignoring some of his hints, which is constructive results for his reviews. He is somewhat like an investigator, and his reviews have been that way right along, but that is not, perhaps, out of place in the NFFF, wherein serious attention has always been given to matters of writing. His quotes from my retrospectives on Pablo Lennis are to the point, but I would point out that he is citing comments I made which were critical—other writers were especially well-spoken of—I was expressing good things and bad things about the writing I had published. But of course it was clear that I must have liked all of the writing which I had published. (Not entirely true, as I was publishing some of them to show what I had been receiving, but there were some writers whose works I had sent back to them, because I did not like them well enough to print them.) Also in reference to Jeffrey Redmond, Redmond is passing along opinions and general information rather than originating it. If he quoted a definition, that's not unusual, what he quoted being intended to be definatory, and definitions are not regarded by those making them as their own property, or they would not be definitions. But I do not ignore comments that I and the writers (and artists) in my fanzine have our faults

.—John Thiel

Dear George:

Thank you for Fanactivity Gazette Vol. 1, No. 3, and congrats on the new name. I will give a fast loc a try, and see how far I can get with it.

Start with my last letter... Still thinking about the liquidation of my fanzine collection... the dumpster downstairs is the last resort, but still on the list of possibilities. I suspect that I will be around fanzines until the last one shuts down. Yvonne is busy with making a costume for herself, something she's wanted to do for a while. It is blue, white and red, and very French... Google up vaporiste incroyable, and see what you find. I still don't like the huge pro-run megacons, but if I need to find some work, I might just go to Fan eXpo, and see if they are hiring. Even a data entry position would help.

I think the idea of KTF fanzine reviews (A term from some years ago... KTF reviews were vicious and personal, and as far as I am concerned, did or proved or showed nothing of value, except to discourage some not to read a particular fanzine found to be lacking somehow.) is long gone. Given we are involved in a slowly fading interest, to be brutally honest, we need awareness that there are fanzines around, more than we need critiques. That was when there were dozens of different titles to choose from, but today, let's celebrate what we have.

Conventions... Given that COVID-19 is still raging, especially in the United States, and entry to the US from Canada is still restricted, we may have to say sorry to the next convention we had in mind, Astronomicon 13 in Rochester, NY. We have been to that con before, and it is always great fun, but the danger levels from COVID and its Delta variant are still huge, even if we are double-vaccinated, and in spite of the idiot anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers. We suspect that 2021 will be the second year of no cons, which will make 2022 all the sweeter.

Done for the moment... take care, and see you with more.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney.

## FANAC Fan History Project

### FANAC Newsletter 16

### August 23, 2021

It's been five months since our last newsletter and a lot has happened. Today, we're going to tell you some tales from behind the scenes, update you on the (now) four main parts of The Fan History Project – the FANAC digitized archive, Fancyclopedia 3, our YouTube Channel and the Zoom series, and yes, some actual news for the newsletter.

**The News:** FANAC is the new home for the archives of the Science Fiction Oral History Society (SFOHA). The SFOHA has been recording professionals and fans since 1975. Many thanks to SFOHA's Anne Gray for masterminding the move. Watch this space for more to come as we go through the SFOHA archive and start digitizing.

**More news:** We are in the midst of migrating our web server to a newer, larger and faster server. It will take us a few more days, but hopefully, this will make it easier for you and give you quicker access to the files you want to read. Please let us know how it works for you. As with any upgrade, there may be some glitches to start. If you find any, please write to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org) so we can fix them.

**Sad news:** You all have probably heard the sad news already, but recently we have lost two fans who were stalwarts among our FANAC contributors, Alistair Durie and Ed Meskys. Alistair provided scans of many 1930s-40s fanzines, including Arcturus, The Planeteer, The Rocket, Science-Fantasy Review and Science-

Fantasy Review War Digest. Ed was one of the founders of Tolkien fandom, provided source fanzines for scanning, as well as a verbal history. Ed was a long-time personal friend, and a fixture with his dogs at conventions for many years. Rest in Peace.

**Fan History Zoom Series:** Our second series of History Zooms starts in September, with Juanita Coulson. Juanita has been a marathon faned, publishing Yandro to #259 and an early Trekzine among many others, a mainstay of the filk community, and a professional writer. She's been honored as a DUFF winner, Hugo winner and nominee 10 years in a row for Yandro, Worldcon Fan GoH, and more.

Date and Time: September 25, 2PM EDT, 11AM PDT, 1PM CDT, 7PM London

Our October Zoom will be a panel on British Fan History moderated by Rob Hansen, date and time TBD. See <https://fanac.org/zoom.html> for details on this and other Fan History Zooms. RSVP to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org) if you're not on our Frequent Zoomer list (or if you're not sure).

Behind the Scenes or How the Sausage is Made:

Finding Anne Steul: Anne Steul is not a familiar name to most of us. In June, Rob Hansen sent us a scan of *Fantum 1*, edited by Anne Steul, who he remarked had also organized the first German SF con with some help from Jim and Greg Benford. That led to an expansion of Anne Steul's Fancyclopedia article, followed by more biographical data on her from Rob Hansen. We asked Thomas Recktenwald if he could tell us more. Thomas provided insight into why she left fandom, and a link to Rainer Eisfield's book, *Zwischen Barsoom und Peenemunde* (Between Barsoom and Peenemunde) that had 10 pages on Anne Steul, and German fandom of the time, including bibliographic data and a photo. Next, Joe asked Jim and Greg Benford for additional info and Greg forwarded a few 2013 issues of *CounterClock*, a fanzine from Wolf von Witting published in Italy, that had articles on early German fandom. So now we have expanded our knowledge, added her *Fantum*, and added to the Fancyclopedia entry. And that's how the Fan History sausage is made. As a result, Thomas Recktenwald is helping us add information about German fandom to Fancyclopedia. Thomas is a long-time contributor to The Fan History Project having provided many photos, fanzines and recordings.

