

The Texas SF Inquirer

"THE BEST LITTLE NEWSZINE IN TEXAS"

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A CONVENTION FOR MASOCHISTS

On December 2nd and 3rd, Cepheid Variable will hold Instacon, a seminar/convention on running conventions. Instacon will be held at Texas A&M University (home of AggieCon) in College Station, Texas. The concom includes Jeff Vermette (chairman), Nadine Miller (assistant), and Steve Gould (advisor). Among the topics under consideration are Video, Cinema, Pro Relations, Presentational Programming, Publicity, Crisis Management, Dealers' Room Management, Auctions, Art Shows, Masquerades, and Committee Courtesy. Confirmed speakers include Othercon coordinator Sven Knudson, Houston pro artist Doug Potter, Ft. Worth dealer Bob Wayne, past Aggiecon head Becky Matthews, and Houston writer and con worker Carolyn E. Cooper. The convention staff hopes to create a larger base of trained workers for area conventions including (hopefully) the 1985 NASFiC in Austin. For further information, write to Jeff Vermette, Cepheid Variable, Memorial Student Center, Texas A&M University, Box J-1, College Station, TX 77844-9081.

WRITE TRACK

Austin writer Kim L. Neidigh has had his short story "Daydream Believer" (*Free Spacers' Press* #1, Winter 1982) nominated by the Small Press Writers and Artists Organization for an award in the category of Best Writer: Fantasy/Sword & Sorcery for 1982. Other nominees include C.J. Cherryh and Janet Fox. Winners of the SPWAO awards will be announced within the next few months.

Cathy Ball, one of our favorite Oklahoma fans, is attending the Clarion SF workshop at Michigan State University. Cathy is hoping to join the ranks of distinguished Clarionoids that include Lisa Tuttle, Ed Bryant, George Alec Effinger, and Vonda McIntyre. Cathy's zine, *Love's Prurient Interest*, received a very favorable review in a recent issue of *File 770*.

FULL SPEED AHEAD

T.J. of Barbarian Comics, and Big John of Big John's Funny Farm have merged to form Fantasy Merchants. Their store is located at 13755 W. Montgomery in Houston, Texas.

Fantastic Worlds Bookstore in Ft. Worth is changing its location. As of August 8, it will be found at 3011 Lackland Road in Ft. Worth. The new location will have twice the display area of the current store. Besides being the largest retailer of science fiction, comics, and games in Ft. Worth, Fantastic Worlds Bookstore has sponsored the appearances of more than two dozen authors and artists, including Douglas Adams, Stephen R. Donaldson, and George R.R. Martin. Owner Bob Wayne said that plans were being made to continue these personal appearances at the new location.

LUBBOCK PLANS CONVENTION

From the flatlands of Lubbock, word reaches the *Inquirer* (via Mel. White) that Lubbock will host a convention on April 13-15. CapCon's preliminary guest list includes Andrew J. Offutt, Phil Foglio, and Robert Asprin. Mel. White is one of the Lone Star State's most talented artists and the con will undoubtedly have a strong emphasis on fan and pro art. Check the convention listings for more information.

BABIES IN THE NEWS

Kathryn Whitworth had a boy on June 24th, and Eric Pumilia appeared on May 31st courtesy of Joe and Luce Pumilia. (Have you taught him how to run a projector yet, Joe?)

FANZINE NOTES

NorT Spews is the clubzine of the NORTH Texas Association of Fandom (NORTAF). These are the fine folks up in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area; their zine is packed with some interesting items, including book reviews by A.P. McQuiddy, a role-playing article by J.P. Reader, a rambling first editorial by Reg Platt, an explanation of Fanspeak by Marye Wexford, and many other articles. To find out more about *NorT Spews* write to Reg Platt, 5546 Longview, Dallas, TX 75206.

