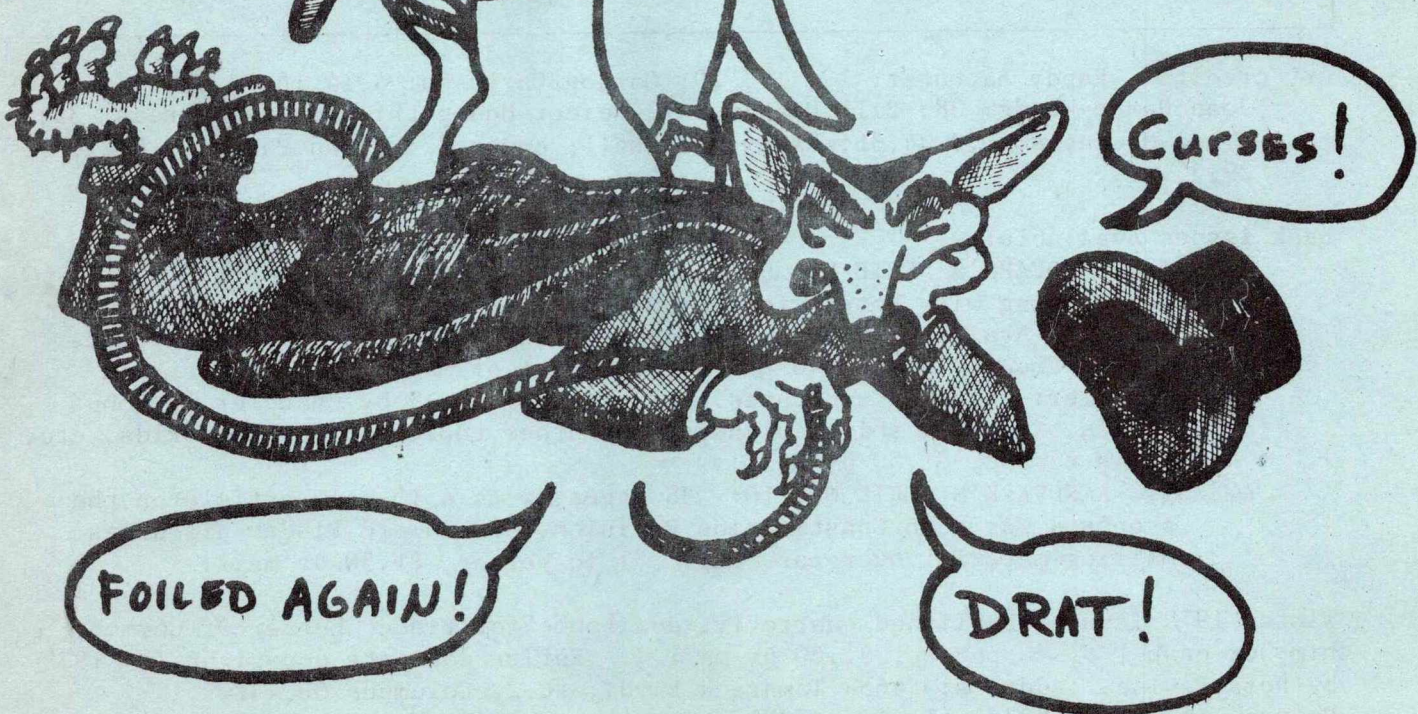


# AVEN'GING AARDVARK'S AERIE # 11



1984 H. J. B.



AVENGING AARDVARK'S AERIE No. 11

"The journal that reduces reality to an absurdity"

This issue dedicated to Mary Anne Mueller  
for patience above and beyond the call of duty

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proposed Worldcon Constitution Revision, Jan Howard Finder discusses  
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# The View from The Aerie

Greetings and a  
chilly February to you all!

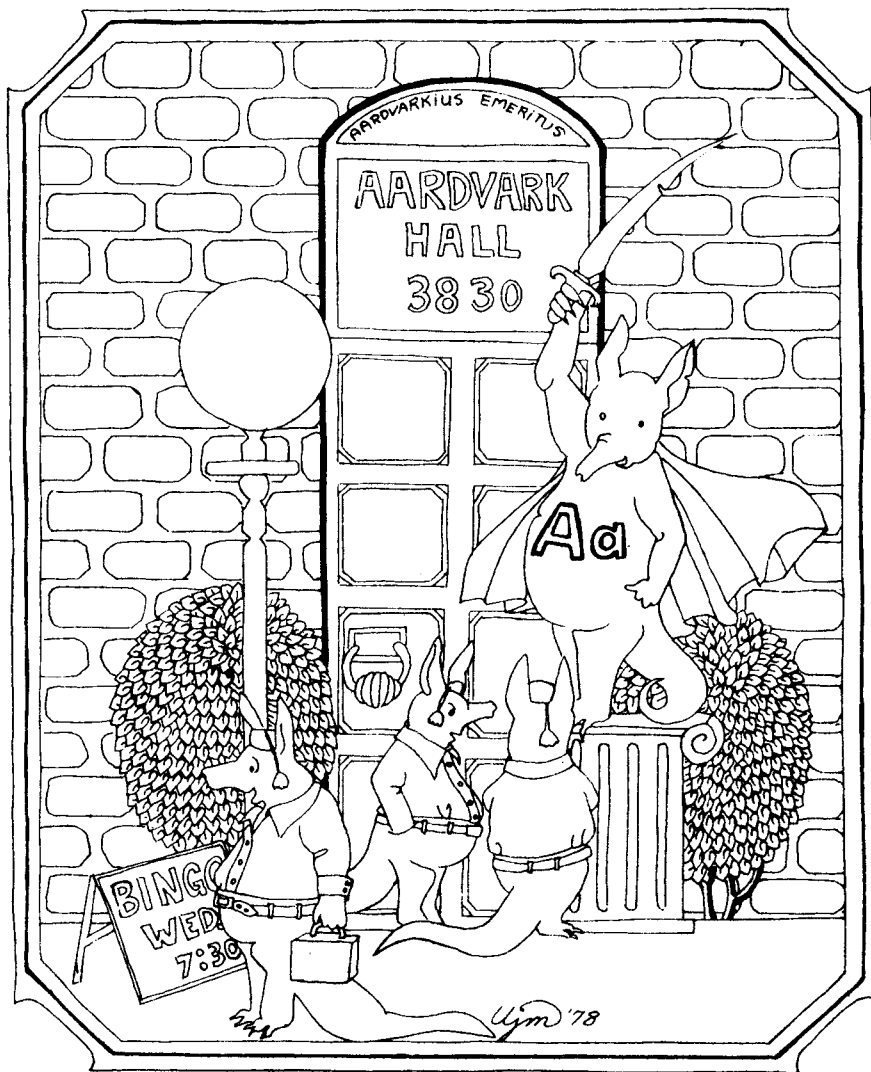
I'm here again and  
with yet another change  
in print media. Well, I  
went and did it -- I  
bought an offset press!

Why, you ask? Don't  
I have enough other silly  
things to spend money on?  
True, true. However, it's  
a case of buy a press or  
stop publishing, and I  
really want to stay with  
it.

You see, the logic  
is really very simple.  
Ok, now ditto won't  
support the ever-in-  
creasing print runs that  
AAA has been jumping to  
over the last few issues.  
I have no sources for  
large-scale free (or  
even dirt-cheap) xerox.

Which leaves mimeo and  
offset. Now, AAA had  
been published originally  
by Cele Smith, who works  
in a print shop, but she  
did it for cost in her  
spare time, and her spare  
time is not enough to  
support the issue sizes  
and print runs that AAA  
has evolved into.

A solution appeared  
to be at hand when



John Ayotte, a local fan who used to be heavily into publishing (remember Kallikanzaros?) became editor of the newsletter for the German Shepherd club he and his wife Terri belong to. The club bought a press and it was used for the last couple of issues of AAA and Marcon's publications.

All good things must come to an end and the dog club followed true to form -- some members started playing power politics (yes, it really does happen in other social groups -- fandom ain't all that unique!) and John no longer has the press.

At this point I was forced into the decision to buy something -- either mimeo or offset. Now, due to the fact that I am a computer programmer and work with several different keyboards every day, my typing accuracy has gone to hell over the years while my speed has remained OK (every manufacturer puts numbers and special characters in different places! Argh!). Mimeo is therefore out of the question for me unless I could electrostencil typed copy. Well, looking at equipment (and considering that Marcon and I already owned a platemaker), I made the discovery that when you talk about new equipment, mimeo and offset are about the same price for the same quality level!

So anyway, Marcon and I now own a Scriptomatic 612 tabletop offset press. It's about the size of a large mimeo. And, as I bought it reconditioned from a dealer, it comes with a parts and labor warranty for the first year.

I received a number of inquiries about platemaking after I mentioned the platemaker in the last issue and now I know that I'll get even more what with having a press too. For the moment, we don't have plans to set up a fannish printing service. The main reason is that even though our costs are (relatively speaking) dirt cheap to run off a copy of something, we are putting in a fair amount of labor, too. And when it isn't a labor of love, one starts to get wary about committing to doing work for others -- I'm afraid that by the time we added in a figure to compensate for our labor time, we would be expensive enough that even though we would probably be cheaper than a quickprint place, it wouldn't be by a significant amount, considering the delay you would have to put up with. But we shall see....

/\* \*/

Since many of you are recent additions to my mailing list, I'll insert a paragraph or two about what goes on here.

This am the Avenging Aardvark's Aerie. I am (ta-daa) the Avenging Aardvark upon occasions. I have always lived on the top floor of whatever building I inhabit, hence "aerie".

This is a personalzine and is beholden to no one except me. The primary Coin Of The Realm for this is "the usual" -- fanzine trades, Letters of Comment, etc.

Most of the contents consist of ramblings by Ye Editor, with book reviews and letters thrown in when appropriate. Lately, as I have become more involved in fan politics, the accent of the zine has changed so that I now regularly run at least one article per issue related to convention organization and management.

HOWEVER: I am interested in contributions. F'rinstance, the Onan Skinner article in this issue is NOT by me or even another Columbus fan, but a non-Columbus fan who wishes to remain anamolous (sic). Teresa Minambres has promised me an article on Dali ( hint, hint, Teresa! ), etc. Submissions can be humorous, serious, and/or concerning conventions. I am not soliciting book reviews or film/TV reviews.

And, of course, I always need artwork! Aardvarkmotifs are preferred, but not mandatory. Please -- no art with large blacked-in areas -- we are still ironing kinks our of the platemaker and press and have not had as much luck with black cloaks and such when we have tried to repro them.

/\* \*/



Onwards. For the countless numbers of you who threatened -- yes, I did indeed get an Alvin the Aardvark for Christmas.

For those of you who haven't seen him, Alvin is an orange plastic aardvark about a foot long and has a control rod mounted which, when appropriate pressure is applied, causes his tongue to \*ZAP\* out and its velcro tip to snatch up any object that is in reach. Alvin comes with two velcro ants, but he is just as good at picking up dirty socks off the floor.

-- and no, there is no family resemblance. This here aardvark specializes in mushroom pizza with double cheese [ thick crust, of course ] -- not ants.

/\* \*/

As an ushering in to the new year, the local paper ran an article about John Brantner, a psychiatrist at the University of Minnesota. He has a list called "Brantner's Abridged Listing of Techniques for Staying Alive". Some of his recommendations include:

- Learn as much as you can about nutrition and revise your diet at ages 1,2,12, 20,40,50,65, and more often if necessary.
- Subtract, reduce, or eliminate from your diet meat added salt, and sugar.
- Stay off trampolines.
- Don't smoke cigarettes made of tobacco.
- Always use stair railings, especially when descending.
- Don't drink alcohol, or else get sound instruction about its sensible use.
- Always fasten your seat belt.
- Take lessons in how to fall without hurting yourself. /\* Judo/Karate is good for this -- ye ed \*/

- Never sleep above the seventh floor.
- Know where the fire exits are.
- Exercise every day until you pant.
- Be skinny, but not too skinny.
- Stay off the streets and highways after 10 p.m. If you must drive, act as if the other drivers were drunken incompetents out to kill you.
- Try never to live alone more than a few months at a time.
- Make sure there is someone who will worry about you every day.
- Sleep with a bright night light.
- Live as close as possible to the northern tier of states, especially Minnesota /\* methinks there is some prejudice here -- ye ed. \*/
- Wear your life preserver.
- Do not amass a large and enviable fortune.
- Learn to daydream effectively.
- Fidget.
- Talk to strangers.
- Don't feed the bears.
- Stay out of the tub during thunderstorms.
- Don't look at tornadoes/
- Don't sit quietly at your desk with your hands folded. You'll die.

A very interesting list! I have quibbles about a few of the items, but it is still a fascinating quick guide to live by. Some of the fun of reading the list is trying to guess why some of the more cryptic rules were included.

/\* \*/ One of the local disc jockeys, in a cynical moment, introduced the hourly news about the precipitation et al as the "weather guess".

/\* \*/ Last issue I was raving about the Fletch books by Gregory McDonald. American Way, the freebie magazine for those flying American Airlines, had an excellent article about McDonald in the August 1978 issue.

/\* \*/ "Junior Swamp Scouts, never blue.  
Junior Swamp Scouts, always true.  
Junior Swamp Scouts save the day.  
We're Junior Swamp Scouts -- hooray, hooray!"

Of course all you Junior Swamp Scouts and former Junior Swamp Scouts out there know what I'm talking about -- THE MUPPET SHOW!!!!!! The latest good news for all you muppet fans out there is that the Muppet Show is now the #1 -rated television show IN THE WORLD!!!!!! TIME had a very favorable article on the Muppets in its December 25, 1978 issue and it had the wonderful statistic that the Muppet Show is seen by more than 235 MILLION people in 108 countries! Divide the current world population by that and it comes out to one



out of every seventeen people IN THE WORLD WATCHES THE MUPPET SHOW!!!!!!  
 Maybe there is hope for humanity yet.

/\* \*/ The hypocrites of the country are having a field day over the firing of a number of pro football cheerleaders after Playboy did a photo story on them. What a crock! It's okay to leer and make suggestive remarks and have the cameras focus on the more interesting anatomical features, but as soon as they are paid attention to by degenerates like Playboy, why they are suddenly immoral! Ptttoey!

