

The Texas SF Inquirer

Issue 48

Feb 1993



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

EDITORS: DALE DENTON & ALEXANDER R. SLATE



This is my last issue co-editing *The Texas SF Inquirer* with Alex. It's been a fun and interesting three years or so, but for me, that is enough. Alex has agreed to continue editing the magazine on his own, so give him full support.

I am not planning on disappearing completely. I anticipate doing something I generally refused to do while I was co-editor. I plan on contributing articles. Alex and I disagreed a little on contributing while editing the fanzine. My own philosophy has been that I was editing the magazine for the members of FACT, and if we didn't have enough articles to fill an issue, then it would be shorter because that is what the members wanted. With our membership, we should be swamped. We have not been swamped.

I realize I'm leaving the artists out of this discussion, but that is because we generally had sufficient art. This doesn't mean to not submit artwork — we need and greatly appreciate it. It's just that we haven't been hurting for the art like we have been for the written word.

Now that I will no longer be editing the magazine, I do plan on working on my own writing, both fiction and non-fiction. I hope to get my personal fanzine (called *The Nature to Wander*) coming out on a regular basis again. I definitely hope to get back to reading more — I've probably read less books this last year than any year since I started grade school, though my buying of books hasn't seemed to have diminished as much as my reading. This means my that my round-to-it bookcase has begun to spread to adjacent bookcases, counter-tops, headboards of beds, tops of commodes....

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season, and that 1993 will be your best year yet.

— Dale

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Editorial:

Up the Creek

by Dale Denton

Welcome to the New World Order. It doesn't seem to be cracked up to what it was supposed to be. With the exception of North America, most of this new order seems to be disorder. Whether it's the Shining Path in Peru, the factions in Cambodia, the deportation of Palestinians from their Israeli birthplaces, the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the various clans in Somalia, or the myriad of other hot spots in the world, there seems to be a definite lack of order in the New World Order.

Simple answers to simple questions seem to elude the United Nations, an organization which has recently gained (at the least) more teeth than in the past. When Iraq moved into Kuwait, the actions of the UN (and the USA), for better or for worse, were direct and to the point. Now that a similar action has happened in Bosnia-Herzegovina, why has not the UN taken similar actions, with a similar "line drawn in the sand?"

I'll admit that some measures have been taken, with a no-fly zone being declared, but this zone is not being enforced. Milosevic's slightly-veiled threats toward the UN personnel presently in that area seem to have kept the UN at bay, despite pleas to provide something more than just "humanitarian" aid to the Bosnian people. It's not only the Bosnians who are asking this, but also the majority of the Islamic countries as well. While these countries have been waiting for this self-declared "European" problem to be resolved by the Europeans, little has been accomplished. While promises have been given, and cease-fires signed, none of these have been worth the expenditure of effort to get them, it now seems. None have lasted much more than a few days.

The economic sanctions and blockades seem to have had negligible effect on Serbia to date, with business as usual being the order of the day there. At this point, it would appear that both our economic and diplomatic efforts have failed. As much as I hate to say it, I think it is time for the next step, that being the equivalent to that "line drawn in the sand" which started Desert Shield. Tell the Serbians to withdraw from Bosnia-Herzegovina (and the Croates as well — they hold some 20 - 30% of the country), give a date, and stick to it.

Actually, it would be best if several dates were given. One date by which they should begin withdrawal, a couple by which they should have vacated specified areas, and a last date for total withdrawal. If these are not complied with, then the equivalent of Desert Storm should begin against the occupying forces.

The reason for the several dates, rather than a singular date is this. Bosnia is considerably larger than Kuwait, and with some 70% of it being occupied, it would take longer for such a withdrawal to be effected. Also, with the apparent disorganization of the occupying forces, a longer time would be required to relay the orders. These sets of dates would allow time for the forces to be removed in an orderly fashion, and at the same time, not allow time for the forces to greatly enhance their defensive positions should they choose not to withdraw.

The initial date should be set within a couple of weeks from the date of announcement, with the other dates set as seen fit based on the ability of the occupying forces to withdraw from Bosnian territories. Again, they should be realistic for the situation, yet not be so lengthy as to allow the buildup of defensive positions.

Obviously, the UN peace-keeping troops already on the ground there would have to be pulled out, so that they could not be held hostage, or attacked in reprisal for the stand of the UN. This is another reason to keep the time-period between announcement and time of initial withdrawal short — this limits the time that humanitarian aid has to be curtailed.

Since this has been declared a "European" problem, it seems reasonable that the majority of the forces used to effect this withdrawal, forcibly if necessary, be European. This is not to say that all of the forces have to be.

The Islamic countries have previously stated a desire to provide Bosnia with military aid, and may well be willing to send troops as well as equipment. Also, the US has offered air support. While, traditionally, the US has provided the lion's share of troops for such UN missions, this should not be expected here. A number of troops equal to that of other individual participating nations would be appropriate, but it should not be an almost exclusive US action, as have many actions been in the past.

It is my hope that peaceful means can regain Bosnia-Herzegovina its lands and sovereignty as a nation, but if this is cannot be done peacefully, as seems increasingly apparent, then it must be done by whatever means necessary. Part of the ideology of this New World Order seems to be that one country should not be allowed to take over another country. If this is so, then Bosnia-Herzegovina should be provided the same respect that was afforded Kuwait.

Book Reviews:

POPCORN TIME AGAIN!

by Katherine Eliska Kimbriel

Well, after Alex and Dale cut the ending off my last submission to TSFI [*we did??*], they were in danger of no more reviews. But an editor forced to write an entire issue by himself is a cry from the heart, so I'll give them one more chance. [This has been delayed by the post awful, which swallowed a diskette mailed to TSFI.] These are short-takes from all the books I'm cramming in amongst writing, watering baby plants, and other homeowner-type things guaranteed to drive one insane. These reviews are a scattering of SF, Fantasy, and Mystery — the last partly because SF/ Fantasy writers also write mysteries, and partly because I enjoy them and am researching the field for my latest endeavor.

Yaw'll might as well get the benefit. For those who are genre-specific, I've subdivided things:

SCIENCE FICTION:

Barrayar, by Lois McMaster Bujold (Baen Books, 10/91, \$4.99, ISBN 0-671-72083-X)

Another winner for Bujold. With *Barrayar* we return to Miles Vorkosigan's parents, the Lord Aral and Cordelia Naismith, picking up immediately after *Shards of Honor*. We finally find out how Miles was damaged before birth, and learn why the head of Barrayan Security is afraid of the Countess Vorkosigan. This one was an interesting psychological study as well as a page-turner. Bujold consistently produces the best Space Opera around.

