



# THE BPP ROSTER

**BLUESLETTER #45**

**February 2008**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>BL Deadline</b>	<b>Pub. Deadline</b>
<b>1) Larry Blake</b> 69306 St. Rt. 124, Reedsville, OH 45772	<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>#46</b>	<b>12/08</b>
<b>2) Nate Corrigan</b> PO Box 25, Houghton, NY 14744	<b>\$8.00</b>	<b>#45</b> natecorriganumshoe@hotmail.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>3) Doug Freeman</b> 1107 S. Jackson St., Apt. E-6, Morristown, TN 37813	<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>#46</b> cartoonist412003@yahoo.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>4) Sam Gafford</b> 624 Metacom Ave. #103, Warren, RI 02885	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>#46</b> lordshazam@yahoo.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>5) Darrell Goza</b> 1715 East Cambridge Street, Allentown, PA 18109	<b>\$6.25</b>	<b>#46</b> darrell_goza@yahoo.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>6) Steve Keeter</b> PO Box 536368, Orlando, FL 32853-6368	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>#46</b> sdonaldkeeter@msn.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>7) Tim Kelly</b> 946 N. Indiana Ave., Lindenhurst, NY 11757	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>#46</b> y2kmancomx@aol.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>8) Jim Main</b> 13 Valley View Rd., Brookfield, CT. 06804	<b>\$7.50</b>	<b>#46</b> jmain44@aol.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>9) Rome Maynard</b> 305 Tebblewood Dr., Simpsonville, SC 29680	<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>#45</b> georgi11811@hotmail.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>10) Adam Owen</b> 2863 Mossy Meadow Dr., High Point, NC 27265		<b>#46</b> adam.owen@fairwayoutdoor.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>11) Brien Wayne Powell</b> PO Box 911, Forest, VA 24551	<b>\$17.50</b>	<b>#46</b> ed4timepress@hotmail.com	<b>12/08</b>
<b>12) Steve Skeates</b> 95 Jefferson Ave. Fairport, NY 14450	<b>\$10.50</b>	<b>#46</b>	<b>1/09</b>
<b>13) Floyd Sumner</b> PO Box 1523, Depoe Bay, OR 07341	<b>\$10.50</b>	<b>#46</b> floydman@hotmail.com	<b>12/08</b>

## ***Subscribers***

**Tim Goebel** 71 Geranium Ave, West St. Paul, MN 55117-4906  
smallpressfan@comcast.net  
**sub ends #49**

# ***Welcome Back!***

Well, that took longer than I would have liked.

This issue should have been out in November but I had several problems that kept me from doing that. Then, as December wore on into the beginning of January, I began to feel that no one cared where the newsletter was. Thankfully, I have been proven wrong and there seems to be some life in the group yet.

Unfortunately, that life was due to an issue between Steve Skeates and Jim Main/Floyd Sumner and then the matter of the BL lateness itself. I'm sorry that it's taken these two things to spur the BPP back into life but sometimes it takes desperate measures.

The BPP is in trouble. I am very concerned by the lack of new publications, difficulty in getting people to contribute to the newsletter and a general feeling of ennui. We need to be more active as a group and that means publishing more, commenting on member zines, contributing BL columns and helping each other. I know that we can do this so I'm counting on all of you.

Steve Keeter is stepping down as co-chairman as of this issue as he previously requested. Floyd Sumner has graciously offered to take over and I've accepted. Floyd has a lot of good ideas and enthusiasm about the BPP that will make him an excellent co-chairman. Please give him all of your support.

As a gesture of good-will, I am not deducting anything from member accounts for this issue. Also, we're starting fresh here with a new, vital BPP so I'm also starting everyone fresh in terms of publishing and column requirements. Everyone has a year from now to publish something and must contribute at least to every other newsletter. I'm hoping that EVERYONE will contribute to the next issue of BL.

A word about this issue: Adam Owen's column is a short story. Larry Blake's column (and one from Brien) previously got lost in the mail. They're indicated by 'classic' on the top of the page. This issue is also available in pdf format. I vow that the next issue will be sent out within ONE WEEK of the deadline.

***Next Deadline:  
March 15, 2008!***

# *CLASSIC*

## **Brien Wayne Powell's BPP Column**

Greetings everyone! Well, I'm not assuming that 'everyone' in the world is reading this, but greetings to everyone who happens to be. If all goes well, issue #58 of Magnet Man should already be mailed out by the time you read this. If all goes really, really bad then the world will have been blown up by aliens. I plan to publish future issues of Magnet Man about one every other month. Hopefully I can keep up w/this schedule. My life has recently changed dramatically for the better. I left my job two days after this past Christmas in order to become a stay at home dad. Yes, for those of you familiar w/my publishing past, it means I've gone from being Mr. M.O.M. Comics to being Mr. Mom. & I couldn't be happier. Well, I take that back, I would probably be a little happier if in addition to staying at home every day w/my wonderful son, I also won the lottery & my Magnet Man comics were read by millions. But I will take what I can get & as it is I am extremely overjoyed to be able to take care of my son & spend so much time w/him. Douglas had been in day care for a little over a year & we were very happy w/the job they did w/him, but ultimately we decided that we could take care of him ourselves that much better. The way it worked out, it made more sense for me to leave my job since I wasn't any good at it anyway. ☺ It's been about two and a half months & I have enjoyed every minute of it. Douglas is a precious little boy & I am very proud that he is my son. He is now one & a half years old or as some people would have me believe '18 months.' He runs everywhere these days & loves basketball & chasing the cat. I'm enjoying every day to the fullest. I have witnessed first hand the fact that every day he wakes up, he is a slightly different person. That's about it for this first page. Enjoy the rest of the column. Take care.

Cordially, Brien Wayne Powell

## *CLASSIC*

& now, once again, we've come to the part of my column in which I say 'Hey' in response to last issue's columns.

### **THE HEYSTACK!**

Actually, it's been so long since I've done a Heystack that I am pretty well behind. So in an effort to get caught up, this is actually in response to the columns from issue #41. I know that may be asking for trouble, but I figure it will all work out somehow! Thanks for understanding!

**Hey Sam!** You and Steve seem to be working well together as co-chairmen, so you both certainly get my vote. I will do what I can to get my columns in to you sooner in the future.

**Hey Skeet!** Thanks again for including me in Mantra #10! It is an honor! Can't wait for issue #11!

**Hey Jim!** I only wish I were capable of doing anything closely resembling a Steve Skeates! I finally have gotten back to reviewing w/this issue, hopefully I can keep it up. So sorry to hear about your father-in-law.

**Hey Doug!** Great to have you back! Best of luck w/the online strip!

**Hey Nate!** I agree Unbreakable is a great super hero movie. I really enjoyed Gumshoe #13 & the strips at the end of your column! Hope school is going well.

**Hey Tim!** I'm not sure where it went, but if I see it i'll tell it you are looking for it.

**Hey Floyd!** Fun column, although I'm surprised you recognized me as Wooly Willy since I wear glasses now!

# CLASSIC

## S.P.A.Z.

*(Small Press Appreciation Zone)*

*Hello everyone! This is usually the part of my column where I mention what I liked about all of the BPP books I have received recently. Again, since it has been so long since I did one of these I just picked a few random books out of the many wonderful publications I have been sent lately in an effort to get caught back up. From this point on I hope to go back to including all of the wonderful BPP books I am sent. Let's get right to it!*

### SAM'S ¼ 24 HR COMIC

Wow! What a great book! Sam should be very proud of what he was able to accomplish in such a short amount of time. I hope he will try the 24 hr. challenge again next year if not sooner & I certainly look forward to the results!

### SUMMER OF NOVE

A nice follow up to Tim's wonderful Springtime For Autism book. This book & it's predecessor give me a whole new respect for Tim's art style & writing ability. Not that there was anything wrong w/the old respect! Tim selflessly gives us a fascinating peek at life w/his daughter that is both touching & captivating & as I said a second ago... fascinating.

