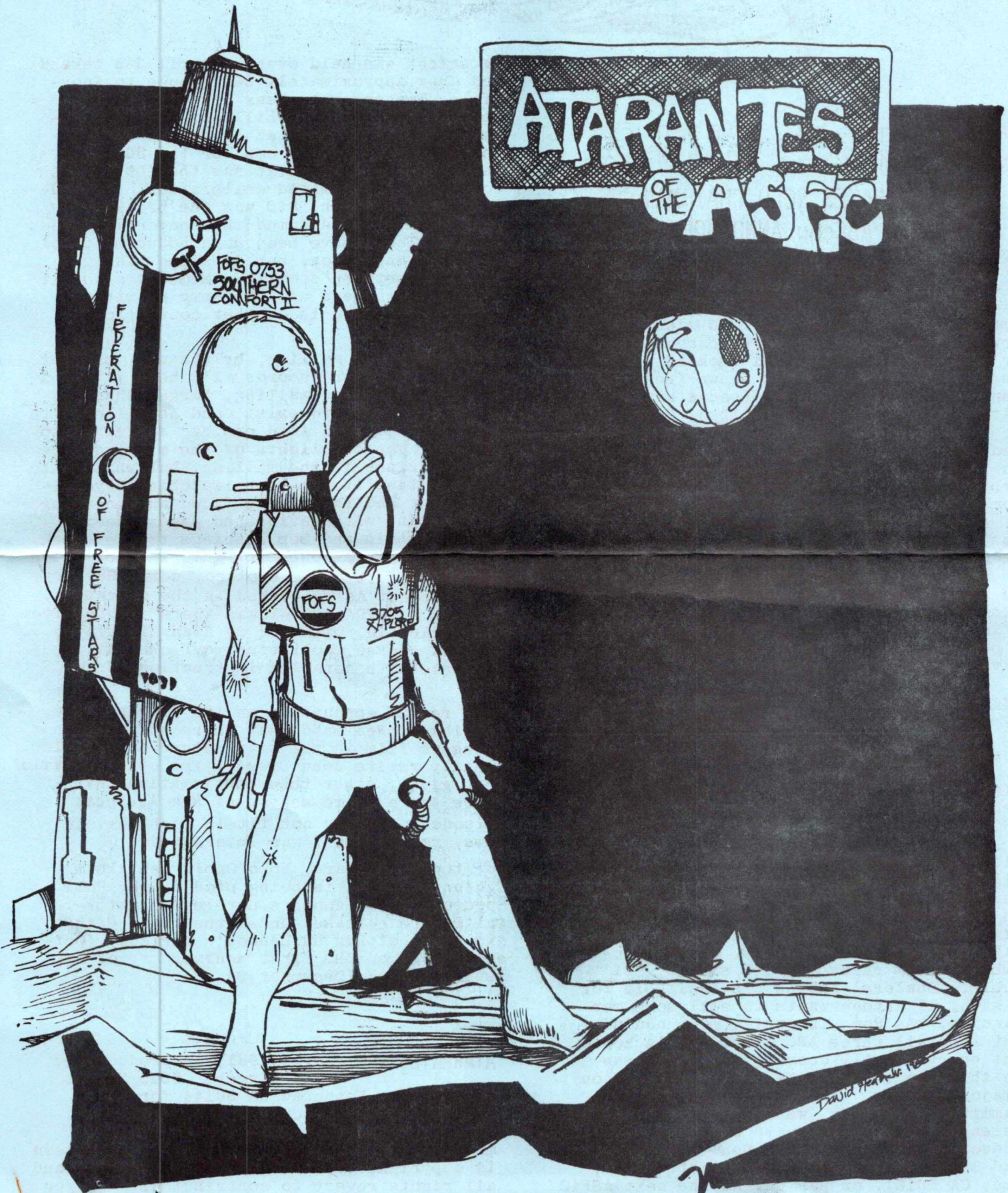


ATARANTES OF THE ASFC





CHOICE CUTS

ASFICON NAMES SOLO CHAIRMAN DSC BID, ABCcon ANNOUNCED!!

The ASFiCon 2 Committee has a minor change in lineup; instead of three co-chairmen, this year's con will be chaired by Rich Howell, with Cliff Biggers and Mike Weber working as co-chairmen. The convention, set for the October 23-25 1981 weekend, also has as its committee Iris Brown (registration), Deb Hammer Johnson (secretary, con suite), Larry Mason (con suite), Susan Biggers (treasurer), Janet Lyons (programming), Brad Linaweaver (programming), Larry Hanson (films), Ward Batty (publicity), Jean Corbin (art show), Avery Davis (hucksters' room), Ron Zukowski (publicity), Angela Howell (hotel liaison), John Whatley (attorney, pubs), Dave Minch (publicity), Bill Ritch (programming), Vince Lyons (operations), and Sue Phillips (costume contest). In case you have forgotten, Pro GoH is Robert Silverberg, Fan GoH is Joe D. Siclari, and the MC is Michael Bishop. Memberships are \$10 at present to ASFiCon 2, 6045 Summit Wood Drive, Kennesaw GA 30144.

Mike Weber will chair an Atlanta in '82 bid for the DeepSouthCon; more specific dates and related information on the bid will be presented later on, but this will be presented by the ASFiCon Committee. Since 1970, Atlanta has hosted the DeepSouthCon each even-numbered year--keep the tradition in 1982!

Iris Brown announces that the second ABCcon will be held in Rome, Georgia on June 27 and June 28. The location will be the Roman Inn on Highway 411, the site of the 1974 Halfacon and the 1976 Cyrcon. Memberships will be \$2 for club members, \$3 for non-members; room rates are \$25 single, \$31 double. Dealers' tables are available for \$4 each, if anyone wants to sell some merchandise. As Rome is pretty much equidistant from all three ABC clubs, it is hoped that everyone will converge on the Roman Inn this summer and make the second ABCcon a major success. Iris has plans for programming, including (we hope) a slide show, presented by each club, to serve as an introduction to that club. Don't miss it! Send \$\$ to Iris Brown, 404 Elliott Drive, Rome, GA 30161, or pay her at the next ASFiCon meeting!