Ganwold's Child, by Diann Thornley (Synapse Press, 6/91, \$6.95, ISBN 1-880173-01-8)

This book by a newcomer could easily have been published by Baen or Ace, but ended up at an Ohio small press house. It's a mass market paperback, by the way. This is a tale of a young man who grew up among aliens (his mother the only other human around) who must draw on alien lessons to survive when he ends up in the hands of his father's worst enemy. Thornley is an Air Force Captain with a medical tie-in; therefore, everything relating to her military setups and the extended medical information of the tale rings true. This is basically a "coming of age" novel, worth reading if only for the cleverness with the death certificate (uh-uh; you have to read the book!)

The Missing Matter by Thomas R. McDonough; essay by Wallace H. Tucker (Bantam Spectra, 1/92, \$4.99, ISBN 0-553-29364-8)

This is the third of Bantam's *The Next Wave* series of novels. It's about a scientific research ship that ventures too close to a "dark matter" phenomenon. It starts out great and deteriorates to average or less by the end. The essay, however, is fascinating. But considering the push Bantam is giving these, I expected a lot more.

FANTASY:

Flameweaver by Margaret Ball (Baen, 12/91, \$4.99, ISBN 0-671-72095-3)

This is for all lovers of historical alternative fantasies. The fabled mountain city of Gandhara, a magical matriarchy, is about to be caught in the cross-fire of the advancing Russian Empire and the complaisant British Raj. Tamai, a young woman cut off from the powerful priesthood because she is apparently barren and unable to link into Earth magic, is sent off in search of the fabled Martini-Henry rifles that might be able to turn the tide where magic has failed. She discovers a proper young Englishwoman who has tremendous untrained power — and speaks her language. Together, they will change the destiny of three nations. Good characterization, great detail, interesting magic, an absorbing plot, and serious nods to a woman's fragile position in British law of the era. I stayed up until the wee hours over this one.

The Seeress of Kell by David Eddings (Del Rey, 5/92, \$5.99, ISBN 0-345-37759-1)

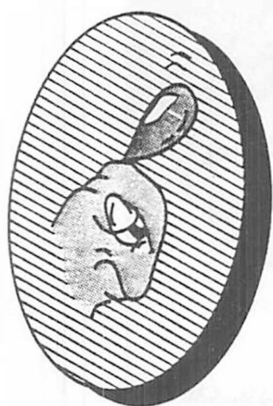
Last book of *The Malloreon* series. Eddings finally gets everybody to *The Place That is No More*, with all his usual humor and attention to serious subjects disguised as throwaway thoughts. This book is for fans of his others only; it's not the best as far as writing is concerned, and not the strongest in plot. Still, it's nice to see where everyone is going and what the future may hold. But I want to see those blue-banded hawks back soon, chicks in tow!

One Land, One Duke: Night Threads 3, by Ru Emerson (Ace, 2/92, \$4.99, ISBN 0-441-58087-4)

The third in the **Night-Threads Series**. Emerson has done wonderful things in this series, addressing a motley band of people totally unprepared for the task before them, and how they rise to the occasion. Characterization is very strong, down to chance acquaintances on the road, the world-building is superb, and the adventure nonstop. A great magic system, from theory to practice. If you missed the first two, find them! This one sold so well, Ace requested that she write a fourth in the world. Rumor has it that the kingdom of Rhadaz is about to face its own Opium Wars....

Winds of Fate by Mercedes Lackey (DAW, 7/92, \$4.99, ISBN 0-88677-516-7)

This begins a new series in the world of the Heralds of Valdemar, specifically *The Mage Winds*. Elspeth is the focus of the work, along with a young Tayledras scout named Darkwind who has sworn off magic after his clan was nearly destroyed by their own magic-node. When it's discovered that Elspeth has strong, untrained mage talents, she and her Companion go in search of someone who can teach her to control magic. It turns out that the Companions have been steering her in a direction of their own choosing; when she finds out, she promptly hares off on a different path. The Companions don't want to risk this unknown Valdemar is at stake. But clan Tayledras is battling evil on their own front, and will not turn down even those most unlikely allies. We see much more of the outer lands bordering Valdemar, and finally learn about the Hawk people of the forests. This one moved with the speed and interest of Lackey's best works.



...and here we have a cameo appearance by...um... a cameo!

Bardic Voices by Mercedes Lackey (Baen, 1/92, \$4.99, ISBN 0-671-72099-6)

On the other hand...I'd buy this one used, if at all. I was very disappointed. **Bardic Voices** pushes all the familiar buttons — young, talented, misunderstood and unloved youngster gets a chance to pursue her dreams, with danger, friendship, and finally love found along the way. For some reason, the magic was tarnished on this one. It was as if someone had badly spliced together a Lackey book. The pace was very slow, and it may be that what it needed was tight editing. I doubt I'll read the next one in *The Lark and the Wren* series.

Reaper Man by Terry Pratchett (ROC, 7/92, \$4.99, ISBN 0-451-45168-6)

Another must-read from Pratchett! How does he keep doing this? He doesn't always top the best of the series, but he never falls below his high standard. This time The Powers That Be have decided that Death has gotten squeamish, and forcibly retire him into life. What with undead people popping up all over the place demanding to die, or to know the reason why, a Dead Rights Activist roaming around, and too much poltergeist activity to be contained, the fun is guaranteed. I laughed out loud several times on this one.

Mairelon the Magician by Patricia C. Wrede (Tor, 7/92, \$3.99, ISBN 0-812-50896-3)

This book could be kin to the delightful *Sorcery and Cecelia*, a historical fantasy for magic-lovers or Regency readers. But not an epistolary tale! We have a London orphan trying to snoop through a magician's possessions, with the result that both the magician and the street urchin are leaving town in a hurry. A varied cast of characters are in pursuit. Wrede has tons of fun with 19th century English manners and speech patterns, covering the scale from Cockneys and Bow Street Runners to French Refugees and royalty. There's a magical mystery, secret identities, Bonaparte spies, objects of power, young Druids — oh, read the thing, don't waste time with this review!

MYSTERY:

Deservedly Dead by B.J. Oliphant (Fawcett, 6/92, \$3.99, ISBN 0-449-14717-7)

Oliphant is a pseudonym of Sheri S. Tepper. Her Shirley McClintock mysteries are some of the most endearing in years. Shirley is a native Colorado rancher twice married and widowed, both children dead, and now with an adopted daughter and live-in boyfriend in tow. She's smart and shrewd, is about six feet tall, has

a firecracker temper and a big heart. They all combine to get her into more trouble than you can imagine. She has, as she's pointed out, found more than her share of bodies. And the mysteries are almost as good as McClintock, which is saying a lot. Give them a try.