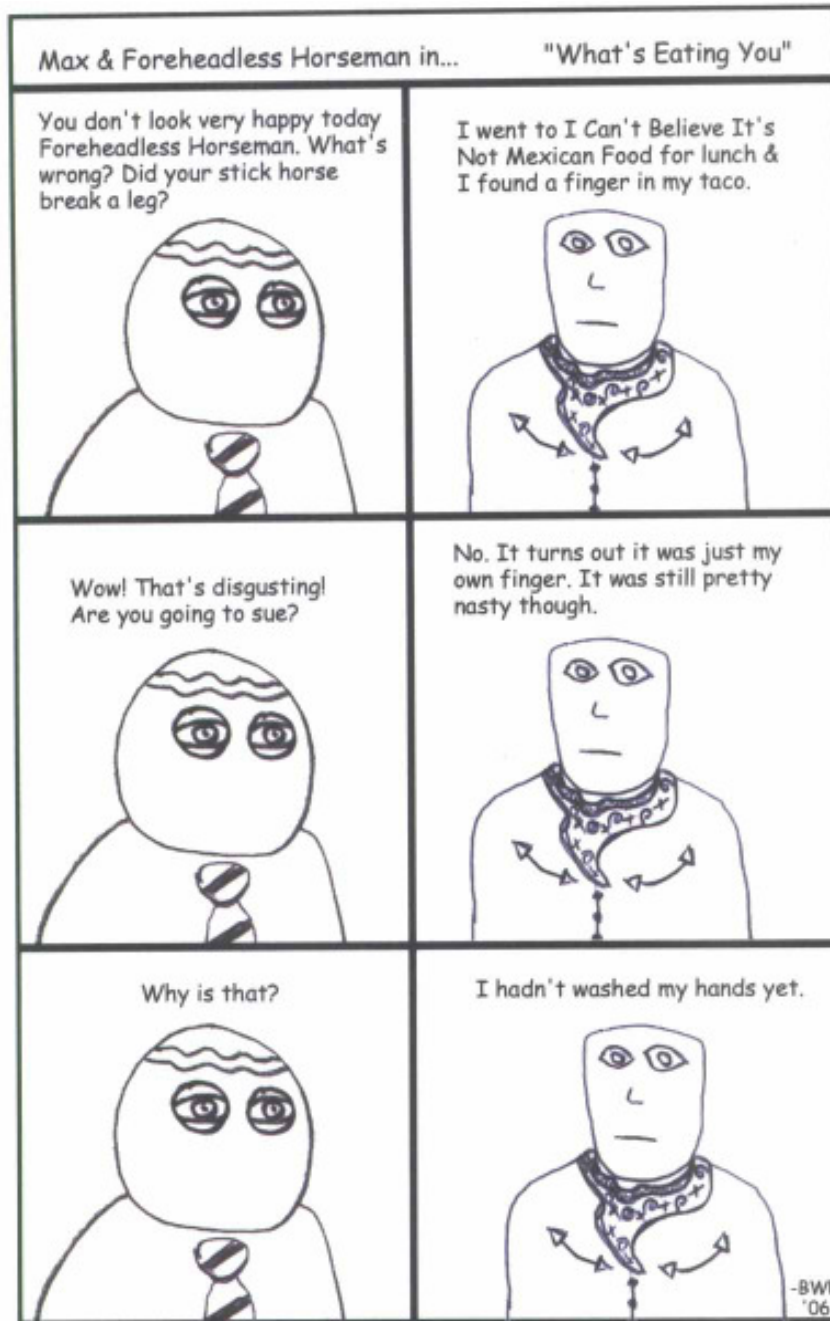
### COMIC FAN #1

I sometimes think that if Jim ever put out a bad publication that the world would immediately end. If that in fact is the case then I doubt we have anything to worry about. My favorite part of this issue was the Collector's Bin w/all of the cool Batman merchandise! It brought back memories that I never even had! Great work Jim & Co!

*Well, that's all I have this time around. Keep small pressin' & I'll keep SPAZin'! –BWP*



# CLASSIC



# *CLASSIC*





# CLASSIC

## WORDS FROM ROCK BOTTOM #11

FROM: LARRY BLAKE  
69306 STATE ROUTE 124  
REEDSVILLE, OHIO 45772



I STILL OWE A FEW OF YOU SOME OF MY COMICS, IT'S NOT INTENTIONAL. I'M HAVING PRINTER PROBLEMS AND NEED A NEW ONE.



THE CORRIGAN'S CONTINUE TO HELP ME. WE'VE FINISHED A PILGRIM ISSUE FOR PSYCH41. NOW TIM IS PLOTTING AND PENCILLING ANOTHER SOLD ISSUE OF KEVIN COOL.

I'M STILL RE-DOING MY 1960'S VORWARR STORIES FOR THE ALL COMICS APA, AND DOING A COUPLE OF STORIES FOR MARK INNES. I JUST INKED A STORY FOR DON ENSIGN.

I'M WORKING ON A BOOK LENGTH ZERO MAN STORY BY LARRY JOHNSON. IT'S BEING DRAWN IN A GOLDEN AGE ART STYLE.

MANY ISSUES OF KEVIN COOL ARE IN THE WORKS ALL AT ONCE. THERE ARE SOME VERY UNUSUAL AND INNOVATIVE THINGS COMING UP IN THOSE. LARRY JOHNSON CONTINUES TO BE A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO THEM TOO.

SEET: THANKS FOR ALL OF THE PSYCHOZOT REVIEWS. IF YOU'RE WILLING -- I STILL NEED TEXT OR ART SUBMISSIONS FOR PSYCHOZOT ANNUAL #2 (WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED)!

JIM MAIN: THANKS FOR THE COMMENTS ON PSYCHOZOT. OH, THE ANNUALS ARE FOR COMPLETISTS OF MY WORK. THEY'RE SORT OF A CROSS

BETWEEN A SCRAPBOOK, AND A BIG FANZINE RELATING TO ALL MY WORK. THE PRINTING IS WHATEVER IT IS. I'M JUST GETTING MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF MY WORK OUT IN THE ONLY WAY I CAN AFFORD TO. JUST THINK OF ROCK BOTTOM AS THE CHARLTON COMICS EQUIVALENT OF SMALL-PRESS! ☺

JIM KELLY: THANKS FOR MENTIONING PSYCHOZOT! I'M STILL WAITING FOR JOE MEYER'S ADDRESS OR A LETTER FROM HIM!

FLOYD: I LOVED YOUR "BEFORE THEY WERE SMALL PRESS PUBLISHERS" ABOUT THE PRINGLE'S LOGO - THAT WAS DESIGNED AND DRAWN BY SMALL PRESS LIVING LEGEND (AND MY PAL FOR NEAR 4 DECADES) JIM PACK! I WAS SADDENED THAT THEY CHANGED IT NOT TOO LONG AGO! I LIKED JIM'S VERSION BETTER!

I'M ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT KA-POWAMP! I'LL SEND YOU SOME BOOKS FOR REVIEW AS SOON AS I POSSIBLY CAN. WHAT ELSE ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

WOW: JUST SAW A TV AD FOR A MOVIE OF THE SILVER SURFER -- THE FANTASTIC 4 WERE SHOWN IN IT TOO! BOY, THIS MOVIE HAS BEEN RUMORED A LONG TIME! HOPE IT'S NOT AS AWFUL AS THE F.F. FILM! MAYBE IT'S NUMBER 2? SPEAKING OF MOVIES: I WATCHED THE 1925 VERSION OF THE LOST WORLD EARLIER TONIGHT! WAY COOL FILM!

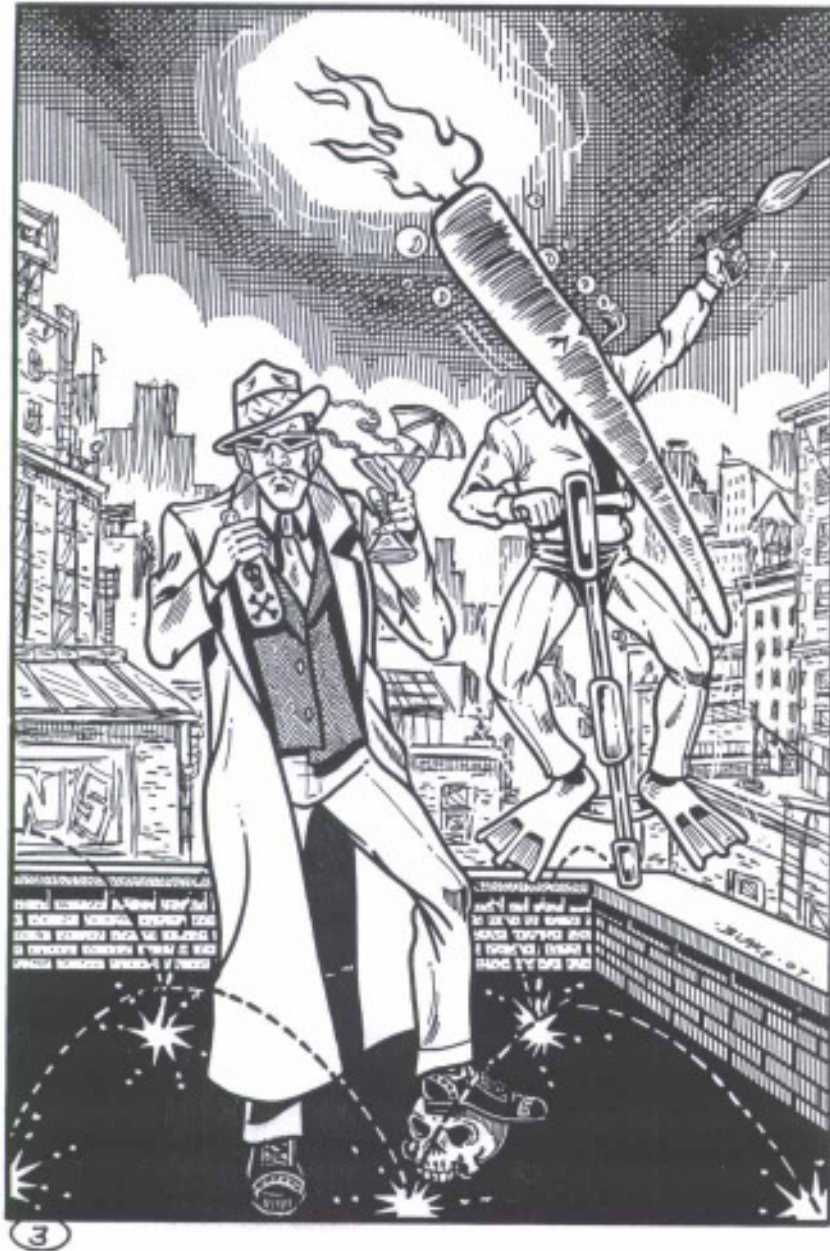
IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS I'VE SEEN A HALF DOZEN OR SO LON CHANEY MOVIES FROM THE 1920'S! WHAT AN INCREDIBLE ACTOR HE WAS -- EVEN WITHOUT HIS FAMOUS MAKEUP JOBS!

