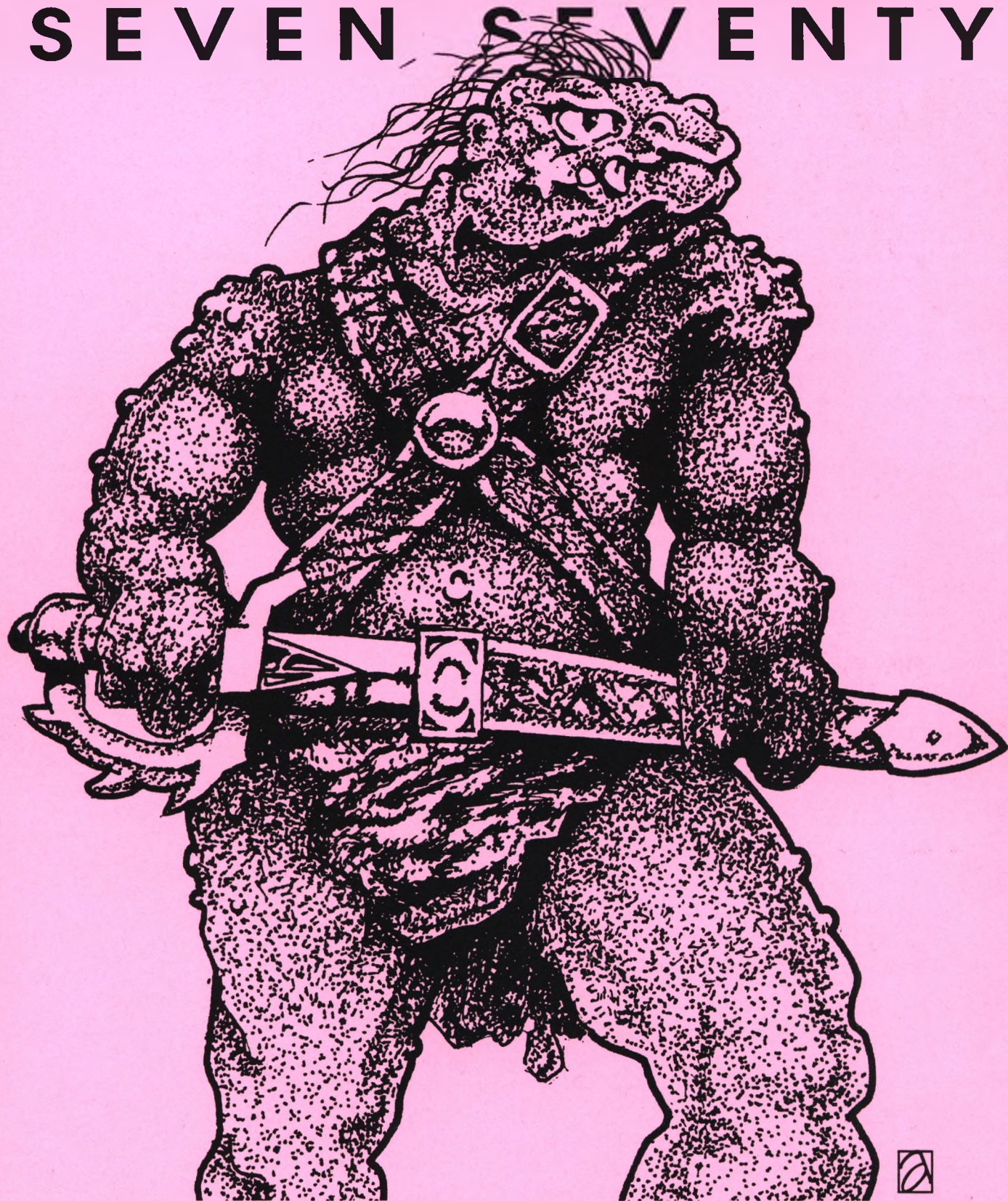


FILLE

SEVEN SEVENTY



Editorial Notes

by Mike Glycer

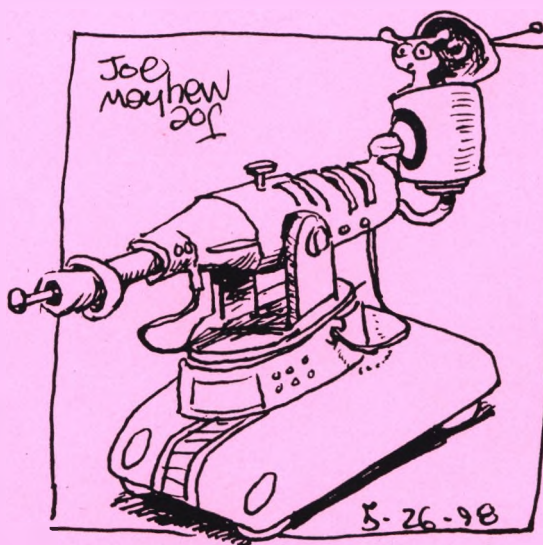
I was worried to see another black-bordered box on the front page of a clubzine. Fortunately, it wasn't for a person. The box in *NASFA Shuttle* announced that Mike Kennedy's Suburban van, after many years of faithful service, "bit the big one Wednesday 10 February 1999. There will be a commemorative moment of silence at the February NASFA meeting."

Y2K Without Tears: Hearing at LASFS the latest idiocy people are perpetrating in the name of the Y2K Crisis, Jerry Pournelle sarcastically added that he also has a Y2K program that changes the days of the week -- to Mondak, Tuesdak, Wednesdak.... Matthew Tepper said, "Thank you, Jerrk Pournelle!" The meeting was paralyzed.

Playing for a Tie: I once wondered in these pages how many Hugo races reported as "ties" were genuine mathematical ties and how many were administrative decisions by a Worldcon committee. A co-chairman of the 1968 Worldcon remembered my question when he wrote this reminiscence for the Timebinders list:

Footnote to a Hugo

By Bill Donaho: At the 1968 BayCon we awarded a Best Novelette Hugo even though the Novelette was not an approved Hugo category. Like most con committees of the time, we treated the Rules as guidelines, not laws. We got some criticism



for adding this category, but as I recall we regarded it at the time as being from Breen supporters.

Most Con Committees treated Cons as parties they were throwing themselves and did pretty much as they pleased. Of course when you are throwing a party, you want to please the guests, but fans of the time were pretty anarchistic and not very Rule Oriented. If fans had cared about the Rules a lot of Con Committees would have done things differently.

While they kept reasonably quiet about it, a lot of committee members didn't vote the nominating and Hugo ballots until the rest of the votes had been counted. And some did use proxies. Convention helpers gave the Con Committee blank ballots to be voted as the Committee wanted.

Well, Ben [Stark] and Alva [Rogers] and I felt perfectly okay about reserving our own votes, but didn't feel comfortable with proxies. So we didn't use them.

Now the Novelette race was a close and long drawn out one. First Anne McCaffrey would be ahead and then Philip Jose Farmer. They finished 3 votes apart. And Ben, Alva and I hadn't voted. So we decided to make it a tie. I don't remember for sure which one was ahead before we voted, but I think it was Anne.

I do remember that we never even discussed the matter of getting a Hugo for our Guest of Honor. And it never even occurred to me that this was a desirable thing to do. The

thing we discussed was the closeness of the race, first one leading and then the other and what was the Fair Thing To Do. But I also remember that I didn't care one way or the other about making it a tie, and I believe I would have if it had been a matter of getting a tie for Anne. I liked "Weyr Search" and didn't much care for Phil's entry. But more important, Anne had talked about withdrawing from the race and I had persuaded her not to. So I was rooting for her.

The day after the Banquet we were having lunch when Earl Kemp dropped by our table and teased us that our Banquet main course, Beef Stroganoff, was on the Hotel's Restaurant's menu -- at a far cheaper price. And he asked about the tie. Alva explained. "We would have done the same," said Earl.

File 770 129

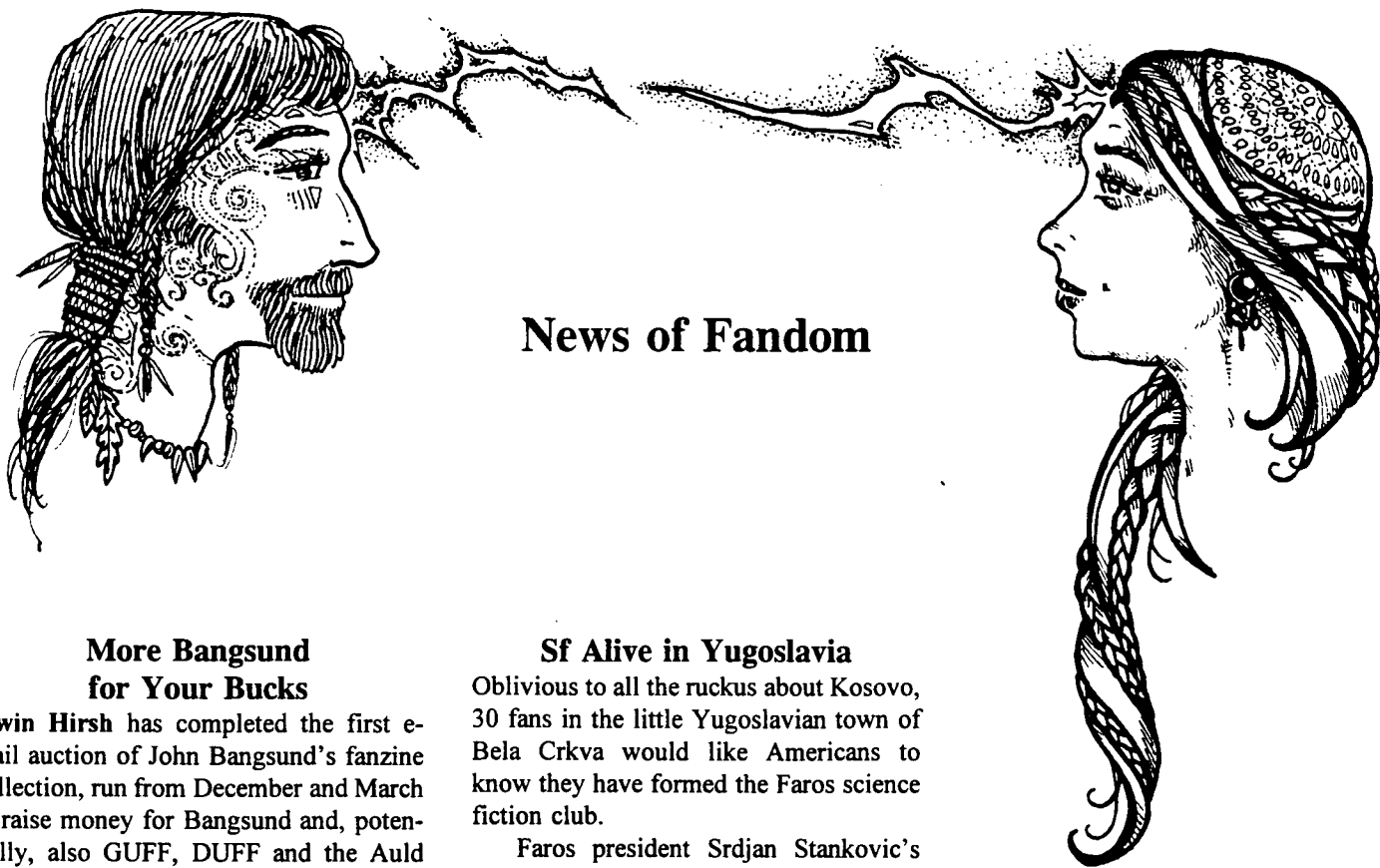
File 770:129 is edited by Mike Glycer at 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016. It delivers the light of other days. Telephone Number: (626) 305-1004. E-Mail: MGlycer@compuserve.com

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Brad Foster: 4
Bill Rotsler: 6, 11, 15, 19
Teddy Harvia: 5
Glenn Glazer: 7



News of Fandom

More Bangsund for Your Bucks

Irwin Hirsh has completed the first e-mail auction of John Bangsund's fanzine collection, run from December and March to raise money for Bangsund and, potentially, also GUFF, DUFF and the Auld Lang Fund.

