

The Texas SF Inquirer

"THE BEST LITTLE NEWSZINE IN TEXAS"

FACT, P.O. Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766 ISSUE 5 / AUGUST 1983

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Contributors this issue: Carolyn Cooper, Yale Edeiken, James Hilton, Steve Jackson, Ed Scarbrough, Willie Siros, Robert Taylor, and Dennis Virzi, among others. Art this issue: Darla Baack-Hilton, Brad Foster, Pat Mueller, D. D. Nall, and Mel White. *The Texas SF Inquirer* is published monthly by FACT, the Fandom Association of Central Texas. Subscriptions are \$2, the price of a pre-supporting membership for the Austin in '85 NASFiC bid. If you want to pay more, join FACT for \$12 per year; that gets you a subscription, too. Either way, send your check — or news, articles, art, or letters of comment — to Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766.



LATE-BREAKING NEWS (A BRIEF EDITORIAL)

About two weeks ago, ConStellation's Dalroy Ward called me with an interesting proposition. Mike Glyer can't come to Worldcon this year, he said . . .

. . . and Glyer was going to edit the daily newsletter. How would you like to do it instead?

I believe my first reply was "grrp!". And after that I probably said, "I don't know if I can do it . . ." And I know that after that I said "Sure!"

I've never actually done a daily newszine for a Worldcon before. So I called Dick Smith, who advised me of things I should ask for (badges of only the best colors, no censorship, more in-baskets, and HELP). So Dick Smith, Leah Zeldes, and the staff of the *Texas SF Inquirer* will be there to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Dalroy also told me I could call the newszine anything I wanted — with the possible exception of "The 'Vote For Austin In '85 For The NASFiC' Daily ConStellation NewsZine." The only other interesting title I've managed to come up with so far has been "Crabloid." *up!*

— Pat Mueller

DALLAS FANTASY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES GON LINEUP

The Dallas Fantasy Festival will be held November 25-27 at the Sheraton Park Central in Dallas, Texas. Guests include Roger Zelazny, George R. R. Martin, Howard Waldrop, Kerry Landrum, and (tentatively) C.J. Cherry. Several other guests will be confirmed shortly. For more about Fantasy Festival, see the convention listings elsewhere in this issue.

CONNIE COUNTDOWN CONTINUED

With only 35 days until the big bash(es), the Austin-in-'85 bid committee met at the Austin Hyatt to make final party arrangements for ConStellation. Approximately 40 people attended the

meeting and party afterwards. Preliminary party budgets were set, procedures were set up, and scheduling was begun. Willie Siros announced that crash space would be available in the committee suite Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at \$15 per person per night. There is still plenty of space available and a total of 24 people is needed to cover the cost of the suite.

It was also decided to have a minimum of six Texas fans staffing the party each evening. If you are attending ConStellation and are willing to help out at the party Friday, Saturday, or Sunday nights, please contact Carolyn Cooper, 1846 W. Main St. #2, Houston, TX 77098 or catch one of the Austin-in-'85 personnel at the convention.

How do you attend a Texas convention without going to Texas? Come to the Austin-in-'85 suite! On Friday night, Sven and Yvonne Knudson (the friendly people who brought us Othercon for several years) are running the "Return of

the Othercon." All the details aren't in yet, but if Sven follows his usual creative form be prepared for some surprises.

On Saturday night, the sponsors of Con-Tex and Fantasy Festival are in charge of the festivities. This is another wild and crazy bunch who are determined to party down the hotel.

All of this culminates on Sunday when we will know whether we're holding a celebration or a wake for the Austin-in-'85 bid. Whichever, be prepared for lots of beer, chili, chips (tostada chips, of course), and other secret Texas specialties (ever had a Mickey Mouse or a Herzig?).

Other activities in the Austin suite includes the (in)famous computer match-making of David Allen, yet another issue of Paul and Carolyn Cooper's compazine, and — if we're lucky — Robert Taylor will tell his story of "Jungle Jim and the Real, Live Lion" for video tape. Naturally, there will be plenty of smooching, writer's talk by the horde of Texas authors, and

File 770 Poll Results

File 770's 1983 poll had a lot of good news for the Austin in '85 NASFiC bid. Austin received 36 first place votes while Columbus had 23 and Detroit had 34. Of course, the Austin committee had a good idea that it would win the poll since it stuffed the ballot. According to Mike Glyer, *770's* editor, Austin would have won by a runaway even without counting a single one of the ballot stuffers. Glyer also noted that many of the 41 ballot stuffers came from outside Texas.

Glyer said the campaign worked delightfully and was perhaps the most stylish exhibition of ballot stuffing in fandom history. "Day after day I watched as my mailbox filled up with those white envelopes, each bearing a computer-printed *File 770* and a return address, each containing a xerox of the original ballot, with a label in the upper right corner announcing 'Official Austin in '85 Ballot Stuffer.'" However, each ballot also contained the voter's signature and

address, as required, and better still, 90% of them contained a subscription."

The poll also indicated that fans have a preference for Atlanta as the 1985 Worldcon site. Atlanta received 74 first place votes while New York had 38 and Philadelphia had 29. These numbers include the ballot stuffers. (Without them the figures read like this: Atlanta 43, New York 20, Philadelphia 28.)

The Austin in '85 committee would like to thank everyone who helped on the ballot-stuffing campaign. Remember, all this bidding stuff is supposed to be fun, so let's continue to have a good time with it. And if you didn't get a subscription to *File 770*, send \$3 to Mike Glyer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401. You'll find it well worth it, and if you want to read all about the ballot stuffing and the poll, ask for your subscription to start with issue #42.

