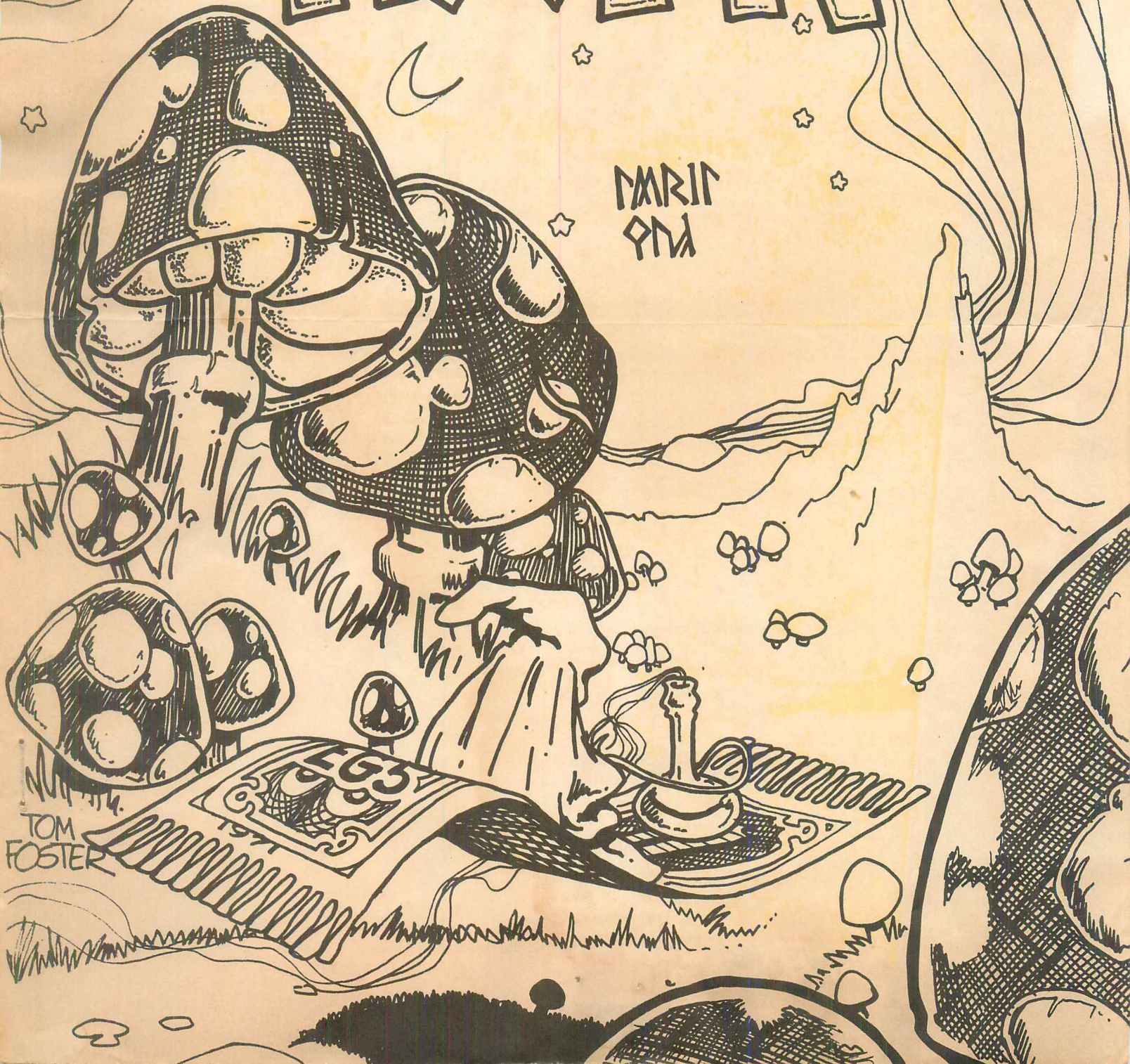


KATN

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TOM
FOSTER

As should be obvious from the cover, this is Rune. To be more specific, this is Rune 36, March-April, 1974. Rune is the clubzine of the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc. (Minn-stf). Editing, typing, mimeoing, and collating by Don Blyly, with collating help this issue by Mark Hansen, Mark Hanson, Mark Hansenelo, Mark Hanselo, and whoever else happens to be at the Hobbitat when I take this over there this afternoon. Collating help last issue by Mark Hansen, etc., Dick Tatge, and Al Kuhfeld. Typing help last issue by Jerry Stearns.