THE RECONSTRUCTED STILL-PHOTO VERSION OF HIS LOST FILM LONDON AFTER MIDNIGHT WAS AMONG THE ONES I JUST SAW. NICE JOB. BUT I STILL HOPE A SURVIVING PRINT OF THE ACTUAL MOVIE IS EVENTUALLY FOUND! GREAT VAMPIRE MAKEUP!

I'D PREVIOUSLY SEEN CHANEY'S PHANTOM OF THE OPERA SHOWN IN AN ACTUAL RESTORED MOVIE PALACE, WITH A TOPNOTCH THEATER ORGANIST PLAYING, BUT THE PRINT IN THIS SET NOT ONLY HAD THE COUPLE OF COLOR TINTED SCENES THAT ALL THE 20'S ERA PRINTS HAD -- BUT IT WAS ALSO COLOR TINTED ALL THE WAY THROUGH! SOMEONE DID A GORGEOUS JOB: VERY EFFECTIVE, AND STILL IN THE AUTHENTIC TINTING STYLE OF THE TWENTIES. JUST GREAT! I'VE ALSO BEEN WATCHING SOME TAPES OF OLD AVENGERS EPISODES, AND DVDS OF THE ENTIRE FIRST SEASON OF GET SMART. BOTH FROM THE 60'S! REALLY GREAT FUN STUFF!

GOT A 50 MOVIE PACK OF DVDS HERE CALLED "NIGHTMARE WORLDS" TO WATCH! (A GIFT FROM LARRY JOHNSON!) IT'S ALL OLD SF AND HORROR FILMS! COOL! 2

# CLASSIC





# CLASSIC

MY PRINTER BROKE DOWN, SO I'M OFF MY SCHEDULE. MAY TAKE A WHILE TO GET IT BACK ON TRACK. I'LL DO MY BEST!



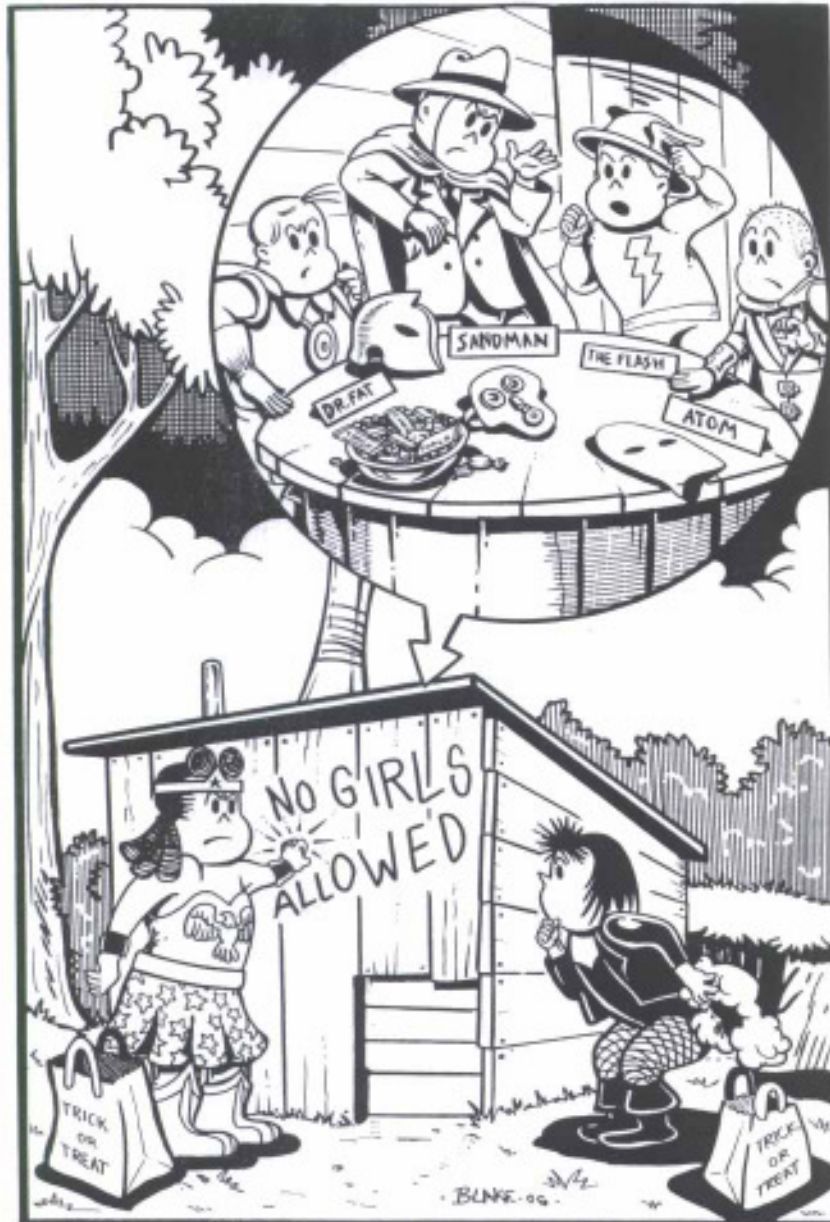
--AS FOR THE DELAY--I DON'T LIKE IT AT ALL, BUT WITH MY LOW INCOME AND NON EXISTANT COMICS SALES IT CAN'T BE HELPED!

THIS MOVIE SET INCLUDES 3 MOVIES OF A JAPANESE SUPER HERO CALLED *STAR MAN*. 2 FROM 1964, ONE FROM 1956, ALL STARRING KEN UTSU. I'VE NO IDEA HOW MANY MORE FILMS WERE IN THIS SERIES BUT FANS OF SUPERHEROES OR OF THE OLD JAPANESE MONSTER MOVIES WILL ENJOY THESE. THEY HAVE A SORT OF GOLDEN AGE COMICS VIBE, AND THEY SHOW INFLUENCE FROM THE FLYING SHOTS OF THE 1950S *SUPERMAN* TV SERIES AND THE DUMMY ON A GUIDE WIRE SHOTS OF THE *CAPTAIN MARVEL* SERIAL. TACKY SPECIAL FX, HUGE LAPSES IN LOGIC, AND GOOFILY DUBBED VOICES ADD TO THE CHARM! ONE INTERESTING DEVICE IS THE USE OF REVERSED MOTION TO SIMULATE SOME AMAZING LEAPS! SOME FIGHT SCENES ARE SLOW, BUT HAVE REALLY COOL BITS IN 'EM. SOME SHARPER EDITS COULD REALLY IMPROVE THESE! GOOD USE OF GYMNASTICS IS MADE TOO! LIKE THE HEROES OF THE PULPS AND GOLDEN AGE COMICS, *STAR MAN* ISN'T ABOVE GRABBING A SWORD, OR PISTOLS IN BOTH HANDS AND DISPATCHING THE BAD GUYS! MANY SETS, BACKGROUNDS, AND PROPS ARE REMINISCENT OF THE OLD FLASH GORDON OR BUCK RODGERS FILMS. I WONDER HOW POPULAR THIS SERIES MAY HAVE ONCE BEEN? DID THIS ALIEN SUPERHERO INSPIRE DAVID BOWIE'S *STAR MAN* SONG? WERE THESE FILM'S CREATORS AWARE OF DC'S GOLDEN AGE HERO OF THE SAME NAME? AND COULD THIS *STAR MAN*'S TRIANGULAR OVERSHOULDER CHEST PIECE HAVE INSPIRED THOSE OF ACE FREHLEY'S ONSTAGE KISS OUTFITS? SUCH THINGS GET MY CURIOSITY GOING. I ENJOYED THESE VERY MUCH AND WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE, AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM. THE 3 I HAVE ARE: ① EVIL BRAIN FROM OUTER SPACE (1956) ② ATTACK FROM

SPACE (1964) AND ③ ATOMIC RULERS OF THE WORLD (1964). LIKE MOST OF THE JAPANESE MONSTER MOVIES FROM THE 50'S+60'S ALL OF THESE INVOLVE THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION IN SOME WAY. ANYONE CAN GUESS WHY. MY EXPOSURE TO JAPANESE SUPER HERO MOVIES BEFORE THIS WAS JUST *INFRAMAN* WHICH I TRULY LOVE. IT'S AN INCREDIBLY COOL AND GOOFY MOVIE THAT I RECOMMEND TO ANY COMICS FAN. I HAVE *INFRAMAN* ON TAPE-- BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT'S ON A BETA TAPE--AND MY 2 BETAMAXES ARE BOTH BROKEN NOW. DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE I CAN GET A WORKING BETAMAX? OR A VHS OR DVD COPY OF *INFRAMAN*? I'D ALSO LIKE TO BUY A GOOD CD RECORDER. ANY INFO WILL BE APPRECIATED ABOUT THIS MOVIE, OR THESE DEVICES. IN THE MEANTIME,--SEE THESE SILLY BUT FUN MOVIES IF YOU GET A CHANCE! THEY'LL BRING BACK TO YOU THAT FEELING OF BEING AN 6 YEAR OLD HAVING FUN!