Dust To Dust by Lillian Stewart Carl (Diamond, 8/91, \$4.95, ISBN 1-55773-547-6)

Another entertaining mystery from writer Carl, who is known to most of us for her fine fantasies. Combining the favorite themes of many mystery readers (archeology and Scotland) along with a nice ghost story, Carl adds black humor to her usual lineup, starting with the body of a lush London TV film producer found dressed up in a nun's habit in a parody of a rumored ghost. The hard edge remains as every able-bodied man in sight is hauled in for questioning — one at a time. Meanwhile, Rebecca is trying to excavate a ruined abbey, solve the murder and the ghost mystery, and decide if she's going to marry the Scottish professor she followed to the dig. The style of this book is very lush, and is not for those who prefer the Robert Parker school of writing; but for those who wish to be wrapped in a mohair blanket of a story, deep in the emotions of the protagonist, this is the book for you.

Cat's Paw by C. Q. Yarbro (Jove, 3/92, \$3.99, ISBN 0-515-10805-7)

Guess who. Yarbro's in fine form with her Ojibwa lawyer with a talent for detection. Charlie Spotted Moon prefers San Francisco to anywhere else, but his shaman gifts and strong sense of moral responsibility (plus his love for a feisty feminist lawyer/judge) add special touches to these mysteries. They've been uneven (one of the four ended poorly, in my opinion) but **Cat's Paw** is a scary serial killer tale guaranteed to make you think about buying a stunner. The supporting characters are wonderful, the magic intriguing, and the mystery well-done. Try them, you'll like them.

Missing Susan by Sharyn McCrumb (Ballantine Books, 1991, hardback, no ISBN given)

Sharyn McCrumb is best known to SF readers as the author of the wacky **Bimbos of the Death Sun**. This time out, we're on a famous murder site tour with a guide in financial trouble who's been offered an out — kill a wealthy heiress on the trip whose business decisions are about to bankrupt her relatives. By the end of the first day, they all loathe Susan, a boring motor-mouth who spends money like water. By the end of the third day, they're all ready to kill her. But

when the guide finally gets up his courage, he misses...again and again, to the detriment of the others on tour. Great fun.

MYSTERY SHORT-SHORTS:

An Owl Too Many by Charlotte MacLeod (Mysterious Press, 3/91, now in paperback)

If you liked Charlotte MacLeod's other Peter Shandy Mysteries, you'll like this one.

Zero At the Bone by Mary Willis Walker (St. Martin's Press, 1991, \$18.95, ISBN 0-312-06495-0)

A first novel by an Austin writer involving a dog trainer, the Austin Zoo, snakes, and how the sins of the parents are passed to the children. Well done — I'm looking forward to her next book.

IOU, Dead Crazy, Bum Steer, etc. by Nancy Pickard.

I can recommend without hesitation any of the Jenny Cain mysteries to date. They are well-written, insightful, entertaining novels, and I only hope the one I'm writing is as good as the least of Pickard's. Read them in any order — they can take it.

And now, my manuscript is calling me. These ISBNs take forever to type; if folks don't need them, will someone say so? Happy reading!



Trades Listing

Alpha Centura Communicator June 92, Aug 92
ed. Mike McCommas; Alpha Centura, c/o Mike McCommas, 5803 Zia Rd, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 [new editor & new address]. First time we've seen this zine in over a year, a basic clubzine.

Ansible #59
Dave Langford, 94 London Rd, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, UK. This arrived inside another zine. A short one page (both sides) collection of news.

Astromancer Quarterly August 1992
ed. Joe Maraglino; Niagara Falls SF Association, PO Box 500, Bridge Station, Niagara Falls, NY 14305. An interesting contrast of trip reports on the 1952 and 1992 MidwesterCon. Also good were fanzine reviews by Leah Zeldes Smith and a column on art by Sheryl Birkhead. I rate this a potential Hugo winner.

Austin Writer Sep 92, Oct 92
ed. Judy Barrett, POB 913, Georgetown, TX 78627. Information for erstwhile writers, plus poetry.

BCSFazine #231, 232, 233
ed. R. Graeme Cameron; British Columbia SFA, PO Box 35577, Stn. E, Vancouver BC V6M 4G9. #231 features the return of "Ask Dr. Science". #232 has the normal material, including an interesting piece on round ships. #233 previews a new, shorter format and contains an interview of newly published author Don Debrandt.

Chernobylization #4,5
ed. Alexander V. Vasilkovsky & Boris Sidyuk; Zoryany Shlyah SF Club, Poste Restante, General PO, 252001 Kiev-1, Ukraine. A lot on the SF and fandom in the old USSR and the Ukraine today. There is a lot of interesting material here, with an interesting viewpoint. Unfortunately, the type is so small and the lines so close together that it is difficult to read. The grammar is not the best, but it's good for fans whose primary language is not English.

Conadian Progress Report 2
ed. Terry Fowler; Conadian, Po Box 7111, Fargo, ND 58109. Contains a spotlight on GoH Anne McCaffrey.

Cry Havoc May 1992, June 92, July/Aug 92
ed. Mike Smith; National Association for SF; PO 2836, Wellington, NZ. Basic genzine format; articles on writing, con reports and more. There's a lot of publishing news and minibook reviews as well.

Cube #48.5, 49
ed. Steve Swartz; Soc. for the Furtherance of F & SF, Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624. # 48.5, a 2-pager this time (an interim issue) with some random, sometimes disturbing thoughts. # 49 is 30 pages +. Contains a number of short essays regarding censorship and a lot of reviews.

DASFAx V.24, #7, 8, 9, 10
eds. Fred Cleaver & Rose Beetem; Denver Area SFA, c/o Fred Cleaver, 153 W. Ellsworth Ave., Denver, CO 80233-1623. Basically, club news.

De Profundis #245, 246
ed. Jeni Burr; Los Angeles SFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. Consists of LASFS general and Directors meeting minutes.

Ethel the Aardvark #44
ed. Alan Stewart; Melbourne SFC, PO Box 212, Melbourne, Victoria 3005, Australia. A clubzine that contains a lot of reviews of books and conventions. Australian conventions, the ones that most of us don't get to.

The Frozen Frog #4
Benoit Gerard, 1016 Guillaume-Boisset, Cap Rouge, Quebec, Canada, G1Y 1Y9. An article from Marc Ortlieb (though not as humorous as is his usual work) and an article on Cherryh's Faded Sun trilogy that needs to be a bit longer and more in-depth.

Instant Message #517, 518, 519
New England SFA, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0203. News.

The Journal for Space Development Oct 92
ed. Richard Braastad; Houston Space Society, PO Box 266151, Houston, TX 77207-6151. All sorts of stuff with a space spin to it, even a review of Senator Al Gore's book, *Earth in the Balance*.