Satyricon was held over the April 3-5 weekend and drew approximately 360 people to Knoxville, Tennessee to hear Gordon Dickson, Stanley Schmidt, Guy Lillian, and Karl Edward Wagner, as well as MC Andrew Offutt. The highlight of the con for the 50 or so people involved with it was the 100th SFPA collating and related celebration. According to Irvin Koch, 320 was the break-even point, so it is assumed the convention made money. There have been no announcements of a second Satyricon, but it seems likely. Friction between committee members makes it likely that there will be some committee changes if there is another convention, however.

The 100th SFPA mailing, by the way, has set numerous fannish records, I'd bet; it was a massive 1748 page mailing, larger than any other apa known to exist, and is filled with more good material than one had any right to expect. The highlights of the mailing were not the zines in the mailing, but what went into putting it together; watching Guy Lillian rant and rave as he faced an impending OO deadline with unfinished pages, seeing Don Markstein and Bob Jennings try to sneak a just-completed one-shot into the collation row without it being spotted, watch Guy try to be modest as he basked in the attention, getting a "SFPA 100--I was there" button from Don Markstein, with art by Alan Hutchinson... and, of course, collating your own mailing, complete with detailed instructions from OE Guy.

In a recent appearance on the Tonight Show, Patrick MacNee said that there would be an Avengers film in the near future that would finally retire John Steed. Few other details were given, other than confirmation that there was a third season of *New Avengers* episodes. (It may not fit in with the con news, folks, but I was interested.)

For those who care, Yoko Ono's new album *Season of Glass* is being produced by Phil Spector; John Lennon's unreleased material may be released under the title *Milk and Honey* either on Lennon's birthday (October 9) or on the first anniversary of his assassination (December 9).

ATARANTES #46 (April 1981) is produced by Cliff Biggers, 6045 Summit Wood Drive, Kennesaw GA 30144 for the Atlanta Science Fiction Club (ASFIC). Free to all members; \$4 a year to non-members, or The Usual. All material herein is copyright (c) 1981 by Cliff Biggers, and all rights revert to contributors. If you don't contribute, you have no rights.

Emory University has a Science Fiction Symposium scheduled for May 16, running from 11 am to 8 pm. Admission is \$3, unless you are an Emory student, in which case you get in free. The guest is Jack Williamson. There will also be a few movies, such as *The Thing*, *Metropolis*, & *Nosferatu*. They may have some short films as well. This is supposed to have a little more scholarly angle than your run-of-the-mill sf con. They will be having some of the faculty speak and take part in panels. This is all to occur in White Hall, which is also where the club Psi Phi regularly meets every other Wednesday (but you have to start counting at April 15 to get it right, and the meeting's in Rm 206).

Ross Pavlac and Diana Sainsbury are getting married in Chicago this spring, Mike Glycer reports.

MEETING

APRIL'S PROGRAM will be a showing of the film *The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad*. Because of the film showing, the business meeting will start at 7:00, with the film starting no later than 8:00. Remember, all newcomers get a free first meeting to ASFic, so encourage friends to come.

PROGRAMMING FOR MAY will include an auction to raise money for the ASFic M&M Fund and (tentatively) a discussion/presentation on the works of Piers Anthony. Everyone is encouraged to begin reading up on his Anthony collection and be prepared with opinions and commentary.

The April Meeting of ASFic will be held at the Peachtree Bank meeting room at 4525 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road on April 18, and remember: this month's meeting will begin at 7:00, an hour earlier than usual, so we can finish our film in time for the traditional after-the-meeting-pizza-run.

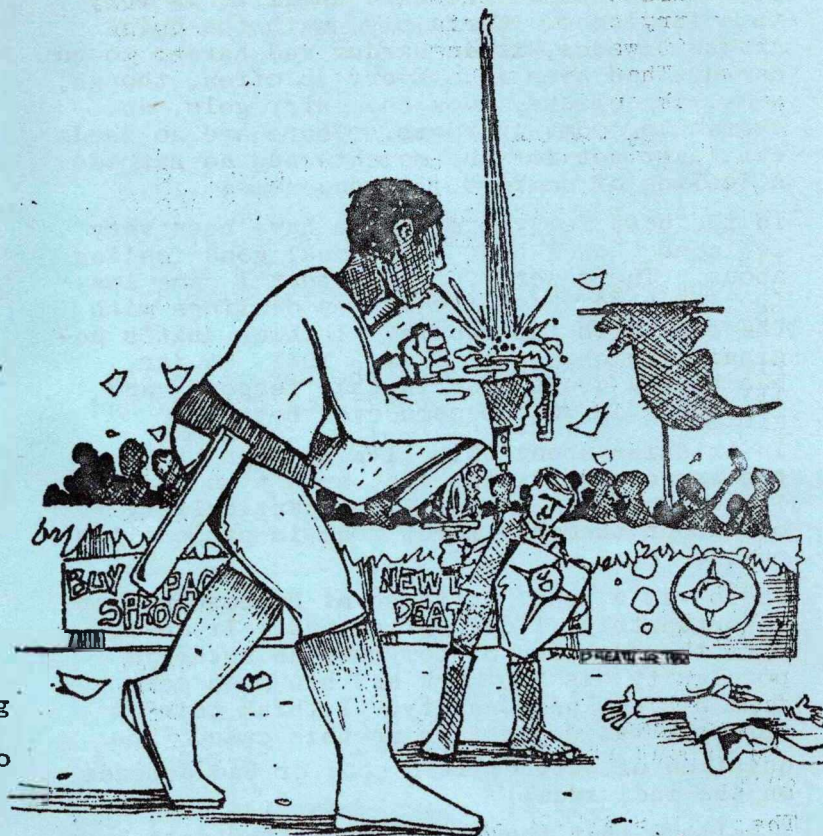
To get to the meeting site, get on I-285 north of Atlanta, between I-75 and I-85. Coming from the west, take the Chamblee-Dunwoody exit, turn left, and proceed approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile; the Peachtree Bank Building will be on the right, next to a Steak 'n Shake. Coming from the east, take the Chamblee-Dunwoody exit; this will put you on an access road that you will take for approximately a mile or a mile and a half; when this access road takes you to Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, turn right, proceed approximately a quarter of a mile, and the bank will be on your right. Parking is available in the rear of the building, and the entrance to the meeting room is also in the back.