Robert Taylor

LARRY PROPP 1945 - 1983

I lost a friend last week. His name was Larry Propp.

Most of you only knew Larry as a fan. Larry found fandom in the late 1960's; St. Louiscon was his first worldcon. Shortly after that he started a small convention, Pecon, in his hometown, Peoria. He was one of the founders of Windycon, Chicago's regional convention and was chairman of three of them. He also served on the board of directors for ISFiC, the group that sponsored Windycon and served several terms as chairman. Larry was also involved with Worldcons as a committee member of Discon II and MidAmeriCon. He was one of the main organizers of the Chicago in 1982 bid and was co-chairman of Chicon IV. That, of course, was his personal triumph.

There was also another person known as Lawrence W. Propp. That person graduated from the University of Michigan and went on to law school at the University of Illinois. He worked with the legal aid society of central Illinois for several years before going into private practice. Larry was an active member of the ACLU, serving on their state board and representing many of their clients in central Illinois. He was a good lawyer.

That is the public record. I remember Larry as a person for what he liked. He liked pipes, especially big misshapen ones. He liked classical music and jazz and Gilbert & Sullivan and the Muppets.

He loved movies or theater of any kind. He liked good food. He liked gyros even though he had to go to Chicago to get it. He enjoyed baking bread. He played bridge well. Like most of us, he was addicted to reading and had large collections of both science fiction and mysteries. He liked Emma Lathen and Dick Francis and John D. MacDonald. He didn't like cats although my cat, Pest, liked him. He loved old radio shows, especially *Suspense* and *Escape*, the *Jack Benny Show* and *Amos 'n Andy* and the *Goon Show*, *Dimension X* and *I Love A Mystery*. Although he will be remembered for the conventions he chaired, his favorite convention position was auctioneer. He enjoyed being "on," getting up in front of an audience and entertaining. Most of all, he liked people.

Most important, I remember Larry as a friend. He was a good friend and a strong one. We had disagreements, often because our ideas of fandom and conventions were sometimes very different, but the disagreements never seemed to permanently change our basic relationship. Whenever we grew apart, it was Larry who would push for friendship. Larry consistently refused to abandon our personal tie and would make sure a telephone call or a visit would spark a reconciliation.

I am sorry that more of you did not know Larry better. I will miss him.

Yale F. Edeiken
7/31/83

general fanish chatter to the wee hours. Aspirin will be available upon request. (Best response of the meeting comes from illustrious leader and noted budget-watcher, Robert Taylor: "This is going to cost HOW MUCH?!!!!!!")

- Carolyn Cooper



HELP! HELP!

The Party Patrol is looking for a few good appliances. If you can bring any of the following to Constellation for use by the Austin-85 bid parties, please do. It would also ease our collective

mind if you would write to me - Carolyn Cooper, 1846 W. Main #2, Houston TX 77098 or call 713-529-0223 - and let me know you're bringing the materials. But bringing the equipment is most important.)

We need:

1. Large capacity coffee pot
2. Slow cooker / crock pot
3. Ice chest / cooler
4. Toaster oven
5. Large pitchers or empty gallon milk jugs
6. Bread warmer / heating tray
7. Blender
8. Multiple outlet power strip (ideally, with line filters and isolators)
9. Acoustic coupler modem
10. Extension cords

Please be sure your name and address are on each item you provide, so we can return it to you. Many thanks in advance to those who help out.

- Carolyn Cooper

J-M PRODUCTIONS TO HOST COLLECTIBLES SHOW

J-M Productions is hosting the Dallas Book, Photographic and Paper Collectibles

Show on October 22-23 at the North Park Inn Convention Center. Books featured at the show will include rare, used, and new westerns, literature, art, Texana, civil war, science fiction, and military publications. There will be 19th and 20th century photographs, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes and stereoviews. The paper collectibles will include historical documents, letters, autographs, diaries, maps, stamps and posters of all kinds. Admission to the show is only \$2. Contact J-M Productions at P.O. Drawer 15247, Austin, TX 78761 for more information.

AUSTIN GAME COMPANY TAKES NATIONAL AWARDS

Austin's Steve Jackson Games dominated the awards ceremony at this year's national Adventure Gaming convention. SJG beat out several larger game companies to win four of the 18 awards presented. No other company won more than two awards.

Both the company's eligible magazines won in their divisions. *Fire & Movement*, a magazine for historical wargamers, won "Best Magazine Covering Boardgaming" for the fifth year in a row. *Space Gamer*, which deals with science fiction and fantasy gaming, was named "Best Magazine Covering Role-Playing" - the first time it has taken this honor.

Illuminati, a futuristic game about secret conspiracies, was named "Best Science Fiction Boardgame." *Illuminati* also won the Game Designers' Guild Select Award, an honor given yearly by the national association of adventure game designers.

Finally, Steve Jackson company founder and president, was the 1983 inductee into the "Adventure Gaming Hall of Fame." Jackson's game designs include *Illuminati*, *Raid on Iran*, the best-selling *Car Wars*, and a number of other sci-fi and fantasy games. He joins such notables as E. Gary Gygax (co-designer of *Dungeons & Dragons*) and simulations expert James Dunnigan in the Hall of Fame.

SJG is a veritable hotbed of Austin fandom. Jackson, *Inquirer* editor Pat Mueller, Jim Gould, Monica Stephens, and several other local fans work there, and this newsletter is typeset and pasted up using their facilities, which explains why this story was printed first.

