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**#45**

**Sep 1992**



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THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER, c/o Alexander R. Slate, 8603 Shallow Ridge, San Antonio, TX 78239 or:

THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER, c/o Dale Denton, 2016 Ravinia Circle, Arlington, TX 76012

EDITORS: DALE DENTON & ALEXANDER R. SLATE

Howdy,

Sorry that this issue has taken so long to come out, but here it is. Both Alex and I were out-of-state most of the month of July, and since that time, I seem to have been fighting a losing battle with my house. Almost anything that has to do with water has had something go wrong with it, from the roof to the waterbed. Well, I exaggerate slightly. The hot water heater and the ice maker have both worked fine—but the rest . . .

The dishwasher quit filling with water, the garbage disposal quit letting water drain out (and quit doing anything else, for that matter), and the toilet can't seem to make up its mind what it's supposed to be doing. The shower quit spraying, and the hot water faucet in the bathtub hammered the pipes something wicked.

The roof leaks, but at least I convinced the insurance people that I had hail damage (the fact that there were roofers working on three houses in my block when the adjuster came by the second time might've helped), and the heater in my waterbed died.

Let me add that there's a certain scary feeling when you hear what sounds like rain, but from only one side of the house. In this case, the hot water hose on the washing machine had split and was spraying hot water about fifteen feet, into two other rooms. As this happened around midnight, I was glad I hadn't quite made it into bed. No telling what I would've found by morning.

However, once everything is fixed or replaced, I *shouldn't* have any problems (like this, anyway) for a while. I guess that's why the saying "May you live in interesting times" is an old Chinese curse, and not a proverb. Things have been interesting, that's for sure. Oh, did I say that my car's been overheating, too.

Don't forget about ArmadilloCon. It's October 9-11 this year. I'm expecting to see all of you there.

— Dale

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Ads should be camera ready (but if y'all want, we'll design something for ya). Please send ads and checks, made out to FACT, Inc., to either of the editors.

## Up the Creek

by Dale Denton

Here it is—my pre-election political editorial. Read it at your own risk. The ideology is my own, and does not necessarily reflect the beliefs or ideas of FACT, its membership, or even the other half of the editorship. By Election Tuesday in November, it may no longer even reflect mine.

My original idea for this editorial seems to have fizzled, since Perot is no longer running for CEO of the country. A pity, in a way. He really stirred up the presidential race, even for the short time that he was a non-candidate. While I understand why he dropped out, and agree that he picked a good time (he couldn't have gotten an electoral majority, and the House of [mis-]Representatives would not vote him in), I do wish he'd stayed in longer, just to stir up trouble and worry Slick Willie and Mister 'Read My Lips'. Anyway, now that Perot is out of the running, the candidates are back to doing what they do best—promising the moon on the easy payment plan.

Usually, by this time, I've fairly firmly decided who I'm going to vote against (there hasn't been a candidate to vote for since I've been old enough to vote). This time, there's so much going against both of the candidates that I've had a hard time choosing.

Bush has not done well on the domestic front. I realize that the relatively unexpected fall of the Warsaw Pact pretty well doomed the Defense Industry in this country, which is not altogether a bad thing, but he really could have done something besides telling us that things really weren't that bad, and that we really weren't in a recession. Congress wasn't much better, if any at all. Look how long it took for them to pass any relief for the millions of people out of work who could not find a new job (if you're not sure how long, it was over a year later than it should have been).

Bush recently moved Baker to Chief of Staff, to better direct his Presidential campaign. If he were going to do this, he should have done this much sooner (not that there have been any good times to change out the Secretary of State in the last couple of years). Likewise, he needed to dump certain other staff members sooner than he did, when he first realized that they were out of touch with the American populace.

What about that Balanced Budget Amendment? Was that politics at its worst or what? That wasn't just Bush, but Congress as well. If you missed it, it was set where the first year it would take effect would be six years down the road, where nobody who was running for office in 1992 would be around, leaving the bastard

child to be dealt with by their successors. Luckily, there were enough left in Congress to realize what an albatross this would be around the nation's neck. Don't get me wrong, I want a balanced budget, and to get rid of our nation's deficit. This just is not the right way to do it.

I will have to admit that Bush has handled foreign affairs relatively well, especially considering the global changes which have happened during the last four years. I might have done the Kuwaiti liberation differently, but I definitely agree with his actions (some say inaction) on the wars in former Yugoslavia. Military action there would be worse than useless. Unless the UN moves enough troops into that area to turn it into a military totalitarian state, it will turn into something worse than another Vietnam.

Speaking strictly as a member of the Army Reserve, I would much rather have Bush as my commander-in-chief than Clinton. Once Desert Storm commenced, Bush allowed the military to do what it does best, and did not interfere with its mission.

Then there is Clinton. After twelve years as governor, Arkansas is still one of the most poorly operated states in the nation. However, taxes went up 120%. Still, when you're at the bottom, it may take more than that to make much of a difference.

Not being the incumbent right now is something of an asset. He doesn't have to defend his track record. However, everything he promises seems to cost money—money which we don't have. This worries me to no end. The deficit is going to turn into a nasty monster before too long, if we don't do something now.

However, what he wants to do sounds good. I've got to grant him that. With a Democratic Congress, he might well get some of the things done. It might be worth that. It might not.

According to both candidates, it comes down to trust and change. With this, I agree. The problem is—I don't trust either of them very much. Bush is promising us another four years of 'no new taxes', and Clinton is promising us, well . . . just about everything. It's so hard to decide who to vote against.

Maybe I'll just take Heinlein's advice on voting, as written in *The Notebooks of Lazurus Long* (*Time Enough For Love* is the book). If you don't remember the advice, look it up.

I'm planning on being at ArmadilloCon, so perhaps someone there can convince me which way I should cast my vote. See ya there.



