



**THE WORLDCON ORDER OF FANEDS**

# WOOF #49

*Worldcon Order Of Faneditors apa, Glasgow 2024*

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# Worldcon Weetabix

## A Weekend Weetabix special for WOOF

New readers start here: someone once sent me a Weetabix in the post. No, he did, actually and literally. It went about as well as you might imagine.

Back in the long days of lockdown in 2020 I happened to mention this on a fannish Zoom. Perhaps more than once. In the course of events, quite a few more Weetabix got sent through the post, in various quantities and in different containers to take advantage of optimum postage rates; rest assured that almost all of them were still edible – and, so far as I’m aware, put to good use – on arrival. Insofar as Weetabix can be said to mushroom, things might have got a little out of hand. But at least I got a fanzine out of it. Five issues\*, in fact, of a ridiculous fanzine that cheered me up rather a lot; it turned out to be a project that would not die.

WOOF – the Worldcon Order of Faneditors – thus has at least something in common with Weetabix. And when I realised that WOOF was coming to Glasgow, it seemed churlish not to try to contribute to it. Fortunately I was about to go to a small fun convention with a space leopard theme† to which, for reasons wholly associated with Glasgow 2024, I happened to have cause to take a small armadillo.



*Breakfast essentials*

I should perhaps explain that the convention had two teams to which they allocated attending members who, if they chose, could compete in small tasks to earn points for their team. Given the whole Glasgow Worldcon connection‡, I was happy to be an Armadillo rather than a Leopard (I still think it would have been even more fun to be a Leopardillo, though).

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\* Now six. Issue 4 already featured a ‘Worldcon Weetabix’ supplement, referring on that occasion to CoNZealand.

† We were assured that space leopards would probably not eat our faces. Nothing was said about our Weetabix.

‡ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SEC\\_Armadillo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SEC_Armadillo)



The armadillo was at a convention, so sampled quite a few drinks over the weekend; did I mention that one of the ways to get points was to submit photos?

Of course there was coffee... and beer.



But also blue beer (making things a bit blurry)...



...with hidden detail of a Worldcon chair:

*(Esther pictured right, behind phone, wine, blue beer and armadillo butt.*

*She was our team leader, of course. This did unfortunately mean that space leopards tried to eat her face – which is a new one for the Worldcon risk register, probably.)*



To my considerable surprise, the Armadillos won. Perhaps this was because, notwithstanding leopard home advantage and all the drink, armadillos are powered by Weetabix.



Although issue 5 was absolutely definitely going to be the last *Weekend Weetabix*, I still received letters. And what else am I going to do with them?

**Rob Jackson** (5 November 2023):

Wonderful! But you really shouldn't be sending me breakfast cereals through the post when I am trying not to regain successfully lost weight.

Coral has been reading bits to me out of the *Daily Mail* about high-fructose foods and the way they are laid down in the body as fat.

I suppose I will have to look up Weetabix's sugar content. And then I will have to refrain from my youthful habit of heaping as much sugar on each one as will stay on without starting to cascade down the side into the milk.

I said 'one' just then as I am not sure what the singular of bix is. Should it be bick? Bik? Either of those are snappier than 'biscuit'. Snappy, that is, for just as long as the milk hasn't started to soak all the way in.

That's enough surrealism for now. I wouldn't want you to risk another locs-on-the-locs issue.

We can blame WOOF instead; I'm sure blaming someone is what the *Daily Mail* would want.

And I can report that, in their natural state, Weetabix contain about 4.2g of sugar per 100g (a recommended serving of two Weetabix averages 37.5g); that might still be more sugar than you'd want but by the standards of breakfast cereal – a low bar, I know – they can claim to be not too unhealthy. Weet-Bix, however, with their serving size of 30g (weedier biscuits) also win on sugars, with only 2.8g per 100g. Your real challenge now, Rob, might just be the heap of extra sugar!

**Paul Skelton** (11 November 2023):

What a delightful surprise!

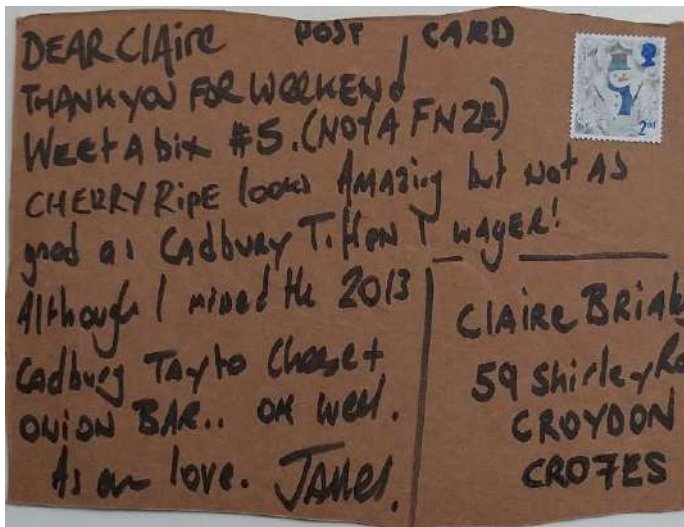
'Is that it?' you ask.

Well, yes, because whilst I instantly responded with a fairly complex LOC it dawned on me it was just you saying hello and me responding, and I thought the whole thing was better as an issue of my own fanzine, *ANoR*. Watch this space. Do you realise this will make you my Muse?

I would love to be, of course, but I seem to be Failure rather than Thalia (thank you, as so often, Antonia Forest) since sadly a new issue of *All New or Reprint* has not since reached me.

And then, perhaps inevitably, **James Bacon** sent a postcard.

But in a way that could open up a whole new chapter... because here also is the front of the 'postcard':



Yes, someone once sent me (the packaging for) some Oatibix through the post... Well, what do you think should happen next?

Thanks also to: **Christina Lake** for administering WOOF this year and for responding to issue 5 with thanks and an astute query about whether that was really the last one; **Helena McCallum** for sending details of her brown cheese dealer (I haven't tried it with Weetabix but I think it would work); **Alison Scott** for printing, and by the way I'm still eating the Weet-Bix from last time; and **Geri Sullivan** for remembering her experience of sending a chocolate fish sucker<sup>5</sup> in the post to Lee Hoffman in Florida, in warm weather ('What she got was a stick and a bag of goo.' Obviously it would have been better to have a Weetabix in the package to soak that up).

No armadillos were harmed in the making of this publication, although I'm a little worried about the voles. Weetabix were eaten. HONK!

This is not a fanzine; it's a WOOFzine. But I'm going to send it to everyone who got the original fanzine as well, because we should suffer in solidarity. Anyone wanting to see earlier issues should email me for copies and perhaps moral support – but probably not random Weetabix. Probably.

### **The End.**

Really, it must be this time, right?

**Weekend Weetabix 6** comes to you from Claire Brialey, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon CR0 7ES, UK (claire dot fishlifter at gmail dot com) and in some cases via WOOF.

In Worldcon Times (August 2024)

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<sup>5</sup> Translating into British English: a fish-shaped chocolate lollipop. I think.

## Honcke

#1 is a fanzine from Mark Plummer for the 2024 collation of WOOF. How optimistic is that #1? Well,

let's commit to an issue appearing *at minimum* every time a Worldcon chooses to number me among its fan guests of honour and we'll take it from there. The date is 1 August 2024, my email address is mark.fishlifter@gmail.com. Atom illos by the mighty Atom.

-o000o-

You have to have a plan. So I was told by various people whenever I revealed my intention to retire around the end of 2023 or the early part of 2024. I still feel mildly guilty talking about it because it's a bit of a luxury to be able to retire at 60 these days and I know many of my contemporaries simply don't have the option. But now I reap the benefit of 41 not-especially-interesting years in the UK civil service, for most of that time doing essentially the same job and relying for variety on the organisation changing, evolving and moving around me. The British convention Novacon was for eleven years between 2009 and 2019 held in the same hotel in Nottingham. There was a small clump of chairs by the point where convention attendees passed from their hotel rooms or the programme room to the bar and restaurant or vice versa. Occupy one of those chairs and the rest of the convention would eventually pass by you and so you could watch to see, say, what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouched towards the programme hall for the Saturday morning science talk. My career has been a bit like that. Novacon however has not been quite so static. After the 2020, er, interruption, it relocated to the Palace Hotel in Buxton and I don't think there's any one spot that fulfils the same function as those chairs in the Nottingham place. Although, fun fact, until recently *Fancylopedia 3* gave the impression that there had been a further relocation this year and the venue for the 2024 Novacon would be 'Allen Stroud', a striking innovation from the more usual practice of using a hotel.

Of course, what happened was that a Fancylopedian updated the Novacon entry to add the 2024 iteration and put Allen's name in the wrong column, thus promoting him from mere guest of honour to being the entire venue for Novacon 53. As well as being mildly amusing, this

provides me with a link of sorts, returning me to my original need for a retirement plan. Because as part of that plan, such as it is, I have joined the ranks of the Fancylopedians myself and become part of the small group that works tirelessly to enhance and maintain *Fancylopedia 3's* documentation of our community's history in the possibly flawed belief that somebody is remotely interested.

To backtrack, the original *Fancylopedia* was published by Jack Speer in 1944 and was mostly given over to definitions of fan terminology. Within its nearly 100 pages you can learn that 'Arlawi' was a nickname of Art Widner, invented in the mistaken belief that it was Esperanto – quite a few of the entries are given over to nicknames or similar – while NYFS is 'The New York Fantasy Society'. After all that excitement we come to *Fancylopedia 2*, written by Dick Eney and published in 1959. Swollen to 224 pages, it added much exciting new terminology. 'Biscuit factory', for instance, justifies its entry because in their early days the Manchester group were keen on tours of said factory, 'something much satirized by the British funloving element' (I bet it was). Finally, we come to *Fancylopedia 3*, a long discussed third incarnation, online and thus free of the tyranny of a page count. A kind of fan version of Wikipedia, it was seeded with the articles from the two earlier incarnations and other sources and has now grown to include over 70,000 active pages about fans, fanzines, conventions, clubs, language and terminology. Maybe there's a page about you.