- Steve Jackson

FANZINE NOTES

*TRI*WAY* is a multi-media and non-media science fiction/fantasy/science zine published yearly by the Press Gang. In the media section, you'll find Sherlock Holmes, *Star Trek*, Indiana Jones, Buck Rogers, and more. There're articles, art, puzzles, poetry - you name it. *TRI*WAY* has its issue one has been reprinted, and can be ordered (FC \$6.25, or UPS \$6.00)

— or drop by 2217 Leona, Austin, TX 78722 (call first — 477-2124, evenings. Thanks!) and get it for base price — \$4.00. Issue two is due out late this summer, and ought to be even better than the first. *Star Trek*, *Dr. Who*, more Sherlock, and, of course, even more media and non-media material plus all the rest of the assorted goodies...

HSFS NEWS

As reported in the *Purple Obscenity*, the "Official Newsletter of the Houston Science Fiction Society," Liz Koenig is the new president, Bob Dougherty is v.p., Joe Pumilia continues as treasurer, Joe and Martin Wagner will edit "Mathom," while Cliff Davis, Maury Gibson and Joe Pumilia will jointly produce the *P.O.* Liz has promised to continue the HSFS tradition as president by doing nothing, and Bob will take over Liz's job of not doing anything when she isn't there to do it. It appears that HSFS is in violation of its constitution by holding all these elections. Of course, HSFS usually ignores its constitution.

If you're interested in finding out more about HSFS or the *PO*, you can write HSFS, 8028 Bendell, Houston, TX 77017 or *Purple Obscenity*, 12525 S. Kirkwood #130, Stafford, TX 77477.

AUSTIN BID COMMITTEE STRANDED FOR FIVE HOURS Eats Ants to Survive

To ensure excellence in the convention field, the first platoon of Austin-in-'85 committee members were sent on a survival mission to test their endurance against the slings and arrows of the outrageous, perserverance in the face of death, and ingenuity in the field (and stream). On Sunday, July 31, the valiant troop (consisting of Willie Siros, Nina Siros, James Hilton, Neil Kaden, Rick Jensen, Rachelle DuBey, Carolyn Cooper, and Paul Cooper) led by Commander Siros were cast adrift in inner tubes down the treacherous Guadalupe River without benefit of advanced scouts, guides, or bheer.

Initial equipment failure (i.e. one leaky inner tube) forced Carolyn and Paul Cooper to double up for the remainder of the gruelling five-and-one-half hour journey. Injuries were high following the first foray against the rapids but the brave band went on. Additional complications included contusions, abrasions, lost sunscreen (with resulting sunburn, sun poisoning, and dehydration), 1 lost set of driver's license and credit cards, 3 lost soft drinks, and exhaustion when the group was becalmed several times and forced to paddle their way downstream.

The intrepid band of committee members did survive. It was discovered later at "Joe's Fried Chicken and Hamburgers," though, that Neil Kaden was

FAN-FILE: Willie Siros

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

Classification: Confidential

To: Chairman of the House Committee on Subversive, Un-American, and Downright Weird Activities

From: Agent 385SL5Y

Re: William Walter Siros

Index Headings: Science Fiction; Fandom; Weird Willie; *Zothique*; *Cambion*; *Solarcon*; *Armadillocon*; Worldcon; Robert Taylor; NASFiC; Pizza, Abuses of.

William Walter ("Willie") Siros has dedicated his life to corrupting people who have no more in common than liking science fiction and having a sense of humor. For over a decade, he has been organizing subversive groups to promulgate a weird mixture of pseudo-philosophies which parade under the title of "fandom."

The first such activity in our files



refers to something called "*Zothique*: The U.T. El Paso Science Fiction Club." The activities of this club included:

- Weekly excesses of bad humor, bad taste, and Charades.
- An underground publication entitled *Cambion* which flaunted Siros' decadent philosophy within its pages (indeed, "Willie" even wrote a quarterly editorial for it called "DOMINANCE/submission" — how blatant!).
- Something called "Solarcon" which brought other members of this unholy fringe group together for yearly orgies of self-destruction (some of the members were quite famous — or rather, infamous).
- Organizing trips to other cities for other such "cons" (in the parlance).

However, the thrill seems to have worn thin for him (as it always does). He apparently needed even bigger fixes, sought greater thrills. To this end, he moved to Austin, Texas.

Since coming to Austin, his activities have followed the same classic pattern — but on an even larger scale: The U.T. Science Fiction Club, *Armadillocon*, going to and then helping to run "Worldcons." (I just found some personal memos. At "Iggy" (?) one Harlan Ellison — see the rather large file on him — would not end a panel (?) when it was time to stop, so Willie pulled the plug on the microphone! Then there's this one about his excessive love of pasta dishes and — especially — pizza. A separate report denotes his excellent taste in women. These last two might be useful...)

Now, he wants to bring these sick people from all over the country to Austin in 1985 for something innocuously called a "NASFiC." (One of his cohorts is Robert Taylor; he is the subject of a separate report.) Don't let "Willie" Siros fool you with his quick smile, his easy-going manner, his sophisticated sense of humor! This man is *dangerous*! I ask — no, I *demand* — that you take action on this now!

Respectfully,
385SL5Y
"Ed Scarbrough"



dangerous when given a "key" position. (Ask Neil, Rachelle, Paul, or Carolyn for full details.) Those members surviving the river test suggest remaining bid committee members be forced to go to the New Braunfels Snake Farm and listen to "Conway Twitty's son Michael" at the Old Heidelberg (would we kid you about a marquee like that?). A final suggestion was made that if no mutually agreeable method for selecting the '85 NASFiC site can be found, Austin could challenge the other vying cities to a trip down the Guadalupe (this time taking the "rough" route)!

(By the way, no one actually ate ants, but it made a better headline.)

— Carolyn Cooper



eats in ★ Austin



*(Or, I'm starving so where can I
find something cheap?)*

The Hyatt Regency in Austin is well situated for finding lots of food at any time of day or night.

