



FILE 770 FIFTY

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CONSTELLATION BAILOUT NEARS SUCCESS

At Philcon '84 (November 16-18) Craig Miller, co-chairman of L.A.con II, turned over a \$10,000 check representing the Worldcon's donation to the ConStellation bailout consortium.

Reached by phone in Boston on December 12, Rick Katze, president of MCFI and an organizer of the ConStellation bailout, described its progress to date -- progress that amounts to almost complete success.

WHO'S HELPING TO BAIL OUT CONSTELLATION?

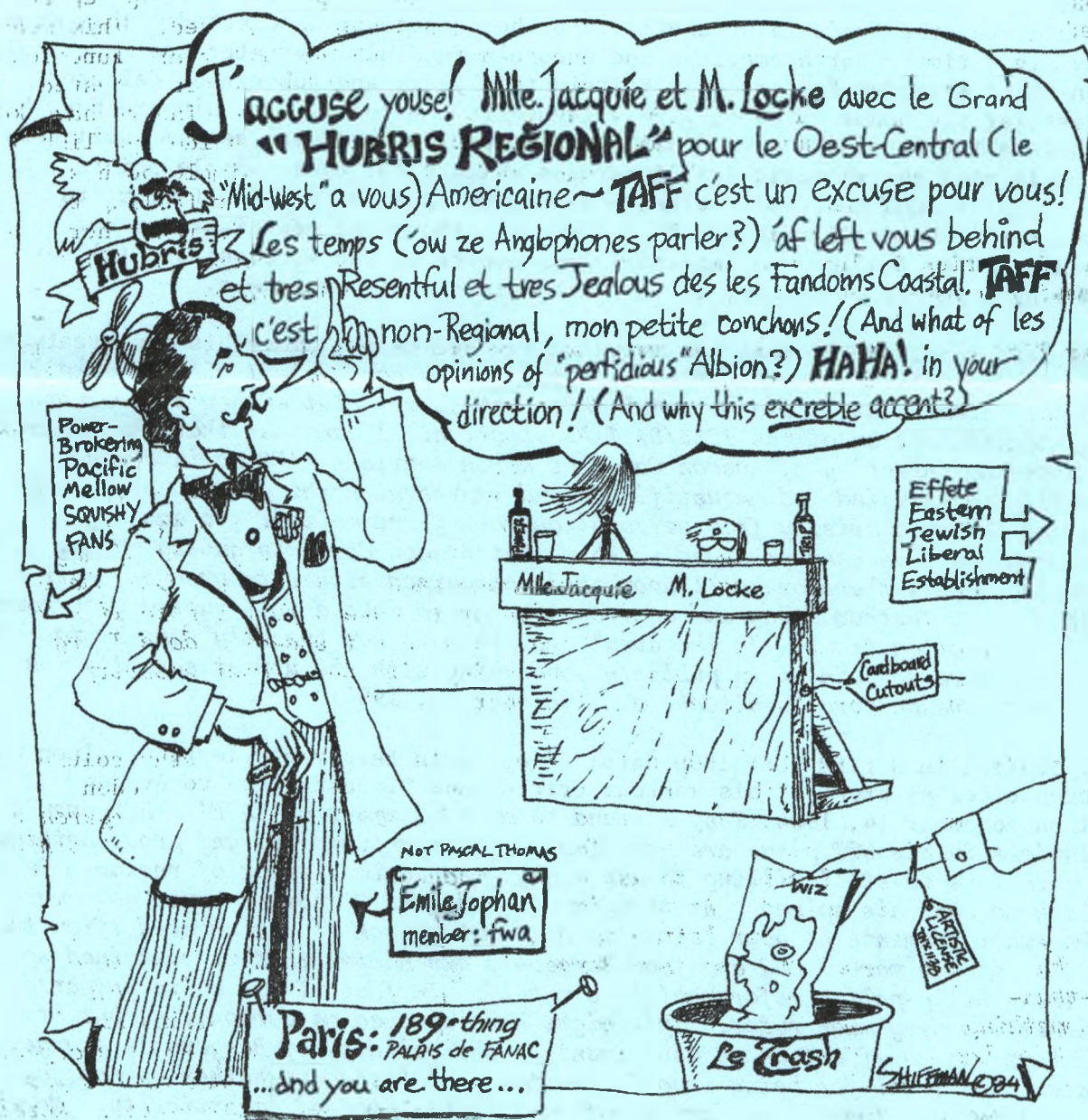
MCFI (Noreascon II)	\$ 10,000
SCIFI (L.A.con II)	10,000
ChiCon IV	5,000*
Westercon 37 (Portland)	1,200*
WSFA	1,000
PSFS	1,000
Misc. individuals	1,000
	<u>\$ 29,200</u>

Katze recently received signed assignments of debt from Exhibit Aids and ConStellation's phone service company, meaning that every unpaid debtor of the convention except the printer has agreed to the bailout arrangement. At the beginning of the year the printer was owed \$14,500, and according to Katze, was still owed the largest single chunk out of \$38,000 of ConStellation's remaining bills. The printer has not submitted an assignment to the consortium, and was recently sent a letter informing him that he will not receive a share of the bailout fund unless he does sign the settlement. Should he fail to act within the time allowed, Katze says they'll pay off the other creditors at 100% of what is owed. Should the printer accept the settlement, everyone will receive their proportionate share of the \$29,200 -- which would work out to over 75 cents on the dollar.

Asterisked (*) amounts on the bailout scoreboard indicate promises where the amount has yet to be received by MCFI. Westercon 37, Portland fandom, says it will send 12.5% of the con's surplus funds to the bailout when they close their books. The con had a \$10,518 surplus as of September 25; Katze is working with a \$1200 estimate. ChiCon IV set several conditions on its \$5,000 commitment, which may already have been met to their satisfaction: FILE 770 has never received a copy of the Mike Walsh letter, but others have, and I'm not sure ChiCon IV is really concerned about F770 getting a copy since the editor, yours truly, seems to have gotten the story about their "conditions" out of context when editorialized on in RATTAIL FILE. (One of the lesser conditions was that a copy of the letter go to F770.) Better informed fans tell me that Ross Pavlac is to be credited with persuading the ChiCon IV board to make a donation under any conditions at all, rather than to be criticize_d for the existence of a set of conditions.

WIMPY ZONES STRIKES BACK

Summer's intramural sniping about the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) has graduated to become winter's principal fannish pasttime. Reams of text about the feud have poured forth from every corner of the globe, (except Highmore, S.D.) The TAFF feud already involved some of the bitterest personal name-calling since the Summer of '78 and the events surrounding Iguanacon -- but now it has branched out to become an intersectional cause-celebre. In that vein past TAFF administrator Stu Shiffman, a New York fancartoonist, has drawn the political message printed below. As Bruce Pelz said of a 60s feud, "Never get a fanartist mad at you." When you finish



this segment, you'll know who Stu Shiffman -- a former TAFF winner and administrator -- was mad at, and be able to decipher the meaning of his references, if not of his Franco American meatball dialect.

WHERE'S LANDSAT WHEN YOU NEED IT? Let us review what happened in the last chapter of this cliffhanger. Before the Worldcon, Richard Bergeron of Puerto Rico and the Dakota apartments (New York) fusilladed Avedon Carol of Kensington, Maryland, and any other individual who disagreed with Bergeron's opinions, with fanzines and correspondence designed to criticize her administration of the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF)..

