

# STEREO VIEWS

A Monthly Publication of Cascade Stereoscopic Club, Portland, Oregon

March 2003 - Volume 10 Issue 3

*Honorable Mention in the 2002 PSA Newsletter Competition*

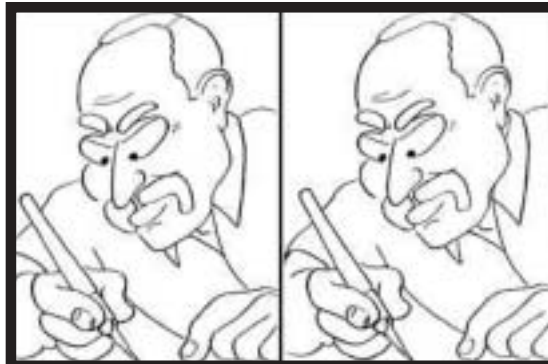
## Tony Alderson, An Amazing Life and First Freevision Headstone

By Ray Zone

In 1985 a very unique “self-published” comic appeared in Los Angeles. “Noble crusade or cynical scam?” asks the cover which depicts a hapless cartoonist fleeing a demonic cyclopean business man whose pockets overflow with cash. The comic was 3D Zomoid Illustories, the world’s first to be published “in the miracle of FREEVISION” and the writer/artist was Tony Alderson. The story related “The Nightmare of 3D Jonestown” and was a thinly veiled humorous exposé of the rise and fall of the 3D Video Corporation which published the 3D comic book Battle for a Three-Dimensional World which I wrote in 1982.

I first met Tony Alderson when I was hired to work at 3D Video Corporation in 1982 and it was Tony who converted Jack Kirby’s art to 3D in Battle for a Three Dimensional World. For two decades, Tony and I have since worked intermittently together on different 3D projects. And we have maintained an idiosyncratic dialogue with each other that incorporates Tony’s uniquely satirical slant on the vagaries of stereoscopic business practices.

Tony was the artist responsible for the National Stereoscopic Association (NSA) 2002 Convention logo and he also created the logo in 1986, the last time the convention



Tony’s caricature of himself making a 3D conversion in “3-D Jonestown” for Zormoid Illustories.

was held in Riverside, California. The new logo is a gorgeous computer-generated montage combining the classic Holmes stereoscope with some California oranges. The 1986 logo, with deft line art rendered into 3D, combined a Keystone and a stereoscope which held a stereoview showing palm trees, another symbol of Southern California.

Before leaving 3D Video Corporation in 1983, Tony produced the 3D conversions for the Jaws 3-D trading and gum cards that Topps produced. He wrote an interesting “3D Bible” for the artists at Topps and it contains some interesting observations about stereoscopic fundamentals. “In the 3D conversion process,” Tony wrote, “I take the drawing you supply me as the left image. I then simulate the right image by cutting apart copies of the drawing and reassembling them with the proper displacements to create retinal disparities when viewed.”

Tony always wrote about stereoscopy with great clarity. Though it was acutely humorous, 3D Jonestown included tutorials on both parallel and cross-eyed freevision. It even included a Random Dot Stereogram (RDS) as part of the tutorials which were clearly illustrated with funny but highly illustrative cartoons. I had been

caricatured by Tony in the pages of the Battle 3D comic book but he most often, and quite deftly, satirizes himself.

After leaving 3D Video Corporation in 1983, Tony began working in motion pictures creating special effects for films like Metalstorm 3D for which he did stereoscopic rotoscoping. At the same time he served as President of the Stereo Club of Southern California from 1984 to 1985 and

its Program Director in 1986-87. At this time Tony produced the very first anaglyph cover for the SCSC 3D News. It featured a self-caricature and a joke about the “stereo” window. More recently, Tony won an Emmy for his special effects on “Dune” which premiered on the Sci-Fi cable channel in December 2001.

Over the years Tony produced 3D conversions for such comics as Sheena 3D, Spirit Classics in 3D, The Rocketeer, Spacehawk 3D and Dracula 3D.



Alderson’s 1982 caricature of Ray Zone.

3-Dementia Comics, published in 1987, reprinted his 3D Jonestown story in both freevision and anaglyph. Tony also produced great computer-generated anaglyph movie “fly-throughs” of Yosemite and Venus for a 3D CD-ROM project as well as some great Star Wars photo 3D conversions. He also periodically grappled with the impossibility of making functional anaglyphs on NTSC composite TV which is used for VHS and broadcast television.

