

Out of the Bin



'Space Bin' Artwork by Ditmar

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A Newsletter from MERV BINNS
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Dear Readers,

Well, May was a quite busy month but the last OoB was delayed, mainly because we were waiting for photographs that Helena took at John Foyster's Memorial. Speaking of which, in #11 somehow the captions got reversed on the photos of two of the speakers at the Memorial. Some readers will have received the corrected version, but others haven't. We'd had most of the copies printed before we discovered the error. Apologies to the gentlemen depicted – *John Schutz* and *Bernard Rechter*. (Correctly captioned below)



JOHN SCHUTZ



BERNARD RECHTER

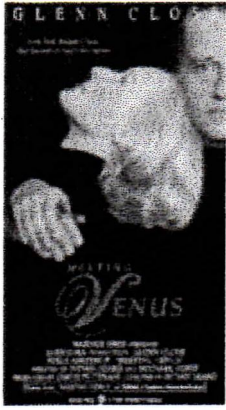
I did little garden work for about three weeks, due to a very nasty cold that has still not completely cleared up, with a cough still persisting. I have had more garden work and consequently the cash from that has allowed us to manage a bit better, but we have only got to see one movie. Some we had wanted to see but could not afford to at the time have finished their run, but we did get to see *THE MATRIX RELOADED Part One*.

Not having more than a passing knowledge of computer terminology and such I found it a bit hard to understand what *MATRIX II* is all about. Okay, the machines, that is the computers are trying to take over and bring all humanity apparently into their network, but only one place, called Zion seems to encompass all of humanity. I can vaguely understand that humans can "mind meld", plug in their consciousness, with the computer network and one guy in particular has the ability to defeat all that the machines can put up against him. And that is where the computer graphics special effects in the movie take over, with our hero fighting dozens of copies of the same computer generated opponent at the same time. The real mind blowing part of the movie to me however is the visual images of such as the enormous underground cave where humanity hides from the machines, the great machinery that provides for the population of the place, Zion and the apparent workings of the inside of the computers which engulf everything, with millions of numerals tearing up and down all round. In other words the ultimate special effects movie and it seems that what story there is, is virtually irrelevant. Despite the load of nonsense it no doubt is I enjoyed it, but I am not sure if Helena did entirely or not but whatever, we will have to see the next part.



THE MATRIX RELOADED: "Neo" (Keanu Reeves) takes on a proliferation of "Smiths" (Hugo Weaving) in a cleverly choreographed tour-de-force of high-tech photographic wizardry.

They say that playing the games that are being released concurrently with the movies adds to the enjoyment and understanding of the movies, but we will certainly have to forego that pleasure. We watched the end credits through and were very pleased to see the names of our friends Lewis Morley and Marilyn Pride amongst the artists and we are looking forward to seeing them as Guests of Honour at the CONTINUUM Convention next month.



We have not seen much else of late that is worth commenting on. Lots of repeats on TV of late and the only one that I can recall which we did watch was *PUSHING TIN*, starring John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton, Cate Blanchett and Angelina Jolie. A romantic comedy featuring air traffic controllers and their partners with a little bit of interest being in the behind the scenes of air traffic control, with a few tense moments. One of those movies to fill in an idle couple of hours. At Race Mathews' screening we watched *MEETING*

VENUS, a movie set mainly in Paris about the production of Wagner's opera *Tannhauser*. Directed by veteran Hungarian filmmaker D. Istvan Szabo and starring American actress Glen Close miming Kiri Te Kanawa's singing, co starring Niels Arestrup as the conductor. Visually interesting because of the plush theatre sets and interesting music wise of course, I do appreciate Wagner very much, but I would have liked to have seen and heard more of the opera itself in this romantic and often humorous movie.

It seems that an issue of OoB cannot go by without mentioning the passing of another friend, author or actor whom I have known or appreciated. I sold books to **GREGORY PECK** and his wife when I was working in McGill's Newsagency in Melbourne, when he was here filming *ON THE BEACH*. We heard that he had died peacefully in his sleep on the 12th of June, aged 87. He was always one of my favorite actors and another whose movies will be watched and appreciated for years to come.