Dues Paid Members This Year: Ward Batty, Cliff Biggers, Susan Biggers, Iris Brown, Mary Aileen Buss, Don Cook, Jeannie Corbin (\$5), Marion Crowder, Avery Davis, Gary Eissner, Larry Hanson, Angela Howell, Rich Howell, Binker Hughes, Steve Hughes, Bob Jarrell, Deb Hammer Johnson, Kathleen Kaufmann, Irvin Koch, Brad Linaweaver, William Martin, Anya Martin, Larry Mason, Scotty Matthews, Dave Minch, Kathy O'Shea, Sue Phillips, Bill Ritch, Randy Satterfield, Carleen Smith, Dan Taylor, Michael Tippens, Mike Weber, John Whatley, Patricia Williams (\$5), Ron Zukowski.

Ward Batty reports that the sales of his and Jerry Collins' *Trufan Adventures* have made him aware of what it's like to be an almost-pro: "A few nights back, I got this phone call from someone I'd never heard of. He wanted a page of *Trufan Adventures*, and he had some very specific ideas on what he wanted the strips to cover and what they should look like. Of course, he wasn't willing to pay anything. You know you've made it when you start getting absurd requests from strangers."

ART CREDITS

Cover: David Heath, Jr.; P. 2: Wade Gilbreath; P. 3: David Heath, Jr.; P. 4: Cindy Riley; P. 7: Jerry Collins; P. 8, Charlie Williams; P. 9, Allen White; P. 11, Roger Caldwell. Uncredited titles: Cliff Biggers.



DAVID HEATH JR. TAKES ON JERRY COLLINS FOR SF FANDOM
ILLUSTRATING SUPREMACY...

CALABANS & THRANX

by Sue Phillips

I am now into my eighth year in fandom. That sometimes boggles my mind because this means that, in terms of longevity, I am a candidate for long-time fan. This past weekend, for example, was my 56th con. Whew!

When I first got into this wonderful madness, I was impressed by the conviviality, the feeling of togetherness I felt. I was happy to be a part of it; this familial feeling that I confess I hadn't gotten much of at home. I knew I'd finally found my social niche.

Well, either I got bored or fandom itself has changed a lot over the years. I began to lose that feeling. I still liked going to cons and club meetings, but the depression I felt afterward wasn't the same. It wasn't that I was sorry to be leaving new-old friends any more, it was more personal. I began to withdraw. What fandom had brought out, it could put back in.

The family aspect of fandom has been tossed around until it is practically dead. Certainly the influx of the fringe fandoms has diversified and spread the aura until it is very thin in places. Certainly, with the quick growth of cons, it is harder and harder to capture and keep it. Every so often, though, something clicks, some chemistry gels, and everything comes up roses. There are no feuds (at least not for the moment) and no hatreds. A feeling of comfort. A contentment.

In the past few years, there have been very few cons that I had a personal good feeling about. There were very few that I came away feeling good about myself, my dealings with the con, with the people. I think that's beginning to change as I am. 1981, so far, has been a great year in that respect, and I suspect it will become even better.

In thinking about this, I also thought of the aspects of fandom that aren't so good. I realized that I don't feel particularly bad about them any more. One is personality cults.

There was a panel on these at Noreascon that, unfortunately, I did not attend. It dealt with the question of how much an author's popularity was his work and how much came from his/her personality. I think this is the only valid question in this case. The question of whether it's good or bad depends on the individual.

I believe that the true personality cult occurs when a person is so friendly, so charming and charismatic that one overlooks the

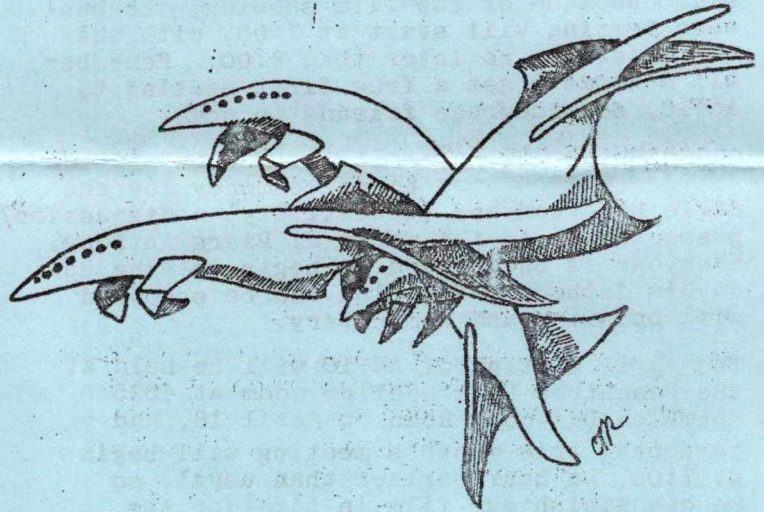
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merits or lack of same in anything that person does. A personality cult is, too, a thing partly created by the enthusiasm of fans for a particular person. I know by personal experience that, if you really like someone, you tend to become blind to their faults.

Then there are the people who are objects of such a cult and they deserve it. These are rare. It isn't that they have no faults, but that they either strive to overcome them or are so skillful that the faults are barely noticeable.

Objects of personality cults must touch some chord in members of those groups. There are people who are born adorers: without someone to look up to, they are withdrawn, unnoticed. There are people who figure to jump on a bandwagon; maybe there's something in it for them. There are people who hang around hoping to be noticed and thereby gain some justification for living.

I have felt the pull of a few individuals in the field and have felt the urge to go whole hog on occasion. In fact, I have. I think I'm more mature now and better able to judge how much of an attraction to a work is real and how much is based on the effect that the author had on me.



There is a reverse personality cult, too. I know of one writer, for instance, who is totally obnoxious in person, and yet I still find his books highly enjoyable. I suppose the fact that he's awful could turn someone off, as well as the opposite. Blindness works both ways.

This applies only to the people I've met. I am a fan of Anne McCaffrey, but haven't met her, so I can't say that any part of that fanaticism is due to herself or not. I think a lot of Harlan Ellison's popularity is personality, but he balances it with a lot of talent.

I really think that a personality cult is very much a subjective thing. Whether it's good or bad, I don't know. I guess a case could even be made that the concept has no basis in reality. So be it. At any rate, sf fandom is concerned a great deal with personality. I don't think we'd exist without it.