MEETING DATES

Upcoming Minn-stf meetings:

Saturday, April 6, 1974, at 1:00 p.m., will NOT be at Joan Verba's as had been previously announced. Instead, it will be at Martin Schaeffer's, 6827 3rd Ave. S., Mpls. (Last chance to register in advance for Minicon 8)

April 12-14, Minicon 8, at the Hotel Dyckman, 27 S. 6th St., Mpls.

Saturday, April 20, 1974, at 1:00 p.m., at the Hobbitat, 3755 Pillsbury Ave. S., Mpls.

Saturday, May 4, 1974, at 1:00 p.m., at the home of Joan Verba, 5137 Clear Springs Drive, Minnetonka. (See map in last issue of Rune.)

This Bus Don't Carry No Fake-Fen by Mark Hansen

As many of you who have been reading Rune know, Don Blyly and I (Mark Hansen) have been trying to lease a coach from Amtrak to take members of Minnesota fandom to Discon in Washington, D.C. this Labor Day week-end. We have had no success in this endeavor. As an alternative we have decided to charter a bus from Greyhound. The bus will not be quite so convenient, but the bus is a reality and the train was only a dream.

The round-trip fare per person will be sixty dollars. We will start taking reservations at Minicon this April. To reserve a seat it will be necessary to make a twenty dollar deposit. We feel, since there has been so much local interest in the bus trip, Minnesota fans should have the first opportunity to reserve seats, so we will be taking deposits from Minnesota people only until June 1. After June 1 we will be taking deposits from anyone on a first-come-first served basis. So that we can get the charter arrangements and money worked out with the Greyhound people in time to make sure of the bus, we will have to have full payment from each person by the first of August. The bus will be available for touring Washington, but it will cost more money, so be sure to let us know if you want this extra service.

We plan to have glasses, ice, and water available for everybody. All other drinkables will be on a B.Y.O.B. basis. If possible, I will have sandwiches and fruit for a nominal fee. Of course, those who wish to may bring their own food, or they can try to survive the Post Houses.

As of now we plan on leaving Minneapolis on Wednesday, August 28 at 2 p.m. and arriving at the Con hotel at 5 p.m. the next day. The intermediate stops haven't been worked out yet, but we will get this information out as soon as possible. We plan to leave the Con hotel on Monday September 2 at 4 p.m.

If you have any questions or wish to sign up for the trip, contact either Don or myself at Minicon or write Don at his address after Minicon.

Editorial Natterings

Since last issue, I have been extremely busy setting up and running Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore. Uncle Hugo's did enough business its first month to pay all set up and operating expenses. And now that some of the special order books are finally starting to come in (during the last 2 days of March, 40 special order paperback titles, a bunch of Advent books, and some of Gordy Dickson's hardbacks came in) Uncle Hugo's might even start to do well enough to pay me back for some of the inventory. Uncle Hugo's has already started handling used paperbacks, old SF prozines, and old comics--three months earlier than I had expected to be able to do so. (For used SF books in good condition, Uncle Hugo's is giving 15¢ apiece credit on your purchases.)

Minicon just keeps growing. Looks like we'll have at least 300 people with an unusually large number from the East Coast. We're going to have the best art show ever for a Minicon (bring money so that the artists can afford to get home after the con.) It now looks like we will have a full movie program Friday night plus either Forbidden Planet or The Day the Earth Stood Still on Saturday night. We finally decided on which panel discussions to have at which times. We will start on Saturday afternoon at about 1:00 with Great Fannish Myths to Know and Love. This will be followed by a 2 part discussion on space travel. The first part will be on building a blackhole spacecraft. The second half will be on what is currently feasible for the profitable use of space. Sunday's first panel will be on the social side-effects of biological engineering. Later panels will include one on SF Art Markets, our traditional artists' panel where a bunch of artists draw wierd things before your very eyes--this year's topic will be alien spacecraft. Later, Ron Bounds will answer your questions on Discon II, and he will be joined by Ken Keller and others to talk about putting on a worldcon.