John Bangsund's Digital Memorial: John Bangsund, one of Australia's most active fans, died of Covid-19 in August 2020. In October, we started a project to get John's fanzines online. Our Australian FANAC team member, Perry Middlemiss, enlisted the help of several Australian fans - Irwin Hirsh, Bruce Gillespie, Kim Huett, Marc Ortleib, and Alan Stewart. Great photos of John came in from Bruce Gillespie and Sally Yeoland (John's ex-wife). Pretty soon, scans in volume came in from Irwin, Perry, Alan and Kim. Mark Plummer helped with a consolidated spreadsheet. Today, a massive number of fanzines have been scanned and uploaded - there are more than 40 in the "Bangsund Miscellaneous" index alone. If I've counted correctly, there are 214 fanzines by John Bangsund on the site. Among the complete runs of Bangsund fanzines are Australian Science Fiction Review, Philosophical Gas and Scythrop. In April, 2021, Edie put up a Splash page for John on FANAC.org. What a productive way to honor John Bangsund! It's long lasting too, as these digital records will be in the next sweep of the website done by the Library of Congress. Thank you all!

The team has also added many other titles from Down Under including Crozier's *Etherline* (85), Clarke's *The Mentor* (94), Gillespie's *The Metaphysical Review* (18), Edmonds *Rataplan* (23), completed our runs of Hirsh's *Sikander* (16) and the newszine *Thyme* (145). New Zealand zines have not been forgotten - we have added Thurogood's *Noumenon* (scanned by Perry), and Horrocks' *KiwiFan*. Next project: the fanzines of John Foyster. Thanks again to our Australian contributors for significantly improving the FANAC archive of Australian fanzines, now numbering more than 1,400 issues.

**FANAC Fan History Project website:** <http://fanac.org>

While the Australian additions are big news for us, it's not all about Australia. We have also added many other titles, particularly those from the "nostalgia" era. Our earliest focus was on well-known fanzine titles, and the oldest fanzines from the 30s and 40s simply because there was demand on the one hand, and the effects of entropy on the other. While we still eagerly scan the 30s zines, more and more are from later periods. This week alone we added issues of *Ettle* (80s, Jackie Causgrove), *Glass Houses* (80s, Taral Wayne), *Bete Noire* (60s-70s, Redd Boggs), *Outworlds* (1983, Bill Bowers), *Rude Bitch* (80s, Avedon Carol and Lucy Huntzinger), and *Supersonic Snail* (1977, Bruce Gillespie). Notable runs since the last newsletter include *DNQ* (70s-80s, Taral Wayne and Victoria Vayne, all scanned by Sparky), and *Small Friendly Dog* (70s-80s, Paul and Cas Skelton). There are some rare items too - *Shaver Mystery Magazine* (full run of Richard Shaver's 1940s semi-pro), and *Proceedings of the Institute for Twenty-First Century Studies* aka *PITFCS* (60s, Theodore Cogswell).

One-shots: We have been putting up some exceptional One-Shot fanzines. Of course, we have famous zines, like Laney's Ah! Sweet Idiocy!, Carr's BNF of Iz, Willis & Shaw's The Enchanted Duplicator (12 different editions) and trip reports like Willis' Harp Stateside and The Enchantment. But you should also dig into our index page on "Fanthologies, Collections and Festschrifts". There are some great collections of material by Charles Burbee, Bob Tucker, Lucy Huntzinger, Ted White, Susan Wood, Bob Shaw, Rick Sneary, Bruce Gillespie, Sandra Miesel, Terry Carr, Walt Willis and others. We have nearly all of the "Best of the Year" collections of fannish writing that have been compiled as well as many regional Fanthologies.

Other Fandoms and Related Zines: Science fiction fans have often written about other hobbies, and often SF fandom has spawned other fanzines and fandoms. These include fandoms around comics, mystery, SCA and Star Trek, and even early folk music. FANAC has identified and scanned zines by well-known fans that are part of such early crossovers. These are zines that started as pretty regular fanzines and became a beginning or mainstay of a related fandom. You'll see them in the Classic List under "Related".

Notable comics items include Lupoff's Xero and Thompson's Newfangles but there were also Kyle's Fantasy World (1936), May's EC Fan Journal (1953), Taurasi's Fantasy Comics (1952), Pearson's SATA, and Bronson's Scienti-Comics (1940). All of these, and others, came before the major blossoming of comic fandom and all are on FANAC.org. We're still looking for copies of Siegel & Shuster's Science Fiction.

Mystery fandom really became popular in the 1960's, although specialized groups for Sherlock Holmes and the Saint and a few others existed beforehand. Marvin Lachman in his history of mystery fandom, The Heirs of Anthony Boucher, credits the real start of mystery fandom with the creation of Bouchercon, largely due to SF fans like Len & June Moffatt and Bruce Pelz. Early pubs on FANAC.org include the Moffatts' JDM Bibliophile, Sneary's aborted John Dickson Carr Bibliophile, Lynn Hickman's The Pulp Era and its oddly named predecessor's Argassy, JD, and JD-Argassy. DAST (which stands for Detectives-Agents-Science Fiction-Thrillers) by Swedish fan Iwan Hedman is sitting on our desk waiting to be scanned.

Today's folk music fans know virtually nothing of the early connection to SF Fandom. Early fans like Lee Jacob wrote about the connection. His 1952 Influence of Science Fiction on Modern American Folk Music, reprinted in 1961, has mostly gone unnoticed. More important, and noted by such as Pete Seeger and Dave Van Ronk, were Lee Hoffman Shaw's publications. LeeH started with a few issues of CHOOOG devoted to folk music in early 1957. She soon came out with the first issue of Caravan in August. It was published during the birth of the Washington Square folk music movement. Lee gave it out free as a fanzine at Izzy Young's Folklore Center and at sings in Washington Square. Contributors include folk legends Dave Van Ronk, Pete Seeger, Barry Kornfeld, Sandy Paton, and Billy Faier. She parlayed her SF connections with material from music oriented fans and professionals like Dick Ellington, Michael Moorcock, including a regular column by John Brunner. It has been called the paper of record for the New York folk music revival. Caravan went from mimeo to offset and became a burgeoning business which Lee sold to Faier. She gave it up when it interfered with her own writing but didn't lose her interest in the music. So, she started another folk oriented fanzine, Gardyloo, in 1959. All the pubs mentioned above are on FANAC.org.