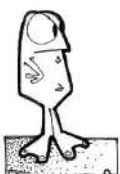
I'd been an intermittent user of *Fancylopedia 3* for years. Sometimes it was helpful, but often it wasn't – because it didn't go far enough, or because it was simply wrong albeit often in an entertaining manner. I first learned of my own marriage within its pages, and as proof that it still has the ability to surprise me I have just this minute discovered that but for John Bray's intervention in 2019 it would have said in a footer for my page that I died in 1985. Before this year I had largely confined myself to making the occasional fannish sarcosmic remark elsewhere about its efficacy while ducking the obvious conclusion, that the internet is often wrong but this was one part of it where I could simply make corrections myself.





And so *Fancyclopedia 3* has become my retirement plan, at least for the time being. On 28 December 2023 I essayed my first tentative amendment, adding a reference to Bob Kanefsky being billed as a 'filk guest' in some of the progress reports for Intersection, the 1995 Worldcon. And with the new year I added several thousand words to the entry on Glasgow fan veteran Fred Smith, followed on 2 January by my first new page, another Glaswegian fan, Alan Mackie, who printed the first issue of *Haemogoblin* for the New Lands SF Club and then 'swore off printing after the eight weeks of solid labour it cost him.' Since then I have added or amended thousands of pages, 244 new pages added in June alone. I try to make at least one contribution every day so long as I'm at home part of the time.

After a slightly ad hoc initial approach I have decided to focus on UK fandom in the period prior to the first of what became the series of Eastercons, the Whitcon of 1948. Part of that comes from my generally linear approach to things which dictates starting at the beginning and working forward. It also has the advantage that fandom was much smaller in those days and there aren't too many sources of information to check. There were few fans and fewer fanzines, and only eight conventions, with attendance never getting above 50 and in one case only managing six. If we were able to put all the known attendees of those eight conventions in one room there would still be fewer than 100 people, and at a guess there were probably no more than 400 or so people in this country known to be active in some way in the seventeen-and-a-half years between the first UK fan meeting on 27 October 1930 and the Whitcon. It would surely not be implausible to create a page for each of them, for all that the information would sometimes be a little thin. We know that G W Axworthy came from Portsmouth, was a member of the Science Fiction Association, and attended the third British convention in London in 1939 where, decoding a cryptic reference from Sam Youd in *The Satellite* v2 #6, he was possibly unimpressed by the catering and 'had to be driven out with ray-



guns'. So far I've found nothing more, not even a first name. For his fellow third British convention attendee Mr Rookes of Axminster I haven't even found an initial.

I was going to say that updating *Fancyclopedia 3* is a bit like painting the Forth Bridge but that's not really true. For a start, painting the Forth Bridge isn't like painting the Forth Bridge any more in that it's no longer a continuous process, thanks to improved paint technology. Thus another analogy is clobbered by progress. Reportedly people under forty don't know what's meant by 'Taking coals to Newcastle' and I imagine it won't be long before the same demographic starts to think that if a task is like 'painting the Forth Bridge' that means it's a big job that needs doing every twenty-five years or so. But updating *Fancyclopedia 3* isn't really like painting the Forth Bridge in the original sense because it's not that it needs renewing, but its subject is constantly growing, and that's even before we get to everything-before-today that has been minimally documented and sometimes not at all. It's like painting a Forth Bridge that wasn't fully painted in the first place, and where they haven't finished building it and keep finding bits they built years ago but have forgotten about.

I must acknowledge Britain's greatest living fanhistorian, Rob Hansen, who's done a lot of the groundwork here, both through his book *Then* and especially the supplementary pages on his website. I would like to think I'm taking it further still, so Rob's page for the third British convention will give the names of the 26 identified attendees – those people whose presence is backed up by some contemporary documentation – and now *Fancyclopedia 3* will tell you who those people were, at least within the limits of what I and any others have been able to discover. And not just the well-known fans and pros such as Ted Carnell, Arthur C Clarke and Wally Gillings but people such as Eddie Ducker, a Liverpool fan whose involvement with fandom was seemingly glancing in 1938 and 1939. In some respects it's a world much divorced from our current fannish community, and yet these are creatures of the dawn, making it up as they go along, and shaping the fandom in which we live today.

An early learning point was that I thought I knew this stuff but it turns out I really don't. I'd read Rob's book and its earlier incarnations, and much of the content of his fiawol.org website although I keep finding new bits of that, usually when I email Rob with a question and he replies, I sense sometimes wearily, with a link to the specific



page where he discussed the matter at length. I've certainly emerged with a clearer idea of the pivotal role of the British Fantasy Library of the late 1940s, a sense that D R Smith can actually be quite entertaining on administrative trivia, the several groundbreaking aspects of the 1943 Midvention, and the remarkable and disproportionate role of Teddington in mid-1940s British fandom. I will resist the temptation to expound on any of these topics further, but you know what to do if you'd like to know more.

I mentioned the possibly flawed belief that somebody is remotely interested in such minutiae and I realise that this does invite the question, if there isn't a significant audience – and I assume there isn't – then why am I doing it? For whose benefit? Truthfully it's mainly for me, because I quite like digging around in the old publications that exist and trying to convert scattered snippets of information into a series of coherent narrative, assembling a jigsaw puzzle of sorts working from a description of the overall picture but without the picture itself with all its detail. And having done it I'm putting it on *Fancylopedia 3* in case anybody else is interested.

There was at one point a programme item slated for this Worldcon which would look at fannish archives and data repositories of this kind. Rather unfortunately, its draft narrative suggested that sites such as *Fancylopedia 3* and fanac.org weren't being updated when both very much are. I believe that was corrected but then the item was dropped, making it all academic. But the question the panel would have sought to address was how do you *keep* people interested in maintaining these sites and repositories when it's a never-ending task. And while there is currently plenty of activity on *Fancylopedia 3* and fanac.org, it's undoubtedly true that some other similar if less extensive sites have fallen by the wayside, still sitting there unmaintained and un-updated with the potential to confuse the unwary.

There's something I remember reading in Emmett Grogan's book *Ringolevio*. I say 'remember' but it was likely 40-odd years ago so really who knows? I'm not about to re-read it to check and will instead rely on the fact that it feels kinda right. Grogan was one of the 'Diggers', a community action



group in 1960s San Francisco who took their name from the English agrarian socialist dissident movement of the seventeenth century. Grogan's Diggers staged events and 'happenings', but also operated free stores, free food programmes and free clinics. Their most famous member was likely Peter Coyote, later the narrator for many of Ken Burns's documentaries. Grogan said – or rather the essence of what I remember him saying was – that many of the group's supporters were happy to help out lugging amplifiers for a Digger party where the Grateful Dead were playing, but somehow the idea of getting up at dawn to hustle free food down at the markets, and moreover doing it every day because it's an ongoing process, was altogether less appealing, too much like the real work of a world from which they felt they'd dropped out. This less glamorous work was an equally, and probably more, necessary part of the Digger ethos. It just wasn't as much fun.

Me, all I can say that is that for the time being writing for *Fancylopedia 3* is fun and that's sufficient. How long I'll continue to feel like that in the face of general indifference I can't say. For the moment at least it's enough in itself and if somebody else finds my ruminations on the history of Paint Research Station Science Fiction Library or the Cosmos Club or what on earth D R Smith meant by 'Beefasm' useful or entertaining then so much the better.

One thing I have noticed is that I have a been developing Secondary Fancy. To explain this, there are various formatting conventions on the editing side of the site. Italics are expressed by encasing the text in double single quotes "like this", while bold is done with triple single quotes ""like this"", leading to the inevitable conclusion that something in both bold and italic – say, a fanzine when it's first mentioned on a page of which it is the subject – is written """"like this"""". A link to another page is presented [[like this]] and where the linking text isn't the same as the name of the page to which it links you get something that looks [[another page|like this]]. There are external links, references that appear as footnotes, tabular structures for convention series and fanzine issues, categories that appear in footers, a whole bunch more. And you need to remember that [[Nebula]] takes you to the SFWA Award and not the Scottish sf magazine which is [[Nebula (UK)]], or more properly

"[[Nebula (UK)]]" and similarly that "[[Zenith]]" is a fanzine by Harry Turner and not Peter Weston. I personally need to remember to present dates as August 8, 2024 rather than 8 August 2024 and initials with full-stops, so D. R. Smith rather than D R Smith, in both cases undermining decades of personal habit and usage. I'm probably a long way short of mastering all the site's intricacies.

All this markup does render a raw *Fancylopedia 3* text a little difficult to proofread and proofreading is not my strong point at the best of time. Elsewhere, I usually rely on Claire to tidy up after me and make sure I don't misspell my own name. I also find, and this is where the Secondary Fancy comes in, that if I'm not careful I lapse into *Fancylopedia 3* formatting in other forums. It's just as well that I don't otherwise have much call to refer to *Futurian War Digest* as I've now typed "[[Futurian War Digest]]" so often that it's almost automatic.