/\* \*/ You know you're getting old when you suddenly realize that every Playboy playmate for the past several months is at least four years younger than you are. \*sigh\*

/\* \*/ Speaking of crocks of excrement, a writer in Oklahoma City has filed a \$2 million lawsuit against Coors beer and the local tavern owner who sold it to him. It seems that he has been a regular customer of the tavern since May 1978 and "consumed much Coors beer, which was supposedly non-intoxicating" (since it was 3.2 beer. According to the lawsuit, the consumption of this supposedly non-intoxicating beverage has caused his brain to be pickled, "rendering him incapable of writing up to his potential or even writing in a professional manner" and has caused "irreparable brain damage, damage to his reputation, to his sexual prowess, and to his literary career". Oklahoma law prohibits sale of anything more potent than 3.2 beer for consumption on-premises, which is apparently where he got the "non-intoxicating" notion from. He is certain that Coors is responsible, as he drank no other brand of beer. Whee! As I pointed out in the Worldcon article last year, you can sue for ANY reason! Somehow, I don't think he has much of a chance of collecting....

/\* \*/ The Supreme Court let stand a ruling Walt Disney won against the Air Pirates, who produced a couple of underground comix back in the early 70's that featured Mickey Mouse and company doing all the things we've always wanted them to do -- swear, have sex, etc. They were tongue-in-cheek adventure and it was made obvious that it was not a Disney production. But good old conservative Disney jumped on them with hobnailed boots. Disney lawyers had charged that they were an attempt to "destroy the values of these works by eliminating the public's acceptance of them as innocent entertainment". Hmph! Granted, the Air Pirates went overboard by featuring entire comix of Disney characters rather than as part of an issue covering a number of subjects, but comix like these are an expression of the admiration and respect that the artists had for the Disney pantheon. The Air Pirates comix were not sleazy "8-pagers", but were swashbuckling farce in the best counterculture tradition. I enjoyed them when I read them and I think that it's unfair for Dan O'Neill and Bobby London (both of whom have had material appearing since in Playboy, National Lampoon, et al) to be persecuted like they have been.

/\* \*/ The biggest crock of 1978, however, was Jimmy Carter's gameplaying in his recognition of Red China as "the real China" and sweeping Taiwan under the rug. I was furious when I heard what had happened!

Yes, United States recognition of Red China was and is inevitable. The world is in trouble, and "recognition" and cooperation are going to be required if mankind is going to see the 22nd century (I'm reasonably sure we'll make it to the 21st). Fine, fine. But the shoddy treatment of Taiwan -- YUCK-PTOOEY!!!!!!

Many, many columnists have alleged that part of the "China card" consisted

of good ole President Jimmy playing Cover Your Ass games in compensation for the falling apart of things in the Mideast. I think they're right.

Granted, a certain amount of political gameplaying has to be done to keep China amused upon recognition, but the media and the Carter administration have been downright vindictive in their renunciation of the ally we supported and got many economic benefits from for many, many years.

The latest crock in the series -- the State Department has suddenly made the shocking discovery that foreigners are occupying the Chinese Embassy and they had better get out before the Chinese arrive to assume their rightful residence. Yeah, that's right -- the Taiwanese are being kicked out of their embassy and the State Department is claiming that it now \*magically\* belongs to Red China.

My God, my God. This is one of the very few times in my life that I am ashamed to be an American. Must we sacrifice our self-respect to keep peace in the global village?

/\* \*/ Continuing with US botches, the US was so interested in kissing ass with the Shah of Iran that they ignored the danger signs and had no idea that there was a chance of an overthrow. Even worse, because of some of the games we have played, the enemies of the Shah have become very anti-US.

/\* \*/ ...and of course, the oil situation continues to grow grimmer. Already the oil companies have started the price spiral, claiming that it's the arabs' fault.

IT IS NOW FIVE YEARS AFTER THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO AND THE US HAS NO ENERGY POLICY!!!!!! NO LARGE-SCALE COMMITMENTS ARE BEING MADE TO SOLAR AND NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH (particularly the area of waste disposal for nuclear plants) AND NOTHING SEEMS LIKELY!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yuck-ptooey is too mild for this one. \*\*\*\*\*!!!!!!!!!!!!

/\* \*/ John and Greta Rideout have decided to re-unite. This is the couple that were involved in the famous rape case of recent months. She claimed her husband had raped her. He was found innocent and now they have reconciled. This even furthers my opinion that spouse rape laws are silly. Now before all my feminist readers start sending me letterbombs: Yes, there are many, many cases of one spouse abusing the other, and sex is sometimes involved (I have no statistics handy). My feeling is that such things are coverable under assault and battery laws. If a wife is sexually abused by her husband, I think she should file assault charges, not rape.

On a related note, I was shocked to find that the media USUALLY withholds a rape victim's identity! One of the local columnists did an article about a report done by a women's group in North Carolina: of 51 papers surveyed, 28 name the victim at the time of the crime! 11 give the full address and 3 name juvenile victims! North Carolina is apparently one of the worst offenders (probably figuring that most rape victims are getting their sinful desserts), but the fact that it goes on at all is disgusting. Blew me away -- I had never seen a rape victim named in any of the Ohio papers I have read (at least as far as naming them in the article talking about the original crime. Some name them if the crime gets to trial.). The effect of such things is to aid the rapists by putting even more pressure on women not to report things like this to the police.

/\* \*/ Bob Greene had a column recently about our American Way of (in)Justice and how it has perverted laws and trial systems due to the unworkability and



unbelievable time delays in the way things are done. Greene's argument was that in the middle ages, justice was hastened by torturing the prisoner until he confessed. Sentence was then passed. Nowadays, the process has been modernized -- plea-bargaining is substituted in an attempt to avoid the costs and delays of trial. As a result, hardened criminals are receiving sentences much lighter than they deserve. Another result is that conviction records are now totally worthless in terms of telling what kind of crimes are really being committed and what kinds of criminals are really being caught -- you have to look at arrest records instead.

/\* \*/ The "Great Moments" cartoon is based on one of Proxmire's latest cuties. Proxmire has made a specialty of trying to point out wasteful government spending. He loves to publicize federally-funded projects that he considers wasteful and silly. OK as far as it goes -- the only problem is that he never bothers to look at all deeply into why a project is being done. The result: he jumps up and down on a project that is trying to accomplish something worthwhile.

The latest example is one I have ties to. Steve Johnson, one of the local fen, is involved with the project, which involves building a six-legged robot whose purpose is to walk. In addition to providing information about how walking works, there are medical and prosthetic spinoffs.

One of the biggest tragedies about Proxmire's games is that many of the projects he criticizes suddenly discover their funds are cut off. Phooey!

/\* \*/ Some "Battlestar Galactica" toys have been pulled off the market because the missiles that are fired from the noses have caused one death and 10 injuries. They are: Colonial Viper #2531, Colonial Scarab #2534, Star Probe #2533, and Cylon Raider #2532. More than two million have been sold.



GREAT MOMENTS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE #167: Senator Proxmire visits Ohio State University's six-legged robot project.

/\* \*/ Want to find out more about what your tax dollars are going for? Grumman Aerospace Corp. ( Bethpage, NY 11714 ) is offering a free "owner's manual" for the F-14 Tomcat Navy fighter plane. It's a cute, frothy 16-page publication telling you how neat they are and how lucky you are to be in the country that owns most of them and builds them. Just send them a card and they'll mail you one. Question: do any of my military-oriented readers have any opinions on the Tomcat? It sounds like a decent plane, but airplanes ain't my field....

/\* \*/ NOTED IN PASSING:

Keith Moon, the maniacal drummer for the Who, one of my very favorite rock groups. Moon's last Who album, "Who Are You" is playing thru my headphones now. I met him twice, back in the late sixties and early seventies, when I was interviewing the group for my high school and later my college paper. He was very friendly, as were all the Who. I have a lot of respect for that band and a lot of my musical world is built upon the foundations of "Tommy", "Who's Next", and their other material. Rumor has it that the Who are auditioning for a drummer AND a keyboard man to replace Moon. The Who always was one of the few groups whose members all were giants.

Jack Soo, who played Nick Yemena on "Barney Miller". Such a lovely deadpan.

Ted Cassidy, best known as Lurch on the Addams Family TV show, and more recently, Bigfoot on the Six Million Dollar Man. He was one of the bit players who I always enjoyed watching in a show.

/\* \*/ WANTLIST: The following is a list of items that I want for my collection. In most cases, they can be anywhere from fair to mint condition -- I usually want reading copies only.

The Petrified Planet by Pratt, Piper, and Merrill [ Twayne, 1952 ]:

John Carstairs, Space Detective by Frank Belknap Long: Tides of Lust by

Samuel R. Delany; The Day After Doomsday by James Blish.

Fanzines: GRUE, QUIP, LIGHTHOUSE INSIDE, VOID, PSYCHOTIC, LE ZOMBIE, NIEKAS.

Murder in the Gunroom by H. Beam Piper.

Two items that I don't even know the author of: The Half-Pint Jinn and Other Stories and Venus Boy(juvenile). By different authors, published in cloth sometime in the fifties.

/\* \*/ The dreaded Columbus Pregnancy Plague is drawing to an end. Late last spring, it suddenly dawned upon us that not one, not two, but THREE of the local femmefans were pregnant! In a fan community that has had only one pregnancy in the past five years, this is something to make many of the males locally (and a number of females, too) quite edgy. Bob and Karen Hughes (who have since moved to Chicago -- beware Chicagoans of the plague-bearers!) are still expecting the last I heard, tho it should be soon now. John and Terri Ayotte had Kenneth on November 28th at 11:59 am. And just this week, Larry and Cele Smith had Karen Elizabeth born at 10:41 am on Thursday, February 8th, in at 21" long and 8 lb 2 oz. Congratulations and/or condolences to you all....

/\* \*/ Next time: A follow-up to Larry Smith and my article in AAA #9 about hotel negotiation. Also, part I of a series of essays on "Worldcon Services Departments: Whence they came, Why, and How". For now, read onwards to the rest of the issue.

9

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLDCON  
CONSTITUTION REVISION BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

--- PART II ---

By Larry Smith, Ross Pavlac, and Bob Hillis

SUMMARY:

As you recall from the last issue, a proposal is under discussion that would legally protect the Worldcon, the World Science Fiction Society, and the Worldcon's awards and activities. For a full recap, we suggest that you obtain a copy of Avenging Aardvark'd Aerie #10 and peruse it closely. Additionally, copies of the current draft proposal can be obtained from the committee's secretary for \$1: Laurence C. Smith, 875 Oakland Park Ave, Columbus OH 43224. (If you send Larry additional money, you will be added to the committee's mailing list for as long as the money you send continues to pay duplicating and postage costs for your share.)

Acceptance of the concepts that are being put forth here requires that you pass through three phases of awareness:

(1) The operational mechanisms of the Worldcon are beginning to gap badly at the seams. The same problems (late Hugo ballots, unsent ballots, uncounted ballots, program books not delivered for long periods after the con or at all, etc.) have been occurring with increasing regularity and severity. Despite the increasing prevalence and severity of name-calling, which is often justifiable in individual cases, these problems are not amenable to solution by even the best-intentioned of one-, two-, or three-man bands.

(2) Minor tinkering [which is what has been tried again and again over the last several years] to the current mechanism has simply resulted in a case-by-case plugging of the dike, and not an attack on the root cause of the problem. The root cause is that a winning Worldcon committee is suddenly thrown into a position of tremendous responsibility (which often is much larger than anyone on the concom expected it would be) with no one to be responsible to, or at least to provide authoritative feedback. Also, bidding committees generally have no concept of administrative organization beyond that necessary to mount an annual weekend-long regional; two- and three-year lead times for planning are not things that fans as a rule know how to properly utilize.

Most of the tinkering has consisted of adding unenforceable requirements to the Hugo and site selection process (et al) or attempts to impose control of the Worldcon by an external, non-accountable authority [CPA audits, etc.].

(3) The only feasible solution seems to be the creation of a "board-of-directors"-type of organization composed of fans who are knowledgeable and concerned about the problems, causes and cures of the problems mentioned above. The size needs to be fairly large to be able to be representative of the different geographic regions in fandom and to spread the workload down to a manageable amount per member [please remember, these are not paying jobs - to be paying jobs, Worldcon registration fees would have to be increased enormously!] and at the same time small enough that rapid communication is possible. These criteria would seem to indicate the ideal number being somewhere between 6 and 20, depending on who you talk to.

Other than the personal attacks that are to be expected in response to an article of this type, the only alternative proposal that has been made by anyone has been the imposition of an ombudsman onto the Worldcon. As we see it, the advantages of an ombudsman-style mechanism are: (1) no conflicts in reaching a decision: (2) no



delay inreaching decisions; (3) it's easier for a single individual to be on site; (4) it's cheaper to implement than the board of directors concept.

The major drawbacks to an ombudsman mechanism include (1) To be able to devote proper time to the job, the ombudsman would have to be a person who does not have a regular mundane job, as the Worldcon could not afford to pay a living wage without raising rates considerably. This puts a real crimp on the potential manpower pool. (2) One of the purposes of an ombudsman is to listen to internal committee bitches and to bitches about the committee. It is much easier for one person to supress info and play favorites than it is for a group of people to. (3) If the ombudsman does something that fandom does not approve of, he/she would not be answerable to fandom until the next Worldcon business meeting - which is the same problem we have now - of once- a year accountability, if that. (4) If the committee decides it doesn't like the ombudsman's attitudes and actions and decides to fight, the ombudsman would have to be vested with same powers as the proposed board of directors in order to fight it properly. What you have then is a board of directors of one! All the accusations about powergrabbing and egotrips that are being made about a possible board of directors would then be placed on one person. Do you want to vest that much responsibility onto one person? We don't. No, not even to one of us [and you skeptics out there can choose to believe that or not, but it's true].



(4) If you agree with the above three blocks of statements, then you are ready to engage in the discussion that is currently going on. If you find yourself balking at one of them, then you need to read AAA #10. If you have read AAA #10 and still find yourself balking at one of the earlier stages then it is up to you to come up with a viable alternative proposal. [If you are still balking at Phase 1 and disagree that there is a problem, then we find your level of naivete touching and through ESP we can make the statement that you haven't held a responsible position on a recent Worldcon committee. Yes, we know we are being sarcastic, and we probably should apologize but we, and a large number of other fans have done our best to help maintain the current mechanism on site. If you want yet another specific example, the detailed wording for Hugo awards and the procedural requirements for site selection can currently only be enforced by declaring the entire election invalid and withholding the awards for that year. If you really must hear more horror stories to be able to believe that there is a problem, please communicate with us individually.