## A Gaelic Experience

by Carol Stepp

Hello, again. Life goes on, books and movies are waiting for attention, the summer gets hotter (as it will in Texas), and I'm writing a second column. My trip to Britain is less than a year away. I'm not sure right now how long I will be there—I am thinking about staying the whole summer. If I do that, I will need to quit my present job, but I have been thinking about doing that for a long time. I want to concentrate on my dealership and art/craft work; so I could come back and do temporary work to ward off starvation. This is a big decision to make, but since I need to make airfare, hostel, and B&B reservations by February 1993, I will have to have settled things by that time.

The trip to England and Wales has expanded. My pen friends, Glynn and Kathy Greenwoon of Milton Keynes, share my interests in things Celtic and pagan, and they will be picking me up in London on or about 13 June in their caravan (camper in Americanese). From there we will visit Winchester, Salisbury, Tintagel, Glastonbury, Silbury, Cadbury, Avebury, and assorted other places tied to the King Arthur and Merlin legends, as well as the holy places of the Druids. Of course, 20 June will be spent at a Druid Summer Solstice Ceremony.

The time in Scotland would include a few days on the Isle of Lewis (Outer Hebrides—way up north in the Atlantic) to visit the Standing Stones of Callanish. This is one of the more important Druidic sites. You might find a visit to your local library to read about the place, and see photos of it, well worth the time. Another place in Scotland will be Iona.



Iona has a strange history. It was a holy place for paganism, then St. Columba used it as his stepping stone to bring Christianity into Scotland, and now, it is used as a retreat for both Christian and pagan organisations. Iona is also where 48 Scottish kings are buried, including MacBeth.

I have taken up the study of Druidry—not as a religion, but as a way to work with and understand the Self and the natural world. Druidry is an order that “speaks to that level of our soul and of our nature which is in tune with the elements and the stars, the sun and the stones.” Their major purpose is “uniting our natural, earthly selves with our spiritual selves while working, in however small a way, for the safeguarding of our planet.” There are two factions of Druids—the Order of Bards, Ovates, and Druids, who I am studying with, and The Brotherhood of the Universal Bond. They are not in conflict with one another—apparently they differ only on one obscure point of ritual—but they are separate. Glynn is connected with The Brotherhood, so it is their solstice ceremony which I will be attending.

I have had the first of my lessons—one thing I have learned is that I am supposed to plant a grove of trees, preferably of one of the sacred trees (oak, alder, rowan, ash), but since I don't own any property, I can put a tree in a pot. It has been suggested to me that I simply get a lot of seeds and hurl them to the winds. Maybe I'll do that.

The complete study in the O.B.O.D. takes four years. At the end of the first, I will be a Bard, at the end of the second an Ovate, and then after two more years, a full Druid. As I progress, I'll keep you updated.

I told you in the last column about the god Herne, aka Cernunnos. This time I'll tell you a little about Lir (Llŷr is the Welsh spelling). One note about the old gods: the same god can have different names in different circumstances, or different gods can have the same name. Each god can also be subtly different for different people. Lir is the Celtic god of life and light and is connected with the sea, a wanderer who is never still. He is on a constant quest for knowledge. This knowledge gives him power over craftsmanship, all craftsmanship. He is also called “Llŷr the many skilled.” When Lugh lost his hand in battle, it was Llŷr who constructed the silver hand for him which had all the properties of life. Lugh and Llŷr are both known at times as “of the silver hand.”

Let's see . . . movies. *Year of the Comet*: bad review from the critics, but rather a fun movie (the first half

took place on the Isle of Skye, which is why I'll probably get the video). It was about a bottle of wine distilled in "the year of the comet" and the assorted nasty characters who wanted to get their hands on it, for various reasons. The last part took place on the Riviera of the Mediterranean Sea, and included a subplot about eternal youth..

Penelope Ann Miller was quite good (she is wonderfully comic). The inimitable Ian Richardson played her father, a wonderful surprise as he was not mentioned in the reviews I read. It's too bad the reviews caused the movie to leave theaters quickly—catch it on video or television if you have a chance.

I also saw *Far and Away*, which I enjoyed quite a lot since it revolved around a couple of Irish families at the turn of the century who were involved in the Oklahoma land rush. *Patriot Games* was surprisingly good, particularly so since it didn't follow the book in many major places. But it was done so well that except for the ridiculously changed ending (which at least gave it a proper ending), that the changes did not particularly injure the story, although I did like the book better.

Finally, *Batman Returns*. I've heard much comment on the movie and it mostly agrees with my own thoughts. I found it made an excellently made movie as far as look and sound, but there were too many plots, and too much time was spent on the other characters, with not enough on Batman. When I go to see Batman, that's who I want to see, and I doubt that Michael Keaton spent more than 30 minutes on-screen. I liked Michelle Pfeiffer much better than Kim Basinger as the protagonist and "love" interest. While the movie beat *Batman* at the box office on its initial weekend, I would be very surprised if it repeated the overall take of \$251 million. I just don't think people will see it multiple times like they did *Batman*.



According to Star Trek Austin Regular (STAR)'s newsletter, TV Guide says the Sci-Fi channel is set to start on 24 September. This conflicts with what Bjo Trimble says in her latest Newsletter *Space Time Continuum*, which says USA Network has postponed the debut. Well, STAR's information is later than Bjo's, so I still don't know whether we will eventually get Sci-Fi or SFAN, or when. Incidentally, I get Bjo's newsletter regularly, and it is not just about *Star Trek*, but about other things as well. She give permission to copy anything from the newsletter for other newsletters, as long as you give her the credit. I have hesitated using it because of the timeliness of some material, and the fact that, of course, not all FACT members are Trek fans or video-movie fans. I'll drop in something once in a while if I think it won't be hopelessly outdated when the *Inquirer* is released.

Books: *Dark Force Rising* by Timothy Zahn. What can I say except that I am a *Star Wars* junkie and you won't get an unbiased opinion. If it's about Luke, Leia, Han, Lando, Wedge, etc, you won't hear criticism from me (I am even reading the Dark Horse novels, which I don't think are the greatest things ever published). I'm like a person led to an oasis after being lost in the desert.