There will be at least 5 people from Kansas City at Minicon to throw a bidding party for K.C. in '76. Still no word from Columbus or New Orleans. (That's a shame. I had wanted to talk to some of the Columbus bidders about the rumor I have heard from several reliable sources that Columbus plans to move the worldcon to a weekend early in August because of the fact that the Ohio state fair is in Columbus over Labor Day weekend. And recently I heard a conflicting rumor that the Columbus people would go ahead and hold the worldcon over the Labor Day weekend in spite of the Ohio State Fair being in town the same weekend. But maybe a member of the committee will write to Rune and let us know which rumor is true.)

As you have probably already noticed, my typer is screwing up. The left-side margin keeps jumping all over the page, and sometimes when it makes a little jump I don't catch it in time. But that won't stop me--it'll just slow me down a lot.

You will probably also notice that this is the thinnest Rune in some time. I have been too busy taking law school finals to be able to do much typing. But this means that there is a lot of stuff left over for next issue, including a Jodie Offutt article, a bunch of letters, and other misc. stuff. (Still no letter from any of Bob Vardeman's simulacra--maybe he will send one or two of them to Minicon to explain to us that there is really only one Vardebob.)

We don't have an official secretary's report in this issue on the result of the Board of Directors' election so I may as well give you the results. There are once again 5 members. The new Board is Jim Young, Ken Fletcher, Blue Petal, Caryl Bucklin, and Margie Lessinger.

Got a letter a few days ago from Phil Farmer saying that because of various illnesses in the family he won't be able to make it to Minicon this year. Still haven't heard from Andy Offutt about whether or not he will be coming to the con.

Three more lines to kill. Might as well just say, "Come to Uncle Hugo's, 2002 4th Ave. S., phone 874-9118," and get ready to start cranking the mimeo. See you at Minicon.

Don Blyly

Letter column

Denny Lien, 2408 S. Dupont Ave., Apt. 1, Minneapolis, Minn. 55405:

Rune 33: I do enjoy Chuck's photos on the cover and inside, even though seeing what R.A.Lafferty really looks like disappointed me. There was this elderly intoxicated little old man at Torcon who had me convinced that he was, as he claimed, Lafferty; one night I picked him up when he fell off the escalator and I have since stored that up in my heart as my good deed for a pro for the year. Now I find that said man was an imposter. I must have wasted a good deed on a mere fan.

Minn-stf Presidential Message from Chuck Holst: I think the simplest way to respond to this is to quote/paraphrase some of the points and give a response, which Chuck says he wants, to each: so--

"Is Minn-stf a purely social club, a group of fans who like to get together because they like to be together, or are we a service club, a group of fans dedicated to serving all fans in Minnesota?" Answer: the former. Implied second question: "Which should we be?" My answer: the former (90%, anyway).

But, we are told, we should be the latter, because "we have been calling ourselves the Minnesota Science Fiction Society." Well yes, so we have. Of course, we were doing so even back in the days "a few years ago" when even Chuck admits we were purely a social group (before my time in the area). We have been doing so for years, ever since we started in fact. So why suddenly decide now that this name commits us to a particular sort of activity?

Actually, of course, the name doesn't mean much nor need to. Does Chuck really believe, for instance, that the Elves, Gnomes, and Little Men's Science Fiction, Chowder, and Marching Society has a duty to serving all fans who are under three feet tall? That the Lunarians are committed to representing all fans on the moon, or the Futurians to speaking for all fans not yet born? If we take our name that seriously and interpret it that narrowly, it follows that we ought to pare from the Rune mailing list all fans who do not live in Minnesota: if we are more-or-less strictly state-oriented, why spend club postage money for non-state-residents?

