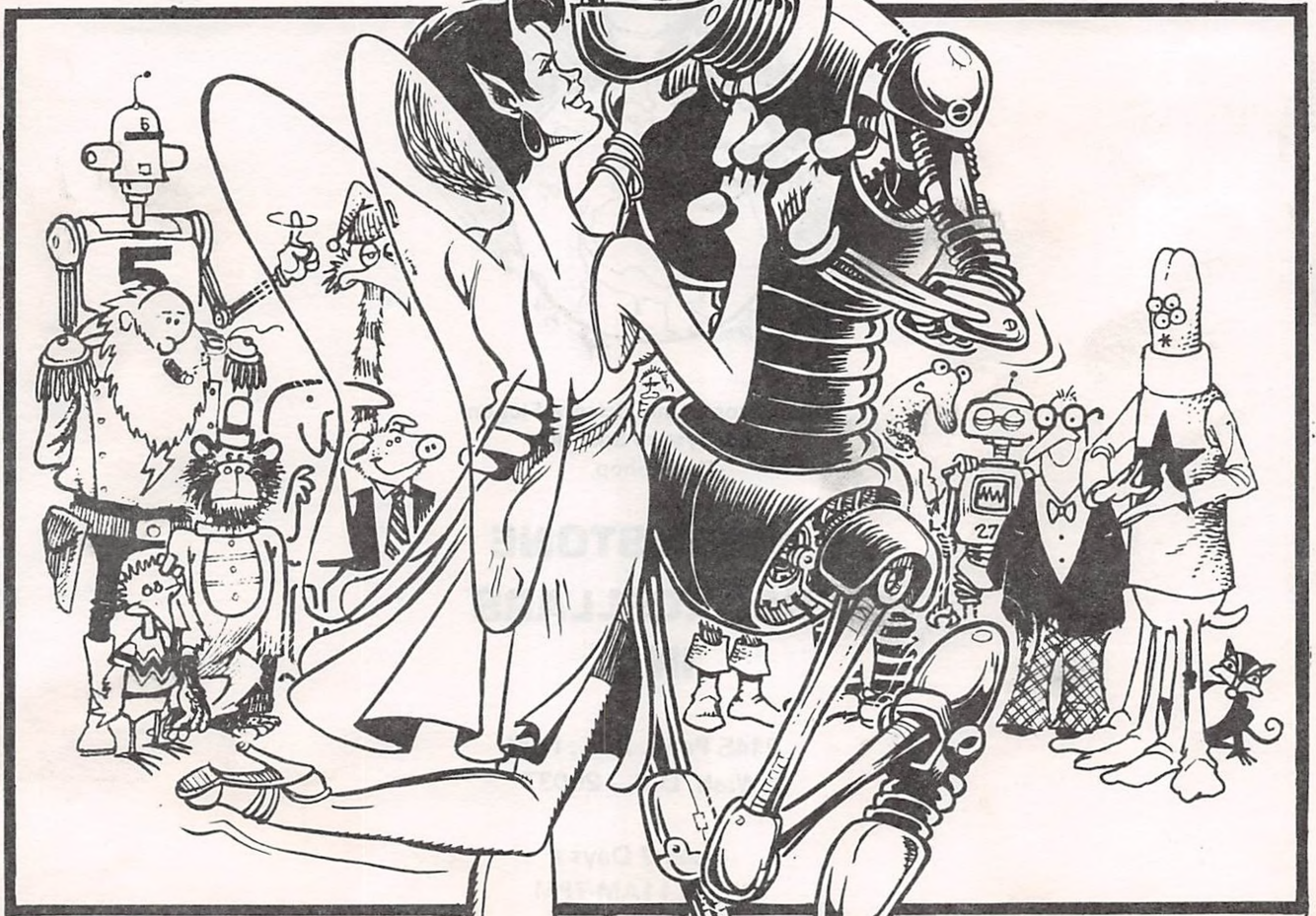


# DISGLAVE

19

81



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DAN STEFFAN  
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The Autobiography of Isaac Asimov (Hardcover)  
 In Memory Yet Green (1920-1954) 732 pp. \$7.95 Avon ; Doubleday \$15.95  
 In Joy Still Felt (1954-1978) 828 pp. \$9.95 Avon ; Doubleday \$19.95

This two volume autobiography details the life of one of the most remarkable men of letters in this century. The first volume may be a little more accessible, particularly to the younger reader. The second volume speaks more to middle age.

We begin in Petrovichi, Russia, which is not Russia, but the Russian S.F.S.R, otherwise Great Russia, where the author is born, and move to Brooklyn where he grows up working in his father's candy store. He is very bright, and his interests lead him to read science fiction, his talent leads him to write it, and one fine day he takes the subway over to Astounding Science Fiction where he meets John W. Campbell, Jr. Campbell encourages Asimov with the kindest possible letter of rejection, and presently we feel Asimov's excitement and keen pleasure at his first sale. At about this time the author begins to keep a diary, reflecting his naturally robust ego.