TAFF has been funding individuals since the 1950s to cross the Atlantic and represent their respective fannish homelands to fans on the other side of "the Pond." In practice, Britain and American fans have alternated sending a delegate across the Atlantic: the winner is expected to publish a trip report, and administer the fundraising until his or her successor is elected. This means at any given time a North American and European fund administrator are functioning. Avedon Carol attended Eastercon in Britain this year, and Rob Hansen defeated Don West for the honor of being TAFF delegate to L.A.con II. The winners have kept the chain alive by adequate fundraising. Financial records are seldom published. Bearing in mind the rhetoric and bitterness which bloat these simple points into reams of feud material, Bergeron questioned Avedon: (1) for failing to observe strict neutrality in the TAFF election, though as Administrator her responsibilities included an impartial management of the process; and (2) for not making a public accounting of TAFF receipts and disbursements.

Losing TAFF candidate D. West has provided two statements about his own treatment at the hands of Avedon Carol. First: *As the losing candidate I wish to make it absolutely clear that I have no complaints whatsoever about either the result or the administration of the 1983/84 TAFF election. I consider that the attacks made upon the integrity of Avedon Carol as North American TAFF administrator are wholly unjustified and unjustifiable and represent nothing more solid than slurs and innuendo arising from personal animosity and malice. To date no evidence at all has been produced to show that Avedon Carol is guilty of any wrongdoing, and I therefore call upon those concerned either to produce their proofs without further delay and equivocation or to make a full public withdrawal of all their allegations. In the event that this is not speedily done I urge fans everywhere to join me in publicly condemning with the utmost severity the behavior of Avedon Carol's attackers. (October 24, 1984)*

After reading in HOLIER THAN THOU Carol's letter in Bergeron's lengthy column which Bergeron cites as proof of his various criticisms, D. West wrote to Avedon Carol on November 14, 1984: *Yes, I stand by my 'Statement on TAFF'. Bergeron's revelations in his HTT piece are even feebler than anticipated and prove nothing except that he is still willing to use every unscrupulous trick of rhetoric in the book to vent his spleen. At the time I wrote the Statement I was not aware of the exact comments of your letter to him, but I took it for granted (from the fact that it was marked DNQ and from Bergeon's own hints) that it contained some less-than-wholly-polite reference(s) to myself. In fact, I was quite prepared for something very much ruder. This might have annoyed me personally, but it would have had no effect on my assessment of the validity of Bergeron's charges. You aren't on trial for being impolite -- the real issue is whether or not you have violated the (unwritten) rules of confidentiality and impartiality. Merely making a few rude remarks about a candidate to someone who has already voted (and*

who is specifically asked not to repeat what has been said) does not constitute a violation. Bergeron's case is complete nonsense from first to last.

MARTHA BECK FOR TAFF: Amid the strife, Avedon Carol continued to perform her office by preparing the TAFF ballot now circulating, to pick the fan who will go to England from North America. Jackie Causgrove's view of the process from her vantage point in Cincinnati was recounted in ETTLE: The current race's nomination period was announced/ via FILE 770, a California-based newzine, which was mailed out on August 21, 1984, giving a deadline for nominations of September 15, 1984! Many people didn't receive the zine until Labor Day weekend, when Worldcon and other fan gatherings were underway: in effect, there was less than two weeks notice given.

ETTLE appears to have been solely written by Jackie, but represents just one of a handful of TAFF-feud publications circulated by the Jackie Causgrove/Dave Locke household. Considered alone, ETTLE tries to be an objective leadoff discussion of what fans want from TAFF, and how they think it ought to be run. In appearance and tone it resembles the issues of ZINE FAN which preceded the short-lived Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards. By implication it has been inspired by injustices even more controversial than LOCUS' domination of the fanzine Hugo, since Causgrove has elsewhere advocated changes in TAFF and has therefore already declared which of two prevailing opinions she cites in ETTLE is her own: "As I've seen it, there are two essentially opposing viewpoints about the appropriateness of debating TAFF reforms: *TAFF works the way it is. Reforming it would destroy it. *TAFF has grown since its inception. A set of guidelines would offer much help to future participants, as well as form a concrete base from which complaints could be handled." ETTLE 2 is supposed to go to press January 10, 1985. If copies of #1 are still available, they could be requested from Jackie at 6828 Alpine Ave. #4, Cincinnati OH 45236.

Jackie Causgrove wrote last October 22 to FILE 770, "Many convention goers /at Octocon/ expressed the same opinion I hold: they've paid into TAFF for years, yet seldom even see a ballot, much less have a chance to vote for one of their own." One envisions that around Worldcon time, with the TAFF feud coming to a boil, and with midwestern fandom stung by Ben Yalow's reference to a "wimpy zone" during Business Meeting debate about revising the site selection zones, some midwestern fans were ripe for an opportunity to assert themselves. The TAFF nominating deadline



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of September 15, 1984 was imminent. Neither of the known candidates, Rich Coad or Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden in tandem, had a single midwestern fan on his or her slate of nominators; neither is identified as a midwestern fan; neither has been a familiar face on the midwestern convention circuit lately (if ever). Furthermore, some will recall that Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden were on the 1978 worldcon committee that ousted popular midwestern fan Rusty Hevelin from its staff of rescuers, which doubtless counts as a black mark in some circles. So various midwestern fans (Joni Stopa, Rusty Hevelin and Jackie Causgrove, to name those most often mentioned) sought someone from the region to carry their banner for TAFF. But whom? Joni Stopa and Mike Glicksohn were already declared for DUFF, and Rusty Hevelin won DUFF years back, which arguably took them out of the suggestion box. In the end Martha Beck was advanced as the midwest's TAFF candidate. Her fan activity began in the 1950s and has been primarily (but not exclusively, I will attest) devoted to attending conventions. Says Jackie Causgrove, "Martha's been around for so long that her fund of stories, etc., about fans and fans-turned-pro, and even *gasp* sf itself is immense -- I'm certain she'd delight the Eastercon attendees (even those who'd never heard of her.)"

Aye, there's the rub. Martha Beck and British fans are mutually underinformed about each other. Not Martha, but Joni Stopa or Jackie Causgrove (apologies for not having confirmed which one) rounded up British nominators for Beck. A TAFF candidate must submit a 100-word platform, a \$5 performance bond, and signed nominations from two fans on the host continent (Europe next trip) and three fans from the sending side of the Atlantic. Gay Haldeman, Roy Tackett and Jackie Causgrove were to be Martha's North American nominators. A telephonic search finally yielded nominators Paul Skelton and Pete Presford, neither acquainted with Martha but each persuaded to do their bit to promote TAFF. However, the written nominations must actually be received -- in this instance the British nominators had to submit their statements to Kev Smith, outgoing British TAFF administrator serving while TAFF winner Rob Hansen was still stateside. According to Avedon Carol, Skelton's note arrived a few days late and Pete Presford's note came in ten days late, and the Beck performance bond was not received by Avedon. (Other published versions vary in some of these details, but all consistently state Presford delayed in sending his note.) A requirement to have the written nomination into the administrator has not been enforced for the first time in the Beck case: I have nominated people many times, and twice (admittedly for DUFF) was cautioned by the administrator to observe the deadline.

No question that in past years these requirements have been relaxed, and TAFF administrators discussed listing Beck as a candidate on the official ballot, this year. Rob Hansen was reportedly adamant about leaving Beck off, believing a TAFF candidate ought to at least be able to assemble two nominators if anyone is to take them seriously. Avedon Carol asked various fans for advice; mine was to observe the letter of the rules; Avedon is already in a position of doing damage control against accusations that TAFF rules have not been followed.

