



P. Stiller

Spat! #12½

The Newszine of Sector 13 General

Highday the First

Protecting the High Button Shoes of LACon since Year of Our Moonlanding 27

Audrey III appeased... for now *Seth Breidbart coveted prize as his only raffle winner*

Audrey III, the flesh eating plant that disrupted Opening Ceremonies, is resting comfortably, while growing new shoots. Originally, the problem with the current selection from the Unknown Seedling From Outer Space Of The Month Club seemed to be similar to that of Audrey II from the Roger Corman-directed movie, *The Little Shop of Horrors*. In an astonishing coincidence, LACon happened to have in the audience Bill Warren, an expert on Corman; Takumi & Sachiko Shibano and James White, who were able to help the convention out of a crisis situation.

With their help, Dave Romm and David Levine, Opening Ceremony MC's, were able to determine that the relative of Audrey II was also related to Godzilla and had possibly been used by the Remake studios. Finally, Audrey III went to Sector 12 General, where she was determined that her species classification is not ARGH which *requires* human flesh, but an AAGH, which *prefers* human flesh.

She returned from Sector General at The Keep It Moving Ceremonies right before the Retro Hugos. In an astonishing coincidence, in the audience was Frank Kelly Freas, a long-time fan and observer of fandom. He

confirmed that the Unknown Seedlings From Outer Space Of The Month Club had been in operation at least as far back as 1946. That year, the seedlings didn't grow to flesh-eating plants, but did disrupt the Worldcon proceedings enough that the Hugos were not awarded that year. The Retro Hugos made up for that disruption.

At the Masquerade, Master Costumer Kathy Sanders determined that Audrey's skin was well advanced of present Earth technology and therefore definitely not a costume. However, she was hungry.

Finally, last night, Sept. 1, 1996 the final drawing of LACon III was held. People entered their choice for who should get eaten by Audrey III. The winner, based on an overwhelming deluge of ticket sales, was Seth Breidbart. It was the only raffle he won all convention. Thanks Seth, you saved us all.

Rumors that Seth has been reconstituted and can be seen roaming the halls have been unconfirmed.

While Audrey's hunger has been abated, it has not been sated. Final determination of Audrey's fate should be decided at Closing Ceremonies on Monday at 4pm.

Comedy Central's Coverage of LACon III Applauded.

Comedy Central, the all-comedy cable-tv channel, covered the world science fiction convention with the same team as they covered the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Al Franken and Arianna

Huffington did off-the-cuff interviews with people they didn't agree with. Their *Strange Bedfellows* segment was interrupted by Dr. Whoopie who insisted that they both wear condoms.

Bill Maher attempted to broadcast *Politically Incorrect* from the Hilton, but kept getting waylaid by ardent librarians trying to get him to define his terms. Chris Rock tried to find politicians to make fun of, but they

were all at the Business Meeting, and he had to make do with translating the lyrics of filksongs.

12½

Editorial

There's Time Like The Present

Tom Digby observes, "Maps of other planets, unlike maps of Earth, never seem to show time zones." Of course, we've never seen a Martian map of Earth, so we don't know how reciprocal this topographical inter-planetary ignorance is. There are many people who are perplexed as to why there are time zones on this planet at all. China only has one time zone.

Wouldn't life be easier if there was only one time on Earth? "I'll call you at 6pm" would work from anywhere to anywhere else, with no possibility of confusion about subtracting or adding hours.

Daylight Savings Time would be rendered obsolete. Just get up an hour later.

What happens when you cross the International Date Line and the Equator at the same time?

Discount Fanzines

The Fan Lounge, on the fourth floor of the Hilton, is selling old fanzines. All purchases are 25% off with a promise to send a letter of comment to the purchased zines. "It's never too late to loc a fanzine," claimed all the hosts in unison, "especially Warhoon 28." Failure to loc as promised will get you written into an Andy Hooper fanplay.

Recipe Section

At the Arisa Party Sunday night there was an alcoholic pudding that was out-of-this-world! It was in very limited supply, but I heard it was made by a *nice* group of guests. I didn't catch their names, but I did get the recipe:

Using instant vanilla pudding, substitute one quarter of the milk with Bailey's Irish Cream. Blend or shake well. Serves 4.

News Flash!

This just in. A new federal study has concluded that a picture is now only worth 500 words.

NASFiC Bids Announced!

Now that Melbourne, Australia has won the 1999 Worldcon bid, Cruisecon, Antarcticcon and Zagreb have all announced plans to bid for the 1999 NASFiC. When pointed out that none of these bids are actually in North America, the Cruisecon bid smugly rejoined that international waters are as much North American as anywhere else.

Equal Time!

In issue #12 of STAT!, the article entitled **Equal Time?** claimed that out of 100 femmefans at LACon, only 37 are attractive, 15 really pretty and only 2 downright stunning. Inga (from Germany) says, "As one of the women not counted, I just want to say that I haven't seen any men here who would make me leave my husband." **Spat!** disclaims responsibility for either survey, but if this controversy continues, we will have to perform our own study. The Klingon Bitches With Attitude have been conducting their own assessment.

Filk Channel Announced

Viacom and Fox News Network have announced plans to launch The Filk Channel, a 24-hour cable tv channel devoted to filk music in all its manifestations. They intend to kick off the channel with 37 hours of *Banned From Argo*, and the entire first week devoted to variants of that popular song. Said Leslie Fish, *Argo's* writer, "Well, I'm not going to listen to the whole thing, but as long as I get royalties it's okay by me."

Anaheim Annexed

The Bay Area Science Fiction Association, of the San Francisco Bay, is holding their regular Monday meetings at the Worldcon. In order to do this under their bylaws, Anaheim was declared the Deep South Bay.

Overheard in Cafe Oasis:

"I'm an AMSL, but I don't know what it means."

"Oh, you're an Amstel Light."

ASB Meets In The Marriott

The "alt.sex.binoculars" Usenet group will hold its regular meeting on the North side of the Marriott, in order to observe the proceedings of "the other asb group" in the Hilton.

Missing Hugo Base Credit

Our spies inside L.A. fandom report that ace model builder, toy maker, and L.A.con III flyer artist Shawn Crosby built the original prototypes of the electric Hugo Bases, including the mountains and the working spotlights. Reportedly the trickiest part was making sure that the batteries were replaceable. Shawn Crosby was also responsible for the artwork used on the flashlights L.A.con III gave away at last year's Hugo Losers Party, at Intersection. (Fortunately those batteries could be replaced, too...)

Art Show Tear-Down to include Lanai Deck

The piping for the LACon Art Show will be torn down and shipped to LoneStarCon, in exchange for the release of Californian hostages nominally on the concom.

Further demands from the 1997 Worldcon now include the Lanai Deck, which proved a popular party and meeting space at LACon. Demands for the Sunset Deck and the Pool Deck were met with stern reproach by the Hilton.

Personals

GLNO Diagnostician-in-training wishes to acquire tape of female DBDG. Object: Understanding the Art Show.

On Sale in the Internet Lounge: Half off on used .sig files. Big discounts on quotes from Clarke and self-referential .sigs. Free with purchase of two or more: "The internet is full. Go away."

DevE & Hazel disavow all knowledge of this one-shot. So there.