

WIP!

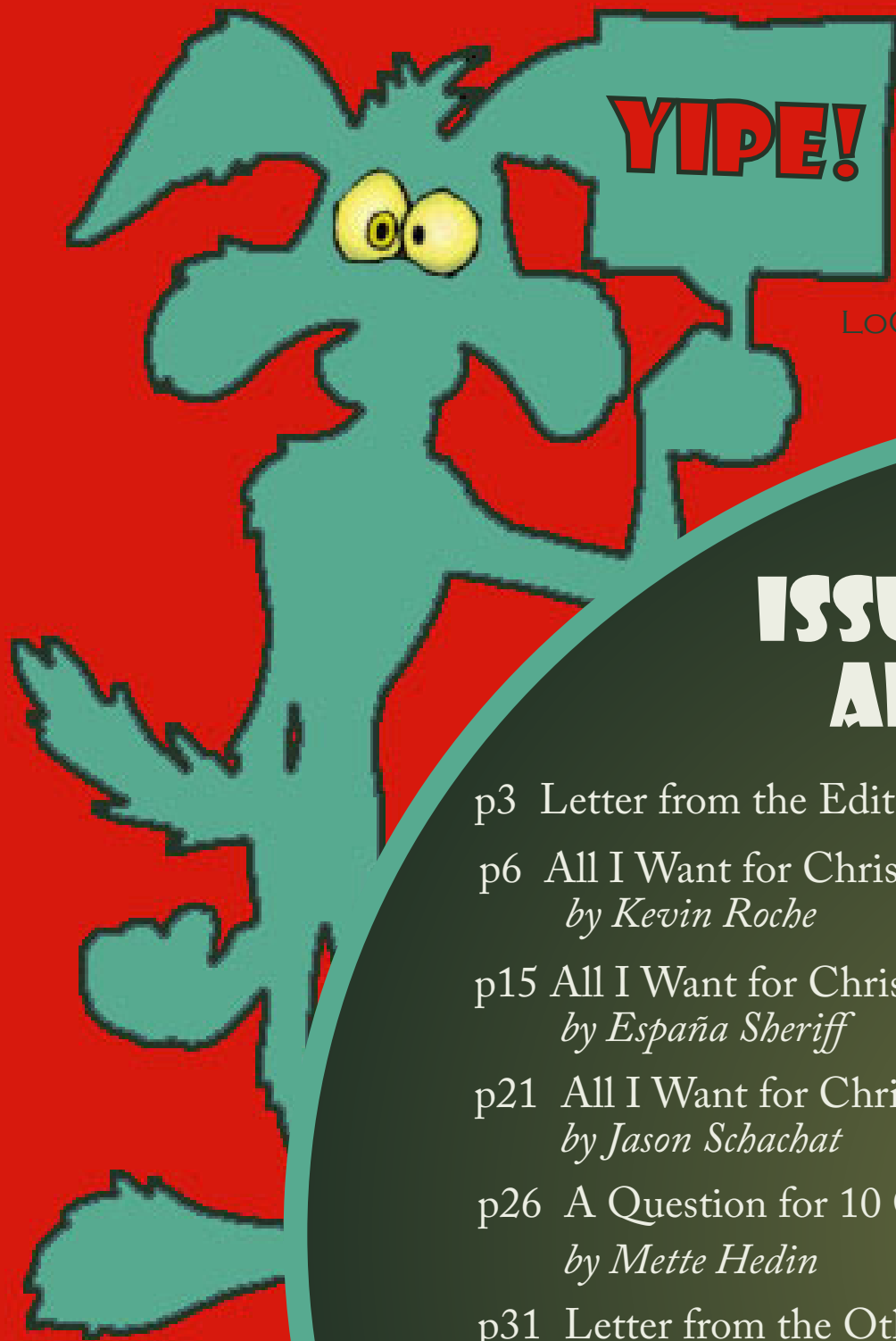
The Costume Fanzine of Record

Volume 2

Issue 12

All I Want...





LOCS - EDITORS@YIPEZINE.COM
WWW.YIPEZINE.COM

ISSUE TWELVE: ALL I WANT...

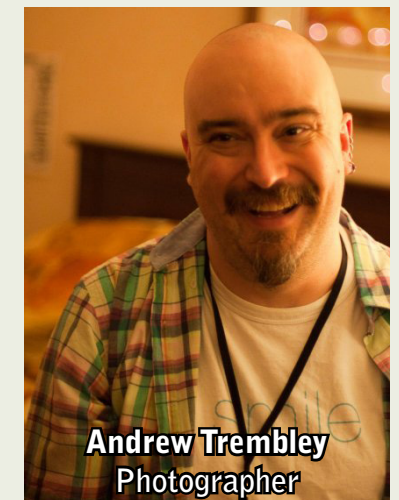
- p3 Letter from the Editor *by Jason Schachat*
- p6 All I Want for Christmas is my Jet Pack
by Kevin Roche
- p15 All I Want for Christmas is my own Ray Gun
by España Sheriff
- p21 All I Want for Christmas is a Better Hand
by Jason Schachat
- p26 A Question for 10 Costumers
by Mette Hedin
- p31 Letter from the Other Editor *by Kevin Roche*
- p33 Letters for Santa



Jason Schachat
Editor



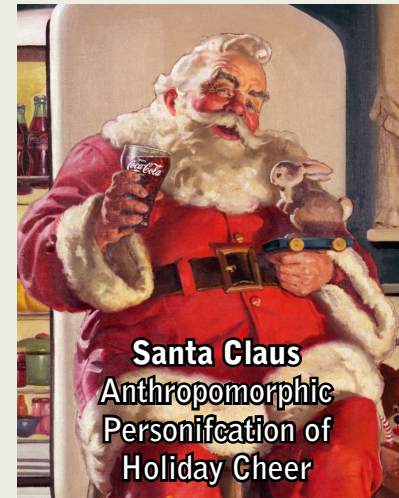
Kevin Roche
Editor



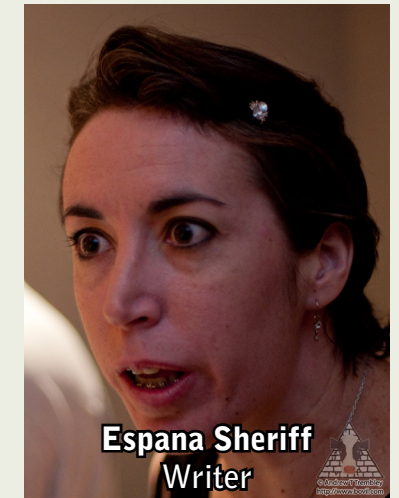
Andrew Trembley
Photographer



Mette Hedin
Writer



Santa Claus
Anthropomorphic
Personification of
Holiday Cheer



España Sheriff
Writer



The Costume Fanzine of Record

Letter from the Editor

Send all complaints to:
Jason@yipezine.com

Happy? Content? Did you put on 15 pounds eating confections no living creature was ever meant to ingest?

Good, I guess we can wrap up the holiday season, then. Better start taking down the tree...

Say, what's this? One last present tucked behind the tree? As if Santa hid it there for the most opportune moment when, all hope lost, that most-desired gift rises from the ashes of a disappointing Christmas like some Jolly Old Phoenix.

Or, more likely, because your dad screwed up and waited until the last minute to go shopping for that [insert present here], meaning, OF COURSE, the story didn't have any-- so he went to another store and another, called customer service to see if any other stores in the area carried it. And one did! They were 100 miles away, but they'd hold it for him until they closed, which was in less than an hour.

So, Papa drove like a bat out of hell to get there, sideswiping old ladies and mowing down innocent children and household pets, but he got there just in time for those doors to slam right in his face. Closed. But don't worry, they'd be open again the day after Christmas.

Because, you know, every kid loves to race up to that tree and tear open an envelope with an IOU and a ticket to one of the most hateful shopping days of the year. Worse yet, it would kill the surprise. Little Timmy was hoping for that train set, but now he KNOWS he's going to get it. Even worse, he knows it so well, the little jerk is going to raise hell if he doesn't get it and start shattering those crystal vases located conspicuously close to the toy aisle.



What Papa failed to realize (and Mama will likely end up suffering for) is the whole point of Christmas: the wonder. Kids make their wishlists without any care for how realistic said hopes are given socioeconomic trends and their tax bracket. It doesn't matter if they get a jet pack or a ray gun or a nuclear-powered arm cannon. The important thing is, for a brief moment, they think they might.

After all, didn't Mama get them that [insert present here] after all that time she spent saying it just wouldn't happen? It defies all logic...

Holy Christmas, the woman is magical. She can make anything happen. This year, let's ask for an army of puppies equipped with smaller puppies they keep in backpacks!

Even if it's just for a fleeting moment, a kid's mind opens up to the vast universe around

them. Maybe it's possible for a decrepit, morbidly obese man to harness a team of faster-than-light ruminants to distribute roughly 18 billion presents across the entire globe in less than 12 hours.

Maybe it's possible for our messages to cross continents almost instantly, reception guaranteed.

Maybe it's possible to fly through space.

All it takes is that little ray of hope. The moment of inspiration that, like the perfect high, will always keep you trying to get there again-- or even do better.

Christmas is the human condition in a nutshell. It's a big, scary world out there, but we keep going because we can always dream it'll get better. In fact, our dreams are what make it better, since we can't build the future until



we've imagined it.

And what good would these dreams be if we couldn't share them? How would they become real without that sense of community that turns one person's whimsical fancy into the world's bold stride forward.