Learning that Martha Beck had failed to make the ballot, Jackie Causgrove launched a write-in campaign for her, which is provided for in the rules. Jackie wrote to me in October, "I could've picked up 25-30 signed (and paid-for) votes this past weekend alone at Octocon/" and Avedon Carol has received many votes from midwestern fans contacted at conventions since the ballot was published.

Past TAFF administrator Stu Shiffman of New York says, "Grumbling is vaguely heard in the distant island of Britain about the Martha Beck regional campaign being a disenfranchisement of British Fandom as it skews the numbers of the voting,

population. What do you think? Will the Brits be even more thoroughly disenchanted with Amerifandom so as to destroy TAFF itself?" Greg Pickersgill and his American-born wife Linda are circulating a petition in the UK urging a course of action on Rob Hansen which, in effect, would freeze funds in the event of a Beck victory.

TAFF GOES AWAY:

Graham Koch (formerly England) has written to FILE 770 all the way from Germany, wondering whether all the violent noise he's heard about TAFF signals its doom. Koch writes: In EGOSCAN #8 Ted White reacted to WIZ #11 from Richard Bergeron, which seems to have been strong stuff. WIZ #11 apparently accuses the current US TAFF administrator, Avedon Carol, of campaigning for Rob Hansen in the latest TAFF election and of trying to rig the election. This is incredible. I don't believe it, and believed it even less when WIZ #12 arrived. The accusations continue, zines fly to and fro, a new fan feud is born. A question, is Mr. Bergeron the only one to believe it? If not, TAFF is dead.WIZ #12 is enough. If TAFF is dead let's bury it before the smell gets worse than it is now. If Mr. Bergeron is the problem then let's treat him in the traditional way of handling fan feuds -- let's laugh at him.

HO HO HO UP YOUR NOSE: Flack from the TAFF feud has escalated so far past the laughing stage that it has ended a candidacy for the Down Under Fan Fund (whose race is simultaneously under way with TAFF to pick a delegate to Aussiecon in 1985).

BROWN BAILS OUT

rich brown, of Falls Church, VA, and Linda Blanchard (former Seattle-based fan until lately living with rich) have parted. Combined with brown's reaction to recent Bergeron material in HOLIER THAN THOU, that caused Brown to step aside in favor of fellow DUFF contender Mike Glicksohn. brown was so adversely affected by Bergeron's attacks in Cantor's HTT he felt DUFF candidate Marty Cantor "should be held accountable for his actions, and accordingly, hope those voting in this race will have the decency to avoid bestowing a DUFF trip on him." Later brown summarizes, "While I apologize to my supporters and nominators for /withdrawing/ I have to say if the winners of future fan funds are to be made objects of vilification of the kind which Avedon has been subjected to, then I believe winning them will be no honor."

MEANWHILE, BACK ON ARRAKIS: Taking a hiatus from the feud, Avedon Carol joined throngs of pro sf writers at a major cinematic event. Writes Avedon:

"I was invited to the premier of DUNE, and Ted White and I both got into our tuxes for the black tie affair. Lots of fans showed up, and of course a lot of local skiffy authors. Some very odd things were seen -- Alexis /Gilliland/ in a plaid tux, for example. The food after the movie was great (someone offered that

MATA MACHREE (the
woman no man can resist)

SAYS





statement as a review of the film, by the way) -- \$48,000 worth of shrimp, Peking duck, sushi, and god knows what-else. Kyle McLachlan (or whatever his name is) was smiling prettily and being very tolerant while we all cruised him and looked him up and down and said suggestive things -- he looked much better in the movie, of course, but that can't usually be helped. He didn't look like my Muad Dib, but he's acceptable and carries the role off well enough. The casting was good but fussy -- this is one case where I would have approved of the combining of a few characters for clarity. Sting looked like Sting but didn't do much else. The sets, camera work, and attention to detail were all extraordinary, but were turned a little too lovingly and long on the Baron, who was more than my stomach could take.

There is so much right with the movie that it is a real stinking shame there is so much wrong with it. All that sand and all that focusing on the Baron and how nasty he is could have stood a bit of editing in favor of more time spent on a few things that were omitted in their entirety -- especially the relationship between Irulan and Paul, which

simply wasn't there. The development is too detailed in spots and therefore much too slow, and I would even have been willing to forego some of my own favorite bits (like the lovely high-contrast water-drip which I'd love to have running over and over on my bedroom wall in the evening) to speed things up a bit. Alia's character gets no development and one never has a sense that there is anything really different about her. There are some unnecessary shots of people shooting at each other which look like mere boring skirmishes and give no intimation of Jihad -- it would have worked better to have, say, Irulan turn to Paul and say, "Boy, that sure is some Jihad you've got going out there!" or something. And that rainstorm at the end is somewhat unforgiveable. What's all this got to do with ecology? I want to know.

Ted White, when asked for his opinion afterwards at the cocktail buffet, said, "They followed the book -- to a fault." He's right, you know. I wonder how many people who didn't read the book will be able to figure out what the hell is going on. But Lord -- the effects! the camera work! the sets! the cast! It's all really quite...affecting. I'm glad I saw it, but I'm glad I didn't pay five bucks to see it. Christ, my stomach paid...

TAFF-DUFF QUILT: Is Marie Bartlett simply engineering another Midwestern fan fund coverup? Well, actually, she's trying to create a fundraising device, a patchwork quilt of squares made by many fans/clubs, to be auctioned off at the '85 NASFIC. Write to: 646½ N. Fifth, Dekalb IL 60115.

RICH FAN, POOR FAN

Recalling that one of the conditions for ChiCon IV to assist in bailing out ConStellation was that the MCFI consortium commit to some project for educating fans in competent conrunning, with an emphasis on fiscal responsibility, the news points to a few potential enrollees in their course:

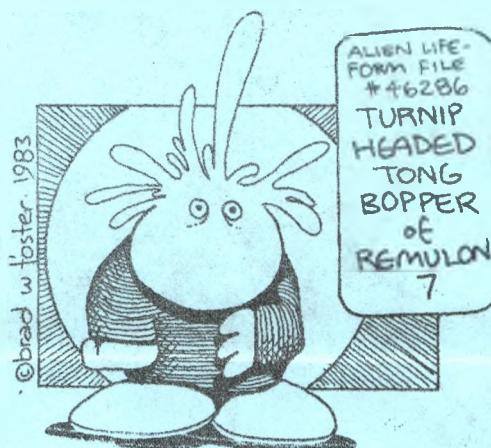
WESTERN RE-CON UNDER CARDIAC ARREST: According to Andrew Porter of SF CHRONICLE, Paul Edwin Zimmer returned with the following story from Western Re-Con II in Salt Lake City, held October 19-21. The chairman of the convention reportedly had a heart attack at the banquet when the Downtown Hilton management presented him with the bill and said they wouldn't serve the food until it was paid. Porter's attempts to verify this story have been frustrated by the con's information number having gone out of service, and no Utah listing for its chairman.

