

Rodney Leighton,
#11 Branch Road,
R.R. #3,
TATAMAGOUCHE,
Nova Scotia, B0K 1V0,
Canada

Email

rodney.leighton@gmx.co.uk

This is a zine like thing intended as a reviewzine as well as a LoC substitute. Anyone wishing to publish a LoC by me should extract whatever you wish from this publication and print it as a LoC. Anyone may redistribute any or all of this publication in any manner whatsoever. It will appear on eFanzines.com, possibly in a somewhat different format.

Paper copies available in return for things I write about herein: Books, zines, packages of zine from other folks, various other things. Next issue: probably sometime in March 2013.

Distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>, or send a letter to Creative Commons, 444 Castro Street, Suite 900, Mountain View, California, 94041, USA.

Sept. 19th was kind of an adventurous day. I took a saw to Truro with the full expectation of leaving it for a while. Instead I brought it home. Not sure if it is fixed; haven't tested it yet. While they were doing that I sent to Staples and bought some photocopies of #1. Went to buy a ribbon for this old gal and a sales guy came along. I fully intended to ask if they carried new typewriters but had no intention of buying one. So I asked him. He said they only stocked this one and pointed to one in a box - 2 of them actually. Instead of inspecting it and asking some questions such as whether it has any screen and print mode as well as type and so forth I hauled out the plastic and bought one. What with one thing and another

I had not gotten it started until today, sept. 22nd.

Turned out to be not quite what I thought it was nor what I was looking for. Plain old typewriter with a few bells but no print mode, no screen, no... But, well, that is a lesson in buying something basically unseen and not doing research. Second time this year. I can take it back. I decided to go back to this old girl. Probably keep the typer in case this one dies.

My desire to learn what my next life will be is not going to be granted anytime soon I guess. I have been having trouble sleeping in bed at times for various reasons. I usually sleep part of the night in the recliner, go to bed, sometimes back to the chair. My house is not too big; it is a two level, from ground level there is a set of 7 stairs up to the living area, bedroom, bathroom, and 8 steps down here which is mostly storage and where I type. I have lived here 14 years; there is always some light and so I haven't been bothering to turn on lights when I move around. Night of Sept. 19th I went to sleep in the chair; woke a bit disoriented for some reason, headed for the bathroom and walked smack into a wall. Huh. Certain amount of cussing. Certain I was by the bathroom I moved over a bit and took a step and went down the stairs to the landing on the ground level. I saw a star or 3. I couldn't figure out where I was. Hell, you fell down the stairs you (**&&c% old fool! Get up. I sprained a couple of fingers and scraped a patch of skin off one shoulder. Seems to be it. Could have been really bad, broken neck and some busybody would come find me before I expired and I would be forced to spend years with some stranger wiping my ass. Of course, a broken neck might have been the end of me. I figure my personal guardian angel, tired of my writing about my desire to leave this world, just like a number of people, tripped me, gave me a shove and then made sure I wasn't hurt.

I do turn on a light now. Sometimes.

Before that I enjoyed reading *FELINE MEWSINGS #49* which I found in the box when I got home. The cover depicts a coud of angels protecting a cat from rain. The publisher's recently departed cat I suppose. Inside is a very nice story about a kitty with lots of photos, a tale of family and trains and life from many years ago by Taral Wayne, a longish trip report c/w a

bunch of photos by editor Laurraine Tutihasi; Amy reviewed something I actually found interesting. Jonathan Vos post contributes a fannish tale as opposed to a scholastic paper. And a good bunch of LoCs. Available on the web, via email and on paper for letters, fanzines, contributions, money (\$5) – R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 2081 W. Overlook St., PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323 USA.

A copy of *TRAP DOOR* also costs \$5. This is an annual digest type publication evocative of old time SFanzines full of excellent writing and names of yesteryear. #28 Starts off with an editorial about Robert's days on The Farm, a commune in Tennessee. During a time when I was working on farms milking cows and chasing beef cattle and making hay he was running a store and doing promo work for the farm band. An interesting article indeed. Someone name Roy Kettle who lives in the UK provides readers with a visit to his prostate and certain other bodily parts and functions as well as doctors, hospitals and such and makes the tale hilarious and terrifying concurrently. The part about meals in hospital was dreadful.