Sure, Kevin wants a Jet Pack, Ms. Sheriff wants a Ray Gun, I want the power to crush skulls between my cruel digits, and Mette wants everything all at once... but are we going to get them?

Does it matter, as long as we WANT them in the first place?

Of course, I know this provides little solace to poor Papa, sitting out there in the rain,

waiting for the nearby Mega Discount Retailer to open their doors so he can get that elusive present. I know because the creation of this issue was much like his journey, filled with traps and people with maxed out credit cards insisting they have money on that account, and it'll go through if everyone just waits.

But think about it: wasn't waiting to get this issue half the fun?

If so, direct all complaints to Kevin.

- Jason Schachat



All I want for Christmas is my Jet Pack...
...and asbestos underwear!

Among my favorite science fiction gadgets (along with the Flying Car, teleportation, and the transcendently dimensional Multiverse's Largest Closet TARDIS) is the jet pack. The idea of zooming through the sky on one's own (without any messy prerequisites such as extraterrestrial parentage, radioactive insect bites, mutagen exposure or contractual eternal damnation) is an age-old dream of humankind. The myth of Icarus, even with its tragic moral, remains one of my favorites; I have a tattoo of

Icarus in flight on my right shoulder. As is only fitting for the pages of *Yipe*, let's explore that all important question: *what do you put on before you don your flying belt?*

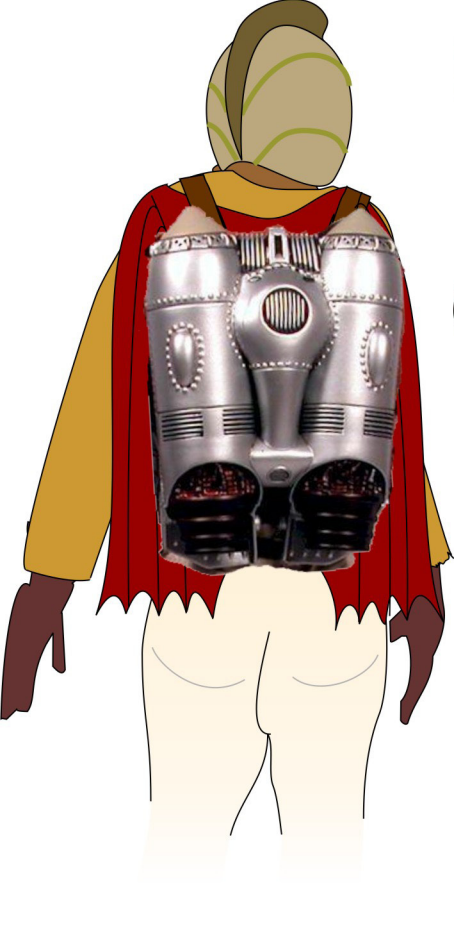
Let's start with the technology. By jet pack, I wish to be inclusive and include both jet packs (only fuel is carried) and rocket packs (fuel and oxidizer are both carried). There are various and sundry other imagined and real personal flight apparati using (in order of technological improbability) compressed air, ducted fans, magnetism, antigravity, Atlantean crystal technology or plain and simple

magic. While a number of these personal flight devices are actually under development, let's exclude those on which one rides rather than wears, such as the Solotrek XFV exoskeletal flyer from *Cody Banks* (or the Martin turbofan "jet pack") or Harry Potter's broomstick, and focus instead on the kind that you strap to your back with the hope of enthusiastically leaving *terra firma* then returning to it safely at your destination.

The earliest images of jet packs date back to the pulps and comics of 1920s. Mark Seaton (or perhaps Martin Crane) of the Skylark flies across the cover of the Au-

The annual screening of the Star Wars Holiday Special at LosCon, complete with red Snugglies.





gust 1928 issue of *Amazing Stories*, and Buck Rogers had his trademark twin-motor rocket pack (Buck debuted in that same issue of *Amazing!*). In the late 40s and early 50s, Republic Pictures had their Rocketman, one flying suit which worn by characters in several pictures, notably *King of the Rocket Men* (“Jeff King”), *Radar Men from the Moon* (“Commando Cody”), *Sky Marshal of the Universe* (“Commando Cody”) and *Zombies of the Stratosphere* (“Larry Martin”). This jet pack was recreated in *Star Trek: Voyager* for the “Captain Proton” holodeck adventures, which Tom Par-

ris created as an interactive homage to the old serials.

In the late 1950s/early 1960s the first real working jetpacks were developed. In

1958 Thiokol patented a “jump belt” which used high pressure compressed nitrogen gas to generate thrust. In 1959 Aerojet General and Bell Aviation (later Bell

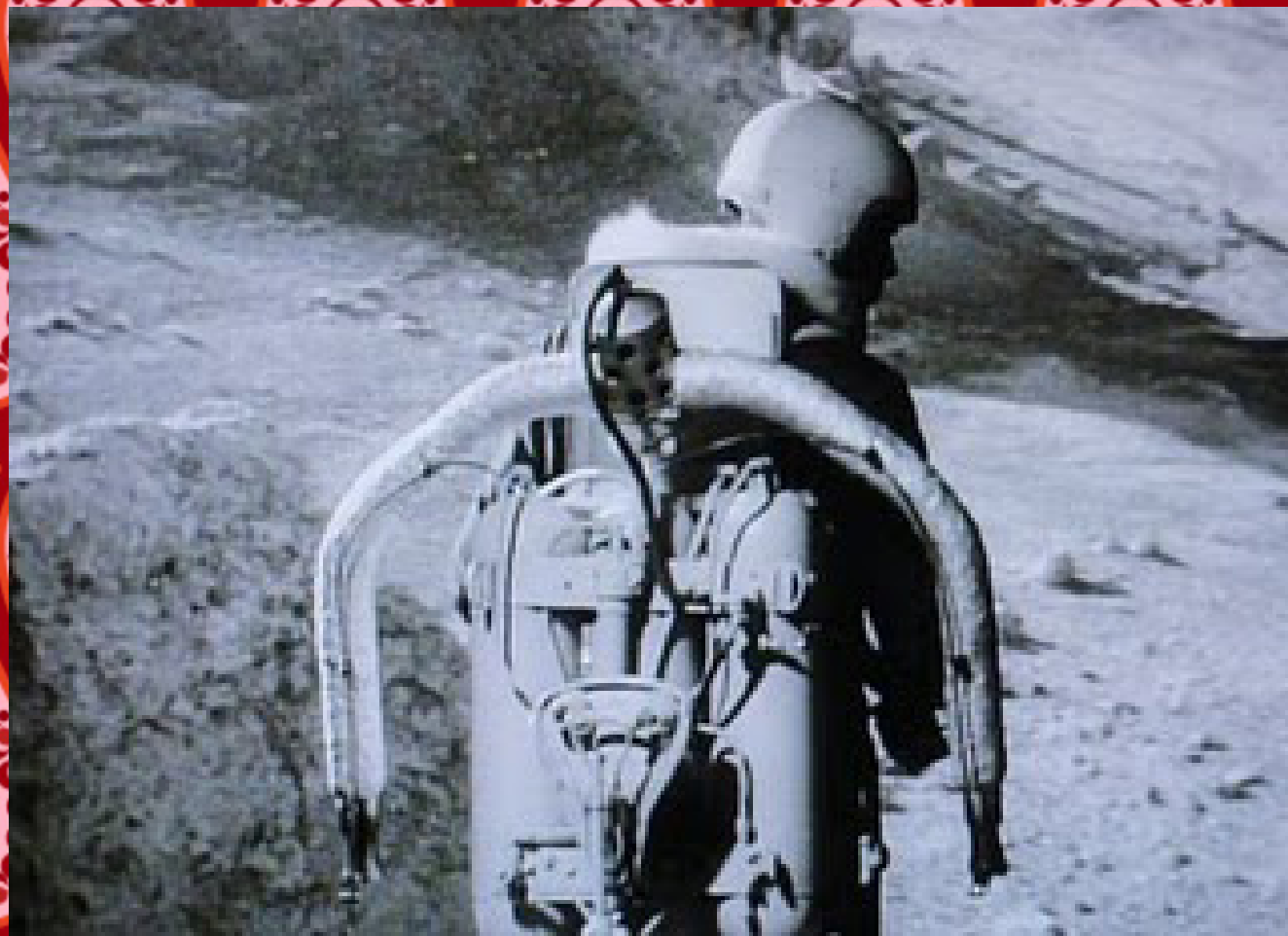
Aerospace) started working on rocket belts using a variety of propellant systems. The most successful, the Bell Rocket Belt (and its successors) used a catalysed hydrogen peroxide propellant system that creates super high-pressure water vapor and oxygen exhaust for thrust coming from a pair of nozzles to either side of the operator, and was capable of 20 seconds of independent flight. Experimental packs using turbojets or high-impulse fuel/oxidizer

propellant were also built, but the no-combustion/no moving parts nature of the peroxide reaction led to it being used for all the public flights of the rocketpack. (There is a risk to the operator if the fuel tank ruptures, as the 90% peroxide is highly corrosive to organic matter such as, say, people, but you can’t set yourself on fire with the propellant exhaust).

All my iconic childhood memories of jet packs, I

have learned, involved Bell Aerospace rocket belts; it was the used by James Bond in *Thunderball*, and stood in for the “parajets” used by Professor John Robinson and Major Don West in *Lost in Space*. This basic design was modified for higher efficiency thrust by Powerhouse Productions, Inc. who were able to increase flight time to 30 seconds, and their Rocketman appearances have landed at all sorts of events including several *Star Wars* events.