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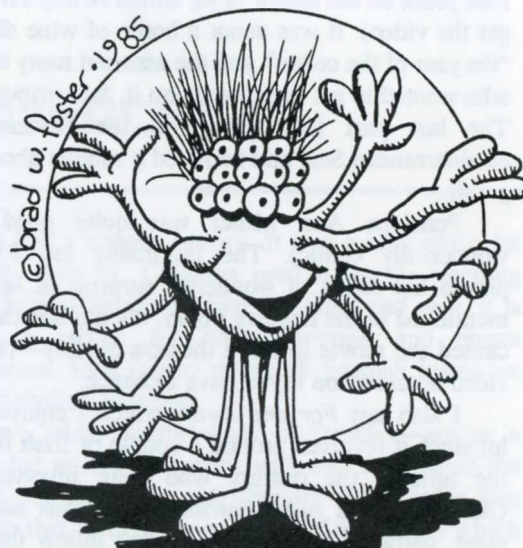
I crave anything about *Star Wars* like I would a drink of cold water.

**Lammas Night** by Katherine Kurtz. This is an older book about the bringing together of a grand coven in England on Lammas night (first of August) to use assorted forms of ritual (including witchcraft, paganism, freemasonry and druidry) in an attempt to keep Hitler (a known practitioner of witchcraft and believer in astrology) from invading England.

It is fiction, with fictional characters, but is based on historical accounts about the Battle of Britain and Hitler's unexplained failure to cross the English Channel. History was inexplicably changed that month, and while the book does use fictional *deus ex machina* in telling the story, is chillingly believable.

Speaking of Katherine Kurtz, I now have the sequel to **The Adept** which I wrote about last column. I shall read it and review it for the next column.

Another book I read, **MacBeth** by Peter Beresford Ellis, is a history of the "last truly Gaelic king of Scotland." It was quite educational in showing some of the reasons the Scots don't really like the English (though distrust is a better word). If you are a Shakespeare scholar, you should know that he wrote his play about MacBeth in a way to please King James I of England, and therefore made MacBeth and his wife as villains in a way history does not prove. Sort of the way he made Richard III seem a truly evil king when in fact he was not. This book also gave some insight on how the Norse played a great role in the history of the Orkneys, Shetlands, and outer Hebridean Islands (which were not then a part of Scotland).



ONE-WOMAN FANZINE  
COLLATING COMMITTEE.

(**Face of Fear**, **Cold Fire**, and **The House of Thunder**), two mysteries, and two books which don't fit any of the aforementioned categories. So little time, so many books. Note: for those of you following the Patricia Kenneally *Keltiad* series, she has recently finished her biography of Jim Morrison, and book two of the second *Keltiad* trilogy is due out next January.

I am getting ready for my dealer's table at ArmadilloCon. I would like to make the acquaintance of all the FACT people I can this year—after several years in the organization I still know too few of you, so I ask everyone to stop by and introduce yourselves. You aren't required to buy anything—this is not a commercial. It's just where I'll be most of the three days. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

Our Irish Gaelic class goes merrily along, with all of us (except our instructor) stumbling over unfamiliar phrases and strange spellings. This fall I hope to put together a group of people interested in learning Scots Gaelic. There is a fellow in Marble Falls who will help get the group started. I suspect, with my study in the Irish, and subsequent knowledge of a little Scots Gaelic, that I will be a sort of untrained leader and "teacher." Actually, I hope to get some practice in teaching and, of course, learn enough to establish an informal class at UT for Scottish Gaelic within a couple of years. I hope to get some practice speaking the language with the native speakers while in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland next summer. Scots Gaelic is truly a dying language, and I want to be one to help keep it alive. If any of you are interested in the class, please let me know. It will be held on Friday evenings, at my apartment to start with, beginning about 7:30, and at least twice a month we will finish the evening with a  
(continued on Page 8)

## AWARDS:

# 1992 Hugo Nominations

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### Best Novel:

- Lois McMaster Bujold, *Barrayar* (Baen)  
Emma Bull, *Bone Dance* (Ace)  
Orson Scott Card, *Xenocide* (Tor)  
Anne McCaffrey, *All the Weyrs of Pern* (Del Rey, Bantam UK)  
Michael Swanwick, *Stations of the Tide* (Morrow), serialized in *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, Mid-December 1990 and January 1991  
Joan D. Vinge, *The Summer Queen* (Warner/Questar)

### Best Novella:

- Nancy Kress, "And Wild For To Hold", *Alternate Wars* (Bantam Spectra) and *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, July 1991  
Nancy Kress, "Beggars in Spain", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, April 1991 (also published by Axolotl Press)  
Kristine Kathryn Rusch, "The Gallery of His Dreams", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, September 1991 (also published by Axolotl Press)  
Michael Swanwick, "Griffin's Egg" (St. Martin's, Legend)  
Connie Willis, "Jack" *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, October 1991

### Best Novelette:

- Isaac Asimov, "Gold", *Analog*, September 1991  
Pat Cadigan, "Dispatches from the Revolution", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, July 1991  
Ted Chiang, "Understand", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, August 1991  
Howard Waldrop, "Fin de Cycle", *Night of the Cooters* (Ursus Press) and *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, Mid-December 1991  
Connie Willis, "Miracle", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, December 1991

### Best Short Story:

- Terry Bisson, "Press Ann", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, August 1991  
John Kessel, "Buffalo", *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, January 1991

Geoffrey A. Landis, "A Walk in the Sun", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, October 1991

Mike Resnick, "One Perfect Morning, With Jackals", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, March 1991

Mike Resnick, "Winter Solstice", *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, October/November 1991

Martha Soukop, "Dog's Life", *Amazing*, March 1991

Connie Willis, "In the Late Cretaceous", *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, Mid-December 1991

### Best Non-Fiction Book

- Charles Addams, *The World of Charles Addams* (Knopf)  
Everett Bleiler, *Science Fiction: The Early Years* (Kent State University Press)  
Jack L. Chalker and Mark Owings, *The Science Fantasy Publishers: A Critical and Bibliographic History*, 3rd ed. (Mirage Press)  
Jeanne Gomoll, Diane Martin et al., *The Bakery Men Don't See Cookbook* (SF<sup>3</sup>)  
Stephen Jones, *Clive Barker's Shadows in Eden* (Underwood/Miller)