V-CON 12 FINDS HOLE IN POCKET: Held way back on May 25, V-Con 12 closed out its books and reported to the WCSFCCA executive on October 2 that the con had sustained a \$2,446.46 loss. WCSFCCA is the corporate shield for fanac in those parts, and its exec then consisted of Steve Forty, Al Betz, Mike Bailey, Chris Bell, Donna McMahon, Jo-Anne McBride, and Vaughn Fraser. October 2 meeting minutes explained the loss: "There are a number of artists left unpaid and two other bills: the banquet bill (which is still being disputed) and a xeroxing bill. A number of cheques accepted by V-Con bounced, and Ed and Donna noted that V-Con 13 will have a new policy on cheques. Chris noted that he can't give the final figures until there is a financial accounting by Jo-Anne, or until WCSFCCA gets the books from her and does an accounting." What were the primary causes of the loss? "Lack of a Treasurer and a Budget seemed to be the main points." Uh, yeah.

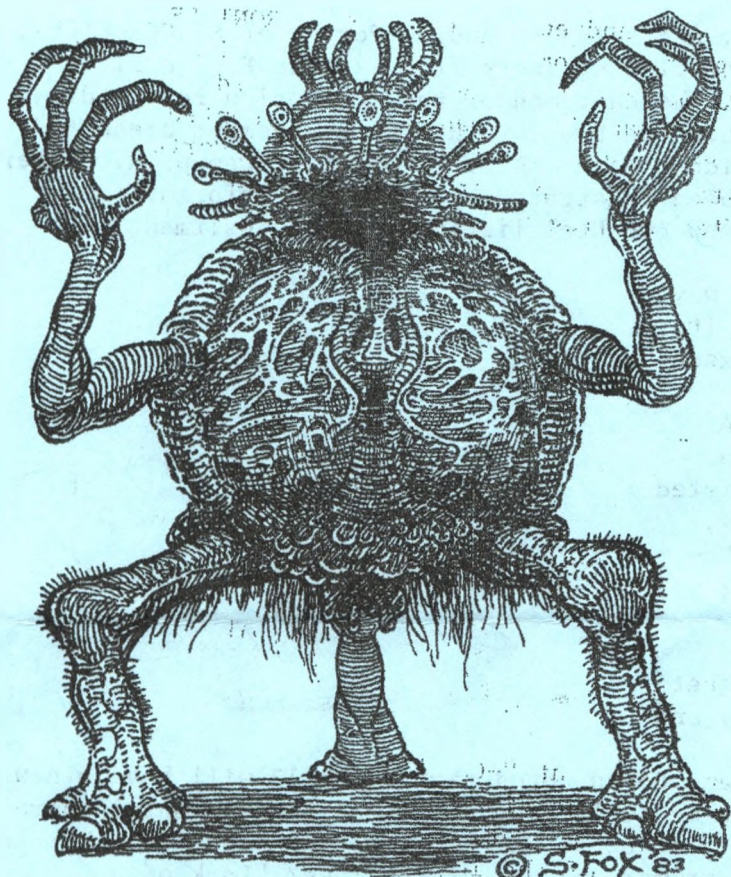
By the WCSFCCA's October 27 meeting, the final accounting showed a loss actually totalling \$2852.11, with BCSFA and WCSFCCA covering \$2,333.13.

GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS: The 1984 Westercon (#37, in Portland OR) published its balance sheet as of 9/25/84, reporting a \$10,518.74 surplus. They also listed a breakdown by percentage of the organizations who will receive the money. Oregon Science Fiction Conventions Inc. will skim 45%; the Susan C. Petrey Clarion Fund will claim 22.5%, the ConStellation bailout gets 12.5%, OEPBS gets 5% and the residue is split between the Multnomah County Library, OMSI, and the 1-5 Society/Young Astronaut Program.

This newfound prosperity has not trickled down to the masses of Portland fandom, apparently, since the latest clubzine PULSAR published a graphic warning, "DANGER! STICKY FINGERS - Several members who have had parties in their residences have complained recently of cavities developing in their personal libraries during the parties. Most of these people have stated that they would probably have loaned the missing books if they were asked." They weren't obviously...



LASFS, ELLISON, AT THE HALF-CENTURY MARK



At its "50th Anniversary Banquet" held November 3 in the Pasadena Hilton, the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society celebrated its birthday, which actually fell on October 27. Sixty-five fans slugged their way through downtown traffic generated by the Bruce Springsteen concert to hear from the genre's own superstar, Harlan Ellison.

Harlan accounted for his presence at the fete by saying that Galen Tripp, the banquet's organizer, had been calling him at all hours of the day and night whining and pleading for him to come. Ellison's talk occasionally touched on LASFS, while holding his audience for 2½ hours: it was pure entertainment ranging from humor to thought-provoking comments on tv and filmmaking. Ellison pointedly referred to Craig Miller's banning certain topics -- a dubious claim unless you first assumed that anyone can edit Harlan's opinions. Apparently this derived from Craig's request

for an upbeat talk, when Ellison is fresh from a GoH speech at the Portland Westercon, which had fans running around looking for somewhere to slit their wrists from a sense of guilt about the terrible things they've done to writers. Ellison chose to take it easy on fans given the purpose of the occasion -- he didn't have any trouble finding enough to say, with anecdotes about his friends, updates on the lawsuits he's won against persons who've plagiarized his work. He said he was glad *THE TERMINATOR* is #1 in gross revenue in the country, since he expected to be bringing action against its makers due to its alleged close similarities to such Ellison works as "Soldier" and "Demon With a Glass Hand."

Forest J. Ackerman and Bill Rotsler were among noted LASFSians in attendance. Unexplainably absent were Niven, Pournelle and the Trimble. Sending written congratulations on the 50th Anniversary were three major figures, quoted below:

Poul Anderson wished LASFS: *Happy birthday! Congratulations on fifty years of achievement and friendship. Let me suggest that you start now planning your*

hundredth anniversary party, to be held in Luna City.

Gary Kurtz, of Lucasfilm, said: Congratulations on achieving your 50th Anniversary! Congratulations, also, for keeping the candle of interest burning for those times when the general public's interest for science fiction peaks. For those of us who were raised on science fiction and fantasy and think of it as a wonderful storytelling medium, as well as a mind-stimulating and thought-provoking form of expression, it is important that there be a hard core of fans who will find those works that are good, point at them, and make sure they don't disappear. Congratulations and thank you for your longevity.

Robert Bloch lit up the room with his warmly humorous letter: Dear Friends and Fans: Fifty years ago there were many famous organizations and societies throughout the world -- the Nazi Party, the Gestapo, Murder Incorporated, and LASFS.

Today only LASFS has survived.

Which only goes to prove you can't win 'em all.

During most of the half-century I've been in touch with LASFS and its members. I attended my first meeting while on a visit to California way back in 1937. Things were a lot different then. In 1937 Curt Siodmak had a head full of hair -- and Bruce Pelz didn't have any. As a matter of fact, Bruce Pelz didn't even have a head. I may have been the first one to notice this, outside of Elayne.

I met LASFS members again in 1946, at the Pacificon. Forrest J. Ackerman had organized the event, but did not attend -- thus proving the old axiom that birds do not foul their own nests. In 1959, when I came out of bankruptcy and into Hollywood, I spent a great deal of time with LASFS members. At this year's Worldcon I voiced my gratitude to the many members who were so helpful and hospitable to me -- people like Walt Liebscher, Walt Daugherty, Charles Burbee, Elmer Perdue, the Trimbles, and a dozen others, including the late Ron Ellick whom I still mourn and miss today. So I have good reason to admire an organization dedicated not just to fandom but to friendship as well.