We proceed anecdotally through his life. Much of the material is funny, some of it is unexpected, all of it is well told. There is an occasional flash of insight, as, for instance, when he remarks that he 'retired' to go to college, after working 13 years of 8-hour days at the candy store. A clue, perhaps, to the volume of his later output. We meet authors and editors and co-workers. He writes specifications at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He gets drafted into the army and sent to Hawaii. He marries the woman he loves. He goes to graduate school, and at his orals, the last question is about... thiotimolene, his ASF hoax article!

By the end of the first volume he is a professor at Boston University and a successful science fiction author.

At the beginning of the second volume we learn that this very considerable achievement is actually to be regarded as a dead end and a place to escape from. Of course, professorships are dead ends, and as for being an author, Asimov concedes that while he might write something better than 'Nightfall' and 'Caves of Steel', it would not likely be much better. The artist competing with his younger self is always at a disadvantage, especially when the younger self is as bright as the young Asimov.

So he starts to write non-fiction. On science, on Shakespeare, on the Bible...you see him go into overdrive. The books pour out, as acts of love rather than economics. There is also pain. The loss of friends, divorce, moving, sickness. Asimov puts himself down, warts and all.

I would like to quote a short passage to give you some flavor of the book. At his check-up, the doctor has discovered a lump on the side of his neck. We proceed from diagnosis to hospital to operating room.

"...Then in came Carl Smith, with a green smock and a green mask, and his eyes twinkling with the joy all surgeons feel at the prospect of cutting into quivering living flesh.

"Carl," I shouted, "Come here."

Then I intoned:

Doctor, doctor, in your green coat  
 Doctor, doctor, cut my throat.  
 And when you've finished, doctor, then,  
 Won't you sew it up again.

By then a desparate anesthesiologist was through and I was told to count backward from one hundred. I don't think I got past ninety-four. One of the residents told me that my last words were "Doctor, help me."

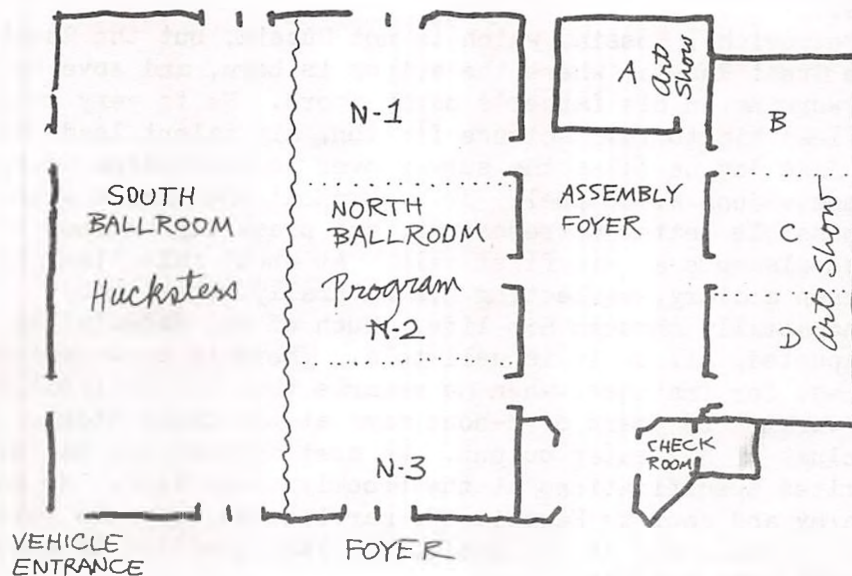
Carl Smith told me afterward that it was a terrible thing for me to have recited that doggerel to him, for he stood there with his knife at my throat, trying to stop laughing so that he could cut with a steady hand.

He said, "You were depending on my steady hand. Why did you try to make me laugh?"

Could I explain I would do anything for a laugh?"

It might be noted that 'In Joy Still Felt' has been nominated for a Hugo in the non-fiction category.

Finally, if you would like to know our guest of honor better, these two volumes are an excellent way to spend time in his company.



Chairman Alexis A. Gilliland wishes to thank

Coordinator: Dolly Gilliland  
Program Director: Avedon Carol  
Art Show Director: Bob Oliver  
Huckster Room: Mike Walsh  
Registration: Beverly Brandt  
Brewmeister: Robert MacIntosh  
Films: Kim Weston, Charlie Ellis

WSFA members, SFWA members, ASFA members, International Cookie Conspirators, Paramount Pictures, speakers, panelists, and all and sundry who have contributed their time and talents to making DISCLAVE a success.



