

BLUESLETTER #49

THE BPP ROSTER



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**NOTES FROM THE CO-CHAIR BY
"GRIM" JIM MAIN
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Well, it's now official. Since no one else has thrown their hats in the ring, Brien Wayne Powell and I are now the new co-chairs of the B.P.P. for the term of March 2009 to Feb. 2010. I'm glad to have someone like Brien around to fall back on, as he's quite a cool, level-headed guy to have around. Plus I've always loved his work. Take a bow, my friend.

I'm going to say, here and now, that in respect for the work that Sam Gafford does putting together the BL each issue, (formatting and production) he is exempt from producing any other publication for this group. I believe it's only fair.

Three members of this group have not done columns for the BL in two consecutive issues. The list of offenders reads like this: Nate Corrigan, Doug Freeman and Rome Maynard. Please make an effort to attend next issue (deadline is May 8th) or it's three strikes you're out. If you need an extension, please just let me know.

I plan on trying to recruit new members for our poor group at the upcoming SPACE show next month. If anybody here plans on attending, come visit Sam Gafford and I at the Main Enterprises table there.

Steve Skeates is featured in the brand new issue (March 2009) of one of all-time favorite publications, Alter Ego. Check it out for a look at what is only a part of our fellow members checkered career in comics.

Not much going on in the group as of late. I haven't seen a new book in awhile. I think the last new book I got was Monster World #10. I loved it as it brought us to the threshold of the BIG battle to come. If Mike and his team can sneak away from Declan and his group of lycans, that'll be a feat.

But that's all I have received so far. Very boring. I had hoped that Jeff would've gotten that new issue of SLUMBERLAND that he talked about in his column last issue done at last.

Hope to see a larger turnout next issue folks...

All the best—
"Grim" Jim Main

How's the comics?

I know I was supposed to be doing an article on 'The Delusional's' (and no, I'm not going to tell you what it has to do with. You'll just have to get the next BluesLetter to know what I'll be talking about). But this issue I want to talk about the state of comic books today. Every couple of weeks I stop by the local comics shop to see the offerings and like what I'm seeing. There's never been more product available than now. With the success of the movies (the ones that portray the characters as real and not as comic book cliches anyway) they've showed the possibilities which the comic companies themselves should be exploring.

As I've said, I like what I'm seeing. Unfortunately, I don't necessarily like what I'm reading. One of the things that has been the bane of the comic book industry has been the 'big story event'. On one hand they've been cash cows for the companies, which is why they've had so many. On the other hand, not all of the stories that are a part of the event have been worthy of being in the event. Collectors buy the entire run and all books connected to the event and comic book companies see the sales as vindication for doing the big events even if a story here or there doesn't measure up.

I've even tried asking complaining collectors who hate having to buy all the 'crap' books because of the event, why they don't just not buy the books that don't make the grade. Heaven forbid they actually take a stand and not support bad comic books, but comic book events are like drugs to them now. They get that nonplussed look on their faces, like I've just assaulted them or something or mentioned the unmentionable and they're back to pulling that awful book off the rack.

Some guys are spending upwards of \$70 to \$150 dollars every two weeks on all the events and crossovers connected to the events. Ultimately, comic book buyers like what they like and like all drug addicts will support their habits no matter what. Even if this hit, er comic book wasn't good, the next one will make up for it. (Sure it will).

The good news is that as long as they keep buying books even if they're bad, the comic book industry continues on and the chance for good books is increased.

Darrell Goza

<http://ScriptGraphics.com>

TO WANT FOR NOTHING!

AND IT'S ABOUT TIME TOO!