In 1980 we met bounty hunter Boba Fett in *The Empire Strikes Back*. His armor includes its own iconic jet pack, featuring two angled thrust nozzles at the lower corners. Then in 1991 Disney brought *Rocketeer* to life from the pages of Dave Stevens' comic book, featuring a sleek ethanol-powered jetpack with Art Deco design notes. Any number of comics, anime, and video games have included battle armor including jet or rocket propulsion components, including Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear in his rocket-powered space armor.

During the first decade of this century, pilot Yves Rossy has established some fame for himself as the Jet Man by piloting his personal back-carried Jet Wing at significant altitudes and speeds above 100mph -- although he cannot manage a land-based takeoff and must launch from another aircraft. In a spirit of completeness (and because the Author is a total space nut), we should not omit the compressed-nitrogen thrust Manned Maneuvering Unit (MMU) which was used by NASA astronauts during spacewalks.

Enough about the technology; there are any number of websites (and books) available with loads of details about the trials and triumphs of jetpack development. Down to the critical question: What Do You Wear With your Jetpack -- especially if it's using a combustion-based propellant system?

Let's deal with the simple, practical option: armor (and I don't mean any of that bare-midriff fantasy stuff you see on some video game female action characters. Let's take it as giv-

en that bare skin + rocket/jet exhaust is a Bad Idea). Buzz wears it. Boba wears it. Whatsername from Halo wears it. It definitely offers backside protection (I'm presuming some sort of insulation/cooling built in) as well as impact protection for those just-barely-good landings. It can be made air/vacuum tight should your motors be sufficient to propell you into less than breathably adequate atmospheres. Too, it can send a powerful visual message. Unfortunately, it's probably the *wrong* message for swanky soirees. Landing gently on the balcony for cocktails while wearing full battle-ready armor is sort of like parking on your hosts' lawn in a Sherman Tank (or, come to think of it, a Hummer). Plus, there's the hassle of getting in and out of your armor when you need to nip out for a quart of blue milk. That's bad enough with good motorcycle gear, and my saddle bags have more cargo space!

It would be remiss not to mention the mystery of Boba Fett's cape at this juncture. An assymetric triangle of (apparently) weathered green canvas, it



mysteriously shows no sign of exposure to the extreme temperatures produced by the exhaust of his rocket pack. Perhaps it's mundane appearance disguises a high-tech asbestos equivalent, providing both incendiary protection and stylish accent to Fett's wardrobe. Since the rocket pack has no jet intake (and the pack is worn *over* the cape), Edna Mode's "No Capes!" prohibi-

tion may be safely ignored.

For simple elegance, one can't beat James Bond's approach -- he simply strapped his Bell rocket belt on over his suit, put on a neat crash helmet and rocketed to safety from the roof of the chateau. (Of course, he only had to travel the few hundred feet to his car). This works with the peroxide-powered rocket

belts (or antigravity), but offers no protection from the heat of a combustion-propelled pack. There's also the problem of dealing with a less-than-perfect landing. So, while attractive we'll have to set this option aside until the technology evolves quite a ways.

Now let's visit the Jupiter II. Professor Robinson was first portrayed as flying his parajet (again, the Bell rocket belt in a cameo) in his silver spacesuit with a parka over it. While on the one hand this helped him blend in with the stock footage of the Bell pilot

navigating the unit around the desert, it actually was quite practical. Those silver suits the Space Family Robinson wore? In the first season, they were actually track car racing fire suits, designed to protect drivers against the hazards of fiery crashes. And while it



takes a certain elan to pull it off, a slinky well-tailored silver suit can definitely pass muster at our space-opera cocktail party. I seem to recall something similar in my wardrobe for hosting one of the Evil Genius parties, definitely a sign of good fashion sense.

That leads, finally, to the Rocketman/Captain Proton/Rocketeer wardrobe.

All feature a leather jacket under the rocket pack, a streamlined helmet and trousers. The Rocketman/Captain Proton atomic-powered rocket suits have a large bullet-shaped helmet, hip-length belted jacket with chest-mounted controls, and what appear to be classic late 40s wool slacks. Cliff Secord/the Rocketeer strapped his Hughes jet-pack on over a waist-length

bib-fronted motorcycle jacket, worn with jodhpurs and riding boots, with a sleek art-deco helmet designed and welded up by his friend A. "Peevy" Peabody. The leather jacket would certainly provide some thermal insulation and fire protection from the propellant exhaust, but it strikes me that fashioning the trousers from leather as well would be wiser than risking



fortunately, the unmodified human form does not make a very effective airfoil for high-speed horizontal flight (Buzz Lightyear flies horizontally, but his armor in flight mode is more like Yves Rossy's JetWing, a small winged jet plane). One could employ a garment like the wingsuits used by some contemporary skydivers, which create airfoils by stretching fabric between the arms and legs of the diver. These would, however, be somewhat clumsy should one find oneself in the mood for an impromptu cha-cha at our rocketclan's holiday gala. Perhaps we should take cues from both Boba Fett and the Caped Crusader to engineer a fireproof membrane cloak with structural elements to act as steering airfoils.

If, then, I were assembling my own jetpacking ensemble, I'd start with Cliff Secord's smart bibbed leather jacket, boots and jodhpurs (making the pants out of the aforementioned fawn leather). Lets add a short, smart cape (with extensible struts and a center back anchor) to encourage horizontal flight attitude, that

can then fall simply back from the shoulders while one is socializing. Rather than the between-legs fabric web of a wingsuit, a pair of fins unroll from the shafts of my boots, providing empennage for better pitch, yaw and roll control. Let's keep Peevy's Streamline Moderne helmet, but scale back the fin slightly so as to avoid oversteering while enjoying the scenery.

I found myself inspired to dive into the studio and start some quick and dirty sketches; have a look for yourself. Rest assured, whatever the final design, one thing is certain – it absolutely, positively will have an easy-to-reach-in-flight pocket for chewing gum.

See you in the stratosphere!

setting one's pants on fire. I will confess a personal affection for Cliff Secord's smart jacket and boots, but I think I'd go for fawn deer-skin for my jodhpurs.

Peevy's helmet included a signature Streamline Moderne fin that acted as a rudder while Secord was in flight. Which brings us

back to technology for a moment. One significant difference between the Rocketman/Rocketeer flyers and the Bell rocketbelt pilots is that the former were portrayed in horizontal, Superman-style flight, while the Bell-style jet-packs operate with the pilot suspended vertically from the propulsion system. Un-





All I want for Xmas is my own ray gun.

I know what you're thinking; "A ray gun? You'll shoot your eye out kid!"

Well yes, but then I'll have it replaced with a bionic eye, so that's cool too.

But seriously, I am aware that anyone who knows me well enough to grasp how much I love ray guns also knows me well enough to keep firearms and sharp objects well away from me, so I'll restrict this article to just toy guns and replicas. (Although if you do happen to know a source for a genuine accept-no-substitutes zap-'em ray gun, please

contact me directly-do *not* go through the editors).

Rayguns come in three types; toys, props and objects d'art. And two designs, which boil down to what one website I ran across terms 'zap or pew', I'm all about the zap, personally; nice clean beam weapons with simply blast those evil enemies out of existence, ideally at the atomic level. Bullets are lame, even if you etch them with mystical runes or curve their trajectory with the power of your mind. Laser, plasma, particle, pulse. That is where it's at.

In the toy department the best are the classics; pre-

1970 designs, ideally in metal rather than plastic. Steel, iron or more commonly die-cast metal. The little kid tin lithos, painted up in bright colors and space scenes do have a charm of their own, but I prefer the guns that look like they could conceivably be a real weapon from some alternate universe. One where cars fly and have fins the size of flatscreens.

At the top of my list of desire is the Hubley Atomic Disintegrator, considered by many to be the most beautiful of the classic toy ray guns. A pop art poem in cast iron and bubblegum red, the Hubley is one of the few rayguns of the fif-