I should say that I don't entirely confine myself to the past. Having spotted Allen Stroud's inadvertent elevation to the status of conference venue I have now more properly aligned his Novacon involvement. I've added pages for such relatively modern topics as Third Row Fandom, Anonymous Claire and *Every Place I Read Your Goddamn Fanzine*. I can't claim anything quite so dramatic as John Bray bringing me back from the dead but I was delighted to be able to end Christina Lake's relationship with US game designer Doug Bell. I know, I know, you might feel it's not for me to interfere but I just felt he wasn't right for her and instead I've hooked her up with UK fan Doug Bell who moreover lives in the same town as her and so surely that's a match made in heaven and now, thanks to my intervention, in *Fancylopedia 3* as well. On hearing news of the publication of *Visiting Nearly Kiwiland*, Simon Litten's GUFF report from 2019, I added a brief page for that within 24 hours.

I've now written so much that I've lost track of it all. One of the advantages of taking a linear approach is that you can become immersed in a particular era and so the various facets and people become familiar. But I've now written hundreds of pages so I now barely remember Brian Miller, John R Elliott and Reg Fieldhouse. I recently saw elsewhere a reference to the unknown-to-me 1950s and 1960s fan Dorothy Hartwell. I looked her

up on *Fancylopedia 3* and found a generally helpful little article on her fannish involvement – something I'd written myself about two months earlier

In fact it's just occurred to me that I could pre-emptively add a page for *Honcke* before it even appears in the 2024 WOOF.

""Honcke"" is a [[fanzine]] by [[UK]] [[fan]] [[Mark Plummer]] produced initially for the 2024 [[mailing]] of [[WOOF]]. Its [[editor]] is not yet willing to describe it as a [[one-shot]] and holds out the possibility of further issues, committing to at a minimum producing another if he is ever again invited to be a [[goh|guest of honour]] at a [[Worldcon]], something he concedes is beyond unlikely. "Honcke" is largely concerned with Plummer's involvement in "[[Fancylopedia 3]]", inviting the question of whether this site needs an entry on recursion.

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{{publication |starts=2024|ends=????}}

[[Category:Fanzine]]

[[Category:apazine]]

[[Category:UK]]

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This fanzine, by the way, is called *Honcke* for Reasons, an obfuscation on my part as I don't really understand or remember what those reasons are. It just seemed the fannish thing to do. I considered *Honk* and thanks to *Fancylopedia 3* – see, see how useful it is! – I know that my original choice of *Honque* had already been taken by Norm Clarke and Gina Ellis Clarke of Ottawa who published five fanzines using that title around the mid-1960s. And so *Honcke* it is, and I just hope this doesn't turn out to mean something unfortunate in another language. Google seems to think it might mean something in Slovak, but would then have me believe that its English translation is 'honcke'. ✨



## Space Warp & WOOF #2024

July 18, 2023

*Space Warp & WOOF* is an intended annish published by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230, United States; [kalel@well.com](mailto:kalel@well.com); +1 718-755-9840 mobile; +1 323-916-0367 fax. It is prepared for participants in the Worldcon Order of Fan-Editors (WOOF), members of the World Science Fiction Convention, and select others. A recent copy can be requested for the Usual. A member of the Fan Writers of America. This is a Karma Lapel publication.

### Straddling Fandoms

The previous edition of *Space Warp & WOOF*, #2023, served as a sort of catchall for fannish writing I'd done that year that didn't make it into my many apazines or resulting monthly fanzine, *The Stf Amateur*. This year's now-annish is much the same: material I didn't publish in my own apazines or fanzines.

The difference is that most of what wasn't circulated to my general readership over the last year was published in *Tetragrammaton Fragments*, the official newsletter of the United Fanzine Organization (<https://unitedfanzineorganization.weebly.com>), a self-published comic book cooperative. As a new member of the UFO, I contribute an occasional column titled "Dollar Box Dilettante" to its newsletter, T-Frags.

While I occasionally write about science fiction-, fantasy-, and horror-adjacent comic books in my apazines and *The Stf Amateur*, my writing for the UFO isn't necessarily related to the fantastic. Instead, it focuses more on comic books more generally, comics fandom specifically, or self-publishing more generally.

Comic book fandom is adjacent to and overlaps with the fandom engaged in via Worldcon and WOOF. Speculative fiction—sf, fantasy, and horror—is a genre. Comic books are a format. Both groups of fen publish fanzines and participate in amateur press associations. The most recent edition of *Blue Moon Special* (<https://tinyurl.com/BlueMoonSpecial2024>), an apae directory compiled by Garth Spencer and myself, includes several apae concentrating on comics, the Legion of Super-Heroes in particular. LSH fandom alone is quite vibrant.

Regardless of whether you read comic books or consider yourself a comic book fan, I hope that the following is still of some interest to WOOF contributors and readers.

### A Personal Introduction and Minicomics Reviews

(Originally published in *Tetragrammaton Fragments* #272, September 2023)

Thank you, all, for voting to admit me to the august ranks of the United Fanzine Organization—regardless of how you voted. I've been aware of the UFO for decades, perhaps first exposed to it via Ian Shires's *Self Publisher!* As I was considering how to best evolve from publishing a number of apazines toward a more consolidated genzine, correspondence with Kurt Erichsen and Steve Keeter, as well as an order from Jim Main and interaction with Jeffrey H Wood, returned my attention to the UFO as a group in which I should—and perhaps could—participate, even though I don't draw or publish comic books.

As I said in my letter accompanying my application, I've read comic books as long as I've been able to read—and dabbled in minicomics and non-science fiction fanzines for decades. I published my first zine, *No Drama*, in 1988, eventually resulting in a reviewzine titled *Karma Lapel*, which featured covers by Scott Saavedra and Steve Willis. At its peak, *Karma Lapel* was a 36-page tabloid newspaper. I served as production assistant for two Highwater Books titles—Megan Kelso's *Queen of the Black Black* and James Kochalka's *Tiny Bubbles*—reviewed zines and comics for *Zine World*, briefly reviewed minicomics for the Poopsheet Foundation online, published a short-lived comics shop freebie called the *Culver City Comics Collector*, and continue to correspond with minicomics creators such as Clark Dissmeyer.

More recently, however, my fan activity has centered on sf fandom, including the National Fantasy Fan Federation (my comic reviews have appeared in *Mangaverse*—<https://tnfff.org/mangaverse>), participation in the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, and membership in a number of sf-related amateur press associations. I am also the official collator for APA-L, a weekly apa that's been active since 1964. UFO member Kurt Erichsen occasionally provides APA-L covers.

While I understand that my current bundlezine, *The Stf Amateur*, is somewhat different from the publications of other UFO members, I hope to delight rather than disappoint. I look forward to exchanging publications with UFO members on an ongoing basis and reviewing your work in my various apazines that have their own independent circulations—to bring attention to our work outside the confines of the UFO. I'd also like to help showcase the work of members in my pages otherwise. If any UFOlk would like to submit illustrations, cartoons, or cover art for *The Stf Amateur*, I'd appreciate it. Reprints of work already used elsewhere are welcome, as well.

And I hope that my involvement helps bridge comics fandom and sf fandom, contributing to a cross-pollination of the fannish conversations underway, and helping to document the history of

our collective fanac. I frequently donate fanzines, minicomics, and zines to several university libraries' special collections, including DePaul University and the University of Iowa. All UFO materials will go to the Heath Row Zine Collection at DePaul.

As a new member, I will revisit and consider your comments, feedback, and concerns in the UFO Members Only Facebook group—in order to continue to improve my fanzine(s) and meet the needs and interests of all my readers, regardless of how they make their way to *The Stf Amateur* and other titles. I'm proud to be a part of the UFO after all these years.

I will most likely review UFO checklist publications of an sf, fantasy, or horror nature in my other sf apazines and *The Stf Amateur* so non-UFOlk become more aware of our collective efforts. For this edition, in part because I haven't yet started receiving UFO checklist publications, here are a few of my recent favorite non-UFO and non-genre minicomics and related items.

### ***The House of Your Dreams***

Published in a limited edition of 73 copies, this chapbook by minicomics creator Clark Dissmeyer features a short story he submitted to L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future contest and perhaps *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* in the 1990s. Based on one of the author's "very earliest memories," it is admittedly archaic stylistically, and Dissmeyer cannot decide whether it's dream or memory. Regardless, it's a brief—12 pages—read and decidedly strange and outre. The story resonates with elements of H.P. Lovecraft and other weird fiction and ably blends the imperfect memories of childhood and adult efforts to reconcile such recollections. Dissmeyer accompanies the story with an illustrated and hand-lettered cover, as well as a hand-lettered introduction. I enjoyed the story's developing tension, the growing horror of the approach of the "menace out of the west," and the resolution of the mysterious conflict. Given its focus on prose, this is an oddity among Dissmeyer's self-publishing, but shows promise and potential as a writer. Write to inquire via Clark Dissmeyer, P.O. Box 1, Riverton, NE 68972.

### ***Meditation Funnies* #14-16 (May-October 2023)**

Since reaching out to M. Elias Hiebert after seeing his work on social media, I've enjoyed receiving his quarterly minicomics that concentrate on his meditation practice and insights gained through it. Very simply drawn, though now utilizing blue pencil, the comics are primarily gentle gag panels focusing on a person—presumably Hiebert—sitting in the lotus position. At 32 pages, #14 largely considers the thoughts that arise while meditating and other mundane wonders such as one's foot

falling asleep, posture, stray sounds, why the minicomic isn't a Web comic, the dissolution of fantasy, a mix tape, and the benefits of goalless practice. #15 takes a look at reluctance, self-criticism, the relationship between thoughts and words, breathing, and several quotations from Dogen. And #16 touches on the fundamental embarrassment inherent in any artistic practice, boredom, and prayer. Hiebert's portrayal of the imp, internal critic, or sidekick adds quite a bit of humor to his often philosophical realizations. I look forward to receiving this in the mail and appreciate the creator's meditation and artistic practice. Write to inquire via M. Elias Hiebert, P.O. Box 200394, Denver, CO 80220; [meditationfunnies@gmail.com](mailto:meditationfunnies@gmail.com); <https://eliashiebert.com>.