(RUMINATIONS FROM THE ELDER STEVE)

Or, to get right down into it, nowadays it would seem it's always something, and, while we (the workers within this particular industry) may (for example) think we're raising the bar, in actuality we could very well be merely raising the top, while somehow simultaneously getting over it! Get the picture? Over the top and through the woulds, shoulds, and coulds, to grammar's house we go, and that's out there, man, way out there, and yet we'd be (believe you me) still amid our peers (mainly due to the fact that they're on a similar journey – and let's thank the overriding culture that at least symbolically sells the tickets for making all our lives pretty much the same!), our voices as shrill as the chalk that's busy elsewhere being applied to that green surface still identified by those in charge as a blackboard. Still and all, I'm hardly here to impart some sort of a lesson, a situation made more than perfectly clear by the fact that when I say I miss nothing I'm definitely not speaking of some amazing power of observation I supposedly possess, especially considering that I usually feel more than uncommonly bereft of that particular ability, one of my many explanations as to why I write comic books rather than novels! Instead (as a matter of fact) I'm speaking of an actual missing, an actual longing-for, an emotional quagmire I never in all my daze figured I'd ultimately tumble tea biscuit over passing lane into! But there you are!

Fancy meeting you here! The plain truth, however, is that back when I leapt aboard this shiny and so utterly colorful pictorial storytelling bandwagon – back, that is to say, in the 1960's – respected literature (a category comic books were emphatically at least according to the aforementioned folks in charge in no way a component of) was already well on its way, headed toward nothing, closing in fast, the short story having already reached a position best described as being next to nothing (and I still believe that's as close to nothing as anything within literature is ever gonna get!); Furthermore, in an obvious on-the-other-hand position, being young and adventuresome I wanted absolutely no part of any of that, which is why I made that leap! I wanted *something*, preferably something I could sink my teeth into, and now, as I

stand in the book section of my local department store, I can hardly believe my eyes.

Talk about sinking your teeth in (yes, g'wan ahead, do that!) and then consider that a large percentage of the so-called novels upon these shelves deal in one way or another with vampires, even as a majority of the remaining tomes feature characters every bit as creepily wonky as any of the many new-fangled variations upon that certain famed long-fanged impetuous neck-connoisseur – werewolf-hunting vampires, vampire-hunting werewolves, ghost-debunking zombies, crime-solving felines in books that advertise on their covers that inside there will be recipes and one that even ballyhoos both recipes and crochet patterns, plus alternate realities in which the South won the war or the Great Depression never ended or George Bush actually did declare himself king and we let him get away with *that* too, not to mention Western romances and unicorn-laden fantasies! Yowp! These are the sorts of books that back in the thirties and the forties, the fifties and the sixties weren't even counted when one newspaper chain or another would devise its Best Seller List, said books being that far beneath even consideration! Genre novels – romances, sci-fi, monsters, murder mysteries, pathetic fallacies, soft-core porn! Yet, they're now basically all that those lists consist of!

Think about it – I avoided writing stuff that consisted merely of words, words, nothing but words, and got into comics instead because (in the main) I wanted to write about something big – action, adventure, forbidden worlds, more fun, the return of the new gods, role models, rugged men, scantily-clad women, large breasts, bulging muscles, friendly ghosts, noble savages, angst, ennui, amnesia, mad scientists, colorful supervillains, nefarious schemes, an impending Apocalypse here, Armageddon there (as fast as I can), monsters, mobsters, horrors, terrors, tremors, chicken fat, filigree, disarray, Dr. M.T. Graves, Captain Fear, Bucky Bizarre, funny animals, space travelers, death rays, anti-matter (which somehow strangely did matter after all), impossible mysteries, heart-stomping betrayals, silly sidekicks, and fist fights galore!! And now (in an overwhelmingly huge sense) that's what novels these days are all about! And movies too! Those two institutions abruptly becoming concerned with all that comic books used to be about, while comics

themselves are still basically involved in the same old thing, about (that is to say) what they've always been about! So, what exactly (anyway) has been lost within this off-the-wall reality shift? Nothing! Yes, that (in a nutshell) is what's no longer there, and suddenly somehow that's also what I miss!

All of which begs into sudden reemergence (but with a whole new spin to its old self) a certain inquiry, one too often (beneath far more jocular circumstances) offered in response to the unholy abundance of cynical observations flowing forth (mainly at various cocktail parties, especially those that have lasted far too long into the night) from that apparently leaky brainpan of this particular correspondent, and, in case you haven't already guessed, what it is that gets rhetorically asked is, is nothing sacred? To which (at this point) I can only reply, "Perhaps, but probably not, and furthermore, who cares?" After all, it's hardly the depth of the whole that we should be concerned with here (not even, in fact, when taking into appropriate consideration the utter actuality that the aforementioned "whole" may very well be a pun!); rather, what we should be zeroed in upon at this particular juncture is our initial subject's sudden absence, the utterly worrisome absence of nothing at all.