As it happens I had some tales bout hospital care from someone who had recently been in some; a friend and co-worker, aged 50, who had a heart attack, came and told me some of what he went through.

Some time not that long ago I subscribed to *PLAYBOY* for a year; there are untouched issues on the table upstairs. Earl Kemp's article on Hef was interesting. I refuse to read anything which looks like poetry. Graham Charnock contributes a neat essay on conversations Not sure if I believe Gordon Eklund or not. Very good letter column. Enjoyable fanzine. Robert Lichman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, CA 94611-1948 USA. You could also try an email to locs2trapdoor@yahoo.com and see what happens.

The first pair of \$5 bills went to NJ and Ore. - on August 3rd. First one came back quickly; latter has yet to respond. Second pair went to MD and CA on September 3rd and they arrived on consecutive mail days.

XEROGRAPHY DEBT #31 has a wickedly hot female on the back cover; a bunch of perzine columns, 5 actually, about e-books and zines and other things and 30 pages of zine reviews by 10 folks. Stuart Stratu does 10

including an issue of the zine mentioned above. The editor doesn't believe in negative reviews and does not print any; seems she has been taking some heat for this. I think it is a good plan. But perhaps sometimes the reviewers are a bit too positive; one chap who lives in Germany wrote reviews which are almost skills. There is one woman who mentioned that a couple of zines were overpriced; I noted that she lives in Minneapolis and in her short intro (each reviewer writes a short bit pre reviews) she writes "Living in a small town..." What! Later, writing in a 45 page zine which costs \$4 she writes about a 62 page zine: the price is a bit steep, at \$4.75. Hmnnn. That one, *TALES OF BLOOD AND ROSES* was the only one in this issue that particularly excited me. Problem I have is that almost everything reviewed is months old; Stu reviews *ROGUE #1* which arrived here last spring sometime. This zine has been going for 13 years; last one I saw was 8 or more years ago; this one is better. A good read. No SFanzines in here. Publishers may wish to submit zines for possible review: be aware that she does not review zines she considers crap. Buy yourself a copy. Write to Davida Gypsy Breier, PO Box 11064, Baltimore MD 21212 USA - email davida@leekinginc.com

Sept. 25th brought a bundle of fanzines off the web; 9, I think. Reading Arnie Katz's latest *FANSTUFF* has been amusing. Not sure what to do with these zines. I could write to Chuck: enjoyed reading every one of this batch, thanks. Send some more. I suspect the bundles would soon cease. Interestingly, to me at least, I have now started pondering writing LoCs; send them to Chuck and let him decide whether to pass them on as LoCs or turn them into a joint e-fanzine or what. But if I write LoCs to printed off fanzines, should I not LoC those paper fanzines that I receive directly. Ah, cha!

Sept. 26th brought *ZINE WORLD #31*, published back in June. Haven't looked at much of it yet. Dunno why it took her 2 months to mail the thing. But for all I know she just got the order this this month. And she has a kid. Bought a seafood bake thing recently; instructions said to bake it for 45 minutes. Didn't say to thaw it first. At 50 minutes it was still frozen. Better go and check it.

Sept. 27th. Mail today brought a letter from prison with a cheque for one dollar. ARGHH!!!! People. Gah. Thought about tossing it but I remembered all the letters with money in them I have sent to small press folks with no result, and how it bothered me. So I will send it back with a note.

Dan, and anyone else who reviews this: Please state it is not available for money and certainly not for cheques which will cost more to cash than their face value.

Sept. 28th Mail brought a big fat book about pro wrestling, bought for by sister.