### ***My Comeback Mini* (April 2023)**

Sam Henderson published this eight-page minicomic of his more recent work for the 2023 MoCCA Arts Fest earlier this year. Ostensibly *Magic Whistle* #3.3.1, the mini is also available as a color PDF. It contains comic strips addressing the Band-Aid selection available when one gets their flu shot and why vaccinations are important, and a dirty joke about grapefruit. That second piece, "The Grapefruit," reminded me of my own experiences in grade school—which included scatological references but not this specific joke. When one doesn't know what something means—or is—it can be tempting to act like you do, in order to not reveal that you don't. With all the thoughts running through Monroe's mind in this piece, his response takes the better part of valor. Henderson's artwork is characteristically cartoony, and the longer form of these two strips, as well as their subject matter, reflect more maturity than some of his previous work. There's still a dirty joke and the phrase "butt stuff," but the humor is more nuanced. Great to see after all these years! \$2 via PayPal to [magicwhistle.henderson@gmail.com](mailto:magicwhistle.henderson@gmail.com).

### ***You Don't Get There from Here* #58-59**

These two most recent 32-page diary minicomics by Carrie McNinch collect her daily diary and travel comics created between March 16 and June 19, 2019. The diary comics usually comprise three daily panels along with a recommended song, while the travel comics utilize longer-form storytelling. #58 is squarely a travel comic, focusing on a trip McNinch took to Hiroshima, Japan. The comic details her experiences with public transportation, capsule hotels, walking around, manhole covers, food and drink, the sights and sites she sought out, trees, how she felt standing at the hypocenter of the A-bomb explosion, and the importance of peace. She also shares stories about taking the ferry to the island of Itsukushima, shrines and temples, the ghost story of



Himeji Castle, returning to Nagoya, frogs, drinking, cats, and the sadness that travelers sometimes experience before returning home. One could plan their own travel itinerary based on this minicomic. #59 returns to McNinch's usual diary format. She focuses on returning home to her cats, watching movies, her friends and family, picking up her mail, making and reading comics, money concerns, dog walking, depression and grief, hiking, food, the moon, and a short trip to Denver for the Dink Comic & Art Expo. She also addresses listening to music, going to Disneyland, pet sitting, going to a Bikini Kill concert (with me!), panic attacks, the physical aches and pains of aging, and other topics. McNinch is perhaps my favorite minicomics diarist. Her evident love of the small wonders in life, active involvement in self-publishing, and personal challenges all combine for a compelling, loving, and personal reading experience. Highly recommended. Write to inquire via Carrie McNinch, P.O. Box 34091, Granada Hills, CA 91394; [cmcninch@gmail.com](mailto:cmcninch@gmail.com).

### **On the Minicomics Work of Suzanne Baumann**

(Originally published in *Tetragrammaton Fragments* #273, November 2023)

Because I've yet to receive any United Fanzine Organization publications other than a welcome packet of materials published by Tom Fellrath (Thank you, Tom! I'll review your comics in various fanzines to perhaps help reach new readers.) and *Tetragrammaton Fragments* #272, this column largely focuses on the work of one minicomics creator: Suzanne Baumann. (P.O. Box 12096, Hamtramck, MI 48212; <https://www.fridge-mag.com>) Baumann is an artist and designer who co-founded the Hatch Art Center (<https://www.hatchart.org>) in 2006.

I've previously reviewed a couple of her publications in *Telegraphs & Tar Pits* #87, collected in the November 2023 issue of *The Stf Amateur*—which will mail in early December—but I also recently received several items that weren't science fiction-related and therefore deserve mention here.

*Baumann's Marginalia* collects 16 pages of "pictures ... doodled in the margins" of various books and textbooks. They're largely related to the content of the book in question and portray images representing hedonism, math, pets, newspaper journalism, John Keats, and Uranium-238. This 1995 mini is such a good idea. Don't throw away your doodles; publish them! (Available in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics for \$16.)

*Chris Leif* #1-2 are two 1996 minicomics (both 16 pages) that focus on the character named in the title. Inspired by a friend's dream about a hockey

player named Chris Leif—and later, a teenage boy—the first issue offers single-panel pages featuring dreams, lunch, mice, dancing, staying up late, cats, and more mice. While #1 is relatively rodent obsessed, the second issue is squarely centered on another obsession: haircuts. Single-panel pages remark on styling gel, bleaching your hair, hairdressers, and bad haircuts. Combining fine lines with thicker inking, the comics aren't narrative in the traditional sense but definitely offer slices of life or moments in time that contribute to a larger sense of who Leif is and what he cares about. Some portions are utterly—perhaps “udderly”—bizarre. (Available in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics for \$16.)

I might have seen *Custard King*, an eight-page mini published in 1996, when it first came out. In the mid-1990s, I corresponded and hung out with Michigan-based minicomics creators such as Sean Bieri, Matt Feazell, and Robert Lewis. Baumann reminded me in a kind note that it's been two and a half decades since we've been in touch. In any event, some panels—and the cover—remain firmly in my memory. Composed of darker, denser panels, the mini tells the tale of the king of a median strip who yearns for frozen custard. The character could very well be a prototype for Turtleneck Boy (see below). (Available in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics for \$16.)

*Damned Bunnies* is the longest-form work in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics. Published in 1995, the 52-page digest features heavier stock, screen-printed covers and a single story. A newspaper reporter wants to become a freelance art critic and seeks out an artist hosting an exhibition in a gallery. That leads to personal injury, a hospital visit, the artist's attempt to make amends, and a new career in experimental film and performance art. The piece is bookended by cartoony portrayals of greeting card rabbits, which the artist has been trying to grow beyond. It's a bizarre story and quite compelling, and I enjoyed parsing the dialogue of the artist's wife, who has a thick accent. (Available in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics for \$16.)

*The Legendary Rajiv Coffee Table Book*, published in 1995, is a misleadingly named 16-page brochure-sized mini “featuring Rajiv in 14 provocative poses.” Chanda and Chaitra, as seen in *Spime* (see below), are prominently positioned on each page, gesturing to a blank square in which the 14 poses are placed. The repetitive nature of the concept reminded me of clip art comics such as *babysue* and David Rees's *Get Your War On*. But the provocative poses are surreal to the extreme, largely mixed-media portrayals of the mysterious Rajiv, whom readers are never quite able to visualize

clearly. Far from a one-joke concept, though very silly, this is an exercise in structured creativity that made me laugh out loud at least once. (Available in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics for \$16.)

*The Moldy Bagels* offers a 40-page wordless comic accompanied by title cards much like those used in silent movies. In fact, one can read this 1998 mini quite cinematically given the pacing, panel content, and facial expressions. More thickly inked than some of Baumann's comics, the story concentrates on a very well-dressed woman—perhaps a representation of the artist herself—who decides to dispose of the titular pastries by feeding them to the pigeons, which leads to a fantastic misadventure and a disappointingly early arrival to work. The inking and panel density is especially pleasing in this publication, and the concept and narrative pace is worth returning to—or replicating. The mini is almost similar to a series of storyboards, which is an excellent idea. (Available in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics for \$16.)

*Spime #1* was originally published in 1996. The 16-page digest is a well-balanced collection of Baumann's different approaches to comics. Some of the work is a half page or page, but there's also a two-page and a four-page story. There's even a Chris Leif strip not included in the minis above, as well as an appearance by Yul Tolbert. Topics include the Chicago Comicon, Raffi, the history of Africa, and young love. The two-page "Puddin' and Pie" reminisces about childhood toys and gender ambiguity, and the four-page, mummy-centric "The Dream" reminded me of *The Moldy Bagels* (see above) stylistically. Perhaps the most wide-ranging introduction to Baumann's comics! (Available in the *Fridge-Mag: The Early Years* paper bag collection of minicomics for \$16.)

*The Turtleneck Dialogues* is a 96-page mini collecting six issues of *Turtleneck Boy* published between 1998-2010. Initially a single-creator work featuring Baumann's fictional sweater-garbed and goateed character with whom she imagines conversations, it soon grew to become an anthology mini containing the work of Bieri, Pam Bliss, Alden Scott Crow, Androo Robinson, Tolbert, and others. While most of the other contributors submitted single gag panels or pages, Baumann's contributions—and a few others, including Bliss—sometimes cover multiple pages. In terms of Baumann's work, it's an autobio comic "with a sidekick." Characters discuss the Arthur books and how the main character's nose changed over time, the Jackson 5, Bill Clinton's election campaign, domination fantasies, matching sweatsuits, clouds, comics-related correspondence, and other topics. Baumann's artwork is whimsical and willowy, and it's fun to see

how other contributors make the character their own, sometimes working in their own characters, as well. (Available for \$8.)

It was great fun to read—and in some cases, reread—so much of Baumann's early work. Now I need to acquaint myself with her more recent publications!

### **An Uncomfortably Large Number**

(Originally published in *Tetragrammaton Fragments* #274, February 2024)

I would like to take this opportunity, and to take advantage of this forum and safe space to announce the following:

I have decided to stop buying comic books.

Yes, having read comic books for most of my life, even before learning to read formally in kindergarten, I have decided to no longer purchase said comics—despite the immense enjoyment, ideas, and pleasure that they bring.

You see, I also have an admission to make. I have almost finished cataloging my comic book collection, and the result shocked me. The fact that I have almost 13,000 comic books is alarming.

13,000.

