

Rob Walker Films Presents

The Pneumatic Tube



No. 3

"Zero rat-related baby-deaths since April!"

Introduction

Welcome back to *The Pneumatic Tube*. I hope you're finding my particular brand of nonsense useful and/or entertaining. The goal with this newsletter is to give folks a decentralized, non-misery related alternative to social media feeds. Not everything in *The Pneumatic Tube* may be for "you" but I'm confident you will find much of the material within interesting and you can rest easy knowing that these words and items were put here by human hands and not by an algorithm plotting the downfall of our once great civilization.

That said, if you have any recommendations for me or anything you think would be a good fit with *The Pneumatic Tube*, let me know. I'm always interested in being exposed to new things. Drop me a line at [robwalkerfilms\[at\]gmail\[DOT\]com](mailto:robwalkerfilms[at]gmail[DOT]com)

On a personal note, I managed to send off three writing submissions this past week, which include two pieces sent to gaming companies and a piece set to humor publication McSweeney's. Fingers crossed. Denise and I are still making calls about rentals, she has some new leads this week, which I am hopeful about. In the meantime, there's this painting in my sister's powder room...



Without further ado, let's kick the tires and light the fires, shall we?

The Ford Nucleon

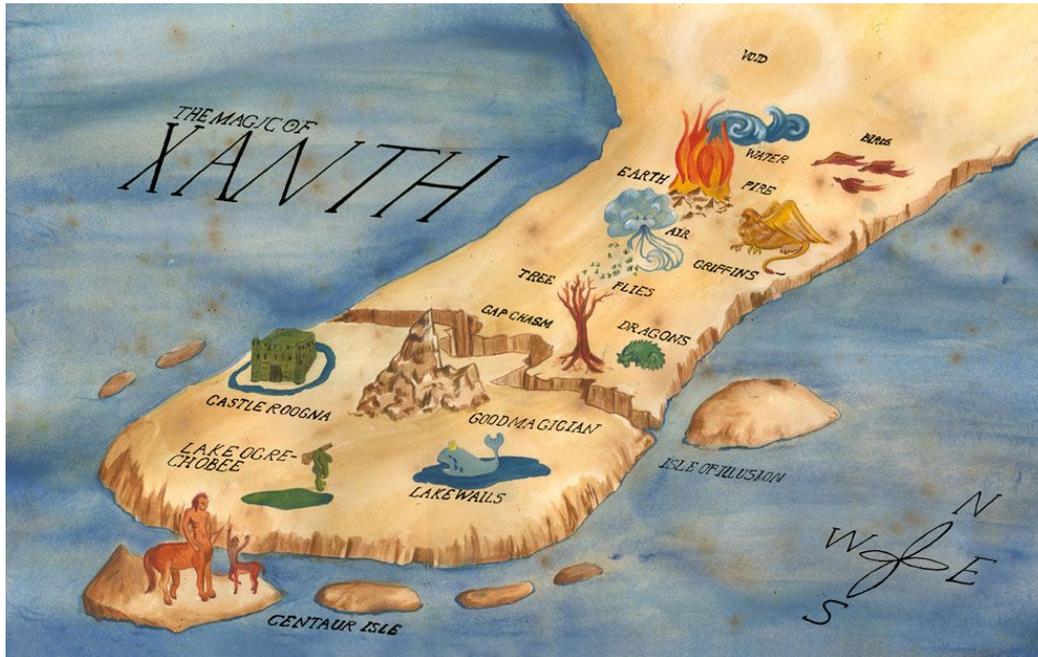


The Ford Nucleon was developed as a concept car by Ford Motor Company in 1958. Instead of a typical internal combustion engine, the Nucleon was designed to contain a small nuclear reactor. The sleek design and optional tail fins were meant to evoke the optimism of a nuclear-powered future. The folks at [Damn Interesting](#) had this to say:

Ford's engineers imagined a world in which full-service recharging stations would one day supplant petroleum fuel stations, where depleted reactors could be swapped out for fresh ones lickety-split. The car's reactor setup was essentially the same as a nuclear submarine's, but miniaturized for automobile use. It was designed to use uranium fission to heat a steam generator, rapidly converting stored water into high-pressure steam which could then be used to drive a set of turbines. One steam turbine would provide the torque to propel the car while another would drive an electrical generator. Steam would then be condensed back into water in a cooling loop, and sent back to the steam generator to be reused. Such a closed system would allow the reactor to produce power as long as fissile material remained.