Our apologies to Edd Vick. His fanzine is actually called *Miscellania Unlimited*. His next issue will talk about Texas authors, including Ardath Mayhar and Joe Lansdale. Issues 1-3 are available for \$2 each plus \$1 postage; write to Edd Vick, 1601 Darr #106, Irving, TX 77062.

Our condolences to the family and friends of First Fandom member and Austin-in-'85 supporter Bob Pavlet. He will be greatly missed.

Area Conventions



You should send a self addressed stamped envelope when asking a convention for more information.

ARCHON 7, July 22-24, St. Louis, MO. Chase Park Plaza Hotel. GoH: Gene Wolfe. FGoh: Fred Haskell. TM: Howard Waldrop. Membership: \$18. For info: Archon 7, P.O. Box 15852, Overland, MO. This is a really terrific con. Lots of pros, great banquet food, interesting panels — and the pool party is always fun.

NANCON 88-VI, July 29-31, Houston, TX. Greenway Plaza Hotel on the SW Freeway. Gaming con. For info: Call 1-800-325-5000. Nancon has become a tradition in Houston. What began as a couple of gaming tables in Nan's game store in a mall has become a very large and enjoyable gaming con featuring SF games, miniatures, board- and role-playing games.

COMIX FAIR '83.

July 29-31, Houston, TX. Ramada Hotel West. Guests include Chris Claremont, Jeff Miller, Jaxxon, Kerry Gammill, Jim Shooter. Costume contest, two 24-hour big screen video rooms, film and video contest. Membership: \$7.50. For info, write Comix Fair '83, Camelot Book Stores, 2001 SW Fwy., Houston, TX 77098.

1983 COMICS & SUPERHERO SHOW, July 29-30, San Antonio, TX. Windsor Park Mall. For info contact Tom Snow, 8916 Data Point #2521, San Antonio, TX 78229.

YAMATO CON 1, August 13, Dallas, TX. Harvey House. Video room will feature a full season of *Starblazers*. Dealers' room will have plenty of Yamato material, comics, movie posters, art, and more. Membership: \$2. Info: Yamato Con 1, P.O. Box 814624, Dallas, TX 75381.

FANTASY FESTIVAL, September 16-17, Arlington, TX. Forum 303 Mall, 615 Forum Drive. Guests include Bjo Trimble and Dr. Jecko von Puttkammer. Costume contest, art show, D&D tournament, movies. For info: Duncannonville Book Store, 106 W. Camp Wisdom, Duncannonville, TX 75116.

ARMADILLOCON 5, October 7-9, Austin, TX. Villa Capri Motor Hotel, 2400 N. I-35. Pro GoH: Howard Waldrop; Fan GoH: Becky 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, masque 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: Pool Anderson; Fan GoH: Charlie Williams; TM: Warren Norwood. Membership \$12 to 9/23; \$15 at door. Dealer table \$25 (includes one membership). Info: Roc-Kon 8, P.O. Box 9911, Little Rock, AR 72219.

WUNDER FEST V, October 21-23, Wichita Falls, TX. Clark Student Center. Membership: \$7.50 in advance, \$10 at the door. For info, write Wunder Fest V, 2702 Lebanon, Wichita Falls, TX 76309. It's back and promises to be better than ever!

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

CON-TEX, November 25-27, Houston, TX. Southwest Hilton. 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: \$36.95 for up to four people. Dealer table \$65. Info: Friends of Fandom, P.O. Box 772473, Houston, TX 77215.

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.

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.

C.F.O. Hill Country will meet at the main branch of the Austin Public Library, in Meeting Room B, on August 13 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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.

North Texas Association of Fen (NOR-TAF) meets at 8:00 pm at the Pizza Inn at 13525 Montfort in Dallas. July dates are the 14th, the 21st and the 28th. Contact Bobb Waller at P.O. Box 814624, Dallas, TX 75381, or call 484-0911.

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. Trizzell, 13015 Pebblebrook, Houston, TX 77079.