But, it is noted, "we have adopted a charter which claims that our mission in life, in addition to purely social functions, is to promote science fiction as an educational function." Presumably true. (Presumably, because I don't have a copy of the charter and haven't seen one, to the best of my knowledge, since signing it a couple of years ago.) However, I would like to point out that if becoming a non-profit organization and adopting a charter required specific duties (beyond record-keeping, etc.) of us or significant changes in what we can or cannot do, this information should have been brought out when the charter was proposed. I don't know what anyone else's experience was, but I was solemnly assured before signing that the change was for tax advantages and had no other effect. If this was not the case, then either I was misinformed or my informant was; in either case, I regret going along with the change-over.

If our name and charter really compel us morally or legally to change our function and re-direct our fannish activity, then I for one suggest that we give up our non-profit status and change our name to "Twin-stf" or something even more nondescript (maybe "Arthur").

"We could make Rune into an organ for all the fans in the state, not just the "hard core" that come to meetings." Yes, of course we could. We could also make it into a sports fanzine which would serve all of the Minnesota Vikings and Twins fans in the state, not just the much smaller number of people who read science fiction. We could make it into a porno tabloid and interest a still-larger audience. Why think small?

"It should contain news, reviews, convention reports, letters, and a "gossip"

column (what are local fans doing lately--who just had a kid, who moved, who got a new job, etc.)" Five possibilities, and I freely admit that the first four, at least, are perfectly legitimate fanzine fodder and I wouldn't mind seeing any or all of them in Rune. In fact, at one time or another, I have seen all of them in Rune: this very issue contains news, reviews, and two convention reports, for instance. But what is there about any of these items which makes them ore or less a "service" to Minnesota fandom specifically? An outstate fan interested in news, reviews, con reports, letters, etc., can get them in Locus, Son of the WSFA Journal, and an hundred or two other fanzines. If he can also get them in Rune, fine, but why assume that he would prefer to get them there simply because the material is published within the state in which he lives?

As for the gossip column, I can see an outstate Minnesota fan possibly having a special interest in the doings of Minnesota pros (what's Gordy's new novel about?) but the idea of the non-fan-club-oriented SF reader whom Chuck apparently feels we should be reaching having the slightest bit of interest in the birth rate among local fans (let alone who moved where and why) boggles my brain and does more to revive my flagging sense of wonder than any number of Moskowitz anthologies. (The one place where a lot of such "gossip" is printed and received with interest within my experience is Minneapa, strangely enough.)

The presence of apa collating, games playing, and musical activity may very well be keeping some people away from some meetings: it is also attracting some who would not otherwise be attending as regularly. Me, for one. I don't know if the difference in quantity works out to a net gain or loss, partly because I am not aware of the "large number of people" who are turned off by it and whom, "Time after time," Chuck runs into. I've had one name named to me and I can add about three additional "probables" from my own experience: anyone have some educated guesses? (Obviously I feel that the difference in quality works out to a net gain, since I enjoy the company of most of the people who do regularly attend the meetings more than I do the company of most of those who do not, but that's purely a subjective reaction.)

"I do know that some people are turned off because we are not doing what they are interested in." See above, on my comments in gaining a larger audience for Rune by turning it into a mimeographed version of Sporting News or Screw. Do we have an obligation to allow only things in which all potential past, present, and future members are interested to take place? We're scarcely the only special interest group in the cities; with the founding of the local Mythopoeic Society branch we are not even the only generally known (insofar as we are) group devoted and assuming an interest in fantastic fiction. (And this is to say nothing of the local Burroughs Bibliophiles group, the comics fans group, etc.) Why do we have to be the people who try to please the broadest possible spectrum of sf/fantasy readers? (Whoops, better correct that to "sf readers"--since our name is the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, fantasy is obviously not a legitamate interest.) I don't attend meetings of the Burroughs Bibliophiles because I no longer have any more than a very slight interest in them (even though I was one of the first 250 people in the world to join the Burroughs Bibliophiles, some 10 or 12 years ago), but I would be amused and somewhat insulted if the local BB president suggested that his club change its scope and direction simply to attract me or others like me.