Remember - all the fanzines can be found at [http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic\\_Fanzines.html](http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html)

[Fancyclopedia.org](http://fancyclopedia.org): FANAC.org is a great place to browse, when you and your phone have a few minutes to spend. Fancyclopedia is too. Check out the Featured Pages - [https://fancyclopedia.org/Featured\\_Pages](https://fancyclopedia.org/Featured_Pages). An assortment of unrelated topics and links, there's likely something you'll find of interest. The topics on this occasionally updated page include Fanspeak, the Tucker Hotel, the List of Hugo Categories, and Which Was the First SF Convention? There's also an article on Quadrumvirs, a very intimidating piece of fanspeak. You can also search for a decade ("1960"), a fanzine name, or look at recent changes. If that's not enough, check out WSFS or Midwestcon 5 or the article on Bob Tucker. If you look for a topic, and it's not there, you know what you should do. Write something up!

FANAC Fan History YouTube Channel: <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>

Woohoo, we're up to 868 subscribers. Since the last update we've added seven programs (in 11 pieces). Four are recordings of our Zoom programs and account for 7 pieces. Since we're not constrained to a one hour format, some of the Zoom sessions go a little long and when they're much more than an hour we break them up.

Most recently, we added “The Decomposers”, a production at Boskone 16 in 1979. A very funny musical depiction of a poorly run Worldcon, this fannish musical was written by Mark M. Keller and Sue Anderson, and produced with musical direction by Chip Hitchcock. The problems are played for laughs, with specialized fandoms clamoring for space, a very inexperienced head of program room allocation, and a Worldcon Chair who does nothing at all. Recording by Bill Desmond, provided by Rick Katze and digitized (from Betamax yet) by Eric Fleischer, MD. “The Decomposers” is in two parts.

ConFiction (1990 Worldcon) Hugo Awards, with Toastmaster Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. This video, captured with a hand held camera, covers the Hugo Awards, as well as the Campbell Award for New Writers, and the fannish Big Heart and First Fandom awards. Many awards were accepted by designees for the recipients, and we see Anne McCaffrey and Jack Chalker among those accepting for others. There's a bit of humor from Dave Langford, and appearances by the American Ambassador to the Netherlands, C. Howard Wilkins.

Boskone 6 (1969) GoH talk by artist Jack Gaughan. is both entertaining and thoughtful, interspersed with sharply witty comments. He quotes from Leonardo Da Vinci, and teases his friends, some in the room, including Isaac Asimov, Ed Emswiler and Donald Wollheim. Gaughan starts with a recounting of the problems faced by female artists like his wife, Phoebe. He tells anecdotes about his experiences as an illustrator, teases Lester del Rey, and compares the lives of artists today to the lives of artists 500 years ago. Jack is frank about his own feelings on science fiction and science fiction illustration. It's chatty, low key, entertaining and comfortable and a marvelous window into an important figure in the field, lost far too soon.

Zoom Sessions: The four Zoom sessions we held since the last newsletter were great fun, and the recordings are now on our YouTube channel. We did an interview with John and Bjo Trimble, covering their fannish history with clubs, fanzines, the birth of the modern convention artshow, and oh yes, the "Save Star Trek" campaign. Erle Korshak, a GoH at next year's Worldcon Chicon 8, told us the first hand story of Chicon 1 (1940), along with starting one of the early small press publishers (Shasta) and how it ended, his passion for collecting art and more from a very full life. Ruth Berman and Dera Langsam provided fascinating stories of early Star Trek fandom, and how it came to diverge from general fandom of the time. Jim and Greg Benford gave us a window into what it was like to be young fan in the 60s (and somewhat older fans in the 2020s) and build lives in science and science fiction. From pubbing their ish, to Texas fandom, to the writers of the Bay Area and Buzz Aldrin, they've had rich fannish and personal careers.

We start back up again in September, with Juanita Coulson, so if you're not on the Frequent Zoomer list, please send an RSVP to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org). More to come!

FANAC by the Numbers. As of August 20, we have  
Fanzines: 15,478 issues (covering 905 titles) with more than 263,386 pages. This is up from the 14,068 fanzine issues and 236,015 pages reported in our March update.  
Conpubs: 2,491 publications, with 50,418 pages, representing 605 conventions  
Fancylopedia: 28,240 pages which include 6,092 for people, 4,368 for fans (a subset of people), 7,819 for fanzines, another 1,433 for clubs and apas, and 5,993 for conventions.  
YouTube: 118,930 views, 868 subscribers and 111 recordings.

A Prescient View of History (from Edie): Joe Siclari has been interested in old fanzines for a very long time. We thought you'd enjoy this quote from an article Joe did for Taral and Victoria Vayne in DNQ 19 (June, 1979) “Every Trufan can have all the fanzines ever pubbed in a little box on his desk.” And now, after more than 25 years, he almost does. BTW, thanks to Sparky and Taral we have an almost complete set of DNQ online.

Please pass this update on to any fan or list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on the [FANAC.org](http://FANAC.org) home page.