The ezine bundle included 5 issues of *FANSTUFF*; 2 issues of *REVENANT* now discontinued; *BROKEN TOYS #6* and a loose leaf black & white version of *ASKANCE*. I read some portions of that, saw some things which suggested I may receive a paper copy from the publisher and have set that aside. Read everything else; enjoyed it all. Wrote almost 3 pages to send to Chuck about *FANSTUFF*. Don't know what he will do with it.

Got the seafood thing cooked, ate about half of it, kind of blah but ok. Got the rest heading. Ta.

ZINE WORLD #31 was published last June or thereabouts. Slimmer than usual apparently. Starts off with a few letters, about 13 pages of mostly brief zine reviews and then some listings for zine libraries, tons of them, and resources and personal ads. And bios of the reviewers. Years ago I used to read *FACTSHEET 5* or a copy of *ZINE WORLD* and find dozens or sometimes hundreds of zines which looked appealing. I think I found about 6 in this issue. My friend Dan reviewed about half of those. Most interesting to me: *THIS IS CHER...* Dan, buddy...no point in begging for it, he would have tossed it long ago. Biggest problem I see with this publication is everything is dated. Hard to say how much unless dates are given. Of course, Jerianne has been doing this zine for 16 years and even if the zines reviewed are no longer available at least some of the publishers will still be going. Cover says \$3US; \$4Cdn. Inside price list has it a buck higher. Send her \$5 and get a copy. Only 2 or 3 SF Fanzines in here and Dan doesn't like them. But it might be worth sending a copy or two for those of you who wish to expand fanzine fandom. PO Box 3556, Portland, OR 97208 USA - ether: www.undergroundpress.org

NOTE: Jerianne is extremely sympathetic to people in prison; she prints personal ads for free; 17 of 18 are guys in jail.

Oct. 1st. Mail brought back a copy of TLoR#1 mailed to Graeme Cameron. Dumbass me forgot to include the apt. #. Too much trouble for the poor carriers to look it up. Also a batch of *VANAMONDES*. And *OPUNTIA #254*. I don't think I would want to view any of the movies Dale writes about but it was fun reading his descriptions. Could have done without the extensive financial analysis. A few zine listings. \$3/Trade: Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, AB, Canada, T2P 2E7

Oct. 4th I received some items from Frederick Moe today which means that all of the people I have contacted about zines have responded, except 2 Sfans.

NIGHT TRAIN TO MONDO FINE #6 is a single sheet; dvd review, 1 letter, a few thoughts on technology.

CUNIFORM #2. An attempt to start a new apa devoted to small press, communication and personal things. This issue has about a dozen pages: James N. Dawson; that prisoner mentioned above, and Frederick. I am interested in reading apa mailings but not in participating in any. Not sure where this effort will be by the time anyone reads this; write to him at 36 West Main Street, Warner, NH 03278, USA

I was worried that John Hertz had expired or something and was pleased to receive a bundle of *VANAMONDES*. These are always interesting; some portions are not of any interest to me but I always find some things of interest. Even if they are 2 years old.

Turkey Day in Canada. I had a turkey dinner made by Swanson.

Oct. 11th. One of those days when I did not feel like getting out of bed and could barely move after I did. Puttered around. There seems to be a tradition that nothing of interest comes in the mail on days like this. But today broke that tradition. I think I will likely drop my subscription to the *WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER* when it expires and I usually only read about 45% of each issue but they are still of interest.

Didn't even look at the issue of *TIME* which arrived; I have about 10 of them piled up that I have yet to look at. Usually a fair bit in *MACLEAN'S* although I have, I think, 3 issues of that magazine. With the NHL lockout I doubt there is much in *SPORTSNET* that will interest me. But there was also a bundle of fanzines. *CHALLENGER #32 & 33*, however many sheets they are. Another Guy Lillian zine, much smaller. A copy of *REVENANT #7* which I enjoyed reading and a copy of *EXHIBITION HALL #21* which was also good. Lots of reading.