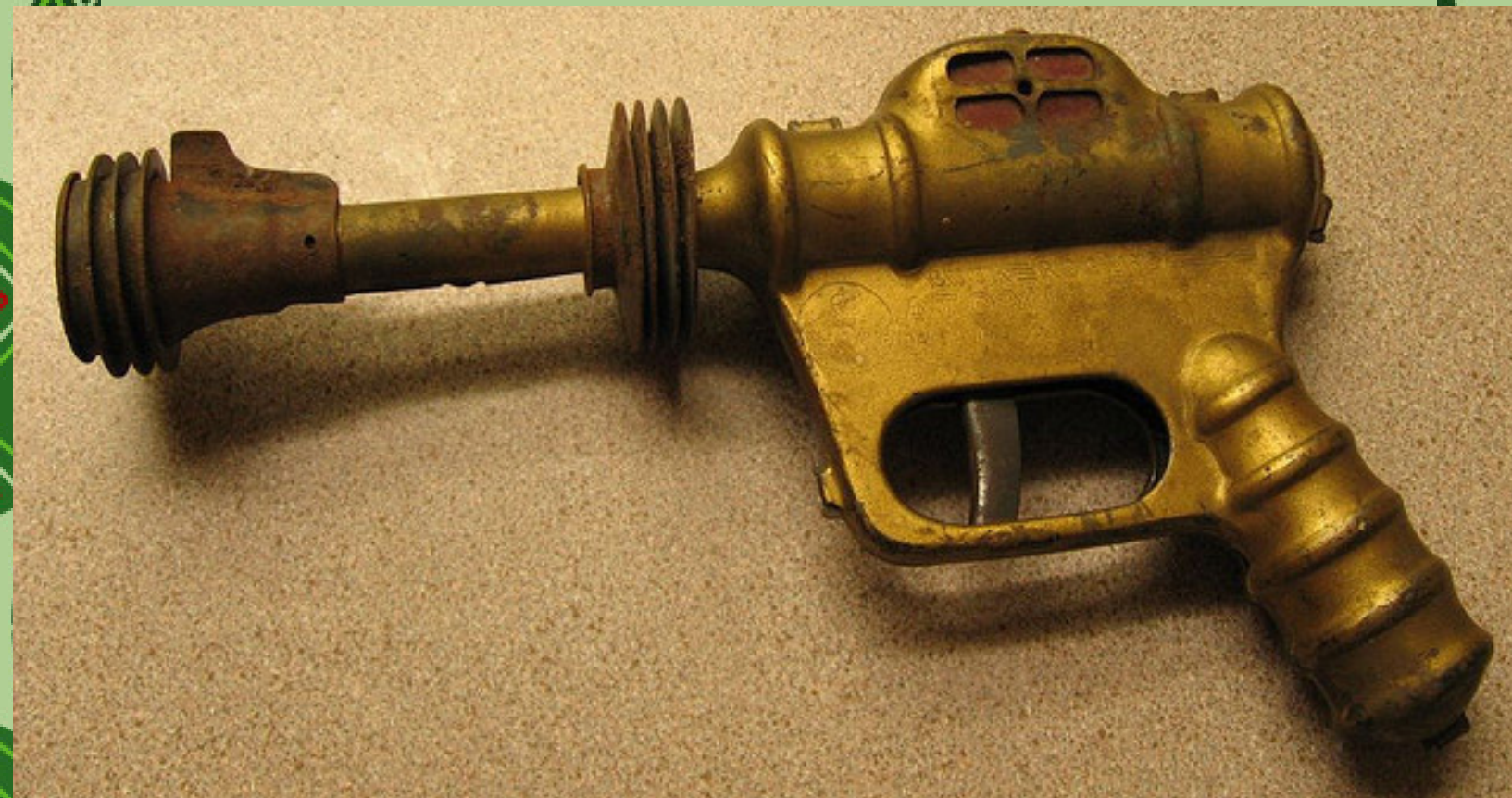
ties that looks like it could actually fuck some shit up, there is a solidity to its design that is absent from most of its peers and a lethality to the snub-nosed body that meshes strangely well with the smooth ergonomic cherry-red grip. It is also familiar to fans of late-night film excellence from

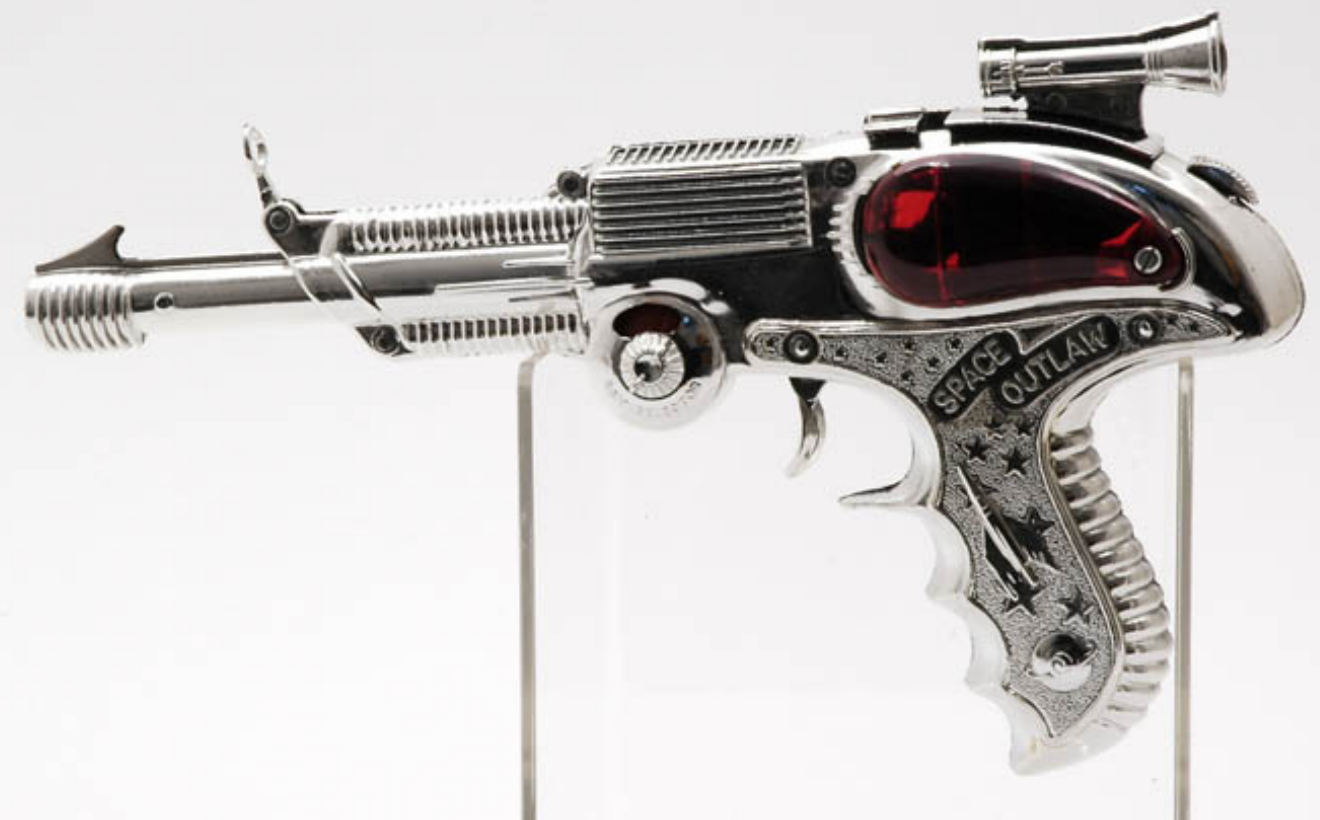
its appearance as a then-cheap prop in 'Teenagers from Outer Space'.

Next in line is the Cosmic Ray from J.E. Stevens, which was a model that never went into production and is therefore impossible to find. The two prototypes are supposedly still owned

by the Stevens family, so no amount of money will buy you one. Eleven inches of slick 1950's lines in unblemished chrome, it is the platonic ideal of the word 'raygun'. When I close my eyes and think "raygun" the Cosmic Ray is what I visualize. In a way it's fitting that it doesn't exist as a tangible object.

Close to our plane of existence are the ubiquitous Buck Rogers Daisy guns. The most famous two are 1930's designs, the XZ-38 Disintegrator and the XZ-31 Rocket Pistol. The XZ-31 is okay, but looks more or less like a slightly modified Luger, and comes in black or matte steel. The X-38 on the other hand is likely to





be more familiar. One of the most popular and easiest to find of the classics, it is from a generation earlier than the two guns already mentioned; pure pulp-era design, no streamlining or chrome here. We're talking copper finish, Art Deco rings and a fluted barrel. Undeniably futuristic, but modern only from a pre-WWII perspective. This gun seems to exist in the collective subconscious, even if you don't remember seeing it you'll probably recognize it.

Finally, another in the

chrome dream genre; the Space Outlaw, which is from the 50s but could pass for 1960's Barbarella gorgeousness. Gothic curves, with a teardrop shaped red window and a strangely menacing, vaguely organic design. This one was reissued numerous times apparently, but is a European gun and therefore hard to find in the US.

Luckily the design elements of these guns can be found lurking in dozens of plastic toys sold on the cheap at dollar stores and outlets. Mostly the 80's style square

designs dominate, more Terminator than Flash Gordon, and although you can find designs that are clearly related to (or stolen from) older models, the lines are generally obscured by cheap one-color molds and even cheaper stickers. But now and then some wonderful ones sneak through, and the modding community, especially in the steampunk crowd, has made some great efforts at turning these into props that sometimes approach wearable art.

I've worn such a weapon with a couple of my ste-

ampunk/dieselpunk outfits, but as you can see my main love is the pulp magazine cover sci-fi aesthetic, so the costume which I mainly accessorize with a gun is my Space Girl get-up, all-silver or silver and black, which fortunately matches most any color and design.

But in reality carrying a gun while hall-costuming

is a pain and a half; I don't always have a holster the thing, and when I do it usually interferes with sitting down. So the ray gun I am most likely to actually costume with is a trusty little Razer Raygun which has the dual advantage of being cheap and making an enormous amount of noise when you press the trigger. Meaning that if I lose it or leave

it behind, it doesn't stay lost for long; human nature being what it is, whoever picks it up always pulls the trigger, alerting me to its absence.

Comfort and price are certainly two reasons I don't often pick up prop or replica guns. But another is that unfortunately the best genre movies don't always have the best guns. I wouldn't say no to owning the Deckard's blaster from Blade Runner or a PPG from Babylon 5, of course, but film quality and ray gun hotness are sadly unrelated, in fact some of the worst films have the prettiest props.