Fanhistorically yours. Joe Siclari

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Contributors since the last newsletter: We have received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Greg Benford, Jim Benford, Mike Benveniste, Deirdre Boardman, John Boardman, Sandra Bond,

Leybl Botwinik, Marcello Branco, John Bray, BSFA, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, Tom Cardy, Avedon Carol, Darrah Chavney, Eli Cohen, John Coker III, Bill Desmond, Leigh Edmonds, Ahrvid Engholm, Eric J Fleischer, MD (Dr. Gandalf), Bruce Gillespie, Anne Gray, Jim Halperin, Rob Hansen, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Irwin Hirsh, Kim Huett, Steve Johnson, Savannah Johnston, Rick Katze, Jerry Kaufman, Erle Korshak, Stephen Korshak, Rick Kovalchik, Chris Krolczyk, Dave Langford, Mark Leeper, Evelyn Leeper, Tony Lewis, Guy Lillian III, Andrew Lippert, Rich Lynch, Laurie Mann, Paul March-Russell, Gary McGath, Mike Meara, Pat Meara, Perry Middlemiss, Mark Olson, Marc Ortlieb, Ben Ostrowsky, Joe Patrizio, George Phillies, Mark Plummer, Andrew Porter, John Purcell, Thomas Recktenwald, Mark Richards, David Ritter, Jeff Schalles, Cas Skelton, Paul Skelton, Steven Silver, Kirby Sloan, Leah Zeldes Smith, Kevin Smith, Sparky, Dale Speirs, Alan Stewart, Geri Sullivan, Kees van Thorn, Bjo Trimble, John Trimble, Taral Wayne, Jesse Weinstein, Sally Yeoland, Ben Zuhl.

Selected links:

FANAC.org: <http://www.fanac.org>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/fanacproject/>

Fancylopedia 3: <http://fancylopedia.org>

Fanac YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FanacFanhistory>

Fanac Zoom Listing: <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>

Chronological Convention list: [http://fancylopedia.org/Convention timeline](http://fancylopedia.org/Convention%20timeline)

Convention Publications: <http://fanac.org/conpubs/>

Fanzines: [http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic\\_Fanzines.html](http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html) (FIND ALL FANZINES HERE)

Core List: to Scan: [http://fanac.org/fanzines/desired\\_fanzine\\_list\\_to\\_scan.html](http://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html)

Chronological Listing: [http://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological\\_listing\\_of\\_fanzines.html](http://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_fanzines.html)

Country Listing: [https://fanac.org/fanzines/country\\_listing\\_of\\_fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html)

Newszine Project: <http://fanac.org/fanzines/newszines.html>

The FANAC Fanhistory Project is a project of The Florida Association for Nucleation and Conventions (FANAC) Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization recognized by the IRS. FANAC.org is archived by the US Library of Congress for long-time preservation and future availability.

## Fanfaronade 14

Justin E. A. Busch

Six fanzines, and a debt to repay, so I'll jump right in—

*This Here*... 45 (edited by Nic Farey; "Locs & that to: 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or Email [fareynic@gmail.com](mailto:fareynic@gmail.com)")

In the last issue I noted some occupational hazards of reviewing a small number of frequent publications. The flip side— occupational benefits, if you will— is that when I notice a significant omission I can address it promptly. Here the omission has to do with *This Here*... 's regular art contributor Ulrika O'Brien. In most columns I have mentioned her work, usually applying an adjective such as 'delightful' or 'lovely.' But it's really much better than that, and deserves serious discussion on its own.

Consider, then, her watercolor (untitled, so far as I can tell) from page 18 of the most recent *This Here*....

What will probably first strike the viewer is the very restricted range of colors; very nearly everything here is from the blue range of the spectrum, with a touch of violet and sparse but vital spots of white. The result is anything but monotonous; as Picasso is reported to have said, "actually, you work with few colors. But they seem like a lot more when each is in the right place." Watercolor, recall, is created in reverse order from its visual impact; the lighter elements are laid down first, followed by the darker; the artist is thus compelled to think through the placement of colors quite carefully before brush so much as touches paper. Here the colors are in the right place.

After noticing the color scheme the viewer will begin to contemplate the image itself, which quickly reveals deliciously ambiguous depths. There is a story here, but one which the viewer themselves will have to tell based on the visual clues provided. There's a forest, yes, but a strange one in which the trees bear no

leaves and the roots, which seem to sprout directly from the darkness itself, are every bit as visible as the branches. Yet even such a direct statement is open to challenge; each of the trees seems to carry the ghostly outline of a full panoply of foliage, so perhaps it is only the night which makes the leaves disappear—or fading memory which retains them, however vaguely. It is night, with a full moon (portrayed through the near absence of color), and winged creatures (knowing nothing of the location depicted, dare we call them bats?) but whether we are seeing them directly or as reflections in the still water is open to question. Is this an island, perhaps, as might be suggested by the ripples in the paper itself (more than any other painterly medium, I think, watercolor directly and significantly engages with, and is engaged by, that upon which it is painted). Or is this a swamp? Or, as the sheer verticality of the overall image might suggest, are we looking at the side of a mountain?

And then there are the eyes.

I count seven pairs, little spots of the lightest blue wash (probably created by placing small dabs of wax on the wash, painting over them, then removing the wax). There is nothing more, not even the merest hint of attached bodies. What are they, and why are they watching us? This is a world of which we know little, and it would behoove us to consider its denizens carefully before proceeding.

This is fantasy art of a high order, and it does what good art always does: it takes us out of our own mindset and suggests unexpected ways to experience the world in which we live. It does not demand that we accept anything specific yet neither does it leave us without plenty of suggestive and haunting details to guide, and urge, us on a mysterious journey of our own. And, yes, it is both lovely and delightful. The excellent reproduction, by the way, is approximately 1:1 with the original, so many of the details are subtle and easily missed on a quick viewing.

Oh, yes, there is also a fanzine, itself including two other O'Brien pieces, within which the foregoing is embedded. It contains the usual well-written and enthusiastic takes on football, life in general, and matters fannish. If you haven't gotten the idea by now that it's worth checking out, your sense of wonder needs a tune-up.

*Christian\*New Age Quarterly* (edited by Catherine Groves; four issues, and plenty of extras, for USD 12.50, to PO Box 276, Clifton, New Jersey, 07015-0276)

The key to a good perzine is good writing. Dull writing can suck the life out of even the most exciting adventure; vivid writing can enliven even an account of doing one's laundry. The highlight in this issue of C\*NAQ is a lengthy, and deeply honest, personal account of "Spirituality and Suffering" by editor Groves. She confronts her own situation, which involves both physical pain and mental depression, directly and in detail, then pivots into a thoughtful discussion of the relationship between pain and religious hope and belief, one which raises some poignant questions for advocates of the view that "suffering is integral; to our relationship with God."

