

Yes, yes, alright already, here it is: SPIRITS IN THE NIGHT #1 is the first in a series of fanzines brought to you by Leah and Dick Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090, (708) 537-1306 (note new area code) as a preliminary to:

of below... ditto 3...
Northbrook, Illinois
October 5-7, 1990

Please join us at the third edition of fanzine fandom's alternative convention. We can promise great accommodations, stimulating but laid-back programming and a genuine ditto[®] machine for your publishing pleasure. Mimeo too, if you must.

HOW MUCH: \$20 attending (Can\$25; Dfl. 40); \$5 supporting (Can\$7; Dfl. 10). Attending memberships go up to \$25 July 1, but if you buy a supporting membership now you can convert later for \$15. (Foreign membership prices are slightly higher than the present exchange rates to allow for the extra costs of conversion and postage.)

Membership doesn't include a banquet, but there will be a well-stocked con suite and all the ditto masters you can use. Please fill out and return the enclosed membership form to us, or to our European agents, Roelof and Lynne Ann Goudriaan-Morse, Caan van Necklaan 63, 2281 BB RIJSWIJK (ZH), The Netherlands.

WHERE: Allgauer's Hotel, a small, luxurious inn in suburban Chicago. Its features include an indoor pool, sauna and Jacuzzi and a dynamite Sunday brunch. Each hotel room is furnished with a refrigerator, a bathrobe and a variety of other amenities. You can even get a room with a private Jacuzzi. Many rooms overlook a forest preserve, which ought to be beautiful in October. We have already held two successful relaxacons at Allgauer's, so we know it's OK.

Room rates will be \$70 for singles, doubles, triples or quads. Suites are \$175 per night, and a room with a king-sized bed and a private Jacuzzi runs \$110. Enclosed is a room reservation form. Please don't make reservations directly with the hotel, but send the form to us. That will help us keep everyone together.

GETTING HERE: We'll provide more complete travel information in a later edition, but for those who like to make plane reservations early, we warn you that it's most convenient to fly to O'Hare Airport. Allgauer's provides free shuttle bus service from there to the hotel. If you must fly to Midway, you will need to take a one-hour, \$10 shuttle bus ride from there to O'Hare, and then catch the hotel shuttle.

FOOD: Although we understand the banquet held at ditto 2 was a great success, we have elected to follow the lead of ditto 1 and skip a mandatory formal banquet. The hotel is smack in the middle of one of the Chicago area's best restaurant rows, and with so many good restaurants nearby, it seems a pity to make everybody go to any one. The relaxacon restaurant guide included 61 eateries, not counting fast food.

Allgauer's has a terrific Sunday brunch, however, and we'll reserve a table for everyone whose schedule permits them to stay for it. (The brunch is \$16.95 at present.) No boring speeches, just all the food you can eat.

PROGRAMMING: For those unaware of it, ditto is a convention devoted to fanzines and fan publishers. Although everyone is welcome, those without an interest in this subject may well find it boring -- there are no movies, no costumes, no wargaming, no filksinging, and no hucksters -- but if you'd like to learn a bit more about the world of fanpubbing, and maybe try a hand at it yourself, c'mon down.

For those who have been to Corflu or to the original fanzine con, AutoClave, but not to a ditto, you will find the spirit much the same, but the execution somewhat more casual and laid-back. ditto is a party with fanzines.

At ditto 3, there will be a light track of highly participatory programming. Things are still in the planning stages and we're open to suggestions. We hope to have a hands-on seminar on the finer points of fanzine production, including some of the lost arts of spirit duplication and mimeography. We also want to explore the possibilities of combining the hi-tech and the low-tech. (This progress report, for example, was written using Microsoft Word and printed on spirit masters with a Panasonic KX-P1124 24-pin printer. The resulting masters were then run off on a circa 1955 ditto[®] machine.)

Fanzine Swap Meet and Show-And-Tell: Fanzines. Bring us fanzines. There never seem to be enough fanzines around at these fanzine conventions. Got any really keen old zines? Bring them and show them off. Got some old crudzines? Bring them so we can all have a good laugh. Need to clean out your attic? Bring old zines to sell or trade or give away. Faneds: Bring a sample copy (or more than one) of a fanzine you published -- no matter how long ago -- and be prepared to talk about it. Of course, if anyone's actually gotten around to pubbing anything lately, bring that too.