The Dallas Area Gallifrey Connection meets once a month, usually the 3rd Saturday. Contact Bobb Waller (see above) 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 semi-annual 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 August 6th at 1:00 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 bimonthly newsletter. For more information, contact L.E. Keeper, 8601 Broadway No. 2034, Houston, TX 77061.

Austin SF&F Society/FACT will have a meeting at the Hyatt Regency on July 30th, at 2:00 pm, to discuss the NASFiC bid and the plans for the party room at ConStellation. Everyone is welcomed.

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

CON REPORT: Marcon XVIII

(Robert Taylor, Willie Sirois, and Pat Mueller travelled to Columbus to host an Austin in '85 bidding party at Marcon XVIII on May 13-15. Robert Taylor files this report.)

Sponsored by the Ohio Science Fiction Society, Marcon XVIII drew an estimated 500 fans to the Columbus Quality Inn. James P. Hogan was the Guest of Honor and George "Lan" Laskowski was the Fan Guest of Honor. Both were quite friendly and very accessible.

The convention staffers, which included some of the legendary names in fandom like Bob Hillis, Larry Smith, Mark Evans (the chairman), Celia Smith, and many others, were most helpful in every aspect and certainly went out of their way to make us feel at home and welcome. In fact, our hotel room was decorated in orange and white (the University of Texas colors).

A bit exhausted after our drive from Austin, but ready to party and show the Ohio folks how Texans bid, we made what I thought would be the usual munchie-supply run. The food map (which was well laid out) in the program book also indicated the closest malls and grocery stores. A search through a Woolworth's for tape and poster paper gave Pat and Willie a chance to practice their "cowboy abilities." I found them in the pet section, herding parakeets that were in an open pen the size of a pool table. (A vision of Rocky and Bullwinkle with their herd of worms.) "Are you planning to take them to Missouri?" I asked as they moved the birds from one end of the pen to the other. The parakeets seemed rather distraught from all the attention, but fortunately Willie and Pat tired of the mass of colored feathers and began searching the mall for other diversions. Later, I found the two parakeet-herders acquiring party supplies by filling out J.C. Penney credit card applications — in return for a completed form, they received free bottles of Coke and Diet Coke. Still later, but with the supply run completed, Pat and Willie watched as fans chanted "Rocky Horror" lyrics after inhaling helium. A very surrealistic experience.

The Austin party was a bit more normal than galloping parakeets and credit-card cola. We had our chili and jalapenos and Shiner beer (we sold some of the empty cans to beer collectors). It seemed a bit like a family reunion with Tara Edwards and Dan Story of the Detroit bid dropping in. We exchanged chili for Vernors (a beverage I've grown quite fond of). Of course, the Columbus folks came by, as did two of our favorite NESFANS, Jim and Laurie Mann. As always, Dick Smith and Leah Zeldes were there helping out. And Larry Propp,

Dick Spelman, and Rusty Hevelin enjoyed our hospitality as we enjoyed their advice and encouragement. Despite a bad back Candace Massey was present. And, of course, Ben Yalow was there.

Saturday was most relaxing, especially after Friday. I got to chat with George Laskowski, a great guy and an excellent choice for fan guest; he gave me a copy of his zine "Lan's Lantern." I found Buck Coulson in the dealers' room and was able to fill some of the holes in my "Yandro" collection.

There was an excellent panel on long-distance relationships that covered the topic of geography and love. Willie and I were on a panel with the other NASFiC bid committees, discussing the merits of our various cities and hotels. It was a so-so panel without any fireworks. Those came later when we went out for Chinese food and enjoyed some excellent Szechuan dishes that were hot and spicy enough for Texas palates. Late Saturday evening we had a low-key party, but most of the time we spent visiting other folks' parties — Confusion with Dick and Leah, NY in '86 hosted by Ben Yalow / Brighton in '89 hosted by Laurie and Jim Mann, Detroit in '85 with the SMOOF gang and several others. Much later that evening, we worked out a ballot method for voting on the NASFiC with the Detroit and Columbus people. Ben Yalow's help was truly invaluable in bringing about the "Marcon Accords." Ben is a true fan and his service to all the bidders was above and beyond the call of duty.