I love the fact that this thing was proposed and designed! It looks like something out of the *Fallout* games. Fortunately for humanity, the Nucleon was never produced and now exists as a beautiful relic of the Atomic Age. Unfortunately for the world of design, we aren't driving cars that look like 1950s rocket ships. Bummer.

Just South of the Unicorns - This American Life Episode 470



I listen to *This American Life* almost every week. As with any long-running radio program, there are segments here and there that stick with you. *Just South of the Unicorns* is the segment that gave me my first “driveway moment”- that moment in radio where you are so engrossed in what you’re hearing, that you have to stay in your car until it finishes.

The story follows a young outsider who is obsessed with the work of Piers Anthony and decides to go live with him. It is a tale that is vulnerable, beautiful and transformative. You should listen to it [HERE](#). It is part of a larger program, but this segment is my favorite.

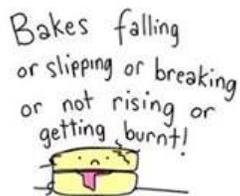
I first heard of Piers Anthony in junior high when my girlfriend read a piece from *Wielding a Red Sword* with its talk of gods and traveling circuses, it always sounded like something I would be interested in. To this day, whenever I think of Anthony’s work, a certain hyper-intelligent bookish girl is the first thing I think of. Unfortunately, I never got into his stuff until well after college. My wife was working at a used bookstore at the time and I picked up a used copy of *Hard Sell* and it quickly became one of my favorite books. This might be because I, like the character in the novel, was going through a string of shitty jobs at the time I was reading it, but it remains the

template for humorous science fiction to me and ever since reading it, I wonder why much of modern sci-fi is so needlessly grim.

This comic is hysterical and extremely accurate

Every episode of THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF!

by @twisteddoodles





Rejected Jokes!

Explanation: *I've been submitting humor pieces to publications steadily for over a year now, which means that I'm sitting on a ton of material that never made it to print. I continue to polish and submit these rejected pieces, but as it stands they do not have a home. Below is one of my (many) rejected pieces. Enjoy and remember that one person's trash is another person's treasure.*

Lost Episodes of Frasier

S. 2 Ep. 012: "Breaking a Few Eggs" *A murderer Marty Crane helped put in prison escapes, hunting the former policeman down at a bake-off where Niles is presenting his prize-winning quiche. Burt Reynolds guest stars.*

S. 13 Ep. 022: "Eyes Wide Closed" *In an attempt to get his romantic confidence back, Frasier attends a dinner party for singles, only to realize that it is a masked hedonistic orgy. Roz gets catfished by a Russian chat-bot.*

S. 4 Ep. 006 "The Most Dangerous Game" *While attending a radio conference at an exclusive resort, Frasier is dismayed to learn that the conference is a cover for a group of millionaires who plan to hunt radio personalities for sport. Niles tries his hand at slam poetry. Terry Gross and Art Bell Guest Star.*

S. 12 Ep. 004: "Night Maris" *Niles realizes that he was never truly married and that Maris was a construct of his imagination to cope with the childhood trauma of losing his pet gerbil (also named Maris). Eddie the dog gets a girlfriend after an art dealer with a dachshund moves into Frasier's building.*

S. 8 Ep. 009: "A Modest Proposal" Frasier and Niles are tricked into cannibalism after being invited to a dinner party by a deranged orchestra conductor. Daphne gets into a kerfuffle when her local grocery store doesn't carry chocolate hobnobs.



Secret Cinema: Blade Runner

[Secret Cinema](#) is a multimedia theatre company that specializes in creating interactive film experiences. Think Movie+[Sleep No More](#) and you have it. Recently, the SC has taken on their most popular experience yet - *Blade Runner*. The production company has recreated cyberpunk dystopia Los Angeles seen in Ridley Scott's 1982 film. Audiences are required to dress the part and interact with performers filling out the world of desperate street people, corporate sharks, replicants and the people who hunt them. This. Looks. Amazing! I wish I could have seen it, but a close second to actually being there might be watching a video of the event [HERE](#)

Well, that's it for now. I hope you guys enjoyed this issue of *The Pneumatic Tube* or at least found parts of it useful. Be sure to tell your friends about it and if you want to reach me elsewhere, you can find me at these spaces below.

Robwalkerfilms.com

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Or you can drop me a line at [robwalkerfilms\[at\]gmail\[DOT\]com](mailto:robwalkerfilms[at]gmail[DOT]com)

Take care,

-Rob

"There are going to be a lot of grisly deaths before we finally get sex-bots right." - Elon Musk

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