### Best Dramatic Presentation:

- The Addams Family* (Paramount)  
*Beauty and the Beast* (Disney)  
*The Rocketeer* (Disney)  
*Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* (Paramount)  
*Terminator 2* (Carolco)

### Best Professional Editor:

- Ellen Datlow  
Gardner Dozois  
Edward L. Ferman  
Kristine Kathryn Rusch  
Stanley Schmidt

### Best Professional Artist:

- Tom Canty  
David Cherry  
Bob Eggleton  
Don Maitz  
Michael Whelan



### Best Semiprozine:

*Interzone*, David Pringle  
*Locus*, Charles Brown  
*New York Review of Science Fiction*, David G. Hartwell, Kathryn Kramer, Gordon van Gelder  
*Pulphouse*, Dean Wesley Smith  
*Science Fiction Chronicle*, Andrew I. Porter

### Best Fan Writer:

Avendon Carol  
Mike Glyer  
Andrew Hooper  
Dave Langford  
Evelyn Leeper  
Harry Warner, Jr.

### Best Fan Artist:

Brad Foster  
Diana Harlan Stein  
Teddy Harvia  
Peggy Ranson  
Stu Shiffman

### Best Fanzine:

*File 770*, Mike Glyer  
*Fosfax*, Janice Moore and Timothy Lane  
*Lan's Lantern*, George ("Lan") Laskowski  
*Mimosa*, Dick and Nicki Lynch  
*Trapdoor*, Robert Lichtman

### John W. Campbell Award:

Ted Chiang  
Barbara Delaplace  
Greer Gillman  
Laura Resnick  
Michelle Sagara



(continued from page 6)

*cailedh* (a real one which consists of a group in a social situation sitting and drinking tea and whiskey, eating buns or sweets, and telling stories or singing songs). I also expect our group to attend other functions together two or three times a year, like the Highland Games at Salado the second weekend in November,

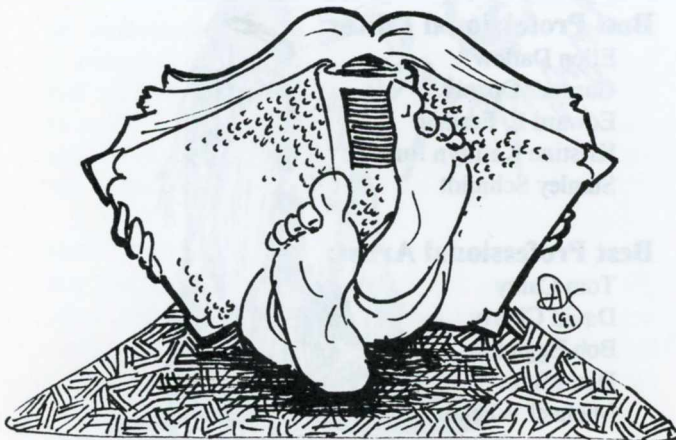
Anyway, a few more phrases of Irish: *Cad is ainm duit?* (Kahd iss ahnum duitye) is What is your name? Your reply, [your name] is *ainm dom* ([your name] iss ahnum dome). *C  ad m  le f  ilte* (kyad myilye fawltie) means A hundred thousand welcomes and *L   do thoil* (lyay doh hoyle) is Please. *N  il fhios agam* (neel ish agam) means I don't know and *Tuig* (teeg) means understand so that *Tuigim* (tigum) is I understand. *N   thuigam* (nee higam) means I do not understand. Irish has things called broad and slender consonants and vowels, and things called eclipsis and spiration (*thuigam* is the aspirated form of *tuigim*). But I will try to avoid grammar lessons as much as possible, giving you phrases that you must simply memorize if you want to learn them.

*Sl  inte mhath* (slahnche vah) means good health in Scots Gaelic.

**Errata:** A couple of corrections in my first column. The castle standing guard over Loch Ness is called Urquhart Castle, not Farquhar as I stated previously. My apologies to the Urquharts and the Farquhars. Also, *Bel dhia dhuit* is the proper spelling of the phrase that means "Bel be with ye". Lastly, if you write to me, be sure to put in East Oltorf, as shown below. I don't know if West Oltorf has an 1800 block, but there is no need to confuse the post office as to my correct address.

LOCs about this column should go to *The Texas SF Inquirer*. However, personal comments, suggestions, or criticisms can be sent to me at 1817 E. Oltorf #2012, Austin, TX 78741-4022.

*Sl  n*, till next issue.





## CONVENTIONS:

# Conventional

### Sep 3-7 **MagiCon (Worldcon 50)**

Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL

Guests: Jack Vance, Vincent DiFate, Walt Willis,  
Spider Robinson

Info: \$125 att, \$25 sup., PO Box 621992, Orlando, FL  
32682-1992

### September 12-13 **Trekfest 1992**

???, Houston, TX

Guests: John Vorholt, Carmen Carter

Info: \$15 til Aug 1, c/o Starbase Houston, PO Box  
981701, Houston, TX 77098-1701, 713-527-9277

### Oct 9-11 **ArmadilloCon 14**

Wyndham Southpark, Austin, TX.

Guests: Neal Barrett, Jr., Darrell K. Sweet, Al  
Jackson, Gardner Dozois, Kim Stanley Robinson

Info: \$25, PO Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766-9612, 512-  
453-2241

### Oct 23-25 **Chili Con Carnage**

Dallas Parkway Hilton Hotel, Dallas, TX.

Guests: C. Dean Andersson, Jean E. Martin, Cat  
Kingsgrave, Bill Jahnel, et al.

Info: \$15, Fantom Productions, 4848 Alcott #102,  
Dallas, TX 75204, (214) 826-7756.

