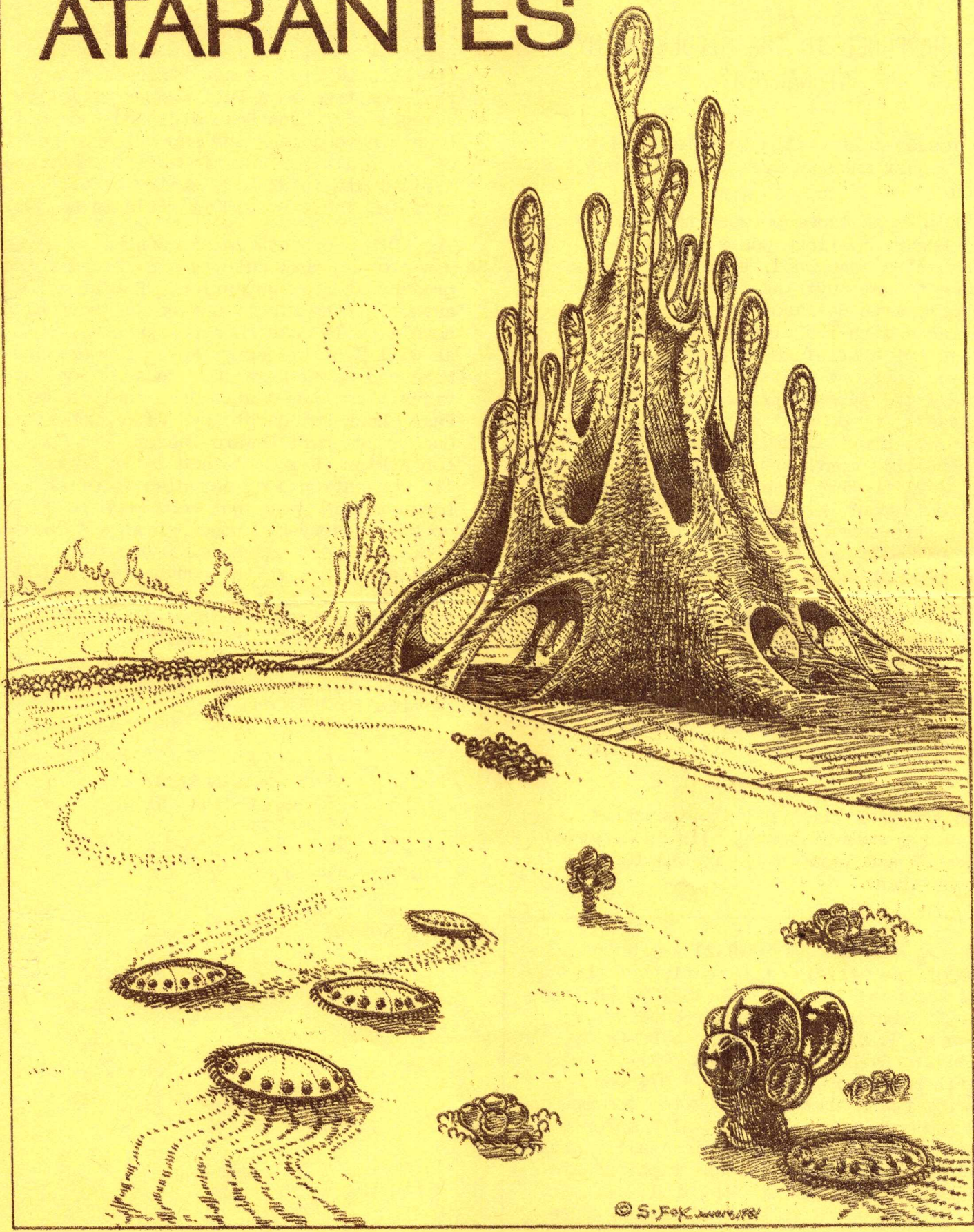


ATARANTES



PARAGRAPHS

OR

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MIDDLE OF MY ATARANTES?

Some issues fall victim to time totally; this is just such an issue, I fear, but it had to be.