The Knarley Knews #34, 35

Henry Welch, 5538 N. Shasta Dr., Glendale, WI 53209. Congratulations to Henry and Letha on the birth of Connor Leslie Welch on June 18. Issue 34 basically deals with life. Issue 35 has a lot of locs and "The Miracles of Modern Technology, Part 1" by Knarley.

Lans Lantern # 38, 39, 40

George "Lan" Laskoski, 55 Valley Way, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. #39, which came first, is a general interest issue, a lot on literary issues. Otherwise, much to much to comment on. #38 is the Fritz Leiber special issue. There are also a few articles left over from the Heinlein and Asimov special issues. Issue #40 is another general interest issue. I thought that the best article was on Commando Cody my Mark R. Leeper. The most noteworthy line was, "As a rule of thumb, if you do not know you are Superman, you're not. Super heroes make really useless role models.

Low Orbit V.2, #47

R'ykandar Korra'ti. A well produced fanzine that has the feel of, at least, a semi-prozine. The writing is a little uneven, some pro quality, some needing a little more polish.

Mimosa #12

Dick & Nicki Lynch, PO Box 1350, Germantown, MD 20875. The Hugo winner, fan history and the personal history of fans.

The Mobius Strip Aug 92, Sep 92

ed. Richard Brandt: El Paso SF&F Alliance, PO Box 3177, El Paso, TX 79923. First time I've seen this fanzine, a welcome addition from our co-sponsors for the 1996 Westercon. Short, only 3-1/2 pages plus mailing cover, news plus a convention calender.

OASFIS Event Horizon #62, 63, 64, 65

ed. Louise M. Kleba; Orlando Area SFS, PO Box 940992, Maitland, FL 32794-0992 [new editor & address]. Lots of reviews by Kimye Tipton, Rembert Parker, and Jerry Masters. Issue 64 began a piece of fan fiction by Curt Hamon, that looks like it will continue for a few more issues. It's an interesting piece that has promise.

Opuntia #9.5

Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2E7. It amazes me how Dale can make everyday ordinary life seem interesting. One of the better fan writers around.

Peripheral Visions #10

Rob Sommers, 926-C Waverly Way NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30307-2551. Literary based fanzine, lots of reviews and to stories by D.F. Lewis and Rob Sommers.

Persona Non Sequitor

R. W. Sirignano, POB 11246, Wilmington, DE 19850. A perzine. Of interest was the surreal piece critiquing convention parties.

PSFS News July, Aug, Sep, Oct 1992

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

Quintessential Space Debris

Karhleen Gallagher, POB 42, Worthington, OH 43085. Returns after a two year hiatus. Contains an editorial, an interesting piece of satire equating hell and the Soviet Union, and LoCs.

Rambling Way #23, 24

W. Andrew York, PO Box 2307, Universal City, TX 78148-1307. Some interesting articles on international affairs. One thing about Dip zines is the interesting crosstalk between the players of the games, even if the move notations look like cryptic alchemical formulae.

Robots & Roadrunners V. 7 #2

ed. Lynn Garcia; URSA MAJOR SFLA, POB 691448, San Antonio, TX 78269-1448. Also returns after a little hiatus. Contains (among other items) an Aggiecon 23 review, a purple prose story (not for the PC), and a poem in the style of Edgar Aleen Poe's "The Raven".

Rune #83

ed. Jeff Schalles; MinnStF, POB 8297, Lake Street Station, Minneapolis, MN 55408. This issue is about conventions. The most interesting piece is some con grafitti on what people were doing in 1970.

Scavenger's Newsletter#102

Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-1329. A guide to the small press world, including articles for writers.

SFSFS Shuttle #89, 90

eds. Don Cochran & Fran Mullen: South Florida SFS, PO Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143. #89 has an OKon trip report. #90 contains a report from someone who was affected by Hurricane Andrew, and information from Walter E. Wilbury on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine".

SF Convention Register Summer 1992

Erwin Strauss, Box 3343, Fairfax, VA 22038. Just about all the convention information you'll need.

SNAFFU V.2, #9, 10

eds. Aileen Forman (& crew); Southern Nevada Area Fantasy & Fiction Union, PO Box 95941, Las Vegas, NV 89193. Starting to take on more of a genzine flavor, with the editor beginning to discuss his views on the fannish scene, and some others contributing reveiws. Layout needs work, though.

Stet #6

ed. Leah Smith (Dick Smith, Pub.), 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090-6415. Don't be surprised to see this on the final Hugo ballot next year. The best description of this issue would be, "a FOSFax of faanish concerns."

Trans Atlantic Fan Fund

Jeanne Bowman, POB 982, Glen Ellen, CA 95442-0982. TAFF news from the new North American administrator. Nominations are now open for 1993 (UK to US).

Transmissions V.14 #3, \$

ed. Anne Davenport; Panhandle SFS, c/o Joe & Sandy Ciccarelli, 3911 Ereno Court, Panama City, FL 32405 [new address]. #3 is basicly a Phoenixcon/Deepsouthcon review. #4 contained the Periodic Table of Fannish Elements.

The Unintelligencer #7, 8

Embassy of Planet Claire, PO Box 3194, Bellingham, WA 98227. Frankly I found issue #7 disgusting. #8 was less so, but I feel about this fanzine the way I feel about *Hustler* magazine.

Voice of the Clam Sep 92 (#6)

ed. Roger Wells; Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee, PO Box 24292, Seattle, WA 98124. Last issue by this editor, essentially a convention progress report.



Conventions:

Conventional

Feb 5-7, 1993 **Connipion '93**

Dallas, TX

Hotel: ? Guests: ?

Info: \$12, Connipion '93, PO Box 260912, Plano, TX
75026-0912

Mar 25-28 **AggieCon 24**

Memorial Student Center, College Station, TX

Guests: Michael Moorcock, Peter David, Wendy Pini

Info: ?, MSC Box J-1, TAMU, College Station, TX
77844, (409)845-1515

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

Hyatt Regency, Houston, TX

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

Info: \$22 until Jan 1, 93, STS Corporation, PO Box
1770, Friendswood, TX 77546-1770

Apr 16-18 **Con-Troll**

Marriott Astrodome, Houston, TX

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

Info: \$20 until Jan 15, PO Box 740969-1035,
Houston, TX 77274

Jun 18-29 **New Orleans Science Fiction and Fantasy
Festival**

Clarion Hotel New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

Guests: Robert Silverberg, Bob Eggleton, Walter Jon
Williams

Info: \$? (probably \$20), PO Box 791089, New Orleans,
LA 701791089

July 23-26 **Cluefest '93** (A Mystery Con)

Dallas, TX

Guests: Susan Rogers Cooper, Marvin Lachman, Jan
Grape

Info: \$50, 4516 Lovers Lane #127, Dallas, TX 75225

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

Parc Fifty Five & Le Meridien Hotels, SF, CA

Guests: Larry Niven, Jan Howard Finder, Alicia
Austin, Tom Digby, Guy Gavriel Kay

Info: PO Box 22097, San Fransisco, CA 94122

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

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Guests: Anne McCaffrey, George Barr, Barry
Longyear, Robert Runte

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

1995 - Worldcon 53 - Glasgow Scotland

Info: PO Box 15430, Washington DC 20003-4030.