Not, mind you, that literature (as I now finally come down hard upon something I merely hinted at a couple of paragraphs earlier) has ever actually achieved that obviously (for some reason) highly sought state of perfect nothingness. Yet it's come damn close! Those aforementioned short stories, for example – ones in which the movement on the part of the main character is so subtle as to seem at first to be nonexistent! Or, even more emblematic, those tales in which the author sets everything into motion for a subtle change, whereupon the protagonist, demonstrating sudden stubbornness, refuses to go there, refuses to change. A non-story, as some wag dubbed these, a somehow extremely popular entity amongst the literati back there in the mid- to late sixties, even as novelists of that same period were busy giving equal weight to the crucial, the important, and its polar opposite, the piddlingly insignificant, endlessly unnecessary details, like (for example) J.D. Salinger going on for two whole pages enumerating the entire contents of the Glass family medicine cabinet.

And, all of this was brought home recently when at a suburban yard sale I chanced upon a beautifully preserved 1956 paperback edition of John P. Marquand's "Point of No Return," a book that was actually written way back in 1949. Hardly a stranger to the construction of exciting genre fiction – he was, after all, even earlier (i.e.: in the thirties), the author of all those exceedingly popular Mr. Moto fever-pitched murder mysteries – Marquand, within his more "serious" work, was nonetheless among the first to take a daring stab at portraying hardly anything at all and then going on and on and on about it! Here, the colorless suburban protagonist, the appropriately named Charles Gray, gets up in the morning, makes small talk with his wife, eats his breakfast, drives to the train station, takes the train to the city, goes to the bank where he works, and attends a board meeting, and by then we're all the way up to Chapter Four and pretty well convinced that this is the way the rest of the book is gonna read – no real surprises, no (speaking but momentarily of the bank) embezzlement, no misappropriation, no bail-outs, no going-out-of-business sale or whatever, and certainly no armed robbery or hostage situation or abrupt need for some superhero's intervention, let alone any mistaken identity or torrid affair or race against time or even any sort of shocking socko twist ending, and, really now, so far, I've been enjoying the hell out of this far far from wild ride!

Obviously, then, at a quarter to three on this particular Sunday afternoon, this undoubtedly is just what I needed, this peculiar sort of story that they just don't seem to write anymore. Could be, in fact, though I daresay more than a few of us would point-blank loathe to admit it, this is what we all need. At least upon occasion. If only to momentarily calm all our jangled nerves. To give us the illusion of stability. And provide a desperately needed shred of hope, while at least symbolically smoothing out the bumps that proliferate upon the paths of everyone's existence!

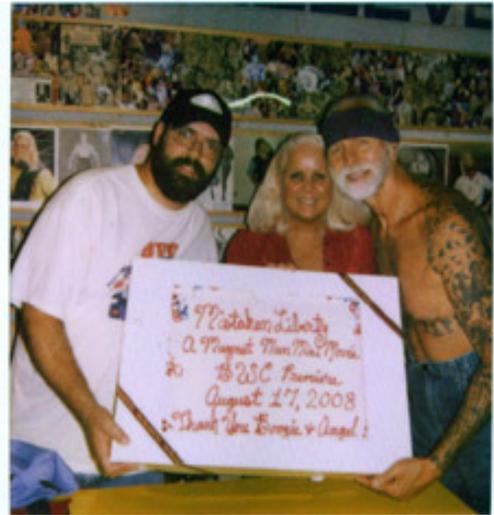
But that's nothing! I mean, really now, boys and girls, you should hear what happened to me *last* weekend! I was busy rummaging through the refrigerator, coming upon plastic cutlery and momentarily wondering why it was being stored in the fridge and deciding if I had my druthers I wouldn't call it a "spork;" I'd call it a "foon," when all of a sudden...