**READING WISE:** I'M STILL READING ALL DC'S *SHOWCASE* VOLUMES. JUST FINISHED *JUSTICE LEAGUE* VOL. 2. IT'S INTERESTING TO SEE HOW FORMULAIC EVEN A WRITER OF GARDNER FOX'S CALIBER GOT. I'VE NEVER LIKED MIKE SEKOWSKY'S ART,--AND SEEING SO MUCH OF IT AGAIN ALL AT ONCE LEFT THAT OPINION INTACT. THE AWKWARD, BULKY FIGURE WORK, THE DULL LAYOUTS, LACK OF ATTENTION TO ANY VISUAL CONTINUITY (THE SAME OBJECTS AND CHARACTERS LOOK VERY DIFFERENT FROM PANEL TO PANEL.). I'M AFRAID THIS JLA VOLUME IS ONLY FOR DIE-HARD FANS, OR THE HISTORICALLY CURIOUS! NOW--I'M READING VOL. #2 OF *GREEN LANTERN*! MOST STORIES BY JOHN BROOME OR GARDNER FOX. THAT'S COOL ENOUGH, BUT THE REAL ATTRACTION HERE IS THE GREAT GIL KANE ART! WOW! HE'S SO GOOD HERE. I STARTED TO SAY "AT HIS PEAK"-- BUT THAT'S MIS-LEADING AS HE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE RIGHT UP UNTIL HIS DEATH! ANYWAY--THIS IS INCREDIBLE ARTWORK, WITH GREAT INKING BY MASTERS LIKE MURPHY ANDERSON, JOE GIELLA, SID GREENE, AND KANE HIMSELF! MR. KANE WAS A STUDENT OF GEO. BRIDGMAN WHOSE ANATOMY BOOKS ARE STILL SOME OF THE VERY BEST AVAILABLE. I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET MR. KANE AT ONE OF THE OLD DETROIT TRIPLE FAN FAIRS IN THE 70'S, AND GOT A COUPLE DRAWING TIPS FROM THAT TALENTED, FRIENDLY AND GRACIOUS GENTLEMAN! THIS *GREEN LANTERN* VOLUME CONTAINS ISSUES 18 TO 38! FOR ROUGHLY \$18 WITH TAX, AND OVER 500 PAGES THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE VALUE! A READER OR A STUDENT OF COMICS ART CAN'T GO WRONG WITH THIS BOOK. THERE ARE NEW *SHOWCASE* VOLUMES OF *HOUSE OF SECRETS* AND *AQUAMAN* OUT NOW-- BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THOSE YET. YOU CAN BET I WILL! AS A COMICS ARTIST I AM LEARNING SOMETHING NEW FROM EVERY SINGLE *ESSENTIALS* OR *SHOWCASE* VOLUME THAT I GET! ENTERTAINING + EDUCATIONAL! CAN'T BEAT IT! (4)

# CLASSIC



## CLASSIC



Well, thanks to Mickie Newnam this 'trib has now gone typeset.

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ALL- I FIND MYSELF IN AGREEMENT WITH OL' JIM'S IDEA OF DOING REVIEWS ONLY OF THOSE WHO RETURN THE SAME COURTESY. I ALSO HAVE TO AGREE WITH NATHAN ABOUT THE MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP WHO HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED IN ANY WAY DURING THE LENGTH OF MY OWN STAY HERE. THESE ARE THINGS THAT HAVE LEAD ME INTO SLACKING OFF MYSELF ON BLUESLETTER

'TRIBS. I'VE FELT 'WHY BOTHER WHEN OTHERS DON'T?' WHICH IS VERY WRONG, BUT THERE IT IS. WHEN THINGS GOT SO ROUGH AROUND HERE IT MADE IT VERY EASY TO LET THE B.P.P. SLIDE.

'SPECIALLY IN REGARDS TO PSYCHOZORT.

IT MUST ONLY TAKE 2 OR 3 VOTES TO WIN AN AWARD HERE BECAUSE THAT IS HOW MANY MEMBERS HAVE WRITTEN TO KEEP RECEIVING THE 'BEST 'ZINE' WINNER;-- MY PSYCHOZORT! ALL IT TELLS ME IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS NOT ONLY WOULDN'T BUY PSYCHOZORT-- BUT THEY ALSO DON'T THINK IT'S WORTH WRITING A LETTER OF COMMENT TO RECIEVE IT FREE ! WHAT ELSE COULD I CONCLUDE FROM THESE FACTS?

ANYWAY, I FEEL I'VE MADE THE RIGHT MOVE IN WITHDRAWING IT AS A MEMBERZINE.

PERHAPS KEVIN COOL



# *CLASSIC*





# CLASSIC

WILL WORK BETTER IN THAT CAPACITY. I'M NOW LEANING TOWARD THE IDEA OF TRYING THAT WITH ISSUE # 14, WHICH IS KEVIN'S ORIGIN STORY.

BRIEN- PUT THE SCREWS TO ALL OF THE B.P.P. SLACKERS, MYSELF INCLUDED. IT NEEDS TO BE DONE, AND I RESPECT YOU A LOT FOR SAYING SO.

BY THE WAY, ONE OF THE FOLKS WHO HAVE WRITTEN L.O.C.S TO ME IN ORDER TO KEEP ON GETTING PSYCHOZORT IS TIM GOEBEL, SO THAT IS EVEN FEWER ACTUAL B.P.P. MEMBERS WHO DID THAN MY EARLIER COMMENTS INDICATED.

THANKS FOR ALL THE AWARDS-- BUT I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE READERS. IF THAT OFFENDS ANYONE, IT MUST BE A PERSON WHO HAS NOT WRITTEN AN L.O.C. OR A

REVIEW OF MY BOOKS, SO I DON'T MIND. Y'ALL CAN JUST GO ON AND BE OFFENDED. MEANWHILE THIS GOOFY FATBOY WILL JUST KEEP MAKING THE BEST COMIC BOOKS I CAN. I'M CLOSING IN ON COMPLETING THE FIRST 2,000 PSYCHOZORT PAGES AND AM PLEASED AS THE PROVERBIAL PUNCH.

JIM MAIN- I LIKED YOUR INTERVIEW IN SPE A WHOLE LOT. I DON'T HAVE OUT ALL THE 'ZINES YOU'VE BEEN SENDING ME BECAUSE I'VE BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF BOXING AND ALPHABETIZING ALL OF MY SMALL PRESS COMICS JUST AS MOST COMICS COLLECTORS DO THEIR MAINSTREAM COMICS. I CAN TELL YOU THAT I'VE BEEN ENJOYING ALL THE ZINES YOU'VE SENT ME WHETHER THEY ARE ABOUT SUBJECTS THAT I'M ALREADY INTO OR NOT. OVERNIGHT YOU'VE

# *CLASSIC*



# CLASSIC

TAKEN YOUR SMALL PRESS PUBLICATIONS TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL. THE THINGS YOU'RE PUTTING OUT WILL BE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF SMALL PRESS COMICS AS WELL AS A FUN AND ENTERTAINING TREAT TO ALL YOUR READERS. YOU SHOULD BE VERY PROUD. I HOPE YOU KEEP IT UP FOR MANY YEARS.

STEVE KEETER- I'M GLAD MANTRA IS BACK. I'M SORRY SO MUCH OF MY OWN STUFF IN THERE HAS APPEARED IN PSYCHOZORT SINCE I FIRST SUBMITTED IT TO YOU, BUT THAT'S LIFE IN THE MANTRAZONE! IT WAS FUNNY TO SEE HOW NATE REACTED TO HIS FIRST BATCH OF 'TRIBS TO EMERGE FROM THAT TIME WARPING VORTEX! IT'S ALWAYS A SHOCK TO ENCOUNTER PAGES YOU ONLY VAGUELY RECALL IN MANTRA. I HOPE NATE'LL RECONSIDER AND LET

THE ZONE SPEW OUT WHAT LOST ARTIFACTS IT WILL-- BECAUSE THAT IS JUST HOW THE SCARY AND MYSTERIOUS PLACE CALLED 'MANTRAZONE' WORKS! NONE CAN EVER BE IMMUNE OR EVEN BE FULLY PREPARED FOR IT.

DOUG- I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK. I HAVE MISSED YOUR WORK AND CHARACTERS VERY MUCH. I WAS LOOKING AT YOUR COMICS THE OTHER NIGHT AS I FILED THEM AMONG MY SMALL PRESS COMICS COLLECTION. I DO HOPE WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF YOUR COOL SUPERHEROES. YOU DID SOME GREAT COMICS WITH THEM.