One of the best-known statements about LASFS membership is that "Death does not release you." At the present moment I am not yet in a position to prove it -- and frankly, I'm not in that much of a hurry to do so, either. But if it is true, then I would like to imagine that those of you who are attending this 50th Anniversary celebration in the flesh are not alone -- the spirits of departed LASFS members are also with you now. Perhaps the late great Henry Kuttner is watching the proceedings along with his friends, Fred Shroyer and Russ Hodgkins. Ron Ellick is surely interested -- E.E. Evans is a keen observer -- and I suppose Francis T. Laney views these events with mixed emotions as he grumbles to himself about the rise of the Gay Liberation movement. There are many others, of course, for LASFS has produced some memorable talents over the years.

It was LASFS that befriended a youthful Ray Bradbury, LASFS that gave encouragement to Leigh Brackett, LASFS that taught Mike Glyer not to trust anyone's tax returns. Thanks to LASFS, many of today's members -- people like Milt Stevens, Bill Warren and Craig Miller -- could become librarians, law enforcement officials, or public relations men, instead of having to find honest employment.

So here's to LASFS -- a great club with a great tradition. I honor you, I admire

you, and I thank you."



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LET THE CREATIVE JUICES FLOW!

"LASFS began its existence as Chapter IV of the Science Fiction League," wrote Milton F. Stevens in PREHENSILE 13, on the occasion of LASFS' 40th anniversary. "The Science Fiction League was a general organization of science fiction fans which was sponsored by WONDER STORIES. The inception of the SFL in 1934 was pretty much the beginning of organized fandom, although there was some fan activity going on before that time. It didn't really take a great deal to become a chapter of the SFL. All that was required was to have three members who were willing to sign a pledge that they would henceforth always brush their teeth with WONDER STORIES after every meal. There were hundreds of SFL chapters, and a few of them developed into long-lasting clubs (Los Angeles and

Philadelphia are the only two still in existence.

"The first meeting of the LASFL was held on Saturday, October 27, 1934 in the garage behind 3235½ Descanso Drive. There were seven members and two guests in attendance. It being the first meeting, one wonders what distinguished the members from the guests. Perhaps the guests were there to clean the garage and had no real connection with the meeting at all. In the interests of posterity, I'll list those present. The members were E. C. Reynolds, William S. Hofford, Alfred H. Meyer, Donald H. Green, Alvin Mussen, John C. Rhode Jr., and Roy Test Jr. The two garage cleaning guests were Edward Lichtig and Jack Hogan.

"E.C. Reynolds was the founder and first director of the LASFS. (It was his garage.) Almost nothing is known about Reynolds except that he was a man of middle years at the time. Like Doctor Frankenstein, he apparently became horrified at his own creation and fled never to be heard of again."

FIFTYMANIA PITSUKUS

Regarding another fanhistorically important 50th anniversary, that of the first science fiction convention, which may occur either in 1986 or 1987, FILE 770 has received three opinions, one in a newzine, two in letters of comment. The Philly in '86 and Britain in '87 worldcon bids made rival claims that as worldcon sites they would be commemorating the golden anniversary of the first sf con. Who's right?

Dave Langford, quoted in THYME, said, "Since Mike Glycer has raised the question of how it comes about that both 1986 and 1987 conventions are campaigning with reference to the '50th anniversary of the first ever convention', I shall now clarify the point. It was all Sam Moskowitz' fault. Unable, for apparently chauvinistic reasons, to accept that the first con was held in Britain in January 1937, he insists on the honors going to a 1936 event. This consisted of a social outing of New York (I think) fans who visited Philadelphia, gathered in

the home of a local fan, and as an afterthought declared the gathering to be a convention. 'A bit of officiality that gave them the uncontested title of the first convention in fan history,' babbles Moskowitz. Nonsense, say I. A convention implies pre-organization and, I rather think, the use of public facilities. Out upon this heresy!"

Lew Wolkoff, of the late Philadelphia in 1986 bid, suggests: "Perhaps the quote below will settled the debate on the site of the first SF con. The material was provided by Sam Moskowitz and appears in PHOXPHYRE: THE FIRST SF CON which I'm selling for \$1.50 plus postage. (3300 Union Deposit Rd. #G-304, Harrisburg PA 17109).

"'Trouble in Paradise and Other Short Stories' by Edward J. Carnell on page 9 of NOVAE TERRAE, December 1936-January 1937 (British fanzine): 'America (New York) beats Leeds in holding the first science fiction convention, when members from the ISA in New York visited fans in Philadelphia on October 18th. Don Wollheim, William Sykora, Herbert Goudket, and John Michel were entertained by Milton Rothman, John Baltadonis, David Kyle, Robert Madle and others although the main business.... (the story concludes on page 19)...was the arrangement of a fully planned Second Convention, to be held in New York on February 21st 1937.'

"At the time, it would seem, British fandom accepted that the Philly convention was the first. Why dispute them fifty years later? Incidentally, the main topic on the agenda of that February meeting was what became the 1939 worldcon.

"As a final point, at L.A.con II, I reached a tentative treaty on the business of the first convention with the two reps from Britain in '87 (whose names I forget at the present). They conceded the first con to Philly, and I conceded the first modern con (fan advertising, preset agenda etc.) to Leeds. A fair concession, I'd say."

Wolkoff's negotiations don't shed nearly as much light on the subject as it needed, judging by the definitive observations made by Fred Patten.

Patten explains, "I wasn't even born until after the second Worldcon was held. But I've been doing a lot of reading in Forry Ackerman's fanzines of the 1930s for an article on the history of the LASFS (started 1934), so I think I can offer some pretty knowledgeable comments on how sf conventions got started. The British fans should definitely get all the credit. We all know that fandom was very tiny during the 1930s, but fans today may not realize how much contact there was between American and British fen. There was a lot, especially among the fanzine publishers and letterhacks. Most of the most-active American fans of the mid-1930s seem to have regularly traded with British fanzine publishers: Ted Carnell, one of the leading British fans, wrote columns of British pro and fan news for more than one American fanzine. Well, all during 1936 the British fanzines and Carnell's columns in the American fanzines were full of news about the sf convention that they were planning for January 1937. A lot of it was wishful dreaming -- how they hoped that H.G. Wells might attend, and so forth -- but they talked about it constantly.

"By contrast, the October 1936 convention in Philadelphia was apparently a spur-of-the moment idea of Donald Wollheim's. The gathering itself had been set up in advance, but it was simply a get-together between New York and Philadelphia fans -- more of a day's outing for the NY fans than anything else. The New York

fans checked with the Philadelphia fans to make sure that October 22nd would be a convenient date to visit, and five of them made the trip. It's true that Moskowitz in THE IMMORTAL STORM says that this meeting came about because Wollheim got the idea of holding a fan convention. But, from reading the fanzine accounts written by the attendees themselves, I got the impression that it wasn't until they were already gathered in Milton Rothman's home in Philadelphia that Wollheim got the brainstorm of calling their gathering a convention, and appointing Fred Pohl to be the Secretary and send out press releases to all the fanzines about what a great convention they'd just had. The others went along with the idea because it seemed like a fun thing to do. More importantly, Wollheim proposed that they follow this up with a real convention as soon as possible. The New York fans took charge of this, and it was the ISA-organized 'Second Eastern Convention' in New York City in February 1937. It was at this second convention that Wollheim proposed that fans begin planning for a really big convention to be held simultaneously with the 1939 World's Fair. So you can draw a direct line from the October 1936 gathering at Rothman's home to the creation of the Worldcon. Yet that October 1936 gathering didn't take place until American fans had been smothered for months in news about the big sf convention that was going to take place in England in January 1937. So I certainly think that British fans deserve credit for establishing the atmosphere in which Wollheim's impromptu declaration of a small fannish outing as a convention was treated seriously.