BRIEN WAYNE POWELL'S BPP COLUMN

PAGE I

MARCH 09

Greetings fellow BPPers! Hope you are all doing well & having a great year so far. Every year seems to have it's ups & downs & stuff, but it will be hard to top some of the great experiences I got to enjoy last year. Since this is my BPP column I will mostly touch on things that deal w/my small press comics. One of the first cool things I did last year was to finally realize my dream of adapting my Magnet Man comics into a short film. This is something that I had in my head for a long time, but never got around to doing for one reason or another. I'm very happy w/how it turned out once it became a reality. When it came time to do a second installment, my childhood hero Jimmy Valiant & his wife Angel (who made the MM mask) were gracious enough to let me come to their wrestling school, Boogie's Wrestling Camp, to film. Since the film centered around the replica Statue of Liberty displayed at BWC, it seemed appropriate to shoot the film on 4th of July weekend. Then, on August 17th I went back to BWC to have the big premiere of the movie. It was a wonderful party just like any weekend at BWC & everyone seemed to like the finished product. It was a great time for me to share w/my wife Gala, our 3 yr. old son Douglas, my niece Lacey, & my nephew Scott. My pal Griff, who plays Phil in both of the MM films, was also able to come to camp for that special day. Also that summer I went to Heroes Con & handed out copies of my Boogie Man vs. Werewolfman comic which guest starred Magnet Man. Then, on December 14th, Magnet Man made his triumphant return to BWC for the annual visit from Santa. What better time & place to debut my new Boogie's Silent Knight comic. You may be noticing a theme to this column by now & it is true that the majority of my small press activities for 2008 in some way revolved around Boogie. Hopefully that won't change anytime soon. So many pro writers get the privilege of writing their favorite characters like Superman or Spider-Man. I'm fortunate enough to be able to write about the Boogie Woogie Man. I've loved the Boogie Woogie Man ever since I was a kid & now that I've gotten to know Jimmy Valiant I have even more love for him, Angel & the whole BWC family. Just like my BPP family, I am proud & honored to be a part of the BWC family. I highly recommend making the trip to Shawsville, VA any Sunday from 12 to 4 to meet Jimmy & Angel & experience the beauty of BWC!



Brien, Angel & Boogie at the BWC Premiere of Mistaken Liberty, August 17, 2008



Magnet Man w/Boogie, Angel, Santa & an Elf at BWC, 12/14/08



Magnet Man posing w/my beautiful wife Gala & precious son Douglas 12/14/08

BRIEN WAYNE POWELL'S BPP COLUMN

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MARCH 09

As you might notice, I'm taking advantage of the new pdf format of the Bluesletter to share some pics w/you. Most are from BWC, but the one on the bottom of this page is of my son Douglas on his first day of playing what I guess you would call little league basketball. His team was the Suns & he had a great time running up & down the court dribbling & passing & shooting & making goals & all that good stuff. The 5 week season ended this past Saturday & all the players got a trophy. Douglas loves sports & we enjoyed watching him learn the basketball basics. Maybe he can play the part of Basketball Bandit in the next Magnet Man picture! I want to thank everyone who voted for me in the BPP Awards. All of your votes are greatly appreciated & I am honored to have won the Gaffy for Best Webcomic. Unfortunately, I hit a bit of a snag right before Christmas & only just recently got back on schedule posting new issues of the comic. Hopefully I can stay on track now for another long while. I'm really happy w/the online comic & I'm glad to hear that people are enjoying it. I have lots of plans both story wise & also some 'extras' that I'd like to add to the site someday. As far as print projects go, I had a project almost completed recently, but I have since fallen on even harder times than the hard times I had already fallen on. So, unfortunately, that project will have to wait a little longer to see the light of day. I have a couple more ideas for print comics that I want to see happen, so I really hope things will be able to get rolling again before long. Recently I announced my interest to run alongside the great Grim One as co=chairs of this awesome group for the next year! By the time you read this, we should all know if anyone else decides to run against us. I'm really hoping that one way or another I will end up w/the opportunity to co-chair this wonderful group & help to make it an even more awesome place for all small pressers to come & be a part of. On the following page is my attempt to get back to commenting on the publications I am sent. Thank you to everyone for sending your books my way. You guys are awesome! Then, on the page after that is a one page strip for your enjoyment. Thanks for taking time to read my column this ish & I look forward to reading yours as well. Have a great one! Keep publishing those great BPP Publications!