### Nov 20-22 **Sooner Con 8**

Central Plaza Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK

Guests: L. Sprague & Catherine DeCamp, Frank  
Kelly-Freas, Mark Schulzinger, Martha Beck,  
Wilson "Bob" Tucker

Info: \$15 til May 30, PO Box 1701, Bethany, OK  
73008-0701

### Nov 27-29 **Contex X**

Hilton Southwest, Houston, TX

Guests: James P. Hogan, G. Harry Stine

Info: \$18, Friends of Fandom, PO Box 266996,  
Houston, TX 77207-6996

### Apr 8-11, 1993 **Houston Future Fest**

Hyatt Regency Downtown, Houston, TX

Guests: George Alec Effinger, Michael Pondsmith,  
Sidney Williams, Roland Mann.

Info: \$18 til Aug 31, \$22 til Jan 1, \$35 at the door,  
STS Corporation, PO Box 1770, Friendswood, TX  
77546-1770, 1-800-787-5317

### Apr 16-18 **Con-Troll**

Marriott Astrodome, Houston, TX

Guests: Larry Niven, Steven Barnes, Ed Greenwood,  
Dell Harris, Judy Dugas

Info: \$20 until Jan 15, \$22 until Apr 1, \$25 at the  
door, PO Box 740969-1025, Houston, TX 77274

### Sep 2-6, 1993 **Con Fransisco (Worldcon 51)**

Parc Fifty Five & Le Meridien Hotels, SF, CA

Info: PO Box 22097, San Fransisco, CA 94122

### Sep 1-5, 1994 **Conadian (Worldcon 52)**

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Info: PO Box 2430, Winnipeg MB, Canada R3C 4A7

### WORLDCON

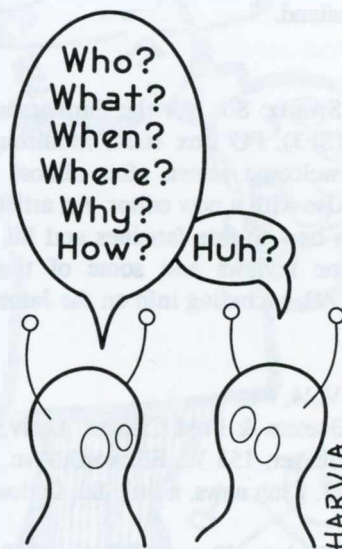
### BIDS:

1995 - Atlanta, GA, USA & Glasgow, Scotland

1996 - Los Angeles, CA

1997 - San Antonio, TX & St. Louis, MO

1998 - Baltimore, MD & Niagara Falls, NY



## Trades List

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**Andruschak APA Zine**

BCSFazine #226-228

The Reluctant Famulus #21, 22

Scavenger's Newsletter #98

**Astromancer Quarterly** May 1992

ed. Joe Maraglino: Niagara Falls SF Association, PO Box 500, Bridge Station, Niagara Falls, NY 14305. I had seen some good stuff about this fanzine before I picked it up from R. Taylor. The good stuff was right, an excellent genzine. Of particular interest were fanzine reviews by Leah Zeldes Smith and a column on art by Sheryl Birkhead. There was also an interest piece of short fiction by Mary Stanton. If the quality keeps up I rate this a potential Hugo winner.

**Austin Writer** May 1992

ed. Judy Barrett: Austin Writers' League, 101 West 5th, #E-2, Austin, TX 788703. Stuff for writers.

**Cry Havoc** Dec 91-Jan 92, Mar-Apr 92.

ed. Keith Smith; National Association for SF, PO Box 2836, Wellington NZ. Two information packed issues with all sorts of items of interest to fans both here and in New Zealand.

**Cube** #47

ed. Steve Swartz: Soc. for the Furtherance and Study of F&SF (SF3), PO Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624. A welcome return after almost a year long absence. Also with a new editor. An article by Andrew Hooper on how to rate fanzines and his top picks of 1991. Some reviews and some of the news from WisCon 1992, including info on the James Tiptree, Jr. Award.

**DASFax** V.24, #4, 5

ed. Rose Beetem & Fred Cleaver; Denver Area SFA, c/o Fred Cleaver, 153 W. Ellsworth Ave., Denver, CO 80223-1623. Club news, a little fan fiction, reviews.

**De Profundis** lots of issues ending with # 242

ed. Jeni Burr; Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 91601. Primarily club minutes, but possible the most amusing club minutes you'll ever read. They've been having a lot of dialogue about the issue of smoking in the club house.

**Derogatory Reference** #72

Arthur Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers, NY 10704. A short one-pager, basically announcing a change of address.

**Fantasy-Scope** #2 "Now In Its 41st Year"

Roger Sims, 34 Creekwood Square, Cincinnati, OH 45246. A faanish fanzine. Possibly the most interesting item was the pre-road trip to Africa trip report.

**Further South on Peachtree**

ed. Charlotte Proctor: Atlanta in '95, Suite 1995, 3277 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30305. The bidzine for the Atlanta Worldcon.

**The Insider** #171, 172

ed. Cheryl Medley: St. Louis SF Society, PO Box 1058, St. Louis, MO 63188-1058. Has a new editor, who appears to have expanded the format. Still contains club goings on, but has added a few articles. It looks to be a more interesting read now.

**Instant Message** #511-514

ed. ?: NESFA, Box G, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, MA 02139. Pretty much a cut and dried report of NESFA official information. A few additional news items are also reported. Sort of like a scaled back *FACTSheet*.

**The Knarley Knews** #33

Henry & LethaWelch, 5538 N. Shasta Dr., Glendale, WI 53209. An interesting perzine (primarily). Knarley has some iinteresting thoughts about politics today, which I tend to agree with.

**The Journal for Space Development** V. 13, #10, 11

ed. Richard Braastad: Houston Space Society, PO Box 266151, Houston, TX 77207-6151. Formerly *The Colonist*. A revamped fanzine, now larger. They planned to do a national monthly, but that's been put on permanent hold.

**Lan's Lantern** #36, 37

George "Lan" Laskowski, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2662. These are two special editions on Theodore Sturgeon and A.E. van Vogt. They contain remembrances and articles concerning the stories and books written by these two giants in the field.



**Neology #74**

ed. Catherine Girczyc, Edmonton Area SF & Comic Arts Society, c/o Campus SF, Box 113, Student Union Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. The last issue until we don't know when. The club is in trouble because of a lack of new members. The address is new, too.