Let that number sink in for a little while. Think about how many short boxes that might entail. Think about how much money I must have spent on comics over my lifetime. Think about what I could have spent it on otherwise. I'm not a rich man, and my family lives comfortably—but it's still way too much money. My wife would be disappointed.

Let's be clear: I'm not bragging that I have 13,000 comics; I'm ashamed.

My cataloging efforts—from DC's Paul Pope limited series *100%* to Scott McCloud's wonderful *Zot!* for Eclipse—don't yet include trade paperbacks or collections. And I'm not even done yet. (I'm close.) But 13,000 comic books is too many comic books. I cannot buy any more. I absolutely cannot.

Because regardless of how the number might strike you—how large is your collection, if you have one?—13,000 feels like a very large number to me. It's not as many comic books as in Michigan State University's collection: 350,000 as of 2022. It's not as many as in the collection of Bob Bretall in Mission Viejo, Calif.: 138,000 as of 2023. (I'm presuming he hasn't moved.) But it's likely too many for most people. And now that I have a count—and a better understanding of what I actually have—it's too many for me.

But don't feel sad—or worry about my loss, mental health, or well-being. Notice that I didn't say I was going to stop reading comic books, thinking about comic books, or writing about comic books. I'm going to stop *buying* comic books. The idea of buying another comic book has become overly egregious. Pernicious. Basically, a non-starter.

Worry about me if I buy again.

Because I feel so uncomfortable about the size of my collection, this is a surprisingly easy decision to make. I've been reading and buying comic books for almost 50 years. I've made my own photocopied comics. I've had a hand in making them for other creators, serving as production assistant for a couple of Highwater Books titles. I've also reviewed them in various fanzines, my own as well as those published by others. I helped run a comic book club and event series while a college student. I've written newspaper articles about comics. I've even gotten rid of boxes upon boxes of comics in the past—when I moved from Brooklyn to Los Angeles in 2009. (Later, I tried to reclaim those boxes and luckily failed.) But unlike Bretall, I cannot claim to have read every single comic book that I currently own.

That's appalling.

I might own 13,000 comic books, but I haven't necessarily read those 13,000 comic books. Why own a comic book if you're not going to read it? Why buy a comic book if you're not going to read it? Am I a comic book buyer, or a comic book reader? What kind of a fan am I?

Those are the questions I've been asking myself as I near completion of The List over the last few days. I have no good answers. Even if I were not drawn to relatively low-grade, inexpensive reading copies (even coverless!), were I a Certified Guaranty Company client—I'm not—it embarrasses me that I have so many comic books I almost certainly haven't read. Comic books are meant to be read, not bought or kept. They are meant to be experienced. They are meant to breathe and see the bright light of day, to frolic and gambol in the fields.

Instead, I've kept mine sometimes—but not always—sheathed in protective bags with backing boards, almost all in short boxes. (I stopped using long boxes decades ago.) About 50 of those boxes are in the back room—the “library”—that adjoins my home office in a detached finished garage behind our home. About another 50 are in a storage unit—that I also spend money on. I don't yet have an accurate box count. I am, however, nearing an accurate count of comics.

13,000.

Given that number, I cannot buy another comic book. I can, however—and most certainly will—do my best to read those comic books. I've spent almost 50 years amassing a collection that's too big, that's uncomfortably large. I can now spend the next 40-50 years reading those comics—and disposing of them.

Don't worry: I won't throw them away. I'll either give them to a friend or sell them to my favorite local comic book store for another eager reader to discover. I'll do so by the short box, not as singles or

runs on *eBay*, and I'll be satisfied by whatever the store offers. I'll let that store credit accumulate until I think I've divested myself of enough comic books to have earned the right to acquire something else—or I've freed up enough space to accommodate something else.

Now that I have The List, I can make sure that whatever I get isn't something I already have. (The near-full short box I've prepared to take to the shop this weekend is all doubles. You see, I have so many comic books that I didn't even know what I had. So I bought some back issues twice. Both copies remain unread.)

I've ended my subscriptions. I've turned off auto-renew for *The Amazing Spider-Man*. And I've pruned my pull list down to just four titles: *Cerebus*, *Groo*, *Love & Rockets*, and *Usagi Yojimbo*. That part was hard, and I'm already wavering: Do I add *The Amazing Spider-Man* once the sub runs out?

In closing, I have a question for you: Is using store credit earned by selling books the same as buying another comic? It might be. Perhaps, instead of accepting store credit, I should seek cash.

That, at least, I can spend on the storage unit.

I could even read in it.

## Celebrating Black Comics Creators

(Submitted for *Tetragrammaton Fragments* #275, May 2024, but expected to see print in #276)

A few years ago, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago hosted an exhibition titled *Chicago Comics 1960-Now*. (<https://mcachicago.org/exhibitions/2021/chicago-comics-1960s-to-now>) Curated by Dan Nadel, the exhibition ran from June 19 to Oct. 3, 2021. It featured the work of more than 40 local cartoonists, including creators such as Lynda Barry, Ivan Brunetti, Daniel Clowes, Chester Gould, Jay Kinney, Jay Lynch, Anders Nilsen, John Porcellino, Archer Prewitt, Chris Ware, and Skip Williamson—people whose work you might know and love. The work on display bridged comic strips, minicomics, alternative titles, and undergrounds, offering a rich cross section of creativity in Chicago. Anya Davidson reviewed the exhibition for *The Comics Journal*. (<https://www.tcj.com/trip-report-chicago-comics-1960s-to-now>)

The exhibition also included numerous notable but perhaps less well-known Black comics creators from Chicago, including Tom Floyd, Richard “Grass” Green, Seitu Hayden, Jay Jackson, Charles Johnson, Yaoundé Olu, Turtel Onli, Jackie Ormes, and Morrie Turner. Their names might be new to you. Those nine Black comic artists became the focal point of a 2021 book published by the MCA Chicago and New York Review Comics, *It's Life As I See It: Black Cartoonists in Chicago, 1940-1980*—offered as the exhibition catalog. Featuring essays by Johnson and Ronald Wimberly—and edited by

Nadel—it's a welcome, much-needed survey of Black comics creators, in Chicago or anywhere.

Nadel's introduction to the catalog addresses Jackson's 1940s science fiction serial comic strip published in *The Chicago Defender*, gag panels published in magazines such as *Jet* and *Negro Digest*, racial stereotypes, the role of Black-owned newspapers, Black superhero titles, and creators' eventual migration from the Black press to more mainstream publications and audiences. Johnson's essay "My Life as a Cartoonist" considers his high school short stories, a parody of Wonder Wart-Hog, writing scripts for Charlton Comics, and his contemporary young adult fiction series *The Adventures of Emery Jones*, *Boy Science Wonder*.

The book is absolutely wonderful, offering chapter-length profiles of each Black creator featured, as well as at times lengthy examples of their work. While the book includes older, historic examples—Jackson's strip *Bungleton Green and the Mystic Commandos in the 21st Century*, Ormes's more feminine gag panels, and Turner's Peanuts-like *Dinky Fellas* strips are individually amazing—some of the more recent work resonates strongly with that done by members of the United Fanzine Organization. Olu's educational science-oriented comics reminded me of the "process comics" of Larry Marder's *Tales of the Beanworld* as well as the work of Yul Tolbert. Onli's *Heavy Metal*-inspired *Nog, Protector of the Pyramids*, is wonderful. And Green—oh, Green!—is entirely in the UFO's wheelhouse. We shall focus our attention on him.

First emerging through comic book fandom, Green created comics such as Xal-Kor the Human Cat, Wildman and Rubberboy—later published by Megaton Comics as *Wildman*—and contributed to mimeographed fanzines in the 1960s, including *Alter Ego* (see below). He also published unapologetic comics about the Black experience—or white stereotypes of Black lives—such as *Ghetto Bitch* and *Super Soul Comix*. Similar to Johnson, he drew for Charlton before finding a home in undergrounds such as *Teen-Age Horizons of Shangrila*, *Snarf*, and *Bizarre Sex*. He might have been the first Black contributor to underground comics. Only one example of Grass's work is included in the catalog, the previously unpublished 1990 semi-autobiographical piece "Smoke Power," commissioned for a Black version of *Mad* magazine.

Luckily, additional work by Green has also been reprinted or published in recent years. In 2002, Hamster Press and TwoMorrows Publishing—the current publisher of *Alter Ego*—issued *Xal-Kor the Human Cat* #1, a 100-page comic featuring recent work by Green. In his foreword, Jeff Gelb recounts Green's presence in the fan-made comics of the

1960s, highlighting the strength of his Jack Kirby homages. The Xal-Kor stories, seven of which appeared in *Star-Studded Comics* in the 1960s, might be Green's best work—he won an Alley Award for Best Fan Comic Strip in 1966—particularly this late-career "graphic novella." Also a musician, Green died of lung cancer in Fort Wayne, Ind., in 2002. That's gently ironic given "Smoke Power" above. ([https://web.archive.org/web/20090412162226/http://www.sfreader.com/sa\\_081502.asp](https://web.archive.org/web/20090412162226/http://www.sfreader.com/sa_081502.asp))

Otherwise, three other anthologies published by Hamster feature older work by Green. *Fandom's Finest Comics* (1997), edited and annotated by Bill Schelly, reprints "The Origin of . . . Xal-Kor, the Human Cat!" from *Star-Studded Comics* #5 (September 1964) and "Operation Big Move," a Xal-Kor story from *Star-Studded Comics* #8 (March 1966). The full page depicting Queen Roda's underground lair in the latter story is a startling example of Green's vision.