Oct. 21st. I have been having a rough time of late. Work has sucked. In a conversation with a potential employer he said: "If you don't like your life, change it." A while ago I received a zine entitled *PICK YOUR POISON #4* which is well written but was a bit difficult to read. I don't know how old author Nate is now, but the zine is all stories of how he, and some friends, seek employment and income while being slacker teens and young adults; jobs taken on while constantly doing drugs and consuming booze. He lives in Minneapolis but I am unsure if that is where he lived when this occurred. Many temp agencies, many temp jobs; guy is computer literate, lots of office jobs. So I am reading the zine in bits, and reading some other stuff, and trying to work - and in my perpetual war with God, she stuck a tree limb in my eye. After a lot of cursing and crying I realised it was not serious and continued; managed to finish that job. But then the eye started paining and watering and nose was running like a river. Ok, I damaged a sinus. Then I could see to do some things like watch the show *CASTLE* which is a TV show which is enjoyable for the plot and action, but I dislike the main character intensely, but still watch the thing. But I couldn't read. For 2 days. Scared almost to the point of going to hospital I swallowed Tylenol and stayed quiet. This morning I went off to a job for the guy mentioned above; fully intending to start working, I found after half an hour I was psychologically incapable of doing so. Came home and pondered what to do. Well, let's see if I can read. Yep. Read the last parts of the zine. I had been reading a long essay on Scientology in *MACLEAN'S*, and an excerpt from Neil Young's book which mentioned he was always high and now has weird stuff in his brain. The Scientology thing was scary. One thing I noted is that they ship people they view as trouble for their organisation off to Australia, just like the old days of it being a penal colony. Place

can't be all bad; Hotbody Helen lives there.

And Dan, who sent me the zine. Anyone wants to sample it stick www in front of the title and .net on the end and go read some.

Oct. 26th. Also Stuart Stratu from whom I received a LoC today along with an unreadable (to me) 1 page zine and copies of some photos of a couple of babes. Not exactly what I was looking for. On the other hand, there is some value in receiving a letter that I can read and then toss. I have been thinking about making distribution times shorter; more frequent.

Latest issue of *ALEXIAD* also arrived. Read about half of it so far. Good letter section which I read first, as usual.

So I had this plan to spend some money on small press stuff, probably write about what I got, whenever things arrived. Sent some money to Robert Lichtman for a *FAPA* mailing, requested either the current or the next one. He sent one from a year ago. I was pleased with the rapidity with which it arrived and pleased to see a bunch of stuff from Bob Sabella; I had already read 4 of the zines and most of the rest where not of much interest. I guess that is all I will say about that. In the highly unlikely event that anyone reading this wishes information on *FAPA* you can contact Robert at the address above.

Oct. 30th brought a bundle of mail, couple of magazines, trio of DVDs, a bunch of promo stuff and *OPUNTIA #255* with comments on the *FAPA* mailing I thought I might get, #300. Thing has been going 75 years! Amazingly, according to Dale, there are 4 folk who started *FAPA* 75 years ago, who are not only still alive but who did zines for this mailing. Zounds! 35 zines, 433 pages. Plus a CD. Not one I would have liked. Dale comments on 13 of them; nothing to make me disappointed that I did not get it. Reviews of a couple of SF movies; some letters, book reviews. Mostly an interesting read.

Oct. 31st. Recently I received some books plus letter from my friend Lyn McConchie. In the letter she mentioned that her ram had attacked her one too many times and had been turned into dog food.

One of the DVDs contained a movie entitled *A FEW BEST MEN* from 2011. Set in Australia it has some impressive scenery and was a highly amusing romantic comedy, about a young Brit guy and an Aussie gal who wished to get married; his 3 friends are cads who cause all sorts of trouble which is mostly funny. A highlight for me was a middle aged Olivia Newton-John as the bride's coke snorting, booze swilling, chandelier swinging mother of the bride. But the real star was a ram. This guy was much more docile than Lyn's; he was well trained or doped or something. At one point I said out loud: "A real ram would have killed these fools by now." Some of the stunts the guys got up to with that ram were hilarious.