No sooner had the auction ended than Bangsund had a major health scare on March 4, initially thought to be a heart attack, and was hospitalized for a week. Hirsh has suspended plans to share with the fan funds for the time being.

Hirsh originated the auction to help Bangsund, who went through bankruptcy a few years ago and is currently living on unemployment benefits. He'd intended for all of the first \$1,500 raised from the sale of the Bangsund Collection to go to John, and for half of anything above that to be shared by DUFF, GUFF and the Auld Lang Fund.

Zines for auction came from Bangsund's garage: overruns of his genzines and apazines from the 1970s, and runs of zines by other fans who traded with him in the 1980s. Mike Glicksohn calls Bangsund one of top five fanwriters of all time, but he vanished into the apas long ago and few fans have read his excellent material.

Contact: Irwin Hirsh, 26 Jessamine Ave., Prahran East VIC 3181 Australia. Or e-mail: irwin@start.com.au

Sf Alive in Yugoslavia

Oblivious to all the ruckus about Kosovo, 30 fans in the little Yugoslavian town of Bela Crkva would like Americans to know they have formed the Faros science fiction club.

Faros president Srdjan Stankovic's describes the local scene in an e-mail. "At the moment there are only four SF clubs in our country and our club is the most active one. Our activities are publishing our magazine, organizing literary evenings and lectures, SF movie projections and discussions about all SF areas. We are keeping meetings to once a week (every Tuesday)."

They are interested in contacting other clubs and trading their fanzine, which is up to issue number six. Whether your zine is in paper or electronic form, they'd love to get a copy. Their contact addresses are:

Mail address: "FAROS", 1. oktobra 24, 26340 Bela Crkva, Yugoslavia

E-mail: faros@bozic.co.yu

Web page:

http://www.belacrkva.co.yu/SF_klub.htm

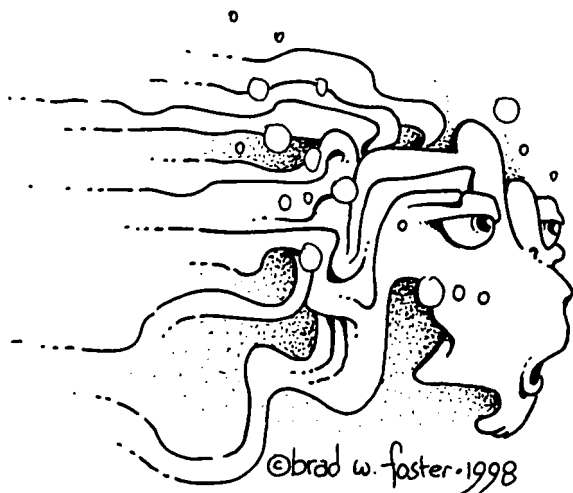
Peaceful, Quiet Hagerstown

Harry Warner writes that Joseph Nicholas' residence must be in a peaceful neighborhood compared to his:

"In recent years, a bomb went off in a circuit court judge's apartment a half-block from my home, a burglar scared the

woman next door badly enough that she cut her arm trying to jump through her window, two homes within 200 feet of mine have been honored with illegal drug raids, a dog bit a dog who lived next door and then bit the dog's owner who shot the jaw-active mutt to death, a man in a garage within a half-block of my house lighted a cigarette while pouring gasoline into his auto and died in the resulting explosion, and a hysterical woman pounded on my door around midnight ~~because~~ she thought her husband was going to kill her.

"Additionally, police arrived at my house late one night with a woman and a tiny boy, and one gendarme told me, 'This lady says this is your child.' But that episode had a happy ending because the tot belonged to next door, the woman had found him wandering down the street alone, and because he had occasionally wandered into my back yard while playing, she thought he was mine, presumably with benefit of clergy."



Primary Colors

The odds were a million-to-one against **Bill Bridget** being elected a Tennessee state senator in last fall's election. They might have been a million-to-two if Bill's wife had told him she was going to write his name in. Bill posted online: "I wish she'd told me, I'd have run and got at least two votes."

Huckster to the Stars

Adrienne Foster had an "extra" reason to go see *Patch Adams* when it came to neighborhood theaters -- she worked on the film for a few days last spring playing a "convention exhibitor."

Adrienne said, "it looks like my scenes ended up on the cutting room floor," but "two friends I did this with, Rena Leith and Michael Rightor, could be seen briefly."

The real *Patch Adams* was present to watch the filming. Adrienne found him friendly and approachable. One question always asked about biographical films is how accurate they are. According to Adams, the movie was just loosely based on life -- he joked that if it was more accurate he would have ended up at an eggplant convention, not a meat packagers' one.

"You Got M--*kaboom!*"

Clive Newall heard a loud noise outside the "otherwise quiet LynClively household" after midnight on January 7, but found nothing amiss when he went to investigate. Then **LynC** went to put out the trash and noticed they no longer had a mailbox -- pieces of it were spread all over, mingled with the remains of a home-made bomb.

Police came by in the morning to take away the bomb fragments, and offer vague reassurance about about "random act" and "no need to be concerned." Clive learned the rest of the story 10 days later when the paper reported damage to a local brothel from a home-made bomb, the latest of "four instances of letter boxes being destroyed by home made explosives" during the school holidays. Mark Ortlieb's advice was, "You're just going

to have to take that red light out of the window Clive!" *[[Source: Australian SF Bullshead 113]]*

Skunkman's Last Adventure

Does fandom believe in capital punishment? Absolutely, but not for the usual mundane reasons. For example, **LASFS'** unofficial motto is, "Death will not release you" -- whereas nonpayment of dues will. And in **NESFA**, if you stink up the library, they hire a hit squad to take care of you.

Joe Rico complained that club member Mr. Skunk needed to be dealt with "before we have books smelling like skunk." Debate ended with members voting \$500 to hire an exterminator and close up the hole under the clubhouse.

Mr. Skunk's last hope is that the exterminator will be as inefficient as the posse in charge of collecting **Teddy Harvia's** pun fines. *[[Source: Instant Message 640]]*

Free Lance Publicist Needs Help

Eurocon 2000: Want to promote your group and help the development of international fandom at the same time? **Lance Oszko** can tell you how to do it:

"Now that **Bucconeer** is over, I have taken up the Banner of **Eurocon 2000** as my new project. **Eurocon** started in Trieste Italy 1972 and has been roaming around Europe ever since. My friends in the **Gdanski Klub Fantastyki** are hosting it for the year 2000. **Eurocon 2000** will be August 2-6, 2000 in a suburb of Gdansk, Poland. The venue is a 300-room hotel and the adjacent Opera House.

"The usual European suspects anticipate an attendance of 1500. I would like to bring in 100 North Americans.

"I estimate that the campaign to attract members to **Eurocon** will cost about \$2,500. As compared with the \$40,000, spent on promoting/bidding **Bucconeer**. During a recent trip to Windycon, I signed up six people even though **Eurocon 2000** is close in time to **Chicon**. **Tom Veal** bought a full membership, though he has no intention of going; he liked the party, food and beer."

Lance is asking fan groups to contribute what they can to the effort of promoting international relations and communication between the worldwide SF community. Their contributions go directly to the cost of parties and advertising promoting **Eurocon 2000**, not his travel expenses. He also invites fans to underwrite some event or Hospitality at **Eurocon 2000** in Poland.

Contact **Lance** at: loszko@moon.jic.com

Also, see the web sites. The USA web site: <http://pw2.netcom.com/~slawcio/english.html>

The European web site: <http://www.gkf3miasto.pl/eurocon/eurocon.htm>

Medical Updates

Robin Bailey: Kansas City writer **Robin Bailey** has been diagnosed with **Burkitt's lymphoma**. According to **Keith Stokes**, **Burkitt's** is a particularly fast growing cancer, but it can also be fast in responding to the chemo.

Kim Campbell was scheduled for surgery on March 22 to remove a cancerous growth from her esophagus. She has turned

over her role in this year's Eastercon to Vince Docherty. Kim wrote online, "In line with my generally humanist agnostic beliefs, any prayers or meditations are gratefully received."

Nancy Tucker Shaw overcame the effects of her 1998 stroke and attended Confusion as its fan guest of honor. Myrna Logan saw her at the con in January and said Nancy looked great. "She was able to walk around in the hotel room with her one-handed walker.... She has benefitted greatly from the support of friends and fandom and credits it and her own determined nature for getting her as far as she has."

Unfortunately, in early March Nancy had another heart episode serious enough for a lengthy return to the hospital. Doctors performed another cardio-version.

Misti Anslin Tucker wrote online, "Nancy is resting comfortably, but they're going to keep her a few days and tinker with her medication levels...."

"On the bright side, Nancy is now able to get out of bed and move around the house under her own steam, using a 'four point' cane or a walker."

Short Subjects

Sheryl Birkhead would like to get the addresses of fanartists nominated in the early years of the Best Fanartist Hugo (first given in 1967). Contact Sheryl at 23629 Woodfield Rd., Gaithersburg MD 20882. (She'll be there for awhile. "The General Partner for the farm development says I won't have to move until early 2000.")

The **DUFF** voting deadline has been extended until April 11th. *[[Source: Australian SF Bullsheat 116]]*

Will there ever be a paper edition of **Eric Lindsay's** *Gegenschein 84*? Not likely -- photocopies at Airlie Beach seem to be about 20 cents a side. Eric writes, "I'm thinking I'll make *Gegenschein* into an email and web zine."