*Alter Ego: The Best of the Legendary Comics Fanzine* (1997), edited by Roy Thomas and Schelly, includes Ronn Foss and Green's cover to *Alter Ego* #4 (October 1962) and *Alter Ego* #6's (March 1964) parody "The Bestest League of America Meets Da Frantic Four" written by Thomas and drawn by Thomas and Green—each artist drew a team. That latter piece, which gently reminds me of early issues of *Mad* and the Marvel parody series *Not Brand Echh*, often earns Green's overall portfolio comparisons to the work of Harvey Kurtzman. Frankly, I don't actually see Kurtzman in any of Green's artwork, despite the similar approach to superhero satire. The in-reverse opening page is impressively innovative, however. I don't think I've ever seen behind a full-page panel.

*The Best of Star-Studded Comics* (2005), edited and annotated by Schelly, includes Green's artwork in the near-jam "Introducing the Liberty Legion," for which he drew a chapter; the Xal-Kor stories "A Friend in Need" (indicating hints of Steve Ditko as well as Kirby) and "Xal-Kor to the Rescue;" "Introducing Wildman and Rubberboy;" unpublished pages of Jim Starlin's Powerman, inked and lettered by Green; and a previously unpublished 1963 piece by Green, "Crime Crasher vs. the Black Dragon."

And *Fogel's Underground Price & Grading Guide 2015-2016 Vol. 1* includes an interview with Green that expands the portrait of the man. The interview considers the racism inherent in undergrounds along with their political and social satire and irreverent humor. Green also discusses the challenges facing Black comics creators in that era. In the Black community, being an artist was often associated with being gay at the time, Green said. "The thing is, can you write or draw good stuff?"



The piece then reviews several examples of Green's more challenging pieces, including *Super Soul Comix* #1, *Horny Comix & Stories* #2-4, and *Ghetto Bitch* #1, describing the creator as an "equal opportunity offender."

Green might not have considered himself "responsible to present a social agenda for Black America." He might have poked fun at Black solidarity. But his work paved the way for more realistic portrayals of people of color in comics—and media—today. His work might also serve as a role model for other Black cartoonists. And first and foremost, Green was a comics fan, a comics creator who loved comics. His work is worth revisiting, and perhaps emulating—in comics and fanzines alike.

### Comments on WOOF #48

**España Sheriff's** cover for the 2023 WOOF was absolutely wonderful, perhaps the first time I've seen her work in such a large format. I've long admired her smaller pieces in John Hertz's *Vanamonde*.

With *Intermission* #137.5, **Ahrvid Engholm**—who's also active in eAPA and N'APA—ye olde faned circulated a special issue outside his usual channels. I can't believe I didn't read it until now! Ah, it's excerpts from other issues? "Stockholm, USA" first appeared in *Intermission* #137, and I recognize many of the Snippets also included. But when Engholm writes, "The History Corner, covering the past of sf and fandom, is the perhaps most appreciated part of *Intermission*," he's really saying something. If you don't already receive his fanzine via email, contact him to get on the list. The History Corner impresses and inspires me every single issue. While I didn't participate in or read the 2022 WOOF, I'm pleased to see that he also offers mailing comments. "Motorcycles..." gave me some items to learn more about: Bill Danner's *SteFantasy* and the other listed fanzines.

**Juan Sanmiguel's** inclusion of *OASFiS Event Horizon* #421 (March 2023) inspired me to check whether the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society is exchanging *De Profundis* with the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society. (Checking...) We are! Nice to see you here, too, Juan. Thank you for including me on the OASFiS mailing list. I'll have to pay more attention to those with a subject line including "New Online Event Horizon"! I haven't been mentioning the exchange in *De Prof*—and should. I'm sure local members appreciate the event list, story reviews, and other news. The story reviews are solid gold, and I can't believe I've been missing those.

In *Little Passport for WOOF*, **Chris Garcia** updated apans on his health and family news, as well as audiobook and podcast recommendations. His invocation of the Balcony Insurgents wouldn't

have rung a bell for me a year ago, but here we are, and I feel a little more faanish.

**Alan Stewart's** *Ytterbium Hendecoxide* was my introduction to the fanzines of the ANZAPA participant. (That's one of the few apae I don't participate in.) I'm pleased to make your acquaintance! Did you know that Garth Spencer's N'APAazine is titled *Brownian Motion*? I appreciated the subheading of "Brownian Noise." Your list of ribbons and modified text reminded me that even though I occasionally attend cons, I've not once worn a ribbon on my badge. I've received one, and I put it in my pocket. Some day... The photographs of the ribbon strips in the Comments were even more impressive.

Apparently, I wrote a brief professional bio for some reason in 2021. Your comment to Jan Vaněk Jr. inspired me to locate it in Drive, and I reproduce it here, just for kicks. This is not a fannish bio; I've not yet found cause to speak at a con.

Since 2008, Heath Row has worked as the Research Operations Manager for Google Inc.'s Insights Lab, an internal think-and-do tank. Previously, he served as Editorial and Community Director for *Fast Company* magazine for almost a decade. Heath has also taught undergraduate- and graduate-level classes at New York University and the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. He is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. He is the author of the book *Communicating Ideas: 11 Steps to Selling Innovation*.

In *Mustn't Grumble*, **Nic Farey** offered two pages of mystifying aphorisms, squibs, and poetry. I don't know what you're grumbling about, but I like it. A lot.

**Roger Hill** graces APA-L, for which I serve as OC, once a year with his *Report from Hoople*. That might be what inspired me to throw in to WOOF last year, and we included thish in APA-L #3042 in October 2023. In *Telegraphs & Tar Pits* #88, I commented on it thusly: "Roger Hill's *Report from Hoople* #150.012 appears in our pages because of WOOF and the recent Worldcon in Chengdu, China. Even though I joined as a member, in order to participate online, I never received any information about how to do so. When I reached out to member services, no one responded to my request for assistance. Regardless, while my Worldcon experience this year might have been a bust, submitting to WOOF was not—and I look forward to the resulting apa. Thank you, Don Eastlake, for shepherding it. I, too, lived in Evanston, Ill., for a time. It, like Chicago, is my kind of town."

In *Halloween Honey*, **Guy H. Lillian III**

showcased Vampira (aka Maila Nurmi), whom I adore. As the first horror host, she hosted *The Vampira Show* in the mid-1950s on KABC-TV in Los Angeles. Her grave is located in Hollywood Forever Cemetery, and I highly recommend the books *Vampira: Dark Goddess of Horror* by W. Scott Poole (Soft Skull, 2014), Sandra Niemi's *Glamour Ghoul* (Feral House, 2021), and *Vampira and Her Daughters* by Robert Michael "Bobb" Cotter (McFarland, 2017). Somewhere along the way, I procured several DVD compilations of some of the surviving television footage. Your fanzine will inspire me to revisit those!

In your mailing comments, you remarked, "It's not necessary that a fannish craziness like WOOF have a purpose, of course..." In addition to "memorializing brothers and sisters who have left us in times past..." I've felt what might be another *raison d'être* while composing my ish. Last year, my first contribution, I merely submitted material fanzine readers might not have read elsewhere. This year, I'm also commenting—which I usually do in apazines. That's been an interesting experience, and somehow different from the usual commenting. For one, there's a year in between issues; that's an impressive timespan we've all crossed between editions. I feel rather silly that I'm hacking this out a week before the deadline, when I've had all year to come up with something.

WOOF also strikes me as different because it's associated with a con, the Worldcon no less. Some of you will be there. Some of you won't be. Some of us—me—have never been to a Worldcon in person. (Though I did participate in CoNZeland online.) I'm imagining that most of you have probably met in person, while I only know some of you through your fanzines—and names. And looking at the TOC, I'm really only familiar with perhaps half of the contributors to WOOF. So this is exposing me to an aspect of fandom—and *fen*—I haven't yet encountered. So the "new and unfamiliar names" can go both ways: newcomers to WOOF and new *fen* for neos. It's also impressively international, as you indicate. It is, after all, Worldcon. Your comments will inspire me to read the 2022 WOOF, as well. Maybe that'll pull me all the way back...

**David Langford's** *Ansible* #435 reminded me how much I miss seeing the fanzine in print. If you're still mailing hard copies, I might have to pony up some SAEs. Reading it online just isn't the same. (Do you think a letter to California would cost £1.70 or £2.50? Perhaps I could just send you some filthy lucre—and unstamped envelopes.)

In *Newt News* #0<sup>0</sup>, **Jan Vaněk Jr.** remarked on uncertainty about WOOF, his love of Bilcon, other cons, and the introduction of *Bradbury's Shadow: Chronicle of Czech Science Fiction* at Loscon. I don't think we crossed paths, but your name is

familiar, and I'll seek out the anthology. If you are still looking for a home for "a longer, proper article" on the subject of your Solaristics scoop discovery, I'd be interested for *The Stf Amateur*. It's been a year; I'm sure the opportunity has passed!

**Rich Lynch's** *Four Essays* offered just that, reprinting material previously published in other sources. I'm glad I'm not the only person doing so, good sir. Resonating with Lillian's comments above, I appreciated your memorials to Noreen Shaw, Forrest J Ackerman, Art Widner, and Ron Bennett. All are people worth remembering and returning to.

In *Chengdu Report*, **Donald E. Eastlake III**, our estimable OE, commented on his experiences at the Worldcon in China. What a wonderful opportunity. Thank you for serving as OE last year, and for sharing a conrep with us!

And **John Thiel** weighed in with *Parables of Playland* #1. I was unaware that people were invited to participate in WOOF. If that is indeed the case, I apologize for just chucking a fanzine WOOF's way last year. Your later remark that the invitation came in the mail made me wonder whether John Hertz had mailed it. That totally makes sense, and I'm glad you answered the call to action.