My mini-comics *Boogie's Silent Knight & Boogie vs. Werewolfman* displayed on the wall in the main camp building at BWC



Magnet Man & Douglas pose at BWC w/ the suit of armor that inspired my comic *Boogie's Silent Knight*



My precious 3 yr. old son Douglas on his first day playing little league Basketball

BRIEN WAYNE POWELL'S BPP COLUMN

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S.P.A.Z.

(SMALL PRESS APPRECIATION ZONE)

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY (from Jim Main)

I was honored to have a one-pager included in this great publication, but my favorite comic was probably the two-pager in the middle of the comic by our own Noor! I also enjoyed the contribs by Sam Gafford & Steve Skeates! Great to see the BPP representing in this classic comic from Grim Jim!

KULPRIT #2 & 3 (from Darrell Goza)

These comics could easily fit right in w/the mainstream comics found on today's new release shelves. Darrell & his collaborators always put their greatest effort into making high quality comics & that certainly holds true in these two publications. It is obvious that they have a true passion for this artform.

MONSTER WORLD Series (from Sam Gafford)

I've always been a fan of Sam's art, so it's nice to see so much of it lately. He has managed to weave a very interesting story to entertain us w/as well.

CHASE Series (from Jim Main) For a more in-depth idea of how much I like this series so far, you can check out the LOC that I was honored to see printed in issue #6. Jim & co. have done a great job w/this series. I look forward to each new issue & I'm proud that it represents the BPP.

STEVE SKEATES' New Publication. I can't figure out what the title of this new book is called, but that didn't stop me from really enjoying it. My favorite part was the strip called NO HOPE, especially the panel where the guy's mind wanders. Another Skeates classic!

Well, folks, that's about it for my column this time around except for the one-page strip which can be found on the next page. Thanks for all the great books! Take care. -Brien



Our trip to the Pumpkin Patch. Douglas reps one of his favorite characters



Me as one of my favorite wrestlers, Buggy McGraw & Douglas as the Batman



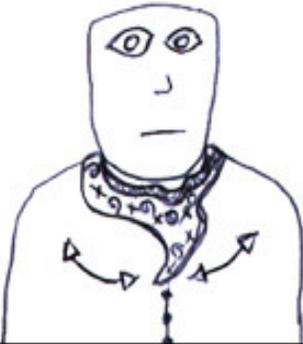
The Magnet Man Fan Club

BRIEN WAYNE POWELL'S BPP COLUMN

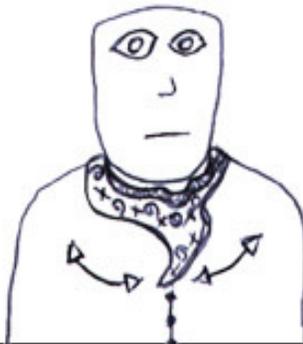
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MARCH 09

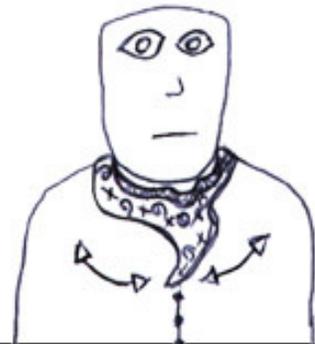
A lot of people don't realize that I am an excellent yodeler.



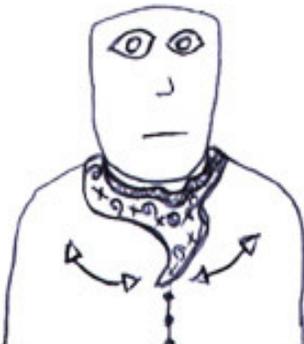
The other day I entered what I thought was a yodeling competition.