And now ... a letter column consisting of portions of the mail that was sent to us regarding the article in the previous issue. The writers express viewpoints that place them in any or a combination of the above four phases. We will quote the writers in context as much as possible (space permitting) and our replies will be in italics.

JESSICA AMANDA SALMONSON:

... I really wasn't convinced that forming a central government for WorldCons is a good thing. For one thing, the article fails to convince how and why WorldCons are doomed to destruction without this central government. Religious freak-os have been predicting Armageddon for several thousand years - and I've damned little respect for religious freak-os, nor do I believe for one moment that WorldCons will fall off the edge of the world without a bunch of paper shufflers selling franchise rights and keeping a ridiculous immortal pile of records. Sound like a bunch of fascist republicans, wot?

The only reason I'm not too upset is because I know that such a central government wouldn't work. All it would provide is a group of retards who could easily get their asses sued by the hotel industry if a really big blunder did happen (as the doomsayers predict) and therefore and thusly such a central con government would last only so long as it took some con to screw up, disband, and leave the franchise sellers grinning cheesy grins in some circuit court. I believe in government of the fans, by the fans and for the fans. I hope the crummy oligarchy die of contagious scurvy and let the individual con committees bungle along like they have for 43 years. Bureaucracies do NOT decrease bungling. They fuck things up more. Tell 'em to screw themselves....

*Rather than respond to your points here, Linda Bushyager's letter below covers the response that we would have to your letter:*

LINDA BUSHYAGER:

I've read your discussion of the WSFS Inc very much. I liked the way you most commonly asked questions and answered them. You present a good argument for WSFS. I support the idea wholeheartedly. Worldcons are just too big and complicated to be run in the slapdash fashion we've used in the past. Having an overseeing body watch out for the Hugos would be one way to prevent the mis-handling of ballots mentioned above. The WSFS Board's most important function would probably be one of providing advice and continuity. It could keep records of hotel rooms booked, banquet seats used, costs, past hotel contracts, etc. to help each year's winner plan their con (something which now is definitely lacking). They could also keep track of things like pass on funds, financial records, tax records, etc. for reference purposes. And they could control things like the Worldcon Emergency Fund, which was originally set up very quickly, with Joe Hensley holding it, without any sort of idea of where it should go or who would control it. It is now in the hands of the Pavlats and the Discon committee and consists of about \$1000. It was never passed on after Discon, never used thereafter, and has had little publicity (most people thought it was gone). This money could have been used by Aussiecon, Iggycon, etc. as seed money and then repaid, or been available for emergencies, but these Worldcons apparently didn't even know of its existence. How long will Discon continue to hold this money? What will they do with it? I don't know. But a WSFS Inc. group could very well control such funds and keep fandom apprised of the amounts, uses, etc. I think a WSFS Board would probably serve more as a record-keeping, advice-giving body than as a watchdog group. With the large size of Worldcons today, the Worldcon committee needs all the experienced help it can get. I think pastWorldcon chairmen and committees have all tried their best, but they've been overworked and faced with all sorts of problems. They deserve a lot of praise for trying hard. But it is not fair to burden a relatively small group of fans with all the hard work of the con and with, in many respects, redoing what has been done before and relearning what has gone on before each time. A WSFS group could be a tremendous help to the committee. The governing board would not run the con, but would be there with facts, figures, and information about past problems to help when they are asked....

SHELBY BUSH III:

... One thing obviously missing from the article is a reprint of the draft of the constitution. You talk all around the revision, but don't show it to us. If your zine is a good platform for talking about the constitution, it's a good place to publish it.

In addition, nowhere in the article are the names of the drafting committee listed. You list the "qualifications" of that committee, but not the names.

What the whole article smacks to me of is propaganda. You're trying to sell us on the constitution before we've seen it (and it's obvious that you're expecting people to see this article before they've seen the proposed constitution).

What's also obvious is that the group 'responsible' for "fandom's most visible public activity" is also going to be on fandom's most visible power trip. How is fandom going to be saured that one group cannot - or will not - take over this committee? If elections are held, are they to be from general fandom, or in the business session at the worldcon? This is not discussed in the article, and that omission is not reassuring.

Of course, you could have avoided that by printing the constitution in the zine. Now, interested people have to go out of their way to get a copy of the draft, and even then are not assured of getting one, as Cliff Amos will readily tell you....

(1) A reprint of the draft is not "obviously missing". The current draft runs to some 16 pages and is obtainable through the sources mentioned earlier. In additionm Bob Hillis has appeared on panels discussing the proposal at a number of regionals and has passed out copies at those conventions and at the Worldcon business meetings. Avenging Aardvark's Aerie is a private fanzine and not an official publication of the Worldcon business meeting. If the business meeting cares to vote funds to subsidize my running current draft copies in my zine, I will be happy to (and no, this does not constitute a request for such funds). - Ross

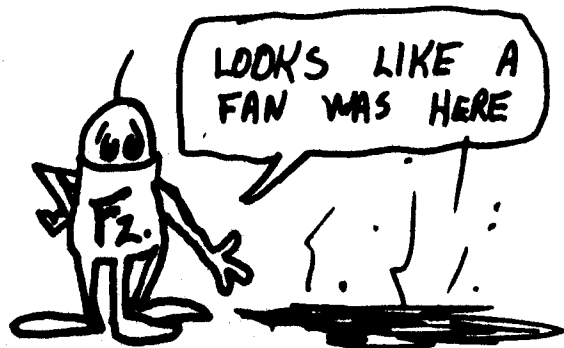
(2) The names of the members of the drafting committee are generally available and are not a secret. In the process of trying to coordinate a complex, 15-page article, the names of the committee got deleted at some phase. To rectify, current mambers include: Bob Hillis (chairman), Larry Smith (secretary), Greg Bennett, Don Eastlake, Meade Frierson, Tim Kyger, Tony Lewis, John Millard, Bruce Pelz, Larry Propp, George Scithers, Pat Taylor, Leslie Turek, Pete Weston, and Ben Yalow.

(3) Of course the article is propaganda! As to not having an opportunity to see it, see reponse (1).

(4) Lots of things were omitted in the article due to space limitations. Send us a specific list of what you'd like to see discussed and we'll discuss it.

(5) Representatives will be elected on a staggered basis from three or four regions. Thusly, for one group to 'take control', would take an effort over several years. At least half will be elected at the business meeting: opinion is currently divided over whether any will be elected by mail.

(6) When asked, Cliff Amos denied that he had difficulty getting access to copies of the draft.

MIKE GLICKSOHN:

....The whole constitutional problem is obviously going to generate a lot of discussion. The natural antipathy of fans toward organization and regimentation is going to work against



such an organization as you propose but...the mess the Iggy group made of things may sway people over to your side. I'd have to know a hell of a lot more about the powers and responsibilities of the committee before I'd go along with the suggestion but I'll admit that this initial informational article favorably impressed me....

KAREN TREGO:

New worldconstitution, huh? Sure thing. However, having a board elected at the business meeting limits action not only to those interested enough to attend the meeting but wealthy enough to attend the worldcon. Mail votes - or proxies - would be needed.

In any case, I'm not entirely convinced a board is a good or necessary thing. Incorporating the con as a protection against mundane problems, definitely. But how may fans get pissed off enough to sue a concom? (You spend a lot of ink justifying a board as an alternative to such lawsuits). The board you describe would, I fear, be involved mainly in (relatively) petty disputes. My years of experience as a bureaucrat lead me to be very suspicious of the efficacy of such governing bodies and systemized grievance procedures.

Nowadays it seems that worldcons are capable of making a profit. I don't know how committee members handle their "real" jobs during the last days before a worldcon; it varies with the fan and the job, I expect. What if committee members were offered salaries, to enable them to quit or take extended leaves of absence, spend full time on the convention, and still eat?...

(1) *The question of whether there should be a mail ballot is expected to be one of the most hotly debated portions of the proposal. Arguments in favor are mostly along the lines that it allows a larger voting population. Arguments against include: (1) difficulty in the voting mechanism; (2) people who don't attend Worldcons don't have the opportunity to see firsthand the types of things that those who are running for office are going to be talking about. The authors are not in favor of a mail ballot (however, on this issue the members of the drafting committee are not all in agreement).*

(2) *The point of the "sueing" section in AAA #10 is that lawsuits in fandom are not viable - a suit can be initiated, but nothing can be done in time.*

(3) *A systemized grievance procedure, with all its faults (and yes, there are many) is better than NO grievance procedure.*

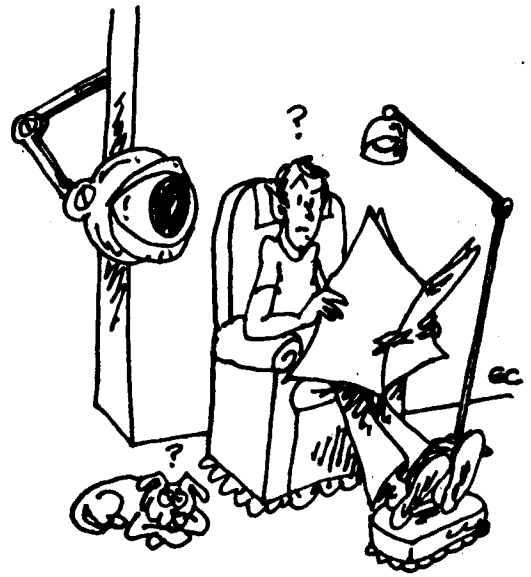
(4) *Worldcons are capable of making a profit, but the profit tends to be unpredictable as to size of attendance, which is not known until the last minute. To pay salaries, as mentioned above, registration rates would have to be raised through the roof. As to leaves of absence, most fans holding positions of responsibility of the type we'd like to see in those people who are to be considered reliable enough to run a Worldcon would have a great deal of difficulty getting leaves of absence for the time required. Ross: "speaking for myself, as a computer programmer, if I am co-chairman of Chicago in 1982, I will probably have to resign my job a month before the convention."*

GEORGE SCITHERS:

...Comment in re: Pavlac's writeup in Avenging Aardvark - seems to me that we're emphasizing the wrong reasons that a continuing corp might have to pull a franchise. The real reason for the continuing corp, of course, is to make it hard or difficult for someone to steal our name, our award or our rocketship award (our meaning all SF fans). A secondary benefit from such a continuing corp will be a mechanism to cope with near-collapse or complete collapse of a con committee - specifically a means for deciding and enforcing such decision what to do if a con committee is manifestly not functioning, or if a near-collapse of the original group/site

has brought about the transfer to another group/site when this isn't what is generally wanted by the majority of the people who voted for the now-defunct group/site. As matters now stand, a gafiating committee could actually give the con away to whomever they chose, with rather frightening consequences. This, and the outright theft of the name and the award, are what the continuing corp will protect against, so best not get into discussion of pulling the franchise for any but the most awful derelictions, even though the continuing corp will have (hopefully unexercised) powers to do so....

*We agree with your every word, George.*



HARRY WARNER, JR:

....On the proposed new structure for worldcons, I am of several minds, but basically my stand is that I don't know what should be done. The one action that I'd like best to see done will never happen because I'm probably the only fan in the nation who would be happy with it. I'd bring the worldcon down to more manageable size by taking the commercialism out of it, reverting it to what it used to be, a place where fans could get together. I'd eliminate the hucksters' room, the art show, and the all-night movies. This would probably cut attendance in half and it would eliminate many of the financial demands on the worldcon committee.

But nobody else likes such a ruthless amputation of the things that appeal to fringe fans and moneychangers. So the World Science Fiction Society idea might be a good one. I can see two main problems involving it. One is the fact that it would symbolize authority. Fans rival newspaper writers as the group in the United States that is most determinedly anti-authority. Look at all the flak that the Dorsai have suffered, the inability of worldcon committees to control photographers at the Masquerade, and all the other nose-thumbing that results from any worldcon manifestation of authority. A new society would be opposed just because it's a new form of authority appearing in fandom.

The other problem involves litigation. If I understand correctly this outline of how the society would be established and function, wouldn't it be possible for a lawsuit or an injunction action to tie up all future worldcons by being directed against the society? And suppose a really whopping judgement were won by someone in a damage suit against the society, in an amount approximately or exceeding the average income for all purposes of a worldcon. How would the society raise the money to stage the next worldcon?

Obviously, something needs to be done. The first news I've heard from this year's worldcon indicated that vandalism was severe at the hotel, for instance, and it's conceivable that a repetition next year of damage to facilities could force worldcons to come up with damage deposits. The vendettas within the Iguanaccon committee could be imitated in some year soon with enough added intensity that the committee will fragmentize totally just before the worldcon, too late for a cavalry charge from somewhere else to arrive in time to run the con properly. But I'm quite pessimistic about the chances of getting fandom to agree to take some preventive action, whether it's a society or another remedy, until a worldcon really does become a complete debacle some year soon. Apas aren't much like worldcons. But I've seen all the big quarterly apas decline in quality and quantity of mailings, some have died and others are sick, and not one of those ailing apas tried to cure itself by doing something to improve matters by a change in structure or a determined campaign to gain the right kind of new members or shifting to more frequent mailings in order to create the quicker feedback which fans like nowadays. No apa members like

to be told by anyone that they should do things differently. It's too much like authority in action....

*Injunctive relief is permanent but limited in scope, and is always directed at specific actions or incidents, and usually as specific individuals.*

*The Society does not and would not stage worldcons. The Society permits people to stage worldcons. The Worldcon corporation would still change every year. Each Worldcon raises its own money. Also, a Worldcon is not liable for the actions of the Society.*

*Thus, the likelihood is very small. And what possibility there is of a horrendous lawsuit tying things up could happen NOW for the same reasons it could if the proposal is passed. (By the way, the possibility of such a thing happening is higher NOW than it would be under a board mechanism.)*

LESLIE DAVID:

....Despite the fact that I've lived in Phoenix for 4 years and worked on the con and went to some of the meetings I still don't have any idea of what the whole bloody mess was all about [Iguanacon], and I can't find anyone who will tell me the whole story. All I know is that if WSFS will stop what happened in Phoenix from happening again then I'm for it, but I've heard people say that the 50¢ multiplied by some 5,000 fans will give WSFS money to SMOF on a super level rather than the smaller level that has been going on. As I've said, I don't really know what goes on. One other question that has been bothering me, would WSFS supply detailed records of the money taken and spent and would these records be available for the average fan to inspect?...