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SORRY, COULDN'T  
COME THIS YEAR.  
HOPE YOU'LL VISIT  
SOON



P R O G R A M  
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 23

10 a.m.

Registration Opens (Assembly Foyer)

Art Show Opens (Rooms A, B, C, & D)

Huckster Room Opens (South Ballroom)

12 Noon: Program Opens (North Ballroom)

Raiders of the Lost Ark Preview  
Producer Frank Marshall shows slides and film clips from Lucasfilms new action/adventure starring Harrison Ford, directed by Steven Speilberg.

1 p.m.: Voyager I--Saturn Encounter  
Dr. James Trainor, Associate Chief of Lab for High Energy Astrophysics, NASA-Goddard.

2 p.m.: Civilizations and Cultures of the Future--Panel.

Isaac Asimov, Hal Clement, Alexis Gilliland, Charles Grant, Joan Vinge.

3 p.m.: SF & Horror--from Print to Screen--Panel.

Charlie Ellis, Joe Haldeman, R. B. McArthur, Michael Swanwick, Tim Sullivan.

4 p.m.: The Ideal SF Curriculum--Panel.

Trina King, Rill Mayhew, Alexei Panshin, Charles Sheffield, William Tenn.

5 p.m.: Dragonslayer Preview

Howard Landau presents film clips from this new Disney Paramount heroic fantasy.

7 p.m.: Art Auction

9 p.m.

Registration Moves (Con Suite, Rm 1508)

Con Suite Opens (Presidential Suite)

10 p.m.: Movies begin (North Ballroom)

SUNDAY, MAY 24

10 a.m.

Registration Opens (Assembly Foyer)

Art Show Opens (Rooms A, B, C, & D)

Huckster Room Opens (South Ballroom)

12 Noon: Program Opens (North Ballroom)

Superman II Preview  
Craig Miller narrates a slideshow and film clips of the continuing saga of the man from Krypton.

1 p.m.: What Makes Good SF Art--Panel.

Sally Bensusan, Jack Chalker, Jim Frenkel, Tom Schaad.

2 p.m.: ISAAC ASIMOV speaks

3:15 p.m.: Art Auction (North 1 & 2)

How Important Is Written SF to Fandom Today--Panel. (North 3)  
Gay Haldeman, Stu Schiffman, Ted White, et al.

4:15 p.m.: The Worst SF I Ever Read--Panel. (North 3)

Owen Locke, Bob Lovell, Steve Spruill, Somtow Sucharitkul.

5:15 p.m.: Pogo Preview

John Ellis introduces us to what's in store as Pogo takes to the screen.

8 p.m. (Suite 200)

Bemis/Parker Ring Exchange

8:30 p.m. (North Ballroom)

Aviva/Greycloake Matrimonial Rites

Attendants: Markland Medieval  
Mercenary Militia

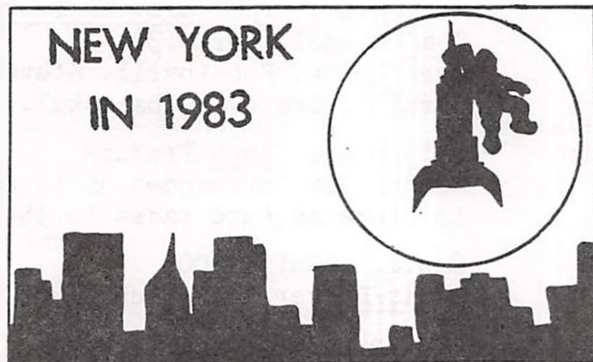
9 p.m. Open Bridal Party (Con Suite, at close of above ceremony)

10 p.m.: Movies begin (North Ballroom)

COLUMBIA PIKE FOOD SOURCES

BOB & EDITH'S DINER, 2310.  
 24 hrs. Closes Sun. 7am  
 Sandwiches, breakfast, dinner \$2-4  
PIKE PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER  
 SAFEWAY SUPERMARKET  
 A&P SUPERMARKET  
 DRUG FAIR (super drugstore)  
 OLLIE'S TROLLEY  
 7am-7pm. Closed Sun. Burgers, Fries, etc.  
 NATALE, 2421. Italian.  
 11am-11pm. Closed Sun.  
 ATILLA'S, 2705. Turkish & Continental  
 11am-11pm. Closed Sun.  
 Subs, pizza, souvlaki, dinners \$5-10  
 ATILLA'S CARRY OUT, 2707.  
 11am-11pm. Sun. Noon-10pm  
 Subs, sandwiches, gyros, pizza \$2-8  
 BIG ROY, 2810.  
 6am-1am. Sun. 7am-11pm  
 Soup, sandwiches, dinners \$4-8  
 MICHELANGELO, 2900. Northern Italian.  
 5:30pm-10:30pm. Closed Sun.  
 Pasta \$6.50. Main courses \$7-10.