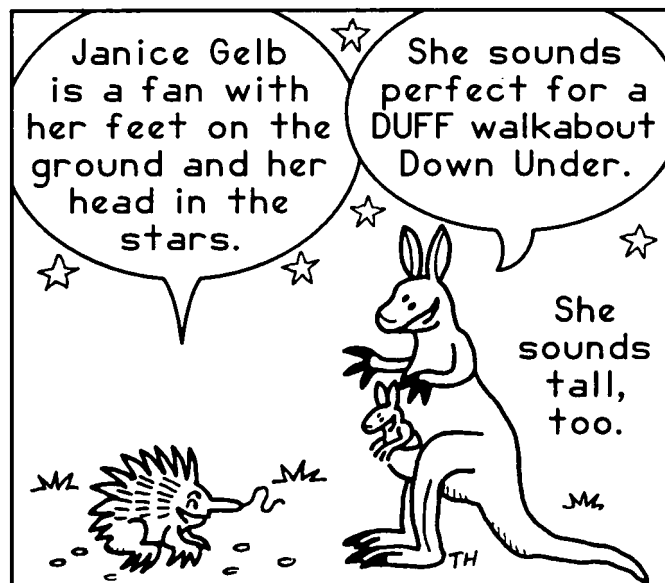
Greenish Discharge Predicted: Ed Green has filed for retirement from the Army next October. How to sum up Ed's distinguished career? A mini-bio in the Loscon 25 program book says it all:

"Ed Green is an active duty Staff Sergeant in the Army. He brings almost 20 years of experience in the fields of law enforcement, bomb disposal and military intelligence, and fannish con-running with him. His proudest accomplishment is being voted most likely to go postal three years in a row at the office. Being Chairman of Loscon 24 didn't help much either."

Long-time Atlanta fan **Joe Celko**, a "whizbang writer about computers", has won the Intelligent Enterprise (formerly DBMS) Magazine Readers' Poll for favorite columnist. Celko also headed one of the rival bids for Atlanta in '86 which merged and won, resulting in Confederation. *[[Source: Guy H. Lillian III]]*

DUFF's own **Terry Frost** has been hired by Foxtel as an Entertainment Consultant. *[[Source: Australian SF Bullsheat 115]]*

Irv Koch married Kay Pinckney "a notable Atlanta Sherlock Holmes (not sf&f) fan" on December 28. *[[Source: Kronos, 12/98]]*



Changes of Address

Neil and Cris Kaden, 801 Timberwood Circle, Fairview, TX 75069; Telephone: (972) 569-6899

Neil Rest, E-mail: neilrest@enteract.com

Roy Tackett, c/o Hallett Realty, 7800 Marble NE, Ste. 5, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Martin Tudor, E-mail: empties@breathemail.net

Wolf von Witting, Lakegatan 8, S-133 41 SALTSJOBADEN, Sweden

Brad Foster didn't want to risk going *too* modern, so he waited til almost the last minute to join the rest of us in the 20th Century. "Yes," Brad admits, "we now have net access and e-mail and I'm even fooling around with some free web site space, though I'm not going to give out that info to folks until I actually have something there for you folks to *look* at!"

To encourage Brad to finish his web page, drop an e-mail to Brad and Cindy Foster's new net address: bwfoster@juno.com

Texas Chainsaw Massacre: That's what Neil Kaden says is in store for the pipe briar in the woods behind his new home. Pipe briar has 3-inch diameter vines that pull down and kill trees. But not if Neil strikes first!

Neil and Cris' new house is in the country 10 miles farther north of Dallas than they were before. "The house has an unbelievable number of built-in bookshelves (and a big finished attic over the garage where we are putting our excess shelves -- imagine a fan with more shelves than he can fit into his house!)"

The Kadens tell you all about their new hometown of Fairview, TX on their home page: <http://www.flash.net/~kaden>

Neil Rest has a new e-mail address, but please don't use it to send him any bad news. The message with his new address included a veritable saga of disasters -- home repairs screwed up

by his landlord, a convention missed because O'Hare was fogged in, delays on the 800 line to get his refund from United, a job layoff, a lost friendship, an income tax bill, and a water-damaged laptop computer. "So update my email address, and please don't send me any bad news you can help for a while."

Wolf von Witting reminds me, "I have only moved 500 meters to another street. Not from Germany to Sweden. I am a German fan, living in Sweden. Saltsjobaden is a village next to Stockholm, the capital of Sweden.

Three Dots and Three Lines

Deb Geisler wants the NESFA Press to do a cookbook called, *We're Gonna Starve!*, the traditional cry at NESFA potluck dinners where "every attendee seems to bring a full meal for 30." The book will collect club members' favorite recipes. Tony Lewis suggests recipes be noted "to serve four people or one NESFan." *[[Source: Instant Message 638]]*

I was worried to see another black-bordered box on the front page of a clubzine. Fortunately, it wasn't for a person. The box announced that **Mike Kennedy's** Suburban van, after many years of faithful service, "bit the big one Wednesday 10 February 1999. There will be a commemorative moment of silence at the February NASFA meeting." *[[Source: NASFA Shuttle, 2/89]]*

The Money Pit: The final bill for removing the oil tank from the NESFA clubhouse was a whopping \$60,000 plus! The club's only hope for recovering any of it depends on the previous owner's insurance, if they can get the information. *[[Source: Instant Message 636]]*

Bubonicon 31 will be held August 20-22 at the Howard Johnson East in Albuquerque NM. Guest will be Jack McDevitt and Lubov. For more information, contact NMSF Conference, P.O. Box 37257, Albuquerque NM 87176 or e-mail cwcraig@nmia.com

Len and June Moffatt will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from Bouchercon this October in Milwaukee.

The Worldcon Bill of Rights by Milt Stevens

The international concern for human rights has spread to all levels of government. Recently, a committee elected to revise the Los Angeles City Charter felt it necessary to include a bill of rights for citizens before getting down to the more mundane matters of collecting garbage and repairing streets. Even businesses are feeling the need to guarantee rights. Now along with a hamburger you may receive a list of inalienable (or at least seldom alienable) rights. With such a trend in progress, can it be long before worldcons have to guarantee the rights of attendees. The following list includes some of the possible rights which may be demanded by attendees.

1. The right to enter the hotel laden like a caravan out of Baghdad and still register in a single room.

2. The right to swan dive into the all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet.

3. The right to the creative use of peanut butter.

4. The right to denounce the Hugo Awards as a popularity contest.

5. The right not to admit you have no friends.

6. The right to hang from the ceiling and drip green.

7. The right to conduct genetic experimentation on children left in the con childcare center.

8. The right to consider flame throwers as educational toys.

9. The right to cook squid in the con suite.

10. The right to eat squid raw in the con suite.

11. The right to abortion, even if you're a male.

12. The right to abortion, particularly if you're a male.

13. The right to occupy two stools in the bar without being charged double.

14. The right to equal treatment irrespective of your position on the food chain.

15. The right to grow hair where

none have grown it before.

16. The right to remain silent or anything you say may be misquoted against you.

17. The right to have an attorney present while considering the menu in the coffee shop.

18. The right to wear an octopus suit at all times.

19. The right to advocate the overthrow of the concom by ridicule and derision.

20. The right to use transdermal patches to quit science fiction.

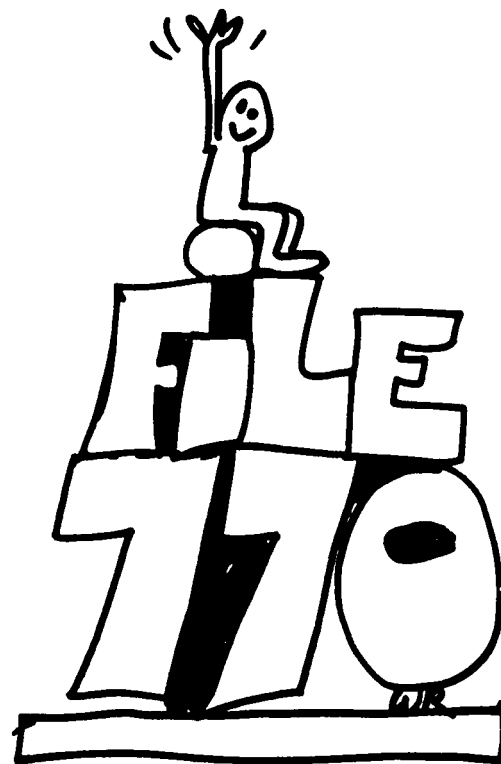
21. The right to masquerade as a sentient.

22. The right to do something cheap and superficial.

23. The right to do something we might both regret.

24. The right to do something shabby and insensitive.

25. It might be the only chance we get.



Multimedia Watch

Karen Pender-Gunn is starting the Ian Gunn Memorial Fund, with the initial aim of sponsoring the iguana at the Melbourne Zoo in his name. Funds will be raised by the sale of Ian's artwork, beginning with the collected *Space-Time Buccaneers* strips. [[Source: *Ethel the Aardvark* 82]]

Pulpless.com offers an impressive array of books that can be downloaded from the Net or purchased in paperback through Amazon.com They include a new Piers Anthony book, *Reality Check*, a compilation of J. Neil Schulman's Heinlein interview of 20 years ago, reprints by Silverberg and Spinrad, and others that are part of a line called "Forrest J Ackerman Presents", such as *This Island Earth*.

Stop Helping Me: There was flurry of outrage in some corners when reports surfaced that one of the Teletubbies is gay. Til then, I had not known it was of great credit to heterosexuals for all the Teletubbies to be straight.

The **Monty Wells Project** was a successful part of Boskone: "Teachers loved it." Almost four dozen program participants and teachers were involved in a session called "When Worlds Collide: A Symposium on Learning and Science Fiction." [[Source: *Instant Message* 640]]

Tony Ubelhor wrote the listings on Hugo Gernsback and Robert Heinlein for *St James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*, to be released in 1999. [[Source: *Kronos*, 12/98]]

Sourdough Jackson continues his rebellion against the Evil Empire: "The Linux conversion is going smoothly so far. The latest version of SuSE Linux arrived recently, along with Star Office. I now have a stable Linux installation running on my computer, and this appears to have the side effect of making Windows 95 run less inefficiently than it used to." [[Source: *DASFax* 1/99]]

At a recent NESFA meeting, Clerk **Pam Fremon** told **Michael Burstein** "that if he wanted to make sure that his extemporaneous remarks got into *Instant Message* correctly, he should write them down and submit them in advance."

By the way, Michael, send me a

carbon of those extemporaneous remarks and I can arrange to have you make them at LASFS at the same time....

The deadline to submit material to **Bucconeer's Parting Shot** memory book is April 30. The book will be produced and mailed by July 24.