The first to spring to mind in this category is Padme Amidala's blaster in The Phantom Menace, it's sleek and silver and generally unlike most of the weapons you see in the Star Wars universe. Like the costumes from the movie, it deserved





ger pistol in it is quite a beaut, of a bulkier design that I normally like but nice.

A film I enjoyed but mostly no one else did; Sky Captain and the

World of Tomorrow, we can all agree that the design was excellent throughout and that includes the wonderful blasters. Just like the rest

of the film, they pay perfect tribute to their pulp origins.

Any of these would look good on my Wall o' Rayguns, but if I had the space (and the cash) I would expand to the sculpture range. This is a modern category, really and full of amazing things-even if you mostly can't carry them around;

Weta Workshop makes the Doctor Grordbort line, large pedestal mounted iron guns in gothic designs that live someplace between the end of the Steampunk Era

and the start of the Atomic Age, these are amazing but not what you would call portable.

Raku Rayguns makes sumptuous one-of-a-kind ceramic guns in surreal shapes and iridescent colors which also have wonderful names such as the Ackerman Ack-Ack Ray.

And there's a whole subset of kinetic and found object artists who also put out a range of rayguns, such as Stephen Lestat, Clayton Bailey and Jeff de Boer. Many of them make robots and rocket ships as well, so it's well worth spending a few hours looking through their galleries inspiration.



a better showcase.

Likewise, the Chronicles of Riddick was fantastic to look at but not a classic for the ages. The Necromon-

All I want for Christmas...

is a Better Hand

by Jason Schachat

All I want for Xmas is a new hand...

By Jason Schachat

I can't really say why, but I always feel some link between the original Star Wars trilogy and Xmas. Maybe it has something to do with the advertising deluge during my formative years, but Star Wars got its hooks into me better than Transformers, GI Joes, Power Rangers, Pokemon,

or any number of cool toy franchises. To this day, I have a recurring dream where I wake up on Xmas morning, run downstairs, open all my gifts with the family, then find an AT-AT toy hidden behind the tree hours later.

Bizarrely, this dream started up after I'd received said Doberman-sized toy as a child, but before I ever saw A Christmas Story.

But the AT-AT, the Battle of Hoth, Luke Skywalker losing a hand... they all kinda come together, somehow. So, when we decided to go with this "All I Want for Xmas" theme, the first thing to spring to mind was what a bum deal Luke got with his replacement hand. Trust me, there's a logic at work, here.

See, Mr. Skywalker gets *SPOILER ALERT* his

hand chopped off at the end of The Empire Strikes Back, spends about ten minutes clutching the cauterized stump of his wrist in agonizing pain, then gets a new robot hand that works just like his old one by the end of the film.

What kinda screwed up ending is that?

In Evil Dead 2, Ash had to lop off his own hand to prevent the possessed digits from strangling the life out of him. What does he replace it with? Friggin' chainsaw.

Let's review: Luke Skywalker, in a galaxy filled with aliens, ray guns, faster than light travel, telekinesis, electrokinesis, and a race of teddy

Long day.



Almost as good as the real thing. And tastes of chicken.



“Now, I don’t just want a mecha arm this time, Doc. Can you give me something that magically turns into a sword, too.”



bears so mighty they can take out an intergalactic empire with weapons fashioned from crude rocks and twigs, gets a hand that performs about as well as his old one.

Ash, in a ramshackle backwoods cabin with meager available tools and hardly any supplies, straps

a chainsaw onto his stump. That isn’t a prosthetic. That’s an upgrade, people.

We always wanted to think Darth Vader at least got stronger mecha-hands than Luke, but the prequel trilogy killed off that fantasy, too. Turns out it was all just The Force. And, let’s be honest: If having

The Force as your ally means it doesn’t matter how crappy your weaponized new hand is, how far down that slippery slope do we go before realizing a Jedi could have the mobility of Jabba the Hutt and still conquer as long as he just chokes his enemies from a safe distance (Vader could apparently do it from the



The Man, The Legend, The Appendage.



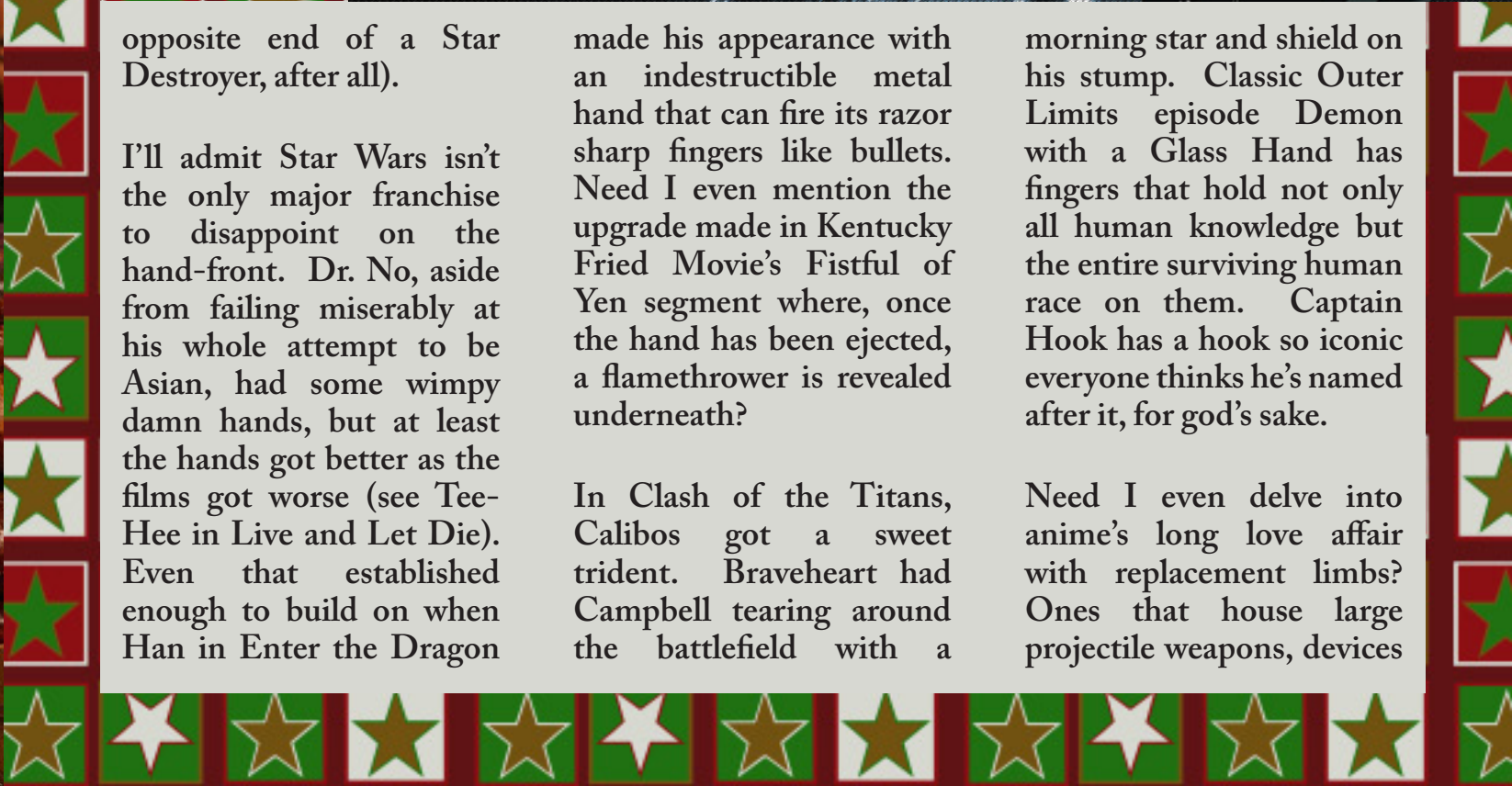
opposite end of a Star Destroyer, after all).
I’ll admit Star Wars isn’t the only major franchise to disappoint on the hand-front. Dr. No, aside from failing miserably at his whole attempt to be Asian, had some wimpy damn hands, but at least the hands got better as the films got worse (see Tee-Hee in Live and Let Die). Even that established enough to build on when Han in Enter the Dragon

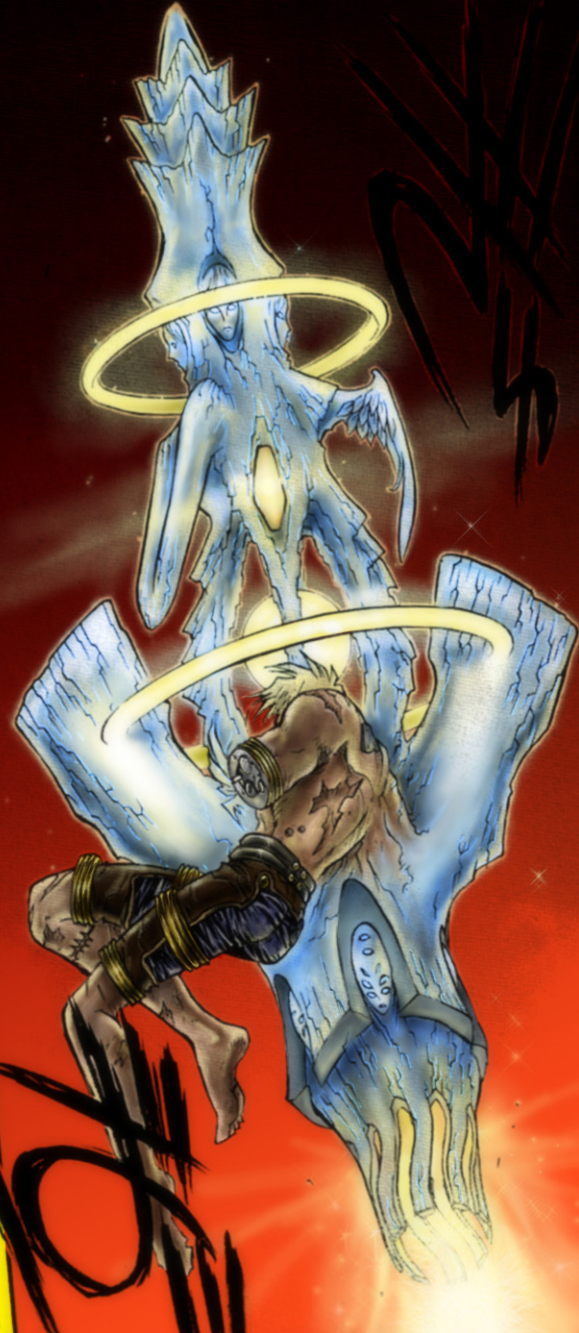
made his appearance with an indestructible metal hand that can fire its razor sharp fingers like bullets. Need I even mention the upgrade made in Kentucky Fried Movie’s Fistful of Yen segment where, once the hand has been ejected, a flamethrower is revealed underneath?

