



THE SYLMARILLION

APRIL 21, 1974

THE SYLMARILLION NO. 2

THE SYLMARILLION, to clue those of you who have forgotten, is the irregular fannish newszine published by the one true Mike Glycer of 14974 Osceola St., Sylmar CA 91342. The price is 5/\$1, a quarter for singles. All the news that gives fits we print. If you want to hear about a real fit, how about a certain newszine editor who was all set to go to press four weeks ago and hadn't a scrap of news? Oh yeah. Feel free to pass the word this way whenever the spirt behooves -- the more news I have, the greater obligation I feel to publish, and the more issues of THE SYLMARILLION will come your way.....May 8, 1974.....

NEBULAS, WESTERCON, TAFF, BOSKONE, GLICKSOHN, COAS, EQUICON, SIMPSON, AND FILLER!!

WESTON WINS TAFF

England's Peter Weston copped first place in the TAFF balloting, announced April 22 by Len and June Moffatt, last year's TAFF winners and this year's American agents. The vote breakdown was as follows:

ROBERTS: (UK) 19,	(Eur.) 4,	(US & Can) 42
WESTON: 60,	32,	62.

In sum, it was Weston 154-65. There was one first-place vote for Hold Over Funds (that member in good standing of APA H and perennial TAFF candidate), plus two first-place write-in votes for Ethel Lindsay. The Moffatta also received seven unvoted donations.

The Moffatts, reporting on the progress of their TAFF Trip Report, announced "We ran out of money for the photo pages, but having received our income tax refund, we are now starting to order them -- the printing thereof... All of the text of the trip report is on stencil, and more than half of it has been Gestetnered. The first half of the text has also been subcollated.

"Remaining to be stenciled and printed are the "quote card" cartoons by Terry Jeeves (with captions by some of our local wits, such as Grennell, Burbee, EdCo, Dave Locke) a brief history of TAFF, and an updated

DICK CANCELS

Philip K. Dick has had to withdraw from the Professional Guest of Honor spot at this July's Westercon (Santa Barbrar). In the words of his wife Tessa, "Regret to inform you that my husband will be unable to attend Westercon this year. He has been hospitalized for extreme uncontrollable hypertension, and must cancel all such engagements. It is a matter of life and death -- his own life. Very sorry."

listing of past TAFF candidates and winners. We don't know what price The Moffatt House Abroad will be -- we want to get back our costs and make a profit for TAFF, of course. But we do hope to have it ready for flogging at the Westercon....

"We want to send an Amerifan to Britain (& hopefully the Continent) in the Spring of 1976. There will probably be an announcement regarding the opening date for nominations at the Discon (World Science Fiction Convention) in Washington D.C. this September if not sooner. So now IS the time to start thinking for candidates for the next TAFF campaign!"

There was a drawing from the American Taff ballots for the winners' choice either of a copy of UNKNOWN WORLDS or a drawing by Eddie Jones. The first place winner was Mike Blake, and the second place winner was Tom Collins.

COA: Susan Wood Glicksohn (as of May 20th)
2920 Victoria Ave., Apt. 12
Regina, Sask. S4T 1K7 CANADA

PERSONAE

WALT LIEBSCHER, who recently suffered a stroke, was reported in "very good condition" by his floor nurse at the UCLA Medical Center when last we called. Whether the description "very good" is relative to a person who has had a stroke, or just plain "very good" leaves your interpretation as good as mine.

MIKE GLICKSOHN, The Boy Wonder lately seen modeling with a Kirk dragon in the pages of SWANK magazine (the April issue, which included Harvey Bilker's article on conventions with photo coverage of Torcon), reports that he will be visiting England for about six ~~four~~ weeks this summer, departing on July 4. ((It's that wishful thinking which causes typos. Only kidding, Mike -- keep those reviews coming.))

DON SIMPSON has been contracted to produce two items of sculpture for the 'alien wing' of the Smithsonian Institution. --He was recommended for the assignment by artist Bonnie Dalzell, already at work on 27 paintings of her own for the exhibit.