Our Sunday morning volleyball game was rained out, which spoiled one of our surprises that will now have to wait until ConStellation — but we needed the sleep to prepare for the trip back to Texas. We found Marcon to be a very enjoyable convention. We had lots of people visit our party, we worked out a voting method for the NASFiC, met Lan, got credit at J.C. Penney, and helped round up the stray parakeets for the big drive. Now that's a convention.



CON REPORT: Houston Con '83

(Robert Taylor spent his July 4th weekend at Houston Con '83, and reports:)

Houston Con '83 was a cooperative effort of the Council of Convention Committees. This was the first joint venture by the Council and, by most standards, it was a success. The Council deserves a big thank-you from the Houston fans, and not just for running an enjoyable convention (which Houston Con certainly was), but for working together, overcoming

their differences and putting the fans' interests first.

Over 750 fans came to the Hyatt Regency to see the Number 1 SF Fan, Forrest Ackerman, along with make-up and props expert Bart Mixon and master model maker John Fischner.

There were panels ranging from "What is SF" to an L-5 Society discussion on "Sex in Zero-G," demonstrations of martial arts and belly dancing, a good film line-up, an excellent video schedule that (although it was spread over three rooms) was ably managed by the very competent Elizabeth Frizzell, a costume contest, and an audio area that featured radio serials and many other enjoyable events.

Although Paul Bracewell, Jim Simpson and Bill Parker (the primary ramrods for the con) were in a constant state of motion, the convention had a relaxed, low-key atmosphere that allowed for lots of visiting and chatting with friends and fans.

On Saturday, ArmadilloCon/Austin in '85 hosted a small party, which several of the prominent fans attended, including Cliff Davis, Liz Koenig, Paul and Carolyn Cooper, Patty Bushman, Linda Neal, Maury Gibson, Cathy Fitzsimmons (no, she isn't a hoax), and many others. The party never reached critical mass for a real blow-out, but everyone enjoyed themselves, along with the drinks and munchies. While the NASFiC bid was touched on, most of the conversation was about the miracle of Houston Con and the Council of Convention Committees.

A Sunday afternoon talk with Dennis Glasser and the (for once) motionless Bill Parker gave me a great deal of background on the Houston convention scene, which at times has resembled a scarred battlefield. Houston's con wars go back too far to detail, but the ultimate losers were the fans, who were quickly becoming disillusioned by conventions in general. Both Bill and Dennis felt that restoring fan confidence in Houston conventions was the primary aim of Houston Con '83 and the Council of Convention Committees. "Plus we wanted to prove to ourselves that the Council could work together and get the job done," added Bill.

Jim Simpson and Paul Bracewell echoed these feelings. And the quick chats I had with fans around the con seemed to emphasize this desire for less feuding and more cooperation. Personally, I feel the Council (ComixFair — Michael Betker, J.R. Riley; ConTex — Patty Bushman, Bill Parker; Houston Con — Paul Bracewell, Barry Lewis; MiniCon — Jim Simpson; MysteryKon — Michael Riley) should be very proud of what they've accomplished. Houston Con felt good; it felt real good, and everyone (especially the fine folks at registration) are to be congratulated for a job well done.

LETTERS

I went to the ABA convention last weekend (June 3-6 in Dallas). Anyone who reads *SF Chronicle* or *Locus* will know what it was like: Overwhelming and tiring. Both days that I went, I wound up with aching arms from carrying all the freebies and catalogs.

Of course, it was closed to the general public (they were lax on checking, but you had to be a bookseller). There were thousands of booksellers wandering among hundreds of booths run by all the major publishers and most minor ones. And guess what? *SF* is still a ghetto as far as I can tell.