While doing all this and working on many film and TV projects, Tony produced numerous articles on stereography for different publications such as his essay “An Introduction to 3D Computing” published in the March 1993 issue of Stereoscopy, and



Tony’s whimsical self-portrait taken Christmas 1986.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mar 8 (Sat) noon**, CSC holds a joint meeting with the Puget Sound Club in Federal Way, WA.

**Mar 11 (Tues) 7pm**, CSC Board meeting hosted by Wally Boerger. Call 503-636-0484.

**Mar 15 (Sat) 9am until noon**, Rich Dubnow presents a Workshop at XYZYX, "Tips for editing with Photoshop." Bring your questions.

**April 12 (Sat) 9 am**, CSC Annual Meeting, Elections, Awards, and Potluck. CSC members vote on size of the Board and elects Directors.

## Three HMs for CSC Photographers



Paul Moeller's *Yellow Fever* was one of three CSC entries to win an Honorable Mention in the second International Stereo Club Competition for this season. The competition was judged by the Sydney Stereo Club. Dave Allen won two HMs for his two images *Vodka & Gin* and *Still Life Basket*. At press time, we still did not have the club standings.

## A Potpourri of News - Find Out What's Happening!

A good crowd showed up for the **February monthly meeting**. Obie O'Brien presented six slides in a holiday theme and Jim Olsen presented a view master reel of holidays. The meeting was devoted primarily to View Master with six members presenting reels for projection: Wally Boerger, Ray Rowe, Loren Mills, Jim Olsen, Ron Kriesel, and Rich Dubnow.

Members were reminded that there will not be a **March CSC meeting** in Portland. Several members will be travelling to Federal Way for the March joint meeting with Puget Sound Stereo Camera Club. Anyone who wants to go and would like to carpool should post the request on the CSC Yahoo Group. The Puget Sound meeting begins at noon and will include a potluck lunch furnished by PSSCC. Bring a slide of some interesting location to enter in the "Where in the World" competition. The group will try to identify the location.

Jim Olsen has volunteered to be the **CSC publicity person**. Jim is gathering sources for publishing CSC events and advertising CSC projects.

Ron reported that he has collected over 40 images so far for **Cascade 3D Visions**, CSC's next publication. If you have not submitted images yet, please choose some of your best and get them to Ron. The images may be on any topic and from any location. They may be any format including View Master reels. Contact Ron at [kriero@aol.com](mailto:kriero@aol.com)

to arrange to get your images in or to ask any questions you may have. You may submit as many images as you like. In order to be a success, Cascade 3D Visions will need images from as many members as possible and with as many topics and formats as possible. We want to show the diversity of 3D.

Greg Marshall has notified the Board that he will be asking the Board to vote on a **proposed amendment to the CSC Bylaws** at the March Board meeting. In Greg's words, "The current bylaws of CSC require annual elections of officers for a term of one year and also dictate that no individual may serve in the same office for more than two consecutive terms. This rule is meant to avoid having a small group of individuals serving the same functions continuously, but it has the added consequence that at least once every two years someone has to learn the systems and disciplines of proper accounting. It also means that our record keeping suffers not only during the learning period, but also from inconsistent practices from one treasurer to the next. I move that the bylaws be amended to allow an individual to serve as Treasurer for up to four consecutive terms (four years). This would apply only to the office of Treasurer, and would become effective following the next annual elections (to avoid any doubt as to my motivations for making this motion)."

Obie O'Brien has suggested that it would be useful to put together a **book with photos of the club members**. He will be contacting members to get photographs for the project and may be taking photographs at upcoming CSC meetings.

CSC is in the process of **applying for permanent 501 (c)3 status** with the IRS. Our five years of temporary charitable status have passed and we must now file additional paperwork with the IRS to receive the permanent status.