The Minutes and Financial Report of the Atlanta Science Fiction Club-IB

And first, the money situation:

<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>Income:</u>	Beginning Balance	\$365.24
Atarantes \$38.00	Donations \$8.65	Income	100.65
M&M Fund 13.76	Dues 92.00	Expenses	-51.76
51.76	100.65	New Balance	\$414.13

President Angela Howell called for order at 8:01, and was rewarded with a general reduction in volume, if not complete silence. She proceeded to point out that the new ASFiCon flyers were available for anyone who wanted to pick out a few 1100 (more or less) were being mailed out during the next week in an attempt to beat the April 1st deadline, after which memberships would go from \$8 to \$10.00. Angela also made the now traditional plea for club dues.

Cliff Biggers told us of a letter he had received from Eve Ackerman regarding Allicon, a relaxacon scheduled for October 23-25. The convention has been canceled, due mainly to cancellation by the guest of honor. The programming for the meeting was announced and would consist of a panel discussion on the various aspects of collecting.

Iris then brought up the matter of the M&M Fund, which is currently in trouble. The club constitution has been ammended to state that any munchies must come out of the M&M Fund, which was established for that purpose, and also to provide a fund in case a meeting place had to be rented.

Following that, Cliff made a proposal for those who don't regularly get to every or even most ASFiC meetings. This involved establishing a single meeting dues of \$2 per meeting to be paid on the spot. This would not include a subscription for Atarantes for the whole year. It would also be the Vice-President's job to collect, so that more duties would not be piled on the secretary-treasurer.

Deb Hammer Johnson brought up the matter of associate memberships, which apparently had included those who had subscribed to Atarantes. It was pointed out that this would not apply, since Atar would not be included in this new deal. Cliff pointed out that the Chattanooga club has a good success rate with their collection of dues by-the-meeting. This system would be fairer to those who can't make \$10 worth of meetings, or could only occassionally make a meeting due to job conflicts or living far, far away.

Angela suggested we might make use of a sign-in sheet. The first meeting would still be free to anyone who had not been a member previously. Brad Linaweaver also proposed a 50% charge per Hearts game, and Cliff quickly amended that to 50% per point. Several people objected to this.

Steve Hughes pointed out that we had a system, the only problem we had was enforcing the system. Those reluctant to pay would still be so no matter what changes were made. Janet Davis Lyons, our visitor from far-away Augusta, pointed out that it would be easier to come up with \$2 at a time, that it would be to scrape up \$10. Deb-H-J wondered if the \$2 per meeting charge would apply toward the \$10 full membership.

The \$2 dues would not count toward the total membership, since its purpose is not to provide an installment plan for the dues. The V-P is to collect the \$2 dues, and keep track of who paid and would send them an Atarantes for each meeting they have paid. Cliff also pointed out that a lot of people seem to think that the club is large enough to support a few people who don't pay dues, something which is not so, and was supported by the Sec-Treas who pointed out that the treasury has just enough to put out Atarantes for the rest of the year, provided everyone paid dues who were expected to pay.

Rich Howell inquired as to the possibility of a cut in the cost of Atarantes, since it will be mailed out using the bulk rate permit acquired for ASFiCon. Cliff told us that there would be no significant difference in the cost of sending out 100 1st class and 200 bulk rate zines.

Bill Ritch pointed out that social pressure was perhaps our best tool for encouraging members to pay their dues promptly. John Ulrich sensibly suggested we consider our meeting location, and whether or not the bank's policies frowned on excluding people, since we don't pay for the use of the bank's meeting room. Angela said that our agreement with the bank is verbal, and that they are aware that the meeting is for dues paid members only. We have the bank reserved through December of this year, and no problems with the bank are foreseen, since they are quite happy with us.

Deb H-J said that it was right and proper for those attending meetings to show their financial support. Cliff pointed out that a \$50 rental fee for movies every Nowland then would be possible with a healthy treasury, and would provide a greater variety of programming possibilities.

It was Ron Zukowski who finally phrased the proposal as a motion to charge \$2 per meeting, or \$10 dues per year, failure to paying them resulting in removal from the membership list. The motion was seconded by Bob Jarrell, and voted for by everyone but Avery Davis, our traditional nay-sayer.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was then made by Bob, and seconded by Sue Phillips. Since there was only one dissenting vote, by Avery, natch, the meeting ended then at 8:30.

Following this, several announcements were made, beginning with Jim Morrow's declaration that he had a B&W video tape recorder for sale, cheap. Marilyn White then announced that she had flyers for the Atlanta Comics and Fantasy Fair available. Celebrities who would be attending include Michael Whelan, Hugo award winning artist, and Richard Matheson, a fine writer. DUEL, by Spielberg is included in the film program. Marilyn said she would gladly take membership money then and there. The cost is \$8.50 for 3 days, paid in advance, but ASFiC members get a break and pay only \$6.50. ASFiC should be written on checks sent in, which should be postmarked by June 24 for the special rate. Reservation cards were also available, and a special get-together is planned for those who stay in the hotel.

Janet Davis Lyons announced that the Emory group (Psi Phi?) was planning on bringing a speaker to Atlanta, and possibilities include Ben Bova or Stephen King. There will be a \$3 charge, but the event is free to all Emory students. Those who need more details should contact Ginger Kaderabek, the advisor to the group.

CLOSE TO THE EDGE

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by Deb Hammer Johnson

On September 21, 1980, a Big Event in my dubious fannish career occurred. It was unnoticed except by me and a few other individuals, but it was a long-awaited event. In one era and out the other, some might say.

I moved to Atlanta. Big deal, you say. Most of you have either lived in Atlanta all your lives, or at least for several years.

Let me digress a bit. In late December 1976 I moved from Knoxville, Tennessee to Rome, Georgia, and established my humble bookstore. I had heard about Romefans from my Knoxville cohorts, and it was only a matter of days before I crossed paths with Cliff and Susan Biggers, Gary Steele, Barry Hunter, and Larry Mason. I noticed a lot of things about these customers, other than the fact that they scoffed at my minuscule sf collection. They talked about the SFC, apas, and--most of all--Atlanta.

My first trip to Atlanta was a book hunting expedition with Gary Steele to the Book Nook, Cantrell's, and Bargain Bookshelf. I was introduced to the "historic landmarks" by the names of the fans who lived in each complex, or on a particular street, and shown the hotels that had hosted various cons. It was all a jumble. Names without faces. In-jokes with little meaning. But when I returned to Rome, I still felt like I had left Oz for Kansas, much was the metropolitan mystique instilled in me.

