

THE NEW PORT NEWS

SEP 100



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#70

Art by Alan Hutchinson!

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BOY - WHAT... - Meade - Actually, according to your last communication, you let me stay in APA-VCR too. Hope I can get something into the next mailing! I really enjoyed the CANDY tape that you sent! There is a sequel to HITCHHIKERS GUIDE in the latest list from Slater, titled THE RESTUARANT AT THE END OF THE UNIVERSE. I have sent for a copy. Good luck with Bill... I am thinking of getting an HP-85 for a home computer, one or two of its special cassettes would apparently serve to inventory my entire collection. But first I have to build something out back to move some of this stuff into, there is hardly room to walk in here.

HYPERCUBE - Clint - I will no doubt have the "Saint" books for a long time yet, unless I get super-energetic and list them for sale. As for digging up a cheap mimeo at a junk sale for you, I already did - I got one last year for \$10, an M4. Works fine. You better grab it quick before I get my new workshop built - I could set it up next to my two other M4s and run 3-color zines to the amazement of one and all...

MY BRAIN HURTS - George - I remember Ken Scher, wondered what had happened to him. And I still wonder, since you don't say... Amazing that you finally got around to reading OVERCOMING PROCRASTINATION...

SPLIT DISCO

BEAVER FROM MARS - Barger - Lovely cover!

THE DREAM IS OVER - weber - I hope you got the five Cooper books ok, I finally got around to sending them a few days ago. I had never heard of Maitz, but I picked up the ROAD TO CORLAY because of his cover, and was astounded to discover that it was actually a great book - probably Cowper's best, I have read some of the others since and been much disappointed. I rather suspect that Maitz did the cover for Crowley's great ENGINE SUMMER, but there is no credit on the book. How any one who can't run an M4 can make snide remarks about people who can't drive a manual shift...

UTGARD - Hulan - Well, no, what I had in mind was that people who voted too fast or on the wrong side of the road would be fined... But seriously... Seems to me that I did see some Walsh titles in a catalog recently, can't recall if I ordered them or not.

TIN SOLDIER - Rogers - Nice cover. I did finally contact Ms Avery at the PO and discovered that she had never heard of me or the last issue of IT COMES IN THE MAIL. So why did the people at the LAFB office tell me that? Ghu only knows...

INTUITION -

Carlberg - And for those even further out, there's SUBURBAN COWBOY... As to my comments about THE SHINING, yes - if you want to base the tension in a movie on the fear of violent death, you get the Peckinpah sort of thing, with no need for any supernatural elements. Or without the fear of death or any moral framework you can have the sheer eldritch horror of something like ERASERHEAD. But the plot in THE SHINING seemed to imply that Nicholson was possessed by some 'evil' force and yet provided no moral framework by which he could be judged. I thought his acting was atrocious, a bad imitation of John Barrymore in DR JECKYL AND MR HYDE. And I think he knew it was bad, seemed to have all he could do to keep from laughing in many of the scenes.

SPIRITUS - Guy - Nice cover! Interesting to hear about Larry Montgomery after all this time, though I doubt I would remember what he looked like except for the famous Joe Staton cartoon... I suppose it's a bit late to think of it now, but I bet Janie Lamb has some photos you could use - maybe you could start saving up for the 200th mailing!

Now that I think on it, Patt was never a member - Lon threw him off the w/l for what I considered a very doubtful incident of plagiarism. I never heard of **Quill**, do they have any other interesting balls besides the Old English? Our computer graphics package at Langley has just acquired, Ghu knows why, a half-dozen or so different gothic alphabets, most of them illegible. Maybe the theoretical people have run through all the Greek letters and want something different... As to the mysterious Ms Avery at the PO, see my comment to Rogers. I think I had mentioned plans to have a SciCon III here this year - these plans have been cancelled. The hotel we used last year, the Chamberlin, is apparently on the verge of bankruptcy and there is really nothing else suitable that we could afford - or so it seems. It may just be that the one local fan who wanted to be Con Chairman no longer harbors any such demented lust.