The three-week lapse between the January and February meetings was a killer as far as we're concerned; there was simply no time to get anything together, particularly with Halfacon in there; we were faced with the alternatives of putting out a brief issue (our first choice), put out no issue at all, ~~or take all the subscriptions money and run to Kawaii~~, or do what we've done, put out a very short issue. We wanted to do no issue this month, but how would it look what with the Hugo nominating ballots going out soon? Besides, ASFic Prez Angela Howell threatened to withhold our checks. (If you really believe that we are being paid to do this...)

So instead of a big issue this month we offer instead a promise (some trade, eh?) Next issue will be the most dynamic, incredible fanzine to come out of here since issue #50. No kidding, we're ready for a celebration issue and plans have been under way for this issue since late last year.

So in the mean time we'll look back at the last couple of issues with an expanded lettercol and look forward to the future. See you then!

Atarantes #56 (February 1982) is the minac issue of the official publication of the Atlanta Science Fiction Club (ASFic). Edited by Cliff Biggers, 6045 Summit Wood Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30144; co-editor Ward Batty, 944 Austin Avenue, Atlanta GA 30307. This special commemoration marks 4 2/3 years bringing you monthly news/chat/er/commentary from the Atlanta area. All contents copyright (c) 1982 ParaGraphics; all rights revert to contributors. Subscriptions are 12/\$6, or available for the Usual. Please send review copies to both editors for use in "The Oscillating Fan." And yes, it's yet another NP DYHN (Neat Publication Deserving Your Hugo Nomination)! Bye folks!

CHOICE CUTS

Worldcon Atlanta/ Atlanta in '86 has several new committee members working with the Atlanta bid. Penny Frierson has joined the committee as a full member effective immediately; Hank Reinhardt and Wade Gilbreath have joined the supporting committee of the bid. For additional information on the Atlanta in '86 bid, write to Worldcon Atlanta, Inc., Box 10094, Atlanta GA 30319.

The 20th DeepSouthCon has announced several new professional authors who intend to be present at the convention. Robert Adams, author of the highly successful Horseclans novels, will make an appearance at the DSC, as will R.A. Lafferty, Keith Laumer, and Mike and Carol Resnick. In addition, previously confirmed attendees include Jerry Page, Hank Reinhardt, and Ralph Roberts. Guests are Karl Edward Wagner (Pro GoH), Lon Atkins (Fan GoH), and Kelly Freas (MC). The convention does not plan to offer a banquet this year, but does hope to hold a cocktail party-get together as a substitute event. Flyers and hotel information are available through the convention, and Larry Mason reports that dealers' tables are still available. For more information, send an SASE to DSC 20, 6045 Summit Wood Drive, Kennesaw GA 30144. Memberships are \$10 at present, \$12 after May 1st (make checks payable to ASFicCon).



Halfacon '82, also known as "The Other Halfacon," was a successful weekend of friendliness and cameraderie over the Valentine's holiday. Seventy two members showed up for the convention, with fifty or so arriving Friday and the rest drifting in and out during the convention. Chairpeople Iris Brown and Randy Satterfield report that the convention broke even in the same "more-or-less" realm of measurement that goes with all conventioning; both chairpeople seem to have survived the convention well.

The highlight of convention programming had to be the Joe Celko Roast, held Saturday evening; while Joe was not the guest of honor, since Halfacons never have guests of honor, it was definitely an event designed in recognition of his unique contribution to Southern fan history. A number of people spoke in "tribute" to Joe, followed by a unique moment wherein Joe roasted himself.

A trivia contest was held in which Mike Weber distinguished himself as being most trivial, and a hot-and-heavy Hearts tourney was won by Bob Faircloth. The con also offered a few panels, a moderately-stocked dealers' room, and a superbly-stocked con suite.

Birmingham fandom held the now-expected Bizarre Dance on Saturday evening at the convention; furthermore, B'haman Meade Frierson made an all-too-rare con appearance at Halfacon, passing out new SFC Bulletins and catching up on old conversations and friendships. Bill Zielke and Bob Faircloth's "B&B" party was a Saturday evening highlight back at the con hotel (the Roast had been held at a local restaurant).