Clipping Service

Mark Leeper: "For a long time it has been French national policy that computer languages used in France had to be French.... [But] we have [made] the Internet such an indispensable part of modern life. It brings all sorts of information to the French at a price to the language. The Internet primarily uses the same damned language as those rascals who did so much damage with their long-bows at Agincourt. And Internet is coming to finish the job that Henry V left undone -- making Good French people use English." *The MT Void*, 1/1/99.

John Hertz: "Not exactly aware of Frank Gasperik's health, I gather from your report that his loss of all feeling, and much motion, in two of his left-hand fingers seems irreparable, ending his guitar. Many in fandom love this troubadour, who appears in *Lucifer's Hammer* (1977). Could he substitute a still possible instrument? A xylophone? -- hmm, bulkier." *Vanamonde* No. 298

Obituaries

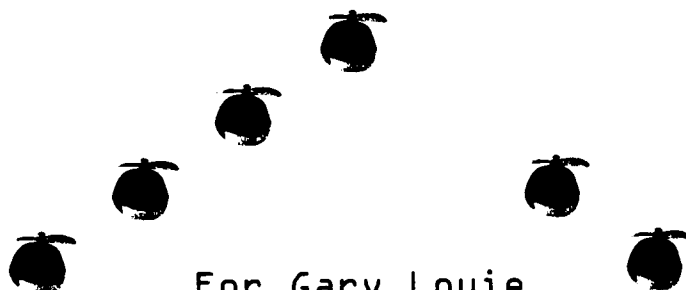
Gary Louie

On February 2, after leaving a Tuesday night dinner with several LASFSians, Gary Louie went home and, sometime during the evening, suffered a fatal heart attack while watching television.

Most LASFSians learned of Gary's passing the following Saturday when an improvised phone tree went into action, or next day at the club's Board of Directors meeting. It was a somber and emotional meeting -- one which Robbie Bourget happened to attend because she was in town from England to help put on the local Dr. Who con (Gallifrey), but that Bruce and Elayne Pelz missed because they were vacationing in Africa. LASFS immediately planned to hold a memorial gathering for Gary two weeks later.

The following Thursday, Karl Lembke announced to LASFS that although Gary had been a member of the club since 1984, he had only half the contribution credit needed to be a LASFS Patron Saint. (LASFS recognizes those who have donated \$1,000 to its Building Fund with a title, Patron Saint, and an ovation at one meeting a year.) Karl asked everyone to contribute in Gary's name to get him to the Patron Saint level before the memorial. Fans contributed \$165 on the first night alone. The Gallifrey committee donated the last \$83 needed to push

Flying the Missing Fan Formation



For Gary Louie
1957 - 1999



Gary's total over \$1,000.

Gary was known outside of L.A. as a fixture of "the Permanent Floating Worldcon Committee." He handled Worldcon Hugo exhibits, worked in the Art Show, manned bid tables and helped throw room parties -- usually all at once.

Sharon Sbarsky's online tribute (which can be read on the NASFiC's Gary Louie memorial web page) mentions two of Gary's endearing characteristics. First, "Once you were Gary's friend, you found that he cared about you. It didn't matter if you were 3000 miles away." Also, "Just because Gary helped me, that didn't mean that he wasn't busy with five million other things."

If one of those things was a secret plan to do something unusual at a convention, Gary liked it even better. We all learned to recognize the wickedly boyish smile that declared more loudly than a trumpet that Gary was on a secret mission. Gary often smiled about confidential plans for an exhibit for L.A.con III (he was designing the con's exhibit space) and kept dropping hints to me that if they got "the big item" he would have to change the whole layout. "The big item" was the actual prototype rocket built by one of the commercial launch companies. It would have dwarfed everything in the hall. The plan didn't work out. Just as well for Gary, since the rocket crashed

and burned a few weeks before the con.

Gary's circle of friends extended beyond fandom. Donna Furon of Cal State L.A. sent LASFS a sympathy note by e-mail to remind us, "Gary had so many facets -- I'm not sure how many people realized it." She knew Gary as a judge of the Southern California Region ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, not to mention as the best man at her wedding. Donna's full note about Gary is posted at: www.calstate.edu/acm

Gary's parents and his brother and sister joined with LASFS for the Gary Louie Memorial Service on February 28.

John DeChancie, who shared a table with Gary at the weekly aftermeetings, read a moving excerpt from his letter to another friend about his "survivor's guilt" and the need that "We must speak the truth that's in our hearts before we are scattered in the wind."

Beth O'Brien called Gary "honorable" -- honest, generous, never deceitful -- and respected. Said Beth, "Honorable is something he was, respect is something he earned. He was always the first to invite you to join into things. His heart was so generous and inclusive -- Gary lived friendship."

Some fans' statements about Gary illustrated the paradox that he befriended everyone though few felt they knew him as well as they would have liked.

Glenn Glazer mentioned how "utterly Gary-like" was the way Gary reacted to the micro-stroke he suffered in January 1995. The stroke's effects were barely perceptible at first, so Gary didn't realize anything serious had happened until he went into work and was unable to speak to answer a co-worker's question. Then Gary sat down at his computer, wrote an explanation of his symptoms, printed it out for his boss, and drove himself to a hospital. (Gary had a remarkable recovery and went back to work within two weeks.)

Bruce Louie, Gary's brother, asked to be the final speaker. He accepted the many tributes to Gary on behalf of the family (a number of fans spoke directly to them) and also lifted everyone's spirits with a leavening of humor. "If you didn't

think Gary was an odd duck, raise your hand," asked Bruce. Well, there was that.... Not a hand went up.

(Chaz Boston Baden has collected tributes to Gary on a web page at www.99.nasfic.org)

Buck Coulson

Indiana fan Buck Coulson died February 19 after a brief hospitalization. His wife, Juanita, was summoned to the hospital in time to spend a few minutes talking with him before the end.

Buck told John Hertz in *Vanamonde* 296, "I'm a fan because ...I read a Heinlein story in the *Saturday Evening Post*." And he passed the torch on many times through fanzines, at conventions and in his own professional writing.

Buck and Juanita were Fan Guests of Honor at L.A.Con I in 1972, due in part to their prolific work on the Hugo-winning fanzine *Yandro* (mimeographed on that famous "dog-vomit yellow" twiltone paper). Buck collaborated professionally on several novels with Gene DeWeese, including a murder mystery set at a Worldcon. In recent years, visitors to Midwestern conventions could always find Buck selling books at his table in the dealer's room.

He was Tuckerized twice in Wilson Tucker novels (where else?) He is captain of the spaceship *Yandro* in *To The Tom-baugh Station* (1960), and tries to save the dumb hero from crashing on Pluto. In *Resurrection Days* (1981) he is the pastor of the hero's church (which Tucker calls "a double-barreled in-joke for fans in the know.")

Buck deliberately cultivated a crotchety persona, and for that reason I always thought of him as a graybeard. Eventually he actually became one, of course, but that was sheerly an external change. If all of us kept up our fanac at the pace he led, there'd never need to be any muttering about the future of fandom.

He believed fanzine fandom is a continual potlatch, not in the nice, vague way of those of us who actually use that phrase (Buck wouldn't) but as a consistent principle for living. He acted as if he owed a loc to every fanzine -- and wrote plenty of them. On the other hand, he

figured a real fanzine was available for "the usual" so, without rancor, he let me know from the outset he wasn't going to subscribe to *File 770*. Reading locs by Coulson (and Glicksohn) in fanzines from Alabama to Australia finally made ask why I was depriving myself; in 1996 I modified that policy.

And once I sent an article to *Yandro* that he temporarily lost. Buck offered to compensate by writing a fanzine review column for my genzine, joking that "it's the least I can do, and I always do the least I can do." He soon found and published the article, so I never got that column from him after all.

Like many others, I'm going to miss the touchstone of Buck's no-nonsense attitudes about fandom, and his wisdom about where to invest the effort of criticism and where not to bother.

Terry Hodel

The producer of L.A.'s premiere science fiction radio show "Mike Hodel's Hour 25", Terry Hodel, passed away on March 17 after a long bout with cancer. She was 61. Terry worked both behind the scenes and delivered on air the weekly show's Calendar segment.

"Hour 25" was started by Terry's husband, Mike, in 1972. Harlan Ellison became its voice after Mike died in 1986, always keeping in the forefront that this was "Mike Hodel's Hour 25." Later Harlan turned things over to J. Michael Straczynski, who hosted the show for several years with Larry DiTillo and Mel Gilden frequently by his side. The charismatic Warren James has given it life and personality during the 1990s.

Terry helped fight the ongoing battles to keep the show on the local Pacifica station (though trimmed from two hours to one), encouraging local fans whose political leanings made it unlikely they'd ever listen to any other show on KPFK to shell out for its annual pledge drives.

She also supported California Literacy Inc. (2028 E. Villa St., Pasadena, CA 91001). Donations in Terry's name are encouraged to CLI and KPFK -- the "Hour 25" crew will hold the latter for credit in next May's pledge drive. There's no doubt Terry would have wanted it that

way. (Hour 25, KPFK, 3729 Cahuenga Blvd. West, North Hollywood CA 91604.)

Nieson Himmel

Old-time LASFS member Nieson Himmel (jokingly nicknamed "Gotten" Himmel in a 1946 Worldcon publication) passed away March 14 of pneumonia-related complications at the age of 77.

He moved to Los Angeles in 1944 to escape the harsh Minnesota winters and was hired as a crime reporter. His roommate during that time was L. Ron Hubbard.

Len Moffatt said Himmel was one of his pall bearers -- part of a famous stunt in which Moffatt dressed as a vampire and, laying stiff as a corpse, was carried from the street into a convention hotel and deposited on a row of chairs, scaring the daylighters out of mundanes.

Himmel went on from fandom to become a fixture at two Los Angeles newspapers, covering every major Los Angeles crime story since World War II. He reported on the infamous Black Dahlia murder and the shooting of gangster Bugsy Siegel during his 22 years with the now-defunct Los Angeles *Herald-Examiner*. He spent the last 14 years on a night shift at the the Los Angeles *Times* monitoring police radio dispatches.

A throwback to the *Front Page* era, Himmel was an unforgettable character to other reporters who marked his passing in the *Times*, on two wire services (Robert Lichtman read it in the San Francisco *Chronicle*), and in a column anonymously written by "The Finger" in *New Times Los Angeles*, an arts and entertainment paper.

"The Finger" recalls that Himmel was unforgettable for certain fannish-sounding traits as much as for his journalism. "For years, the prissy editors whose seats he would occupy had complained of the mess he left behind. The piles of newspapers. (He read 10 or 15 from cover to cover every day.) The food wrappers. The bits of sandwiches.... Steve Braun, fielding his first phone call of the morning, found a half-eaten candy bar stuck to his ear. Lonnie LaGuire would put tape across her chair to keep him out of it."