WORLDCON BIDS:

1996 - Los Angeles, CA

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

1998 - Boston, MA, Baltimore, MD & Niagara Falls,
NY

1999 - Portland, OR

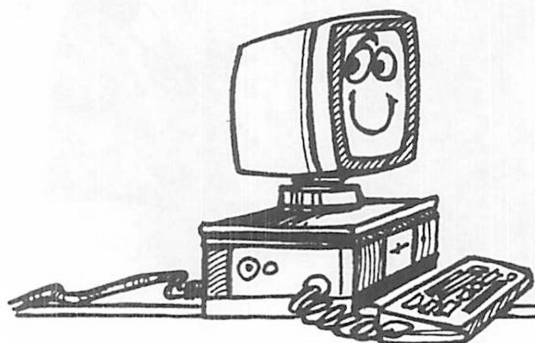
2000 - Kansas City, KS & Jerusalem, Isreal

2001 - Chicago, IL

WESTERCON BIDS

1996 - El Paso, TX

2001 - Chico, CA



ON-LINE COMPUTING



Awards

This list is compiled from a number of various sources.

New Zealand National Science Fiction Awards

Best Fan Writer: Alan Robson (Phlogiston)

Best Fanzine: Phlogiston

Best Editor: (tie) Alex Heatley (Phlogiston) and James Dignan (Warp)

Best Mediazine: no award given

Best Fan Artist: (tie) Mike Hanson (Cry Havoc) and James Benson (Warp)

Magicon Art Show Awards

Chairman's Choice: "The Four Liberties" by Tom Kidd

Director's Choice: "Daughter of Conflict" by David Cherry

Best of Show-Professional: "Subterraneans" by Michael Whelan

Best of Show-Amateur: "Chameleon Confessions" by Lisa Snellings

Electric SF Award: Geoffrey Landis for "A Walk in the Sun"

Prometheus Awards (given by the Libertarian Futurist Society)

Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle & Michael Flynn for *Fallen Angels*

Hall of Fame Award: Ira Levin for *This Perfect Day*

Golden Duck Awards

Best childrens SF book: *My Teacher Glows in the Dark* by Bruce Colville

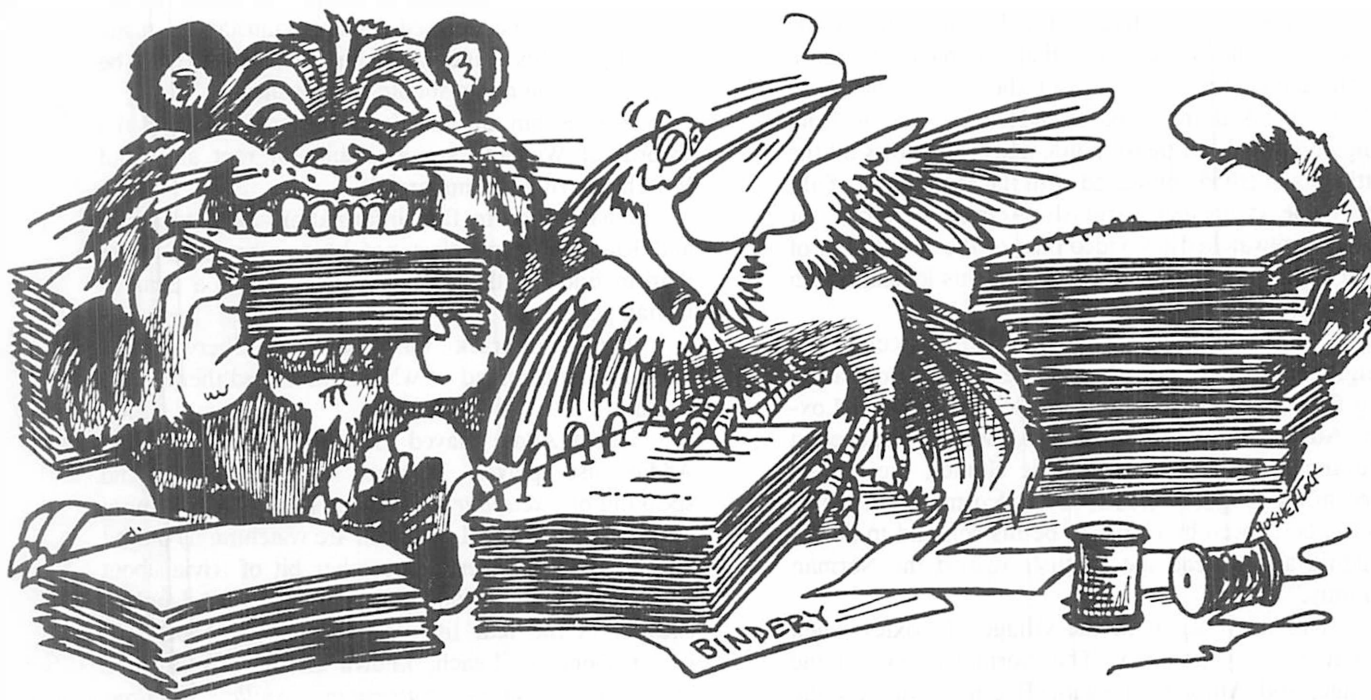
Best picture book: *Time Train* by Claire Ewart

Sei-Un Awards (Japanese Hugos)

Best Foreign Novel: *The McAndrew Chronicles* by Charles Sheffield

Best Foreign Short Fiction: "Tango Charlie and Foxtrot Romeo" by John Varley

1991 Campbell Memorial for Best SF Novel: *Buddy Holly Is Alive and Well on Ganymede* by Bradley Denton



Column:

A Gaelic Experience

by Carol Stepp

This column is going to answer some questions and make some comments. First, though, I need to correct another error in the first column. I have already apologized to the respective clans for attributing the castle on Loch Ness to the wrong family; in looking at the column again I discovered I did the same thing with Dunvegan castle on Skye. I gave it to the MacDonalds, when by rights it belongs to the MacLeods. In fact, it was a MacLeod that a princess of the Sidhe married and who was given the fairy flag (Am Bratach Sith). By the way, anyone who is not a MacLeod directly descended from the original family will be burnt up and turned to ashes if they touch the flag. That's why it is safely behind glass (although the more mundane will say it is just to keep air from getting to it and turning it to dust).