MIKE GLYER has accepted a Graduate Assistantship in the Department of Popular Culture at Bowling Green State University of Ohio -- if they ever get around to sending him the contract, Glycer, who escapes from the University of Southern California with a BA in History on June 6, says he will go on to obtain his MA in Popular Culture. His ultimate ambition is to become Director of Public Relations for AIGOL....

GEORGE SENDA's clothes & effects, obtained from the International Hotel in 1972 (after they had impounded them on default of the bill) upon the concom's paying of his room tab -- were auctioned off by the insidious LASFS on May 2.

NEBULA

At the Nebula Awards Banquet in the Century Plaza Hotel of Los Angeles, the following writers copped first place in their respective categories:

Novel: Rendezvous With Rama
Arthur C. Clarke

Novella: "The Death of Doctor Island"
Gene Wolfe

Novellette: "Of Mist, and Grass and Sand"
Vonda McIntyre

Short Story: "Love is the Plan, the Plan is Death"
James Tiptree.

EQUICON

The Star Trek Convention held over Easter weekend at the Marriott Hotel in Inglewood (up the street from the LACon hotel) drew an estimated 5000+ registration. The exact report of co-con-chairpeople Craig Miller, John and Bjo Trimble could not be comprehended by this reporter as it was delivered in Portuguese between spates of scanning airline brochures.

I spent most of my time at the con in the dark of its Star Trek film room projecting episodes in order to obtain a free membership. Except for learning the rites of running a 16mm projector, and finding that ST is even more enjoyable on the big screen, I could have accomplished nearly as much checking out channel 8. But such is greed. Aside from a continuous slate of ST episodes and stfnal films, convention exhibits included a laser demonstration area, a mockup of the Enterprise bridge operated by UCLA students for the benefit of Unicamp, their summer program for underprivileged children, plus an exhibit on all the recent US & UK tv stf series. Main programming included a three-day panel on Star Trek and academia. Its first day saw the show historian (Joan Pierce), two college students, a USC professor and a Los Angeles librarian dealing with the ideas and success of the series. The second day, which I missed, sounded like it would be a lesson on "how to put something over on the prof" by using Star Trek in the

pursuit of advanced degrees. If it really does involve 'putting something over' on the professor, which I doubt. One USC student is doing a Master's thesis on the subject of "Religion in Star Trek" -- and I myself wouldn't be above trying something obtuse like "Foreign Policy In Star Trek". Just as long as we don't get carried away with notions like "Laundromats in Star Trek", "Home Economics in Star Trek" etc. The convention was also lowlighted by the first 'Ranqfast' where putrifans got up for an 8 am Ranquet of scrambled eggs and sauted chicken livers. The Golden Egguicon Award was presented to the hotel, and various other prizes were handed out to the attendees.

BOSKONE

((Report from letter by Paula Lieberman)): I don't know if you've gotten a Boskone report yet for your other fanzine. I considered it,..but being on the committee...I saw very little of the programming. However, just for some piece of randomness I'll make a futile attempt at listing what happened.

Over 700 people attended; over 350 appeared at the door in addition to the rest of the 700+. There were more people than anticipated (last year's had only 400 attendees). The victim of the number of people was the costume party -- the Commonwealth Room was too small to hold everyone comfortably, even though it was the main program room and the largest rented by Boskone XI. (It was the artshow room for Noreascon). The costumes weren't of Worldcon (or from what I've read, Westercon) spectacularity, but they were interesting. Krissy won the gaudy prize ribbon as "Winged Warrior" in her natural blue (and clothing too) with wings. Fred Isaacs was skipping merrily about, waving his silver star-tipped wand in the role of the 200 pound "Bastard Son of the Tooth Fairy." The sight of Freddy in tights and tunic with wings and a shield on his tunic (molar on bar sinister)

Margaret Minsky went flopping about in a modified frogman outfit. Ella Franklin added a third breast; she and Krissy later freaked out a WBCN disc jockey -- no mean feat, as WBCN is the weirdest station in Boston.