As has been the case recently, there is nothing directly stfnal here—but if any editor, actual or potential, of a perzine wants to see a fine example of personal writing which transcends the merely individual, this would be a fine place to look.

*Journal of Mental Pollution* (Richard A. Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Drive, #302, Alexandria, Virginia 22306. richd22426@aol.com)

His sister having suggested that more humor might liven up—or perhaps just replace—the "arcane and learned incidents" generally featured, Richard Dengrove made the effort, with the result that JOMP became the more personal of his two related zines. "However," as Dengrove notes, "poignancy sometimes takes over," such as is the case in this issue; "I could fit only one vaguely humorous item into it."

The result is, as always, an interesting mix of articles covering a wide range of topics, including looks at the nature of workplace friendships; the Cotton Stamp Program, among the more unusual of Depression-era governmental efforts to prop up the economy (quite intriguing, this one); and a 'punishment' Dengrove received from the National Library of Medicine. Having called a reference librarian who thought himself above answering reference questions from ordinary folk, he was told to "never darken his doorstep again." To ensure that such trespassing would not occur, Dengrove was given "a Medline password and the Medline URL," things usually reserved for MDs and suchlike. As Dengrove notes drily, "not your normal punishment. However, it achieved its objective: I would never bother the NLM reference librarians again."

Dengrove's zines are generally not physically attractive (too often he splits headlines between the bottom of one page and the top of the next, which is very distracting at best), but they provide a wide range of entertaining and quite readable articles.

*Pablo Lennis* 406 (September, 2021); “a science fiction fan magazine available for 2.00 a copy, letter of comment, cooperative writing or art, and trade of similar publications. The zine is identified with Ninth Fandom, the progressive fandom.” From John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana, 47904

Recent issues have tended to include more essays than previously, but (as might be expected) with some unusual aspects. Here, for example, we have two short essay-stories by Gerald Heyder, cryptic in content and terse in style; two pieces of personal speculation regarding ghosts from Will Mayo; and Thiel’s own recollections of the publishing trajectory of his netzine *Surprising Stories*.

Also included is a reprint of Paul Turner “The Simulation Hypothesis,” originally in, as the headline acknowledges, the Big Think Video Newsletter and unearthed by Will Mayo. There is also an article on various aspects of quantum physics, but unfortunately some sort of serious error appears to have occurred in the editing. A sizable portion of the Wikipedia entry on “Time Travel” (beginning with the “Quantum Physics” heading and ending partway through the “Ontological paradox” section at [wikipedia.org/wiki/Time\\_travel](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_travel)) appears as if it was an article by Jeffrey Redmond entitled “Physics and Philosophy in Science Fiction.” Perhaps Redmond was scheduled to submit such an article but at the last minute defaulted, and editor Thiel, faced with a sudden five-page gap in the zine, scooped up the Wikipedia material (not, perhaps, the best decision) but forgot to credit it properly, or to change the title, which actually makes no sense under the circumstances. It’s a regrettably large flaw in the overall publication; such things can lead readers to question the overall integrity of the zine’s approach.

There are many things to challenge, puzzle, or intrigue the reader here, as always (I’ve mentioned only a few). A little more care with editing and attribution would avoid potential problems.

*Vanamonde* (1455 (July 12, 2021) through 1459 (August 9, 2021); available from John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, Cal. 90057, presumably for the traditional usual)

There are several of these two-page fanzines in circulation, some as independent forms of apazines (*Vanamonde* is from APA-L). Although a reader can enjoy any single issue, the impact is heightened considerably when it is read in the context of several others; one gets a better feel for the publication’s overall tone and character.

*Vanamonde* covers an enormous range of topics; in the five issues before me I find obituaries (Carol Jarecki, whose biography would be unbelievable were it not true, and Edmund Meškys, whose grace and continued fannish activity under trying circumstances (he went blind decades ago) is wholly admirable, as was his best-known fanzine, *Niekas*); a visit to Fūgetsu-do, a 103-year old Japanese confectionary shop in Los Angeles; a description of the opening of the Olympic Games which morphs into a quick lesson in a specific, widely used, rhetorical figure; and a variety of letters, most of which, despite being APA-L-oriented, remain quite entertaining. The zine as a whole has the feel of a nineteenth-century cabinet of wonders, with Hertz as the cheerful proprietor.

*Tommyworld* 87 (August 23, 2021; from Tommy Ferguson, <http://tommyworld.net>)

This is normally a two-pager; it says much for its loyal audience that the lettercol issue this time around needs four pages, and could easily have been four pages longer still (seven letters; eleven WAHFs). As always, this is probably not the best place for a new reader to begin, since the letters often deal with matters which would be unknown to the newbie; on the other hand, the whole lettercol is so energetic that it will at least suggest to the newbie that this is a publication well worth investigating.

\* \* \* \* \*

Editors desiring reviews: If you have a print zine, send it to me at 308 Prince St., #422, St. Paul, Minn. 55101; if you have an e-zine, send a PDF to [jeab@musician.org](mailto:jeab@musician.org). I’m still adjusting to the new location and schedule of the column, but it would be helpful if e-mailed zines arrived by the second Tuesday of each month. I will generally send the column to George Phillis by the third Tuesday; anything sent close to that day makes the review more likely to be based on a quick skim of the contents. If the zine is new to me, or seems to require more extensive consideration, I may hold it over for a month.

# VIDEO

## Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend By Cathode Ray

Turn on, tune in, you kooky Neffers, you, for yet another edition of “Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend,” an occasional column about the most important and interesting sf, fantasy, horror, and other genre television programming options. Let’s see what’s what—now, and next—on the old boob tube, shall we? Turn that dial, or punch the remote. Heck, give it the old one-two.