But, John, I wouldn't let one rejection deter you from trying to place "The Strawberry Chocolate Girl" elsewhere. Submit, submit, and submit again! If the prozines don't bite, approach the semiprozines. If you get no cheer there, there are plenty of fanzines that might welcome your fiction. I'd welcome considering the piece for *The Stf Amateur*, and worst case scenario, there's always *Pablo Lennis*. Regardless, I empathize. A year or so ago, I submitted a story to the National Fantasy Fan Federation's Short Story Contest, and since that didn't win, place, or show, I've done nothing with the piece. Your WOOFzine will inspire me to pick that back up, along with another short story I workshopped with the N3F's Writer's Exchange Bureau. I write plenty of words. Maybe there's a story in me, too.



*Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 17, 1956

# Chris Garcia's WOOFzine

## ~ Another Installment in an Unnumbered Series ~

Oh, Hello! It's been a while.

So, it's been a while, but here's what's goin' on in Garciville.

Still doin' the zines, still workin' as an Archivist, still got the two kids, still married, and still doin' podcasts.

That last one has evolved slightly, though.

You see, I've been on a big Classical (OK, OK, I know that only really applies to a specific period of music, but you know what I mean when I say it!) kick and have discovered that I know absolutely nothing about Opera.

So, I decided I really want to like Opera, and when I embark on a journey of personal growth, I always try to podcast about it. So I started a podcast about how I really wanna like Opera.

It's called "I Really Wanna Like Opera"

I'm finding that I love Opera, and apparently when I sent it to a friend who is a composer, he shared it with his friends, who included John Adams, who said he appreciated the first episode!

Small wins!!!

Otherwise, things are good!

2023-24 has been rough for losing dear friends. It started with Doug Berry. He was an incredible guy and a helluva writer. Then it was Deb Geisler. After that, it was Bob Hole. It's been a hard time. Each of them had a big effect on my time in fandom.

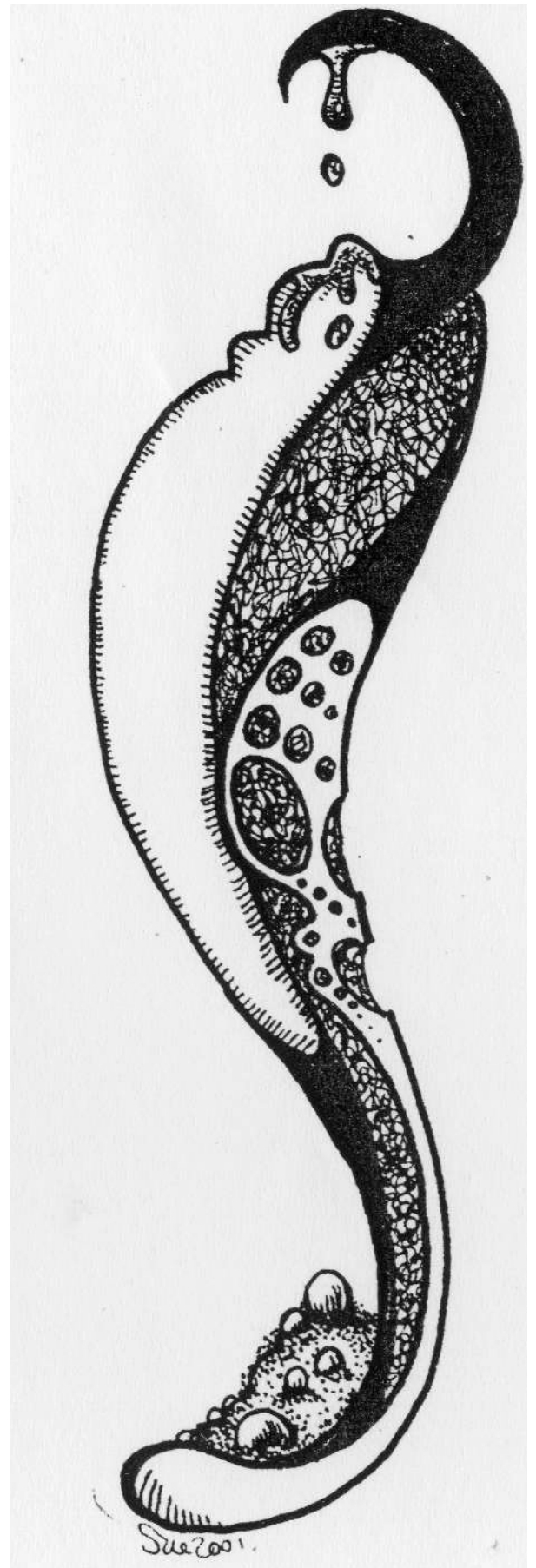
And then the art world saw massive losses!

Frank Stella! Richard Serra (and I had seen his work just a few days before at MoMA), Bill Viola, June Leaf, all of them in a single year's span. I spent a lot of time on my five days in NYC at art museums (specifically MoMA, The Guggenheim, Hewitt-Cooper, and The Met) and I saw so much incredible art that I absolutely fell in love with (and as I mention art, I should say that the image over there → is a Sue Mason work and she's amazing!!!) And I am more than ever planning on trips to look at more art.

Including one that is in the future to me, but to you will be in the past!

My Mom lives in the desert of California, near to Palm Springs. So I don't have to use all my vacation, I do work-related research on William Saroyan (or in this case, his son, Aram) while on vacation and poof, it's a write-off. So, I'll be driving my kids down tomorrow (a well and a half ago if you're reading this the day it's collated) and then I'll be doing research on artists like Vito Acconci, Gerard Malanga, and Eleanor Antin in the Stacks of UCLA, because they were all friends with Aram, along with the likes of William S. Burroughs, Andy Warhol, and Allen Ginsberg. Then, I go to the Hammer Museum, and then a gallery where there's an exhibit of Aram's paintings.

After that, it's Palm Springs where I've got an appointment at the Architectural collection of the Palm Springs Art Museum. There, I'm researching the Mid-Century Modernist movement in Architecture for an issue of *Claims Department* and Palm Springs is one of the best places to go and study that particularly awesome movement. The next day, the Wife and I are doing two days at a Hot Water Spa Hotel that is enchantingly campy (it's called El



Morocco and it's HYPER themed!) And going to the Palm Springs Art Museum, followed by Indian at a restaurant called, like every other Indian restaurant apparently, Taste of India.

Seriously, you drive by three of them on the way down to LA, and they are completely unrelated!

After that, I go to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, LACMA, and there I look into a work of Eleanor Antin's. I love Fluxus (and I'll be writing a lot more about that in the future) and LACMA has two of the greatest works of art in all of California: Richard Serra's massive Corten Steel work that takes up a massive hall, and Chris Burden's *Metropolis II*, which is a massive toy car track.

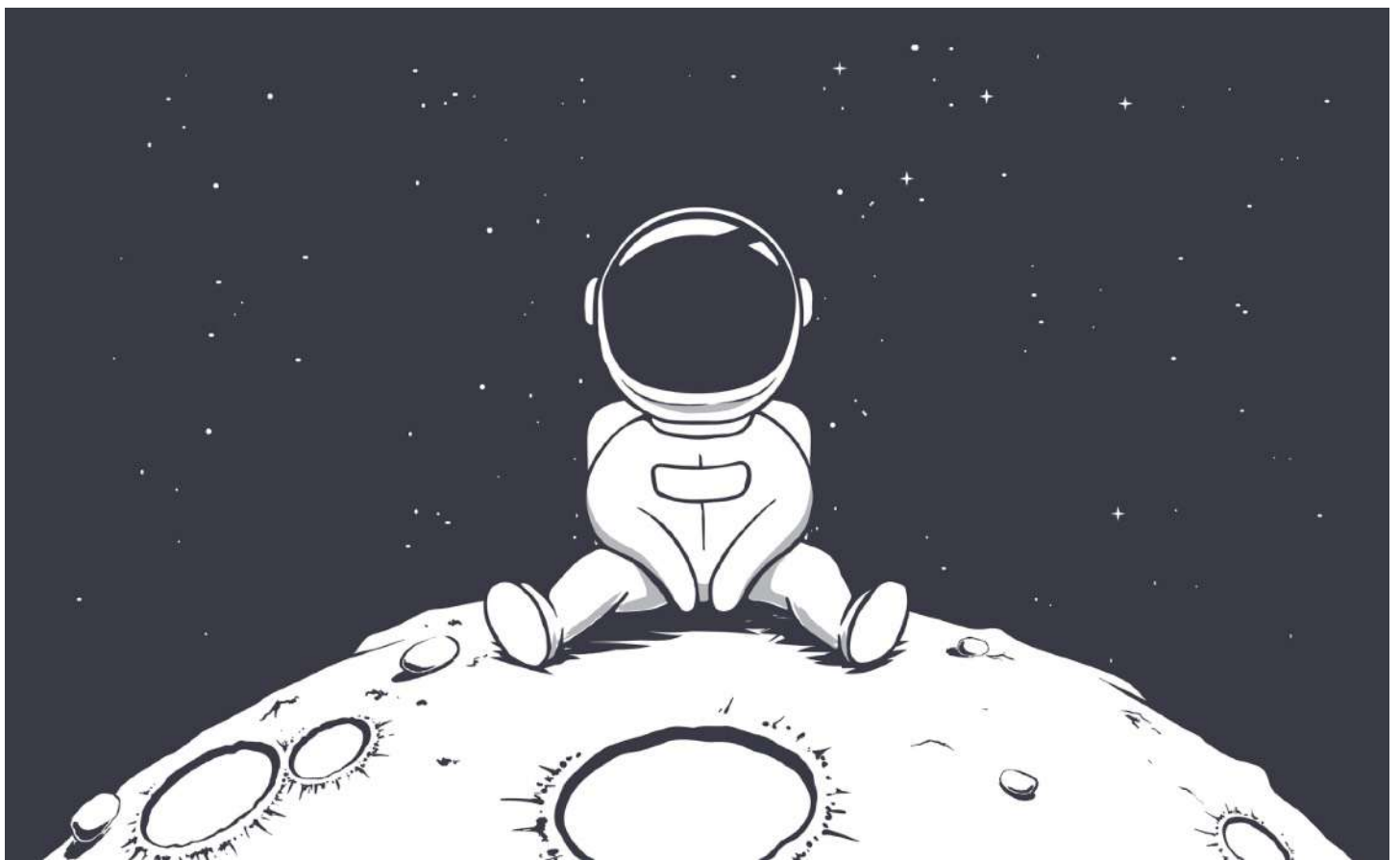
By the time *WOOF 2025* comes out, I'll be 50, the kids will be 10, and *The Drink Tank* will be 20. That's a big deal to me, because it was that little zine that won me my first Hugo, got me my first notice, and is still one of my most cherished projects.