In Clash of the Titans, Calibos got a sweet trident. Braveheart had Campbell tearing around the battlefield with a

morning star and shield on his stump. Classic Outer Limits episode Demon with a Glass Hand has fingers that hold not only all human knowledge but the entire surviving human race on them. Captain Hook has a hook so iconic everyone thinks he’s named after it, for god’s sake.

Need I even delve into anime’s long love affair with replacement limbs? Ones that house large projectile weapons, devices





that open portals to other worlds, or are bonded with a talking familiar? Even the Fullmetal Alchemist, whose arm is arguable little more than a strong prosthetic, at least transmutes the thing into a sword on a regular basis.

And there's poor Luke Skywalker, slipping one black glove over the exposed gear like some kinda reverse Michael Jackson.

So, given the choice of anything my heart desires for Xmas, then whittling the field down to a tiny strip of sod by reducing that list to things we can costume that would be a helluva lot cooler if they actually existed... Yeah, I'd like to live with the reassurance that, given a time in the near future where my hand will be chopped off in such a way I don't immediately die of blood loss or further damage in battle, I would like to rest assured that my replacement hand won't be some soft, pink lump of flesh grown in a lab or fastened around a mechanical skeleton barely strong enough to choke an Ewok.

Santa, bring me something with its own fusion reactor. Thank you.



Question for 10 Costumers

by Mette Hedin

All I want for christmas is...

Everything and nothing all at once. I have a thousand things I want and nowhere to store them. But this column isn't really about me, it is about shining a spotlight on some costumer out there who slaves away year after year to create something amazing, clever and/or innovative. But since we have only one question this time around, why settle for one single hard working costumer when we can have 10!

Bill Howard - *Bill is one of the bravest costumers out there. Bill will wear (almost) any costume with less regard than most of us for how much it covers, and even more annoyingly, he will look good while doing so.*

I have always wanted a large scale vacuum form table for costuming purposes. So many props and costume pieces today are made of formed plastic. I'd love to do some sort of "Battle armor" or robotic style costume. I've been noodling on a retro rocket pack and control system concept and that would certainly make things easier.



© Andrew T Trembley
<http://www.bovil.com>



Bruce DeHate - Bruce clearly has fun when he is costuming, and he excels at the unusual.

One thing costume related that I would be fantastically happy about would be a pair of extension arms where the hands are articulated (being able to control/open-close the fingers) to make them more believable. While not making them any great deal heavier.

My costume with the full length cloak and the extended arms is a big hit (or a real scream). And making it more anything is always a great idea.

Christina O'Halloran - *Chris is a vision in tie-dye at conventions all around the country, and her Professor Umbridge still gives me*

nightmares!

If I could have anything costuming-related for Christmas I would love to have a cutting table that expand or shrink and move up and down in height automatically to meet my needs. I love creating and sewing but cutting out patterns is back breaking on the dining room table.

And because I have no room for such a table, I would like a house that's bigger on the inside than it is on the outside so I have room to stash all my costuming and crafting stuff in a neat and organized fashion.

Dawn - *She's a fantastic costumer/cosplayer. So says Kevin, and that makes it the LAW! [Kevin: The first time I met Dawn she showed off*

a Gojira costume that had all the skin texture done with lines of hot glue! She rocks!]

I would please like a dress form EXACTLY in my size. As you know, (since you see me when I'm sleeping, as well as when I'm awake), I am of such a girth and shape that "standard" dressforms, patterns, and what-not bear no likeness to my actual physique. Futhermore, those "plus sized" dress forms? useless since last time I checked, I did not have a "uniboob". I'm all for the technique of draping, but so far have been unable to do so with the inability to see my own back nor reach it.

Even numerous attempts on getting the cats involved in fittings have been fruitless. I will not even describe how that de-

bacle ended, but needless to say I still agree with you that elves and flying deer are more useful than cats if not more cuddly. Fortunately the scratches didn't leave too many scars, so I suppose all's well that ends well.

Christopher Erickson - *You have probably seen him around town as The Doctor. Which one? almost any one of them!*

I would want to have a screen accurate costume for the Eight Doctor from the movie. I have always liked the characters that don't get much recognition and have a certain style. I was sad to see that something that was from my childhood and something my stepdad and I bonded over was not going to be coming back because FOX doesn't seem to like popular sci-fi. Because





I was excited that the movie was supposed to relaunch the series but unfortunately got axed by FOX, I want this costume because it is the one Doctor who didn't get a significant amount of screen time.

Sara Bruce - Sara specializes in costumes that will make you smile or even laugh out loud, whether it be a low budget duct tape Jedi or one of the fabulous "Wine Lords" from Gallifrey.

A personal seamstress! You know, when you get this really great idea and you sketch it out in the dust on your car because you don't have a pencil, and then you think "how the heck could I ever sew that?"... And then you think "hey, I have a personal seamstress who's brilliant. I'll just take a blurry photo with this phone and she'll whip it up in a jiffy!"

Radar - is short, wears glasses and likes sneaking up on people, according to herself. According to me, she is a big heart and a great costumer in a petite package.

I have been a big Ghostbusters fan since I was 5, and I have always wanted to do a Ghostbusters costume, but the one thing I really need is the car, so I want an Ecto-1!

Everyone looks at it and knows what it is, and it has the lights and sirens so you can get through crowds easily. It would be so freaking awesome to get out of the car in costume and arrive in style!

Phil Gust - Phil is one of those costumers with a vision and a contagious enthusiasm. He can teach kids to build light sabers, run a re-

ally classy masquerade and make a stuffed toy camel look like the real thing.

A Singer Futura 350 embroidery sewing machine and all the software. I'd love to learn machine embroidery, and already have a few dynamite projects in mind. I'd happily do some embroidery to thank those who chipped in (ask me about contributing to my fund)!

Thad Gann - Is it a man wearing a tap light? Is it Tony Stark? No, it's Thad!

That's easy, Mark Twain's suit, circa 1860s. I've always wanted to do Mark Twain, ever since Hal Holbrook did way back when I was a kid. He's a great character and it's not a difficult outfit to take care of.

Bryan Little - In the interest of full disclosure, I am married to this man. But I can safely say, that I have never met a crazier costumer. He frequently floats amongst the costuming clouds dreaming of 12 foot tall robot costumes... with LASERS!

I want a 3D LASER sculpting machine, that cuts things out in 3D. I could program it to automatically LASER out shapes, or I could operate the LASER manually to do free hand sculpting without getting my hands dirty. Sort of like a 3D printer, but much awesomer... with a LASER!!!

Letter from the Other Editor

Send all complaints to:
Kevin@yipezine.com

Happy Holidays!

The regular contributors to *Yipe* (Jason, Mette, España and I) *try* to work ahead and plan the themes for our future issues. We'll often do this via Facebook's messaging system, where we can have a multiway conversation independent of email vagaries.

Sometimes we are more successful than others. Coming out of October (a regular issue, the annual Xero 2.0 issue) and November (family gatherings, conventions, day job end-of-year reviews, etc) found us tossing ideas around for this issue. I suggested "All I want for Xmas is..." because "All I want for Christmas is my Jet Pack" sounded like a bit of whimsy that I could dash off. Then the others reminded me that whoever's theme was picked was responsible for the Big Article for the issue.



Oh, well.

As it turned out, while I spent far more time researching the jet pack article than I'd originally intended, said research was by no means onerous, I learned something I hadn't realized about my childhood memories of jetpacks, and I ended up sketching an interesting costume concept along the way.

Our planning for the Reno Worldcon Masquerade is starting to heat up. I think this issue is going to be thick enough as it is without dropping any more into it, so for the moment let me just point you at Progress Report 3 on the RenovationSF website: [http://renovationsf.org/downloads/progress-](http://renovationsf.org/downloads/progress-report-3.pdf)

[report-3.pdf](#). It includes two articles by me, a brief introduction to the concept of the Worldcon Masquerade, and the public un veiling of our first draft staging design for the enormous Tuscany Ballroom complex at the Peppermill. If you live anywhere in the Western US, this is a Worldcon not to be missed.