Oh, there were major promotions for the biggies (Asimov, Douglas Adams, L. Ron Hubbard), but they were few and far between. The display for DAW was way back in the rear of the New American Library booth. The only strictly *SF* publisher who had a good location was Donald Grant. It was an eye-opener.

Ah, well. Maybe I overreact. The display was certainly big enough at the Warner booth for "Superman III" (nice to see Kotzwinkle getting some exposure) and "Twilight Zone." Of course, they're both movies...

I got the third issue of the *Inquirer*. Looks good. The Becky Matthews file was fun, even if I did know most of it. I tried calling her, but there was no answer. Sorry, Steve.

Keep up the good work and we'll see you at OKON.

Edd Vick, Irving TX

The bidding party at Conquest in Kansas City went well. The party was held in Kim Pugh and Syd Henderson's room. Kate Wilhelm was there for about an hour and many of the writers came by (Glen

Cook, William Wu, Pat and Lee Killough, John Kessel, Rob Chilson). We ran out of chili around 11 p.m., but the hot peppers were appreciated by several people. Kim Pugh manfully tended the crockpot and kept stirring in hot sauce in an effort to make the chili more "Texas-like." When a few stout hearts complained that it wasn't spicy enough, we had to feebly admit that we were only imitation Texans anyway and urged them to vote for Austin so they could sample the "real stuff." It seemed as if I spent the whole evening explaining that we were Okies and we wanted to promote the Texans. (I kept muttering that, after all, it was a science fiction convention: People seemed amused and interested that we wanted Austin to win.) Ken Keller was great. He is obviously an experienced hand at talking up the bid and knew the key people to chat with about it.

Need to go and get some packing done for my Clarion trip. Good luck on the bid and have fun at OKON.

Cathy Ball, Norman OK

Thanks a lot for sending me the last two issues of the *Inquirer*. I am not 'zackly sure where you learned of my existence, but I am not displeased at my being exposed to your pub.

I was glad to see "Blade Runner" on the Hugo ballot. When Greg Rihn and I did the film program in Chicago, we were hoping that we would be the first Worldcon to show all five Hugo nominees for that year and the next. With "Blade Runner," we did indeed accomplish that goal.

For any fanzine fan interested, I will finally have a new *Private Heat* out around Labor Day. It will be another double issue at the inflated price of \$3, and will have as contributors myself, Carol Kennedy, Maia, Dave Szurek, Jane Freitag, and the conclusion of the comic strip done by

Emma Bull and Will Shetterly. Texas artists Brad Foster and Doug Potter will appear in the issue. It will probably be about 80-100 pages long. (And some wonder why I'm lucky to get two issues out per year!)

Thanks again, Friendly Texans, keep them fanzines a-comin'.

Lee Pelton, Minneapolis

We also heard from David C. Reed, Bob Daugherty, Deborah Kilgore, Bruce and Kim Farr, Fred Duarte, Ed Meskys, Charles D. Ward, Johnny M. Lee, Earl Josserand, Mel White, Cathy Rylander, and many others.

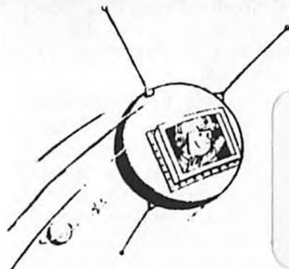


LATE-BREAKING INQUIRE

An Editorial of Sorts

This is the down and dirty issue of the *Texas SF Inquirer*. Or it might be referred to as what one does when the word processor disk crashes, the typesetter breaks and everyone is either sick or at a convention. Many thanks to Monica Stephens, Rusty Ansley, Dennis Snowder, and all the gang for pitching in and helping out on this issue. And remember, in the immortal words of Groucho Marx - "it isn't over till the fat lady sings."

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