Selina Lovett set up a bunch of seminars, as opposed to the main program, and did her usual excellent job. There was the science fiction drink seminar at midnight Friday/Saturday. Gordy Dickson, Ben Bova, and Jack Gaughan were stars in drinking roles; mixers included Asenath Hammond, Fred Isaacs, Ray Solmonoff, Russell Seitz. The drinks frothed, bubbled and fogged (he, that solid CO2 you're putting in!) and various things (including the people after a few drinks) glowed in the black light.

Pat and Peggy Kennedy led a costume seminar, which I missed. The Saturday/Sunday midnight seminar was "How to Bid for a Worldcon" starring the masterminds and co-chairman of the Highmore in '76 bid, respectively, Stewart Bronstein and Tony Lewis, and Richard Harter. What ensued was in the tradition of the bid -- sheep jokes, and from George Flynn a 3 minute speech in Frisian.

Following that there was a meeting of the NESFA Vice Squad/discussion group 104. The vice president, however, was only momentarily in attendance.

The "Will the Real Isaac Asimov Please Stand Up" seminar was packed, following the Good Doctor's Goli speech...

I also missed the Minsky-Asimov Robotics discussion. I heard that people complained about its being cut short, however, I think that had it been allowed 24 hours it still would have to have been cut short.

The art show, in my opinion, had lots of fine work, much better than what was at

TORCON. There was a whole panel of Barr paintings -- some from How Fallen Are the Mighty, a gorgeous male nude...Odalisque II, which had been commissioned by the Kennedys, was on exhibit and took "Best of Show." ...Paintings which stick out in my mind "Hobbitts for Dinner," a set of four posters, each with a black and white still for "The Planet of the Goats" series. There also was the "Pigeon Toad" which Fred Isaacs bought, with an explanation of what it was. I didn't notice any cookie sculptures.

I missed all the movies at the con, including 2001 which Mol Morob had brought along. Sunday afternoon the convention was over. The committee began answering the phone "Boskone 12 information." The end of con committee delirium had set in, it was obviously time for the committee party. We were drunk without a sip of alcohol to start...I walked back over the Harvard ((sp?)) Bridge at 3 am and returned to school. Boskone was over for another year.

AGAINST THE WIND

.....BY IRVIN KOCH

When Mike agreed to this title as one of this series of short bits, I knew I was in trouble. It would take 40pp to even take a good crack at this one. But there are a few things about running a genzine that many people don't realize. Most fanzines never even get started, and those that do don't run past the first issue, but after that this will come in handy.

Keep a filing system and some gummed labels. If you don't keep the name and address and what issue they received plus at least what cash anyone paid, you've got a problem. Many people who start a file card system also put whatever response they got from each person -- but this tends to crowd the card.

Once the zine is sent out -- in person or mailed -- unless you get something back from them I advise forgetting them. Some people insist on sending two or three issues to everyone they want a response from. This is simple -- just see if any card has less than your cutoff number of fanzines on it. But I think you'll find that the percentage of people who respond to a second issue after not responding to the first is either small or just a perfunctory two line note.

When a person does respond in some manner you wish (trade, contrib, etc.) THEN make out a gummed label with what issue numbers they are to get. The next alternative to keeping positive track of who has the next issues coming -- after you've got a few hundred file cards, you're not going to want to go through them every time -- is to print their name and address in the issues they are to get. Then check them off when the zine is printed.

And yes -- you'd better keep file cards on non-responders for three years. Otherwise you may find yourself sending zines to the same BNF or letterhack or frequently called-to-your attention time after time and they never answer. Or you may find new addresses on these people in other zines and conclude they never responded because they never received your zine (or it is taking forever to catch up with them). I say three years because people I thought I'd never need a card for and recycled their card after 20 mos., came back from the Army, popped out of gafiation, or something. Three years, though, is enough. OR experiment and find your own cutoff point -- but save the "dead file" if you think you may have to find out whether you sent somebody #9 when issue 28 is current.

((Glyer here. My own genzine administration is a continuous experiment in minimal bookkeeping. Once every six months or so (usually longer since that involves so few issues of PRE) I retype my mailing list and delete everybody I haven't heard from. And to decide who gets it, I look in the lettercol, and on my fmz shelf. After all...))