The Aug. 16-29, 2021, double issue of TV Guide featured *The Walking Dead* and *Chapelwaite* on its cover. (Not to be outdone, the August issue of Channel Guide included a two-page interview with *The Walking Dead*’s Josh McDermitt and the Aug. 22-28, 2021 issue of TV Weekly gave him a page, too.) The Aug. 16 issue of TV Guide’s “Ask Matt” lettercol included a plaintive missive from Kim (if that even be her real name) bemoaning Hallmark’s cancellation of the supernatural family fare *Good Witch*. “What’s up with that?” she asks with pointed pen. Roush replied, citing the show’s seven-series run (13 years, if you include the TV movies!) and expressing shared surprise that the network announced the cancellation with only a few episodes remaining, “depriving the ... series of a final-season victory lap.” Roush also teased that future *Good Witch* movies might be a-brewing, toil and trouble aside.

A similar fan letter was published in the August issue of Channel Guide. Correspondent Diane (if that even be her real name) wrote in to ask why the promising program *Manifest* was canceled—and when *Outlander*’s sixth season is due to air. The magazine’s editors, who mysteriously go nameless, responded that NBC had signed on for six series of *Manifest* and canceled abruptly—and that fans have mobilized on social media “to lobby for another network or streamer like Netflix to bring it back.” The editors also indicated that the eight-episode Season 6 of *Outlander* is expected in early 2022 because of filming delays this year. “We will then film an extended Season 7 with 16 episodes next year,” says showrunner Matthew B. Roberts.

Over the last couple of weeks, genre fans were treated to multiple notable premieres and finales, including *The Walking Dead*’s premiere Aug. 22, on AMC; and the *American Horror Story: Double Feature* premiere Aug. 25, on FX. TV Guide’s Aug. 16 issue’s “What’s Worth Watching?” roundup praised the Aug. 22 series premiere of *Chapelwaite*, the new Stephen King adaptation on Epix; as well as FETV’s *I Dream of Jeannie* reruns. The season finale of *The CW*’s *Superman & Lois* aired Aug. 17, the series finale of docuseries *History of the Sitcom* drew laughs Aug. 22, and far-sighted sf series *See* started streaming on Apple TV+ on Aug. 27. Meanwhile, *The CW*’s sf drama *Roswell, New Mexico*, was cited as recommended viewing for Aug. 23, that network’s *Supergirl* was highlighted for Aug. 24, *Archer*’s new season premiered on FXX on Aug. 25, and UFO investigative series *The Proof Is Out There* premiered Aug. 27. Along those same spacey lines, Channel Guide featured the four-part Showtime documentary series *UFO*, which began Aug. 8 (even earning a best-bet callout). And Marvel Studios’ *What If...?* hit Disney+ on Aug. 11, while the second season of *Star Trek: Lower Decks* started streaming on Paramount+ on Aug. 12. Truth be told, I feel like I missed out. Are any of those episodes worth watching on demand at this late date? (Now, I know the fantastic *I Dream of Jeannie* is always worth watching. The others, I mean.)

Also in the August issue of Channel Guide, Holly Friedel revisits and ranks the first nine seasons of the anthology *American Horror Story*. In order, she suggests they fall thusly—Five blood spatters (instead of stars, you see): *Asylum* (2012) and *Freak Show* (2014); four blood spatters: *Murder House* (2011), *Coven* (2013), *Apocalypse* (2018), and *1984* (2019); three blood spatters: *Roanoke* (2016) and *Cult* (2017); and two blood spatters: *Hotel* (2015). How do you think they stack up—or bleed out? (Additionally, the Aug. 22-28 issue of TV Weekly gave *American Horror Stories*—an entirely different show entirely, for those of you keeping score at home—a “jeers” for stretching the Rubberman character(s) too thin in Hulu’s spinoff.)

Onward into the future! In the Aug. 30 to Sept. 12, 2021, double issue of TV Guide, the “Your Feedback” lettercol opens with a readerly “cheers” for *The CW*’s airing of *Wellington Paranormal*, the *What We Do in the*

Shadows movie spin-off. Correspondent Aimee (if that even be her real name) lauds the spooky supernatural satire as “a delight” and “extraordinary.” Cheers to Aimee (if I may be so bold as to call you that) for writing such a friendly and fun fan letter. Were Neffers to mobilize in a TV-related letter-writing or social media campaign, which much-missed program would we celebrate and champion? Manifest, perhaps? You tell me, care of this clubzine.

Linda Maleh’s “Family Room” roundup of shows “both adults and kids will love” highlights the Sept. 1 season finale of *Monsters at Work*, an animated series serving as a sequel to the 2001 movie *Monsters, Inc.*, as well as DC’s *Stargirl*, which airs Tuesdays on The CW. (Channel Guide reports that The CW ordered a third season of the show, as well as a second season of the *Kung Fu* reboot.) Meanwhile, in TV critic Matt Roush’s column “The Roush Review,” the writer tips hat to Chapelwaite, the 10-part miniseries adaptation of the Stephen King short story “Jerusalem’s Lot.” (Interestingly, the short stories “Jerusalem’s Lot” and “One for the Road”—both collected in *Night Shift*—are prequels to the novel *Salem’s Lot*.) Roush mentions “creepily gothic images,” as well as a haunted sea captain, a family curse, the undead, and an ancient tome. You had me at haunted sea captain! Roush also gives nod to the forthcoming season premiere of the TV program *What We Do in the Shadows*, calling it a “direct assault on our jugular of joy.” Is that what the kids call it these days?

The bulk of the Aug. 30 issue is devoted to TV Guide’s “Fall Preview,” which showcases USA and Syfy’s “soapy expansion of the Child’s Play film series” *Chucky*, which premieres Oct. 12; a Prime Video modern update series *I Know What You Did Last Summer* (Oct. 15); the British adaptation comedy *Ghosts*, which focuses on a haunted B&B (CBS, Oct. 7); and several promising sf shows, including the primeval world-centered *La Brea* (NBC, Sept. 28), the superpowered missing persons program *4400* (The CW, Oct. 25), Apple TV+’s alien mystery *Invasion* (Oct. 22), the Robert Jordan fantasy novel adaptation *The Wheel of Time* (Prime Video, November), and the new Marvel comics series *Hawkeye* (Disney+, Nov. 24).