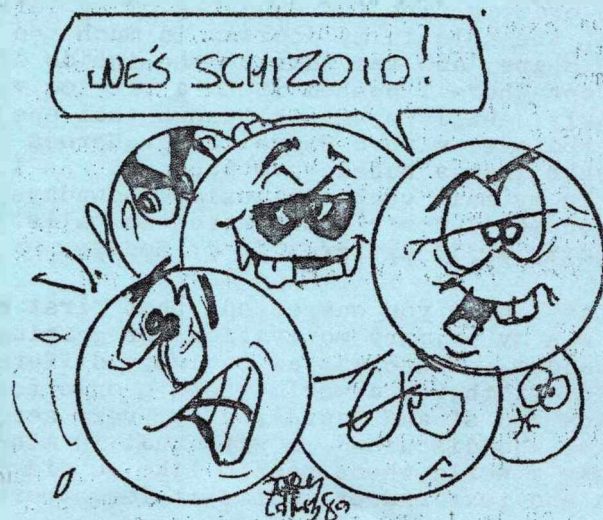
My second trip was to *Attention* in June 77, where Cliff had enticed me into leaving a rather dull and depressing situation in Rome for my first con. I arrived at 8 pm, too late to register, and wandered the halls looking for one or two familiar faces. I first encountered Mike Weber on the other side of a projector in the film room showing "The Best of Ernie Kovacs." I nudged Roger and said, "That's Mike Weber!" He asked me how I knew, when I had never met the guy. "I just know. It couldn't be anyone else." I then wandered into a room of folksingers, and was leched onto by a shiny-domed fellow with glasses and a goatee. You get one guess who this was. Next, in the con suite, I grabbed a tab and introduced myself to a fellow ex-Knoxvillian, Irvin Koch. During this conversation, a slender gal in her early twenties approached me and introduced herself as Sue Phillips, and told me she had enjoyed my debut zine in *Myriad*. I was flushed with virginal egoboo and pleased by her welcome. Another few

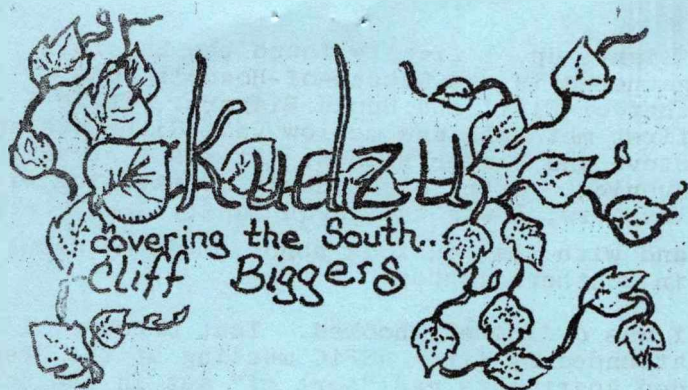
flights up, I finally found the Romefolk gathered in the Guests-of-Honor's room, that of Cliff and Susan Biggers. There I first met tall and mellow Wade Gilbreath and Steve and Binker Hughes. It was a strange evening. After eight hours of matching witlessness, I won the "SPQR Sanity Champ" title and with that dubious honor, made my debut in Southern fandom.

I was definitely hooked. That October, I attended my first ASFIC meeting at the Dresden Apartments and "sort of" sat in the back watching the 25 attendees gather round the soft-spoken President, Larry Mason, for a discussion about changing the meeting date from Thursday to Saturday. Coincidentally, that was the same month I became pregnant with Ben, thus setting up weird rumors about the club's initiation rites. October was also the month Cliff extracted a few lines from a personal letter I had written him referring to the club publication, and proclaimed them *Atarantes'* first "letter of comment." I was lured into my career as a loccist, and have since continued with a streak of contributions that has yet to be broken.

In the intervening years, my knowledge of the city and its people has been intermittent, maintained by contact with Cliff, who worked in Rome though residing in Marietta, and through correspondence with other club and apa members. When I became an ASFIC officer in January of 79, my ambition was to spread beyond a few members and get a feel for the Atlanta fan community as a whole. If such a thing was possible...

Since moving to Atlanta late last year, my perspective has undergone another change. Some of the glamour has worn off with close acquaintance, but it is still a city of surprise and possibilities. I had to get used to running into fans I had previously thought of as living an hour or more away, in my daily haunts. The first time I encountered Hank Reinhardt in a supermarket, I was... well... startled. My fan social life has become a daily occurrence, rather than an event reserved for one weekend of the month. I was becoming a member of the Atlanta fan community in fact as well as theory.





1981 will be a memorable year for anniversaries, at least insofar as I'm concerned. Not only will June 15 of this year mark my and Susan's tenth wedding anniversary, but April 14, 1981 marks yet another momentous occasion in my life.

Fifteen years before that date, I received and read my first fanzine.

I have arbitrarily marked my entry into fandom by that date; oh, I had been an avid comics/Conan/Doc Savage fan by that time, but with the exception of close friends like John Ball and Gary Steele and David Lynch, I had no contact with other fans. From that date on, fandom has played a very, very large part in my free time, so pardon me while I wish myself a happy fifteenth...

Ever tried to analyze the various reasons people have for getting into fandom? I've heard a lot about the "big fish in a small pond" theory, which may have some relation here, but I don't think that's really it for most of us.

I had two reasons for getting into fandom originally; first, I wanted to discuss comics and science fiction at length with other people, and I knew verbatim the opinions of all my local friends. Second, I wanted to get mail.

Don't discount that second reason, either; I love getting mail, and few things can boost my spirits more than coming home to an overflowing box of mail, with nary a grocery store ad or book club offer to be seen. There are souvenirs at my parents' house of various days when eagerly-awaited mail did not arrive: the hole in the hallway wall that exactly fits the knuckles of my left hand, the hole in my doorway in much the same shape, and the hole on the inside of my door where I pushed it to a bit too vigorously, shall we say--although that one is covered over with a Marvel Super-Heroes sticker from a bubble-gum package. As I say, I take my mail very seriously. Nowadays, of course, I don't punch holes in walls. I ran over small children in my Honda.