"On the other hand, Wollheim certainly deserves the credit for following through with a second and other conventions, including the Worldcon (even if, due to the fan politics of the day, he didn't end up in charge of it.) If he hadn't, it would be a joke to call that October 1936 gathering a convention. But because of Wollheim's follow-up work, it's impossible to just dismiss the claim -- although, by rights, the October 1936 gathering should be considered as just the initial planning session for the real first American sf convention. (Yes, attendance at the October 1936 Philadelphia gathering was limited to those listed in THE IMMORTAL STORM, plus John V. Baltadonis. Fred Pohl has/had a group photograph that was taken of the whole 'convention'.")

So having considered the evidence, FILE 770 throws its widow's mite of support behind Britain in '87's claim to be (potentially) the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first science fiction convention. First, they have to win their Worldcon bid, of course.

SPEAKING OF BRITAIN IN '87: The odds against Britain winning the '87 Worldcon rights have shortened considerably. Earlier in the year San Diego and Phoenix were also announced contenders. San Diego came out of the 1984 Westercon having downgraded its committee to a NASFiC bid for 1987 (implicitly assuming the UK will win). Then over Thanksgiving weekend, per Britain's LA rep Marty Cantor, Phoenix's Bruce Farr downgraded their bid to a NASFiC, too. Marty said Farr hedged his move by saying Phoenix would leave its name on the Worldcon site selection ballot (rights for '87 will be decided at the 1985 Worldcon in Australia). The maneuver of a NASFiC bid running against the overseas Worldcon contender has had mixed success in the past as a method of creating name-recognition for the American bid. Their need for publicity is acute now that Sam Butler of Portland is also organizing a NASFiC attempt. ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON: Were Phoenix's bid for a NASFiC or Worldcon to fail on both counts (sending worldcon to Britain and NASFiC to San Diego) Phoenix's next shot at the Worldcon would be -- 1990. Under the newly-implemented three-years-in-advance site selection rule, rights for the 1990 convention will be determined by members of the 1987 worldcon. This list of facts underlies LA's seemingly premature expression of interest in 1990 -- it's less than a year before Phoenix might be bumped over to becoming a 1990 bidder, and less than three years til the vote.

HELEN STRUVEN UPDATE: Steve Miller of Maryland reports, "Local fantasy/landscape artist Helen Struven has entered a private nursing home in upstate Maryland following a long stay in Baltimore County General Hospital. Struven entered the hospital for cataract surgery but while in the hospital she fell, severely breaking a leg. The leg did not heal properly and she was unable to regain full mobility.

"In the meantime, Struven's daughter, Diana, sold Helen's former home on Lyons Mill Rd. Many fans had visited Struven there over the years including Rick Sternbach, Lynn Barnes and Freff. Her cats were destroyed by the new owners. (Helen had wished the grieving cats, most of whom were 15 to 20 years old, put to sleep rather than have to live with new and strange circumstances).

"Helen's brother, Bill, reported recently that Helen is rarely aware of the identity of visitors and even less often able to speak on the phone coherently. On top of everything else, Helen's arthritis has been worsening steadily -- it effectively prevented her from painting for the last four years -- making it difficult for her to grasp things.

"Diana Struven, through her Power of Attorney, has taken control of the several hundred Struven works left in the studio when Helen entered the nursing home and reports in a recent note that she hasn't 'done a thing with Mother's works -- as yet.' Work still in the studio at my last visit included a number of paintings in the Bethelgate series as well as THE HALL OF THE UNICORN, which was shown as a Not-For-Sale at quite a few conventions in the 1970s."

WORLD FANTASY AWARDS: For the record, the Ottawa gathering handed out these awards:

Best Novel: THE DRAGON WAITING by John M. Ford

Best Novella: "Black Air" by Kim Stanley Robinson

Best Short Story: "Elle est trois (La mort)" by Tanith Lee

Best Anthology/Collection: HIGH SPIRITS by Robertson Davies

Best Artist: Steve Gervais

Special Award: PRO: Ian & Betty Ballantine, Joy Chant, George Sharp (THE HIGH KINGS)

Special Award: Non-Pro: Stephen Jones & David A. Sutton ("Fantasy Tales")

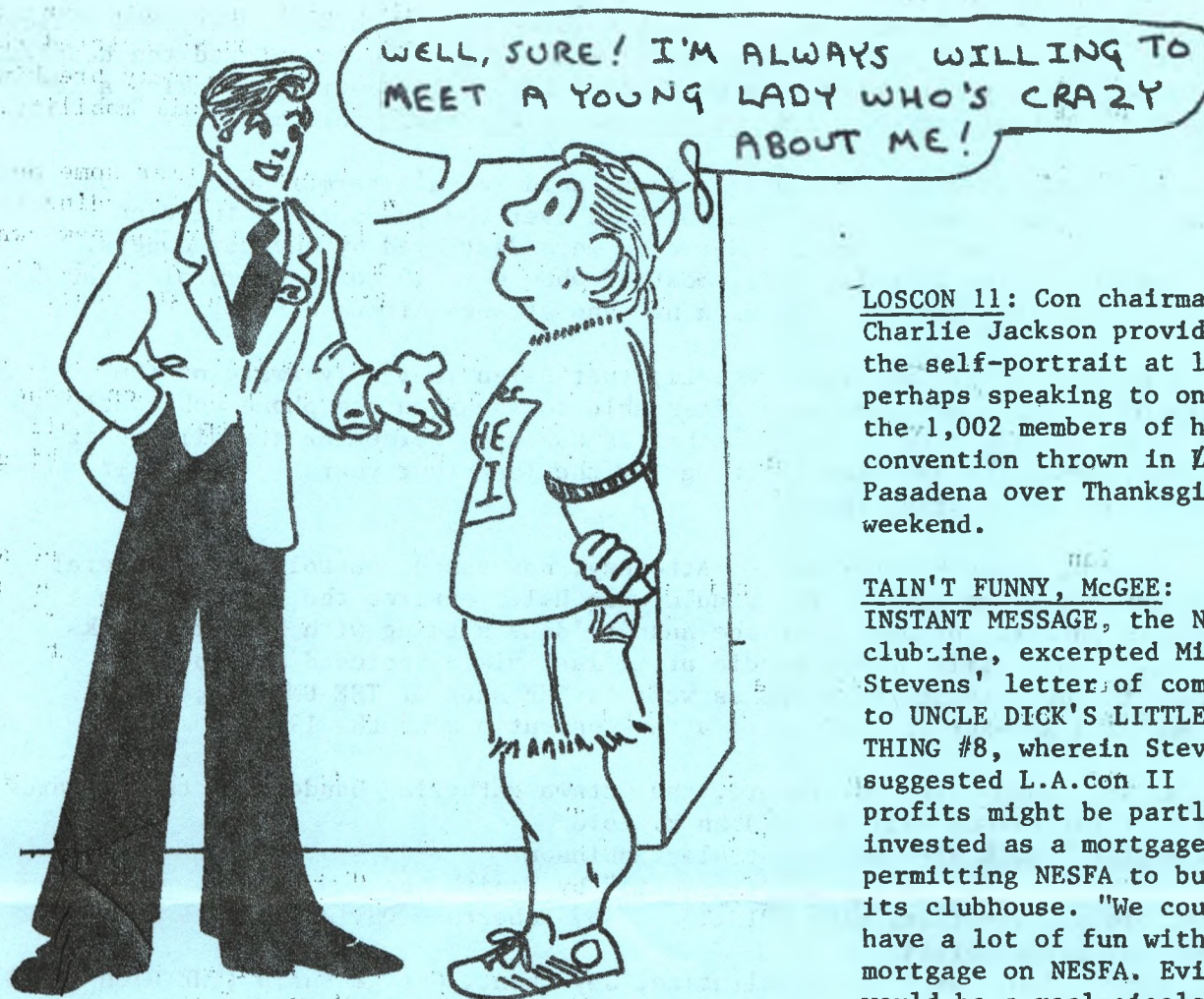
Special Convention Award: Donald M. Grant