One scoop that *isn't* in the progress report: several-time Hugo Award nominee Paul Cornell will be running several rounds of SF *Just a Minute* as the entertainment during the judging interval! (*And a reminder... Hugo nominations open on January 1st and close on March 26th – if you are eligible to nominate and care about who wins the Hugos, be sure to send in your nominations ballot!*)

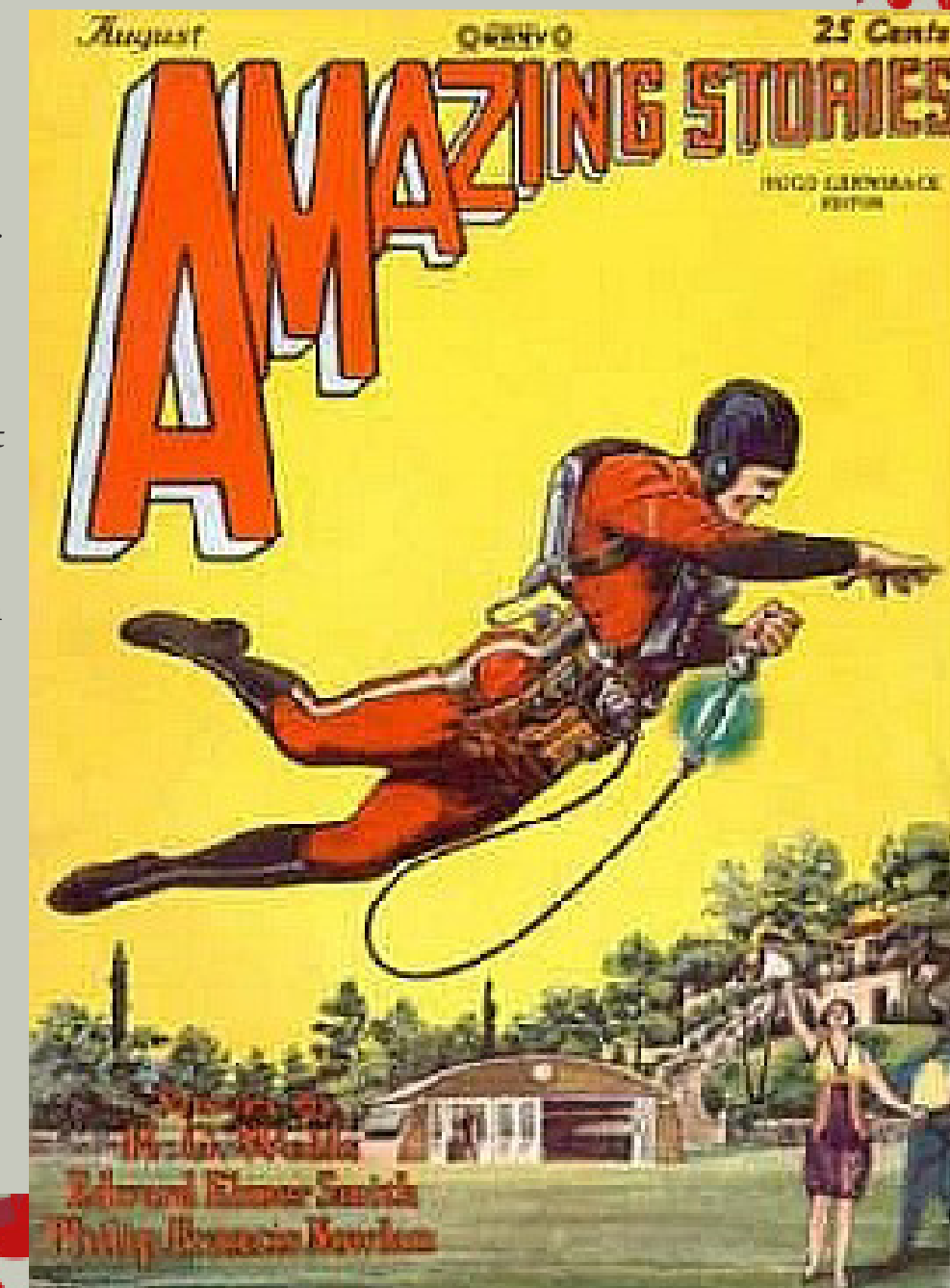
On the costume front, besides designing a new and improved jetpack suit, my work on Secret Project TDK proceeds apace for Gallifrey One in February, and we have Further Confusion coming up in January. I'm really looking forward to unveiling Project TDK and being able to share it with all of you when it's completed.

Special thanks to our loyal readers who contributed their "wish lists" for this issue; now that the ice has been broken, perhaps y'all can be persuaded to contribute other little bits and pieces to future issues?

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy [insert Winter Holiday here] season and Happy New Year! See you in 2011!

Rather proud that it's (still) all my fault...

Kevin Roche, Co-Editor
Kevin@yipezine.com





December 20, 2010

Dear Edditters:

Thank you kindly for Vol. 2, No. 11 of Yipe!, the Record Fanzine of Costumes. Or something like that. It's tired, and I'm late. So, while Mette and Tadao ham it up on the front cover, I'll turn the page while they aren't looking...

If November is a bad time to be editing a fanzine, December might be the best time to respond to it. Not much work to do (most get a Christmas

bonus of some kind, I get a Christmas penalty with reduced hours), so there is some time to get locs out.

Jason: I feel ya, brother. Even though work was insanely busy this December, they sill cut hours to the bone. But I didn't lose many hours. Yay me?

Jason, FanGoH at Windycon? Congratulations! How did that happen? That must have been a great event; I've been wanting to get to a Windycon for a long time. I'm a lot closer, but the extra spending money has never presented itself.

Jason: I still think the main reason I got GoH was Chris Garcia's glowing recommendation. I've been told WindyCon likes to break in GoHs, and I'm certainly a newbie on that scene, but I doubt any of them were thumbing through an issue of YIPE! and saying "Hey... you think this guy likes deep dish?"

I've been told about a New Year's Even Victorian Ball in Toronto, around Old Fort York. Wish we could go... however, accurate attire is required, and the evening could cost \$300 or more. That's why I wish there was something like PEERS or BAERS up



here to stage such events.

Bob Hole should know that I am of Scottish descent on my mother's side (my mother grew up in Ayr, Scotland, not far from Prestwick airport, and she is sept Thomson, Campbell of Argyll), and my father is originally from Nova Scotia, with family descended from generations on the island of Newfoundland. Do I have a kilt? Nope, I've never had the need for one. Besides, where I live, especially right now, I'd need to wear a little something extra beneath the kilt.

[Kevin] at this point I have 6 Utilikilts in various models (including a minikilt) and an

EZKilt that was one of several worn in a group costume "Jamie's Rabble" at Gallifrey One last year. I usually "go regimental" (which with the mini can pose a challenge) because they're more comfortable that way; one exception was when Andy and I wore them to Disney World. We wanted to avoid any unfortunate situations with amok toddlers or open-riser stairs in the Disney architecture, so we had bike shorts or boxer briefs on underneath.

Might be an idea, guys, to ask Dawn McKechnie about a CostumeCon bid for Toronto. It'll be a few years off, is she gets it, but she is aiming

for it, and we've offered our help. Also, Futurecon is nigh, around New Year's, and depending on whether Yvonne and I can secure new employment in the next week or so, we will be there. A three-day con around New Year's should be great, and will have substantial costuming and steampunk content.

[Kevin] In fact, Dawn's bid for Costume-Con 32 in 2014 was formally accepted by Karen Dick and announced to the world on November 30! I'm really excited for them; I think Dawn, Barb and Maral (et al) will do a great job. They've got Fibre Fantasy Artists of Canada, Anime North and Smofcan supporting them, which

Crisis of Multiple Tadaos.



are tremendous resources.

This was a busy weekend, Yvonne's birthday was yesterday, and tonight is the Third Monday fannish pubnight at Orwell's Pub and Grill, established 1984. We wish you all the best Christmas and New Year's ever, and let's gather again next year and chat about it. See you then!

Jason: Just to be clear, if we're not drinking together before then (like, say, in Reno) you'll be in for a world of hurt. Well... a planetoid, maybe.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Jason: Just to note, we DID ask for a pony this year, but it didn't make it through customs. That's the last time we order livestock from Columbia...

Instead, we have an LoC from perennial favorite Chris Garcia!

To The Editors

Hey, just wanted to drop a line about the November issue which was awesome! I like any zine that features Tadao on the cover!

Jason: I think we owe an issue to the fracture that would occur in the universe if we got

a picture of our Tadao Twins holding that November issue.

Yeah, they treat you awesome at WindyCon, don't they? I had a blast year, and I'm planning on trying to make it next year, since I'll need to meet folks about the Chicago WorldCon. The beer was amazing. I also loved the Mall across the street. It was a delight to get to leave California and then enjoy what they call a Mall in the Midwest.

Jason: God, that beer. I'm just glad Sunshine tore me away from it for a minute so I could see their version of Mongolian BBQ. Hint:

the condiment bar includes shredded cheese and salsa.

I had a blast at the Bals des Vampyres (which doesn't mean Vampire Balls, or so I'm told). The Lovely & Talented Linda and Bella Donna performed and it was a blast. I totally agree that the Alameda ELK's Hall is a great place for an event, as Linda and I went to a Mad Men event there a couple of weeks before.

Jason: I'd love to go to a Mad Men event, but I'm pretty sure they'd try to make me play Smitty. At least Freddy would get to be to-

tally wasted the whole time.