One of the books was *SCIENCE FICTION TRAILS #9 - All Martian Spectacular*. A magazine sized publication with 84 pages, it is a collection of 9 short stories plus a factual essay which I admit to skipping after the first half page. I did enjoy all the stories. Lyn's story, *A Day Out Shopping* involves a Martian gal; a town bully and thief, an old west town, threats and violence and, oh yes, books. Very good story. The longest story - 16 pages by Sam Kepfield - is in my view the poorest of the lot and would have been improved by some proofreading, although it was intriguing how he included a number of different genres, areas and issues, even to a naturally produced nuclear reaction, on Mars, in a time long before such things were known of. Interesting in that the folks from Mars were all shapes and sizes and colours; all were good folks and there was a frequent theme of the rotten white man mistreating the native Indians, and the Mars folk helping them. I am considering doing a longer review to submit elsewhere. Recommended publication. Cover price is \$8. Published in August. PO Box 8191, Avon Co. 81620, USA.

Nov. 1st. About noon it was 70; or 20 if you prefer. Mosquitos almost drove me out of the woods. Mail brought *THE KEN CHRONICLES #25*. An excellent zine for me: I read about 85%, skipping only a review of a movie about coffee and some writing about his iPad; I got a couple of chuckles, 4 of the 6 colour photos in the centre were interesting, amazing mushroom!, and while the trip to Washington would have driven me bananas he seemed to enjoy it, and I found the tale interesting. And I can type this little bit; type an address on an envelope, chuck the zine in the recycling bag; send a copy of this to Ken whenever I get copies made and

expect another issue in February. Just for fun: <http://kenbausertsnostalgicmuseum.blogspot.com>

Did it! Old machine only beeped half a dozen times. Somebody write and tell me what the hell it means.

PLEASE NOTE: While letters commenting on this publication and its contents would be welcomed and encouraged, I will **NOT** be sending copies to anyone in return for said letters. If you do not consider it worthy of more, I don't blame you. Simple solution: don't send anything!

Nov. 2nd brought a bundle of 17 webzines. 3 of them were printed off copies of the first edition of this thing. Looks a bit different. 14 other zines to peruse. Lots to read. Bad depression today. Bunch of issues of *FANSTUFF*. They should help.

Nov. 5th. Started a new job today; well, same type of work, a new site. This one is on a hill and is really hilly, lots of rocks and slopes. But it might be a good job. It will certainly be challenging; it is almost all hardwood; and it pays the highest rate I have seen in ages. Of course, for that to be good, I have to cover some ground. But it will be nice to leave some quality Yellow Birch and Sugar Maple for crop trees as opposed to the crap I have been leaving all summer and fall so far. Last few years come to that.

Got home to find a letter from Ned Brooks, telling me about typewriters. Also wondering if he used to send me his annual zine in which he writes about the esoteric publications he collects. Yeah, I recall getting an issue or 2. Don't know when. He mentions the Crad Kilodney story *Blood Sucking Monkeys of North Tonawanda* which probably came to me from my late friend Cliff Kennedy, which means it was somewhere between 1986 and 2000. Ned included his latest zine for SFFPA, which was fun to read. It's all mailing comments, this looks like a vibrant apa. The only thing is, he identifies the zine author he is commenting on by surname not of the time, but sometimes by given name, not that it made much difference, I don't know many of them anyway. Rich Dengrove.

CHRISTIAN NEW AGE QUARTERLY, Autumn 2012, is mostly letters on the summer issue. An intriguing essay on ends and ageing and

retirement, and such things, by editor Catherine Groves, and a reprint of a review of a book about ageing, changing and dying from 2001. Looks like an interesting book. This is a good publication for anyone interested in religious matters. There are 2 full issues and 2 supplementary issues per year; sample copy is \$3.50 US and \$4 US dollars anywhere else. PO Box 276, Clifton, NJ 07015-0276 USA – email info@christiannewage.com. Guess what the website address is.