On-site publishing: As mentioned, we'll have a ditto[®] and Gestetner, plus a Thermofax machine, typers and probably computers. Anyone who wants to bring publishing equipment is welcome. Let's try to generate some fanpubbing fever!

Fair warning: Everyone will be expected to contribute to a ditto 3 genzine. In the interests of ending up with something better than the usual convention one-shot, we encourage you to prepare your material ahead of time, but if you don't do so, you'll be handed a ditto master at the door. Artists: If you bring art drawn on paper, we can Thermofax it, but we'd prefer you to do it in color on ditto masters. If you can't get any, let us know, and we'll send you some. Tell us if you'll need instructions.

Auction: Donations are welcomed for an auction to benefit ditto, which is all we're up to organizing. If anyone wants to run a fan fund auction at ditto 3, please let us know.

WHO: ditto 3 will be brought to you by Leah and Dick Smith. Bill Bodden, Cy Chauvin, Catherine Crockett, Spike Parsons, Neil Rest, Lanny Waitsman and Bob Webber are among those who have promised to help.

Members:

Sheryl Birkhead s	Bill Bodden s	Bill Bowers
Vijay Bowen s	Ned Brooks s	Cy Chauvin
Karen Cooper s	Lise Eisenberg	Moshe Feder
Don Fitch	George Flynn s	Mike Glicksohn
David Gillett	Lynn Hickman s	Colin Hinz s
Hope Leibowitz	Gary Mattingly	Spike Parsons
Lloyd Penney s	Yvonne Penney s	Patty Peters
Sarah Prince s	Vicki Rosenszweig s	Cas Skelton
Paul Skelton	Dick Smith	Leah Smith
David Stirrup s	Bob Tucker	Tara Wayne s
Bob Webber		

s = supporting membership

ALSO OF INTEREST: Double your fanzine cons, double your pleasure.... Corflu 8 will be held by Richard Brandt and divers Texans at the Embassy Suites in El Paso May 3-5, 1990. Memberships are presently \$35 attending and \$5 supporting. Rooms are \$85. Contact Richard at 4740 N. Mesa #111, El Paso, TX 79912, (915) 542-0443, to buy memberships or for more information.

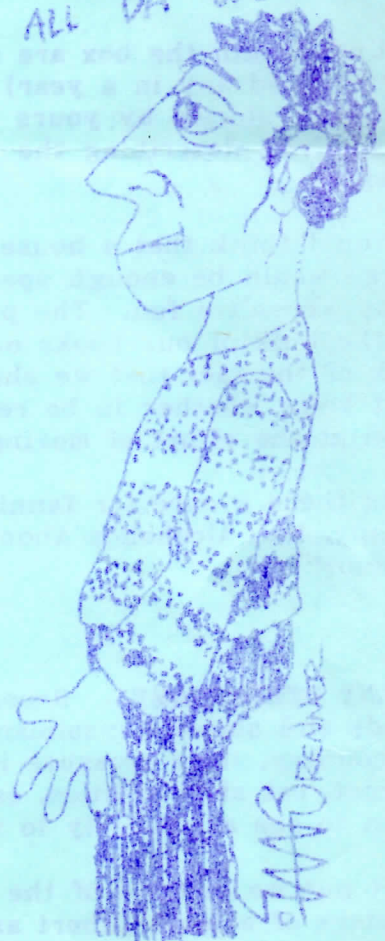
GUFF stuff...Irwin Hirsh asks us to mention that GUFFAWE, the newsletter of the Get Up-and-over Fan Fund is available from him for \$1 U.S. It includes a list of fanzines available for postal auction and sale. Write Irwin at 26 Jessamine Ave., E. Prahran, Victoria 3181, Australia.

Skel Fund...Some of you know about the scheme in the works to bring British fans Paul and Cas Skelton to the United States this fall. Their air fare here was taken care of when Alyson Abramowitz contributed her frequent flyer points, but funds are still needed for travel and lodging within the U.S.

The Skeltons will attend ditto 3 and Octocon two weeks later in Cincinnati.

If you'd like to contribute money or auction items, call or write Alyson at 3571 Shafer Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95051, (408) 248-5988 or Joni Stopa at Box 177, Wilmot, WI 53192. (414) 862-2040.

CHEE, LOOK!
ALL DA WOLDS!



THE SPACE PROBLEM. My mother issued an ultimatum regarding my possessions in her basement and what she'd do if we didn't claim them, so on our last trip to Detroit we came away with several large boxes of fanzines. These are presently stacked in the dining room waiting for us to find space for them with others in the garage.