I hung out with the girls of Bella Donna and the Bella Donna males and miss Sarah Goodman (no, the OTHER one) and had a blast. I'm hoping we'll make it back next year. I saw that Harley Quinn a few times, but my fave outfit of the night was a Grateful Dead dress in the style of the 1780s.

Jason: Gotta give props to Bill Watters and said Harley Quinn for having some fun with those photos.

Never heard of that parade, but it sounds like fun!

Jason: That parade never heard of you, either, but I'm sure it feels the same.

You gotta love Scottish Gatherings... especially ones that don't devolve into Libertarian rantings! (see Stross, Charlie)

Jason: Is it wrong that I want to see Charlie, Grant Morrison, and Billy Connolly have a Scot-off?

I love Mette and Bryan's stories of Punk Rock bowling. I would hang out at that hotel anytime if they're willing to host such a party!

Unfortunately, the party had run out of Vampire Balls.



I also enjoyed the hell out of SorcererCon, the second of three back-to-back-to-back cons (with SteamCon in Seattle before and SMoFCon after) and the two at the St. Claire were both a lot of fun. I did miss LosCon (and it looks like I won't be able to make it next year either) but next year, almost everything is within close distance, and since I've got almost unmissable Sundays at work, it'll be difficult to do many out of the area other than WorldCon.

Jason: For every time you don't go to WorldCon in 2011, I will kill you.

Gorgeous issue as usual! It's good to see Bob Hole around in zines and doing his own too. He's good people.

Awesome

Chris

While Mette was sending out her One Question to Ten Costumers, Your Humble Editor, who belongs to a number of costume and wearable-art online groups (quelle surprise!), invited members of those groups to send Yipe their costuming/cosplay/sewing wish lists in the spirit of "All I want for [insert Winter Holiday here] is..." . As a

service to whatever wish/gift granting personifications of the Holiday Spirit might subscribe to our humble publication, we're sharing them here.

Kevin

I wish for a direct line to a fabric manufacturer, so I can always get the 'exact' fabric I need for a project, in the 'exact' color. And, of course, either the funds to pay for it, or getting it for free....

Either that, or having the replicator/fabricator that Garak (? right character name ?) had on Deep Space 9.

Sandy

International Costumers' Guild Archivist

- * Matching shoes for all my gowns
- * Supple leather gloves
- * All x number of buttons needed at the same store
- * All the difficult to find notions listed on the back of modern patterns like buckle covering kits
- * Real silk velvet and silk without slubs and silk without dragons
- * Embroidery in all the right places

Kim

To be in line with the theme of your

magazine, here is my second choice on my wish list--a trip to China.

S

sung to the 12 days of Christmas

12 perfect buttons (for my short military jacket)

.ari

All I want for Solstice is... my brain

Karisu_sama

Dear Editors:

My wish list for the holiday season would include: a longer day, so I can go to work (to pay for my costuming) AND have time to bead

I would love to have the Readerware software to organize all my patterns and costume reference books

I would love to get "Dressed for the Photographer" (it's been too expensive for me so far)--it's a fabulous book about early photographs of people

More and better storage containers for fabrics, buttons, beads, trim--it would be fantastic to have a "storage system" that was easy to find things AND looked good, because I don't have cabinets with doors and

anyway, I'm very visual, so if I don't see it I forget it's there.....

Another garment rack or two, they are extremely useful when I am packing for a con and trying to remember all the costume pieces that go with that outfit.....

And let's not forget: a sewing machine repair person who would come to my house and do an annual maintenance on ALL my machines....that would be so awesome.....and the machines would work great.....

BUT...I am extremely happy with the equipment I have, try to maintain it and take it in to a place where they are super nice and work quickly. And I give many thanks for friends who are willing to give their time and energy and knowledge to help me solve problems and make CD's, and to go to Flea Markets with.....

Yours in costuming, Lisa A

Dear Glitziana:

I'd like a masquerade presentation where the right sound track plays at the right volume at the right time for my masquerade presentation. Plus, it would be nice if it did the same for all the other contestants, too.

Sincerely,

Carole Parker

Dear Glitziana:

For the holidays, I'd like:

* My craft room to be organized again, so I can work in there.

* To be able to get my multi-part costume for Renovation (the Reno Worldcon) completed, so the masquerade director and other costuming friends of mine can be proud of me.

* To be able to work on some of my other costume ideas, so people don't roll their eyes.

* To support and encourage other costumers with their efforts and skills.

Until later--

Carole Parker

Dear Goddess Glitziana,

I would like three things:

1) Thirty hours in the day - on weekends only - to have more sewing time.

2) A Joann's Superstore across the street from my apartment building.

3) A 900 sq. ft. sewing loft with loads of natural light, tons of closet space, and all the equipment I need to make costumes.

Ever your devoted admirer,

Toni

Enough room for everything and a way to find the right item when it is needed. Preferably by just thinking specifically about said item and then it would put itself away when no longer needed.

Jeanine Swick

Six yards of black watered silk
Four of crimson wool
Two extra hours in the day
And a Bernina 950.

;))

-Laura
(yeah, I guess that's not very silly, is it?)

From a Wearable Art Fashion Designer specializing in recycled designs

All I want for Christmas is
12 X-Large Men's Cashmere Sweaters (used or new)
11 Yards of Virgin Wool
10 Skeins of Cashmere Yarn
9 Bolts of Italian Lace
8 Lambskin Pelts
7 Dozen Brass Roller Buckles
6 Brand New Scissors
5 Cases of Ribbon Lace
4 New Retail Outlets
3 Personal Customers (my size who will love and wear my clothes when I tire of them)
2 Copies of Me Sew I Can Produce More, and
1 Huge New Workshop and a fabulous new wardrobe in the end!

Merry Christmas everybody

Darcy Fowkes

So you really want to know what I want for Christmas? Well okay you insisted.

S.M.



Dear Glitziana,

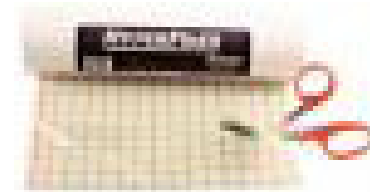
All I want for Christmas is:

50 yards of assorted white thin silk ribbon
12 dye-pots with dyes
1 super-huge embroidery frame
4 extra hands

Waiting anxiously for your reply...
Kathe

Dear Santa or whomever might be listening,

I really want :



Hyperfiber Roll;Pre-preg,24"x21' wired 16 oz. twill weave with film

I know it's expensive (\$542.35) , but there is so much I could do with it! It cures with ultraviolet, so there are no nasty fumes. (I'd settle for less...)

I would like to make friends with Julie Taymor .

I would dearly love the

roof on our attic raised by three feet and make the entire space into a project/ sewing/crafts room with a sink and an immense amount of storage....and a spray hood....and good lighting... sigh...

I want someone to organize my stuff.

I want someone to get rid of all the materials I have that do not work anymore.

I want to be able to get twice as much done in half the time.

I want to win enough money in the lottery so we can do the projects we want to do and go to the events we want to go to.

-Dana

Dear Santa,

For Christmas please bring me:

12 Elves to clean and organize my sewing room and stash
11 clear plastic domes
10 yards of metallic gold leather piping
9 lumps of sculpey clay
8 fan lacers
7 yards of white netting
6 curved copper tubes
5 yards of spiral steel boning
4 backpack straps
3 tubes of embossing glue
2 rolls of white angel hair

EL wire
And a babylock serger on a desk of pear wood!

Aurora Celeste

Costumer's wish list? How about.....

A self-threading serger. Sure you can take pride in being able to thread it the old-fashioned way. But the time you save for a self-threading one is worth the extra money.

Natural (the color) bourette silk fabric in a jersey knit. Bourette silk is almost impossible to find in any form, though I usually see it as yarn or thread. Any kind of silk jersey knit is also next to impossible to find and fabulously expensive, too. But I'd still like to find it. Why? Other than silk being wonderfully comfy for a costume, that's what they made Liam Neeson's undershirt out of in 'The Phantom Menace'. So, I want some, too. So sue me; I'm shallow.

Boots without pointy toes. I am mightily depressed to see the terrible waste of materials that are made into foot torture devices. Fashion is just a matter of perspective; we can MAKE sensible shoes fashionable. My feet are allergic to pain.

Anne Davenport

~~(Part of this letter is quoted in Mette's column)~~

~~Dear Santa,~~

~~I would please like a dress form EXACTLY in my size. As you know, (since you see me when I'm sleeping, as well as when I'm awake),~~

~~I am of such a girth and shape that "standard" dressforms, patterns, and whatnot bear no likeness to my actual physique.~~

~~Futhermore, those "plus sized" dress forms? useless since last time I checked, I did not have a "uniboob".~~

~~I'm all for the technique of draping, but so far have been unable to do so with the inability to see my own back nor reach it.~~

~~Even numerous attempts on getting the cats involved in fittings have been fruitless. I will not even describe how that debacle ended,~~

~~but needless to say I still agree with you that elves and flying deer are more useful than cats if not more cuddly. Fortunately the scratches didn't leave too many scars, so I suppose all's well that ends well.~~

~~In closing I'd like to thank you again for all the wonderful presents you've brought me~~

~~over the years. I know as another unapologetic fatty yourself, you will understand and not let me down.~~

~~Love & cookies always!~~

~~Dawn :)~~

Remember, kids: Santa will come to your house and kill your family if you tell Christian we published this picture.





YIPE! DECEMBER 2010

Yipezine.com