Ward Batty has announced plans for another convention in Rome, GA, to be operated under the VatiCon name, for October of 1982. The site will be the Roman Inn, the site of all four previous Rome conventions; more details are unavailable as of yet. For further information, write Ward Batty, 944 Austin Avenue, Atlanta GA 30307.

The SFC Bulletin reports that ABCcon in Dalton is tentatively being planned for the August 14th weekend; no hotel site has been chosen yet, and chairpeople Nicki Lynch and Janis Johnson report that it will be a short while longer before a final decision is made.

Kyle McCullough, Rome fan, reports that a new sf/comics store, Dragon Dream, has been opened in the same building as Jordan's Hobbies in downtown Rome. Rome has been without a fannish-oriented store since Deb Hammer Johnson sold her Book Rack, and the local comics store, Heroes World, closed over a year ago.

ASFiC members Eddie & Angie Sweeten are expecting a baby in August of this year; Eddie reports that it's really tough finding Rocky Horror paraphernalia in infant sizes, but he hasn't given up yet.

Steven Fox has announced that he is selling the original art from material that has appeared in fanzines for the last couple of years. Of special interest are two covers that appeared in *Atarantes* #48 and 50. For more information write Steven Fox at 5646 Pemberton St., Philadelphia, PA. 14143.

MEETING

Randy Satterfield has announced the following upcoming program items, and asks that anyone with other items for consideration call him at 427-5265 or at 973-7020.

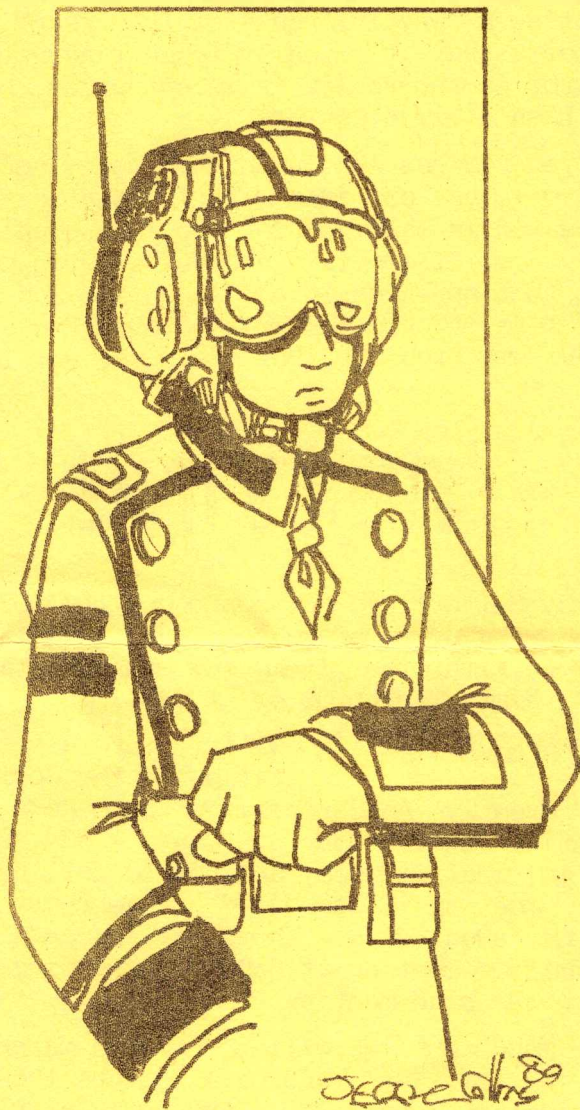
THE FEBRUARY MEETING will feature a presentation on the Society for Creative Anachronism, with members presenting information on Atlanta's SCA, what it is, what it does, and how to get involved. This meeting is scheduled for February 20th, at our usual site. There will be an ASFiCon committee meeting at 6:00 that evening, before the club meeting.

THE MARCH MEETING will be held on March 20th, and will feature the rescheduled discussion of the works of Piers Anthony, moderated by Cliff Biggers.

THE APRIL MEETING will present a film (to be announced). The meeting will be held on April 17th.