*The purpose for which Society funds would usually be put will largely be spent in mailing Hugo and site selection nomination and final voting ballots to the membership of the Worldcon. Printing costs would also be included in the board's budget, as would the manufacturing of the Hugos.*

*As to the money allowing fans to SMOF on a "super-level", let's do some arithmetic. Let's suppose that the directors have decided to embezzle all of the money to SMOF with. Using your figures, 50¢ x 5000 fans per year comes to \$2500 per year. The proposal calls for from 12 to 18 directors (depending on who you talk to) - that comes to about \$200 per director per year. Now, I don't what the people who you have been talking to envision SMOFing as consisting of, much less SUPER-SMOFing, but by our standards \$200 doesn't buy very much SMOFing - it gets you to 3-4 cons if you drive, one if you fly, or it supports a month of heavy phone calling. While we wouldn't mind \$200/year extra to spend on fandom (speaking for ourselves and hypothesizing that we would be evil enough to embezzle the funds), it would not significantly increase the fanac of the authors (to use an example of active political fans) - Bob and Ross each attend a dozen cons a year and Ross' phone bill laughs at \$100/month!*

*The above of course assumes that all the directors agree to the embezzlement and no one blows the whistle (see comments on ombudsman, above).*

DICK LYNCH:

Interesting article on the World Science Fiction Convention constitution. One problem you'll have that isn't mentioned is apathy. I think only about 20 attended the preliminary Iggy Business meeting, and I don't know how many the next one. They're not highly publicized, and at bad times usually. Not too good for an international organization that you propose....

(1) They're publicized as much as anything else in the program. As to the time they are held, take it up with the programming heads of the various Worldcons,



who traditionally consider the business meeting to be unimportant.

One of the biggest killers of attendance at business meetings has been mail balloting.

(2) Yes, there is an apathy problem that is insoluble. It is rampant among all organizations. Something like 90% of the members of all social organizations don't participate in business meetings and we are no different. The business meeting is open to all. Those who care will attend; those who don't will have to live with the results.

NIKI LYNCH:

...I found it to be very interesting reading, especially the long article on Worldcon constitution revision. Since Dick and I are on the Chattacon board and helping to run the local regional, I was interested. After reading the article, I can understand how a Worldcon is different from running a regional. Still, a regional is a hassle to run. The article made me feel a bit sad that even fans needed some group to look out for them, that fans aren't the little family of years past, but at least it is coming from us rather than from government regulations or other....

We agree with you completely. As Ben Yalow has said about the proposal: "It's a bad idea whose time has come". There are a lot of things about the board of directors concept that we don't like (yes, really!) but we have no better idea as to what to do to deal with the problem, and no other proposal put forward is anywhere near as satisfactory. At least the director concept is a reasonable compromise.

TIM KYGER:

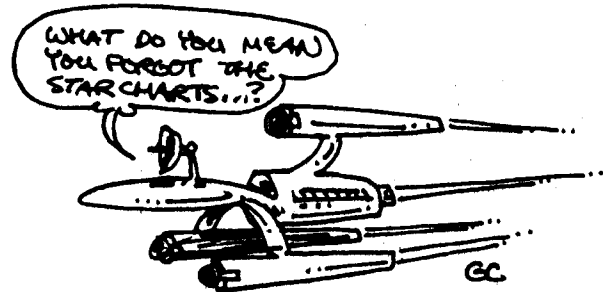
OK, I'll bite. Any copies of AAA #10 around that I may have? For better or worse, I think I've become a convert (verylukewarm) to WSFS Inc in some form or another; it can't be avoided. Too many problems. I understand this A10 has the best discussion of the whole bloody thing to date; I'd like to see it.

The authors of this article, being paragons of restraint and tact, offer no comment on the above letter.

FRED JAKOBCIC:

...I wanted to have a lot to say about the Worldcon Article but you three pretty much and well covered the subject. I took advantage of the Super-Saver flight, for Iggy and I think it contributed and will contribute to increase attendance at Worldcons in the future. I was a supporter for MAC, but never did get my program booklet. Amazing it is all the problems of a Worldcon and how mortal and mundane we all are of fandom. Fandom does not have a national organization large enough to speak for all or most of fandom. Regionalism may play a big part in that. Maybe we could divide the nation and the world up into regions and elect representatives from each, as sort of a congress, but that is too sophisticated for fandom and would cost money which most of don't have. Nobody can agree on any one group to represent fandom at large. Localism, regionalism, would creep in. It is an impossible dream, but I think we are more together than the UN, but not much more. The biggest problem would be to get fandom to accept one organization like the World Science Fiction Society as the central governing body of fandom. How would we vote on it? And who? How many are we?

It would take a lot of effort, through fan-



zines, word of mouth and at local and regional cons to get things going, to vote on the WSFS as the central governing body, much as Congress is the US Legislative Body for this country. It would have to, if not this way, start small and pick up converts and build up its size to the point of being big enough to have the say over awarding Worldcon bids, through its membership voting on the site....

PATRICK HAYDEN:

...Found the article on WSFS Inc in AAA fascinating and \*illuminating\*; I'll probably loc it within the next couple of months and/or write at length on it in the conrunners' apa that Kathi is muttering about starting later this year...

JERRY KAUFMAN:

...Enjoyed the star piece on incorporating the Worldcon. It almost convinced me. But I still have this queasy feeling about the whole thing, not rational but still quite real....

GEORGE LASKOWSKI:

...With interest I read the article about the Worldcon Committee. I would say that I support you. Suncon played musical cities, Iguanacon played musical chairs with the concom. I have little concern about SEACON or NOREASCON, or the NASFIC, NORTHAMERICON, over the next couple of years, but beyond that, I think that steps should be taken to insure the success of the Worldcon...

GEORGE PACZOLT:

...The article of constitutional revision will have to go down as one of the more useful fanzine articles I have read since entering fandom. I never quite realized what goes on running worldcons - now that I'm wiser I realize I've got quite a headache attempting to put it all together. Jesus. I'm not going to attempt to toss in my opinion at the present time (sorry about that) since I still have to give it another reading to catch on to the idea totally. Once I do so, expect another letter....

WILMA FISHER:

...your article on the Worldcon Constitution Revision has cleared up many things that Ben Yalow has been talking about for months - nay, years! When he starts talking I tune him out mainly because I don't know a.) what he's talking about and b.) what questions to ask (I do now!). Thanks for being so enlightening on the subject....

POSTSCRIPT: Late responses on AAA #10 and responses to AAA #11 on the Worldcon Constitution Revision Proposal will be repoded to in a similar forum in AAA #12.

*Additional comment on Leslie David's letter: As a corporation, WSFS Inc would have to supply detailed financial records in an annual report. The master corporate books would be open for inspection by any member of WSFS at the corporate offices, wherever they are eventually located.*

# So you want to be an SF pro?

## sarcasm by Onan Skinner, Jr.

By this time you may have figured out that the mere collision of fingers with typewriter keys does not a story make. You who are seeking the satisfaction of professional status must try to analyze what the gimmick is. Every month you approach the newsstand, and grip with anticipatory glee each pulpy prozine, scanning their pages for authors both famed and nameless. You discover that the stacked aisles of type are composed of the same 26 letters you learned by rote so many years ago. A disappointment comes over you: you know thw words. How comw you can't put them in the same order as Heinlein and Ellison?

The pros write English -- so do you. They speak of rocketships and psychology -- so can you. They use sentences with verbs and nouns -- just like you. But they sold -- you didn't.

Therefore, to benefit all would-be pros, I have weighed the matter and stepped forward to offer my vast inexperience in answering why you haven't sold, and to show you how it can be accomplished. It is typical for fanzines to beg pros for articles full of shoptalk, and run these prominently; but since, if anything, fewer fans turn pro these days than ever before it seems such essays fail to motivate. Rather than encourage Ellison and White to batter each other in lettercols and employ strong language to slur each's respective genealogy let a fellow fan offer testimony on the matter. Even as alcoholics cure through mutual encouragement, rather than leaving everything to the doctors, so will I teach you the simple skills needed to fashion the obvious and logical components of a saleable story.

Normally, there are three ways to sell a story.

One: Have a widely known name, a great reputation so that it doesn't matter what you write, they'll buy it anyway. This makes you immune from sales trends, because you are the trend, and you can safely say, "I will fear no evil", as you walk to the bank.

Two: Produce works which are dripping with literary brilliance, bursting with philosophy, and lifelike characters. Or convince the editor you have, which so far as sales goes amounts to the same thing. Being able to do this, though you be a beast, you will then be able to shout love at the heart of the world.

Three: Be relevant. What is the current concern this year? Ecology? Energy? Poverty? Race? Pick it out of the newspapers and set it on the moon is our motto here. If you haven't the fame for number one, or the talent for number two -- then what the hell? And if you can employ some 1930s experimental technique and latch onto a current market trend they might even give you a Nebula. The money you make off such stories will be enough to let you stand on Zanzibar -- or anyplace you damn well please!

Checking over the three ways, it's clear enough that you'll use the last one





more than the others. (All pros are excused from this article: file out slowly and we'll meet back on page 47.) It is where today's editor is at. So limber up your fingers: utilizing the following simple skills, any person with a basic grasp of English plus a paper and pen, newspaper and scissors (swiped from your "Playtime Box") can produce a story that will stand tall in any Elwood anthology, guaranteed to tickle any editorial prejudice.

First, consider size. I know one fellow who has written four novels. None of them sold. Now why devote all that time, paper and energy just to collect the same rejecslip? Save a tree: write short stories instead! Most of the classics of science fiction are brief: Clark's "The Star", Heinlein's "Lifeline", Panshin's "The Destiny of Milton Gomrath".

Next, consider the elements of your story. Prozine fiction requires both plotting and characterization. Your character must be the kind of person with whom the reader can identify. Strangely, though, the kind of person whom the reader identifies with is not like him, a 9-to-5 grinder whose idea of excitement is driving through rush hour; neither is it Kimball Kinnison, superhuman, perfectionist, focus of universal destiny.

No, to stimulate involvement the character's personality must be typical of the twentieth century western man. He must possess the unusual trait of logical thinking -- chiefly because illogical stories are incomprehensible, though much of human experience is not based on that ancient Greek distillation. Fortunately, a large number of personalities can be postulated, and they can

be displayed in a number of ways, through dialogue, setting and action. Like Laumer's Retief, who speaks self-confidently, nonchalantly. Or like Niven's Beowulf Schaeffer, a man manipulated by the need for money, perpetually cast on the Known Space background (puppeteers, bandersnatchi, kzinti, etc). Or like E. E. Smith's protagonists who were ever on the move, evading ravening beams of coruscating energy, driving relentlessly through the incredibly hard vacuum of interstellar space propelled by space-annihilating inertialess Begrholms \*gasp\*.

Characterization settled, plotting comes next. This is the heart, the raison d'etre for your story. The plot must rivet the editor's attention.

Editors today want two things, and two things only: big names and relevance. (Damned if you don't seem to be writing for fanzines again!) Since you can only compete in the relevance department, then you will have to educate the reader, perhaps show that your science fiction pipe-dream has a place in his life as a valuable informational addition. And if the theme of the year is ecology, or black holes, or monopolies, then by gad you give him ecology, black holes and monopolies!

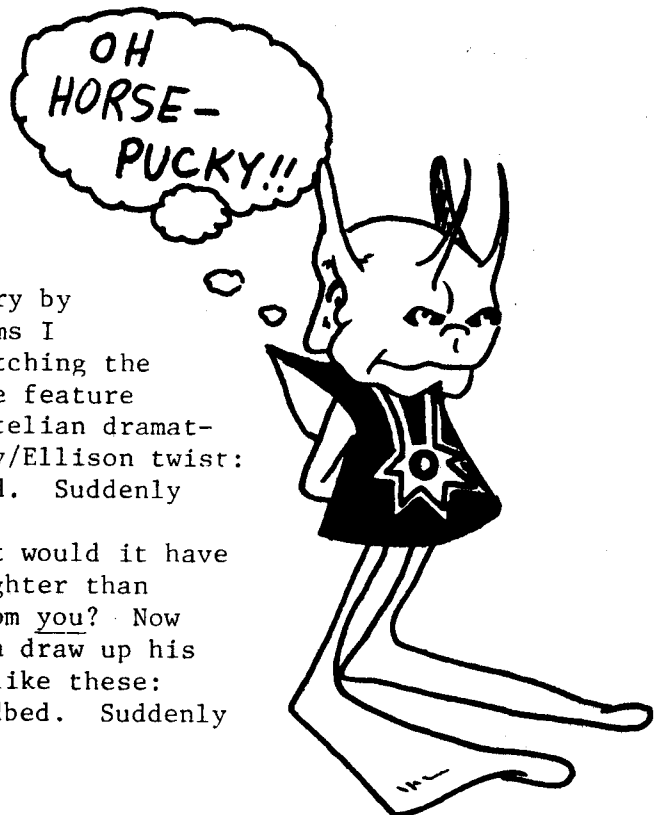
Unless you run a health food store, are an expert on biodegradable materials or owner of a junkyard, you aren't going to be truly educational. But don't let this discourage you from being with-it and relevant. Keep young, eat your organic Wheaties, and imitate knowledge by echoing a moral stand. Curse defilers of the atmosphere, septicators of rivers, blighters of nature. Be dystopian: show how the world is going to blaze at the hands of soulless exploiters. Get a Sierra Club pamphlet and rip off appropriate passages.

To be publishable, one need not only mouth ecology situations. Any number of contemporary movements can be used: youth, the antiwar movement, Womens' Lib. Spice it up with reference to the "soft" sciences -- sociology, psychology, necromancy. Actually, right now the most saleable story would be about a Gothic greenhouse on an organic foods farm haunted by the spirits of black female militant archaeologists trailing evidence that Cthulhu was gay.

Now, kiddies, while you get out your crayola and piece of scuzzy 9 x 14 paper to write a story guaranteed to sell, check out this story by Fredric Brown. It too contained all the items I mentioned along the line - proven ways of catching the editor's eye: a male character with a unique feature projected via setting, fulfilling the Aristotelian dramatic conflict by employing a Hitchcock/O. Henry/Ellison twist: "The last man on earth was sitting on his bed. Suddenly there was a knock at the door."