For those who like the familiar junk-food fare, there is a Kentucky Fried Chicken, a McDonald's, and a Jack in the Box on Barton Springs Road just a half mile down the road from the Hyatt. If you want a hamburger but don't want to walk that far, try Charlie's Hamburger Joint (just across the parking lot from the hotel), and Whataburger and Sandy's Custard Stand (across from the Palmer Auditorium, where the hucksters' room and art show will be located). A bit more expensive, but well worth it, are the hamburgers at Pedunkle's (a little farther down Barton Springs Road).

Cafeteria food can be had across Riverside Drive from the Hyatt, at the Marimont Cafeteria.

If you want a steak, that can also be found nearby — at either The Night Hawk Restaurant (next to the Marimont) or Bridger's Creek (on South First St. across from the auditorium). The Night Hawk is cheaper, but the food isn't as good.

Next door to Bridger's Creek is The Pelican's Wharf, an establishment that serves acceptable (but fairly expensive) Gulf Coast seafood.

You'll find good Italian food next to Pedunkle's, at a place called Birraporetti's — and at The Old Spaghetti Warehouse on West Fourth St.

I know you'll come all the way to Austin for good Mexican food — and you can find it at a little place called Xalapeno Charlie's, also right across from the Palmer Auditorium. But be warned — it's *all* hot! Jorge's Downtown (on Sixth Street) also serves good inexpensive Mexican food, but is only a roaring bonfire in comparison to the Xalapeno supernova.

Texas is also famous for its chicken-fried steak, and you can find one of the best in Texas at Hut's (one on East Sixth, and one on West Sixth). The Filling Station, next to Sandy's, also boasts a fairly good chicken-fried steak, and is closer to the Hyatt.

There's even a deli — Katz's — near the hotel on West Sixth Street.

What's that? You want to spend a little money and get a really good meal? Try East Sixth Street. This five-block section of Sixth Street, from Congress Avenue to I-35, is a recently-restored section of downtown Austin that's filled with some of the city's best restaurants. The Old Pecan Street Cafe, Hawkeye's, Jorge's Downtown, Gordo's — the list goes on.

All of the restaurants mentioned above are open until at least 11 pm on week nights, and usually until 1 or 2 am on weekends.

There are a few other places I should

mention that are only open during the day. Las Manitas Avenue Cafe, on Congress Avenue, serves the best *migas* (Mexican scrambled eggs) in Austin. Mario's Mexican Kitchen, on West Fifth Street, is another place to get good inexpensive Mexican food. Next door to Mario's are Schlotsky's and The Delaware Sub Shop, both of which have excellent sandwiches. Ted's Steak House on Congress Ave. is the place to stop for Greek food such as a gyros sandwich.

This list should give you a good idea of the sort of food available within a half-mile radius of the Hyatt — but it's far from complete. Oh, yes — I almost forgot. There are two restaurants in the Hyatt itself, one of which will be open 24 hours a day during the convention!

— James Hilton

AREA CONVENTIONS

BUBONICON 15. August 26-28, Albuquerque, NM. Mountain View Inn. GoH: Jack Williamson; TM: Gordon Garb. Membership \$12.50 to 8/25, \$15 at the door. Dealer table: \$15. Films, panels, speeches, parties and more. Always lots of fun. Bubonicon is one of our favorite relaxations. Info: Bubonicon 15, 3405-21 Ave. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

FANTASY FESTIVAL. September 16-17, Arlington, TX. Forum 303 Mall, 615 Forum Drive. Guests include Bjo Trimble and Dr. Jesco von Puttkammer. Costume contest, art show, D&D tournament, movies. For info: Duncanville Book Store, 196 W. Camp Wisdom, Duncanville, TX 75116.

ARMADILLOCON 5. October 7-9, Austin, TX. Villa Capri Motor Hotel, 2400 N. I-35. Pro GoH: Howard Waldrop; Fan GoH: Rocky Matthews; TM: Neal Barrett Jr. Membership: \$8 to 9/30, then \$12. Dealer table: \$30 (includes one membership). Rooms: \$38 single, \$45 double, \$50 double-double, \$55 suite. Good movies, bad movies, panels, art show, masquerade ball, parties. Info: ArmadilloCon 5, P.O. Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766.

ROC-KON 8. October 7-9, Little Rock, AR. Hilton Inn. Pro GoH: Paul Anderson; Fan GoH: Charlie Williams; TM: Warren Newell. Membership: \$12 to 9/23, \$15 at the door. Info: Roc-Kon 8, P.O. Box 9211, Little Rock, AR 72219.

WUNDER FEST V. October 11-13, Wichita Falls, TX. Clark Student Center. Membership: \$7.50 in advance, \$10 at the door. For info, write Wunder Fest V, 2702 E. 10th, Wichita Falls, TX 76799. It's back and promises to be better than ever!

DALLAS FANTASY FEST. November 25-27, Dallas, TX. Sheraton Park Central. Guests include Roger Zelazny, George R. R.

Martin, Howard Waldrop, Kerry Gammill. Memberships are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door; a one-day membership costs \$5. Dealer tables: \$75 for the first one, \$60 for the second, \$50 for each one thereafter. Banquet tickets are \$13.50 per person in advance. Info: Dallas Fantasy Festival, 1017 Birchwood, Garland, TX 75043.

MYSTERYKON 8. November 25-27, Houston. Info: Mysterykon 8, P.O. Box 713, Stafford, TX 77477.