WELL, THAT'S IT FOR NOW. THIS 'TRIB IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MARTY NODELL. WE WON'T FORGET YA. BEST--

# skeet bleets

\*\*\*\*\*

Brought to you by Steve Keeter/ PO Box 536368/ Orlando, FL  
32853-6368. This here was typed on October 26th, 2007.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi, gang, how's everyone? Hope you all had a deliciously ghoulish Halloween, and hope you all have delicious goulash on Thanksgiving. Nah, have turkey on Thanksgiving. Save the goulash for when the in-laws visit.

Haven't received a lot of BPP books lately, but a few have made it here to the skeetcave. The most curious of these were the first seven issues of Brien Powell's HUMAN PATRIOT. Each comic is one sheet of paper folded, and printed on one side only. Now, I seem to have misplaced the note that came with these, and maybe Brien explained this; I suspect these were intended to be webcomics. Well, no matter, it's all very funny, as wonderful as BWP's comics always are (though we miss Magnet Man!). I especially like Neighborham Lincoln, the somewhat inept leader of an organization so secret that not even its members know what it's called (haha!). This guy's so gone, he hires a brainless brain eating zombie as his personal assistant. Funny comix, as I said, but they'd be twice as funny with printing on both sides. What the heck, loved 'em anyway.

THE BPP SPECIAL was a knockout this year! Floydman did a super job on production, and the Grim One pulled out the stops as editor, assembling some of the BPP's finest to create a nearly perfect potpourri of potent comics and text. Magnet Man was back in a printed comic (I'm clapping about this, but MM isn't!). Kevin Cool (illustrated in eye-popping psychedelic fashion by Larry Blake) got indepth about how he came to Earth. Juan Manuel Perez's unusual volume of super hero poetry was reviewed in witty fashion by Steve Skeates. Sam Gafford contributed a wildly imagi-

native Chthulhu Mythos tale (great job, O' Mighty Gaffsam!). Nate Corrigan's "Joe" encountered "the all-powerful Egg Lord!"-- and I was rolling! And Doug Freeman dazzled us with some really weird space fantasy. It was all fine work; I'm partial to Floyd's "Captain BPP" or "Super BPP Man" or whoever that was on the frontcover, beautiful Golden-Age like artwork. Excellent job all involved, congratulations.

Darrell Goza's RAMA-VAD was a much welcome change of pace for the group, a text novel-- first of a series, in fact. John Brown told a gripping, gritty tale of greed, murder, and vengeance in a hostile urban setting. And it was told very well, so much so that I read the whole thing during my lunch hour at work-- and almost forgot to eat my lunch! There were some jarring typos here and there, my only complaint-- especially something as obvious as "Girl Rilled by Subway Train"-- ouch, that one was real noticeable. So one might advise care when proofreading subsequent issues. But this was an admirable beginning to the series, and we'll be looking forward to what comes next (the ending certainly left room for a sequel).

By the way, Darrell, your column last issue was very thoughtful and well written. And, if you're really, really interested in illustrating a Sunwing tale... I'm honored, sir, and well, that just might be a possibility.

Not much else to say at the moment, except hope everyone's doing well and working on new comics and stuff. I actually did some typing on the lettercol and editorial pages of the new SUNWING comic, and, really, only finances are holding the book up. But that will be solved soon (I want this book out and soon! It's waaayyyy overdue).

Until next time, all the best,

--Steve

# *The Congregation by Adam Owen*

## Chapter One

In 3126, Allistare Siggmun went to Trallax Seven to preach to the locals. He never thought he'd end up joining them.

He was a Neo Chrydhist, a 28th century fusion religion taking the best of a few popular religions and making them one. He was also one of a thousand chosen to be shot deep into space. This was an honor, as the CHURCH's secretary of longevity had given him copious doses of Stendoplex, the newest life enhancing drug that added sometimes a century or three.

The extra life was to make sure you made the trip from Central to the outer worlds, and have plenty of time for deep meditation in the process. Central was Earth of long ago, but supplemented by a lot of machine stations and orbital worlds. Siggmun knew he wouldn't miss Central, it was crowded and full of distractions, and the True-Scrip had all sorts of things to say about avoiding those.

Trallax was far away, but still on the maps. Most people on Central didn't care what went on in the boonies, there was too much old and not enough new to really give a damn about the remote peoples. Thank the Almighty the CHURCH still did.

Siggmun's ship touched down on Trallax at midday. When all was unloaded, he would take the ship apart. Every CHURCH vessel was built to be taken apart and rebuilt as a branch office. He would of course need to immediately convert some of the locals to hire as assistants.

A man he thought was the town mayor came out and greeted him from an assemblage of shabby wooden houses. The man, named Phillips, was quaint and dirty. He regarded the spaceman, his ship and his clothing with little or no sur-



prise. “You had better get changed, you’re one of us now.”

Siggmun smiled cautiously “--What?” but the man was already walking away from him. There were a few dozen other locals, none of which took the least bit of time to even regard him. They weren’t avoiding eye contact, like in a holy reverence, but they just didn’t care.

“What is your title?”

“Phillips, but my mother calls me Phill.” The man called back at him

“NO-NO, your title, are you chancellor... mayor... president?”

“None of those. Our mayor is a hundred clicks away.”

“And—Click, is that a metric?”

Phillips turned back at Siggmun smiling. Everyone else had turned to watch the interplay unfold “Naw, you walk awhile, till your knees start to click... you have walked one click.” The children, mud faced all laughed at this joke. The older people smiled and resumed their work. There was no technology to be seen, the village was a quaint photograph of life on earth thousands of years prior.

“Which way?” Siggmun asked slamming his foot on the ground for effect

“Which way What?” Phillips responded getting a little irritated

“Which way is your mayor?”

Phillips shrugged, turned to his right, squinted and said “That way. Over the hills. You will top five of those hills and at the bottom of the fifth is where we bury our dead.” Phillips turned, leaving Siggmun gape mouthed and confused.

Back at his ship, Siggmun began to dismantle his vessel, and build his own CHURCH. Siggmun took out his anger on the process of building. “The audacity!” he spit “I am one of THEY now... the savage AUDACITY.” He was hammering joints and walls together much harder than was

required by the tech specs, but it felt good. It felt better than the relaxation meditation he was required to take upon the instance of personal anger.

A day later, it was finished. Everything that was ship was now church. The computer housed the words of the almighty, the engines powered the heating, cooling and water recycler and the hull was now the walls of the sanctuary.

A lad was the first of them to make any real inquiry. “Why do you still wear that? You are one of us now?” the boy said the last as a question more than a statement. The lad was small, freckled with dirt and missing a tooth or two. Siggmun smiled down at the boy.

“It is you who may yet become one of... us.” He gestured about the cathedral of the CHURCH. “That is why I am here. That is why I have had my life stretched to five times yours. To ensure the spreading of the faith.”

The boy smiled “Stretched? Got unstretched is what I hear. You’re one of us now.”

Miniscule anger flashed in Siggmun’s eyes and he released it as controlled irritation. “Think what you will boy. Think what your elders will boy. I know the truth.”

“Can I work here? My mother says I need a task.”

“Wisdom to be found here at last.” Siggmun recited “And is found in the mouth of a child.”

“Chrydist Recites 5:44” The boy said “Mom read me that last year or so.”

Siggmun gaped. “You know that one?”

## Chapter Two

Phillips smiled when Siggmun walked in with the boy in tow. He was sharpening a root in his work shed and dropping the shavings into a kettle.

“See you found my cousin’s youngest.”

“It seems. I do not know the boys name...”

“Harry.”

Siggmun found a stool, and sat with a slight wince. He watched Phillips carve away with rapt interest. “What do you mean, I Am one of you now?”

“The moment you opened your door, breathed our air, you became one of us.”

“One of—“

“You are not the first, by any means.” He finished shaving the root and set the kettle over a small fire. Harry played absently with a rusty bolt, miming a gun or a ship like Siggmun’s “Years ago, our people landed on this rock and made it work. Worked the soil, worked the water made it good to live on.”

“You’re talking the earlier settlers from the Great Division.”

Phillips nodded “then, sometime between then and now, a whole lot of you guys come down for a visit, decide we’re unconvertable then bam... disappear.”

“That was a kindness, the faith usually... reacts harshly to non believers.”

“There were 14 million of us. Now only 14 hundred, and those 14 hundred are scattered into dozens of smaller villages, scared to congregate, too many people and the virus... reacts.”

“Reacts?”

### Chapter Three

Phillips grinned “Had us a city, a big one, rivaled some of the ground cities on Central. Well one day they get this big black box on the outskirts of the city, it burned the ground up some, so it was obviously a space dropper. Doesn’t do anything, so they leave it alone.” Phillips scratched his head

trying to remember some of the details

“Next thing they know half of everyone starts dying, the other half can’t have kids no more, and them that do don’t live long.”

“You can not blame--”

Phillips cut him off “Men a whole lot smarter than me, or anyone on this planet for that matter, traced the plague to that black box. They even popped the thing with explosives, but it was too late, plague did its damage. Wind and people carried it all over the world, soon everyone and everything had it and it started to get lonely here.”

Harry smiled up at him, having moved on from the bolt to a cruder carved wooden toy. Phillips stroked the boys hair, smiling down at him.

“Seemed that the virus only accelerated when there was a lot of folks around. Smaller towns didn’t get it or at least didn’t die as fast. They lived a spell, maybe 30 years, had kids who had kids, eventually the plague goes easy on us, lets us live longer and longer. We Even in this town, its active, but our number is small enough that it lets us live out our days numbering about 60 years from birth to death.”