**OASFiS Event Horizon May 92 & June 92.**

ed. Louise M. Kleba: Orlando Area Science Fiction Society, PO Box 940992, Maitland, FL 32794-0992. The May issue is primarily news and Mike Rembert's review column. There is also some nice artwork. The June issue is the OASIS V convention issue, and is primarily short fiction pieces.

**Opuntia #7.5, 8, 8.1, 8.5**

Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7. 8.1 is a fanzine review issue. The reviews are interesting enough, what makes this issue even better are maps showing where each fanzine or loc comes from.

**Postal Pointers #2**

Dick & Leah Smith, (see address below). A little something from the couple that puts out *Stet* with hints on how to mail out fanzines cheaply, particularly overseas. A valuable service from these editors.

**Progress Report #1 - Conadian**

ed. Terry Fowler; Conadian, POB 7111, Fargo ND 58109. The name says it all, for the '94 Worldcon.

**PSFS News May, June 1992**

ed. Carol Kabakjian: Philadelphi SFS, PO Box 8303, Philadelphia, PA 19101. Primarily club news.

**Rune#82**

ed. Ken Fletcher: Minnesota SFS, PO 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408. The first issue we've seen in a long, long time. Has a new editor. New editor! It has a rotating cast of editors now. This was "The Almost-All-Cartoon Rune!". That about describes it.

**SFSFS Shuttle #85-87**

eds. Don Cochran & Fran Mullen; South Florida SFS, PO Box 70143, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143. News & reviews.

**Stet #5**

ed. Leah Zeldes Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090-6415. Mimeod on twiltone, this is a faanish fanzine extraordinaire. The loccol is growing to FOSFAXish size.

**The Total Animal Soup of Time #2 & 3**

Terry Frost, 68 Rochester Rd, Balwyn, Vic, 3103, Australia. Perzines from Australia are generally among the most interesting reading material I see. This is no exception. A very broad range of material is covered in these two issues ranging in scope from items fannish to items serious mundane.

**Transmissions V. 14, #2**

ed. Anne Davenport: Panhandle SF Society, PO Box 16382, Panama City, FL 32406-6382. A verysmall clubzine. This issue is almost all primarily ST:TNG related.

**Trash Barrel**

Donald Fransor, 6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91606. Fanzine reviews.

**Wishful Thinking #1**

Arlene Garcia, Wishful Thinking, PO Box 161275, Miami, FL 33116-1275. A well done first genzine effort including a comic strip and some fiction. All the material is done by Arlene or Bert Garcia. Hope they can keep up the good work.



## LOCs

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Sheryl Birhead  
23629 Woodfield Rd  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
April 25, 1992

Dear Inquiring Minds,

Hmm, I checked out the colophon to see what months I was holding in my hand, but it only says bi-monthly. I presume it is March-April (?) -and based on that, it is a fair bet that this will be late to make the nextish (or at least aawfully close!)

Very interesting Foster cover-like it- -might have been nice to have antennae or tendrils, but who am I to complain...nice.

I go by the art school of I know what I like (not that I know anything about it) and saw some beautiful astronomical pieces at a recent "Sugarloaf" Craft Fair- - sort of like the king of all craft shows. I was with Nicki Lynch and we walked over to look- and got to talking with the artist- mentioning a possible source of interest to him of conventions. About then he handed each of us a flyer (nice piece of advertising!) along with his 800 number. It was Jeff Adams. There isn't any rug to small that it cannot be climbed under (sorry about the preposition but...). Beautiful work and we had a nice talk.

Nice to see Linda Michaels' work- she is showing up everywhere now and finally getting the fan recognition (slowly, but surely) that she deserves. Sherlock is finely done- as usual (I am running out of things to say since her work is consistently good). I like the Harvia piece-both for the sentiment and the content- -finding work with armadillos in it isn't easy! Peggy's nice little planetscapes fit in so cleanly and nicely- -more please. Diana's piece is reminiscent of the style she had and which seems to be in transition- but this one is totally Stein.

Since there isn't cancellation on my issue, I can't say how long it took to arrive- -but I heard several comments about this from other people about a week-plus ago, so I doubt if I am all that timely.

This looks neat and tidy-crisp and clean. Keep it up! If you would like doodlings, please let me know and I'll be happy to oblige.

I imagine the whole country knows that Texas has been a rather moist place this winter- -the TV coverage of the rains (etc.) and flooding has been pretty good. Personally, I am trying not to think about what may be my own inside flood-- one inside wall is

now wet (the mold is what caught my attention as I rounded a corner-don't look in there that often, so I have no idea how long it has been "incubating" there) almost to the floor. But, since it seems to dry out- I cross my fingers and ignore it. One of these days the wall is going to collapse and then I won't be able to ignore it.

After hearing about Perot on TV, I saw my first petition-getters for him about a week ago. From the looks of it, he'll be on the ballot here, at least. We'll see. As with a lot of folks, I will vote, but it seems as if it is a continual search for the least desirable rather than an actual "good" choice. We'll see.

Ah a San Antonio bid for the Worldcon! I enjoyed my short stay in San Antonio-and the walk along the river, but I'll pass on Houston for the time being. I promised myself not to go back there unless either a) someone else was driving or b) I had a guarantee that enough natives would be out of town so that mere mortals could navigate their roads and read the road signs. The feeling or tearing along at about 70 miles an hour in the rain and gloom along with a million of other motorists (all of whom seemed to know where they were going-sheesh) and feeling very lost is not one I want to repeat for a long time. The next time I visit Houston has to be totally as a tourist- - none of this driving business.

My own and only visit to Mexico was to go across the border into Tijuana (hope that is spelled correctly) so I could say I had actually been there. I would like to go back when I have the opportunity to actually see the country a bit and not what I saw on the first ground.

I can't keep track of all the bids for the various "large" cons. Is there someplace that intermittently publishing a list of who is bidding for where on what? I like the little listing at the end of the *Conventional*- of the Worldcon bids. Give me a nice nutshell view (??) of what is in the offing as of now.