When Himmel was ill and out of work for awhile, some co-workers took dinner to his Echo Park apartment. "On the wall was a portrait of a young, chiseled, bare-chested man with flowing blond hair. One of the group looked over at the Old Man, bald as an onion and topping 300 pounds, and asked if the portrait was of his son. 'No, I never married or had any children,' he informed.... 'That's me up there. My girlfriend painted it 50 years ago.' He went on to explain that he had been a champion swimmer."

Despite the effect of diabetes and several minor strokes on Himmel's work, "round after round of layoffs left him unscathed, bosses... realizing that the paper had become his family, his reason for living."

In Passing

Kansas City fan **Bea Owens** died January 28 after suffering a heart attack. Keith Stokes reminded local fans in his e-mail, "If you don't recall Bea, she was one of the Bimbos of the Bookcovers [*a Worldcon masquerade entry*]. I knew Bea for about six years, Many of the gang knew her even longer through the Kansas City Film Society."

Matt Haakenson, a Denver-area collector and member of DASFA, died of unknown natural causes on February 5. He was 47. For a number of years Haakenson ran a bookstore named after Hugo Gernsback's last magazine, Science Fiction Plus. His pulp magazine collection was reputed second in Colorado only to the late Don C. Thompson's. *[[Source: DASFAx 2/99]]*

Allan Hershey, Procedural Director (i.e., President) of the LASFS in the late 1940s, died on February 26 at the age of 81. His health had been weakened by a series of strokes in past years. Hershey led the club at a time when he was the only one speaking to both of its two feuding factions. Len Moffatt recalls, "We had many good times together, and a couple of bad times." Allan is survived by LASFS member Allison Hershey and three other children.

Conventional Reportage

Now It's CloneFrancisco

San Francisco's Moscone Convention Center wants the Worldcon but the bidders can't secure the Marriott across the street.

Sorry, this isn't the History Channel, it's history repeating itself.

The Marriott demanded deal-breaking concessions from the SF in '02 bidders, effectively forcing them to work with other hotels more distant from the convention center, some of them used by ConFrancisco in 1993.

Bid member Brenda Daverin wrote in *The Unravelled Ferret* #4: "Generally, [the Marriott] wanted lots and lots of money up front and would restrict such activities as hall costumes and late-night functions. I can't think of a *mundane* event that would want to pony up half their projected budget for a damage deposit. I also can't imagine wanting to hold the first Worldcon with a dress code other than 'dress for the climate, and naked isn't a costume.'"

Long before bidders reached an impasse with the Marriott, the San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau had asked them to look at a proposal for San Jose's McEnery Convention Center, with 1500 hotel rooms no farther away than the Marriott is from Moscone Center. But fans' hearts were set on the Marriott/Moscone venue they'd been pursuing all these years. They regarded San Jose as the "in-case-of-earthquake" option.

Then the Marriott's demands shook bidders enough to look at San Jose immediately.

And they must have been really shaken up because they decided to bid both venues and leave it up to the voters. Paperwork was filed with Aussiecon Three making San Jose a second official bid, and both San Francisco and San Jose will appear on the Site Selection ballot.

Part of the problem is that San Jose, even with its advantages, is not an ideal site. Doubtless remembering the abuse they



took for making fans walk in 1993, the bidders despaired. Daverin wrote, "If this problem had arisen with Seattle still involved, we probably would be ceding the race. Neither option is what we wanted to do and both are problematic." (Though fans confronted by the prospect of no Worldcon in 2002 might have admitted that ConFrancisco was a pretty good convention after all.)

Operating committee chair Tom Whitmore said, "San Francisco without the Marriott, or San Jose, are both good, but are less than what we had hoped to offer. Our committee was undecided as to which was the best option. Using San Jose, California's third-largest city, will undoubtedly allow us to offer cheaper hotel rooms and membership prices; San Francisco is a world-class city with fabulous attractions that this committee has spent several years promoting. Which is best? The answer was obvious: we should let the voters choose."

Whether the answer was obvious before or after the committee informally polled most of the smofs in the Western Hemisphere is a moot point, although whether it is the best answer is still open to debate. I personally would prefer for a committee to know its options well enough not to need a coin flip.

But it certainly restores the "excitement" some felt went out of the 2002 race when Seattle quit. Fans who feel duty-bound to see that a Worldcon bid gets its test-to-destruction were already

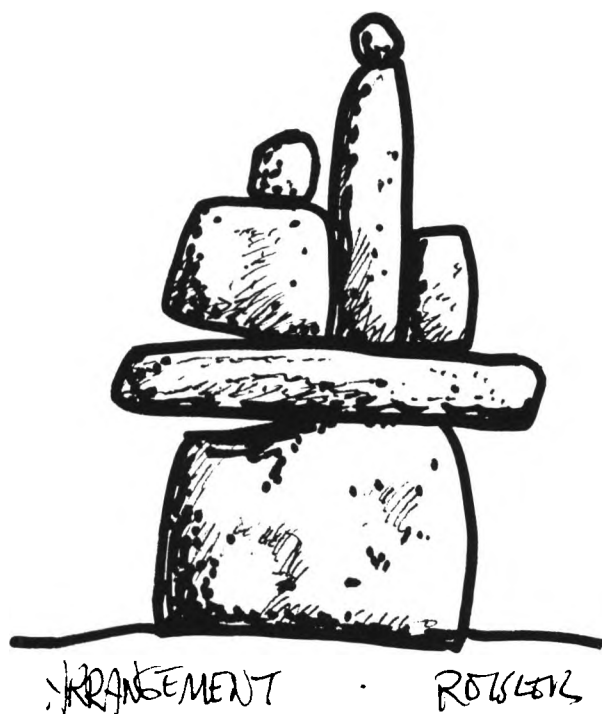
hard at work when the news about the Marriott came out -- news that also explained some peculiarities about San Francisco's original filing.

The boys in the back room were yocking it up at Boskone because the Aussiecon Site Selection administrator found the ConFrancisco 2 filing deficient in an important detail: hotel room commitments. Said Robert Sacks, "Spontaneous eruptions at the Boskone dead dog party resulted in the creation of a filing for 'The Committee for None of the Above in 2002' with no dates, facilities, committee, or rules for removing the Chair, and pledges to found web pages, letter writing campaigns, and even PR ads. Ben Yalow, who was defending the filing, asserted that The Committee for None of the Above was also a valid filing."

At the time, bid chair Kevin Standlee explained, "The reason that I didn't put the letter of intent from the Marriott into our filing is that the letters they sent us have a bunch of material in them that we're still negotiating over, some of which I would rather not have in a filing document, because it will be blown out of proportion. You know yourself from having dealt with hotels that they ask for more than they expect to get; I don't want someone reading the letter from the Marriott and coming to wild conclusions." Or even accurate ones -- yes, I have bid for a Worldcon....

Roswell in 2002 is Liz Mortensen's cheaper and more sensible solution to San Francisco's lack of competition. And if anyone is worried that New Mexico fans feel Liz is carpetbagging in their territory, which I doubt, the Albuquerque clubzine *Asfacts* ran the Roswell bid flyer on the back cover of its latest issue. Visit the Roswell web site at:

www.geocities.com/area51/quadrant/7111



I was forced to reconsider my plan to bid Both in 2002 when I read Brenda Daverin's threat: "By the way, if I catch anyone voting Both as first preference, I will dose a ferret with ephedrine and caffeine and drop it into your pants. I have access to both, and am unafraid to take advantage of it."

WSFA Cancels 1999 Disclave

The 1999 Disclave committee's unsuccessful search for a venue crystallized into an official decision to cancel the con at the December 4 WSFA meeting when Sam Pierce announced his resignation as Disclave 1999 Chairman. According to Michael Nelson, "Sam cited his heavy workload and the shortage of time remaining as his reasons for resigning. We gave him a round of applause for his efforts and some members got carried away and offered to walk over to the cooler in the next room to get him a beer."

However, Disclave 2000 Chair, Covert Beach, is continuing his search for a hotel.

Nelson adds, "We are discussing alternate 1999 WSFA events such as a picnic at a member's home as we did last spring. Or perhaps some sort of one-day event -- a local SF authors conference or an event to promote children's literacy."

Corflu Changes Venue

Corflu Sunsplash (April 30-May 2) has decided to move itself to the another Panama City hotel. According to rich brown, "The original con motel, as well as an inept, greedy and/or possibly bound-too-tightly-by-her-agency's-rules travel agent, made a few too many impossible demands and caused us to cancel. Thanks to suggestions by several fans, guidance by Joe Siclari and a lot of footwork by Shelby's daughter, Cheryl, the Corflu chestnuts were pulled out of the fire before everything turned to ashes. The result is a better, less-expensive, more understanding place to hold Corflu."

Look for Corflu now at the Bestwestern Bayside Inn, 711 W. Beach Drive, Panama City, FL 32401. For reservations call (800) 900-7047. Two double beds with a view of the bay are \$55 for one to four people.

rich adds, "There's a restaurant, bar/lounge, tiki bar, banquet facilities, lots of coffee, and on and on. They're working to arrange transportation for us for a cookout at a nearby state park, which is on a spur of land with the Gulf on one side and a lagoon on the other." (What fan can pass up an excuse to start a paragraph in lower-case?)

Corflu is the Mecca of fanzine fans. A \$45 attending membership includes the banquet, where the past president of fwa (fan writers of america) is elected, the GoH's name is picked from a hat, and the site of the next Corflu (Seattle) is "chosen." The quote marks around "chosen" are rich's, presumably because the choice has already been informally affirmed. Supporting memberships also are available for \$15.

Register with Shelby Vick, 627 Barton Ave., Springfield, FL 32404. His e-mail address is: Shelvy@springfieldcable.net

There is also a Corflu web page: www.angelfire.com/fl/corflusunsplash/

Anaheim Marriott Lowers NASFiC Room Rates

Fans coming to Conucopia, the 1999 NASFiC, will find staying at the Anaheim Marriott has just become even less expensive.

The Anaheim Marriott has agreed to reduce NASFiC's sleeping room rates to \$99 for single, double, triple and quad rooms. This is a significant saving over the original rates that ranged from \$104 for single/double to \$124 for quad.

The Marriott is making this voluntary change because their forecasts predict the a \$104 rate is too high to attract transient business to the hotel over the convention weekend. Sleeping rooms not blocked for the NASFiC may only be rented for less than \$104 if the same rate is extended to convention members, under terms of the hotel contract.

Conucopia Hotel Liaison Bobbi Armbruster said, "It is good to work with a hotel that likes your business and wants you to come back in the future."