Brilliant, witty, superb - all of these. Yet would it have sold if written by anyone of a reputation slighter than Fredric Brown's? Would Ben Bova buy that from you? Now be honest with yourself. The name writer can draw up his own ticket, strike out on adventurous paths like these: "The last woman on earth was weeding her seedbed. Suddenly there was a black hole."

And that's the truth. Nyah!



# The Archives



Argh! It's time once again to crawl out from under the rubble of the collapsed pile of books to-be-reviewed and do my duty: to inform you of stuff I think you should get (and why) and stuff to avoid like the plague and all the shadings in between.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK Ed. by Colin Lester [ Quick Fox, \$7.95 ]. If you are at all serious about science fiction, be it fandom or fanzines or conventions or even trying to write the stuff, **YOU MUST BUY THIS BOOK IMMEDIATELY -- NOT TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY OR EVEN LATER THIS EVENING -- NOW!!!** This has more neat information packed into one volume than anything that I have seen yet.

And what's even better is that it is all relatively current! And reasonably complete. What's it got? It's a list of conventions, of fanzines (with detailed notes about them), of SF clubs across the country, all kinds of neat stuff. The previously-mentioned material alone is worth the purchase price. But that's not all -- [ gee, I'm sounding like a K-tel commercial today.... ] biographical notes on SF writers who have recently passed away, listings of SF-related book clubs and book dealers, book publishers, oh just all kinds of useful information. The book is sprinkled with art from contemporary sources (including a copy of one of the Seattle in 1981 ads on page 244!). Each section is preceded by a forward by some fan or pro that offers either a look at the 'state-of-the-art' or a closeup view of a particular aspect. What's best of all is that this is intended to be an annual volume, so that future editions will continue to be current. This is such a lovely book, such a useful, neat volume....

THE UNIVERSAL TRAVELLER, A SOFT-SYSTEMS GUIDE TO CREATIVITY, PROBLEM-SOLVING, AND THE PROCESS OF REACHING GOALS by Don Koberg and Jim Bagnall [ William Kaufmann, Inc., \$5.95 ]. Last summer at Iguanacon, I had the opportunity to get together with the Seattle bidding committee en masse. While we were discussing the intricacies and complexities of running a contemporary Worldcon, I pulled out a copy of this book, which I had just bought, and began discussing it. I was turned on to the book by Jack Roth, owner-manager of My Back Pages, which is the best and friendliest ( tho sadly not the largest) bookstore in Columbus. I saw it on Jack's main display rack and asked him about it casually. He responded with some of the most effusive plugging I've ever seen him do for a book.

Describing what the book is can be very difficult; the title probably does the best job. Essentially, it offers the philosophy that any task requiring a lot

of work or problem-solving effort should be looked upon as a journey, and preparations should be made accordingly. Lots of useful allegories are given, such as native guides, tourist traps, etc.

I found the book useful both in my mundane career as a computer programmer and in the fannish aspect of me that tries to educate and learn about convention organization. The book should not be thought of as a step-by-step guide (it is written much too generally for that) but as an attitude-shaper that contains many Cosmic Truths that any problem-solver will find useful.

"ANY GROOMING HINTS FOR YOUR FANS, ROLLIE?" by G. B. Trudeau [ Holt Rinehart Winston, \$1.95 ]. The latest Doonesbury book. Excellent as usual. Great stuff.

THE DRAGONRIDERS OF PERN by Anne McCaffrey [ Nelson Doubleday ]. This is a collection of the 3 novels in the mainstream of her "Dragonriders of Pern" series":

Dragonflight, Dragonquest, and The White Dragon. The White Dragon, the newest of the books, is as good if not better than its predecessors. The Pern books are among my favorites and McCaffrey remains one of my favorite authors.

THE CHAOS WEAPON by Colin Kapp [ Del Rey, \$1.50 ]. PATTERNS OF CHAOS by Colin Kapp [ Ace, \$1.75 ]. Technology-oriented space opera with the fate of the entire universe (literally) at stake, these books are good escapist stuff.

TO ESCAPE THE STARS by Robert Hoskins [ Del Rey, \$1.75 ]. This is related to To Control the Stars (reviewed here last issue) but can't really be called a sequel since the time difference between the first and second book is several hundred thousand years. This is a teleportation-gate story, and is reasonably well-done. Hoskins is improving.

SUNSTOP 8 by Lou Fisher (illustrated by Stu Shiffman)[ Dell, \$1.50 ]. Light tongue-in-cheek space opera with a gambling theme. OK but erratically written; it has the feel of a first novel.

RUNNING SCARED by Gregory McDonald [ Avon, \$1.50 ]. This is the first novel by McDonald, who later went on to author the Fletch novels (enthusiastically reviewed here last issue). This book is not at all in the tone of the Fletch stuff -- it is a very grim, unpleasant book about death and the right to die. Well-written, but not at all recommended unless you are a real diehard McDonald fan or like reading really grim stuff. Ugh.

THE WORLD IS ROUND by Tony Rothman [ Del Rey, \$1.95 ]. This sprawling novel is a shipwreck/odyssey tale in the Big Planet tradition -- our heroes are wrecked on a planet that is HUGE. I had a great deal of difficulty reading it -- 439-page books don't usually bother me, but Rothman is new enough at writing that he has severe pacing problems in the first half of the book -- I came very close to throwing it away in disgust. But I kept plugging away, and eventually the pace picked up and it turned out to be a reasonably well-done story. Lots of ecology/geology/etc. stuff here -- the explanation for the planet's size and other idiosyncracies is fairly predictable but well thought-out.

MIND FLIGHT by Stephen Goldin [ Fawcett, \$1.75 ]. Fast-paced interstellar espionage with telepathy heavily involved. Not quite up to Goldin's usual standard (some of the plot twists are a little too trite) but enjoyable nonetheless.

THE GODS OF XUMA OR BARSOOM REVISITED by David J. Lake [ DAW, \$1.50 ]. No, this isn't another one of those novels about a world that is exactly like Burroughs' Barsoom. It's an "ugly American" novel about enforced space colonization on a world that bears some interesting resemblances to Barsoom. OK but a bit predictable and a bit preachy.

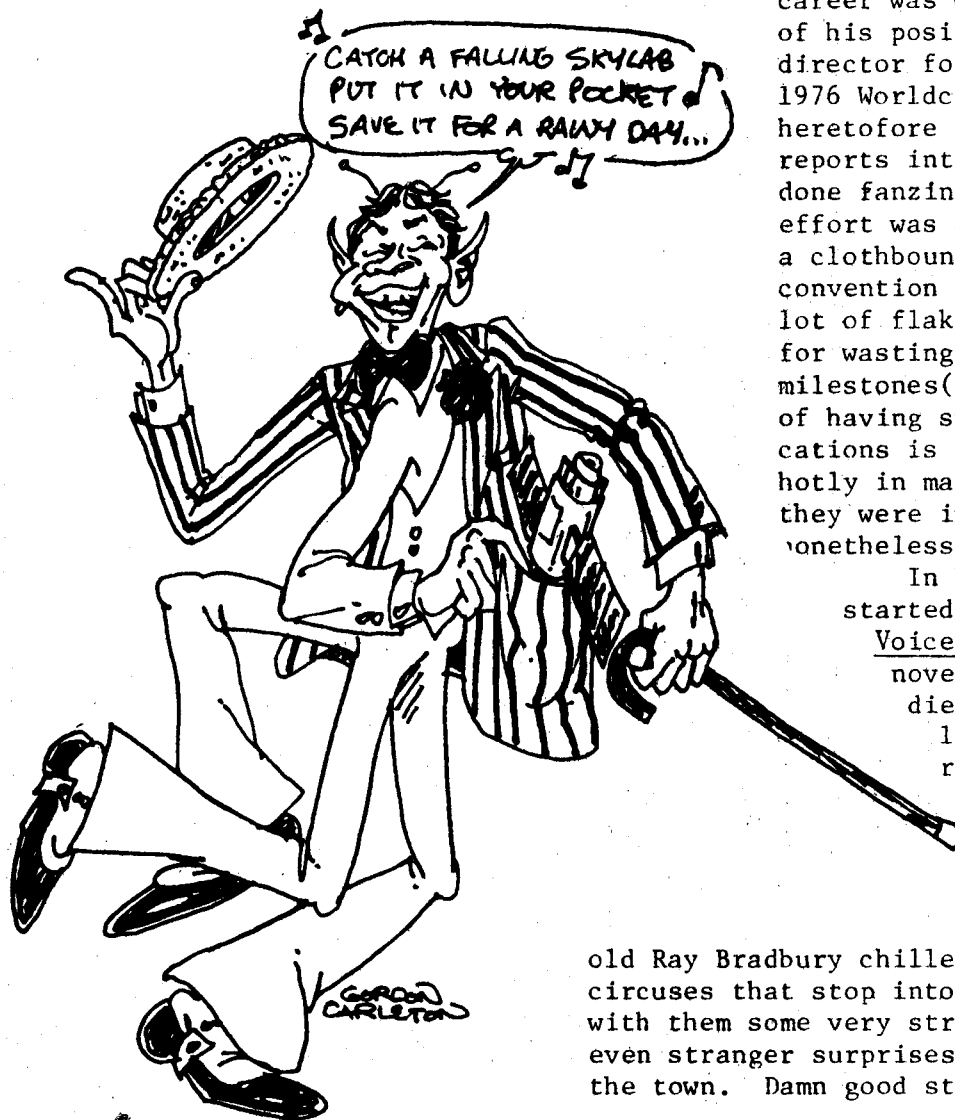
DANCERS IN THE AFTERGLOW by Jack Chalker [ Del Rey, \$1.75 ]. Chalker is one of those fans who have made the transition from fandom to prodom (actually he's still in the process, but what the hey....). This book is a "guerrilla warfare against alien invaders" novel with some strange and occasionally macabre twists. Well done; Chalker takes delight in coming up with alien races that are really alien.

THE WEB OF THE CHOZEN by Jack Chalker [ Del Rey, \$1.75 ]. An alien ecology novel, with some bizarre plot twists. Chalker again has some extremely well-thought-out aliens with ahh...different motivations. Very well done.

BLIND VOICES by Tom Reamy [ Berkley-Putnam ]. Tom Reamy was one of the more well-known fanzine fans of recent times. All he wanted to do was produce bigger and better publications of immaculate quality -- which he did. His later fannish career was controversial because of his position as publications director for MidAmeriCon, the 1976 Worldcon. He turned the heretofore slim Worldcon progress reports into giant, elaborately done fanzines. His culminating effort was an unheard-of first: a clothbound program book for the convention itself. Reamy got a lot of flak from a lot of fans for wasting money on these milestones (and the worthiness of having such elaborate publications is still being debated hotly in many circles) but they were impressive achievements nonetheless.

In his last few years, he started writing SF. Blind Voices is his first and only novel -- "only" because he died of a heart attack in late 1977. This is a real shame because he shows signs of becoming a major talent in this work.

The plot is very reminiscent of the old Ray Bradbury chillers about travelling circuses that stop into small towns and bring with them some very strange performers and some even stranger surprises for the inhabitants of the town. Damn good stuff.





I saw Tom at Windycon in '77, about a month before his death, and spoke with him briefly there. He and I were never particularly close, but I admired a lot of his work and we are the worse off for his passing.

FALSE DAWN by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro [ Doubleday ]. A novel of a post-holocaust future where people scabble for survival. This is expanded from the short story and loses in the expansion, I'm afraid -- the male protagonist's background figures not at all in the majority of the plot -- I HATE books in which we get a big buildup about what a vaunted rep the hero has and then we get to see him/her act like the typical hero/everyman that we've seem fumble thru adventures in a hundred other books. Erratic pacing. Readable but I can't recommend it.

STRANGERS by Gardner Dozois [ Berkley, \$1.75 ]. This is an excellent novel about human-alien miscegnation by one of our more powerful writers, but -- THIS IS GRIM STUFF!!!! DON'T READ THIS BOOK UNLESS YOU FEEL LIKE GETTING DEPRESSED!!!! Oh Gardner, why must you work out all your lightheartedness at cons and give us primarily your dark side in your writing?

WYST: ALASTOR 1716 by Jack Vance [ DAW, \$1.95 ]. The latest of the Alastor Cluster novels, this is typical of the series. A very rich, well-thought-out background. Good entertainment, if a bit preachy about the economics of the society he describes. TAANSTAFI is the theme of this book.

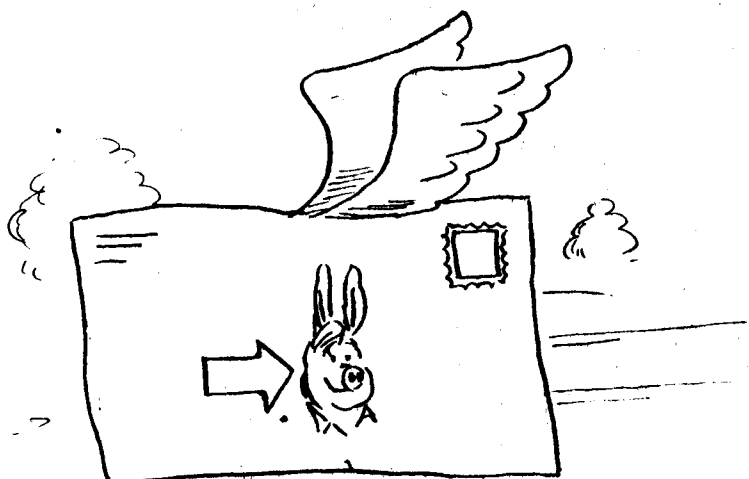
THE MAIN by Trevanian [ Jove, \$2.25 ]. This is by the man who gave us The Eiger Sanction and The Loo Sanction. Trevanian has left espionage and here gives us a tightly-written police procedural with very three-dimensional characters. Excellent.

A CONTRACT WITH GOD by Will Eisner [ Baronet, \$10 ]. This is a picture-novel about life in the poor Jewish tenements in New York City during the Depression, Eisner tells the stories with both text and pictures, drawn in the incomparable style that makes Eisner one of the most brilliant minds ever to do comic art.