MATUBA, 2915. Japanese. Sushi bar.  
 5pm-10pm. Open Sun. \$4.50-9  
 ORIENTAL, 2921. Polynesian/Chinese  
 Noon-10:30pm. Open Sun. Dinners \$5-10  
 McDONALD'S, 3001  
 7am-3am(?). Open Sun. The usual.  
 SORABOL, 3030. Korean.  
 1pm-10pm. Closed Sun. Dinner \$7-10.  
 MRS. CHEN'S KITCHEN, 3101. Chinese.  
 12:30pm-10:30pm. Sun. 4pm-10. \$3-8.  
 COCO'S, 3111. Italian.  
 5pm-1am. Sun. 11am-11pm.  
 Pasta \$6-8; Dinner \$8-13.  
 GUNTER'S GERMAN DELI & RESTAURANT, 3205.  
 10am-5pm. Closed Sun.  
 Sandwiches, salads, sausages, etc.  
WESTMONT SHOPPING CENTER  
 BRENNER'S BAKERY, 3241.  
 6am-8pm. Really good stuff. Closed Mon.  
 MOM'S PIZZA-RESTAURANT, 3255. Greek.  
 11am-9pm. Open Sun.  
 Sandwiches, pizza, dinners \$4-8.



New York in '83/  
 NASFiC NY '83

Committee:

Brian Burley (Chair)  
 Thom Anderson (Treas.)  
 Robert Sacks (Sec.)  
 Joe Braman  
 Rick Buchanan  
 Fred Kuhn  
 Robert Osband (Ozzie)

Hotel: The NY Statler,  
 site of the '67  
 Worldcon

"Write us in on the Worldcon ballot"

A statement of principles of the bid committee:

The philosophy of the World Science Fiction Society encourages overseas Worldcons whenever a competent bidding committee enters a bid by allowing them to bid without regard to rotation and by providing for a NASFiC for the North American fans in that circumstance, so that North American fans may in good conscience vote for a worthy overseas bid knowing that they will not deprive themselves of a major national convention. The New York in '83 committee has entered its Worldcon bid in accordance with this philosophy. We feel that we can provide the fans with an extraordinary Worldcon. If the fans, as is their right, choose an overseas Worldcon, we will provide an extraordinary NASFiC.

# BALTIMORE

in '83

EVERY TIME WE ASKED  
"WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO  
VOTE?" THE ANSWER WAS  
ALWAYS "MORE CRABCAKES!"  
HOW MANY DID HE EAT?

103 PLUS A BAKED  
POTATO. NOW WE  
HAVE TO GET HIM TO  
DENVER TO VOTE AT THE  
CON.

THE DEADLINE  
FOR ABSENTEE VOTING  
IS AUGUST 15, 1981,  
(JULY 15, IF YOU STILL  
HAVE TO JOIN THE  
CONVENTION.)



I was born in Los Angeles in the early 1950's with my head somewhere above the clouds. I spent most of my growing up in New York City. My interests in art and science ran concurrently and I was very fortunate to have parents that were special. They indulged me. My imagination was nourished with the tools of discovery: lots of science-fiction movies, a chemistry set here, an ant farm there, here an erector set, there ten years of flute lessons--and a telescope. By fifth grade I knew I wanted to be an astronomer. (They weren't training women astronauts at the time.)

Between taking space voyages in my cardboard interstellas rocket and causing neighborhood havoc, as my friends and I ran around dressed in homemade giant bee costumes, the art was always there, as my favorite means of expression. It showed itself in spacescapes and the grotesque monsters that graced the imagination of every normal little girl of my age.

By and by, I must have grown up somewhere along the line. I don't have the giant bee costume any more. I studied mathematics and astronomy in college and forgot about the art for a while. I was looking to the stars for the excitement of deep space wonders and great discoveries. The adventure. The romance....

The disappointment. (Definitely, too many science-fiction movies.) I've been working at the U.S. Naval Observatory since 1975 as a professional astronomer and yet, there's no romance for me in writing computer programs for someone else, no matter how astronomical they are.

To that end, I've taken up artwork again, as a break from my astronomical duties. I've done work for the Smithsonian and for a few publications. I am currently a member of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and, in fact, much of my current work deals in natural science, though I'd prefer unnatural science. I still enjoy creating the grotesque and the ugly, for even in that there can be beauty.

But once and astronomer, always an astronomer. One day soon, I'd like to merge the astronomy and the art, again. I think I might have to. It's tough trying to draw when one's pad and pencil are on the ground, but one's head is still somewhere in the stars.



SALLY BENSUSEN