CON-TEX. November 25-27, Houston, TX. SW Hilton Inn. Pro GoH: Anne McCaffrey; Fan GoH: Joanne Burger; TM: Robert Adams. Membership \$10 to 7/31, \$12 to 10/31, \$15 at the door. Rooms: \$36.96 for up to four people. Dealer table \$65. Info: Friends of Fandom, P.O. Box 772473, Houston, TX 77215.

INSTACON. December 2-3, Texas A&M Campus, College Station, TX. A seminar/convention on running conventions. Sponsored by Cepheid Variable. InstaCon will cover such topics as publicity, crisis management, art shows, masquerades, and more. For info, write Jeff Vermeite, MSC Cepheid Variable, Texas A&M University, P.O. Drawer J-1, College Station, TX 77844.

AGGIECON XV. March 29-April 1, 1984, Texas A&M, College Station, TX. Pro GoH: L. Sprague de Camp; Special Guest: James P. Hogan; TM: Wilson "Bob" Tucker. For info: MSC Cepheid Variable, AggieCon XV, P.O. Drawer J-1, College Station, TX 77844. The best in Texas and everyone's favorite. Don't miss it!

CAPCON. April 13-15, Lubbock, TX. Villa Inn. Guests include Andrew Offutt, Phil Foglio, Robert Asprin, and others. For info: Capcon, P.O. Box 2526, Lubbock, TX 79408.

CONVENTION REPORTS

CON REPORT: Midwestcon XXXIV

(The Austin-in-'85 Travelling Road Show returned to Ohio for Midwestcon. Robert Taylor files this report on the famed relaxacon.)

My overall impression of Midwestcon is a mosaic of images: a crowded swimming pool surrounded by tables filled with card players, endless parties, a smiling Bill Cavin along with a grinning Mike Lalor and a feeling from all the fans of sincere warmth and friendliness. There were over 200 fans there, and the programming consisted of a hucksters' room and a banquet along with a con suite.

While unfamiliar with relaxacons, Willie Siros and I quickly learned that they had several advantages. For example, you can sleep late and not feel guilty about missing any programming; you can push your bid and get a tan at the same time, and you can also push your bid and lose your shirt in all the poker and bridge games.

As usual we had our chili and beer party on Friday night so that we could enjoy the other parties on Saturday night. We attracted a large crowd with a healthy appetite that partied into the early hours of Saturday morning. The partying stamina of the midwestern fans was impressive — not even the early closing of the swimming pool affected them. They are experts at having a good time, and we felt we helped them have one. Several folks who helped us out at the party included Dick Smith and Leah Zeldes, who brought some excellent homemade jalapeno jelly to the party. Our chili received favorable comparisons to Cincinnati chili and there were several converts to Shiner beer. But, most importantly, we got a chance to project Texas fandom into the midwest, meet a bunch of new folks, and talk with lots of people.

One of the most enjoyable talks we had was with Howard Devore, a truly delightful man. He was filled with stories and anecdotes. He told us about the '59 Worldcon bid, the last time Texas and Detroit had bid against each other (Detroit won).

Our only disappointment at the convention was the banquet. We had heard that the Midwestcon banquet was a no-holds-barred free-for-all with opposing bids playing lots of pranks and gags on each other. We came prepared, but nothing happened, and we decided not to start anything with a pre-emptive strike.

Besides partying and card playing and hanging out by the pool, Midwestcon offers numerous opportunities for smuffing. Willie and I got to sit in on several of these sessions and chat with Michael Walsh, Craig Miller, Larry Propp, Ross Pavlac, Jim Gilpatrick and, of course, Ben Yalow. We also kibitzed with the BNFs from the south like Cliff Amos, Ken Moore, and Irvin Koch. As usual it was most educational for a couple of Texas boys. Seriously, everyone was more than helpful with their advice and encouragement.

Saturday night was great for partyhopping. There were several excellent parties, especially the Genuine Confusion party hosted by Tucker, the NY in '86 party and the Atlanta in '86 party. I found myself in the lovely company of Candice Massey and Robin Beal, who helped introduce me to many fans, and kept me up to meet the dawn.

For me some of the other highlights of the convention included a very pleasant chat with Joyce Scrivener about the Minneapolis in '88

bid, a discussion with Ben Yalow about Thai food, the Columbus in '85 bubble bath party, and the mulligan stew of the Detroit bidders.

Due to the demands of the bid, I didn't find Midwestcon to be much of a relaxacon. In fact, it was more hectic than some regular conventions since I was having to run here and there to touch base with this or that fan, but next year . . . I'm going to get a good place by the pool in one of those rocking chairs, and just relax. And maybe, if I feel like it, I might just do some rocking, but that's just about all. I highly recommend Midwestcon. It's an excellent con, put on by some fine folks with lots of great people in attendance. Don't miss it.

CON REPORT: DeepSouthCon XXI

(June 3-5, Ed Scarbrough and Willie Siros travelled south (well, a bit north, actually) to attend this year's DeepSouthCon in Knoxville, Tennessee. This report is filed by Willie.)

After the arduous task of getting to Baltimore for Balticon, the smooth trip to Knoxville was a welcome change. However, I found that I was very allergic to eastern Tennessee — it must be the kudzu or something. Despite the hay fever, I managed to keep partying, since it was our first chance to visit with Southern fandom.

Vernon Clark, this year's con chairman, put together the best guest lineup I've ever seen for a regional. The guest list started with Stephen King and Peter Straub and included virtually every American horror writer active today. Unfortunately, King tended to dominate things whenever he was available for autographs. It seemed that the entire con was in line to meet him during Saturday's autograph session.

So, while I was in line to meet Peter Straub and sundry other guests, Ed and Cincinnati fan Joel Zakem went for party supplies and got the chili started. With the assistance of Jim Corrick and Gay Miller Corrick, two fine Tucson fans who helped spread the word at Leprecon in Phoenix a few weeks earlier, the party was another great example of the Austin Travelling Road Show.