But these tales are not comic -- they are serious (some are downright depressing). Marvelously told, these are proof positive that the graphic story form is still alive and well.

THE MAN RESPONSIBLE by Stephen Robinett [ Ace, \$1.75 ]. This is a fast-paced well-done novel about a detective on the trail of what is apparently a computer fraud scheme that is far larger than it first seems in magnitude. Robinett continues his excellent record, with characters who are fun to read about and identify with, along with a number of wild plot twists in addition to the predictable ones. Great stuff.

THE MASTERS OF SOLITUDE by Marvin Kaye and Parke Godwin [ Doubleday ]. I've read some reviews of this book that were highly favorable, but for the life of me I can't understand why. This is a "world of the far future where mankind is at a medieval level and just rediscovering the artifacts of old but aha there is a city of holdouts from the old days" book that suffers from severe pacing problems. The action picks up in spots, but it is for the most part dull, dull, dull and much too long. If the book was cut in half, it would be far more readable, but as it is I am going to have to hear a really good sales pitch to touch the next work that these two put out.



## Aeriemail

BRIAN EARL BROWN:

...Talking about your new plate maker...you could plan your apazines in such a way that use up 15-25 plates at a time, by doing the printing on 2 or 3 apas at same time. Maybe not. Clearly offset - er - privately owned offset - isn't for everyone yet. Mimeo and ditto are still more flexible...The Carrie Fisher lookalike traffic controller in Battlestar Galactica looks a little suspicious. BC has I'm sure borrowed a lot from Star Wars -

macho pilots in vests, cute robots, funny sound effects. But then George Lucas (TM) seems out to copywrite (TM) everything about Space Opera (TM) that isn't nailed down...I had a slightly different to Brian Aldiss' The Malacia Tapestry.

I agree the plot didn't go anywhere, but I

found the city to be interesting and the various anachronisms delightful to run across. It's a book like Dhalgren that one can read at will only it seems much more interesting and event-filled than Dhalgren. I haven't finished the book - but enjoyed what I did read of it. Currently I'm sloughing through Juanita Coulson's Web of Wizardry. It's slow going. The novel feels more like a romance and a swords and sorcery novel. Slushy-poo. And I think that if as much as 100 of its 350 pages could have been removed to the benefit of the story. Whatever happened to tautly constructed novels?

*Anachronisms do not a novel make. Yes, it is better than Dhalgren, but that's not saying a heck of a lot.*

MIKE GLICKSOHN:

...Since the majority of this issue has to do with worldcons and convention running I guess it's allowable to say a few things about Iguanacon and your own Columbus Cavalry. I'm sure you know what fandom says about the three of you: that you are so hungry for the egoboo and notoriety that comes from running a worldcon that you'll go anywhere and endure anything just to be a part of one. Quite honestly I don't understand why you are all so eager to be involved with worldcons; to me it seems like a very thankless task. But someone has to do it and if you guys are willing to put in all that work - whatever your motives may be - I'm certainly not going to bitch about it. But I still can't help wondering why you do it. You helped out Big MAC, you helped out SUNCON, you were willing to assist IGGY and I hear you're on the Chicago in '82 bid. Is the egoboo worth that much work, or is there another reason for your eagerness to run worldcons? (Don't tell me you want to see it done properly just once, though: that might explain running your own con but it won't wash as far as being willing to associate with that inept group of cretins who ran Iguanacon.)

Speaking of IGGY, and who isn't now that its over, how could you guys possibly put up with the totally shabby treatment you received from that committee? Surely your self-respect is high enough after being so unceremoniously dumped (and compared negatively to a kumquat for Christ's sake) you'd not want to go back even to bail them out? How about it? What are your thoughts on how the IGGY committee treated you?.... It probably won't surprise you that there is no love lost between the IGGY committee and me but I think I'm adult enough to overlook personal differences and respect a job well done. But IGGY was the furthest thing from a job well done I've seen in the 13

worldcons I've been to. To my mind, the committee consisted of immature, incompetent self-servers who were more interested in helping out their friends than in running a decent worldcon. The fact that the con survived as well as it did simply indicates what has long been said, namely that any con will survive no matter what the committee does. If anything is likely to provide concrete evidence for the need of the sort of organization you describe in your proposed constitutional revision scheme it'll be the foul-up that the IGGY committee made of this year's worldcon....You mentioned the all-pervasive influence of STAR WARS on other areas of popular culture and if anything you understate the case. I'd hate to have to count the number of advertisements, for example, that used either the SW music, the SW title style or the SW graphics. and if past performances are anything to go on we can expect to see those influences for decades to come. Just last night, as a perfect example of the longevity of sfnal influences on the boob tube, I saw a brand new Radio Shack ad based directly on the opening sequence of "Twilight Zone". Same music, same visuals, same imitation Serling voice; and when was the last time "Twilight Zone" ran as an original series? (Early 1964, in case you didn't know.)

Tomorrow night the three hour opening episode of "Battlestar: Galactica" is on but it's already been shown in Canada as a regular theatre movie. Derek saw it and said it sucks; five year old Derek Jr stated, after less than half an hour, that it was nowhere as good as STAR WARS. But I'll watch it anyway just to see for myself....

(1) My thoughts on why I want to run a worldcon are covered elsewhere in this issue. As to why I wanted to work for Phoenix - They asked us. It's very difficult to turn down a group of people who obviously need help and advice and who are telling you that they admire and respect your abilities.

(2) I did not go back to "bail them out". As I said when asked repeatedly at the con to help out: "You can waffle about hiring me as much as you want to, but you only fire me once." Some Columbus fans and people associated with me did indeed work the con - they did it as a personal favor to Kathi Schaefer and one or two other members of the concom who felt that their prior commitment to work the con transcended their feelings about how I was treated. I made a point of telling those who asked me that friendship with me was not contingent on boycotting working the con.

(3) My thoughts on how the Phoenix committee treated me are for the most part unprintable. Do you know how much 100 reams of asbestos paper COSTS?

#### ERIC LINDSAY:

...I had an offset press back home, an old Rex Rotary 1600, however it was so much trouble using it for short print runs, like apas, that most people were unaware that it existed. Just before I came over here I lent it to a slan shack, and those fans will surely have reduced it to rubble by now. Think I'll stick to mimeo, as I have for the past 7 years (and I also think I'll have to relearn typing, since I seem to have a lot of trouble with Selectrics - perhaps because the only ones I ever see are those in the US).

I am a non-computer type, but I'm getting interested in computers because of the decreasing costs of microprocessors in relation to what they can do. I suspect that within a decade they might even manage the sort of memory storage I desire as a price I'm willing to pay, and it would be a damned fine idea if I learned something of programming well before I can get my hands onto the hardware. Meanwhile the only thing I've got that looks like needing programming is a hand-held calculator, one of the top of the line T159 mag card gadgets that I picked up in New York this trip, and that is giving me enough grief to increase my respect for programmers enormously.

On Star Warts, I noticed that Darth Vader is selling cars in Cincinnati: I mean really! Would you buy a used car from the dark side of the Force?

You are probably aware that there will be an Australian bid for the 1983 Worldcon (advertisement!), and one of our biggest problems with overseas bids (especially those that win) is getting material to the overseas members quickly, while still

avoiding charging outrageous amounts for airmail postage. For example, at present postal rates, to send 4 PRs of 20 pages each would cost a total of \$4, which doesn't leave much leeway for the program book, record keeping and whatever other expenses supporting memberships generate. There are solutions: out of country printing, air freight and remailing, however overseas members are well aware that even when their numbers are low, committees have problems getting mailings out in time to reach overseas before deadlines for Hugo voting, hotel booking, etc....I won't comment on the reviews, except to say that your tastes appear to coincide with mine....



KAREN TREGO:

...re: your review of Cosmic Trigger. Yes, I too was suspicious of some of the wierdness of the book. (Read the appendices to Illuminatus to find out how the 23s and the Law of Fives really work). I was reassured, however, by the book's epigram (attributed to Malaclypse the Younger): "It's an ill wind that blows no minds." The important thing is that it makes people think....

HARRY WARNER JR:

...If things work out as I expect them to, I'll die eventually. So far I've done very little about the eleven points you list for the benefit of survivors. It doesn't matter so much in my case, because I have no relatives closer than cousins and aunts and no particular interest in what happens to my estate after it changes from its present status of possessions into the future condition of an estate. Come to think of it, I could make life a bit more pleasant for me in my final hours, by making a couple of local persons I dislike my executors, and leaving my affairs in their present untidied situation. I might get some last-minute amusement by thinking of the trouble I'll have put them to.

This Avenging Aardvark's Aerie looks fine, so the offset plate maker is apparently an artistic success. The two local newspapers for which I work are currently erecting a new building and they'll install all new equipment including a press that will take sixteen weeks to set up. If their platemaking equipment doesn't work right or nobody here can figure out how to operate it, maybe I can drum up some regular business for you.

Jan Howard Finder's distressing news about progress report problems make me wonder if it's really advisable to continue to produce fat ones filled with advertisements and non-essential materials. Maybe a worldcon would be just as well off financially by soliciting advertisements only for its program book, and making the progress reports tightly written, small leaflets that contain only the things which worldcon members must know...The book reviews were well enough done to keep me reading instead of skimming as a barrage of pages about new books often tempts me to do. I haven't read many of the books you write about, but I'm very pleased to find someone else who liked The Shining as much as I do. It's criminal that Stephen King hasn't won a Hugo or one of the other worldcon awards after this remarkable series of fantasy novels....

DICK LYNCH:

...There's something you didn't talk about in AAA #10, that is the current con-

controversial topic in SMOF sessions - the Worldcon rotation system. Specifically, the year 1984. We all know DC wants the Worldcon in '84, even though it's out of rotation for them (being in the Western zone that year, as Iggy was this year). In order to change the rotation in any way, a lot of shit is going to have to hit the fan, in terms of bad feelings in the Western zone (either for the one-shot change in 1984 or the ill-conceived four zone rotation system).

I have an alternate plan (excuse me while I climb up here on this soap box).

The only reason DC wants a rotation change is because of the year 1984. Obviously: they wouldn't care a fig if it was any other year. But instead of changing the rotation, it would make more sense to stop the rotation just for that year. 1984 is an historic year in SF, and all zones should be eligible without resorting to a lucky placement in a rotation system. And it would be interesting to have a free-for-all bidding for one year. (Needless to say, 1984 could be a sort of 'International Science Fiction Year' and the strongest Worldcon possible would be held that year, due to increased competition). Finally, it isn't too late to implement this, as no firm bid (to my knowledge) have been made for 1985 and later....

*I consider the "change-the-rotation" scheme extremely tacky for just the reasons you mentioned. However, 1984 is a - umm - significant number.*

*As it so happens, the current constitution has a clause that matches your proposal. Article III, Section 3 states: "Bids from sites located out of rotation may be considered only if the rule of rotation is set aside by a three-quarters majority of those voting for site selection....In the event of such setting aside, the motion shall establish where the rotation is to resume."*

*I really haven't made up my mind as to what is the course I would like to see followed. Talking about domestic Worldcons is complex enough; foreign Worldcons are an incredibly tangled list of variables.*

*I'm afraid that your comment about the "strongest Worldcon possible" being held due to "increased competition" is overly optimistic. As has been proven more than once during the last several years, the skills and talents needed to win a worldcon bid are not the same as those needed to actually run one once the bid is won.*

NICKI LYNCH:

...Having gotten into apas, I have found postage seems to be going up every time I walk in the post office door. Also, I have several friends who are or will be going overseas and the article was helpful. It is hard to get advice from the post office people when there are people in line.

I loved the short note on the Star Wars theme that your local food store used in advertising. I haven't noticed any local stores doing the same thing, but several have leaned toward it....

FRED JAKOBCIC:

...Whether or not one is Gay or not I think we should be happy to see Proposition 6 the anti-gay amendment did not pass in California. What this all boils down to is CENSORSHIP - in any way, form or another, involving one thing or another. This time censorship did not win out, but did lose out in Florida. Censorship is to be feared, because it is based on fear. It is not so much the fear of the unknown, for most people who are aware of homosexuality, for it is known, what homosexual love is not a deep dark secret. It has gotten a bad reputation, some due to the Bible and religious people and their beliefs, and the fact that homosexuality is still considered by many to be a sickness, people who are homosexuals are sick, which is wrong, but homosexuals get all the bad, well almost all, publicity. I'm not saying this very well. What it does boil down to is that homosexuals are not



mentally sick or any other sickness than any normal person or so-called normal, well-adjusted person. They are not any more dangerous to children than any other person, male, female, heterosexual, or bisexual. It is all so stupid and largely due to a false morality.

Saw ANIMAL HOUSE last week and agree that it is a very funny movie. One of the local fraternities dressed up in togas when it opened up last week and they looked just as ridiculous...

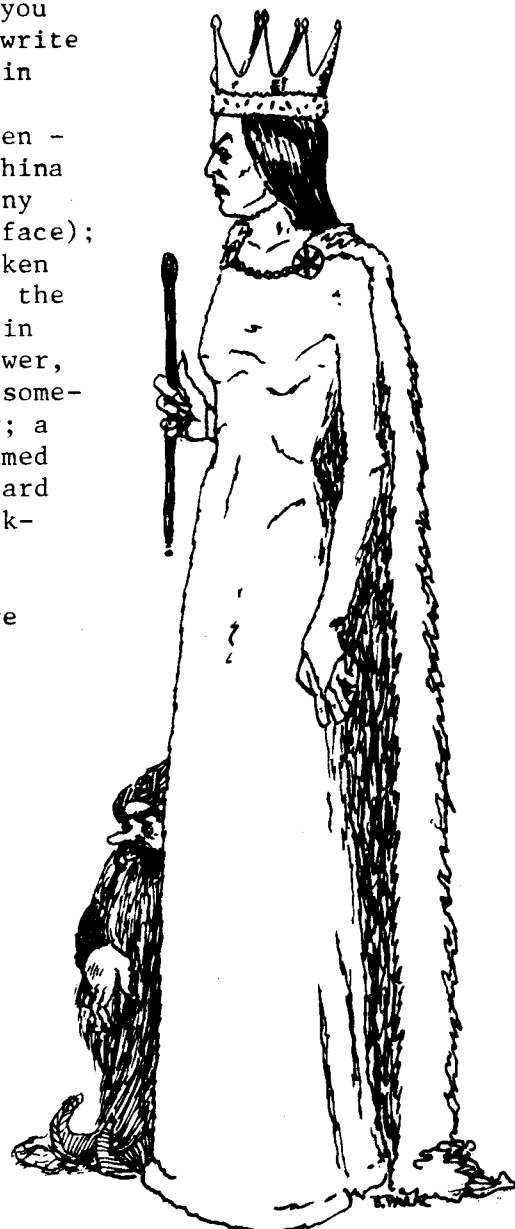
MARY LONG:

*(Enclosed was an ad for "Alvin the Aardvark"-ED)*

...You may in fact already received another copy of at least one of the cuttings above, but no doubt you can always find a spare space on your bulletin board, if you have one, for them...and there's a topic on which to write a ream, if you like. What do you have on your bulletin board?!