The meetings are located at the Peachtree Bank Community Room, 4525 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, just north of the interstate. Chamblee-Dunwoody Road is located between I-85 and I-75 north of Atlanta; the Peachtree Bank building is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of I-285, across from Georgetown shopping center. The entrance to the meeting room is in the back of the bank bldg.

ATAR- THE EMPIRE LOCS OUT ANTES



Brad Linaweaver
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Looks like I picked
the right Atarantes
for the return of
"Der Krapp," as #55

was a jam-packed issue of interesting material. I have to disagree with you and Ward, though, about the bad review of *Maybe*. Despite frequent technical flaws, Irv puts out an enjoyable zine as far as I'm concerned.

Sorry I didn't have time for a column this month, but I'll make up for it next time with a brief Omnicon report in addition to a new "Piawol." I sure enjoy writing for a Potential Hugo Nominee!!

J.R.Madden
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University Station
Baton Route LA 70893

The "Kudzu" column
had a lot of really
good topics for
1982 fanzine pubbers
to utilize. How-

ever, I do think that you left a vast area of untapped resources in the ground, so to speak. Here are just a few more topics you may want to add to the list: (1) Should phone calls be banned as a method of fanish communication? After all, letters are ~~got~~ enough for Harry Warner, Jr.; should not that be enough for the rest of us? (2) Would it not be better to present Worldcons as

strictly a relaxicon to avoid all of the fringe-fans who interfere with the trufans and their pursuit of the Enchanted Duplicator? (3) Should fans, whenever and wherever they happen to gather, be required to actually talk about science fiction? (4) Should the Postal Service be required to come up with an additional class of mail reserved exclusively for fans? It would have to be cheaper than book rate, slower than 2nd class, and at least one-third of anything mailed would be shredded!

Der Brad: About der kolumn which has been full of der krapp--der seems to be dis attitude among some kolumnists that folks should write ever once in der while to say whedder or not key like der kolumn. Ach himmel! What do you expect? Ist not der thrill of seeing your very own words in print gut enough for you? Geez! Well, I meinself have read your words of late, finding dem usually quite amusing most of der time. Perhaps, if you give it a rest for a couple of issues, der publik will scream and holler for you to return once dey realize you ain't der no more.

Ned Brooks
713 Paul St.
Newport News VA 23605

I quite agree with
Hlavaty about at-
tempts to ban cos-
tumes! Such a ban

would be ludicrous and impossible to enforce fairly. I am not all that much in favor of banning anything as a solution to whatever problem it might cause, but it obviously is possible to divide such matters into at least three categories--things which annoy only the user (such as costumes, hairdos, religion, food, choice of reading matter); things which annoy most rational beings anywhere near the user (fireworks, burning weeds, explosives, B.O., flatulence, excessive ugliness, etc.); and borderline items such as carrying weapons, loud musical instruments or having big feet.

Even in the second category a total ban is generally not feasible. At the last convention here, we enlisted the weapons freaks as security and had no problem at all--at least not with security or weapons.

Buck Coulson
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Hartford Cy, IN 47348

Should fanzines be
permabonded instead
of stapled? Yes,
some of them should

be permabonded all the way across...

Should fan-editors abandon the postal system? Well, it's mostly a matter of who moves first, the faneds of the P/W/ P.O. Someone is going to be abandoned in the near future.

Hmm. So Houston has real Mexican restaurants? So does Marion, Indiana; big deal. Though I must admit the one in Marion has slipped downhill towards respectability since it got the ceiling patched and began supplying patrons with menus. Originally the inaccurate menu was posted on one of the wall; new patrons either could sit facing the wall or take a guess at what might be available. And paid whatever the traffic would bear--there were prices posted on the wall, too, but not once did Juanita and I pay as much for a meal as the posted prices specified; we'd amble up to the cash register and the owner would size us up and name a figure. You didn't get guest checks, either; occasionally, the owner would just ask what you had.) Now it's all menus and specific prices and the kids' junior high art class work has been replaced as wall decorations by a batch of velvet paintings. But at least the food is still good...

((Here in metro Atlanta, Los Reyes is the restaurant as far as many of my friends and I are concerned, although El Tapatio and El Toro are popular as well. Most of them come very close to fitting the description of your restaurant--perhaps it's all an unrecognized chain. At any rate, so long as the food quality is high and the prices are low, I'll never complain.))