Siggmund sat down hard, bewildered “They who will not congregate with the CHURCH will never be allowed congregation of any form.” He closed his eyes, suddenly aware “It’s a verse from our book, speaks of a curse to they that refuse the gift of conversion.”

“Oh we know some of your verses, when the dead piled high, a few of them back in the day tried to convert, seems your Almighty wasn’t listening.”

Siggmund shook his head “Our Almighty... indeed.”

“Still, ain’t a total wash. Some hermits live in the mountains. Alone, the plague lets a soul live out 100 years if he can feed himself and stay sane, talking to no one but the trees and leaf lizards.”

“But you all... here together...”

“We all... here together, swap a good 40 years of life for a little...”

“Congregation.” Sigmund smiled darkly and closed his eyes.

He stood, shook Phillips hand and turned to walk out of the home and village.

“You are more than welcome to stay with us, we need a good worker.” Phillips said nonchalantly

“It's not my... calling.” He replied and made his way back to his church.

## Chapter Four

Sigmund scanned himself with the medical computer and saw his body was in fact dying, it even identified the virus with a verse from the book. The conditioning of longevity was erased and even his natural time was truncated. There was still no known cure for a disease made to punish the unconvertible.

He had very little time left in the grand scheme of things, but perhaps he thought there was time enough for one last pilgrimage.

Sigmund finished disassembling his church at dusk, by dawn it was a ship again. The fuel cells were charged, and would easily take him back to Central before his days ran out. There would be time enough.

He was a missionary, a man of the almighty. It was all he knew or understood. He could stay, become a farmer, have a family, but he knew it wasn't his calling. His calling was to spread the truth. He would share his new truth with those who had sent him, see what wisdom they could glean.

They watched him as his ship took off. Its cold fires burnt blue in the night.

**B.P.P.'N...By "Grim" Jim Main, 13 Valley View Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804. Intended for publication in THE BLUESLETTER #45. Accept no substitutes.**

Greetings, one and all. Even though I don't really need to do a column this issue, I thought I'd try and help out the page count for this issue by sending one anyway. 'Sides, I got some things to say to some people in the group so I thought I'd do it now before I forgot! Lol. A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

First, some feedback to various group members—

Sam--PLEASE put my email address on the contents page!

Steve Keeter--Hi, pal. I'm presently working on COSMIC MAN #1, just to let you know. Next time, we'll have to get some kind of back up strip in there...maybe 6-8 pages. And, NO, I don't think I'll be doing any co-chairman duties here...I'm way too busy at the moment. As always, I'm looking forward to your upcoming books.

Darrell Goza--If you want to do something for my comics and/or zines, just let me know. You know what kind of material I need by now, so either send me something or contact me and we'll talk, okay? I enjoyed your issue of Rama-Vad, mainly because I'm always happy to see a fiction zine, cause I think there just isn't enough of them. The story wasn't too bad at all, but I would've had at least two illos in it to break up the text. Are you just the publisher here? When will the next issue be out?

Brien Wayne Powell--your new minicomic series HUMAN PATRIOT was quite a surprise and well received. It has a pretty diverse group of characters and some great dialogue and situations. When do you think you'll be doing more? The only problem I had with it was the page amount...why do all these four page comics when you could easily do 3 or so with at least eight pages in them? Just a thought.



Geez--only these books to talk about? What gives?

Steve Skeates--Hey, you and I have something in common...we both wrote Underdog for a comics company!!! I wrote a back-up strip in Underdog #2, for Spotlight Comics. My story featured the confused King Kongesque ape Fearo. Art was by Gary Fields, I believe. Didn't Charlton also have Underdog?

Larry Blake--hope you're doing okay. I know what happens when a loved one passes away.

Floyd--Nice job on Ka-Whump! #3. Hope you get to do a book for the B.P.P. soon. Maybe Mondo Flod #4. We really need to get STRANGE SPACE STORIES #1 going. I think I'll make that a BPP book.

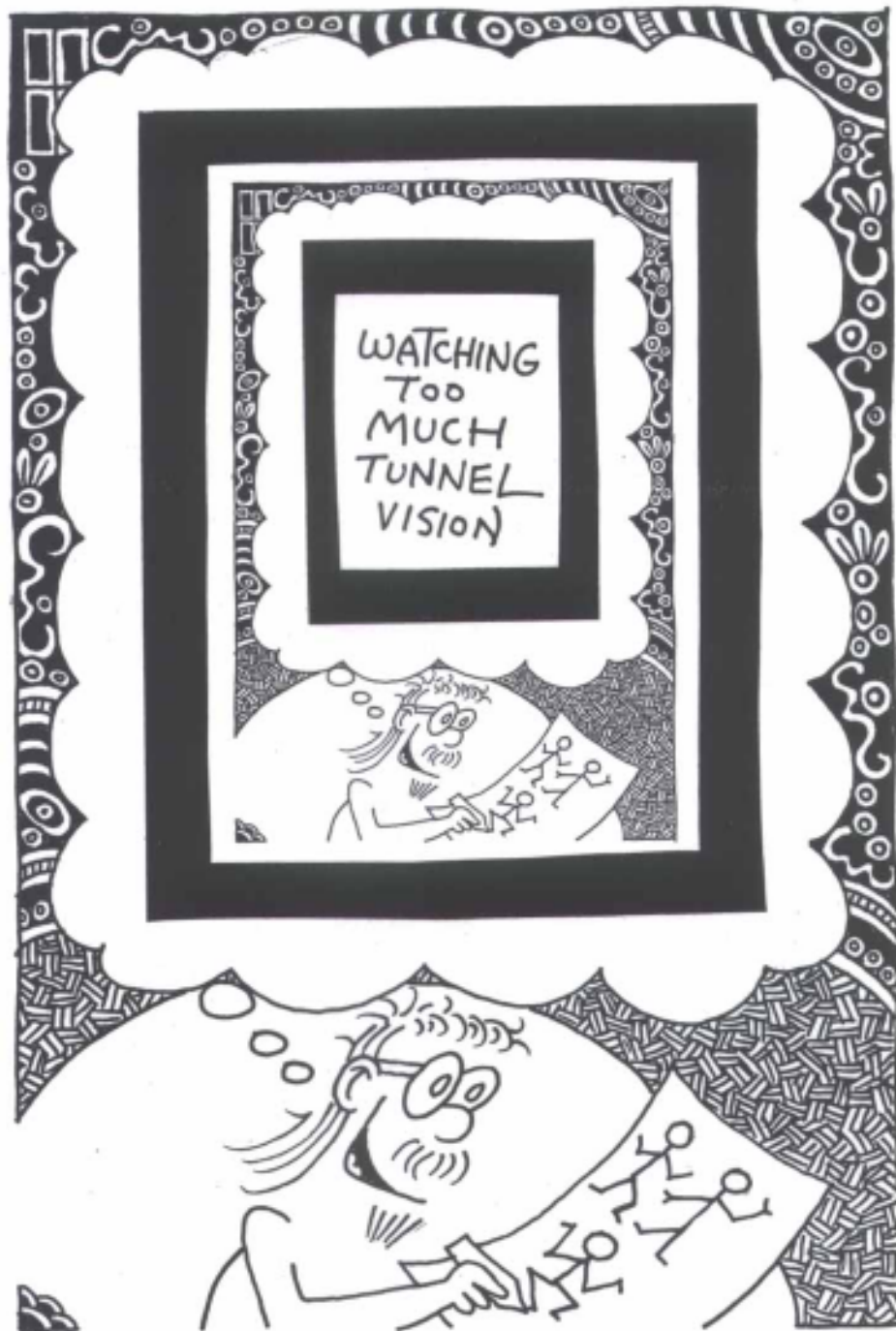
Damn! Now I'm on page two! I only wanted to do a page!

Here's what's going on with my books...'Zine Of Bronze #3 and Comic Fan! #2 were sent to me from my printers almost a month ago and I still don't have them. Satyr #7 and Dark Corridor #1 should be in my hands by the time you read this. My updated news/review/opinion zine Gnome is being wrapped up currently, as is Cosmic Man #1. The last batch of books for this year should be

Cavaliers #1, Phantascape #2 and the long-awaited issue #28 of my long-running title \*PPFSZT! Plus, I'm doing some new minicomics and digests too...more on that next issue!

Bye for now and Happy Halloween

"Grim" Jim Main



## BOOB TUBE SOUP

BREAKING IN MY SMALL SCREEN SCREAM

Somewhere west of the Isle of Lucy sits a reported land of milk and honey, a chunk of real estate replete with every April dancer imaginable, a gleaming suburb in search of a city which itself is what various contemporaries of mine, Gerber and Conway and Pasko and Maggin, et. al., mainly in the eighties, took off in search of, chasing the elusive 27-digit check that supposedly comes hand in hand with writing for that hideous boxy deal that sits blaringly in the far corner of everyone's living room, yet (for reasons all my own, I suppose) I was not similarly lured away from the actual printed page, off into mind-numbing la-la land. An age thing, I would submit, and, though I say "reasons all my own," in actuality I can view myself as being in the same boat as one-time Batman editor Dennis J. O'Neil who also never succumbed to the lure of the tube, the two of us being old enough to actually remember a time when that one-eyed monster didn't rule everyone's home, a time when people read newspapers and books and if they wanted an adventure show they'd have to go out to a movie or listen to the Green Hornet on the radio. A nostalgia thing as well of course, a love for those slower and quieter days, twisting and squeezing the past so into something that never was that even World War Two comes off in my remembrance as something peaceful and sweet, yet there were (in fact) those who just happened to be onto me – the late great Pat Boyette (for one) noticing that my comic book scripts sounded not so much like literature or movies or even teevee shows but instead had all the distinctive rhythms of 1940's radio.