I'll just glance at mine, which is in the kitchen - there is a bag of money-off coupons; a picture of a china cat with a real cat behind it (I'm not a cat-fan by any means, but I liked the sappy look on the china cat's face); a picture of a couple of sparrows who nested in a broken streetlight in Chicago, in the background of which is the Sears Tower - and every time someone from the EPA is in the house they say, oh, we've got a monitor on the tower, and don't even notice the sparrows!; a cutting about someone who stole a come-along, whatever that is, locally; a list of jobs to do; an article about an Ibis chick named Wibbles (its mother is Wobbles) and an old business card with an appointment that's supposed to have been chucked out.

What an exciting life I lead....Blood donation: strangely, I believe that I may not be allowed to give it in this country. In the UK you can give it, as I recollect, if you are 8 stone (ie 112 lbs) or over. My weight is about that, sometimes a lb or two under. I think you have to be about 116 lbs to give it here - or is it in proportion to your height that they work it out? The silly thing is that I've given it several times at home without ill effect - of course in the UK the system is different in that it's all volunteer. You give it free, and you get it free - and you don't have to have given a drop to get as much as you need in emergency. For all I know, there are English fans with my blood in them (what a thought!). Having been fortunate enough never to have needed a blood transfusion, if anything I suppose I regarded it as a thank-offering. But then, our country being so much smaller than yours, maybe that sort of system wouldn't work here? Just the idea of selling blood and buying it in times of need is rather repulsive. But let's not get onto the health scene, because it's something that invariably raises my blood pressure (no pun intended)....



The White Witch

ANNA VARGO:

...Driving through Marin County to the Redwoods, passed by Aardvark Realty. Looking about San Francisco saw Aardvark's Odd Ark, an antique clothes shop. Thou gets about....

GEORGE LASKOWSKI:

...The AERIECHIVES was interesting. I like to see which books to read, which to avoid. I haven't tried SUPERMIND by Van Vogt, but in spite of your recommendation, I shall read it anyway. He is one of my favorite authors. I disagree with your opinion of LUCIFER'S HAMMER. Although mildly entertaining, I could have put it down at almost any time and forgot about it. I only finished it because of the Hugo voting. It's a disaster novel, well researched, but so-so to my taste. I agree with you about James P. Hogan: he is an outhor to watch. I am looking forward to more of his stuff....

GEORGE PACZOLT:

...Book reviews, decent. Nothing too surprising. Sgt Pepper? How were you able to sit through that travesty of filmmaking without wanting to puke? Yes, Peter Frampton is terrible - as anyone not tone deaf after listening to one of his albums can easily tell. ANIMAL HOUSE was really decent, although the ending was a little bit slow compared to the rest of the movie....

WILMA FISHER:

...Your piece on Anita B., I felt, expressed what many fans have been trying to put into words for a long time and are having difficulties in doing it as succinctly as you manage to....

BARBARA GERAUD:

...Wish I could give blood - I've got a rare blood, and feel incredibly guilty that I can't, but Central Blood Bank has this thing about my blood pressure - my doctor says it's fine for me to give; he's even willing to give me a note that says it's all right, but the Blood Bank won't accept it. I think my doctor is a reincarnated leech - maybe that's why he is so fond of my giving blood. But the Blood Bank is paranoid; something might happen to me as a result of them taking my blood with my pressure so high, and I'll sue them or something like that. Who knows?...Sgt Peppers: I didn't see the film, 'cause on dollar-days there was always a massive line. I did buy the soundtrack, and for the most part, enjoyed it. Then again, I've always been a Bee Gees freak, having had a massive crush on Barry ever since 1967. Working for them in '73 didn't alleviate it, either. Comparisons with the originals will always pale, but then again, how many "covers" are ever as good as the original?

Loved Animal House: Belushi can say more with his eyes than many actors can with their entire bodies. Matheson's not hard on the eyes, either...Your reviews: good and coherent, and nicely balanced between the subjective and objective. I agree with you on All My Sins Remembered; I love Joe, he's one of the world's nifty people. And I recognize (objectively) that his work isn't Nobel prize-winning. But it's well-crafted, enjoyable, and informative. So I guess he's goof. AMSR is grim, though - for some reason, I wasn't expecting that when I read it....I've already raved to you about Lucifer's Hammer. I am glad you've found others who enjoyed it - I found it one of the best books I've read in a very long time. Though I don't really think it's better than Mote. However, chacun a son gout. I don't want a movie; Hollywood would fuck it up.

I'll be surprised if you don't get a lot of people calling you all sorts of names for liking the Kent Family Chronicles. Curlovich almost laughed his head off as me when he caught me reading The Rebels. But they're exciting, fast-paced, and very interesting. I'm glad to hear they're fairly accurate,



historically, 'cause I'll feel like I've learned some things while having fun, too. I had thought along the same lines you had - take the Kents up to the present, then off into the wild blue yonder. But the limits imposed by ever-widening family members makes it difficult to keep the character list manageable....

JODIE OFFUTT:

...I enjoyed most your reviews. That's because I agree with you for the most part. I'm a sucker for disaster books and love science fiction. (I like Andy's fantasy - biased, I realize - but am not motivated to read any other.) Have read most of the ones you talk about and will look for a couple of the others....

ARTHUR D. HLAVATY:

...At the beginning of her crusade, Anita Bryant maintained that the reason God hates homosexuality is that the Bible forbids swallowing blood, and semen is "the most concentrated form of blood there is". It has been alleged that the first time Anita was informed that women performed this particular abomination, she gulped seemed very shocked indeed. Anyway, I suspect that she has since been educated by someone with a knowledge of the Godless science of biochemistry, and no longer accepts the blood/semen theory. (Pity; it could lead to a breakthrough in transfusions.)....I'm glad to see that you are a fellow ILLUMINATUS! nut. Would you care to be Aalmighty Aardvark in the Nut Cult? Wilson agrees with you that any data can be twisted to fit the Law of Fives or the Law of 23s or any other numbered law. (See Appendix Beth of the trilogy, among other places.)

I am sure there is no truth to the rumor that Mark Adlard is planning to add a fourth book to his trilogy - one which would describe a future society where everyone was drunk all the time and would be called SHITFACE....

KAY JOHNSON:

...Your book review column was enlightening. It's a good thing I read it on the plane instead of a bookstore as I would have wanted to buy all the good ones right then and there...A friend of mine is a sister-in-law to Jack Williamson and has loaned me a stack of his books to read. Bliss! I have four whole weeks to finish the six books. I am really reading a lot more science fiction than I have for years....



King Peter + King Miraz

# The Visual Mediaardvark



LORD OF THE RINGS: The best advice I can give you for this flick is: If you have read and adore the books like I have, go to see the film with a chip on your shoulder, expecting it to be absolutely awful. You will then discover that it isn't half bad.

Really. Honest. I have given this advice to several people and they have all agreed afterwards that I was right. Considering that there was only a finite amount of money available to make the film, and that no one in the U.S. film industry is willing to get backing for a twelve-hour-long cartoon, the film is actually very well done.

Those of us who have read the books several times over and who know each of the characters intimately will just not EVER be able to see a film that meets up to their expectations. \*damn\* Most of the characters are well-drawn, some of the backgrounds are gorgeous, and MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL -- THE MOVIE IS FAITHFUL TO THE BOOKS!!!!!! This is a very, very rare thing. I have seen all toomany books that were very well done get butchered in the transition to the screen, with motivations changed, major characters taken out, endings changed and even reversed, etc. Logan's Run and The Man Who Fell To Earth are two recent examples. And we all know about The Starlost. In fact, if you don't know the story already, it is very difficult to follow the plotline because of the plethora of characters.

My main gripes about the film were the supporting characters that were taken out due to the aforementioned time/\$ limitations (alas, poor Tom Bombadil!) and the very strange priorities that were given to some scenes (Frodo's chase to the river is much too long; the following scene at Rivendell is much too short); and Treebeard is drawn all wrong -- too tree-ish and not enough Entish.

Also please note if you haven't heard already, this is only the first half of the LOTR saga. The rest is yet to come.

/\* \*/ Superman is delicious and a lot of fun to watch! Very, Very Well Done. Chris Reeve as Supe and Gene Hackman as Luthor are brilliant. Special effects are excellent, tho not as impressive as the film's budget implies.

Brando was way overpaid.

As to accuracy, well, the storyline has been re-written yet again. The instant Fortress-of-Solitude crystal is tacky. But -- DC has re-written the Superman legend so many times that one more won't hurt, I guess.

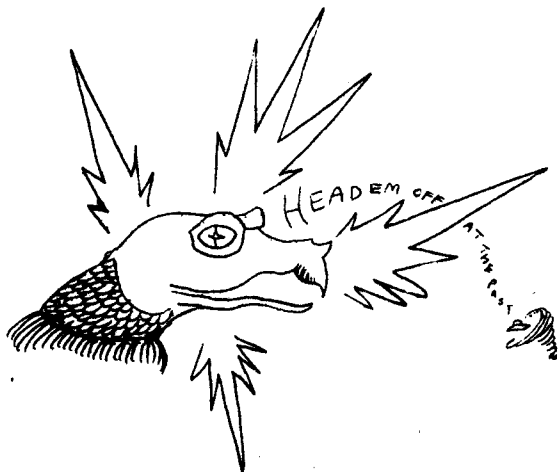
/\* \*/ Battle Star Galaxative, in the eyes of nearly all the fans I have talked to, has failed to live up to its potential for one primary reason: they hired Bonanza's writers. Effects are OK, several of the actors have potential, but the writing is really the pits.

Galaxative has, however, corrected one of Star Trek's most annoying defects: rather than risking the Captain, the First Officer, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Engineering Officer every week as Trek so often seemed to, Galaxative has a group of jolly assholes (translate: cannon fodder) whose job is to go out on those crazy suicide missions and get shot up. Even better, several of the main characters are members of the group of jolly assholes. Despite Galaxative's other flaws (and there are many) this is a major step forward in conceptualizing an SF TV series.

Note: In a recent issue of Westwind, the newsletter of the Northwest Science Fiction Society Newsletter, Bill Warren drew a flowchart-like "plot-computer" that diagrams all of the possible plots for the Galaxative. If you send them money (\$7 gets you a year's membership in NWSFS and the newsletter is free to members, tho they may part with copies of that particular issue for less) they may have copies left: Westwind, c/oNWSFS, PO Box 24207, Seattle WA 98124. Tell 'em the Avenging Aardvark sent you!

/\* \*/ Invasion of the Body Snatchers remake is awful -- good at building suspense, but a shell of the original. A cameo by the star of the original (Kevin McCarthy) is the only real high point of the film. Despite claims that it is closer to the original book (by Jack Finney) than the original film, it strays even farther-- it has the OPPOSITE ending of the book! Avoid it.

/\* \*/ Mork and Mindy is...interesting. Robin Williams is a genius -- warped, but a genius nonetheless. The question is -- how long can he keep it up before either he runs out of steam or the audience loses interest? In the meantime, I enjoy it.



/\* \*/ There's a new flick out called The Warriors, about juvenile gangs in New York, that I intend to see; looks interesting. One point: in the ads, the copy talks about the "armies of the night" of teen gangs that "could run New York City". Oh yeah? Please, turn it over to them -- no one else can and most of them admit it. And give them Cleveland, too.

/\* \*/ You have probably seen the Star Wars gum cards. Well, Greg Steele, one of my partners-in-crime from my days at Battelle, gave me a duplicate of one of his son's cards with a stumper: who is the character in the card? It is card #263 (I don't know which series) and the caption is "the courage of Luke Skywalker". Only one problem --

the actor pictured on the card is NOT Mark Hamill!!  
It is an actor vaguely resembling Hamill in a way, but it is not Hamill. He is wearing a TIE fighter pilot uniform. I have only seen the film once since I acquired the card, but was not able to spot the character.

/\* \*/ As long as we're on the topic of STAR WARS, did you see the Star Wars Holiday Special? I thought it was one of the most well-done specials that I had ever seen!

I was expecting the usual tacky special that they build out of a person or event -- with no continuity and few if any of the guest actors/singers being of any quality. Wrongo!

It had so many nice touches! Although it did not have as much fine attention to detail as the film, there was a hell of a lot more than is usually done

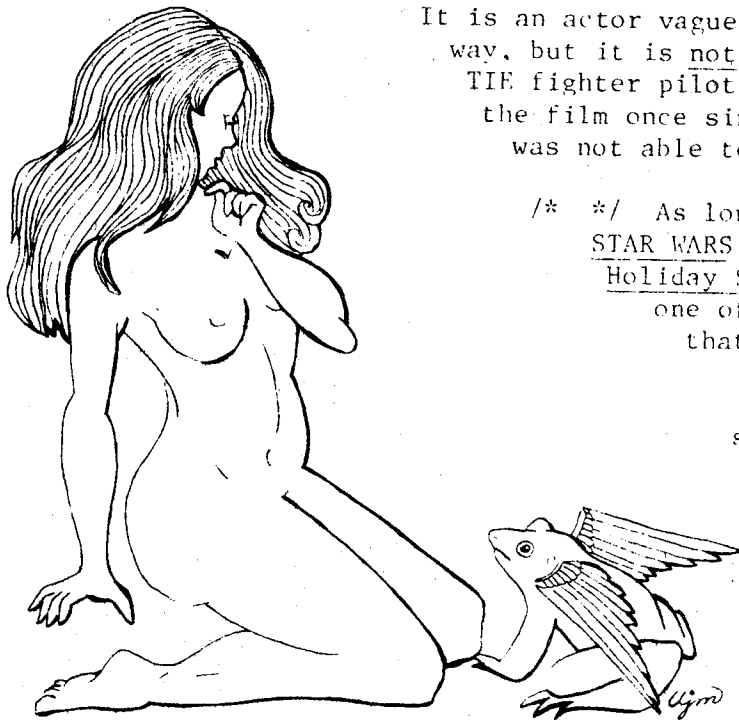
for TV specials. The plot was an actual, continuing thread that tied the show together. It involved Chewbacca's family (Malla his wife, Itchy, his father, and Lumpy, his progeny and who bears a striking resemblance to the Son of Godzilla with fur added). Han and Chewy are delayed in making it to the Wookiee planet to celebrate Life Day [ November 17 ], which involves gift-giving and ceremonies around the Tree of Life involving peace and harmony.