Conucopia, the 1999 NASFiC (North American Science Fiction Convention), takes place August 26-29 at the Anaheim Marriott. For more information, look up the NASFiC web page at <http://www.99-nasfic.org>, or write to NASFiC, c/o SCIFI Inc., P.O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

Grokking the Fullness of NASFiC

Christian McGuire is justly famous for his zeal and panache as a conrunner. Where he surprises is with the sharply cynical humor of his writing.

The chair of Conucopia (1999 NASFiC) committee announces there will be a general committee meeting on April 18 at the LASFS Clubhouse.

Everyone will be allowed to ask questions. Christian suggests, "Here are a few of my favourites. 'Can the truck drive to Corona and pick up eight, 400 pound glass cases for exhibits?' 'Does Volunteers need a warning about the 16 people I might need to act as horses if the Steam Calliope arrives Sunday afternoon?' 'Is programming willing to give up the room early enough for us to have the seven hours we absolutely need to set

up the party?' I am partial to the last one myself...."

After describing the day's agenda, Christian finishes with this warning:

"Now the other soul expanding experience that can add to the overall sense of oneness you will leave the meeting with is limited to only a few sad empty souls. You know who you are. All you have to do is walk up to Elayne Pelz and hand her the money to pay for your membership in Conucopia. You won't see a smile from her, but I can assure you of a feeling from deep within when you hear her say; 'Finally.' Oh, what a feeling!

"The rest of us will have to settle for the satisfaction of having attended the meeting and participated. (I don't know how you'll feel to know that every word spoken will find its way to the website faster than it can be retracted, thanks to Chaz Baden. Let's make the best of it.)"

Contrails

Fanzine Manifesto was held in Stockholm on March 12-13 covering all kinds of fanzines. Foreign guests included Seth Friedman of *Factsheet Five*. Wolf von Witting and Ahrvind Engholm presented a slide show about the origin and history of fanzines, opening the eyes of some punk music fans who thought *they* invented fanzines in the '70s. Zines on display included Sweden's first sf fanzine, *Cosmos News*, and American productions *Warhoon 28* and *Null-F*.

Grants are still being made from Conadian's post-con surplus. The organization behind the 1994 Worldcon helps conventions upgrade equipment, pay for special guests and hold events. Committees apply by sending an outline of their plans to the Conadian Board, stating what the con can afford and what it hopes to receive as a grant. Mail to: Conadian, PO Box 2003, Winnipeg, MB, R3C 3R3 Canada. *[[Source: CONtract v.11 n.1]]*

Anaconism, Denver's winter science fiction/space/Internet convention, has folded after four years. The con was led by Bruce and Michelle Dane and Margaret Rosenberg, among others. Sourdough Jackson, in the March issue of *DASFax*, says the con suffered from a date that conflicted with major mundane sports and

business events, and most of all from its failure to develop strong ties with the local fan group which tended not to join or volunteer for the con.

Belfast Bids for Corflu: Belfast fans Tommy Ferguson, Eugene Doherty and Mark McCann want to bring Corflu to Northern Ireland in 2001. "Our view is that Belfast, being the spiritual home of Irish Fandom for over fifty years, has much to offer a small, friendly, fanzine convention.

[[Source: Australian SF Bullshead 109]]

Aussiecon Three will bring *Babylon 5's* J. Michael Straczynski to the con as a Special Guest. This will be Straczynski's first visit to Australia, and his only public appearance on this trip. Down Under will be at the Worldcon. He was also a special guest of the 1998 Worldcon, though health problems prevented him from attending.

The final itinerary for **Ron and Val Ontell's** post Aussiecon 3 tour can be found at:

members.tripod.com/aussiecon_tour

The Nieuw Amsterdam in '04 Bid is now official, writes **Brian Burley**. Their motto: "The Great Fannish Inclusion Act." People can contact us at bearcat13@hotmail.com

John Mansfield notes in *CONtract* that **Western Canada** will have only three sf cons in 1999 -- two of them on the same weekend.

Archaeologists Don't Dig the Dolphin and Swan

Looking past Philadelphia in 2001, where will the next East Coast Worldcon be? Anyone thinking about bidding Orlando should be warned that the Disney World site looks good on paper but is getting very bad word-of-mouth publicity from attendees of a recent conference.

The Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion, a Worldcon-sized gathering of 7,300 scholars, met in Orlando's Dolphin and Swan convention facilities. Scholars were bitterly dissatisfied with the experience. Editor Herschel Shanks' report in *Biblical Archeology Review* ("A Mickey Mouse Operation", March/April 1999 issue) declared, "It will

be a long time before the Annual Meeting returns to Orlando."

Shanks complained about the poor setup for his own panel, a mistake Worldcons could easily avoid, but he also described some real problems with the facilities that would be detrimental to a Worldcon.

"Many of us got an unwanted wake-up call at 6 a.m. that the hotel staff couldn't seem to turn off. The hotel operator explained that there was nothing they could do about it; the problem was with the 'computer in the basement'.... The wake-up calls went out randomly, the operator told me.

"Even when wide awake, it was difficult to find the various conference rooms where a particular session was being held. The Dolphin Hotel is not only architecturally complex (even more than the ancient structures we were trying to study), but extremely poorly designed. And there were very few people to ask for directions.....

"Buffet and restaurant lines were impossibly long and slow -- and expensive... And we were trapped. You couldn't walk to a nearby restaurant." A cab into town cost \$25, and the fare to the airport was \$44. Hanks shared the ride to the airport: "One of my fellow passengers remarked about the 'groundswell of dissatisfaction' with Disney World that most participants were talking about. The other quipped, 'It is a volcanic groundswell.' The anger in many cases was palpable."

So 7,300 academics and archaeologists gave a thumbs down to the expense and isolation of the Dolphin and Swan site.

In one of life's wonderful ironies, the place they're meeting next year is -- Boston.

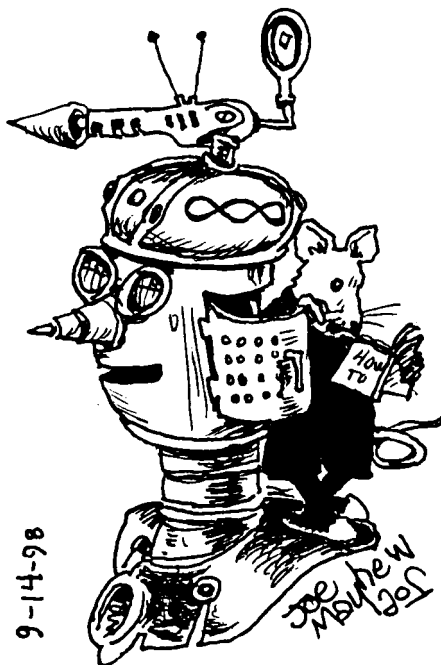
The Chicon Page

Chicon 2000 Programming

Steven Silver will head up the Programming Division at Chicon 2000, replacing the late Ross Pavlac. The post was vacant for over a year. Silver wrote to his inherited staff, "Knowing how much Ross wanted to run programming at a worldcon, and knowing how much experience

he had, has made it difficult for me to agree to accept the Chicon Programming Chair."

Fans who want to help with the program should e-mail Silver at shsilver@ameritech.net



[[On the theory that it's never too early to start thinking about what you want to see during your next Worldcon trip, E. Michael Blake reports on his visit to Chicago's newly-renovated Adler Planetarium.]]

Dodecagons in Flight: The Debut of Adler Planetarium's New Sky Show Theatre

by E. Michael Blake

The renovation of the Adler Planetarium in Chicago has progressed to the point that part of the new structure opened to the public in January. The key attraction of the opening, on January 8, was the debut of the StarRider Theatre, which offers a few audience-interactive twists to the presentation of a planetarium sky show. Though the Evans & Sutherland-designed system is a big improvement over the old Zeiss-projector theatre in Adler's still-being-renovated central rotunda, there were a few shortcomings in the debut show. While this observer (who

saw it on January 25, a Monday) judged the show to be worthwhile, it's probably not one that warrants booking a special trip to Chicago solely for the sake of this one experience.

Adler has always benefitted from a spectacular location on a peninsula that runs eastward into Lake Michigan, from roughly one mile south of the Loop and the appeal of a stroll along the shoreline, with its view of downtown, has kept the area popular (several times, this location has been in films and on television) even as the physical plant of the planetarium itself gradually crumbled over the decades. For the past several years, the original rotunda entrance has been closed, and one entered through a newer outbuilding that led to basement exhibit areas and, eventually, the rotunda. The Planetarium, however, has finally joined in the modernization effort spearheaded by city government for what is now the "museum campus" (Adler plus the nearby Shedd Aquarium and the Field Museum of Natural History). Lake Shore Drive has been rerouted to make it possible for visitors to walk from one museum to the other with far less danger of being mowed down. Private donations and grant money have popped up in surprising quantity, most notably for the acquisition last year by the Field Museum of "Sue", believed to be an essentially complete T. rex fossil still encased in rock; for some time to come, the "Sue" exhibit will entail viewing the work area in which the extraction is taking place. McDonald's, based in the Chicago area, put up much of the money for this. Insert your own joke here; everyone in the metro area has already done so.

While Field snagged "Sue" and the Shedd spruced up its exterior, Adler got a later start but work is proceeding apace, and the entirely renovated planetarium is scheduled to open this coming October, easily in time for ChiCon 2000. The museum campus is a long walk from the ChiCon hotels roughly a mile and a half, one way. The good news is that the walk is through Grant Park, along the lakefront. The bad news is that Labor Day weekend in Chicago is often miserably hot and muggy. Public transportation (i.e., the occasional bus) reaches all of the



museums.

The StarRider Theatre at Adler is smaller than the old theatre in the central dome, and seats about 160. The sound amplification is excessive for this space; Adler has already drafted a handout cautioning that young children may respond adversely. The text of the show is mainstream planetarium-speak, almost indistinguishable from shows of several years ago save for some points made on the star-stuff-ness of everything on Earth, thanks to the violent demises of earlier stars. Visually, the overall experience is quite nice, with mostly good effects marred here and there by curiously obvious gaffes. Interstellar gases looked good, properly illuminated and moving in many-layered curtains that made full use of the viewing dome. Individual stars, and later galaxies, swept across the dome serenely, in almost dizzying depth and profusion. This observer often felt nearly afloat, drawn fully into the illusion. (Note: From some of the pre-debut publicity, it was possible to get the impression that the theatre was an enormous,

EPCOT-style flight simulator, with actual motion provided; this is not the case, at least not in this show.)

Wavefronts from exploding stars were less convincing. For the most part, the artwork and general rendering of planets and other solid bodies was first-rate, but the mistakes on these large objects were especially noticeable. As the viewer "approaches" a planet, its initial growth from point source to medium-small disc is apparently rendered by one process which often makes the body look like a dodecagon, instead of a circle and its later growth from medium-small disc to looming monstrosity is rendered by another process, because the takeover is noticeable (as the dodecagon is replaced by a superimposed circle). There were also halts and jumps in the movements of these bodies, again made more noticeable by the precision and detail of everything else.