I have reviewed the other articles I have written thus far, and I don't think there are any more errors of this kind. If you find anything you question, let me know.

Alex told me he had a letter from someone wanting to know if the Elric of the Robin of Sherwood series was the same Elric that Michael Moorcock wrote about. No, he isn't, but then I got the name wrong. I asked my good friend Janet, who is from England (and back there, now), and who knows all the little bits of trivia connected with the show. First of all, the name is spelled variously Aelrick, Aelerick, or Ailric. I rewatched my video tape of the first Robin of Sherwood (the pilot) and discovered this legend which ran on the screen.

"Over a 100 years after the Normans conquered England, rebellion still flared, like embers from a dying fire. One such rebellion was led by Ailric of Loxley. Ailric and many of the English secretly believed in the ancient legend of Herne the Hunter, the horned God of the English forests. A hooded man, a fugitive, would be chosen by Herne to be his son and to do his bidding and to lead the English against the Norman tyranny."

The story began in the village of Loxley when Robin was a young boy. The Normans attacked the village, and Ailric took young Robin to Mathew the Miller, the father of Much. Then Ailric rode to the Circle of Rhiannon (a stone circle like Stonehenge). He was the "Guardian of the Arrow" (a silver

three-dimensional arrow) and he was going to retrieve it. He was ambushed by the Sheriff of Nottingham and killed. Robin was raised as the miller's son, but he retained the name of Loxley.

Robin's story begins again 15 years later when he is captured along with Much by Guy of Gisbourne after Much shot a deer and Robin tried to save Much. They were both put in prison where they met Dikon and Will Scarlett and a couple of other men who became part of his band. He met Lady Marian when he escaped the castle by going through her bedroom. She was destined to become a nun, but a Sorcerer, Simon de Beleme, who was after Robin, kidnapped her to make Robin come to him. Little John was in the service of Simon because Simon had painted an upside-down pentagram on John's chest to enslave him. Robin washed it off, after a battle, and brought Little John back to his senses. Friar Tuck was a special friend of Marian's. When Herne called Robin to give him Albion, one of the seven swords of Weyland the Smith, and told him to help his people through their strife. Robin first refused. But circumstances made him change his mind later, but then that would be telling, and you really should see the show.

Both Robin and the Sorcerer and Robin and the Swords of Weyland are available for rent at Sound Warehouse (not a commercial).

I have tried to find information about Weyland and Rhiannon, but have not been successful, other than to find out that Weyland is probably a Scandinavian personage. But I shall keep looking.

The soundtrack for Robin of Sherwood is "Legend" by Clannad — which introduced them to the world.

David Addie played Guy of Gisbourne. David Addie also played Mordred in *Excalibur*. And speaking of *Excalibur*, Nigel Terry and Cheri Lunghi of *Covington Cross* (I hope you are watching it) played Arthur and Guinevere. One other bit of trivia about *Covington Cross* — Iona Skye, who plays the daughter Eleanor is the real life daughter of the Scots folk singer Donovan Leach, known in the 60s only as Donovan (*Sunshine Superman*, *Mellow Yellow*, others), and her name is obviously taken from the Western Isles of Skye and Iona.

Fascinating stuff!

I was surprised when I read that Glasgow has won the 1995 WorldCon. Well, now I have my second trip to Scotland.

I got a letter from a publisher a few days ago about a children's fantasy I wrote and sent to them over a year ago. I had received a number of rejections and put the story aside to one day illustrate and vanity press. These people want the story, but they want me to subsidize the printing. Since I was going to do it at my cost anyway, I think I will pass on their offer, but I am gratified that someone actually wanted it after all the turn-downs. I'd really like to write adult sf/f, but I've discovered I can't write dialogue.

I talked to Ellen Datlow at ArmadilloCon and told her about the offer. She said it was garbage. Well, straight from the mouth from someone who knows. I will definitely pass.

I've picked up a couple of new pen pals through writing to the *Stornobhagh Gazette* — one from a fellow on the south coast of Harris (Leverburg) — get out your atlas — named Farquhar MacDonald. I love that name. I've written back, so we'll see if this becomes a regular. I also got a letter from Johanna MacNeil — it's a good thing my postman knows who I am and where I get letters from — she addressed it to "Mr. Hamilton", but it was delivered anyway. I haven't answered yet, but I'll straighten her out as to my name and sex when I do, in a friendly way, of course.

I have little to write about books I've read or movies I've seen this time. As previously mentioned, *Covington Cross* on television is worth a watch. I don't see much else other than *ST-TNG*, *Life Goes On* (which I'm thinking of abandoning), *Murder She Wrote*, and *Masterpiece Theater*, and *Mystery* on PBS, along with the British comedies. I was going going to get cable because I was told the Sci-Fi channel would be here on Channel 50, but it isn't, so I haven't.

A lot of people identify me with *Star Trek* when I say I'm a fan of the show. I explain that I am a science fiction/fantasy fan, and that *Star Trek* is only a part of that. I enjoy classic Trek more than I do TNG. I expect to watch *Deep Space 9* when it begins (if they carry it locally). However, I don't like the new Trek nearly so well — I don't know how many times Picard has given the Enterprise away. I don't like the treatment given to the Picard-Sarek relationship. It disturbs me that Pi-card should have more of a tie to Sarek than Spock, as shown in *Unification*. I also don't understand why the producers decided to marry Sarek off a second time, and to another Earth woman. Certainly not for sex, but if so, then the logical choice would have been a Vul-can woman.

I've been reading some Trek novels lately, but will never read them all because I have been disappointed a couple of times and decided I was reading trash. I think the only ones worth reading seem to have to do with an alien race.

I like good stories and even space opera — good or not. I enjoyed H. Beam Piper's *Space Viking*, for instance. Far and away, my favorite continuing sf stories were the first three books of Asimov's *Foundation* series, and I loved F. Pohl's *Gateway* series. I've enjoyed Heinlein's *Lazarus Long* time loop stories, several of Niven & Pournelle's collaborations (*Foot-fall*, *The Mote in God's Eye*, *King David's Spaceship*), and of course, Arthur Clarke. I particularly like stories of alien cultures and space travel — *Dune*, *Ice-henge* by K. S. Robinson, *Forsake the Sky* by Tim Powers, *Stargate* by Andre Norton, anything by Clifford Simak — all old books.