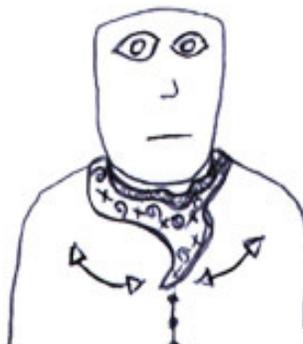
Turns out, it was actually a pig-calling contest.



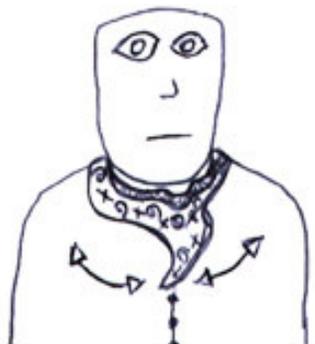
I won a special prize for creativity.



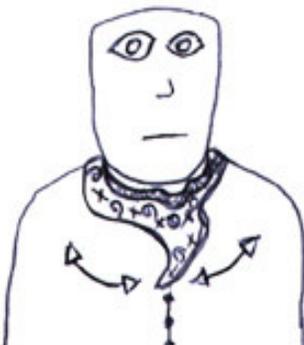
The prize was a year's supply of pig slop.



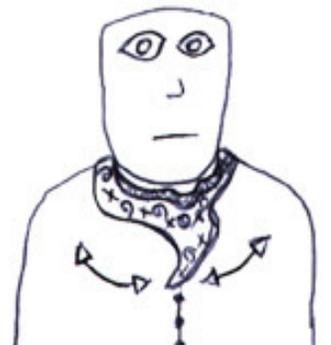
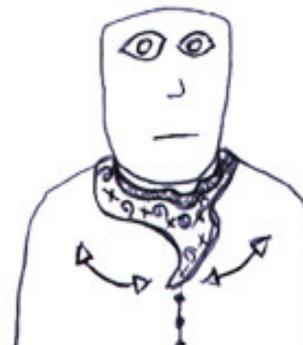
Ironically, my uncle died last week.



He left me a water tower full of chocolate sauce.



Looks like I'll be going into the chocolate-covered pig slop business.



A WORD FROM THE RECLUSIVE SKEET

(brought to you by Steve Keeter/
PO Box 536368/ Orlando, FL
32853-6368)

Hello, BPPers!

First of all, I think I may have missed Jim's birthday back in February. At least, I don't remember if I commented on it or not, and if not... HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JIMBO!! Hope you had a great one and got lots of awesome comics and stuff!

And that's sort of just it, I've kind of been out of touch with small press and missing a lot of things, including publishing a new zine. Well, Sam does have the pasteups for SUNWING #4 (hi, Sam!) and has graciously agreed to do the copying for me, so hopefully there will finally be a new skeet comic headed your way soon. And I do have a bit of stuff that I could possibly begin throwing together to make a new MANTRA. But it's pretty obvious that ol' skeet has been in a state of semi-gafiation for some time. I even let my SPS membership slip away.

There are a lot of factors that have contributed to my lacktivity in the small press network, including the pressures of my job and helping with preparations for my daughter Kathy to attend college. And financial problems. And then, of course, the obvious factor is you tube. My creative instincts have recently led me in that direction, and I've been investigating the video making and video sharing world. It's kind of like a few years ago, when I took a break from small press to learn to play guitar and ended up in audio engineering school and made several albums of music. The video sharing network is what I'm focused on now, and, although I've been less than active in small press, I do have a youtube channel devoted to comics, small press, old movies, and nostalgia... it's called ClassicComicsMan. Haven't posted anything on that channel in about 2 weeks, as I write this, but will shortly be posting a new video blog over there talking about small press. So, I dunno, if you get bored or something, you might want to head over and check it out. You may even be mentioned, you never know lol

And I did manage to script the new COSMIC MAN, which Jim is assembling even as we speak, er, type, and may be out by the time you read these words.