The "interactive" part of the show is an interruption in the middle, guided by a live host. The right armrest of each seat has a lighted touchpad with which the audience can guide the movement of a

presumptive space probe through obviously computer-rendered surface features. With a large portion of every audience likely to be kids (as it was even on Monday, with a field-trip group present), the show's attempt to have everyone work the touchpads just the right way to guide the probe seems doomed every time out. It also doesn't help that the "up" and "down" controls are counterintuitive one pushes the bottom button to go up, the top to go down. If this was an attempt to simulate an aircraft throttle, it doesn't translate well to a flat surface. Still, the kids seemed to enjoy crashing into planets and other spacecraft.

As far as the building is concerned, everything that's currently open to the public is in a new pavilion adjoining the outside of the old rotunda, about two-thirds of the way around, on the lake side. A cafeteria is on the north end, with that terrific view of downtown. Aside from StarRider, the rest of the space is given over mostly to static exhibits, though there is a small 3-D video theatre (glasses, but no seating, provided) and an alcove with a TV running various astronomical video clips (seating provided, glasses irrelevant).

At present, a ticket for both Adler admission and one viewing of StarRider is \$10 for anyone 13 or older, \$9 for anyone 12 or younger. Parking in the adjoining lot is \$7. Weekends and holidays figure to be quite crowded; I made a point of taking the family when our son had a day off school, but most of the kids in the metro area didn't. The planetarium opens at 9 a.m., and the first StarRider show is at 10. Adler clearly has some kinks to work out, as indicated by its attempt to schedule a show every thirty minutes, while the show itself is promoted as lasting for thirty-three. At about 12:40 p.m., there was an announcement that seating for the noon show was about to begin; this lag seemed likely to attenuate throughout the day.

Bottom line: If you've got the time and need an outing, check it out. Otherwise, don't bust a gut to get there. It's a very nice show, and it may indeed be the first facility of its kind, but it won't change your life.

The Fanivore



Harry Warner, Jr.

The 128th issue of *File 770* contains the usual quantity of informative and thought-provoking material, and the unfortunate modern innovation of several obituaries for fans each issue. I wish you could arrange for the last-mentioned inclusions to be dropped for lack of deaths in the science fiction field.

Jerry Pournelle's adventure scared me to death because of my own concern about getting stuck somewhere out in the outback with a broken down auto. I can no longer walk more than a mile or two at a time, so my old consolation that I could always walk from the immobilized vehicle to a telephone has withered away. Besides, it's less safe nowadays to stop at a house out in the country and ask to use the telephone, because it has a one-in-five chance of arousing suspicions that the visitor is a drug investigation agent on a hot trail. I now carry around a can of the gunk that is supposed to reinflate flat tires and keep them unflat for a few miles of

driving and I got a cellular phone for the sole purpose of calling for help in emergency conditions. So it turned out three days ago that my car did become unmovable while it was parked in front of my home. The tire inflator and cellular phone were superfluous this time.

And I see that Joe Mayhew and I have something in common, even though it took fifty years and more for it to happen. Tachycardia didn't put me in the hospital, not yet at least, but it kept me out of the armed forces when my draft number came up during World War II.

Sotheby's seems to have been doing a good bit of business with fantasy and science fiction items in recent years. I've just acquired a catalog of a 1995 sale devoted solely to these subjects, both involving the written word and graphic stories, plus a lot of originals by celebrated artists in the field. I don't think this was the Ackerman auction, to judge from many of the lots, but it could have been. The estimated bidding ranges indicate that Sam Moskowitz's collection should bring phenomenal prices, allowing for the inflation of the past four years.

[[*About David Bratman's "Shibboleths of Fandom" article:*]] Teresa Nielsen Hayden has a kindred spirit in Hagerstown. When I was reporting to and for the local dailies, the civil defense director for the city and county was Elbert B. O'Keefe. Every time I wrote something that mentioned his name, I had a premonition of disaster, and I never misled by my instinct for the future. I can't remember that this name ever appeared in print correctly. Elbert almost always got changed to Albert by a copy reader or a typesetter. The second "f" never made it to the printed page, except on a few special occasions when the last name was correct in print but the middle initial was wrong. I tried writing sic once or twice in my news stories about him, but gave up when that word was included in the article just as I'd written it. No, he denied all relationship to the artist who also suffered from O'Keefe references throughout her life and even after she became famous.

Lloyd Penney

Those January blizzards that chased Guy Lillian III back south were fierce indeed, for they hit Toronto hard. Those storms dumped about five feet of snow on Toronto all at once. After a decade of relatively mild winters the city was unprepared for such a snowfall, and many people (including Yvonne and I) had an impromptu two-day vacation as it was nearly impossible to go anywhere. Some streets remained unplowed for weeks.

My own shibboleth...few people seem able to spell my last name. Just think of the department store, and spell it with an EY at the end. Then again, there's a lot of people who still can't spell Lloyd...

Joe Mayhew is spot on with what should be fandom's goal, excellence and success when it comes to fanac. However, from my working, we all know that this is what rarely happens. Too many events have fallen flat because one or more persons on the committee or executive has done a half-assed job, and when confronted with that half-assed job, shrug their shoulders and walk away. Even volunteers need to be held accountable for their actions, or lack thereof.

I can't help but feel that Dragon*Con's move to the Labor Day weekend will hurt both Dragon*Con and Worldcon. With the idea that the Atlanta con will take the fringe fans away from Worldcon to Worldcon's benefit, we lose sight of two things...one, there has to be some determination which interests and fans are to be labelled "fringe" (who's going to do that? who'd dare?), and two, the color of the "fringe" fans' money is the very same as anyone else's. An afterthought...what could this move do to any future Atlanta Worldcon bids, or any other bids from the Southern states?

The Toronto in 2003 bid had delegates lined up to go to the Colorado Springs SMOFcon, but Peter and Athena Jarvis had to cancel their trip at the last minute because of family illness. The rest of the committee didn't know that the Jarvises hadn't gone until after the con,

when a few people informed us that we'd committed a major blunder by not sending anyone to the con. We do intend to go to the New Orleans SMOFcon this year.

I do know of some local fans whose only social contact is with a club, and that seems to be sufficient for them. Some I'd call losers, others I wouldn't. We all find our level of involvement. The value of a club to me is as a launchpad to other areas of fandom, while keeping the club as an anchor. The club also displays the length of breadth of fandom to what few new members it may get.

Michael Nelson

I want to thank you for your kind Bucconeer review in *File 770:126*. I would just like to add that while Michael Rosen built and helped design the Bucconeer Hugo bases, it was Martin Deutsch and Mike Mannes who did the majority of the design work. I listened in fascination as they reported on the evolution of their design efforts at committee meetings over the years. Their original plan actually called for blocks of white marble, which is used for door steps for many old Baltimore houses. We occasionally spoke of placing a Hugo rocket in a bottle as a fitting pirate gag. This was my first Worl-dcon as an "insider" and watching plans such as the design of the Hugo bases come together are some of my fondest memories of Bucconeer.

Ian Stockdale

I've enjoyed the Bucconeer reports from you and others. Ruth and I had a good time in Baltimore, attending the program, helping out and making new friends. It is hard not to agree with all those who found the con too spread out -- the Fan Lounge was in one hotel we got to three times over the entire con, and we only had twice your number of visits to the apparently well-stocked con suite. Still, so much went well, and what didn't was dealt with as effectively as possible.

The discussion of clubs has been interesting. We are involved in theater (a big reason we don't know about the local

clubs), and you can see similar factors at work. A number of companies were founded about 20-25 years ago. Some founders who no longer have the time or energy to take charge to exert the same force of opinion they did years ago while others do the heavy lifting. Or, there may be room for new people with ideas, but we are much busier at work than our predecessors twenty years ago and so there still aren't quite enough workers. Still, for the most part we muddle through and have a good time doing it.

Fiona Anderson

I liked the shibboleths article *[[in File 770:128]]*, and it reminded me that when I used to tell mundane friends about what I did for a hobby, blank incomprehension was slowly replaced by "chocolate! swimming! cheap hotel!" in their minds, shifting congoing from an activity for weirdos to an activity for enjoyment. Mundanes have their own shibboleths...

Onto Cheryl's brief comment about attendance at the Tun: It's now moved location to somewhere actually civilized. Somewhere that you can actually pass from one end of the room to the other without far more intimate physical contact than you'd ever wanted even with your best friends being the only way to make any movement at all.

It wasn't just the smallness of the Jubilee that was vile, but also that it had a significant number of mundanes as well as fans trying to use the tiny space, making the whole thing deeply trying indeed. The new location has three major advantages, it's big enough to fit a couple of hundred fans, and to my untutored eye it looked as though that might be what there was on the first try-out night; it's upstairs with it's own bar, so the mundanes can have plenty of room downstairs too without encroaching on fans, and it doesn't have the ear-blastingly loud music played all the time at the old Wellington location. All in all, quite a huge improvement!

Lastly, thanks for the mention of the ESE (European Smoffing Event). We've had a lot of fun putting this together, with people from many of the different Euro-

pean nationalities represented in our group, either as committee or as helpers. But the criterion for asking someone wasn't their nationality, but whether or not they were known to us as a useful person. And despite the fact it's a *europa-*an smoffing event, we do have one American on our team too - this is because we believe that having a focus (european) shouldn't be any limit to adhere in a rigidly blinkered way to. Anyone who wants details of how to join should contact myself (fiona@intersec.demon.co.uk).

We don't have facilities to handle dollar payments, but our rates are damned cheap anyway (currently GBP7 until Trinity, Eurocon 99) and it's probably possible to find some USan coming to Eastercon who could help out...

Elizabeth Ann Osborne

I have been in many different clubs and have found that the dynamics that run each club are similar. Recruitment is very necessary: it can also be very disappointing. For example: at a con your group talks to 75 people; 50 people will walk off with flyers, etc.; about 20 will leave their name for a mailing list; less than 10 will ever attend a meeting and only one or two will become active members of your club. This is one of the reasons why recruitment is both so important and so hard to do.

Many SF clubs that I have been in have focused on getting members from the late teens and early twenties. Recruiting or focusing on college campuses or army bases may bring you a new group of members but on the other hand it almost promotes a huge turnover. Not only do these people have a high rate of mobility, they move, change jobs, get transferred and marry. All three of these reasons suddenly create a major change in the amount of free time that people have. The 80% non-return rate on guests at LASFS meetings is about what I've seen at most clubs.