Since we arrived late Friday, we decided to

CON REPORT: Dallcon

(Dallcon, put on by the D/FW Gamemasters, is Texas' biggest game convention. This year's Dallcon, held June 3-5 in Dallas' castle-like Dunfey Hotel, drew over 700 members. Steve Jackson files this report.)

Chairman Gordon Griffith and co-chair Bob Marrinan, assisted by a committee that included most of the city's gamers, presented a program of tournaments, one-shot game sessions, seminars, auction, and even an art show featuring the works of Texas artists David Martin, Real Musgrave, and Denis Loubet. A loose dealers' room, presided over by long-time game insider Howard Barasch, did a fairly brisk business.

Science fiction and fantasy also figured heavily in the gaming events. *Champions* (a popular superhero game), *D&D*, and *Illusioncraft* were among the more popular events.

Dallcon did have its problems. For instance, the film program was cancelled in its entirety when the projection equipment failed to show



postpone our party until Saturday night and visit the other parties instead. However, having never attended a DSC before, we didn't know that Saturday night is traditionally reserved for DSC bidding parties. (Like Worldcon, the Southern Fan Confederation votes on where DSC will be held the next year.) This made for some interesting times, with folks coming up and musing, "Austin in '85? I didn't know Texas could bid for DSC!" or "I thought Atlanta was bidding for '85 . . ." and other confusing sentiments (on both sides). Our apologies to the Birmingham and Chattanooga bidding committees.

Two quite interesting events at DSC were the Hearts Tournament (which included a late night session in one of the elevators, and games anywhere four fans happened to have a deck of cards), and the DSC business meeting (where Meade Frierson stepped down as head of the DSC, and Irvin Koch's Chattanooga bid won the '84 DSC, even though he has scheduled it for the same weekend as Midwestcon).

While I hope to be in Cincinnati next year for Midwestcon, I expect to attend more DSCs in the future — and I encourage others in Texas to try to make it to DSC. The southern fan tradition of hospitality helped ensure that I had a hell of a good time.

up. At a sf con, this would have been cause for a lynching; wargamers are less media-oriented, and thus the committee was spared. Several events were also cancelled due to the tragic death of a referee the day before the convention, but the committee did its best to work around the gap.

Origins, the national gaming convention (wargaming's Worldcon, so to speak) will be held near Dallas next year; the Dallcon committee will merge their convention into Origins for the year. The Dallcon group needs a little polish — but they have obviously learned from this year's failures as well as its successes. Overall, Dallcon '83 was a good convention; next year's Origins promises to be an even better one. The committee plans to include regular sf con programming as well as games, and confirmed guests already include C.J. Cherryh and Bob Asprin. And Austin-in-'85 is guaranteed an experienced cadre of personnel — not just game referees, but convention staffers — from the Origins '84 committee. It all looks very promising.



LETTERS

Honestly, how can you dare call your sheet a "newszine," and fer Crissake, "The Inquirer," without running at least one story about Prince Charles and Lady Di! Jesus, people, you don't have to run photographs with the story, but give us something; hell, even a simple line drawing would do. Okay, so you've got the Nebula nominees, and the Hugo contenders, and NASFiC bid reports, but for cryin' out loud, where is the news? Where's a story on Johnny Carson's divorce? Don't you have anything on Victoria Principal, or Burt Reynolds, or the Osmonds? You left out the obligatory Tom Selleck piece, and I can't find anything at all in here about Liz or Dick!

It really bothers me to have to throw such harsh criticism on a new zine that's struggling to become established, but you've just got to realize that you're in a crowded market and the only way to get an edge on your competitors is to do what they do, but better. The zine is visually impressive, but it's going to take a lot of hard work and some more serious investigative journalism before you can bring the contents up to the level of quality evident in the overall production. Keep trying.

Oh, Haven't seen your zine at the check-out stands in the local Safeways. Work on your distribution, too.

Terry Floyd
San Francisco, CA

I've owed you for several weeks a note of thanks and some comments on the June issue of the *Inquirer*. Its contents are considerably more mind-boggling than some of the fiction currently being hyped as SF.

For instance, there's that preposterous claim by Robert Taylor in his article on Austin, to the effect that your city is 600 miles east of El Paso. Obviously, this is impossible. States



aren't that big. If I drive north from my home, I cross the Mason-Dixon Line and am in Pennsylvania after travelling about 5 miles. If I head south, I must go all of six miles before I cross the Potomac River and enter the state of West Virginia. For that matter, a couple of dozen miles west of Hagerstown, the entire state of Maryland is only about 2 miles wide. And you're trying to make me think that a central Texas city is 600 miles from another Texas city. Of course, if this was really true, it would make things easier for drivers. I have a hard time remembering the different driving regulations for three states.

But I enjoyed reading about these parallel universes with their fans, clubs, and cons. It's also nice to know they still publish fanzines and apas in Texas since most of the publicity the state achieves in fanzines elsewhere involves cons and congoing fans.

Harry Warner, Jr.
Hagerstown, MD

I would like to thank you for sending me issues of the *Inquirer*. I have not made up my mind just whom to support for NASFiC — in all honesty I am hoping to win DUFF in that year. From this myopic corner of the universe NASFiC seems like a choice between a bid of which I have not too much information (but is at the end of a direct flight from L.A.) vs. a bid being put on by some energetic and seemingly friendly people (unfortunately, though,

getting to Austin gives the airlines two chances to lose my luggage going and two chances returning). From my jaundiced viewpoint I am tempted to opt for Detroit; after all, it is the congoers who make a con for me, not the concom — I attend programming only if I am on it. With any luck I will win DUFF and not have to worry about any of this.