In the meantime, I have been receiving and enjoying everyone's comics!— including the amazing new series of minicomics from Jim and Sam, such amazing titles as MONSTER WORLD (a great concept, and very cool to see Sam during the art chores on a regular basis) and Jim's terrific CHASE!— which boasts the outstanding artwork of John Lambert! And our pal Brien managed to tear himself from the online comic world long enough to bang out a hilarious Christmas special and "Jimmy Valiant Vs. Werewolfman!" And Steve Skeates continues to publish his brilliantly written and wittily illustrated zines.

Apologies for not having the time to write some real concrete reviews, will do my best to make up for that next time, but this column is already late and Jim is patiently waiting (I think lol)...

So that's about it for now, and, although I've been kind of scarce lately, I'm not out of small press by any means, and I will have some new comics out soon. Oh, and one more thing...

This is my 40th year in small press! I bought my first fanzine, ERBDOM #29, in 1969! So, will have to do something to celebrate that soon, and will let you all know about it soon.

All the best to everyone, the BPP rocks, and have a great day,

—Steve

APA KHABAR FROM MALAYSIA

By Noor Hafizah @ ladyfieza

It's pretty warm and sunny outside at the moment. My cat Pippin is sleeping on my desk, minding her own business. It's very annoying because she likes sleeping on my pencils of The Cavaliers that I'm working on. I have no idea why but I guess she's absorbing those ideas into her mind and she'll start dreaming about her being the hero itself. Oh well, anything can happen anyway

I had a call from one of my old artist friends. We all call him Otapir. It's funny really, tapir meaning a kind of animal that wears diapers (you can google it out) and he adds the O in front for no reason whatsoever. I haven't heard from him in eons. Well, I recently lost my mobile phone so I lost his number anyway, and I'm glad he called. We talked about the good old days. Then he mentioned about his recent meeting with a superstar cartoonist in Malaysia, Ujang. It seems that there will be a revival in the old humor magazine called Gila-Gila (straightforward translation would be Crazy-Crazy). He's going to gather the old timers of cartoons and comics and the veterans in the industry and he's going to also revive the nearly extinct Malaysian culture – silly humor cartoons. Gila-Gila is an old humor magazine publication, since the early 30's.

During World War 1 and 2, Malaya (then Malaysia) need a lot of cheering up to do, with the Japanese wrecking havoc in the kampungs and everywhere. So this is where Gila-Gila comes in. With artists like Rejabhad, Zainal Buang Hussein and the rest, they became heroes in entertaining the youngs and the olds while hiding in underground tunnels from the enemy. It also became the number 1 humor magazine (it's kind of like Mad magazine) in Malaysia. Of course there are several publications who try to follow suit, such as GeliHati (Ticklish Heart) and of course, Humor.

I remembered my mum complaining to me, about reading too much Gila-Gila. There was this old superstition that if you read too much Gila-Gila you'll get stupid and you won't study at all. This was true because when you pick up the magazine, you will never want to put it down and you'll be laughing your head off over and over again. I kid you not; I was in that situation before.

So the point is, with the near extinction of humor magazines and Malaysian style artworks (like Dato' Lat and Rejabhad), and with the rapid mushrooming of manga-oriented magazines like Kreko, Gempak, Arena and all sorts, these old timers and cartoon veterans chose the right timing to introduce and revive Gila-Gila, and hopefully will encourage the young generations of Malaysians to appreciate Malaysian arts like how they appreciate Batman and Naruto.

Also I would like to say that Malaysia has come out with a sure-win animation formula that receives good reviews and critics from every corner of the country. With the release of Geng: Pengembaraan Bermula (Geng : The Adventure Begins), it adds up to a few Malaysian animations in the list. The recent project was Saladin, but ironically, not a lot of people know about it. What's more ironic is that the character designer is one of my friends. Anyway, you can check out this movie at wikipedia by typing Geng: Pengembaraan Bermula. I haven't seen this movie but it looks very fun to me. It focuses on Badrul who is bored of city life and decided to 'balik kampung' with his best friend Lim. There they meet Upin and Ipin and Rajoo the animal-whispering boy, going on an adventure to unravel the mysteries surrounding the small kampong. Now this is an animation that is very much related to a Malaysian life. I feel I can relate myself to it because I used to balik kampung myself, when I was younger. Who can resist chasing the chickens and climbing the coconut trees? Well, the point is, I'm glad that someone in Malaysia has come out with something that we can identify and call it our own. Like, "Hey it's pin and Ipin! And it's from Malaysia!" We have our own identity in art now. Yes!