Two quotations linked together with bemused comment: "Business meetings, for instance, have more than once had to wait upon Minneapa collating to finish in order to get space and attention." As for Minneapa, "many people are totally disinterested in it." My comment: Isn't there a logical contradiction implied somewhere within there? If more people were interested in business meetings than collation (granting that some are interested in both and some in neither), wouldn't it be the apa that would have to wait for the other to finish before getting space and attention--have to, not because of any regulations passed by the Board or the officers or anyone else, but simply in the nature of the thing? Who (except for

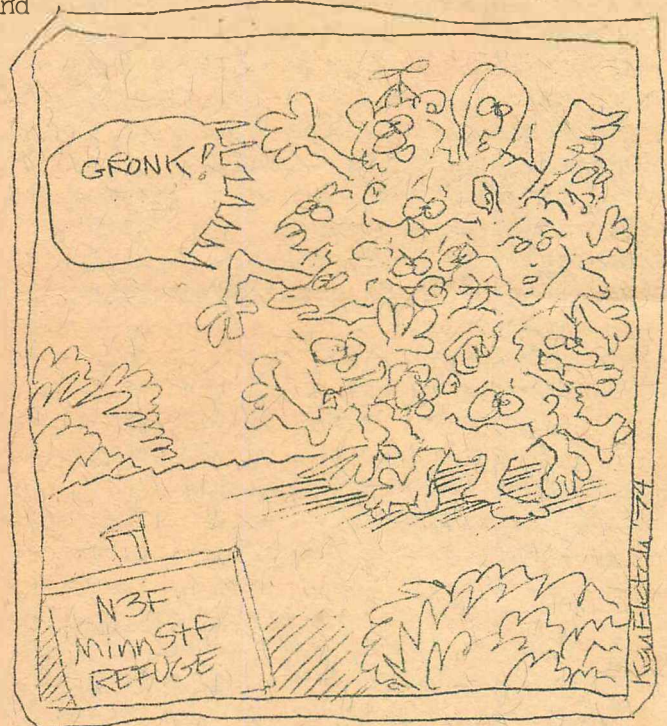
we officers, who have the egoboo of Being Officers and thus running the meetings) is a real fan of the business meetings? How many people come up to you at every get-together and suggest that we call one? How many people wish the business meetings, once begun, were longer? How many "Nays" do you hear when a motion to adjourn is voted upon?

Incidentally, wasn't the whole purpose of instituting a Minn-stf bulletin board to do away with the necessity for frequent business meetings?

As for the perils of games-playing: "its main disadvantage is that it draws people away from the main group and makes them hard to talk to." Well, yes. But I don't find it necessary to have one single "main group" formed before effective conversation can take place. Bore to the point, that's an interesting word choice at the end there. I sometimes have trouble talking with someone, but haven't had trouble talking to people--because I rarely try to do so.

"Minn-stf has grown too big and diverse to continue as it has been." Possibly true, but your suggestions seem to be oriented towards making it even bigger (broadening the base of interest by de-emphasizing special interests), though much more homogenous. I rather feel that the homogenizing process should be reserved for milk: people--fans or otherwise--seem to be able to work these things out. If we really have grown "too big and diverse to continue as (we) have been"--which I am inclined to disbelieve--then something will by definition happen to change us. But I'm not much interested in hurrying that "something" along, and even less interested in anticipating by doing the changing ourselves. Frankly, I like Minn-stf just fine more-or-less as it is, with apa, games, music, idle and non-structured conversation, and--yes--even business meetings once in a while. If that makes me a hopeless conservative, so be it: some things are worth conserving.

I really hadn't planned to spend that much time on one article, but the more closely I read the Presidential Message the more I found I had to say about it. In that sense, it was clearly a success: Chuck asked that we "consider what we want from the club and where we are going," and his arguments certainly made me do that--and, I suspect, made a lot of other people do the same. Nor are the arguments bad ones as such, but Chuck and I seem to be starting from postulates about 150 degrees removed from each other (I would not go so far as to say 180 degrees). Nor am I trying to run down Chuck as a person, even though I couldn't resist a few nasty digs when they presented themselves (such as the "with them/to them" quibble): I have every reason to believe that Chuck wants the best for Minn-stf and sincerely believes that his ideas of the "best" are closer to objective reality than mine; outside of this philosophical/official/fan-politicky disagreement Chuck and I seem to get along quite adequately: we've drunk each other's beer in each other's home, played war games together (outside of meetings) and shot a fair amount of bull. Once I even sneaked him into Minneapa, and as a sort of cosmic retribution was a year or so later sneaked into the world premiere of The Wrestler by him. But I disagree with much of his me sage, and after mulling it over in my head for several months (during which I kept expecting someone else specifically to answer



it in Rune--with the partial exception of the editor, no one did), I wanted to get it on paper. It turned out to take a lot more paper than I'd expected. Back to you, Chuck.