Still, fed up with whatever strange location mainstream comics had headed off to in the eighties, a place I just couldn't get into creatively, yet hardly interested in television, what was I to

do? What was I to do? A not-all-that-interesting quandary (but at least a constant companion) made even worse by the unfortunate absence of any dream that might transport me beyond comics. Hey, I entered the comic book field not wanting to become the greatest comic book writer that ever lived, wanting instead to be *one* of the best while simultaneously being able to write the sorts of comics I wanted to write – stories with the emphasis more on form than upon content, plots with a touch of Philip K. Dick to them, off-the-wall humor well-used often to make an important point but not always, sometimes just for fun, and, within but a few years I had actually achieved that goal. What followed (even as portions of what I had achieved withered away) were veritable decades in which I kept asking myself, what do I do for an encore? I spent three months writing a novel – a worthwhile experience in that I discovered that I actually could sustain something of such uncommon length and bulk, yet the end-result, the book itself, was (as some domo at one potential publishing firm put it) “too clever for its own good,” an apt lesson emphatically shouting into my face that my style didn’t fit something (anything!) possessed of such grandeur, that it was meant for smaller stuff. I worked as a reporter, and the fact that I had written fiction for so many years gave my articles quite the compelling lilt of liveliness and over-the-top drama, and there certainly was a sense of power I derived from twisting the facts, making the left look heroic and the right look even dumber than I tend to think they actually are, yet I quickly tired of that scene (especially the legwork), ultimately informing myself that it was great to find out that I could do this, yet this really wasn’t anything I really wanted to do. I even tried my hand at artwork, ultimately writing and drawing my own comics which I then self-published. No money in that, of course, yet doing the art part I learned all sorts of things about writing (and specifically about writing comics), ideas and realizations that just never occurred to me during all those years of only doing the writing portion.



Meanwhile, many of those who had been entranced by television had done all right for themselves. Gerber, for example, had become the story editor first for G.I. Joe and then for Transformers, and was big on getting comic book writers to do scripts for these series. That's how it came to pass during that year in which both my former Warren and DC writing partner Mary Skrenes and I were living in Las Vegas that we reunited long enough to co-write a Transformers episode. Also, I helped plot (un-credited) a number of G.I. Joe and Gem episodes. The pay here was beyond great and I love the fact that I was able to do this, yet I remain quite convinced that I'm a print man rather than someone who should be writing for TV.

That pretty much brings us up to right now, a time when my main writing job is constructing the occasional article for Charlton Spotlight – I'm still not all that comfortable writing articles, takes me at least ten times longer to write one of these than it does to construct a piece of fiction of equal length, and when I'm writing fiction I don't have all that much of a tendency to come off as a insufferable pompous wind-bag. In addition, I still dabble in comics, working for smaller companies that pay a fraction of what I used to make, while at the same time (if you ask me) my scripts are crisper than they've ever been (owing mainly to everything I learned while drawing my own stuff). Interestingly enough, my most recent comic book story which should be hitting the stands somewhere any day now was illustrated by none other than the great Dick Ayers, the very first artist I worked with back when I first got involved in mainstream comics some forty years ago. How's that for going full circle? Furthermore, this year DC is reprinting a lot of my stuff, not only putting my name back out there, thereby making it easier for me to get work, but also providing me with nice reprint checks which have enabled me to cut back on my physically demanding day-job and thus spend more time developing new projects. So, here we go again!

### **Brien Wayne Powell's BPP Column**

Hello friends! By now you should have received the first seven issues of my all new project, Human Patriot. I am very excited about this new series & hope that you were able to get some enjoyment out of it so far. Look for more issues soon. If anyone is interested in doing pin-ups of these characters, I would love to see your take on them. I predict more issues of Magnet Man Minicomics at some point in the future, but by now, I'm too realistic about it to say exactly when. I do feel very confident that you will be seeing at least a few more Human Patriot issues before the year is out as well as a HP Holiday Special or two, so that is something. I remain saddened by the news that Mike Wieringo passed away recently. He was one of the greatest talents in the world of comics & my personal favorite comic artist. Beyond that, he was a really nice guy every time I was fortunate enough to visit w/him at his table at Heroes Con. It will be strange to say the least when he isn't there next year. Tellos is a beautiful, original & enjoyable comic series & Mike's run w/Mark Waid on Fantastic Four was, in my opinion, a fine example of the comic art form at its best. His art & his smiling face will be greatly missed. I am very proud to be a part of the BPP, now as much as ever. This is a group of talented individuals who love not only small press comics, but also the comic art form in general. I will be a member of this group for as long as possible. I can certainly understand the frustration caused by less than 100% participation in the special projects, but I also see it as a testament to this group's abilities & worth that the projects still turn out so well. Long live the BPP! On that note, I will wrap up this portion of my column. Oh, & happy Halloween everyone!

Take care.

Cordially, Brien Wayne Powell



& now, once again, we've come to the part of my column in which I say 'Hey' in response to last issue's columns.

## THE HEystack!

**Hey Sam!** Sorry to hear about the loss of Ronson & Chuck. They both produce some great work. Hopefully they will both rejoin the fold someday. I agree that getting some new members for the group is a great idea. My nephew Scott Brodie is really talented & I think he would be a great addition to the group. He has done lots of work for my Magnet Man series & is about to do a comic of his own. I will send you his contact info. I also like your idea for a Halloween theme this issue. Look for my Halloween content later on in my column. I hope others decided to incorporate something spooky as well. Thanks for continuing to do a great job as co-chair.

**Hey Skeet!** Wow! I'm really sorry to hear that you will be stepping down as co-chair. You & Jim really changed my small-press life (& heck, my life in general) for the better by accepting me into this wonderful group. Your co-chairing will be missed. At least you will still be here & publishing those great BPP zines you do. I'm looking forward to seeing them by the way. Oh yeah, & the world wants a Sunwing action figure! Just thought I'd throw that out there. Good luck on winning the lottery. I know you can do it! & when you do, don't forget that my Magnet Mansion site has a store w/cool T-Shirts & stuff! ☺

**Hey Jim!** Glad you finally got the copies of the BPP Special from the printer. It turned out great! I'm looking forward to seeing your contribution to the BPP Presents! Glad your mom-in-law found that issue of Spectrum for you. It's always nice when something like that happens.

Sounds like a nice book too. I was always a fan of Sam de la Rosa's inking on Firestorm. Sounds like you have lots of great projects on the way as always.

**Hey Darrell!** I'm not sure exactly how the pairings are working for the BPP Presents project, but I would certainly be honored if you end up being the one illustrating my story. I enjoyed your Rama-Vad Text Novel. John Brown is a talented writer. That is a great project that you have going. It certainly offers something that I'm not used to seeing in Small Press. I hope it continues for a very long time. Do you have any plans to publish any of your own stories this way? I have always enjoyed your ScriptGraphics books.

**Hey Larry!** So sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. That was a very nice, touching memorial you had for her in your last column. Even though I know the hurt of your loss won't easily fade, I hope you will continue to find comfort in your fond memories of your mother. She sounds like a wonderful woman & I know you will see her again someday in a much better place than this.

**Hey Elder Steve!** Another very informative, interesting & entertaining column! I used to love watching the Underdog cartoons. Now that they (along w/everything else) have been released on DVD, I'll have to revisit them sometime. If nothing else, it will be kind of neat to finally see them in color! I'm worried that it would take a miracle for them to not mess up the recent live action movie, so I probably wait to rent it. I'll have to pick up a few issues of the comic next time I'm at a show. Sounds like you had a blast writing it.

## **S.P.A.Z.**

*(Small Press Appreciation Zone)*

*What I liked most about some recent Blue Plaque Publications!*

### **BPP SPECIAL #4**

To start off, appropriately enough, what a great cover! I think the first time I ever saw a cover done this way it was on a Chubby Checker album. Floyd did a great job of making a great first impression! & the interior certainly doesn't disappoint. I'm really glad Doug's strip ended w/To Be Continued, because I can't wait to see more! I've come to expect a lot out of anything Larry Blake does & this one certainly didn't disappoint. & who knew boiling an egg was so exciting?! Steve's strip reminded me of how much I enjoy his art style. & I love the line 'Oh. Okay to fly then.' & speaking of Steves, the elder one makes me want to run out & pick up a copy of BENEATH THE TIGHTS. Sounds like a great book. Sam's story was very unique & entertaining. There was a lot of truth to it for a fiction story! & the special is nicely wrapped up w/a great back cover by Mr. Freeman which reminded me that I really wanted to see more of his great story. W/all the 'to be continued' stories in this issue, I hope I don't have to wait until the next special to see more!