SCIENCE FICTION TRAILS #8 is subtitled *Where Science Fiction Meets The Wild West*. Editor David B. Riley chose to start this edition with *Pirates of the Ozarks*, an alternative history thing which is so bland and boring that I abandoned it after about a page. But then the second story entitled *Greenhorns* is a great story. If you like horror. The first short paragraph evokes horrible images, pulled me into the story and it carried on to the denouement of a mechanical alien thing killing off people in a wagon train and getting blown to hell. The final tale, by David Riley, is a quick humorous bite of a dinosaur, the years 1897 and 2013, twinkles and hijinks. Too bad the dino had to die but I liked this story a lot. The other 6 are all good. *The Tragic Tale of Tyrannosaurus Tex* has a gunfighter dinosaur who can't fire a gun, shot down by a coward with a buffalo gun, and has a cute ending. There is a fairly long story involving alternate history, other dimensions, time travel, Rebels, Yanks, Indians, Custer and a time machine. Also some silly mistakes but not enough to bother anyone. An excellent publication – details as above.

Nov. 13th. Last night around 3am sitting in my recliner wishing I could go to sleep or my damn elbow would stop throbbing and I was listening to the mice gobble down the poison I out for them. Mice here are apparently vegans, they won't touch cheese. Also bold. Getting cranky at one point I shouted: "Oh fuck off!" Silence. For about 3 seconds. Nibble, gobble. Went off to work somewhat later, had a not bad day considering the site is all hills and I can't lift my right arm above chest level and the left knee growls imprecations periodically. Came home, noted it was dead on 20 on the glass; lovely day to put in some firewood. Traditionally the first mail day after a long weekend brings nothing but bills and junk mail. Box is half full. Huh. One lot was another bag of webzines from friend Chuck along with a letter and a couple of letters from folks who have read the first issue of this thing and enjoyed it. That

makes about half a dozen.

Nov. 16th. Got a little booklet from Wales today. I think this may be the first time I have gotten mail from Wales. Guy only printed 9 copies of which I got #9. Sent because Chuck has been blanketing the UK with my crap. That's good; the more folks who read it the better.

Mice have been eating all kinds of treats. My microwave sits on top of a small metal table which is about 3 feet from the table I eat off; mouse stuff is under there. Having supper last night and nibble, gobble. What! Get up and look, silence, no sigh of the thing, must have been behind a leg. Sit back down, nibble, nibble. Got pissed off and threw the almost empty pepper can at the table; clang, bang. Mouse vanished. No sign of any since. Perhaps I scared the bastard to death.

I took a fit and bought a pack of lottery tickets for \$10. Paper on the front states: "Guaranteed winner in every pack." None in this one. I am going to send it to the lottery company and see what happens.

Nov. 22nd. Today I opened the cover of the mailbox and exclaimed: "How the hell did she get that stuffed in there!" Flyer guy had left his bundle; mail carrier had a bunch of stuff for everyone plus a couple of letters for me and a package from Amazon; Christmas gift from sister. Box was full. Another weird thing: The **WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER** usually arrives on Thursday. Last couple of issues haven't. An issue arrived yesterday; 24 pages this size, ordinary envelope, postmarked San Jose, CA, Nov. 6th. 15 days. Also yesterday a large envelope containing 3 fanzines plus a letter arrived from the UK. Postmarked Nov. 16th. 5 days including Sunday. Next issue of **WON** arrived today. Weird, huh!

A MEARA FOR OBSERVERS #13. A fanzine by Mike Meara which has a fabulous letter column, some cool colour photos and a bunch of writing. There is a lot of blather about computers and printers and such; I tried it but when my eyes started glazing over I gave up. There is a considerable amount of booze references; I tend to read as much of this crap as I can and when I start muttering imprecations in my beard I start skipping sentences, paragraphs, sections. I really don't care what people drink or how much or when, but I have absolutely no desire to read anything about it. But this was a pretty good zine.