Let me now take you to task (gently, though) for some editorializing which I find bothersome. And you probably did not even realize that you were doing said editorializing. Perhaps I should call it a little inept editorial work.

My circle of friends and acquaintances (and the names of various other fans who have names which I recognize) is significantly different from those fans who are primarily congoers and/or con-runners even though we are all "members" of fandom.

So it sticks in my craw when I see a list of people who attended certain cons being called "prominent." It is probably true that the listed Columbus people are prominent in both con-running and con-going fandoms and are probably somewhat known in other areas of fandom, but calling them "legendary" is debasing that word. A good case can be made that only three fans deserve the word "legendary" attached to them: Walt Willis, Harry Warner, Jr. and Wilson "Bob" Tucker.

As for the "prominent" people at the Houston con, all that I can say is that they are maybe prominent in your area of the country, at cons in your area of the country, or in con-going/running in general (although *not* in much recent Worldcon running). I have not heard of them (which is not meant to be as egotistical a statement as it seems).

Good editing would have not allowed through the words "legendary" or "prominent" in these con-reports as such words (without qualifiers) were merely the result of either neoish enthusiasm or a parochial unawareness of the true state of fandom. I shall not hint at ego-stroking. Hell — good editing will either drastically delete most of this letter or not print it at all (but it will pay heed to what are meant as friendly tips). After all, my natural writing style remains a bit inflammatory even when I am being nice.

Marty Cantor
North Hollywood, CA

You will find a check accompanying this LoC to help you buy a few cases of beer for your upcoming parties. Maybe you won't have to buy Rheinlander again like you did for Midwestcon. *bleck* Although the beer was terrible (even Texas Shiner beer is better!) and I arrived too late for the chili, I found the party highly entertaining. You folks live up to the term "Friendly Texans."

I enjoyed the article about Austin. I didn't know that the town was so cultured. Your local politics amuses the ex-Chicagoan in me. Although sleazy politics comes as second nature to me, I guess I will never make a Real Texan. I like pina colodas.

I'm finally convinced that Texans have a sense of humor when I read an article in the paper concerning the new Austin "Silicon Valley." A local newspaper held a contest for the best nickname for this explosion of high tech that chose Texas over California. Some of the submissions included "Redneck Research," "Longhorn Chips," "Lonestar State of the Art" — and my favorite, "High Tex."

Keep up the good work.

Robin Beal
Oak Park, IL

Oh, hi there!

Frankly, we need your help. There are scores of armadillos who have never attended a science fiction convention, let alone a Worldcon. We want to send as many of these deserving critters to ConStellation this Labor Day as we can, and with your help we will.

We ask you to look into your heart and give. Anything will help — \$10, \$5, or \$2. Whatever you can afford. Besides helping an armadillo attend his first Worldcon, your donation will also send Texas chili and beer to ConStellation, which is being held in a strange, exotic place the natives call Baltimore. Many of the fans attending this Worldcon are culturally deprived, having never tasted true Texas chili or sipped a longneck.

By sending an armadillo along with chili and beer to ConStellation, you'll be helping us in our efforts to bring the 1985 North American Science Fiction Convention to Austin, and you'll help quench the thirst and hunger of all those needy fans in Baltimore. So please sit down and write a check to FACT, and mail it off to us today. We'll thank you — and so will fandom.

And remember, your donation is tax deductible.

Our sincere thanks,
The Austin in '85 Bid Committee

The Texas Sci-Fi Enquirer

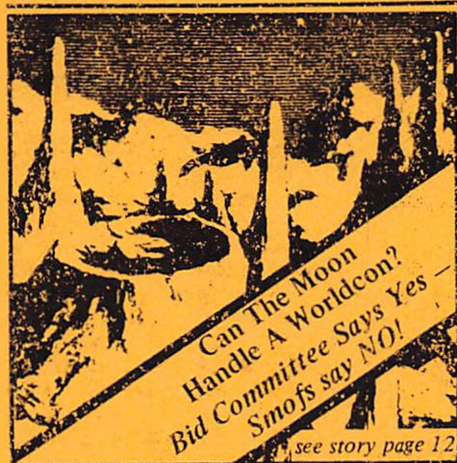
Produced by FALSE, The Fandom Association of Lower Somewhere Else

POPE GAFIATES!

Donates Fanzine Collection to Vatican

Church officials and fans throughout the world were shocked and dismayed when the Pope announced his gafiation Sunday.

A Vatican spokesman said the Pope could now devote more time to church matters, and that he would cease publication of his personalzine, *Papal Bull*, after the Christmas issue. His mimeo, nicknamed the Holy Roller, and his entire fanzine collection (estimated as second only to Bruce Pelz's collection) will be placed in the Vatican archives. However, the Pope will continue to contribute to the cardinals' apa, *This Thing of the Fishermen*, and attend cons when his schedule permits.



HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19). Good fortune prompts early loan payoff. Economy is improving but watch your valves. Rotate your tires.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20). Your market position improves. Possible role in beer commercial. Stay away from china shops.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Sibling rivalry reveals true affection from parent. Chewing gum helps you to forget. Consider getting a "Toni."

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). Don't spread yourself too thin. Premature discovery thwarts takeover plans. Consider benign behavior.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). You don't need this aggravation. Have some tea and relax. A trip to Miami will fix you right up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Unexpected delay in planned excursion results in your not reaching destination. Personality is strong point. Buckley type is still out there.