It is my hope to sort through these boxes -- some 20 or so, in Dick's my joint collection -- before ditto 3, but I recognize it as a forlorn one. Would anyone be interested in a field trip as part of the programming: Archeology for Fanzine Fans?

I remember, in the first years of my entry into fandom, how carefully I filed fanzines away, alphabetically by title. I remember, too, arguments with other people who filed by editor, or chronologically. I saved every crudzine, every apazine, every convention flyer.

It is remarkable what a dozen years, nine moves and a few thousand fanzines will do to your filing system. As I write, a large stack of zines sits in a cardboard box next to me, overflowing onto the floor. Mixed among the fanzines, I can see several old issues of Meeting News, Bottom Line Personal and DEC Professional, as well as a Leslie Hindman Auctioneers catalog, newsletters from several wineries and an issue of HOT TEA, a teapot fanzine the journal of the Handle On The Teapot Enthusiasts Association.

Underneath the box are several quires of mimeo stencils (though we haven't used any in a year) and next to it is a stack of old newspapers containing stories by yours truly. For the sake of your sensibilities, I will refrain from describing the rest of the room. Besides, you've seen one like it before.

You'd think that a house with three bedrooms, a full basement and a garage would be enough space for two people and a cat. Well, you would if you weren't a fan. The purchase of six new bookcases has done little to get the bulk of our books out of boxes in the basement. And every time I think of the fact that we shall probably have to move in a few years I don't know whether to be relieved at the chance to find more space or groan at the effort of moving into it.

Is there a cure for fannish materialism? Maybe we could have group therapy, like Alcoholics Anonymous. "My name is Leah Smith, and I...I am a collector!"

BY ANY OTHER NAME... Recently I had occasion to interview a couple who breeds and shows Abyssinian cats. As they described their trips around the country, their pleasure in meeting people from all over who share their interest, cat show politics, cat people and their portly "cat-show bodies," I began to see a similarity to the way-of-life hobby I know best.

It put me in mind of the time when I agreed to serve on the board of directors of a local Gilbert and Sullivan Society, only to resign a year or

so later after discovering it was exactly like being on a con committee, only not as much fun.

Dick and I have been talking lately about attempting to support our antique-collecting habit by doing a little weekend dealing at antique shows. Something tells me that if we get into it, we'll find a marked resemblance to huckstering.

WHAT IS A FANZINE FAN? In recent years, since those who read and produce fanzines have splintered off to some extent from fandom at large, there's been a lot of talk about "fanzine fans" and "fanzine fandom," as if we are not merely fans with special interest, but a wholly separate group, like comics fans.

I was a witness to and at least partly an instrument of the splintering process, which seems to me largely to have occurred in the last 10 or 15 years, and which was hurried along by AutoClave. AutoClave 1, in 1976, was the first fanzine convention, which I was privileged to help put on. It is ironic that AutoClave helped to divide fanzine fans from the rest of fandom, since it became a fanzine convention almost by accident, and with a few exceptions, those who ran the con weren't overly involved in fanzines.

What happened was that the Detroit fans, who until that time had only been running a one-day con, wanted to put on a regular three-day affair. But this was in the days before conventions were held every other weekend and six or eight to a city. And there was already Confusion, only an hour away in Ann Arbor, and its founder and then-chairman, Bo Naggy, could be a formidable enemy. So we began looking for ways to make it seem as if we weren't in competition with Confusion. We planned, for the opposite time of year, and someone (I think it was me, but I wouldn't swear to it) suggested the fanzine orientation.

It turned out to be a very special convention, and I'm glad we did it and that I was a part of it, but there's no question that it contributed to the growing separation of fanzine fans from mainstream fandom. I'm not saying that would not have happened without AutoClave, only that AutoClave was one of the catalysts.

As fandom grew, and conventions proliferated, and fanzines became less necessary to fanish communication, it was inevitable that the proportion of fanzine publishers would shrink. But the split doesn't go back to eofandom, as some would have you believe. ("First, Ghu created the fanzine fan...") And many of the institutions supposedly begun by "fanzine fans," were in reality begun by regular fans who happened to participate in what was then a regular fan activity.