Main problem with weapons fans at cons is that many of them are nerds. I specifically except SCA midwestern members. For one thing, they mostly don't carry weapons at sf cons, and if they do, they have enough sense not to brandish them in crowded rooms. The basic problem is the problem with all weapons; too many people who don't know how to handle them. SCA people do know, and most of the ones I'm acquainted with are reasonably courteous.

Frankly, I doubt Ralph Roberts' comments about new ideas. It might well help in a

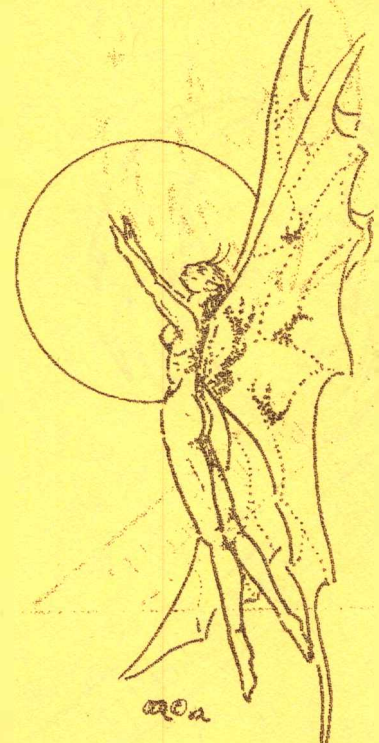
short story, but most of the short stories I read don't contain anything particularly new, and certainly the novels I read (and write and sell) generally don't. What they do contain are believable characters (believable to the editor, at least), reasonable plots consistent with those characters, and science that is either accurate or sounds good, whether it's new or not. Presumably if you're looking for a Nebula as well as a sale, a new idea helps--but it certainly doesn't assure a win. Incidentally, one magazine almost indispensable to the sf writer is *Science News*--It covers the new events in the field briefly and in a manner understandable to anyone.

Steven Fox
264 South 16th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Being a videogame
nut myself, I
could get into the
Trufaan Adventures

strips. My favorite for this issue was the one on page nine. ((It was my favorite, too, if for no other reason that it presented my close friend--and the chairman of the Atlanta worldcon bid--Randy Satterfield in a supporting role...))

I thought the letter by Andruschak had some through-provoking points. I do agree that there should be no weapons at cons, or if the con-goers bring them, they must be sheathed or worn. This should keep people from being hurt or annoyed by the weapons carriers. On the same subject, a friend of mine suggested, "If you want to get rid of some of the irresponsible people at SF cons,



you may have to do away with things which attract them." Weapons dealers, costume contests, and maybe some types of sf films would have to go. I'm not sure if this would keep weapons freaks out altogether, but it may lower the number. It could also lower the number of people who would show anyway.

Sometimes I wonder if real readers of sf need weapons at cons. Need to carry them around? I personally don't. I'm more convinced that weapons freaks and their weapons should not be allowed in sf cons or have their use of their playthings reduced to viewings at masquerade balls. I had a sword stuck in my face by a weapon freak at Philcon 81. I had to threaten I would break his arms if he did it again. When I go to a con, I don't like having to worry about stuff like that happening all over again.

((I see your point, Steven, and I think you express some honest and strong feelings, but I also feel that no one has shown me that weapons have been responsible for problems at cons--it was the people responsible for the problems. In Harry's case, last issue, he didn't even prove that the weapons or the people led to the problems--all he told me was that there were people at the con with weapons, and that problems occurred at the con. No proof of relationship, not statement of correlation--and I need more than that before I can go along with a ban as a knee-jerk reaction. It may well be justified, and if I feel it is, I'll support it--but all I saw so far, last issue, was bad high-school debate tactics.))

...and this completes this minac issue of Atarantes. Next month will be the big "make-up-for-the-small-issue" issue.

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Atarantes #56
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Tom Campbell

POTENTIAL HUGO NOMINEE!!!

Next meeting February 20th, 8 pm
Peachtree Bank Community Room
4525 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road
March Meeting Date: March 20th
DON'T MISS A MEETING!!