Although he is best known in fandom as a prominent sercon fanzine hack, the Pope also gained fame as a legendary masquerade fan (he has won the Judges'

UFO Incident Really A Typo

Bright lights, odd noises, a barking dog and a crude note convinced Mrs. Sarah Grandberry of Amarillo, Texas that she was having a close encounter with a UFO.

"There it was, plain as day, pinned to my door," said Mrs. Grandberry, referring to the note. "UFO. Will return later." That's what it said. At first I paid it no mind, figuring it was the kids. But 'long about supper time strange things began to happen. First, Mitzy — my dog — began to act up. She barked and barked! Then two very bright lights shone through the front window and a banging

Award twice). His masterful Worldcon hoax bid, *ConFession*, is a legend in fannish circles.

The Pope's infallible writing style and sharp wit brought him several nominations for Best Fanzine Writer, but he never won the Hugo, perhaps due to a long-running feud with (cont'd on p.14)

noise that about scared me half to death commenced."

The UFO turned out to be a UPS delivery, however. As Mr. Cornin, the driver, explained, "I was kinda in a hurry that afternoon and I musta wrote UFO instead of UPS. After we cleared up the mix-up, we both had a good laugh."

"Next time, I'll use parcel post," Mrs. Grandberry declared.



Husband Slices Up Family With Home Laser Light Show

Tragedy struck the Midwestern town of Lucas, Ohio last Sunday evening when a deranged father sliced and diced his wife and six children with a laser light show made from a Radio Hut kit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). Things tip in your favor. Inspection is due. Your judgement is counterbalanced by your swinging moods.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). You are mistaken for a police officer. Don't take the money. Hold out for a percentage of the gross.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). An MTV guest appearance leads to a comeback. Exercise care and watch for Manilow backlash.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Things don't go as planned. A good idea fails to get off the ground. Trust no one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Don't lie about your age. Early morning is the best time for a hair cut. Love tales. Something or other guides.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20). Mrs. Paul sticks up for you. Friday is a good day to sleep late. An offer looks good but don't take the bait.

The father, angered over the Pope's gafiation, was later killed in a hail of police bullets when he attacked a patrol car. "He really went nutso," said Sergeant Green. "You would of thought he'd been eating plutonium or something."

Patrolman Brown gave this account of the incident. "He came at us waving this three-dee flashlight sort of thing and yelling something about 'Eat Cordu and Die, Mundanel!' But what was really weird was the (cont'd on page 770)

Lose Weight on Plutonium Diet

Mrs. Betty Smith of Yucca Flats, Utah, says she has discovered a miracle diet -- Plutonium.

"Just a teaspoon full is all you need to curb your appetite," said the balding Mrs. Smith. "You can't overeat, either, because just about everything comes back up."

When asked about her source for the silvery-gray metal, Mrs. Smith gave us a toothless smile and said her area supplier was (cont'd on page PU-239)

CLUB MEETINGS

STARBASE HOUSTON is a Star Trek club catering to both local and out-of-state fans. Membership includes the monthly newsletter, "The Log," participation in all club activities and lots of fun. For more information contact Jan Beckwith, 4713 Allen Genoa, Pasadena, TX 77504.

OVERMIND is the Organization for British Science Fiction and Telefantasy, dedicated to the promotion of a variety of British sf. Come, discover... For information, write Overmind, 5602 Effingham, Houston, TX 77035.

HOUSTON C/FO is the local chapter of the Cartoon/Fantasy Organization, devoted to the appreciation and advancement of animation, especially Japanese animation. For more information, send your name, address and phone number to E. Frützeli, 13015 Pebblebrook, Houston, TX 77079.

THE DALLAS AREA GALLIFREY CONNECTION meets once a month, usually the 3rd Saturday. Contact Robb Waller at P.O. Box 814624, Dallas, TX 75381 or call 484-0911 for information.

THE GALLIFREYAN CONSULATE is an organization formed to keep Dr. Who fans in the Houston area up to date on the program, and give them access to videotapes not shown locally. The Consulate publishes a monthly newsletter and a semiannual zine. For information write Randy Besch, P.O. Box 772481, Houston, TX 77215.

THE ENTERPRISE CONNECTION is an Austin-based Star Trek fan club whose members are interested in all areas of science fiction and fantasy. They use Star Trek as a springboard from which they explore the printed as well as the visual media. Meetings are held every other Sunday at members' homes. For information contact Kim Neidigh at 478-3661.

COMPANIONS is a Dr. Who club which publishes the renowned zine "Time Log." For more information, contact Carlotta Barnes, 429 Euclid, Houston, TX 77009.

STAR TREK SAN ANTONIO will meet in the Youth Building of the Alamo Heights Christian Church (located at North New Braunfels and Primrose) on September 10 at 1 pm. For more

information contact Helen Padgett, 2919 Burnside, San Antonio, TX 78209.

U.N.C.L.E. HQ is a Man/Girl From UNCLE fan club. Memberships are \$6 and include a bi-monthly newsletter. For more information contact L.E. Keeper, 8601 Broadway #2034, Houston, TX 77061.

THE L-5 SOCIETY is a non-profit organization promoting public awareness of space development. For more information contact L-5 Society of Houston, P.O. Box 10161, Houston, TX 77206.

WHO'S WHO IN AUSTIN is Austin's only Dr. Who fan club. They meet once a month in informal surroundings to view tapes, exchange news, read stories - and sometimes to party. They go to cons and keep in touch with Who fans around the states and even beyond. For information call 477-2124 evenings and weekends, or drop a line to WWIA, 2217 Leona, Austin, TX 78722.

C.F.O. HILL COUNTRY will meet at the main branch of the Austin Public Library in meeting room B on September 11 from 10 am to 5 pm.



FACT, P.O. Box 9612, Austin, Tx 78766

The Texas SF Inquire

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