But as I hope you suspected, that first reason was my primary motivation for getting into fandom. There was an entirely different world out there, a world where people took comics and sf and fantasy very, very seriously, and discussed it with that in mind. It was a world where people like me did artwork and text and presented it for others to

8 read and comment on. It was a world populated by Quantum & RBCC & Mithras & On the Drawing Board & Psychotic & Ama-Pros & Mendishar & Witzend...

I wrote a lot for other fanzines to begin with. Then I discovered apas, and my interests became side-tracked--but even so, I still do occasional work for other fanzines and I always enjoy reading others' comments and opinions. Fanzines are ripped open and read almost as soon as I come in the door.

As time goes by, though, I find myself discussing sf less and less in my fanzines. Nowadays, I may have an occasional conversation on the subject with Larry Mason or Rich Howell or Wade Gilbreath; I might spend a delightful evening talking comics with Ward Batty; but in fandom, I find myself discussing fandom a lot.

What's interesting, though, is how many of the fans with whom I've associated over the years have grown in the same directions I have. I'm not the same person I was fifteen years ago, and neither are most of my long-time friends whom I met through fandom. Yet, ironically, we still share many of the same interests: music, film, video, literature, historical interests, etc.

Steven Carlberg's initial rules for *Myriad* called it an "organization of more or less like-minded people." I didn't realize when I read that years ago that it was going to be so very true today. I hurt deeply when John Lennon died; so did Steven, and Ceese, and other fannish friends. Steve Nichols, a friend and fan I haven't heard from in many months, called me because we both knew the other would be interested.

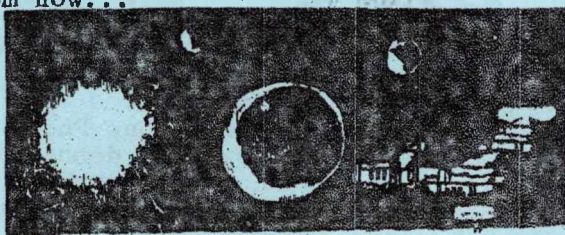
Many of my friends in fandom have, like myself, gotten videorecorders. And as Ron Zukowski noted, it's amazing how many fans have Hondas. Yet no one encouraged fans into these similar directions--it just developed on its own.

John Ulrich and I were talking about a few mutual fannish friends who seem to be almost exactly the same as they were a decade ago, and we were both verbally shaking our heads in dismay, to a degree. There's nothing necessarily wrong with them, mind you--it's just that we both regretted that our growth had taken us away from them to such an extent that we were no longer comfortable with them.

But when you think on it, that's not true of too many fannish friends.

More or less like-minded people. A very good way of describing it.

It's been a happy fifteen, fandom. I hope we're still as like-minded fifteen years from now...



Iris Brown
404 Elliott Dr.
Rome GA 30161

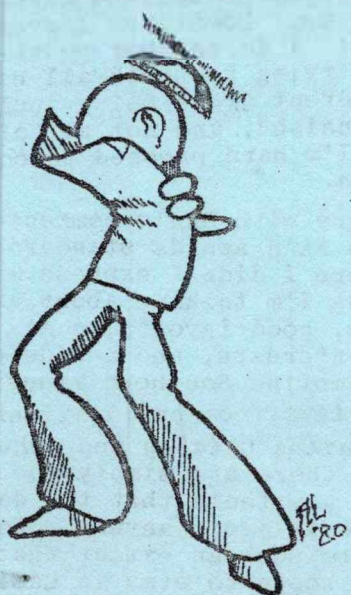
The zine is looking very good these days. Please keep using the reduction method for layouts..microelite type

is hard on these weak eyes of mine. The new type has a crisper look, and I'm sure there's a lot more you can do with layout using the current method. The cover was nice this time, but I'm particularly fond of Wade's little cartoon on page 3.

I found Sue's column to be interesting this time around, though I don't have an empathetic reactions to it. I don't see why being or not being a Southern fan, a comics fan, an omni fan, or so on, should be such cause for concern. In my own mind, I am a Southern fan. This is due to the fact that I was a Southerner before I was a fan, hence the use of the adjective "Southern". I am a product of the Southern culture, which remains a very different one from any other area of the country. To my way of thinking, this is more than just saying "y'all" instead of "you guys guys." So I don't really see geography as the determinant; it is a matter of cultural and social milieu.

More than that, I enjoy the diversity to be found in fandom. I see no reason why we should provide a "united front" to the world outside of fandom. I see no reason to have to justify anything in fandom, or make it "respectable" to outsiders. There are no good reasons why our attention should be distracted from our interests, whether these interests be in the realm of video, comics, sf fandom generally, or the SCA, in order to make these interests more acceptable to those who do not have these interests in common with us. And just as fandom should not have to justify its existence to outsiders, so should Southern fandom not have to justify itself to others. Any given group of people will have its own unique gestalt. My aim is to enjoy all the different groups and not get hung up on labels.

Brad's column was interesting this time, since I confess I'm less than enthusiastic about films, especially bad ones. The process of entering Prodom interests me, and I was glad to see some commentary on this from Brad.



Marty Cantor
5263 Riverton Ave Apt 1
No. Hollywood, CA 91601

One of the items that you checked on my copy was "we hope you'll

attend a meeting." Okay--you pay my costs and I will attend a meeting. Is that fair? Otherwise, the only way I could get to an ASFIC meeting would be if you held one in conjunction with an Atlanta Worldcon (and I was able to afford to go there). ((An Atlanta Worldcon, you say? Don't even mention the words! Do you know that that sentence could spur months of heavy discussion?)) Of course, you *could* always decide to hold an ASFIC meeting at the LASFS clubhouse--that would get me to a meeting. ((We've considered offering LASFS a reciprocal membership agreement--we'll admit any LASFS member for free at our meetings, if they'll admit any ASFIC member for free at their meetings. Howsabout it?))

All seriousness aside, it was nice to see another issue of ATAR. Now let me take exception with something Janice has misreported. The controversy over Susan Wood's death is not a Burning Issue in the Los Angeles area; neither is it a "typical topic of idle fannish conversation." The typical topic of idle fannish conversation that I most often hear is, "When is the next Shaggy coming out?"

And then we get to Sue Phillips' column and find that she is saying what I was saying in my LoCs to Atar anent geographical divisions in fandom being ridiculous. If the readers wish to take issue with what she wrote, I'll let her do the responding. I agree with her and have already had my say here.