I am not exactly in the mainstream of conventional news and wondered if anything has been put out by Chicago about their bottomline information? Just curious and wonder if I am rushing the information? I wonder how the convention, as a whole, did and information on the artshow. Somehow I doubt that information is available on the hucksters' room- -but that too, would be interesting. I ordered one of the VCR tapes that was offered of the convention, but I haven't gotten it yet- but I did get a postcard from



them-some time ago-saying they had gotten the order, so I assume... I wanted to see what it was that I didn't see on my short stay there.

I only saw a very little of the artshow in Chicago—my one impression of the room was that it was not finished.

I am losing ground on the fanzine scene- this time I only get 8 of the 27 listed...just a bit over a third. Nice looking issue-keep pubbing!

*I go by the same art school. After having lived with Laurel for a while and also doing the art review column I have learned quite a bit as to why I do or don't like particular art. It's been quite educational.*

*I haven't made up my mind about Perot one way or the other. If it was strictly a Clinton/Bush race I'd vote for Clinton.*

*San Antonio really hasn't flooded as badly as the national news makes out. The problem is that we have a lot of water crossings on a lot of the roads that can flood a foot or more high during periods of extremely heavy rain or a long sustained rain like we've had, but it's very localized flooding (houses aren't floating downstream or anything like that). Of course to make matters worse, there's always some idiot who will insist on trying to drive through the flooded road even when the flood gauge says 4 feet.*

*I have a hard time keeping track of who's bidding for what major convention myself. The only place I know of where you can find all that information for sure is Filthy Pierre's. But I will try to add the major con bids to "Conventional".*

*I don't think all the information on ChiCon is in yet. I've seen final con attendance figures, around 5800 if I remember correctly, but that's all I've seen. I do know that the convention did well financially. Laurel and I both received \$10 rebate checks on our memberships.*

*Glad you liked the issue. Scribblings are always welcome. P.S. liked your column in Astromancer's Quarterly (see the fanzine section).*

Henry L Welch  
5538 N. Shasta Dr.  
Glendale, WI 53209  
04 May 1992

Dear Alexander & Dale:

Thanks for issue #43. It seems like it has been quite a while since your last issue. Perhaps the US Snail destroyed an intervening issue. I will say that as it is the issue are getting folded and the corners mostly crunched by the time I get a chance to add my own age lines to each issue. You should have received the latest issue of *The Knarley Knews* recently, I hope the new format meets with your approval.

Not much for me to comment on in this issue. As I've mentioned before art is not one of my strong suits and to remember stuff all the way back to ChiCon is well beyond anything that one could reasonably expect of me. I will, though, not that the cover pirate loads an awful lot like Dustin Hoffman's portrayal of Hook from the movie of the same name. This, however, seems to be coincidental given the date of the artwork listing 1982.

Interesting letter regarding the relationship between F.A.C.T. and F.E.A.R. Of course I hope they realize that since F.E.A.R. is also a science fiction organization that the hotels tec. are still going to reflect the reputation of F.E.A.R. onto F.A.C.T. This being a direct application of the "They all look the same to me." mentality. I hope it all works out for the best.

Respectfully,

*No, you didn't miss an issue. It was a while between issues. They got done but didn't get sent out for a while. Unfortunately it's also a while between that issue and this. We will get better, probably sometime after the summer.*

*As for FEAR/FACT, it is to be hoped that good impressions about one will rub off on the other and that bad impressions won't. But as the cliché goes, "the proof is in the pudding."*



Boris Sidyuk  
Poste Restante  
General PO  
Kiev 252001  
Ukraine  
May 10, 1992

And we are finishing our hard work on  
issuing next number of CHERNOBYLIZATION. It  
will be doubled #4-5.

Well, it seems all for now.

Good SF&F to you.

Dear Alex.

Thank you for sending TSF #39. You sent it  
out in July. So, it arrived right now, in May. So  
happens from time to time. But since there has been  
opened a special flight Kiev-New York all mailings  
started to be in transit for much less while. Now, I  
don't wonder if you receive this letter after 10-15 days  
from sending. And mailing have become to reach us  
safely!!!

You already know all changes  
which happened during the while. Ukraine  
is now in fevers. Yes, there are many  
fevers loading our newly independent  
country. Both economic and politic. Since  
January prices have flied up to the Twins.  
You may note that the postage arose in ten  
times. I can't say the same happened with  
wagees and salaries. There was a hard  
winter this year. But we have survived at  
last and I hope will will farther. I'm  
sending you a Coupon (new Ukrainian  
valuata). How do you find it? This is  
unconvertible as well as Rouble. If you'd  
like to know how much is coupon to  
Dollar, it is now \$1=C50 officially and  
\$1=C140 in fact. My salary is about  
C1200.

Both out and Russian government continue to  
fight for the Black Sea Fleet. Awful. They are going  
mad. Especially, if a piece of the fleet is being planned  
to be sold abroad. It seems it is a fight for several  
thousand dollars and no more.

The Crimea ...

Oh, God! I don't talk about SF!

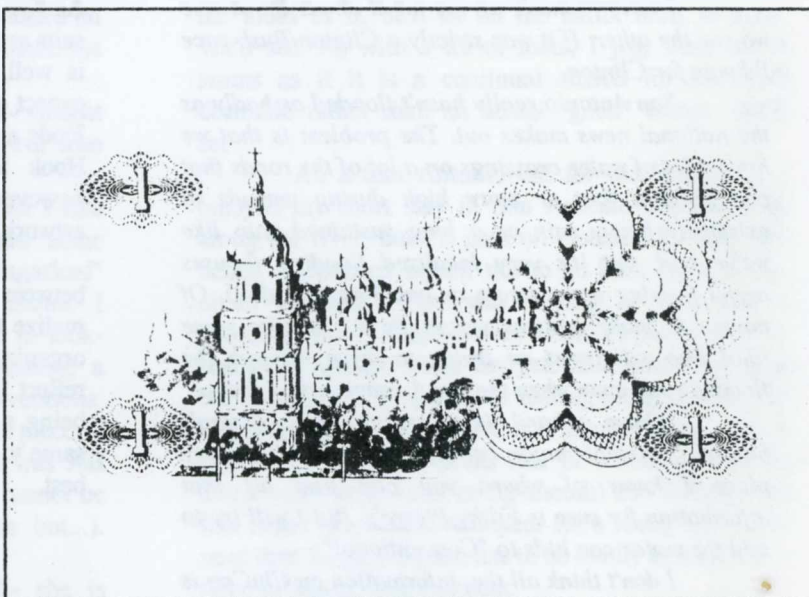
Reviews on books in #39 are nice as always.