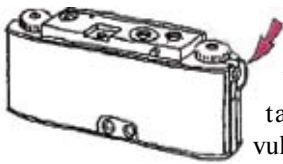
4Cs is an umbrella group for camera clubs in the Northwest. CSC joined 4Cs last fall and is one of only two 4Cs clubs which do stereo photography. The other club is the Boise Camera Club. Each autumn 4Cs has a convention of all member groups. On **October 10-12, 2003, the 4Cs convention** will be hosted by the Boise Camera Club. Several CSC members have voiced an interest in participating in this event. CSC will probably present a display and showing of 3D photography. There will be workshops and discussions with photographers from all over the Northwest. It will be a great opportunity to meet other photographers and have a good time. Mark your calendar. There will be activities for non-photographer spouses and there are many great locations within a day or two of Boise, if you would like to take a few extra days. For more information email Bob Finney, [finneyrb@bigplanet.com](mailto:finneyrb@bigplanet.com)

# Light Leaks Ruining Your Pix? Plug That Realist!

By Tony Alderson

When I bought my first Stereo Realist, I was plagued by a persistent light leak in the camera. This leak manifested itself as a vertical pink streak in the right frame of a pair. After several frustrating and costly repair attempts and countless ruined pictures I shelved the camera as hopeless. However, at a workshop shortly after I joined the Southern California Stereo Club, Jerry Walter pointed out the cause and care for this aggravating ailment.

While in general the Stereo Realist is a well designed and built camera, it has a minor design flaw that results in a light leak at the door by the focusing knob. Although the top and bottom of the camera back are protected by a double light baffle, the sides have, inexplicably, only one. On the left the film cassette itself blocks the light, but film on the take-up spool is vulnerable to streaks.



Carrying the Realist in

its case will not prevent the leak as the case, of necessity, leaves the corner of the door

near the focus wheel exposed, where most of the light gets in. Taping the door stops the leak, but gums up the camera and will eventually pull up the leather on the door.

Fortunately, the solution is so simple that most stereographers can perform it themselves. The leak can be stopped permanently by installing a gasket on either the door or the camera body. The gasket can be made of felt, but the best material is the velvet from the light-trap of a 35mm film cassette. You can buy a reloadable cassette at a photo store and pull off the velvet, which has a durable rubberized backing. Two strips should be cut from the cloth, about 1/16th inch wide. If you have trouble cutting straight and even strips with a scissors, try using a metal straight edge and an Xacto knife. Cut on a piece of cardboard to protect your kitchen table. Because the Realist door is wider than the velvet strips are long, the gasket must be put on in two pieces. The best place to secure the gasket is on the detachable door. The gasket is cemented on the small ledge under the lip of the door, behind the door catch. Contact cement will



serve to attach the strips. Follow the directions on the bottle, being careful not to get cement where it doesn't belong. Put the longest

piece of the gasket on top. This ledge is narrow, so fixing the gasket is a challenge. Tweezers and toothpicks help.

Alternatively, the gasket may be placed on the camera body itself. Glue the gasket on the "step" where the door meets the body. (See right) This is an easier place to reach, and probably works just as well. However, a gasket on the body is more susceptible to snags, and may require periodic replacement.



## Tony Alderson continued from page 1

one of the most comprehensive explanations of the freevision process in an article titled "Everyone's Guide to Freevision" for the November/December 1988 issue of Stereo World (Vol. 15, No. 5).

"Every 3-D enthusiast eventually confronts the problem of stereoscopically viewing an interesting pair when there is no stereoscope handy," wrote Alderson. "At this moment one realizes that the necessity of a viewing device, while one of the central charms of the three-dimensional art, is at the same time one of its great handicaps. Fortunately there are a simple set of techniques that will enable about anyone with reasonably normal eyes to fuse certain common stereo pairs without any external aids. This unaided stereoscopic fusion is called 'freevision.'"

Though he had many stereographic accomplishments, I always remember Tony as a stereo caricaturist, poking devastating humor into the highly competitive world of 3-D business. Like he wrote in 3-D Jonestown, "the story in this comic is mostly 'true.' Only the names, places, events and personalities have been changed to protect the AUTHOR."

*Stereo Views* - March 2003

Tony passed away October 22, 2002, and is now resting beneath the World's First Freevision Headstone, granite etched with stereo art designed to be viewed with binocular free-vision. The headstone, located in Double Buttes Cemetery in Tempe, Arizona, was set in place in December 2002. It depicts a side-by-side cartoon stereo pair that is a self-caricature of Alderson in the act of creating a stereo conversion for a 3-D comic book, and is rendered for parallel viewing.

In his landmark paper of 1838, Sir Charles Wheatstone, without actually naming it, described the process of binocular freevision. "It will be observed, that when the eyes converge beyond the objects," wrote Wheatstone, "the right hand object is seen by the right eye, and the left hand object by the left eye; while when the axes converge nearer than the Objects, the right hand object is seen by the left eye, and conversely. As both of these modes of vision are forced and unnatural, eyes unaccustomed to such experiments require



some artificial assistance." To simplify viewing, Wheatstone invented the "stereoscope."