Life Achievement Awards: L. Sprague De Camp, Jack Vance, Richard Matheson, E. Hoffman Price, Donald Wandrei.

MINOR MAIL FOOTNOTE: A couple months back I got something in the mail titled "Fandom Directory Annual Recertification." It warns, "Beginning with the next edition of the FANDOM DIRECTORY (to be published March 1, 1985) only those publications, conventions and organizations who annual recertify their existence will continue to be listed in the FANDOM DIRECTORY." About time.

BERMUDA TRIANGLE IN '88: Some anonymous soul sent me a flyer from Breckenridge, Colorado, advertising a cruise ship bid for the 1988 Worldcon. When this subject comes up in fannish conversation, the name "Neil Rest" often arises simultaneously, but your editor is in no position to vouch for that being more than mere coincidence.

ROBERT SACKS DENIAL: Robert Sacks says, "I wish to unequivocally deny that the rumor that the New York in 1989 bid is buying memberships in Confederation in order to pack the 1989 site selection has any basis in fact. I am not sure which is more absurd: the idea that we would spend \$22,500 to buy the site selection or the idea that we would spend any money to buy the site selection. While I know that my financial support for certain fannish causes is generous (NY in 89 and the MIT SF Library Fund at the present time) I hope that my position and the



LOSCON 11: Con chairman Charlie Jackson provides the self-portrait at left, perhaps speaking to one of the 1,002 members of his convention thrown in LA Pasadena over Thanksgiving weekend.

TAIN'T FUNNY, McGEE: INSTANT MESSAGE, the NESFA clubline, excerpted Milt Stevens' letter of comment to UNCLE DICK'S LITTLE THING #8, wherein Stevens suggested L.A.con II profits might be partly invested as a mortgage permitting NESFA to buy its clubhouse. "We could have a lot of fun with a mortgage on NESFA. Eviction would be a real giggle. I understand you can even throw people out into the snow in that latitude.

That's a really exotic possibility to the Los Angeles mentality." NESFAns may have failed to see the humor in Stevens' letter: when I talked to two club officers last week and Stevens name came up, you could hear the smiles tauten and the teeth grit as they stifled a spontaneous reply...

HEIR TO FILK DYNASTY: Paul and Janet Willett, of PHILK FEE-NOM-EE-NON fame, had a son, Steven, September 19. Writes Paul, "I note that Janet's appreciation of my humor decreases in direct proportion to the intensity of labor."

ANOTHER VITAL STATISTIC: Barry and Judy Newton gave birth to daughter Meridel Hanna last August 12.

ANOTHER FAPAN CLAIMED: Local FAPA members learned that long-time faneditor Sam Martinez passed away, reading that his contribution to the apa was completed by his son. (SFC reports Martinez died at age 67 of heart attack last July 4. (SFC also reports "he was a graduate of Perdue" -- talk about Freudian slips...

ALBUQUERQUE LOSES ACTIVE FAN: Joe Harnage died October 16, the day after his motorcycle collided head-on with a pickup truck. The accident had tossed him 53 feet in the air, according to police. Harnage was a member of Alpha Centaura, and the Clelland Household in the Society for Creative Anachronism. (From ACC #92)

position of New York in 1989 in favor of the rights of the fans, especially members of the World Science Fiction Society TM, is sufficient to demonstrate the ridiculousness of the rumor." So, Robert, would you also like to deny a rumor that you wrote to INSTANT MESSAGE withdrawing NY in '89 in favor of Boston?

ROBERT SACKS ALSO SAYS: As we continue with the special All Robert Sacks issue of FILE 770, Sacks replies to Larry Carmody's report about his most recent non-election to Lunarians: "Since I have since received apologies from six Lunarians who couldn't be at the meeting to vote for me, I see no reason not to apply again next year. Of course it is always strange to hear (secondhand of course, the victim is not allowed to face his accusers) how I haven't 'suffered enough'. Uncivilized behavior always surprises me. I suppose it is my old-fashioned standards of ethics and honor that force these repeated confrontations, like something out of Galsworthy." Or Dickens.

APA ANNOUNCEMENT: Or out of B. Traven. Sacks mailed in a copy of a word-processed announcement. "The notice...was found at a NYC fannish gathering. No one has come forward to admit authorship, but a number of people have said that I should call their bluff and do it, so I will." The announcement read: "Proposal: The New York Feud, An APA/Newsletter about Fan feuds & convention organizing (is there a difference?) This will be a managed APA. Zines, announcements, & 'news' should be delivered to the Manager by the 3rd Saturday of the month, to allow for publication on or before the 1st of the month complete with cover, prepared or solicited rebuttals, editorials, an accurate Table of Contents, and, of course, the Calendar. If you are interested in receiving/writing for/otherwise participating in The New York Feud, contact Robt Sacks, 4861 Broadway 5-V, NY NY 10034, providing full details by the 3rd Saturday of November." Sacks made good on his plan, for I did receive a publication by that name. Will there be an issue #2?

WHITAKER RESIGNS BACHELORHOOD: From his own press release, Newark, Delaware, fan Robert Whitaker explains, "On October 31st this year, I married Giovanna M. Sirignano in New York City. We're married without living together. The wedding was well attended. Some were fans, some were members of the family. New York fan Susan Palermo was my best man. There were members of the new wave group The Major Thinkers there, as well as the director of the Bronx Opera. The date was chosen because it happens to be my wife's favorite holiday. (Most people usually don't get married in the middle of the week.) Oh, yes, I've changed my name. I am now Robert Whitaker Sirignano. Please don't hyphenate it. I've always wanted to be a blond Italian."

FFANZ: The Fan Fund of Australia and New Zealand may lack the attention being paid to other fan funds this year, but its administrators John Newman and Kim Huett are probably very grateful to do without it. Nominees for the FFANZ so far are Nigel Rowe and Duncan Lucas, of Auckland, NZ. The winner will be hosted by Aussiecon 2, where, they say, "The winner will receive free membership and accommodation at the convention hotel...He or she will also be sharing a room with fellow fan fund winners from the UK (GUFF) and US (DUFF)." Sounds awfully cozy. Chip in, and maybe they can get their own room. Send loot to FFANZ: Kim Huett, PO Box 429 Sydney NSW 2001, Australia.

