

By the WAY #1

by W. Andrew York
(wandrew88 of gmail.com)

Surprise! I know, not quite the Christmas present you were looking for.... Instead, I'm here with a new subzine that Jim is allowing me to put together. It'll have a bit of commentary and a word game – at least initially. I'll be happy to run other games, just let me know what you'd like to see offered and I'll look into opening up a game.

For right now, I'll start out with "By Popular Demand". The rules and first round categories are at the end of the column. Everyone can play and if you miss a round it isn't necessarily a bad thing. I encourage everyone to join in and have fun guessing what you'll think the rest of the playing field will answer. Please note that my deadline is a few days before Jim's (usually three, but it may vary based on my schedule).

If that ends up not being enough time for folks to get entries in, let me know. I could easily stagger the game, running it every other issue. Then, I could alternate with a second "everybody plays" game such as Scattergories, a mini-quiz (no Internet research allowed) or something else that you'd like play that all readers can join in.

I'm sure the sharp eyed folks have noticed that I have a different Email address listed than I've used in the past. Actually, this is the address I've started using "publicly", though the other still works. To facilitate things, I've set up the gmail account to forward everything to my "at home" account (wandrew of compuserve.com). So, if you send game submissions, locs or other subzine related material to me at the gmail account, I can access them from anywhere (such as during lunch at work) and have a copy when I get home. This will be especially helpful on deadline days as I can work on the subzine during lunch (hint, hint).

Please note that most of my outbound mail will be sent from the Compuserve account.

Now, to a few feature items I hope to include in most issues. The review will be of a book, magazine, game, movie or whatever has caught my eye (with the date in brackets being the month/year I reviewed it). As a default, it'll be a book review as I've done dozens over the years. The observation is something I'm going to try to have every time, while the playlist will include TV shows, DVDs, CDs or whatever is going on in the background while I'm prepping the subzine. The "coming up" will be a teaser for the next issue and should give me a head start on getting the next puppy out the door. If there's a regular feature you'd like included ("quote of the day", "featured recipe", "this week in history" or ??) let me know or, if you'd like to submit your own item for one of these, please do so.

Review: Babylon 5: The Scripts of J. Michael Straczynski (Vol 1) (2005; 454p). The first of the JMS Babylon 5 scripts, including the original vision of the pilot "The Gathering" along with memos, photos and commentary. An amazing book, seeing the difference between what was written and what was filmed. The additional material by jms only adds to the pleasure of reading it. However, the book is only for the B5 aficionado or the film student, not the average reader. [November 2005]

As an additional note, it is very worthwhile watching the DVD while following along in the script. You see how the actors changed scenes on the fly, what was added, what was cut and how things were rearranged. Combined, this is the definitive story of Babylon 5, from pre-production to the final story presented on the small screen. More or less a mini-seminar on producing a TV series.

Observation - did anyone else notice the substantial drop-off in spam right after Katrina? It is only in the past couple of weeks that it has increased to pre-hurricane levels, at least for me.

Playlist for this issue: "Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" soundtrack and "Christmas in Vienna" (Vienna Boys' Choir).

Coming up Next Time: You go to the "Alamo Drafthouse" to watch movies while having dinner and a beer?

Best wishes for a wonderful, exciting and bountiful 2006 to everyone!

=====GAME SECTION=====

BY POPULAR DEMAND

The goal is to pick something that fits the category and will be the "most popular" answer. You score points based on the number of entries that match yours. For example, if the category is "Cats" and the responses were 7 for Persian, 3 for Calico and 1 for Siamese, everyone who said Persian would get 7 points, Calico 3 and the lone Siamese would score 1 point. The cumulative total over 10 rounds will determine the overall winner. Anyone may enter at any point, starting with an equivalent point total of the lowest cumulative score from the previous round. If a person misses a round, they'll receive the minimum score from the round added to their cumulative total. And, if you want to submit some commentary with your answers, feel free to.

NOTE: I always acknowledge an Email submission. If you've sent something in and don't hear back from me after a couple of days, send again or check with Jim. I let him know if I expect to be away from the computer for any extended period of time.

Round One Category – Movies

(Note: if there is a movie series, be specific which movie you are entering – if the category was car models, you would answer "Mustang" not "Ford")

- 01) Favorite Sci-Fi Movie
- 02) Favorite Adventure Movie
- 03) Favorite "Chick" Flick
- 04) Favorite Fantasy Movie
- 05) Favorite Western

Submit Email entries to wandrew88 of gmail.com or by mail to W Andrew York; POB 201117; Austin TX 78720-1117

Deadline is: **January 18, 2006 at high noon Central Time**

*((TAP EDITOR'S NOTE: Welcome to Andy York as he joins the large and illustrious stable of subszines in **The Abyssinian Prince**, just in time for the #300th issue. I've been talking to Andy for some months about stepping in here and I'm glad he finally did it. Andy, note I pushed your deadline back to accommodate when I've mailed this issue. You may want to think about putting games on every other issue status if you run something that takes a lot of negotiation. I also will be posting a PDF version of Andy's subszine on the TAP web site: <http://devel.diplom.org/DipPouch/Postal/Zines/TAP/> so that people can look back at previous issues. Please welcome Andy by sending him orders for By Popular Demand, he'll be very disappointed if none of you participate. As a setup for Andy's next issue, apparently he has a "dinner and a movie" house near him? The one in my neighborhood failed pretty dismally (I remember getting tortured through Mulholland Drive at it when that first came out – a deeply flawed, though superficially fascinating movie), they spent a LOT of money on the table/chair arrangements so that you could eat your dinner while watching the movie, but they couldn't make enough to pay for it. Someone bought them out and keeps threatening to reopen it, but nothing yet – that's the closest walking distance movie theatre to my house, the mall is another mile or so away. Well, that's it, I won't always add something to Andy's subszine, only when he doesn't fill up the whole page!!!))*