In his *Stereo World* article, Alderson is definitive in discussing both parallel and cross-eyed freevision systems. Alderson's cartoon art clearly illustrates the optical techniques involved. At the conclusion of the article Alderson wrote that "the true wonder of freevision" was "that it allows the direct and unambiguous transmission of the miracle of the stereoscopic illusion. This is the stuff of life!"

It is fitting that a great proponent of binocular freevision should rest beneath a permanent stereo pair of his own creation.

Both Ray Zone's article and the article by Tony Alderson are reprinted here with permission of *3D News*, the newsletter of the Southern California Stereo Club.

“Cascade Stereoscopic Club is Dedicated to Presenting and Preserving Three-Dimensional Images”  
CSC corporate records and 501 (c) (3) tax exempt documents may be obtained from the club secretary.

**2003 Membership and Contributions:**

Dues \$24/year; \$42/2 yrs; \$95/5 yrs; \$500 lifetime.  
Checks payable to CSC, c/o Shab Levy, Membership Secretary, 6320 SW 34th Ave., Portland, OR 97239

**Cascade Stereoscopic Club is a member of:**

International Stereoscopic Union (ISU)  
National Stereoscopic Association (NSA)  
Photographic Society of America (PSA)



**A Few 3D Resources & Websites  
(or how to have a fun afternoon!)**

National Stereoscopic Association  
[www.stereoview.org](http://www.stereoview.org)

Southern California Stereo Club  
[www.3dgear.com/scsc](http://www.3dgear.com/scsc)

Stereoscopic Society of America  
[www.ssa3d.org/index.html](http://www.ssa3d.org/index.html)

Photographic Society of America - Stereo Division  
[www.psa-photo.org/stereo1.htm](http://www.psa-photo.org/stereo1.htm)

International Stereoscopic Union  
<http://stereoscopy.com/isu>

3D Development Company  
[www.representatives.com/3D](http://www.representatives.com/3D)

Reel 3D  
[www.stereoscopy.com/reel3d](http://www.stereoscopy.com/reel3d)

Rocky Mountain Memories  
[www.rmm3d.com/index.html](http://www.rmm3d.com/index.html)

Stereoscopy.com: The World of 3D Imaging  
<http://stereoscopy.com>

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Articles, announcements, and pictures welcome. Deadline: 25th of each month. Submit to Diane Rulien, *Stereo Views* Editor, [dianer@easystreet.com](mailto:dianer@easystreet.com) or 503-307-1531.

For program and club information or back issues of *Stereo Views* see:

[www.cascade3d.org](http://www.cascade3d.org)

**CSC Board**

Ron Kriesel - President .....	503-655-5326
Dave Allen - Vice President .....	503-646-9383
Jerry Weigel - Secretary, Librarian .....	503-244-6192
Greg Marshall - Treasurer .....	503-266-1164
Diane Rulien - <i>Stereo Views</i> Editor .....	503-307-1531
Shab Levy - Membership Secretary.....	503-977-9876
Wally Boerger - Program Director.....	503-636-0484
J. Ward (Obie) O'Brien - Board Member .....	503-981-8189
Kem Sypher - Board Member .....	503-287-7396
Les Konrad - Board Member .....	503-646-8877
Rich Dubnow - Board Member .....	503-885-2465

September through April, CSC meetings are held monthly at 9:00 am on the second Saturday at XYZYX, 18858 Teton, Tualatin, Oregon. From May through August, CSC meetings are held at XYZYX on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. All meetings are open to members, guests, and the general public.

However, there will be no local CSC meeting in March 8, 2003. CSC will meet that day at noon in Federal Way, Washington in a joint meeting with Puget Sound Stereo Camera Club at the Federal Way Senior Center.

**Directions to the Federal Way Senior Center:**

Take I-5 Northbound (toward Seattle), turn East at the Hwy. 18 exit. Travel East and take the 1st exit at 32nd Ave. S (Sign reads Weyerhaeuser Road). Turn South on 32nd until you reach 344th St. (first left) and go East on 344th until you reach 38th Ave. S (1st right). Travel South on 38th to 352nd and turn left (East). Go 3 blocks. Senior Center is on the North (left) side of the street.

Federal Way Senior Center  
4016 South 352nd Street  
Federal Way, Washington