Joan Verba's Star-Con report was interesting. I sometimes feel guilty over not being more of a Star Trek fan than I am: I watched it faithfully for all three years and did the letter-writing bit a couple of times (and, seeing the third season which resulted, was somewhat sorry I did), but I've not watched more than 5 or 6 re-runs in the last several years and can't picture myself attending an ST con if I had to travel more than a couple miles to do so. It is always interesting to be reminded, though, how much most subfandoms (if ST fandom can be properly called that any more) resemble fandom in general, and how many people wear two or more hats. (Were all those Freas paintings ST-oriented?) I do disagree with Joan in her statement that Harlan Ellison was being "picky" in objecting to the use of the abbreviation "sci-fi" since that phrase affects me like chalk on a blackboard. (Worse, in fact, since I don't much mind chalk on a blackboard.) How does Ms. Verba like being called a "Trekkie"? However, I so seldom find myself in agreement with Harlan Ellison on anything that I am now struck dumb and have no further comment on Rune 33.

Rune 34 can be disposed of easily, since I wrote half of it (and I can't give myself effective egoboo) and Don Blyly wrote the other half (and editors, as is well known, do not need egoboo--no, Blyly, put down that blue pencil! I'll be good! I will! I'll . . . arrrrggghhh).

Ken's cover was nice, but an annish chorus line should include Dr. Dodd Clegler and possibly a dodo.

As I may have already told you, and as you certainly might have assumed from reading thus far in this letter, I agree with you ("you" here being editor Don Blyly) in your analysis of Minn-stf's actual nature and apparent goals.

I am a bit disgruntled at your for editing my Nov. 17 minutes to make the upcoming meeting schedule seem less confused than it was. I think genial confusion is part of the charm of Minn-stf; it's certainly part of the charm that I try to get across in my minutes. (I improve upon reality a bit, but try to avoid inventing facts: it shouldn't be necessary when simply goosing the ones we've got works so well.) Of course, Son of the WSFA Journal printed that section of the minutes as I gave it, but they edited out one of my better misspellings elsewhere in the minutes, so that the only Compleat and Real-o True-lo accurate minutes for this meeting is my personal copy. Collect them all. . . .

I'll have to get April through June SF authors' birthdays to you RealSoonNow.

Mark's plan to rent a train car to get to Worldcon is great, but since it seems dead, I agree that a bus is certainly better than nothing. (I imagine that few local fans will be driving personal vehicles that far come Labor Day unless they know a few Arab shieks personally or have an electric car, in which case I am not about to help rewind the 1500-mile-long cord.)

"Asking a librarian for help finally paid off"--yes, I don't doubt that it did. Might I ask why you didn't ask your very own Minn-stf secretary, who in the mundane world doubles as a librarian (reference-variety at that)? That's what I get paid to do, you know, and if I'm going to have money to spend at Uncle Hugo's you're going to want to see me keep my job, hmmm? [O.K., from now on I'll give you first chance on all fannish legal research projects. Happy?]

Rune 35: I haven't read much of this yet, but have a few comments on what I have read. As an addendum to the addendum to the secretary's report, I don't have attendance figures for the Feb. 9 meeting at Bob Schmelzer's. I wasn't there and hence did not maintain a sign-in sheet; if anyone else did, I'd appreciate a copy. Attendance at the Feb. 23 meeting at the Hobbitat, according to the sheet, was 27. Add to list of people qualifying as voting members for the year: Greg Lien.

The cover on 35 was typically Fletcherishly good. Thus Spake Donblylytrusta?

Fantastic Planet was, as I recall, made in Czechoslovakia. I enjoyed it but was no as impressed with it as you were. (I still don't believe in any race naming their own moon "Fantastic Planet." A moon is not a planet and the familiar is by definition not fantastic.)