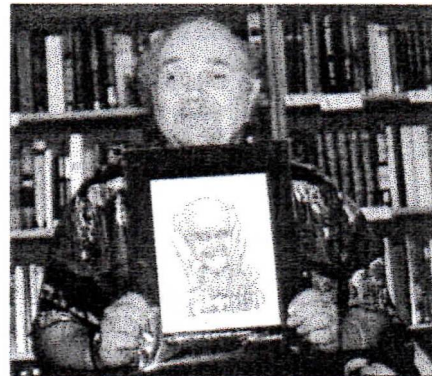
FANZINES RECEIVED

New York fan Tim Marion has kindly sent me his zine *TERMINAL EYES* and yet another classy fanzine it is. Three sexy females grace the glossy cover, but why are women wearing so much black these days. I hate it! It is nice to see that other local fans, friends of mine are already on Tim's list and contributing and commenting. Tim's writing about his friend Harry Warner I think sums up the feelings of all SF fandom and a very heartfelt piece it is. I am quite sure that any fans world wide who have had anything at all to do with fanzines knew of Harry Warner. Alas, Father Time is catching up with all of us and Dick Jenssen's heartfelt comments on our friend John Foyster make this very evident. It has been a pleasure for me knowing all the fans I have known in my fifty years and I am endeavoring to try and record some of the memories I have of people and meetings that I have enjoyed over the years before I also become just another name in Harry's fan histories. I have not seen most of the movies Tim comments on but I remember *IRON GIANT* as a particularly good animated movie based on a book by, if I remember correctly, the English Poet Laureate Ted Hughes. I did also enjoy *THE SCORPION KING* but it was pretty silly and not as good as the preceding *THE MUMMY*. *SPIDER MAN* was okay, good sfx, reasonably good story but it did not live up to all its ballyhoo, I thought. Loved *MINORITY REPORT*, one of the best pure SF movies ever. We have not seen the mini-series of *Children of Dune* unfortunately. I loved the original books, not the later ones and thought the movie of *Dune* covered the story reasonably well, so I would like to have seen the TV series.

I have never had the time in the past or the inclination, to thoroughly read fanzines and comment on same, but doing my own zines and having this marvellous thing called a computer, I am making an effort to do so. In particular the letter columns.

September 11 has made us aware that there are people in the world who are fundamentally opposed to what we as a more or less Christian society, with broad views in the main on other people's philosophies and religious beliefs, believe in. Eric Lindsay's views in his letter in Tim's zine, on how we should deal with these people is on the face of it pretty radical and we can only pray that it does not come to that. Darrell Schweitzer's letter however sums it all up very well. Muslim fundamentalism is as Darrell basically puts it, out of date in the 21st century. If we have to fight to convince them and to protect our way of life, so be it. As I have said in previous writings the prophecies of Nostradamus bear noting in that conflict will continue for a long time, but peace will follow.

Other zines received included *THYME* #136 Alan Stewart, who is battling to catch up on his big backlog of material, *INTERSTELLAR RAM JET SCOOP* for June from Bill Wright, *NO SIN BUT IGNORANCE 45: RETURN TO OZ* from Claire Brialey, *SF COMMENTARY* #78 from Bruce Gillespie, *VANAMONDE* from John Hertz, who has now produced over 500 issues, and if I have missed any thank you all for sending us your blood sweat and tears productions. Congratulations to CHARLES BROWN and 37 years of *LOCUS*! I have been getting issues of *Locus* for at least thirty-six years and I still have them all on the shelf. Keep up the great work Charles and your crew.



LOCUS editor CHARLES BROWN with artist Bob Eggleton's drawing of him, at a celebration in honour of *Locus*'s 35th Anniversary.

Work is progressing on my Memoirs and I have been continuing to sort out photos for Helena to format into what I have written. It may well be late this year before Part 2 is out, but parts 3 and 4 are already written and we will hopefully have all out during 2004. In Part 1, in my report on the Melbourne Convention in 1966, I said that John Baxter had returned from overseas, but Lee Harding points out that at that stage he had not even been overseas. We would love to hear from people whom we are sending *OUT OF THE BIN* to, even if just to say keep sending or not and to make any comments on what we have said and particularly any inaccuracies. SO PLEASE DO WRITE OR SEND US AN E-MAIL!

Merv B