The most impressive acting job was given by Art Carney, playing a rogueish trader who sympathizes with the rebel cause but has to live in the Empire's territory. To some stormtroopers: "We'll have one more round -- this one's on the house - put it on the tab of the Empire". He really enjoyed doing it!

Some priceless scenes: Harvey Korman as Julia Child with 4 arms. Chewy's treetop home. The toy bantha in Lumpy's room. The impressive 10-minute cartoon of a Star Wars adventure (took me completely by surprise! wow!). The lecture on "Life on Tatooine" and its lack of moral value with the cantina scenes. Tears in a Wookiee's eyes.

Some great quotes: "How should I know we'd come out of hyperspace in the middle of an Imperial convoy?" "Itchy has a bad case of underbite" (no that's not a quote from the show, but a comment by me) "Why all the long hairy faces?". The password: "I'm a friend of the rebellion and a member of the Alliance".

There was some corner-cutting on the budget, but not as much as I was expecting. The Life Day climax showed all the Wookiees in ceremonial robes -- my cynical eye tells me that that was to save the cost of 50 Wookiee costumes -- lots easier to make heads, hands and feet than entire costumes.





All in all, an excellent two hours. -- and I'd never heard of the writer! Very pleasantly surprising -- an enhancement to rather than a ripoff from the Star Wars saga.

/\* \*/ An equally amusing hour was spent watching the January 26th episode of Wonder Woman. Normally I have better things to do on Friday nights, but the blurb in the paper about "attendees at a sci-fi convention make retrieval of a stolen laser crystal difficult for Wonder Woman". Okay, let's put our chip on our shoulder and watch.

"Spaced Out" was written by Bill Taylor, whom I have never heard of. From the feel of the show, though, he has to have been to some of "our" cons -- there were too many nice touches for him not to have been. Also, some of the costume ball sequences appear to have been previously-shot footage (from Westercons?).

Space Questicon is being held at the Le Baron Hotel in LA (real hotel?). It is in celebration of Paragon Studios bringing back the Space Quest Series. A professional thief has stolen a laser crystal and hidden it in a package that is shipped to the convention for an exhibit of moon rocks. The plot concerns Wonder Woman's relentless search for the crystal. But enough of the plot -- let's talk about the con!

Sylvester Grogan (Steven Anderson) is one of the concom, a member of the C-6 club, which is dedicated to encouraging the establishment of space colonies. Attendees are referred to as "science fiction conventioners".

The hotel desk clerk tells a disappointed fan: "I'm sorry sir, fire regulations prohibit 10 people from sleeping in a single room". The lobby is uncrowded (wrong!) and the elevators are also uncrowded (very wrong!). The moon rock exhibit consists of the rocks in a case in the center with the entire room having a rocking floor and spinning lights. -- to "simulate space travel" -- the comment later: "you know, a lot of people are looking that way (dizzy and ill) after coming out of my exhibit". Worst of all -- due to budget, the masquerade had only about 30 attendees!!!!!!

The committee generally looked competent. There was a blood drive, panels with actors and authors. Warnings about checking "overly large handbags or suspicious umbrellas". A "pattern sensor alarm detector" guarding the moon rock exhibit at night (and no mention of techies. Aw.).

One very curious phenomenon was "Logies" -- people dressed in costumes from Logan's Run who engage in "runs" which seem to consist of the sandmen chasing the females about at a jogging speed -- and little else -- or did I miss something?

One of the guests was the Black Avenger, the star of a TV series. Dressed in black from head to toe, with a ski mask with redlined eye- and mouth-holes, a cloak, and a yellow symbol on his chest. He is startled by a 9-year old girl in a white costume with a toy ray gun who shoots him with it (typical fanchild). When he arrived at the hotel, the arrival is announced on a walkie-talkie without earpieces, so naturally the entire crowd surrounding the poor committee member takes off for the location the Avenger was reported at [ which is exactly why I insist on earpieces when I use walkie-talkies at a con ]. As is often the case, it was easy for the villain to con the Black Avenger's room number out of the hotel.

One of the running gags involved a fan who kept walking up to celebrities

and asking them long strings of detailed questions about their work, based on an intimate knowledge of it. The favorite show of the celebrity keeps turning out to be variations on "the one where the guy with 3 ears falls into the 5th dimension".

Robby, my very favorite film robot, had a bit part as the masquerade MC. At one point, the villain conks the robot's operator over the head and stashes him backstage. The dazed operator is discovered by the inquisitive fan mentioned in the above paragraph, who promptly starts running around wailing "Robby the Robot's a lush!", thinking the operator to be drunk.

At the masquerade, we have a disco Kong.

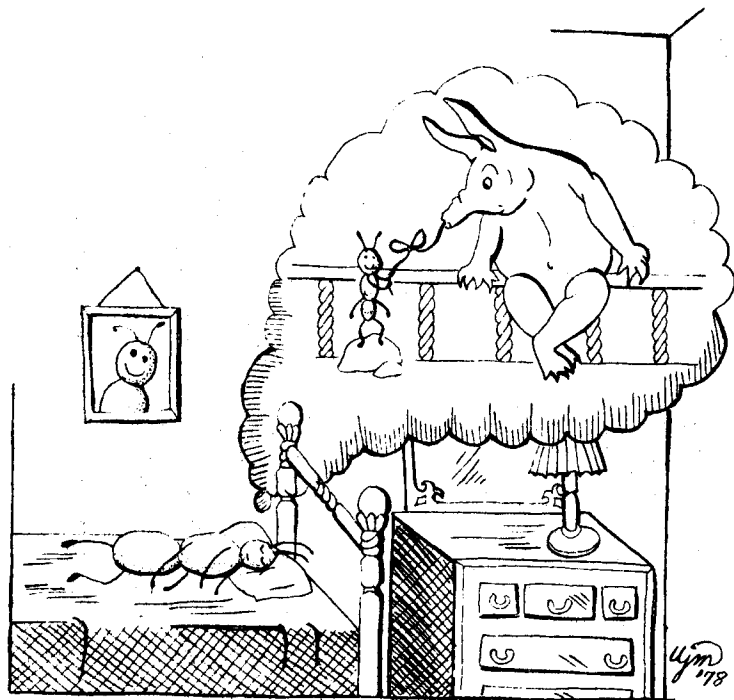
The villain soon realizes that "in order to be inconspicuous, I must appear conspicuous" -- at a con that certainly holds true.

A scepter dotted with the laser crystals is given as a prize at the masquerade. Lothar the Barbarian grabs it, grunting "Mine!".

Throughout the show, fans keep engaging in runs, seemingly for no reason....? Aha! The show doesn't show where the runs end at and how!

At the end, Sylvester says to Linda Carter, "You've probably got the wrong idea about these conventions".

Overall: very amusing, done in a light tongue-in-cheek style. I wish that all mundane representations of our subculture were done with such taste.



/\* \*/ Delta House keeps trying very hard to live up to the rep of its parent, Animal House. This TV spinoff has several of the stars from the movie, and is written by many of the same people. The biggest problem that the show has is that much of Animal House's humor is, shall we say, R-rated, and that is not easily transferable to a "Children's Hour" (8 pm) prime time network show. So it is still feeling its way.

The most recent episode was excellent. Due to faulty equipment, a civil defense drill announcement gets mistaken for the real thing, and the entire town thinks that they have 45 minutes before the A-bombs begin to fall.

Neidemeyer has been in charge of the distribution of Civil Defense funds for shelter construction and supplies, and of course has built a LAVISH shelter for Omega House and the Dean.

The Deltas apprehensively discuss it. One, reading the useful and informative pamphlets Neidemeyer provided, announces that 3 feet of cement wall will stop

95% of all gamma radiation. "How many feet of cement are in Delta House's walls?" "About 2 inches of plywood". At that point, a silence comes over the group as they realize that there is no hope. One announces, "We'll go out in true Delta style -- inebriated!" "Right -- we'd better get supplies." "For what?" Everybody: "END-OF-THE-WORLD PARTY!"

Delta buys lots of supplies, hangs a "Welcome Ruskies" sign out front, paints a large bulls-eye on the Omega house, and start partying, drinking a toast to "the first generation in history that has a chance to be the last!". Hoover sells sunglasses to people for "the once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the nuclear holocaust!".

After the excitement is over, Flounder comes out of the library. He has been doing some reading on Sartre, researching the answer to whether he exists (for a philosophy course). At the beginning of the show, he walks out of class on his way to the library, muttering "I wonder if I exist?". When he walks out of the library and sees the deserted streets, with not a sound or a soul in sight, he pauses, crinkles his forehead and ponders, then shouts joyfully: "I exist! Everyone else doesn't!"

Not bad, not bad at all.

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# To Win A Worldcon

Worldcons. \*sigh\* Sometimes I get very tired of talking about them. But -- due to the circumstances I find myself in, I suppose it is time I sat down and made a first hack at trying to define just what I am and what I am doing here in this role.

The role, in case you weren't aware, is co-chairman of the bidding committee that hopes to win the honor of holding the 1982 World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago.

How did I get into this position? Blame Brian Burley -- he started Columbus fandom.

Actually, my fannish career as such predates my involvement with Columbus. I began in fandom in 1965 as a member of the Cleveland SF group. As it so happens, Cleveland had just won the Worldcon for 1966. The opportunity provided has given me memories and experiences that are very valuable.

Due to the high turnover of fandom, very few fans were around back in the "Good Old Days" when Worldcons were small. Tricon in 1966 had 850 attendees and at the time was the second largest Worldcon that had ever been held. In 1966 there were about a dozen science fiction cons a year in the entire country -- very few comic cons and Star Trek had just premiered at Tricon (hence no Trekcons for quite a while yet). Now there are two or three hundred cons a year in the country if you count Trekcons and comic cons and the one-day cons. Worldcon attendance has soared -- numbers are unclear from Phoenix (the official report has not yet appeared) -- but there were more than 5000 attendees in Phoenix last August (to get the exact number, one must fudge somehow for the one-day memberships and delete the no-shows; however from what I can gather, about 5000 bodies were there for the duration).

The grizzled, battle-hardened veterans of large-scale conventions are almost universal in agreement that conventions of 5000 need to be run quite differently from regionals of 300 or even 850. The only problem is that the Worldcon is still, by and large, being organized and run by fans whose thought patterns keep telling them they are really just running a somewhat larger-than-usual regional. NO NO NO NO NO!!!!!!

Fandom is growing. SF is becoming increasingly popular and is coming "out of the ghetto". The further out of the ghetto it gets, the larger we'll grow. And the larger the Worldcon will grow. If the Worldcon is to continue to exist, it must adapt -- the people who run the Worldcon each year must be people who are aware of the differences between a regional and a Worldcon and should be people who have apprenticed under others at Worldcons.

Now at this point, I expect my more emotional readers to jump up and





down and start screaming that (1) Pavlac advocates having 20,000 and 30,000 people at a Worldcon just to satisfy his ego; (2) Pavlac advocates using Gestapo-tactics to bully and hassle fans "into line" at cons.

Limiting the size of the Worldcon is one of the more interesting debating topics in fandom. Kansas City tried it in several ways -- some were good and some were tacky -- the end result was that a lot of fans got ticked off at KC. I have talked and thought a lot about this, and have come to the conclusion that there is no fair way of limiting the Worldcon. The Worldcon belongs to fandom -- it is not just one fan's private fief. If it was a regional belonging to one group, they can do whatever they feel like to limit size to what they feel are manageable numbers (e.g., Midwestcon's practice of locating in hotels that are of a limited size). But the Worldcon belongs to everybody in fandom. Anyone who calls him/herself a science fiction fan has the right to be allowed to attend the Worldcon. And, for better or worse, to meet the needs of fandom whence it came, the Worldcon must adapt to these size changes.

As to Gestapo-tactics -- yuck, ptooeey! When crowd control is needed, I have always advocated laid-back, low-key methods. One of the biggest misinterpretations that has been made of my development of Worldcon Services is that I want it to be blatant -- no! I want it to be invisible! (more on this next issue) Marcon today is a strong reflection of my views on con-running -- no one has ever made the claim that Marcon uses Gestapo tactics.

Anyway. I started as a convention worker by being a gopher at Tricon. I did not play a major role in the con itself because I was a neo and at the time was dazzled by all the neat things that fandom was.

My involvement with fandom after Tricon was limited to the local Cleveland group and some fanzines for the rest of the sixties and into the early seventies. The main reason for this was money -- I put myself thru college and just didn't have the money or the vacation time to hit cons.

During college, I managed to break free one spring and attend a Marcon. I enjoyed it, though I had no idea that in a couple of years I would be living in Columbus.

Upon graduation from Ohio University (Athens) with a degree in Computer Science, I was hired by Battelle Memorial Institute and moved to Columbus. I knew my life was going to change, but I had no idea by just how much.

Naturally, I made contact with the Columbus SF groups -- at the time there was COSFS (Central Ohio Science Fiction Society) and the Terran League (the Ohio State University club). In addition to meeting regularly, the members of COSFS ran Marcon. Not only that, they were bidding for the 1976 Worldcon.

Five years ago this month, in February 1974, I met Larry Smith and Bob Hillis. Knowing them has changed my life, my views, and my goals. Thanks to them, I have met individuals who have become very good friends and who have shared some warm and wonderful experiences. Thanks to them, I am ready for what is considered to be the most foolhardy task for any fan to undertake: I am now ready to run a Worldcon. To do it well, and to do it so that fandom can be proud of it rather than sneering at it.

\*\*\*\*\* TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE \*\*\*\*\*

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