A “5 Can’t-Miss New Releases” roundup of streaming programs includes *Evil*, a “satirical and spooky series” returning for the second half of its second season with new episodes airing Sundays on Paramount+. Also streaming: The “gay James Bond” animated comedy *Q-Force* on Netflix (Sept. 2); *Lost* returning to Hulu with the first six seasons; the 2017-2018 “freeform fantasy drama” *Beyond* on Prime’s free IMDb channel; *Dominion*, the 2014-2015 series adaptation of the 2010 movie *Legion*, on Prime’s IMDb; and *Fear the Walking Dead*’s sixth season on Hulu, leading up to October’s AMC debut of season seven.

The Aug. 29 to Sept. 4, 2021 issue of TV Weekly recommends The CW’s DC’s *Legends of Tomorrow* for viewing Aug. 29. That issue also tips hat to DC’s *Stargirl*, *Q-Force*, and *What We Do in the Shadows*. It also gives a “cheers” to *UFO*, produced by J.J. Abrams, no less, for balancing the freaky and the factual.

Pencil these in your calendar, fans and fellow freaks: The TV program *What We Do in the Shadows* premieres on FX on Sept. 2. Docuseries *Countdown: Inspiration4 Mission to Space* streams on Netflix on Sept. 6. *Lucifer* premieres on Netflix on Sept. 10. Comic book adaptation *Y: The Last Man* debuts on FX on Hulu on Sept. 13. The animated *Star Wars: Visions* brings new life to Disney+ on Sept. 22. The eagerly awaited Isaac Asimov adaptation *Foundation* finally shores up Apple TV+ on Sept. 24. The *Day of the Dead* zombie series dawns on Syfy on Oct. 15. Also expected this fall: *Cowboy Bebop* on Netflix.

The August issue of *Entertainment Weekly*’s “The Must List” featured the new cartoon *Masters of the Universe: Revelation*. George Takei is mentioned in a sidebar as an Asian-American actor who broke new ground in *Star Trek*. And *Evil* (mentioned above) earns an A in that issue’s TV reviews. Meanwhile, in the September issue of *EW*, writer Darren Franich compares *Y: The Last Man* (coming soon, Sept. 13) to the 2015-2018 series *The Last Man on Earth*. Also in that issue, *What We Do in the Shadows* and Marvel Studios’ *What If...?* are included in “The Must List,” and *The Wheel of Time* is featured in a five-page article that looks well worth reading.

The August issue of nostalgia-oriented *Remind* (far superior to the similarly titled magazine *Reminisce*) mentioned notable TV premieres and finales of 1993, including *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (premiered Jan. 3, aired 1993-1999), *The X-Files* (Sept. 10, 1993-2002), and *Quantum Leap* (finale May 5, premiered 1989). The September issue of *Remind* did the same for 1975, featuring *Space: 1999* (premiered Sept. 4, aired 1975-1977), *Wonder Woman* (Nov. 7, 1975-1979), *Kolchak: The Night Stalker* (finale March 28, premiered 1974), and *Kung Fu* (April 26, 1972). The rest of those issues focus on collecting Disney and TV westerns—slightly

outside of our scope, but still of potential interest—respectively.

In terms of new and recent anime offerings, Channel Guide mentioned Shaman King’s Aug. 8 debut on Netflix, and the Aug. 22-28 TV Weekly mentioned Edens Zero on Netflix. Even better anime coverage can be found in the October 2021 issue of Otaku USA, which includes reviews of SSSS.Dynazeron (Funimation), Hajime no Ippo: The Fighting! (Discotek/Crunchyroll), Pacific Rim: The Black (Netflix), Wonder Egg Priority (Funimation), Megalobox 2: Nomad (Funimation), and Back Arrow (Funimation). That issue’s anime-oriented feature articles focus on How Not to Summon a Demon Lord, Zombie Land Saga, The Fruit of Grisaia, Vinland Saga, and RahXephon. As always, the DVD reviews, though movie-based, are most intriguing indeed.

TV shows featured in the Fall 2021 issue of Sci-Fi’s episode synopses include Jupiter’s Legacy; See; Batwoman; Roswell, New Mexico; DC’s Stargirl; Gabby Duran and the Unsittables (what the hey now?), Doom Patrol, Fantasy Island, and Titans. The issue also includes feature articles about Masters of the Universe: Revelation, The Walking Dead, Marvel Studios’ What If...?, and DC’s Stargirl.

The Aug. 16 TV Guide crossword, Puzzle #1421, offers it’s fair fannish share of trivia stumpers: 55 Across is “Data’s evil brother.” 24 Down is “Ripley’s Believe \_\_\_\_ Not! (2 wds.)” 44 Down is “Eisenberg of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.” 47 Down is “Furlan of Babylon 5.” And 52 Down is “Cartoon set in prehistoric times.”

In addition, the Aug. 30 TV Guide crossword, Puzzle #1422, poses the following genre TV brain ticklers: 8 Across is “Old witch, e.g.” 26 Across is “Marvel’s Agents \_\_\_\_\_ (2 wds.)” 36 Across is “Horror anthology series, HBO’s Tales from the \_\_\_\_\_.” 6 Down is “Network that aired Lost.” 7 Down is “Popular term describing the classic Batman and Robin partnership.” And 12 Down is “Canine toon deputy.”

Your humble scribe hasn’t yet picked up a copy all his own, but in a couple of weeks, scan the local newsstands and magazine racks for TV Guide’s Sci-Fi & Fantasy Ultimate Collector’s Edition. The four-cover—The Boys, Lucifer, Superman & Lois, and The Witcher, natch—special issue features 70 (count ‘em: 70!) of “today’s top shows.” I wonder what else is featured within? Looks like you can order one at <http://www.scifi2021.com>, and the issue hits the ‘stands Sept. 14.