((I'm afraid that I don't agree at all with the point that you and/or Sue make concerning regionalism in fandom; I feel there's a very solid regional feel to the South, and that it makes as much sense to regard oneself as a part of a fannish region as it does to belong to a club, or to be a fan of a certain author. Iris Brown astutely sums up my feelings in her letter in this lettercol, in fact...))

...Have heard that only one fanzine got a Hugo nomination for best fanzine (that was *File 770*) and that the other four slots went to unqualified semi-prozines. I'm putting in my order for asbestos paper and am getting ready to excoriate some cretins...I mean, when *Warhoon* doesn't even get nominated... Some shitheads are going to have to be taken apart molecule by molecule. And the system is way overdue for reform. *grumpf*

((I can agree with you about semiprozines' nominations as fanzines being a Bad Thing--but as for *Warhoon's* not getting a nominations being an indicator of the Dire Straits of fanzines...well, I didn't even consider it as a nomination myself, and I'm an avid fanzine fan. I get your point, though.))

Brad Linaweaver
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As to why there is
no contribution from
me in the latest
(present) issue of

Atarantes: Bill and I moved this week, to the above address, I begin teaching at another location this week, I got bogged down with some of my manuscripts, and, well, you know how it is...but I'll be back with an especially good contribution next month.

((As an indication of how Big Time this zine is getting, we should perhaps note that Brad was sent on Special Assignment to the Space Shuttle launching, just so he could write something on the launch for our avid readership...))

Dan Zukowski
233 Colorado Ave.
Hapeville, GA 30354

The new typewriter does
wonders. If I hadn't already
latched onto the
machine being used to

type this loc this instant, then my evil companions would be searching for Summit Wood Drive even as I write (they get lost anywhere north of the Big Chicken, so you're safe, Cliff.). The new paper is extremely readable, but it took me a minute to get used to the idea that Atarantes no longer felt like a second-grade writing tablet, a texture that brings back many strange memories *sigh*

Regarding Sue's comments on Southern fandom: people who live where it snows have a natural antipathy for people who live where it is warm, flowers grow in the spring--as opposed to the first of June--and where the lifestyle is based on the idea of getting one thing done at a time. Folk from the cold places are simply not happy unless they are doing three things at one time, cleaning up the tiles on the sidewalk, and trying to take over the world. They believe we're lazy and need to be taught a lesson. Some Folks down here believe that the greatest commandment is "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," and other than that, there is no difference between the north and the south.

Re Brad: Prodom is having a blue card at the convention and any money in the bank from a story or drawing or something. Also, everyone who has ever met you will tell the most incredible lies about the things you did while (a) asleep, or (b) intoxicated, or (c) in the company of the opposite sex, or (d) all of the above.

You can send your Brad Lineawhatever stories to Ron Zukowski at the above address. Please enclose five dollars to cover the cost of ~~slander~~ distribution.

Piers Anthony
The Wilds of Florida

...Brad's column in
Atar & Tes #45 (that
is one less than my

age) interested me; now I cannot be sure what a pro is, thanks to the questions raised there. But they are good questions. Keep up the good work, and maybe write me off as a mafia contact. All I'm doing these days is writing fantasy...

((Don't worry, Piers; someday, you, too, can quit writing that fantasy stuff and start doing fanzines

like the rest of us. In the interim, though, I'll keep reading that fantasy so long as you keep turning it out...and just think, this Atar has been given the special number 46 just to celebrate your age!))

Deb Hammer Johnson Sue's column on what
3990 Clairmont Rd. makes a Southern fan
Chamblee GA 30341 raises a good point.

I look at Southernness the same way that minnesota fans look at their Moose and Viking lore and Northwestern fans look at Bigfoot jokes. It's a source of fun, identity, and tradition. When I express the feeling that I'd like recognition, I'm not speaking from a sense of "inferiority" but a low level of frustration. Most fans from other sections of the country simply don't know much about the South beyond a few BNFs. They don't look down on us, they simply don't know us.

What makes us Southern? The SFC for one. I don't know of any other region that has an organization of this scope. I think it fosters a regional identity more than any other factor. We have a tendency to be a bit more conservative in political and social matters than I've observed in other parts of the country. A lot of us come from British derived, Protestant backgrounds, and this perspective is bound to be far different from fans in other regions who write about their immigrant ancestry in a fascinating manner, like Sally Syrala or Arthur Halavaty. Geographically, we're spread out a bit more than other regions. If you can imagine the Midwest and New England combined into one area, you'd have the same size as the South. In saying that I'm a southern fan, or feel Southern, I'm not making a big deal about a difference, just talking about something important to my identity.

Sue also deals with her interests as an "omni" fan. I look at my sf related interests as a progression (but not necessarily and improvement) through various phases as a Trek fan, a comics fan, a sercon fan, and finally as a zine fan. I see being a zine fan as a way to combine all my phases and discuss whatever pleases me. Sometimes I even discuss sf--shocking! I do see her point about con programming trying to touch all bases. With so many different areas being included under the term "fannish", and not all of them getting along, I'm hard pressed to come to an easy solution.

I wasn't angry with Dan's comment about my topic of the FAAn Awards standards. It's an instance where I didn't express myself fully. The standards I'm talking about are quality of materials, good layouts, a mixture of topics and interests, and a wide circulation. There are damnfine Southern zines, and a lot get good reviews from publications such as The Whole Fanzine Catalog and other review sources, but there are simply too few. I'm one of those who feels that the day of the Great Genzine is over, anyway. Costs are prohibitive to such an extent that one either has to limit scope to stay in business, or try to go pro like Thrust, SFR, & locus.

Dan Taylor
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Atlanta, GA 30312

Congratulations on having
acquired a deputy in Deb.

~~When will you telephone~~
Ben? Are you beginning

to ooze out of office? I appreciate your noticing the new assistant editor, and I also appreciate the tone of concern in your question. I don't intend to be doing Atarantes five years from now--but I don't intend not to, either, if it makes any sense. I enjoy putting out the clubzine, but I can envision eventually passing it on to another editor--and it wouldn't hurt to have someone ready to take it over. Besides, I can con Deb into doing lotsa work when she's over here...))