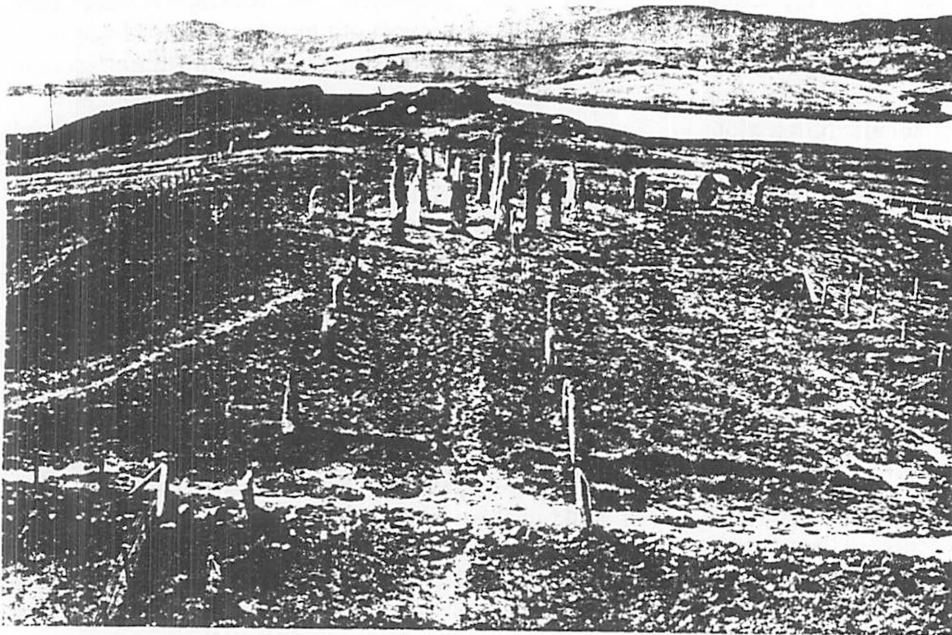
You've already heard me praise Katherine Kurtz and Patricia Kennealy's fantasies (although as a believer in magic and pagan ritual, I'm not sure I accept Kurtz as purely fantasy). There have also been a couple of individual books I like as well.

Most of my experience in these past years has been with video. Other than my already admitted near-fanatic interest in Star Wars, I have enjoyed *Close Encounters*, *Aliens* (the second one), both *Terminators*, and *Blade Runner*, but I find that *except* for *Star Wars*, my favorite sf movies tend to be from the 50s — *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, *This Island Earth*, *When Worlds Collide*, *War of the Worlds* (with Gene Barry).

If I appear to be behind you all in my reading, etc., it is because I was late getting into the genre. So if I can't enter your conversations about the latest books, it's because I'm still reading the things you grew up with.

Scotland — the Hebrides: first in a continuing series of geographical/historical lessons.

The Standing Stones of Callnish: 3rd and early 2nd millennium BC. The plan includes a circle of standing stones with an avenue of stones to the north, and single lines of stones to the south, east, and west. There are 13 stones in the circle, and ten and nine stones in the north lines. The western line contains four stones, the eastern five, and the southern five with extra stones to the east and west of the southern line. The eastern one is from the 19th century and may not be part of the original plan. The lower parts of many of the stones were covered by a thick layer of peat which was stripped by Sir James Matheson in 1857, revealing the remains of a small circular cham



bered cairn within the eastern half of the circle. Minute fragments of bone, assumed to be human were found in the chamber, but the tomb was robbed in antiquity, before it was covered by peat.

The monument stands on the east shore of Loch Roag, and is particularly impressive when seen against the skyline.

Standing stones are examples of one of the least understood classes of prehistoric monuments, but they are impressive to see because the size of the stones used to form them are so vast that we can only marvel at the skill of early man in setting them up. It is

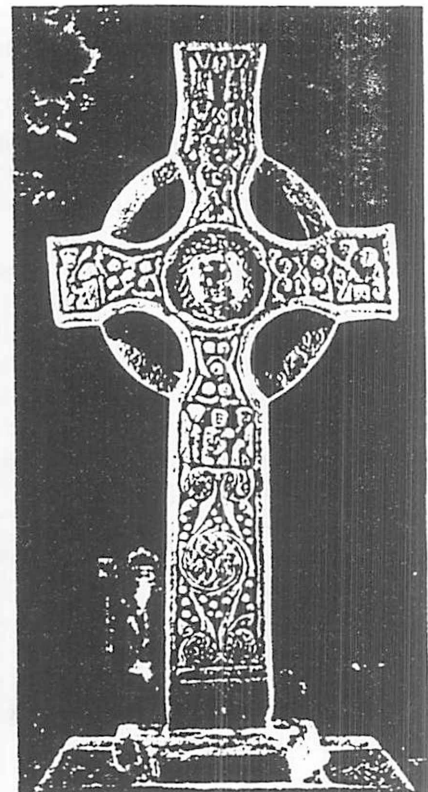
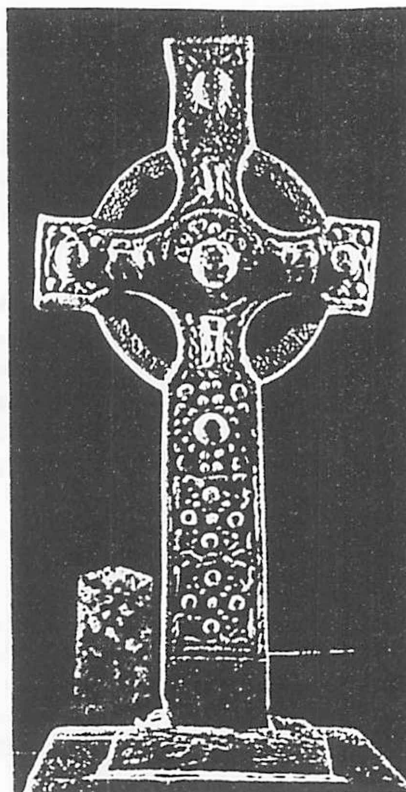
believed that many of the standing stone monuments may have been for scientific or astronomical purposes, but some of them, such as the monument at Callinish, seem to have been burial sites — perhaps for important personages long forgotten.

The Kildalton Cross at Islay. I'm sorry we are not capable of showing this in color. It is carved from a single slab of blue epidiorite, and is grayish-greenish-blue: quite lovely.

It stands on the grounds of the Old Parish Church at Kildalton. The church dates to the late 12th or early 13th century, but the cross dates to the second half of the eighth century. It is one of the most complete early Christian crosses still to be found in Scotland.