Eric Lindsay

Mention of our trip to the USA in *File 770:127* makes me wonder if perhaps our travels would be more newsworthy if we

announced when we were not travelling? No more travel until after Aussiecon Three. Mind you, we did drive Jean's new car to the mall. Headed inland for 20 kilometers until we reached the main highway, turn right, then 287 kilometers until we reached the first traffic light. Jean bought two swimsuits and an ice cream. Then we turned around and drove home. In February we drove back to Sydney to clear out my house. Only a 5000 kilometer round trip.

Your editorial *[[in File 770:128]]* reminds me that old fans return, and revive the clubs of their youth. Graham Stone, who is listed in Harry Warner's *All Our Yesterdays* as being a member of the Futurian club in Sydney in the 1940's, is once again a regular at the revived Futurian meetings in Sydney.

Marie Rengstorff

I do not turn my computer on in the middle of a storm. Pens really do still function.

I had thought that your home in Sierra Madre was up in the mountains, and therefore, you know what I go through most winters. When you moved (a few miles) I discovered that you, all along, have been living in the Great Southern California megalopolis. Back in 1968, I was the swimming pool director at the Girl Scout Camp in Azusa which is near you. Azusa is hot and dry. *[[I know where that is -- after all, Diana is an English professor at Azusa Pacific University.]]*

I feel an overwhelming, pointless urge to describe a typical storm in the real Sierras. It is early February and we are in the middle of storm #27 by my count. (I did not count the first few snowstorms back in October. Those early storms never dumped more than two feet of snow each and now more than ten feet of snow in total.) There are only about four more months of snowstorms to go, if we are lucky. June is not normally a snowstorm month -- but that is another story....

But it is early February and storm #27 is impacting my day. I got up at 5 a.m. to get to an 8 a.m. class. Add, carry

the dog to a clear place in the snow because the snow is higher than the dog, and dig the ice/snow berm from across the end of the driveway because the berm is bigger than the car, to the usual get-up routine.

Because of the proliferation of snow, the schools, city offices, courts, banks and Jazzercise classes are closed today. But I teach at the college and the college does not take "snow days."

The driving to-and-from was a bit frightening. My car was pitched sideways like a leaf in the wind because of the deep ruts in the snow.

Most roads are closed, one because of several avalanches. A couple of highways are closed for avalanche control. When I'm outside, I can hear the cannons blasted at the mountains and then the snow rumbling down.

The snow is coming down so fast that the road crews cannot keep up. We have more than one plow per square mile, but even the tallest trucks are scraping high center.

For now I'll close because I have to go blow the new 36" of snow out of my driveway. I could have sworn I had my driveway down to black just 20 hours ago. I love my snowblower, but it weighs 850 pounds. It goes forward and back by itself, drawn by an eight-horse engine, but someone has to turn it when it reaches the end of the driveway. I am 5' 2" and do not weigh close to 850 pounds, but I think I'm elected. My 10-pound dog absolutely refuses.

I cannot tell you how appealing my house in Hawaii is today. All six pair of my boots are already wet.

Allan Burrows

I'll tell you what, Mike, I'll give Patten rope, all the rope he wants.

Regarding Dragon*Con moving to Labor Day weekend, I spoke to the treasurer of Toronto's 2003 bid the other day. He hadn't heard of the problem, but he didn't think it would cause them any trouble, not off-hand anyway.

Personally, I'm offended. I can't see how two very large cons running opposite could help but affect each other, and

Worldcon had Labor Day first. Still, as the saying goes, thugs will do what thugs will do. (Nothing personal, you understand.) My advice to Worldcons after 2001 would be to move back to bank holiday weekend, the first Monday in August. This might hurt Dragon*Con's attendance, but they want to shrink anyway, so no harm done.

Sorry to hear about Vincent Clarke. I only met him the once, at the Tun after Conspiracy, but he seemed like an excellent fellow. And 76 isn't even particularly old these days, is it?

You know, I'd never even met John Millard. Heard of him, of course....

It occurs to me, you know, that we ought to be celebrating the lives of people like Clarke and Millard and Gunn and all while they're still alive. It's a lot more fun when they can raise a glass with you, which is difficult for the existentially challenged!

[[I agree with that. Would someone reading this be willing to show us the way?]]

Gene Stewart

Thanks for *File 770:128*, the cover of which was excellent, if a tad on the Little Fuzzy side. Where's her other sandal, though? Tsk, tsk.

As for "What Is An SF Fan?" -- well, many clubs or discussion groups are drawn together by common reading lists, enthusiasm about a particular writer's work, TV show, movie series, and the like. Whether there are still those who even try to read the core sf stories and novels, I'm not sure, but I'll bet there are because I'm one. Of course, I'm 41 and while there might be younger fans doing this, finding them might be a chore. Asimov WHO? is a shuddersome thought.

"Shibboleths of Fandom" by David Bratman was an excellent article. I've always heard and used skiffy as an ironic mockery of the misunderstanding That Buck Rogers Stuff creates in mundanes, sort of like Aframs using the N-word amongst themselves or something. Stone Fans is still useful, but you're right about it not having caught on really, probably because of the emphasis wandering.

Joseph T. Major's lament that imagination seems inversely proportional to sfx quality rings true, but I'd suggest that a large part of the problem is that Hollywood favors youth over all else, and this leads studios to hire writers too young to have read many novels, even if they happen to be literate and not post-literate, which is unlikely in these media days. Also, his remarks about how many alleged writers an alleged script must go through to reach film were dead on, tant pis.

Mike Glicksohn's a bit ungenerous in sneering at lonely folks who may find solace and company in sf clubs. Calling people Losers and parroting that banal phrase Get A Life are two things unworthy of fans or fandom, and disappointing in the extreme to see in print. However, the image of him naked but for an electrified dog-collar more than made up for it. What kind of party WAS that?

Sally Syrjala's wonderful "The net is all well and good, but I view it as a world of bytes in more ways than one" cracked me up and has me nodding in agreement. And I concur with her lament for the Can Do attitude -- which often leads me to comment that Aussies are more American than Americans these days. Where'd our confidence and pride go? How come we're so fearful and so fixated on the twin chimeras of security and safety? Hell, even our art reflects this deflation of ego.

As for the *X-Files*'s coolness, among other things it's a great technique for allowing the audience to project into each character and episode all its own emotions and reactions -- thus fans of *X-Files* range from hardened skeptics to unblinking believers, without a conflict arising from the show's content. By underplaying and deadpanning, Duchovny, Anderson, and Company have made the *X-Files* all things to anyone who enjoys a good melodrama. And that's no mean accomplishment in this age of simplistic post-literate kleptoculture and No Subtlety Allowed.

Good to hear that at least Lan Laskowski's stable now, but bad to hear of the pain. As he says, a positive attitude and loving support does wonders. Let's

all focus some positive energy his way and hope that he's better soon.

Robert Sacks

I am absolutely flabbergasted at Robert Whitaker Sirignano's remark that I "feel that the Hugo Awards should be redubbed 'Popularity Awards', where the 'Best' novel of the year is no longer the 'best' in terms of quality ..."

I can think of nothing I have said or done that would justify this aspersion. If my memory serves me correctly, at a recent Worldcon Business Meeting I led the Objection to Consideration against just such a motion.

Whatever my personal opinion about the validity of popular awards, as a participant in the Business Meeting I do nothing to derogate them.

Elizabeth Osborne

I like the cover. The fuzzy animal series is really nice. I guess this is the Christmas cover, huh? Someone got some really nice gifts.

Jerry Pournelle's story of traveling through Death Valley on foot was scary. My family keeps pushing me to get a cell phone. Pournelle really could have used one.

[[He actually did have one, but the middle of Death Valley is out of range of phone service.]]

"Shibboleths of Fandom" by David Bratman was a good idea but I would have liked more examples from different fandoms. I am sure that costuming, fanzine or many other groups have their own lingo. A neo will often not only know the term, but also, if known, use it in the wrong way. I've known neos in the SCA who heard a word or a phrase only to use it in a way that lacked tact and made them look rude. That was not what they wanted to do.

I already wrote to you about your clubs article, but I've noticed some of your other responses. One item which I remember was the fact that fandom was really a very small group pre-1970. The average convention attendance was about 200 people, worldcon attendance between

500-1000. It was a *small* group. I was not a member of fandom at this time, but I became a member in the late '70s when fandom, due in part to media sf, exploded. Attendance at conventions went through the roof and all you heard from older fans was "Who are these people and they don't have anything to really do with fandom." They did everything they could to drive these fans off and now they are looking around asking "Where are all the young fans?"

Fans have revelled into fringes because they were told they were not welcome at "our cons, our clubs, our parties" and to leave and not come back. Well, many of them did and the result is that fewer new fans are interested in traditional fandom. Professional trade shows have taken over the job of media fandom conventions. They're completely uninterested in "fannish tradition" and the ideals of Asimov and Dozois, simply how much money they can make. When traditional fandom shuts the door to groups, they risk the loss of a generation of new fans. I was lucky, I attended my first cons as a media fan and learned about fandom in general. Today, I don't see fans getting the same consideration.

Gene Stewart

Thanks for File 770:126. Love the flip-pable zip. And congratulations on the new house: sounds nice.

News of Fandom -- Firetrucks falling on people, tornadoes booming and crashing -- it's becoming dangerous to be a fan as the millennium approacheth.

What a fabulous Buccaneer report; concise, witty, and detailed. And I'm glad to know that it wasn't the disaster many expected. Fun is usually something you need to bring along, so maybe fans ought to let optimism into their expectations occasionally. Not so much that they'd cease being fans, of course, but still....

Stan Schmidt probably pointed out that typo out of knee-jerk editor habits, don't you think?

Your assessments of the con's good and bad points seem fair and the overall impression left by this report is that I'd like to have been there. And the serendip-

ity of Diana replacing Pournelle can't be beat.

John Hertz's Westercon notebook was more impressionistic and dense, and I didn't get on as well with it.

We Also Heard From

Brad Foster: I know it's hard to tell right off if a brand new baby will decide to grow up to become fannish, but I think any fans who have babies should start to send the announcements in to *File 770*, to toss in some balance to the depressing obituaries. Just a thought. stay happy.

Stan Burns: *[[Pointing out a typo in last issue:]]* "so the problem has yet to be undiagnosed." Yeah, I have to see the Undoctor about that one....

James Taylor: Enclosed is something you probably never thought to see, another issue of *Johnny Mop Journal*. Yes, all those sacrifices of small animals in the wee hours of the morning, all those attempts to drive me out of fandom by sending me issues of *File 770* and yes all those women you sent to distract me have failed.

Here from *The Fortress That Elvis Built* I again issue the most neglected, underappreciated and overlooked fan magazine in the history of Henderson (Nevada!)!!!

Henry Welch: The club stuff is interesting in that it shows the wide diversity of what works in one area versus another. I suspect it may all boil down to key personalities which will never be really quantifiable.

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