SFPA 100 will be ... 1000 pages. Just a guess... Things got kind of silly at work the other night, we had a pool on what main-drive rpm the freezer paper would blow off at - no, we don't mount freezer paper in the tunnel just to bet on, this was a request from JSC. It seems that the reaction jet nozzles in the nose of the shuttle are oriented so that they could fill with rainwater, which might then freeze at launch when the craft reached the upper levels of the atmosphere, leaving the nozzles clogged with ice. So they glue freezer paper over the 1x2' elliptical holes. They wanted to know when and how this stuff would blow off, so they had us try it. Naturally we had to use the same type of freezer paper (K-Mart's house brand) and a ridiculous rubber cement called Duro that takes 20 hours to set. And they wanted high-speed movies of the paper's departure. Now, if you wait until the paper starts to tear, there won't be time to start the high-speed camera, which only has 80 seconds of film in it. So how do you know when to start it? One of the mechanical engineers suggested that we mount two samples of the paper and start the camera when the first one blew off, in hopes of catching the second on film. This worked fairly well, though the first camera - which would have provided the best pictures - had run out before the second paper blew off. The second camera caught it. At 200 frames/sec, there was motion visible in only three frames, meaning that once the paper tore, it was gone in less than 1/50 of a second.

ASTERIX IN PERSIA -

Alan - I like the cover... Also the one you sent, which will appear on this zine. I guess I was too old to be that involved with the Beatles, but I did like their later music, especially songs like "Hey Jude" and "Fool On The Hill". I still haven't seen PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK... I traded Meade my copy of THE PLUMBER, which is an interesting movie but not one that I thought I would want to see again.

"Cat Yronwode" is too good to be a real name...

We sent her a review copy of the Kirk book. I never heard any more from the PO about why my copies of CONSUMER REPORT were being returned, but delivery has been normal since. I suppose I must admit that my theory that all of the employees of the local branch ^{are illiterate} must be in error - my copy of LAMPOON has always been read before I get, I can see the eyetracks. Or maybe they just look at the pictures... Or have a friend who can read...

Hey, have you seen this HOORAY FOR BETTY BOOP that is on Star Channel? Is this the old cartoons or what?

THE SPHERE - Don - I don't know yet if I will be able to get to Knoxville, hope so. I thought the animated Gorey was much the best of that PBS series, didn't much care for any of the shows. Have you seen the HOORAY FOR BETTY BOOP? Wish I had had the time to take advantage of your typesetting offer!

MONKEYS AND CUCUMBERS - Rich - You may well be right about Dr Matrix! I don't like Hofstadter as well as Gardner, but his column on the Magic Cube was interesting. I got one, but haven't had time to try it yet.

SLIP SLIDIN' AWAY - Raub - No SYN in SPPA, ghad... Hope you are better, I had no idea it was possible to get that bad a broken leg just from falling down!

PLANNED OB-
SOLESCENCE - Campbell - I tend to agree with you about Rand. Also about page count, but it is somewhat more complicated than just Pica and Elite. This proportional type is said to average out to about 14/inch, and some people type things up larger than page-size and photo-reduce, which would give even more variation.

On the trade journal titles, I would guess that 1-5,8,10,11,13,17,21-23,25, and 29 are fake.

CONTENTS UNDER
PRESSURE - Iris - No, I wouldn't file a typer key either... Your mimeo looks ok, in any case. The Susan Cooper pbs in the Penguin edition seem to be £5.20 or around \$12 including postage, if I found the right old statement from Slater. If you want to order a set from him, write Ken Slater, Fantast (Medway) Ltd., 39 West Street, Wisbech, Cambs., England - PE13 2LX.

I HATE SURPRISES - Lynn - Welcome back! You named your daughter after the mummy in the old mummy movies?! Now that's fannish! I would kind of like to have a Vari-typer... I didn't know DeVore was another typewriter collector... I just bought an old L C Smith today, and a couple of weeks ago got a Royal from around 1933 with the glass side panels for \$2, and in beautiful shape - all it needed was a tension band and I made one easily enough. Enjoyed TRIVIA!

GUNFIGHTERS - Bob -
The NPR station here is starting HITCHHIKERS GUIDE on Friday (Mar 6), but I doubt I will be here to hear it, probably have to work. Hope you thaw out soon! I will admit that I have little use for Reagan aside from his current policies, I find it hard to have any respect for a hack actor with a greasy voice. I generally approve of his attempts to cut government spending, but I don't know if they will really amount to anything. I wish he would cut the fat weapons budget too - and I read the other day that one program that is NOT slated to be cut is the tobacco subsidy. A more useless expense I cannot imagine.

STARJAZZER - Deb - I didn't know Brother made an element typer. There's just no excuse for dirty books, I mean if you can't get it off with a dustcloth you might as well throw it away... You are probably too disorganized for organized crime...

MEL - Lon - I agree with you about Reagan and pollution. Slowly but surely we seem to be headed for the nightmare world of Brunner's THE SHEEP LOOK UP. There are over a 100 colliers backed up in Chesapeake Bay waiting to load coal, most of them apparently dumping their garbage and sewage into the bay - won't the beaches be fun when summer comes...