++ KANSAS CITY: THE PRIME CHOICE IN 1976! Contact your recruiter today.....++

JACKIE FRANKE

"Yes, as you noted all faneds weren't as cooperative as you were about keeping the Tucker Fund quiet until the ongoing Fan Funds were completed *sigh*. Gene Wolfe had written to Miller and Quane and my follow-up letter requesting a hold on the news apparently didn't bear as much weight as his did. Anyway, it's out now so we may as well make the best of it.

"...We've hit our first \$100 in contributions and have a sizeable auction list (thanks to Wolfe, Glicksohn and especially Brazier for that!) Jon & Joni Stopa have donated a complete set of Advent Publishers books, but as we have yet to work up a listing, it wasn't included in number one. Bidding kicked into high gear at Minicon so the auction is off to a good start. A collection box was set out at the after-dinner speeches and \$10.50 was chipped in. \$7.07 was garnered through two "slave" auctions (Fred Haskell to Joni Stopa and Rusty Hevelin to Millie Woods) and a certain incriminating nightie discovered in Tucker's room at the Chambanac on to Jim Hansen. \$16 was forwarded by Ken Moore from a pass-the-hat collection taken at the Nashville SF Club's meeting. All tolled \$33.57 was taken in at the con. Great!

"Some news items come out at the con. TRUMPET will return; #11 is at the printers. (Troub're is I don't know if Ken Keller or Gary Labowitz is the new co-editor. I'm not a 'reporter', for good reason as you can see.)

"Undoubtedly you know of Walt Liebacher's stroke. A letter was received telling someone at the con about the sad news, and Tucker rushed out to get a Get Well card that was signed by a mob of con attendees and he and Martha Beck later made a phone call to him and were much relieved to hear his voice.

"Chicago Fandom seems headed for a revival. Inspired by what most fen consider to be an untenable prospective conbid...talk progressed from "What a nutty idea!" to 'Well it is about time for another Chicon' to 'Who should be GoH?' It seemed rather firm by late Sat./early Sun. that there will be a regional WINDYCON, possibly the last weekend of October, with Mark & Lynn Arxonsen as Chaircouple. (I don't know how firm it is all set, but they are intending to ask Lou Tabakow to come as Fan GoH, Joe Haldeman as Pro GoH, and Tucker as MC. Rusty Hevelin is helping with the Muckster Room arrangements.)

"I've never seen a concept metamorphosize from utter disdain to total commitment so quickly. Now all I wonder is -- is it for real? (Mark Aronson has an appointment for lunch with a representative of the Chicago Convention Bureau later this week. It smacks strongly of legitimacy--) This Windycon would then be used as a break-in for a possible Chicon IV bid for 1979. It just might come off!!

"Ken Keller presented a strong showing at Minicon for the KC in '76 bid. Seemed to draw quite a favorable response with only a handful of doubters and nay-sayers. The KC contingent hosted a Wine Party Sat. night and showed slides from their Mid-America Con to display their past work.

"Regarding Windycon I. Mark and Lynne Aronson, 5803 W. Ridge, Chicago IL 60660 should be contacted for more information."

COVER EXPLANATION: The cover was dated in a fit of optimism. The illustration is by George Barr, circa 1963. The true date for this newszine is May 8, 1974.

Other snappy data. Milt Stevens is going to become co-editor of PREHENSILE. Milt, who never yet had a good word to say for the production end of fanzining, will join resources with PRE's soon-to-be-impooverished-grad-student, yours truly.

DAVID STEVER is running unopposed for the editorship of NESFA, and will undoubtedly take control of NESFA's PROPER BOSKONIAN in the near future. Of the zine he says "The Boston area and NESFA have never known much by the way of fanzines coming out of the area, with maybe PB under Cory Siedman and Dick Harter being the closest to quality. I just hope that it can come back up now and spark something off in the newer members NESFA has picked up since Noreascon."

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First class mail: mailed