The decorations are comparable to the crosses on Iona, and demonstrates that this part of the Daldrian possessions was within a similar artistic ambit.

At the top of the eastern face there is a representation of the Virgin and Child flanked by angels; on the arms of the cross the scenes have most recently been identified as Cain's murder by Abel, and Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac, while at the center of the upper shaft it is possible that, surmounted by a pair of angels, the carvers have shown David slaying the lion. The remaining more decorative panels on this side are of serpent-and-boss ornament and curvilinear interlace.



On the west side, serpent-and-boss patterns run in restrained riot creating a three dimensional decoration, with four lions around the central boss.

In the church grounds are at least 17 West Highlands grave slabs which underline the importance of Kildalton from Early Christian times to the medieval period, when the present church was built.

The excerpts and photos came from *Argyll and the Western Isles*, Graham Ritchie and Mary Harman, printed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Edinburgh, Her Majesty's Stationary Office, edited by Anna Ritchie (1985).

A bit of the Gaelic (Scots, that is): "De an t-ainm a tha ort?" is "What is your name?" (Day awn iceanum a ha ort?). Days of the week, starting with Monday: di-Luain, Di Mairt, Di-Ciadaoin, Di-Haoine, Di-Sathurna, Di-Domhnaich, Sabaid. These are from the Abair dictionary, and I cannot necessarily pronounce all of them correctly, but my best guess would be Dee-Luen, Dec Mart, Dee-Cyadan, Dee-Haine, Dee-Sahurna, Dee-Sownick, Sabad. the Northern Lights are known as Na Fir Clois (na fear clish). A proverb: "A man is known by the company he keeps." is "Aithnichear duine air a chuideachd." (A nickher dunye air a khudeckht" — my best guess). I'm hoping to get a grammar book, dictionary, and tape within the next two to three weeks, so I'll come back and correct any mispronunciations.

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.

Slainte mhath.

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Letters of Comment:

LOCs

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

26 August 1992

Dear Alexander & Dale:

Thanks for issue #44.

I missed "Alex on Art" in this issue. I hope it returns.

Good luck with the house, Dale, it always seems to take longer than you plan.

Respectfully

P.S. What a lame LOC, but I don't have enough time to do it right.

"Alex on Art" will return. I'm glad you like it. Yes, the work on the is taking longer, but the work on the house has also become a bigger project by far. It's one of those 'I need to do this, but before I can do this, I should do that — but before I can do that, I . . . ' you get the picture.

Harry Cameron Andruschak
PO Box 5309
Torrance CA 90510-5309

8 August 1992

Dear Dale:

Received TSFI-44 today. Much thanks. Page 8, I notice my LOC was printed with *not* when I had written *now*. Argh....

Things have been hectic at my end, and I have a nasty cash-flow problem. This left me unable to attend either Westercon or Worl-con this year. I am hoping to make it to COPPERCON, being held this September in Phoenix, Arizona.

My main activity for fun and socialization is no longer fandom, although I do go to LAASFs meetings every now and then. But for the moment, I am very happy with my twice a week RSCDS activities. RSCDS = Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. I am still

looking for a set of "Mary Jane" shoes, but have had no luck so far.

And I am finally, after many years, starting to become computer-literate, in the sense that I am now learning DOS, with Windows to follow. And sooner or later I might even wind up with a home computer system and become a games freak. Or disappear into the BBS universe. The Post Office, for which I work, has a need for DOS Doctors among its Electronic Technicians. And my brother has been trying to get me a home computer system for years.

Anyway, I have been through an automobile accident, a race riot, a 7.4 Richter scale earthquake, etc etc etc and I could use some peace and quiet. I am beginning to see why many ex-fans have disappeared into the world of computer games and BBS systems.

Time for bed, it has been a long working day.

As an avid computer enthusiast and BBS SysOp (System Operator), I would encourage you to join in the computer revolution. It is amazing how many people I have met through BBS'ing (though recently, I've not had the time to do much BBS'ing other than my own). Plus, as you know, I do all the layout for both this and my own personal fanzine on the computer (both the BBS and the fanzine are called The Nature to Wander). However, I can sympathize greatly with the initial cost involved in getting started.

Anyway, I hope things have been quieter for you lately. Personally, the more I hear about California, the less I want to go there even to visit.

Correction:

I accidently left off the fact that Jim Thompson did the cover art for last issue. Sorry about that, Jim.

Review:

Alex on Art (Sort of)

by Alexander R. Slate

Since this is supposed to be an art review column I'll start by saying that Bridge Publications didn't use a Frank Frazetta 'Brass Bra' picture for the cover this time. Instead, the cover of **L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future, Volume VIII** [edited by Dave Wolverton, Bridge Publications, 1992, \$5.99, pb] is an uncredited piece entitled "Palace City". An interesting techy piece, it isn't great, but it is more appropriate to the contents than earlier covers.

The interior illustrations are uneven. Some are excellent pieces; such as the illustrations by Evan T. Thomas for "The Last Indian War" and "The Coat of Many Colors", Shaun Tan for "Winter Night, With Kittens", Yevgeny Rzhanov for "Blueblood", Matthew Stork for "Pale Marionettes", and Thomas Whittaker for "The Augmented Man". All of these pieces show a good command of form and composition.

Unfortunately, not all are this good. Sadly, some are not even what I'd consider fair. Matthew Stork (mentioned above) also did a piece for "The Winterberry"; while it did show a good understanding of form, the composition is lacking and the piece has no emotional impact. The worst piece (for me) was the illustration for "Anne of A Thousand Years" by Ira Crowe. Mr Crowe does not show a good grasp of form; the figures are blocky and not convincing. That and the picture has almost no relationship to the story it (supposedly) illustrates.

But the art is not the only thing to be found in **Writers of the Future, VIII**; there's also the stories. Fortunately, the stories are more consistent than the art. The only one that I didn't care for was C. Maria Plieger's "A Cold Fragrant Air". Now don't get me wrong, the remaining stories aren't all gems but they are at least solidly written.

Some do stand out. The gems are "The Last Indian War" by Brian Burt, "Anne of A Thousand Years" by Michael Paul Meltzer, "Scary Monsters" by Stephen Woodworth, and "The Augmented Man" by Wendy Rathbone. All of these stories share the same element, strong characterization.

As I read Nicholas DiChario's "The Winterberry" I felt that I had read it before. Lo and behold when I checked **Alternate Kennedys**, edited by Mike Resnik, there it was! It wasn't quite the same

with "Bringing Sissy Home" by Astrid Julian, but I swear that I've seen a story where the major character was driven by the same motivating factor. But I can't remember where.

Overall, I recommend this book. I don't think you're likely to find a better collection of previously unpublished authors anywhere this year.



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