In Ukraine. There are opened the  
nominations for Chumatsky Shlyah Award (Ukrainian  
national award, like Hugo). I think the most chances  
to wiin this year are belonged to Vasy! Plekhov's  
NOOSPHERE PHENOMENON published by Molod'  
publishing house.

We watched a big state publishers disaster  
here. Almost all of them went bankrupt. Many closed.  
On the other hand, newborn private and semi-private  
publishers begin to prosper. I am finally starting my  
own business as literary agent. So, I have had as a  
client #1 Ukranian SF writer Boris Shtern, for  
example. I begin to earn much more money than ever,  
even if to make a correction due to inflation.

*Your letter made quite good time here, but  
not 10 days. I'm amazed that the fanzine took that long  
to reach you. I knew things were bad, but not that bad.*

*With luck my personal financial picture will  
improve and I'll be able to send some more books to  
you soon.*



Brian Earl Brown

May

#42 is at hand. Alexander's editorial threatens  
to invite a response of Fosfaxian length, but I'll  
foreswear that. Except to note that Health Care is a  
little trickier than Alexander imagines. Insurance  
without the benefit of some sort of employer's group  
policy is incredibly expensive and one constantly runs  
the danger of being dropped — for being sick, which is  
why one buys the insurance in the first place. A single  
national policy where everyone pays in to the pot  
would keep costs the lowest while providing the full  
coverage people deserve. Despite complaints levied  
against the Canadian and British health services for  
slowness and restrictions on what health services will  
be given, both countries give all citizens at least some  
health care, which is more than can be said for  
America.



#43 - The switch to a new computer to prepare the masters for TSFI seems to have gone well. There seems to be few differences between old and new except that maybe the text looks a little dense, more information packed. The switch to 8.5x11 paper from 11x17 is not surprising to me. While the look of a folded magazine is more "professional" than a side-stapled one, the quotes on printing 11x17 sheets has always been more than twice as higher as for printing regular sized paper. This is pretty ridiculous at times when the same machine is used for both and the only difference is the paper being fed through.

The Smofcon report was interesting. I hadn't known that the 24-hour movie program originated so recently as 1971 (well, I consider that recent). And while the conreport suggests that the consensus was that all-night movies has out-lived its purpose, I would be pretty surprised if any Worldcon were to successful drop movies from their programming. And yet every indication is that worldcons are, on the whole, too large and too fully featured. With an all volunteer crew numbering over 10% of the total attendance, worldcons seem to me to be too complex, too demanding of principle organizers. Dropping obsolete features like non-stop movies or all but two or three programming tracks would remove a lot of stress from organizers and make it possible for them to prepare for those items better.

Harry Andruschak raises the question, which is better - computers or just bashing a loc out on a typewriter? There is much to be said in favor of computers but I've noticed that it seems to take longer to loc fanzines with a computer than when I didn't have one. What I think this says is that computers are good in their place, but not for perfectionists who never feel they've got things finished.

Regards,

*Brian, I certainly do not disagree that health care is a much more complicated issue than I made seem in my editorial for issue 42, but then, so is every other issue I listed in that editorial. My feelings on this issue are better laid out in my loc to FOSFAx. Briefly, I agree we need some form of nationalized health care, but even the British system is not fully nationalized.*

*I think that computers have helped my loc writing ability. Yes, they probably take a little longer than if I bashed them out via typewriter, but I also feel I'd probably write less locs if I didn't have the computer. I feel that the 'puter also helps me write better locs. I can let them simmer a day or two and then revise without having to retype the whole dang thing.*

**WAHF**

W. Andrew York  
Elizabeth Hail

#### On "Notes From Oblivion" by Alexander R. Slate

Well, you read the letter from Jay Harber in the last issue. I promised to look at his effort again, and I always keep my promises. What we have here are three issues of a perzine detailing the strange condition of Mr Harber. According to Mr Harber, he has "environmental illness" compounded by a bad reaction to some eye medicine. However, the symptoms he describes seems to be more than what I've seen described as "environmental illness", which is essentially hyper-allergic sensitivity to common chemical elements used in many of our everyday items.

I'm still not sure what Mr Harber is trying to accomplish with these missives, well maybe I do, but I don't think that he understands the fanzine scene. He says he is not trying to extract sympathy, yet the greatest bulk of his writing is about the intense pressure he is under from the environment. Certainly, these sound like the actions of someone who (albeit unconsciously) is seeking sympathy. Yes, certainly some small explanation is justified, but if he is trying to maintain contact with the outside world he needs to tell us what he feels about other issues, or what he would like to hear back from us. He does not do this! He might be setting out to do this, but somewhere along the line he forgets this, he just tells us, and never asks anything. And because of this there is no common frame of reference between us in which to communicate.

But, back to the first sentence of the preceding paragraph. I have the feeling that Mr Harber was expecting tons and tons of responses to his perzine. Even ignoring what I have said previously, sending his fanzine to us probably won't accomplish that. All too few people actually read the fanzines we get in, but if anyone is interested I make them available. And I'm sorry, Mr Harber, but I am not going to spend loads of space in *TxSFI* on your fanzine. This is not my perzine, I hold it in trust for the organization (so to speak)!

I'm not looking for entertainment value. If I were, I would probably cut off from 20 to 30% of the trades. Until the club can no longer support it, my philosophy is to respond in kind to those who communicate with us. As such I noted your fanzine and sent you ours in trade. More than that I cannot do at this time.