DETRITUS #1. Chuck has been sending me bundles of webzines. I

dreamed up this concept of doing some reviews; him doing some things, cobble it together; here is the result. It was intended as an ezine only, in my concept; it is all about ezines and I am dubious if anyone who is not a SFan who reads SFazines off efanazines.com would understand any of it. Chuck did 10 pages in which he looks back at small press and fannish doings and comments on some things which have happened on the web and looks at **DARK MATTER #10** and some other stuff. Final 10 pages are me rambling on about the fanzines he's printed off for me in a couple of bundles with a bit of stuff which was in a letter, added at the end to fill the thing out. Chuck says he will send out paper copies; if you are reading this and want to read it, your best bet is to track it down on efanazines.com and read it that way; Chuck put in some art and inserted a few comments in my section in some sort of reddish ink; the copies he prints in monochrome come out black & white and very light grey for his comments. If you do want a paper copy, write to Chuck Connor, 85 The Paddocks, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 9UF, UK.

You can email me at rodney.leighton@gmx.co.uk; messages on that go to Chuck and he sends them on.

Nov. 26th brought **OPUNTIA #256**

Nov. 27th brought **IT GOES ON THE SHELF #34** which is Ned Brooks' annual zine in which he writes about arcane books and a couple of zines and some mail. He says he is happy to read this thing off efanazines. If anyone else feels that way please let me know; I can save a few bucks periodically. This one should be on there sometime early in 2013. #3 should be sometime in April I suspect, for the web version.

CITY HOMICIDE was a really good TV show from Australia, based on a tightly knit homicide squad in Melbourne, there were mostly good plots and storylines, mostly good acting and a lot of character stories. All the major characters suffered loss and the choice of career over love and loss of marriage and family. I thought it was quite clever that they did almost the entire final season around one storyline, sort of like a novel in a series of half a dozen volumes. One show featured a media frenzy and I thought I spotted Hotbody Helen in a cameo. Went back for a closer look. Don't think it was; I know she used to do on camera TV work but I don't think she does now. Maybe Dan will tell me.

Although he disclaims any knowledge of the \$20 I sent him last spring, Guy Lillian was good enough to send me a copy of **CHALLENGER #35**. I am delighted that he did; it was a run read in places, informative in places and, well, this is sub-titled *The Medical Issue* and Guy starts off with a description of his pain in the guts and hospital stay which was fairly typically Guy: informative, light-hearted, well written, funny. Followed by a tale by some lady about her heart attack and the shaving of the tail, so to speak. Taral Wayne provides a longish essay on how health professionals can sometimes be not very professional and how it can be beneficial to go to a hospital but only if you really need to. An essay by John Purcell about some internal bleeding, near death, hospital care and food, and a cat which jumped up to be petted, landed smack on his incision and got tossed across the room - which brought back memories of when I did that tone of our poor old cats when I got excited watching some pro wrestling match. Alan White provides a good cover and an hilarious tale of vasectomy. Joe Major writes about various friends and family members going to hospitals; Steven Silver describes finding a quack for a family doctor. And quite a lot more. Some other stuff; some poems ignored by me, a couple of short pieces by Guy and a letter column which is a tad short for **CHALLENGER** - 11 writers, 14 pages, Eric Mayer was the best. I have sworn off LoCcing. But. A copy of this crappy little thing is hardly a fair exchange for an 84 page fanzine. Granted that I did not read about 10 of those pages. I may add some more but I am thinking I might try to LoC this one. No price listed, used to be \$6. Guy Lillian III, 5915 River road, Shreveport, LA 71105, USA - GHLIII@yahoo.com

THE TRIUMPH and TRAGEDY of WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: 2 DVD set released by WWE. Disk 1 is interviews, bits of matches, commentary on people and events and reflections by people on events. They actually started with Texas Rasslin from the 50s, but the majority of the DVD is about the Von Erich clan, the great wrestling and promotion and success and then all the tragedy. A bit too much about the Freebirds for my taste but then again Michael Hayes works for WWE. Disk 2 is wrestling matches. I am amazed at how they choose what matches to put on these things although 10 of the 12 matches were interesting and fun. An enjoyable set of nostalgic wrestling.