Gee, Don, if you joined Minneapa you would have known that Blue Petal was the author of "Whole Lot of Crud in His Zine." Minneapa Keeps You Informed.

Kansas City is closer but New Orleans is probably more attractive. On the other hand Highmore, South Dakota is closer yet. And a Philadelphia flyer I got in the mail a couple of weeks ago says that strong rumors have it that we're bidding for 76. It's just like soap operas always say: the people involved are always the last to know. . . .

You didn't give me a credit line on the minutes this time. You want me to start spelling your name incorrectly? [Since I've started Uncle Hugo's I don't have time to attend Minn-stf meetings, so I should be fairly safe.]

Mr. John Kusske and myself would like to point out that, while the Bob Ferris of some alternate universe who has just contacted Gerry is quite possibly a perfectly good Bob Ferris, he is not the same Bob Ferris (nor from the same alternate universe) who has been showing up in Minneapa on occasion. The apa's Bob Ferris communicates through missives which appear in John Kusske's refrigerator wrapped around a bologna sandwich; this one sent a letter via Gerry Wassenaar's refrigerator wrapper around a pound of summer sausage. Secundus, our Bob Ferris spells the club's name as "Minn-stf," not "Minnstf." Tertius, he seldom or never names other local fans, referring instead to a "Prominant Local Apa-Editor" or a "Prominent Local Librarian." Tertius-and-a-half, this Bob Ferris seems totally sercon, while ours seems to vary between sercon and fannishness accouding to what would be called "plot requirements" if he were fictional, which, of course, he is not.

Most fan charities seem to me worthy ones, but I can't think of a single one more worthy than The Tucker Fund. Lay in the Jim Bean, Aussiecon, you're going to need it!

I haven't yet read Frank's proposal or Dr. Clegler's field report, and it's now almost 10 pm and I have yet to eat supper tonight and tomorrow's Monday. Curse you Bev Swanson and Don Blyly, and curse you, all Rune-contributors, for having produced three straight issues of a clubzine which I have been morally unalbe to simply file away without an LOC, and curse Bev Swanson in advance for probably being just nasty enough to plan to keep up this madness when she re-takes over the editorship, thus blowing in advance a few more of my upcoming Sunday nights this year. May there be a Minneapolis in 76 bid after all, and may you all be forced into running it with the Andrews as your hotel and Arthur Leo Zagat as your proposed guest of honor. Curse,curse,curse.

Maria Jette, 8100 59th Ave. N., New Hope, Minn. 55428:



Thanks a lot for all the things I've been receiving from Minn-stf. In the Rune of an issue or so back I read the column concerning the future of Minneapolis fandom and such stuff about meetings, etc. I realized that I was not so abnormal in my lack of enthusiasm for fannish activities. I had felt very guilty because of my lack of response to contacts made with me by various members of Minn-stf. Unfortunately, I have many excuses for not attending meetings or expressing interest in other activities. School and its related activities and committees have kept me rather busy. Also, my parents really couldn't much care about fannish stuff and until Sept. I can't drive myself anywhere (assuming there's fuel then). To top this off, I'm a deep down anti-socialite and have to be forcibly dragged from my home by well-meaning friends who want me to go anywhere. So I'm not really interested in attending meetings at the present time. Most fans are or at one time were people who feel uncomfortable with large numbers of strangers and who have difficulty making new friends. When they discover fandom, they discover a group of people who they can make friends with much more easily than with people in general. Unfortunately, when some new fans wander into a fannish group, such as Minn-sff, they sometimes get the impression that the club is rather clique-ish, just because many of the people in the club have difficulty reaching out to make new friends, and yet they are obviously being very friendly with their friends. When you start attending Minn-sff meetings, you should be aware of this and give it a couple of tries before you form too many opinions of the club.

Rune has been fascinating. Being an isolated SF reader for so long, I had no idea that a meeting would be so partyish. I has subconsciously pictured a group of serious intellectuals around a highly polished table profoundly discussing the latest SF classic (while drinking glasses of ice water). It sounds pretty wild & fantastic, I'm sure I'll get to one sometime. Minicon seems out of the question as money drips thru my fingers immediately.

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