### **RAMA-VAD!**

I was pleasantly surprised to find this one packaged w/the Bluesletter. Great story by John Brown & even though I'm not supposed to judge a book by its cover, I would love to see more of his art in the future. Darrell is really on to something w/this Text Novel project. It's great that he is providing a place for these writers to publish their works. It's nice to see something a little different. Keep up the great work Darrell & company!

*That's it for this time! Keep small pressin' & I'll keep SPAZin'!*

***KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK***

*(A Halloween Tale) by Brien Wayne Powell*

The little alien had survived his ship's crash landing, but now he was stranded on a strange planet called, according to his charts, Earth. He remembered a row of square buildings, slightly similar to the dwellings of his own home world. He decided to go to them in hopes of finding some friendly Earth creature who could help him. He walked as fast as his little legs could carry him & eventually arrived at the doorway of the first dwelling in the row. He knocked on the door. This was a sign of distress on his planet. Hopefully this was a universal signal & the creature inside would rush to his aid. Sure enough, the door opened quickly & there stood one of this planet's inhabitants. "Please, you must help me! My space ship crash landed not far from here & I require assistance in repairing it." Unfortunately for the little alien, his native language was interpreted by the ears of the Earthling as "gloop." "Awww! Isn't that a cute costume." Said the Earthling. Then she gave the alien a handful of candy. "What is this that the creature is putting into my life-sack? It looks not unlike the teeth-looseners that the dentists use back home on my planet" thought the adventurous alien. Realizing that this particular creature was completely insane & therefore unable to help him, he decided to move on to the next door. Again he signaled, again an Earth person appeared & much to his amazement & frustration, they said "Look, it's a little alien! Here ya go little fellow!" & they put more of this stuff into his life-sack. "Maybe I should investigate" thought the alien. & of course, his main method of investigation was to put the object in his mouth. He began to quiver. It was a good quiver. His insides became warm & tangled, which, on his planet, was an amazingly pleasant experience. He had to get more of this fascinating stuff! So, remembering how he had acquired the first couple of magic morsels, he knocked on the next door, & then the next, &

then the next. & every time, the wonderfully crazy Earth people were more than happy to provide him w/the sweet little prizes he sought. He walked & he knocked until his life-sack was full & overflowing. Then he sat triumphantly beneath a big pointy thing called a tree & feasted & trembled & twisted w/delight, completely forgetting about his broken ship. The next morning he awoke w/his bloated belly pointing up happily toward the sky. He had completely emptied his life-sack in the previous night's ravage. No matter. It would be easy enough to refill his life-sack. He approached the first door he could find & knocked just as he had the night before. This time however the Earthling arrived at the door empty handed. They patted him on the head & said "I'm sorry little buddy, Halloween was yesterday. Nice costume though." & then they shut the door. A rage overcame him. He returned to his downed ship & retrieved his complete obliteration cannon, which was quite massive even by alien standards, & returned to the house he had just left. & he punished them. "Surly the Earthlings at the next house will not be so cruel as to refuse me" he thought.

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK...



Magnet Man & Cowman in...

"Dead Poets"

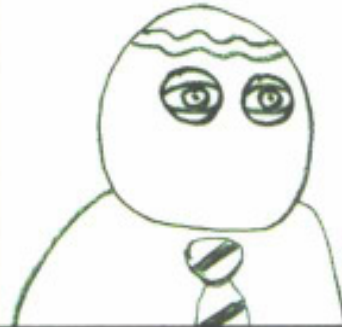
So Cowman, what are you dressing up as for Halloween this year?



This is it Max, I'm already dressed up. I'm going as Allen Ginsberg in a cow suit. I originally wanted to be Edgar Allen Poe in a cow suit, but that wouldn't have made any sense.



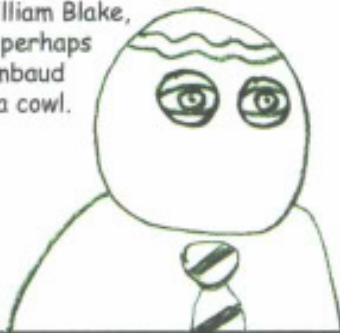
Hmm. That's about what I expected you to say, sadly enough.



So what are you going to be?



I hadn't thought of anything yet, but maybe I can go as a masked William Blake, or perhaps Rimbaud in a cowl.



Shoot. Why didn't I think of that?!



### ***B.P.P.'N-A VERY SPECIAL EDITION!!!***

I like surprises as much as the next guy, unless it's like the one I got in the mail recently from Steve Skeates. In his latest publication, "Butchery" sent out to our co-op, our pal Steve, who I admired for doing such great silver age comic stories, rakes me over the coals. Well, I guess I deserve the tongue-lashing he gave me for just not paying attention to what had happened to that grand and glorious material he had sent me to use in the B.P.P. SPECIAL! He had sent me the material all camera ready, which I believe was on color paper...I can't really remember too much about it. Anywho, I sent it in an envelope, along with all the rest of the material, to Floyd, as he was doing the production on the publication. And then I waited for the file to be sent to me. When I finally got the file, I noticed that Floyd had re-typed Steve's camera ready contrib, but didn't know that he had changed all those things that Steve pointed out. I didn't have

Steve's original pages to check out, so I couldn't tell. To be honest, due to the time lag with this publication, I simply thought it was okay and told Floyd to send the file over to the printers so we could get it out finally. Lately I've been more of a publisher than an editor and have relied on others to do that job, so I am to blame for not double checking Steve's piece. In short, I'm willing to give Steve an apology, provided he gives me one right back for the insults he hurled at my staff, my publishing company and myself. Fair is fair, wouldn't you say?

"Grim" Jim Main

A special *Bluenotes* addition from Floyd to Steve Skeates:

**SORRY,  
STEVE!!!**

And I mean that.....REALLY!!

F



# ***THE BPP CHECKLIST***

**(Fall/Winter 2007)**

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THE BPP (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 may contact Sam Gafford/ 624 Metacom Ave. #103/ Warren, RI 02884, or Steve Keeter/ PO Box 536368/ Orlando, FL 32853-6368, for more information.

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## **THE BLUESLETTER**

(\$2.00 for a sample copy from Sam Gafford/ 624 Metacom Ave. #103/ Warren, RI 02884)

This is the bi-monthly Official Newsletter of the Blue Plaque Publications co-op and features artwork, articles, news, and more from the membership, which includes such notable publishers as Larry Blake, Nate Corrigan, Doug Freeman, Sam Gafford, Darrell Goza, Steve Keeter, and more.

## **HUMAN PATRIOT #1 thru #7**

(No price listed, but try 50 cents each, or a couple bucks for all 7, from Brien Wayne Powell/ PO Box 911/ Forest, VA 24551)

Brien Powell makes a triumphant return to self publishing with these seven brief but hilarious minicomics. The Human Patriot, a hero who hates apple pie (just the taste), but loves his country, is introduced in typical madcap BWP fashion. Also introduced are Neighborham Lincoln (head of an agency so secret no

one knows the name of it), a brain devouring zombie (who will settle for a sandwich instead), and the not so dynamic Peace Pony. Weird and wild comics unlike anything else in the small press realm.

### **RAMA-VAD**

(\$2.00 from Darrell Goza/ 1715 East Cambridge St./ Allentown, PA 18109)

Publisher Darrell Goza and editor Fenwick Thaddeus Ford present the first in an exciting new series of text novels. The story of Rama-Vad, a fighter trained by the Chinese Shaolin, is told in dramatic fashion by writer John S. Brown. A young woman targeted for murder seeks out and befriends the hero, but that friendship is shortlived. Vengeance is the name of the game, as the suspense mounts. John Brown also contributes the bold frontcover.

### **THE BPP SPECIAL #4**

(Still Available!-- for \$3.50, from Jim Main/ Flying Pig Publications/ 13 Valley View Rd./ Brookfield, CT 06804)

Jim Main and Floyd Sumner present the first new BPP SPECIAL in quite sometime. Some of small press's finest contribute, including Larry Blake (with an offbeat psychedelic sf tale starring Kevin Cool), Brien Powell (Magnet Man returns to the printed page!), Doug Freeman (a futuristic space drama), Steve Keeter ("Skeet Vs. the Monsters"), Nate Corrigan ("Joe Boils An Egg," with hilarious results), Steve Skeates (reviewing Juan Manuel Perez' BENEATH THE TIGHTS), Sam Gafford (a strange Lovecraftian tale), and Judy Keeter. Greater variety in a small press comic you will not find.

# THE BPP CHARTER

Each member will publish at least 20 pages of material per year, and said material should keep within the boundaries of good taste.

Each member will affix the Blue Plaque Publications symbol on their member publications, preferably on the front cover. Members are to send each other a copy of their new book once it's published for review purposes.

Each member publication should contain the BPP CHECKLIST either as part of the publication or as an insert. We would prefer that it be a part of the publication if at all possible.

We'd like participation in the club newsletter to be at least every other issue by members. Use your member column to review other's titles, offer critiques, and discuss club bizness. There is no grading system here.

Please keep a minimum balance of at least \$6 in your account. You will be notified when your account is becoming low.

Check your egos at the door. Bickering is not allowed here. Please remember our goals are to have fun and enjoy ourselves and our publishing endeavors!