What I meant by "only a frictional loss" was that there will always be those who do not contribute to the common good - perhaps at a given time. Or under a given perception - some artists that we admire today were considered a total loss during their lifetimes, and vice versa. We certainly could do with "less government" in some sense, but Reagan's apparent intention of freeing "business" from the responsibility for cleaning up after themselves in an environmental sense is not what I would like to see cut. The monitoring of the environment and enforcement of standards of non-pollution is exactly the sort of thing a government should do. If they want to cut, let them cut all attempts to decide what we can read or where we gamble. Or try building only half as many weapons of mass destruction. Dismantle the scandalous dairy price support racket. Of course, a minimum of common sense would help any situation - we had an OSHA nitwit come through and recommend that all bookcases be bolted to the wall lest someone pull one over on himself.

What I really miss in BASIC is the trace-back capability, I suppose - especially since I have to deal with a program written by someone else.

(MEL, Cont.)

I am not sure that the fact that corporate taxes are ultimately passed on to the consumer are really a valid argument against them - perhaps those who consume the most should pay the most taxes. Suppose there were, somewhere, an imaginary citizen who contributed something to the common good and had an income, but consumed nothing. Should this paragon be taxed at all? Perhaps it would make more sense to eliminate the individual income tax and tax only corporate profits at a rate dependent on the business' pollution of the environment. Thus those who consumed the most would pay the greatest share of taxation.

Fascinating statistics!

SHADOW-SFPA - Some remarkable Collins art, nice comments by Barger about our KIRK'S WORKS.

FLAMBEAU - PL - So how is "Petit Roche"? I don't know about giving credit for art, page credit that is... Might turn SFPA into a comix apa or something... Oh, so that's what Little Rock is like...

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Well, I see that the sandpaper box that this 99th mail resides in is empty, so I must have finished commenting on it... I feel kind of bad about not doing more for the 100th mailing, but there just hasn't been any time, what with working 12-16 hours a day and Saturdays. This is Friday, March 6, or actually early Saturday, and I have to work again on Saturday and on Sunday. The great push is to get the second Space Shuttle tile panel, the one simulating the nose landing gear door, tested by Wednesday, March 11. Fat chance - we have not been able to cajole the wind-tunnel into producing the proper flow yet, and then the panel has to be installed and hooked up.

Aside from working, about all I have done is buy the odd book or typer and see a few bad movies. SHRINKING WOMAN wasn't too bad, THE DEVIL AND MAX DEVLIN was drek, FORT APACHE was basically plastic in the end, ALTERED STATES was spectacular in places but ultimately devoid of meaning. MY BLOODY VALENTINE was a fairly well done homicidal maniac effort - I was trying to figure out where the town of Valentine Bluffs was supposed to be. It was on a large body of water and had a 2000 foot deep coal mine and one of the characters went west to California. The sign outside town said "Elevation 200". On the Great Lakes, maybe.

I hope to get a storage building/workroom built this spring, the clutter in here is getting frightening. I have a vague design for a two-story building about 16x32, with a large window on the second level facing south to get some benefit of passive solar heating. I don't plan to have any other windows except two on the north side upstairs to put A/Cs in. In order to store the solar heat in the winter, I plan to use large pipes running through both levels and 5 feet into the ground. These can be filled with water after they are in place, and the weight will not have to be supported by the structure. This should give me some 1000 sq-ft to set up mimeos, shelve books, typers, store KIRK'S WORKS, etc. Now all I have to do is find someone I think can build it and see how much it will cost. I plan to do the interior panelling and shelves myself. It will have to be well-insulated, of course, as the only heat besides the passive solar will be electric. And the large window will be shaded so that the summer sun never hits it. It turns out that at this latitude, the lowest winter sun is 22° above the southern horizon, and the highest summer sun is 77°. A rule-of-thumb I ran across in the literature is that you need 2 gallons of water to store the heat from every square-foot of solar collector area, so with a 10x20 foot window, I will need 400 gallons or about 50 cu.ft. 20 feet of 6-inch pipe is bout 4 cu.ft., so I would need 12 of those, but that would only have a frontal area at the window of 60 sq.ft., a little over half the available area. Let's try 4-inch pipe - I would need 28 of them, which would give a collector area of 93 sq.ft. That's more like it, and they would be easier to handle, too.

Well, again, sorry not to have more in the 100th mailing - dare I show my face in Knoxville? I won't know if I can get off until the last moment. But just wait until we hit the 200th mailing...

NOSEFERATU

I NEVER DRINK...
BLOOD!

HE'S A NASTY
LITTLE BOOGER!



Alan Hutchinson

SNOT FUNNY, McGEE!