It seems to me that when I attended what was considered innovative fanzine programming at Discon 2 in 1974, the old-time fanzine people there were complaining about their "new" minority status. I had joined fandom a year and a half earlier, and up until that time never heard anyone talk about "fanzine fans" -- we were fans, and fan publishing was an activity that some fans did and others didn't, the way today some play poker and

others don't. There were none of the Us vs. Them attitudes which have proliferated recently. (Or, rather, there were, but it was Us. vs. the Trekkies.)

The well-rounded fan of the time got at least a few fanzines, went to at least a few conventions, wrote letters and possibly belonged to an apa or a local club; some even read science fiction. Anyone who didn't participate to some extent in most of these activities was considered a bit odd. People whose only fanac consisted of con-going were called fringe fans. Then, as now, those who limited their activities to fanzines were thought a bit anti-social. At cons, everybody went to the masquerade, the filksings, the movies, without being labeled drobes, filkers or media fans.

Is this a paeon to the Good Ol' Days? An appeal for a kinder, gentler fandom? Well, partly. Mostly, it just seems to me there's enough real bigotry in the world without making too much of such artificial divisions. It's true enough that fans and fandom have changed greatly over the years, and I'll be the first to admit that fandom today contains many elements which I don't like, and people with whom I wouldn't care to socialize. (But now that I think about it, it always did.) There are still, however, a great many good things and people, and not all have to do with fanzines.

I don't mean to say that fanzine fans ought not to have their own interests and institutions (or else I wouldn't be running ditto 3), only that there's no percentage in being too exclusive about them.

What, after all, is a fanzine fan? Consider the people who are running this year's fanzine conventions -- Moshe Feder, Lise Eisenberg, Dick and me. Dick and I haven't published anything significant in at least five years. If Moshe or Lise has published a fanzine in the last ten years, they didn't send one to me. None of us is very active as a letterhack either. Are we "fanzine fans"? Who gets to decide?

A fanzine fan is anyone who says he is. But having no interest in fanzines doesn't necessarily make one a member of the Great Unwashed. (Indeed, I can recall some highly pungent fan publishers, including, in his younger days, one who is now a big proponent of the Us vs. Them idea.) The trouble with that attitude is it's self-limiting. If you don't associate with Them, if you don't let Them in on the fun you're having and try to make Them see why it's fun, well, you have only yourselves to blame if fanzine fandom goes the way of the Shakers.

---Leah Zeldes Smith

Lyle
Lyle
Lyle

ditto 3
October 5-7, 1990
Northbrook, Illinois

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Code _____ Country _____ Phone _____

Attending: \$20 U.S. Canadian \$25 Dutch fl. 40

Supporting: \$5 U.S. Canadian \$7 Dutch fl. 10

Make U.S. and Canadian checks payable to Richard H.E. Smith II
European agents: Roelof and Lynne Ann Goudriaan-Morse
Caan van Neckiaan 63, 2281 BB RIJSWIJK (ZH), The Netherlands.

- I'm not interested in helping at the convention. If someone asks me to haul ice, I'll tell them to go to blazes. (Note: Persons checking this box will be assessed \$5 extra for their memberships. Otherwise, we assume anyone attending a small convention such as this is willing to lend a hand when needed.)
- I intend to spend the weekend being a lump. Don't expect me to participate in any programming. (See note above. We expect everyone to participate. If you want passive entertainment, go to Worldcon.)
- Here's my idea for programming, or anything else _____

I might buy a ditto 3 t-shirt. I'd be interested in size _____

S M L XL XXL XXXL

ditto 3

Dick & Leah Smith, 17 Kerry Lane, Wheeling, IL 60090-6415, (708) 537-1306.*
(*Note new area code.)

Really enjoyed Chyfe
Letter, soon. Ed



ditto 3
October 5-7, 1990
Allgauer's Hotel, Northbrook, Illinois

ROOM RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Code _____ Country _____ Phone _____

Arrival date _____ Departure date _____

Credit card _____ Card no. _____ Expiration date _____
Rooms will be held until 4 p.m. unless guaranteed by credit card.

No. Persons _____ Room type: King bed \$70 2 Double beds \$70
 Suite \$175 Jacuzzi \$110

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH ALLGAUER'S. Return this form to us by September 1, so we can be sure everyone is _____ed together.



ditto 3
Dick and Leah Smith
17 Kerry Lane
Wheeling, IL 60090



Address correction requested
Forwarding and
return postage guaranteed

Roger Weddall
P.O. Box 273
Fitzroy, Victoria 3065
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