Until next time, you loathsome looky-loos, this is “Cathode Ray,” your guide to the best of what’s hidden in the grids. Turn on, tune in, and blast off!

## **Conventions for October**

*Mindy Hunt*

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world.

This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>.

During the week, we provide regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/> with any schedule changes or cancellations. These updates also include any COVID-19 requirements the events are requesting. These requirements are also listed on our calendar for each event.

We are always looking to keep the list and calendar as current as possible. If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at [events@scifi4me.com](mailto:events@scifi4me.com) so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

## **SEP 29-OCT 3**

### ***VIRTUAL***

[iN3D](#) – Detroit, MI **Oct 1-3**

### **ON-SITE**

[ALEP](#) – Harrodsburg, KY **Sep 29-Oct 3**

[Gaslight Steampunk Expo](#) – San Diego, CA **Sep 30-Oct 3**

[Cinema Wasteland](#) – Berea, OH **Oct 1-3**

[Fright Night Film Fest](#) – Louisville, KY **Oct 1-3**

[Anime Oklahoma](#) – Midwest City, OK **Oct 1-3**

[Archon](#) – Collinsville, IL **Oct 1-3**

[Capclave](#) – Rockville, MD **Oct 1-3**

[Cape Comic Con](#) – Cape Girardeau, MO **Oct 1-3**

[CinCityCon](#) – Cincinnati, OH **Oct 1-3**

[CONtraflow](#) – Kenner, LA **Oct 1-3**

[Edmonton Expo Comic & Entertainment](#) – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada **Oct 1-3**

[iN3D](#) – Detroit, MI **Oct 1-3**

[NEWGameapalooza](#) – Oshkosh, WI **Oct 1-3**

[OctoGones](#) – Lyon, France **Oct 1-3**

[Shake, Battle, & Roll](#) – Southampton, United Kingdom **Oct 1-3**

[Siouxpercon](#) – Sioux Falls, SD **Oct 1-3**

[Supernatural Official Convention](#) – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada **Oct 1-3**

[Unicon](#) – Las Vegas, NV **Oct 1-3**

[Birmingham Anime & Gaming Con](#) – Birmingham, United Kingdom **Oct 2-3**

[Brickworld Indianapolis](#) – Indianapolis, IN **Oct 2-3**

[Lilac City Comicon](#) – Spokane, WA **Oct 2-3**

[YumaCon](#) – Yuma, AZ **Oct 2-3**

[Brick Fest Live Philadelphia](#) – Philadelphia, PA **Oct 2-3**

[Comic Con Cape Town](#) – Cape Town, South Africa **Oct 2**

[Oddities & Curiosities Denver](#) – Denver, CO **Oct 2**

[PalmCon](#) – Greenacres, FL **Oct 2**

[TringCon](#) – Marsworth, United Kingdom **Oct 3**

[Wayne NJ Toy Show](#) – Wayne, NJ **Oct 2**

[80's Toy Expo](#) – Mississauga, Ontario, Canada **Oct 3**

[Cleveland Comic Book & Nostalgia Show](#) – Cleveland, OH **Oct 3**

[Roanoke Valley Comicon](#) – Roanoke, VA **Oct 3**

## **OCT 5-7**

[Geekway to the West](#) – Saint Charles, MO **Oct 5-7**

## **OCT 8-10**

### ***VIRTUAL***

[PAX Australia](#) – Melbourne, Victoria, Australia **Oct 8-10**

### **ON-SITE**

[ClexaCon](#) – Las Vegas, NV **Oct 7-10**

[Comic Con Russia](#) – Moscow, Russia **Oct 7-10**

[EGX](#) – London, United Kingdom **Oct 7-10**

[New York Comic Con](#) – New York City **Oct 7-10**

[Monsterama](#) – Atlanta, GA **Oct 8-10**

[Vancouver Halloween Parade & Expo](#) – Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada **Oct 8-10**

[Alamo City Furry Invasion](#) – San Antonio, TX **Oct 8-10**

[Anime Senpai](#) – Collinsville, IL **Oct 8-10**

[Big Texas Comicon](#) – San Antonio, TX **Oct 8-10**

[Borderwars](#) – Independence, MO **Oct 8-10**

[CifiMad](#) – Madrid, Spain **Oct 8-10**

[Fantasy Basel](#) – Basel, Switzerland **Oct 8-10**

[Made in Asia](#) – Brussels, Belgium **Oct 8-10**

[Sci-Fi Valley Con](#) – Altoona, PA **Oct 8-10**

[SD Who Con](#) – San Diego, CA **Oct 8-10**

[Tsubasacon](#) – Charleston, WV **Oct 8-10**

[Western PA Furry Weekend](#) – Allison Park, PA **Oct 8-10**

[Alabama Comic Con/My Hero Convention: Al Smash](#) – Birmingham, AL **Oct 9-10**

[Brickworld Fort Wayne](#) – Fort Wayne, IN **Oct 9-10**

[Comic Con Scotland](#) – Edinburgh, United Kingdom **Oct 9-10**

[ComicCon de Quebec](#) – Quebec City, Quebec, Canada **Oct 9-10**

[For the Love of Fantasy](#) – Edinburgh, United Kingdom **Oct 9-10**

[Newcastle Anime & Gaming Con](#) – Newcastle, United Kingdom **Oct 9-10**

[Great Lakes Comic Expo](#) – Clinton Township, MI **Oct 9**

[Louisvillecon](#) – Louisville, KY **Oct 9**

[St Tammany's Collectors Con](#) – St Tammany Parish, LA **Oct 9**

[Toon Con](#) – Pasadena, CA **Oct 10**

[Clifton Comic Book Show](#) – Clifton, NJ **Oct 10**

## **OCT 14-17**

### ***VIRTUAL***