Sue Phillips has some interesting observations though I'm not sure if she's objecting to regional superiority or regional identity, which are two very distinct things. I don't think anyone is trying to claim that being a Southern fan is better than being, for instance, a California fan. On the other hand, there appears to be a clear difference in the flavor of fandom in these two places. I'm a fan, true, but I'm also a Southerner, and the same attitudes that would keep me from feeling comfortable in normal California company (?) would inhibit relations with fannish California company. Not better, not worse--but certainly, different.

Must we reconcile these differences and amalgamate into a single national fannish standard in order to present a "solid, unified front" to the mainstream world? I don't think so. But then, it was never my concept of fannish purpose to defend sf as a genre from the mainstream world. I'm not hear for that--I'm hear to meet and socialize with people I can relate to (like you, Susan. Still friends?).

I agree entirely with Sue's remarks in reference to Omnicon and omnifen. It's a shame that the worldcon isn't a true universal sf convention, rather than being restricted to print media. But then, I suppose the worldcon isn't ready for GoH Robert Wise.

Brad's column is good this time too--this entire Atar is good, Cliff--however, one point I must make, as one who has sold books

for a major chain, and as one who is married to a manager from the same chain; the reason sf authors are filed in the sf section regardless of the nature of their books is this:

The books sell there.

Now I won't defend the clerks who do genuinely misfile books, but when Ace releases a collection of science fact essays edited by Jerry Pournelle with ACE SCIENCE FICTION boldly printed on the spine, surely that's a subtle enough clue that they know where Pournelle's market is.

I'll admit to a degree of validity in the "chicken or the egg" challenge--that is, are the books filed in the sf section because they'll sell there, or do people look in the sf section because they know that's where the books will be? Point being, though: don't blame it on the bookstores, because the publishers encourage it.

Onward to your column, Cliff--somehow, it does not surprise me that the West Coast (the non print media capital of the world) should consider itself inundated by non-print media fans. Hmm...I wonder what Andruschak would have thought of Omnicon?

Actually, it doesn't bother me that our Burning Issues aren't important elsewhere (I think I'd panic if they were)--but it does annoy me when people from other areas assume that their local Burning Issues are different.

Now, I can't say I don't care about the supposed ephemedmedia invasion: I simply consider it (a) overblown (b) inevitable (although concerted effort may affect the extent), and (c) not necessarily a Bad Thing. After all, how many of us were attracted to sf by "The Media"? The films...the series...The Day the Earth Stood Still, Twilight Zone, Rocky Jones, Space Ranger, certain episodes of Kraft Mystery Theatre & Alfred Hitchcock Presents...heck, even My Favorite Martian & Visit to a Small Planet.

The difference is, today sf has achieved a great enough public acceptance (which we take for granted) that people feel they can take the radical step of actually dressing up like their favorite hero--especially when at an s con, among company who should be understanding and receptive.

But, whenever someone shows up in a leftover karate gi claiming to be Jack Starhopper or somesuch, he's immediately labeled as a hollow-minded media fan. No one asks him if he has read anything by Doc Smith, or recommend it if he hasn't. He's assumed to be a cultural moron who knows only the storyline he's imagined himself into through this dress, incapable of independent thought.

No there's a burning issue for you.

Sharon Webb
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Blairsville, GA 30512

I wish I could make
it to an ASFic
meeting--especially
the April get-to-

gether because I adore Sinbad--but a strange cloud passed over the house a while back and caused a serious time contraction here. Al-

though clocks still read in the usual way, my hours are now only thirty minutes long. I have explained this to my agent when she calls and says things like, "Where's the book?" Somehow, I don't think she believes me, but it's true.

I have jumped into a squirrel cage up here. I have two book deadlines looming, and the fates conspire against me. On top of that, I have drawn jury duty, and that threatens to gobble up more time. I'm doing an sf trilogy for Atheneum which I'm very excited about. It will include my IASFM novelette "Variation on a Theme From Beethoven" (which will appear in May in Wollheim's 1981 Annual World's Best SF). Don't know yet what the first book will be called--possibly *Earth-child in Embers*. The trilogy will roam all over the South including Chatlanta, Tampa, and the mountains of northern Georgia.

Irvin Koch Chattacon has indeed
2035 Idlewood Rd H6 moved to the Read
Tucker GA 30084 House. The hotel is
 a somewhat older and

smaller version of Louisville's Galt House and is both the largest and probably the classiest hotel in the city.

I must disagree with Brad Linaweaver. Most Worldcons and a really large number of other cons have color coded pro badges or done something similar. In most cases I know of, pros have asked for "pro badges"--especially minor pros.

Back to the con: as previously noted, membership is \$10 until December 1, \$13 thereafter. The banquet will be \$13...There was

literally a storm of protest from people who have been paying high and growing banquet prices about others getting in free to hear the speakers after they shelled out cash. As it stands, the banquet will be closed to those without paid or freebee seats...
[[I have my doubts as to how many people protested outside of con committee; after all, a banquet price is for the food, since that is what the hotel is charging you for. It's up to the concom to decide, but I question the banquet ceremonies. Particularly with a price like \$13, which while not too high, is high enough to force some to pass it by. If that's going to be done, then I think the major GoH address should be held in the afternoon, when all can attend, since many will pay con membership to hear that GoH as much as possible.]]

Please note that there was no mention of the ChattaClub vote on not having a representative to ABC. It was just pointed out that we did not have one. I'm sure if anyone wanted the job, everyone in the anarchy would gleefully point their fingers at the person ("a point them").

As usual I found *Atarantes* very interesting and full of info. I suggest, though, that if you go to 3rd class, mail 2 weeks earlier and allow up to 30% replacement copies. [[As you have probably noted, this issue is still coming to you first class; due to lateness of material, there was no way to get the zine out by my 3rd class deadline. We're going to try 3rd class in the next month or two, though--and your advice is duly noted.]]

Atarantes #46
Cliff Biggers, ed.
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Kennesaw, GA 30144

Why you're getting ATAR

- ☐ ASFiC Member
- ☐ Subscriber
- ☐ contributor
- ☐ we hope you'll contribute locs, art news, etc.
- ☐ we trade/want to trade
- ☐ we hope you'll make the meeting
- ☐ this is your last ATAR unless you pay dues, subscribe, or sweet-talk me

Mike Glycer
14974 Osceola St.
Sylmar, CA 91342

Next meeting Apr 18, 7 pm
Peachtree Bank,
4525 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd.
Seventh Voyage of Sinbad!
Be sure to be there!