FANNISH COMPUTERS RIPPED OFF: The victims characterize the thieves as dumb, but guess who's got the computers... In LA, Jack Harness was taken for his personal computer and printer, though essential cables were left behind. Elsewhere in fandom, writes Joni Stopa, "Bill and Alexia Hebel's apartment was burglarized in early November. Alexia was very distraught for awhile. Everything was insured,

naturally not for enough, and to complicate matters all the more, the computer that Alexia used to keep records was stolen. One of the little problems of modern life. Talking to Alexia at our house sometime around the end of the month, she noted that the robbers not only were lazy (they took only lightweight items) but stupid as well. They took the Commodore and left the IBM, in her eyes akin to taking the bathwater and leaving the baby."

NORB COUCH DIES: This event, which occurred earlier in the year, was related to Joni Stopa over Labor Day weekend in Wapakoneta. Joni adds: "Norb and Leigh Couch had been active in fandom for a long time and were among those on the worldcon committee in 1969. Leigh had put out a fanzine for some time, and their daughter, Lesleigh Luttrell, was the first DUFF winner. Leigh seems to have decided to become a hermit in her sorrow and I hope that her friends in fanzine fandom will contact her and urge her to join us once again. Her address: Rt. 2, Box 889, Arnold MO 63010."

FESSELMAYER FUNERAL: Mark Giselson attended Bill and Sherry Fesselmeyer's funeral, and said (in a quote forwarded from Joni Stopa): "We were the first to leave, and it was then that I realized that over half the people present were in SCA regalia, and when I got up to the front I discovered that Bill and Sherry were both dressed in their SCA attire, and that they were wearing heavy greyish makeup which I assume was according to medieval custom. The whole thing was very peaceful and agreeable. There was a strength and depth and rightness to the whole thing that I think came from the fact that it was obvious that their last wishes were being respected."

JACK MC KNIGHT died December 5 of a cerebral aneurism. McKnight, father of Peggy Rae Pavlat, machined the first Hugo awards rockets, and (adds my source) was on the PSFS needlepoint committee.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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Jean Yarsawich 145-B Meadowbrook Lane, Brookhaven PA 19015
David Singer/Diane Goldman: 165 Westchester Dr., Los Gatos CA 95030
Robert Whitaker Sirignano PO Box 7709, Newark DE 19714 (name change)
Franz Zrilich 4004-R Granger Rd., Medina OH 44256 (216)722-8566

JEFF SMITH ASKS THE MUSICAL QUESTION: "I have 10 cartons of fanzines (the 10-ream size), half of which are disposable at this point. Any idea what I can do with 5 cartons of fanzines? Mostly 70s, mostly ephemeral, some pretty good stuff. (I'm keeping a lot of my old faves: OUTWORLDS, SF COMMENTARY, Geis, Lunney, etc.) Is there a market for me to sell them?" Can this game be played for money? Write and tell Jeff at 1339 Weldon Ave., Baltimore MD 21211.

NIVEN'S DREAM: Having seen the publicity about Arthur C. Clarke's token advances, Larry Niven says: "Jerry Pournelle and I are not into the \$1 advance range yet! We're trying to get there, but we're not there yet."

WHEN NOTHING HAPPENS-- IT'S BIG NEWS?

FILE 770 #9 filled its front page entirely with stories under the banner "NOTHING HAPPENS: So The Rumor Mill Fills In The Blanks." UNCLE DICK'S LITTLE THING #8 prompts a very similar reaction, having published the following:

BRADBURY MAY MISS IT...In an exclusive interview with UNCLE DICK'S Ray Bradbury said he may be in Europe during the 1986 Atlanta Worldcon, Confederation, which is advertising him as guest of honor....Bradbury said that the Atlanta committee had not yet notified him they had won the convention as of the interview, October 28, "but I haven't been home for a week." ...Bradbury, who resides in Los Angeles, said he had not attended the 1984 Worldcon there because he was in Europe at the time.

The average reader can only chuckle sadistically and infer from such an interview, "Yup, those Atlanta people sure messed up this time." What did the Atlanta committee have to say? UNCLE DICK didn't ask, but the Atlanta committee isn't so shy that they neglected to answer anyway and send replies to UDLT, F770, SFC and LOCUS. Writes Vice Chairman Jim Gilpatrick to Dick Smith:

This letter will serve as a written version of the phone call we had on Nov. 16. To confirm: Ray Bradbury is, in fact, ConFederation' Guest of Honor. We invited him, he accepted, we have a letter from him saying so, and all is well. We notified him of Atlanta's selection as the 1986 worldcon in early October upon his return from his European tour. At that time, we talked to him and gave him a PR 0. This makes his behavior as reported by you in UDLT#8 strange indeed. In talking to Ray about it after your zine appeared, he seemed under the impression he still needed to keep our arrangements confidential. His answers to your questions, therefore, may have seemed a bit evasive. We're sorry this little episode made it into the pages of your zine without you checking with us first. Rest assured that all is well with ConFederation's guests.

Like they say in THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER's review of UNCLE DICK'S: "Down and dirty -- stuff you won't find in FILE 770."

ROUNDFILINGS

MIKE GLYER

The argument has been advanced that because Martha Beck's name did not make the TAFF ballot, she was treated unfairly, and therefore everyone should vote for her immediately. (This is a paraphrase of an editorial position in UDLT #9). I object to anyone voting for Martha for any other reason than that they think she deserves the trip on her merits. But I defend her right to be a candidate. Meanwhile, I wonder what

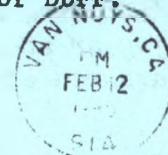


Mike Glyer
Tumbon 303
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secondhand rumors describing the midwestern blitz for Martha Beck have rendered Greg and Linda Pickersgill sufficiently hysterical that they must Do Something to save TAFF. Where they could have done something positive, like channel their energy into a campaign for their own favorite candidate, instead they tore a page out of Richard Nixon's book (can you believe it!) When the Congress appropriated money for purposes Nixon did not support, he impounded the money (ie, the legislature has the power to make funds available, but Nixon contended he had the power to not spend it at all, as an alternative.) (He eventually lost in court.) So the Pickersgills are petitioning European TAFF administrator Rob Hansen to freeze the TAFF funds in his control rather than "use...British TAFF funds to support candidates who have no contact or interest in British fandom...." In effect they say, if Martha wins, let the Americans foot the bill for inflicting her on them.

At this point who knows what popularity such a viewpoint enjoys in Britain. Potentially, Rob Hansen is put in a very sensitive position. Would he reject a win by someone whose candidacy and votes were all run within the rules? Would he, in sublime ignorance, pass judgment on Martha Beck as a fan? Such a move could kill TAFF. I wonder whether the Britain in '87 worldcon bid could survive a British termination of TAFF? Frankly, I hope it can't. British fans can vote for TAFF in as many numbers as they like. Hold Over Funds is an option whenever they don't like the candidates. Freeze the Funds and Up Yours is not an option when a candidate you don't know wins fair and square.

MARGINAL NOTE: rich brown has urged DUFF voters to back Mike Glicksohn, and ignore Robbie and Marty Cantor, as a response to their publishing Bergeron's material in HTT. Dick Smith and Leah Zeldes oppose them for reasons of personal experience, not to mention the inflammatory allegation that one is a regular wearer of Dr. Who scarves. But permit me to quote Joni Stopa "I knew /Dick Smith/ was going to vote against us /Joni and Mike Glicksohn/ but I can't agree with his opposition to Marty or Robbie. I think they are an outstanding pair of fans. More than fully qualified to run for DUFF."



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