Dec. 3rd. Came home this morning to find a message on the machine to phone a woman at the lottery place. She informed me there was a winner in the pack, in the Crossword. \$5. I said, hell, I checked it 4 times! Oh well. Said she will mail me a cheque for \$5.

Which arrived Dec. 17th - which also brought the Dec. issue of *ALEXIAD #66*, which contained the usual array of material and *OPUNTIA #257* which has a hell of a long review of a book on financial disaster which lost me after a couple of pages, some zine listings...I don't ascribe to the damned 'the usual' but I have had this argument with Dale before. Yesterday brought a paper copy of *ASKANCE*, summer 2012. Not sure why since I have read it and there is half a page or so devoted to this issue in *DETRITUS #1*. Only differences I can see in paper copies and those printed off the Internet by Chuck is that, in this case at least, the paper copy has a cover, in colour; the editor's comments in light ink in the letter column are much easier to read than the pale grey that they are in the downloaded version and the paper copy is stapled twice, the other one was loose sheets. I might but some sort of essay on this in a future *DETRITUS*.

BLUE HEELERS is a cop show set in rural Australia. I have enjoyed the 12 episodes I have seen so far. It is nowhere near the quality of *CITY HOMICIDE*, but I did enjoy it.

Dec. 25th. The final mail day before the holidays brought a package from my friend Dan which included the Cher Zine *THIS IS CHER*... mentioned previously. Occasionally begging does work! Some other things as well, couple of zines I will not mention, one I may in next issue, and a DVD which the machine refused to play. Mail also brought a renewal form from *MACLEAN'S* for 72 bucks. I don't think so.

Chuck has been sending me tonnes of SFanzines printed off the internet. Saw a picture of this very active guy named Chris Garcia somewhere and immediately thought: "Christ, this guy looks like Pampero Firpo." which means nothing to anyone. Recently I have been reading back issues of *FANSTUFF* which features, among other things, weekly LoCs from Robert Lichtman. And some by Chris Garcia. So I was thinking, if I was hooked on the Internet, and reading this ezine and sending LoCs I would relate the story about the wrestler who was known

as The Raging Bull of the Pampas, from Argentina, Pampero Firpo, one of whose main features was his wild head of hair. Who is, or at least was a few years ago, a mail carrier in the Oakland, Ca, area. It would be cool if he delivered Garcia's mail. But, according to *FANSTUFF #4*, he lives on the other end of the bay from Oakland. Robert Lichtman lives in Oakland. Maybe the artist formally known as Pampero Firpo delivers his mail. I will mail a copy of this to Robert in a couple of weeks. Maybe he will deliver it.

Of course, it is entirely possible that Robert will take one look at this and toss the thing away unread.

Dec. 28th. Second last mail day of 2012 brought: a flyer of coupons from MacDonald's, haven't been in one of those in decades, into the recycling bag. Some sort of advertising thing from some place in the US addressed to sister. Into the recycling bag! *CONSUMER REPORTS* thing aimed at getting me to subscribe again. I think I will look at it before it goes you can guess where. And the latest issue of *ON SPEC*. Authors listed on the cover included Leslie Brown. Really? This one appears to be a female who lives in Ottawa; not my cousin who looks like his father.

Dec. 30th brought a blizzard warning on the radio; not that much snow yet but we shall see what is to come. In any event there is now enough of the stuff to lay me off, which means I will have to Truro early in 2013, which means I will get some copies of this thing and the following day will ship some copies out and the original to Chuck, who will put it on efanzines.com when he has time, and who may ship some paper copies to people. I'm tempted to suggest that if you get a paper copy from the UK you should write to him, but I suspect that might get lost during the retyping/reformatting process.

Issue #3 will begin shortly. In issue #1 I stated that copies of #2 should be obtained around the first of 2012, and 3 proof readings did not catch it. Nor the typist. But it was close.

#3 should be out in March/April.