Hope to see you guys again with another rambling from the Far East! I'm Noor saying selamat berjumpa lagi! (See you soon!)

The Winter 2009 Blue Plaque Publications Checklist

The B.P.P. (Blue Plaque Publications) is a co-op of small press and fanzine publishers who have joined together to promote, encourage and aid each other in their efforts. Publishers interested in the group can contact Jim Main, 13 Valley View Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804 (or at jmain44@aol.com) You can also check out the group's message board at <http://yahoo.com/clubs/BluePlaquePublications>. Below are some of the most recent publications from the group. The codes F, M, C and D describe the size of the book. (F-Full magazine size, D-Digest, C-Comic book, M-minicomic)

THE LOST MAILBOX OF DUTY-FREE OBSERVATIONS#1969 \$1.50 From Steve Skeates, 95 Jefferson Ave., Fairport, NY 14450

More great, insightful, and educational material from Steve Skeates are found in this publication. Besides some truly wonderful comics and illustrations, his article "Jumping The Gun" is a must read for writers. (F)

BOOGIE WOOGIE MAN JIMMY VALIANT vs, WEREWOLFMAN \$.50 from Brian Wayne Powell, P.O. Box 911, Forest, VA 24551

Werewolfman is on the loose and out for revenge against legendary pro wrestler Jimmy Valiant (www.jimmyvaliant.com) Will the Boogie Woogie Man be able to best his latest foe? & what can Magnet Man possibly do to help? Find out in this special one-shot issue! (M)

BOOGIE'S SILENT KNIGHT (A Magnet Man Christmas Special) \$.50 from Brian Wayne Powell, P.O. Box 911, Forest, VA 24551

Magnet Man travels to Boogie's Wrestling Camp in Shawsville, VA to spend Christmas with Jimmy Valiant and his wife Angel (www.jimmyvaliant.com) But when a nasty dragon tries to ruin the holidays, they may need a Christmas miracle to save the season! (M)

MONSTER WORLD #10 \$1.00 from Sam Gafford, 624 Metacom Ave., Warren, RI 02885

The battle between vampire and werewolf is almost here! S.T.A.K.E. is gathering their forces to join the fight but who will live and who will die? The team is assembled and at the threshold of ...ah, but that would be telling! (M)

CHASE! #6 \$1.25 plus stamp from Jim Main, 13 Valley View Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804

Christian has to locate and activate agent Liam "Doc" Sweet, currently on leave in St. Petersburg, Will he comply? (M)

KULPRIT #3 \$1.50 plus stamp from Darrell Goza, 1715 East Cambridge St., Allentown, PA 18109

Written and illustrated by Kevin Darmanie & lettered and edited by Darrell Goza. With his vigilante persona back in effect, Kulprit begins to thread his way through the maze of violence and murder to get to his own intended target while that very same target faces a tragedy all his own, which pushes him towards his own twisted destiny. (D)

DARKSTONE & OTHER STORIES: TEXT NOVEL #2 \$1.50 plus stamp from Darrell Goza, 1715 East Cambridge St., Allentown, PA 18109

The second issue of prose stories written by Keith Royster and Mark Wayne Harris with an illustrated cover by Keith Royster and Darrell Goza. Edited by Fenwick Thaddeusford. 1. Darkstone, a full blooded native american walks the mean streets of NYC and takes on a present day gang. 2. Kestrel is a mage of little importance until he's forced to take on a task of monumental importance. 3. Is a robot more than blood and dust...or less? (D)

HERO TRIBUTE #2 \$.75 from Darrell Goza, 1715 East Cambridge St., Allentown, PA 18109

A man has a recurrent dream that he has superpowers. But is it just a dream when you wake up and there are brief after effects? (M)