It's also the 20th anniversary of *Science Fiction San Francisco*, the zine that was the first time I worked with Jean Martin, España Sheriff and many more! We're gonna work on an issue of something celebrating San Francisco and our years having worked together!

Wrestling is still a thing, and I love it! My oldest, JP, is in to it just as much as I was when I was a kid. Lately, I've been going to shows with my friends from the Wrestling Observer Newsletter. Dave Meltzer, probably the best-known wrestling journalist, is one of our friends and it's always great to spend an evening watching with him!

I went to BayCon, had a good time. Vanessa ran for TAFF, didn't win, but has she she will ride again! I'm working on *The Drink Tank*, *Claims Department*, *Exhibition Hall*, and *Journey Planet*. I'll be at Seattle next year, and will probably have much more fannish stuff as the kids get to be older!

Alright, that's enough! Ciao.





**REPORT  
FROM  
HOOPLE**

**#153.153  
FOR WOOF 2024**

**ROGER HILL**

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Also called **WOOF #49**, for Worldcon #82 in Glasgow. Also for **APA-L #3084** of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Thanks to Christina Lake for serving as the Official Editor of WOOF this year, and once again to John Hertz as the Official Inspirer and Coordinator. If all goes well this will be the sixth year with an electron edition of WOOF.

Some highlights since my last RFH: (1) Seeing the total eclipse of the sun on April 8, 2024; this was my fourth total solar eclipse. I flew with some friends to Forth Worth, TX, and played it by ear, armed with an iPhone app that gave updated probabilities of cloudiness along the path of totality. Generally Texas wasn't very good weatherwise, and as the time approached the lowest probability of clouds appeared to be at Keller, TX where totality was only 2 minutes. But figuring that 2 minutes of clear totality would be better than 4 minutes of cloudy totality, we observed it from there and were successful. (2) Going to the Illinois Railway Museum on April 27 for a meeting of the Illinois Traction Society, a group dedicated to the Illinois Terminal interurban (trolley) line that ran from St. Louis to various places in Illinois. The museum has quite a few IT cars that were saved from scrapping when the electric lines were abandoned in the 1950's, several of them restored to running condition. I was able to operate one of them along the museum's 5-mile main line, an exciting experience!

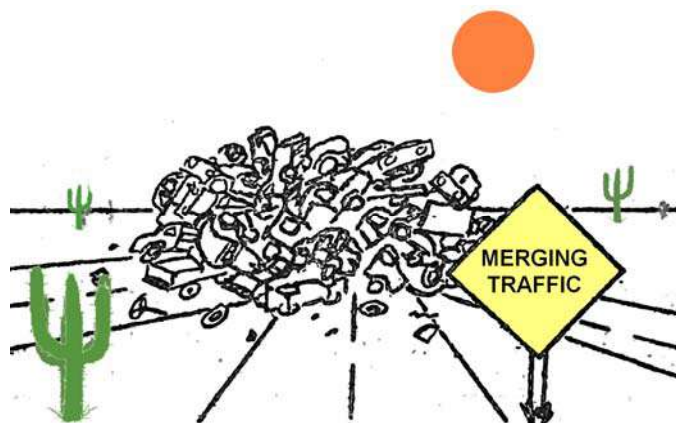
**COMMENTS ON WOOF 2023 (#48)**

This refers to the electronic edition. As usual, there were a lot of interesting contributions and great photos!

**Ahrvid Engholm** (Intermission #137.5): Very interesting about Stockholms in America! There are a lot of other European/Asian cities that have namesakes (usually small towns) in the US. For example, the state of Illinois has Cairo and Berlin, both of which (for good reason!) are pronounced differently from the original cities. And also with countries; e.g. there is a sign on Interstate 44 in Missouri saying "Cuba 5 / Lebanon 80" (who knew there were that close together...). And interesting about there being a Нью Йорк in Ukraine. Indeed, *Слава Україні!*

**John Thiel** (Parables of Playland #1): You don't have to be "invited" to participate in WOOF; you only need to hear about it and be interested enough to contribute. Whether you happen to get a request to contribute depends on who is "whacking the bushes" in an attempt to get as many contributors as possible.

**Guy Lillian III** (Halloween Honey): Hope your arthritis hasn't continue to give too many problems. // Regarding the elusive WOOF #30, I believe the late Marty Cantor told me decades ago that he saw it being collated and offered to loan them his collating rack — which they declined; but that seems to indicate that there at least was a collation. Anyway, thanks for thinking of me! [And this, by the way, is the place to mention that I'm still looking for WOOFs #6 (1981, Denver) and #30 (2006, Anaheim).]



**Alan Stewart** ( $\text{Yb}_8\text{O}_{11}$ , see below): Sorry, will fix the WOOF history list to give you the proper credit for 1999. I think I'll put an updated WOOF history next year in #50. // Last year's WOOF was a mixture of A4 and US letter sizes. I actually didn't notice this until I read your remark about A4, as the difference isn't prominent in the electronic version scrolled vertically on a computer or phone. The printed version of course is another matter. I wrote mine using letter size but it was pretty easy to change the page layout to A4, so I'm sending both versions for WOOF so the OE can choose which one to print (APA-L will of course get the letter size). // Ytterbium is mostly trivalent but sometimes bivalent, so if ytterbium hendecoxide actually existed it could minimally have 6 trivalent and 2 bivalent Yb atoms, hence my guess of 8 for the subscript. Of course it might require some additional super glue to keep it together... :-)]

**Don Eastlake** (Chengdu Report): Beautiful pictures and great description of the con! They really went all out in taking care of the details. I assume the last photo is on a train or tramway?

**Chris Garcia** (Little Passport for WOOF): All the best regarding your health issues!

**Jan Vaněk Jr.** (Newt News #0<sup>0</sup>): I too am writing this at (actually past) the last minute, as I somehow misread the announcement of WOOF and thought it was due a month later (thanks to Christina for kindly giving me a little extra time).



# Laurraine's WOOFzine 2024



*Laurraine's WOOFzine 2024* is a zine by R-Laurraine Tutihasi, PO Box 5323, Oracle, AZ 85623-5323; 520-275-6511, Laurraine@mac.com.

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### **Art and Photo Credits**

Cover illo—photo of quail sentry outside our house in Oracle, AZ, taken by editor  
Photos—All photos taken by editor



## \* Editorial / Introduction

It has been an interesting couple of years since my last WOOFzine. It was more interesting than I would have preferred.

Late 2023 and early 2024 were very stressful times. We had to change banks when the one we had banked at for over ten years merged with another one. We had trouble with DirecTV and eventually ended up dropping them altogether and are now streaming most everything. My husband had an antenna put up on our roof after finding out that, despite our mountainous terrain, we can actually receive TV signals over the air. We have no shortage of things to watch without even taking into account the piles of DVDs we have.

Our printer started to have problems last year, and things only got worse. After trying to fix things and finding out that there was no service available from the manufacturer, we eventually replaced it.

More recently one of our microwave ovens died. Luckily we remembered that we had moved with a spare when we left California.

My travels since my last zine included trips to California, a trip to Australia and New Zealand, and a trip to the wilds of Indiana. Two of the trips included solar eclipses

The past winter was a wet one and promoted much growth after spring arrived. Spring itself was completely dry. We are in the midst of monsoon now, and we are getting a moderate amount of rain. Climate change has made it more difficult than ever to know how to grow a drought tolerant yard; I hesitate to call it a garden.

I will not be at this year's worldcon.

\* \* \*

## \* From Where I Sit: My Opinions, Views, Etc. about Books, Plays, Movies, etc.

***ESPionage: Regime Change***, by Tom Easton and Frank Wu.

This is a bit different from any other book I've read. It's basically a spy novel with ESP ability on both sides, or possibly there are more than two sides. It gets a bit confusing. Each side must shield their thoughts from others in order to get a leg up on the others.

In the mix is a love story of two people who had met long ago and are meeting again.

Much of the action takes place at a restaurant. The action is fast-moving and sometimes confusing. Everything happens so fast that it's hard to put the book down.

Allen Steels has called this an example of a genre he calls "sci-spy".

#

***Heartbreak House***, by George Bernard Shaw and presented by the Rogue Theatre in Tucson during September 2023.

I vaguely recall seeing this before back in Los Angeles, but I didn't remember it well. It portrays an English family on the brink of the Great War (WWI). It's about an upperclass family, and they seem to lead a somewhat bored existence. They are so steeped in ennui that they look upon the prospect of war as something exciting. The characters have no real aim in life other than to enjoy themselves. None of them



seem to be accomplishing that goal. War to them seems like a novelty to look forward to. Of course this class doesn't have to worry about having to become personally involved. Their servants seem much better connected to reality.

As usual the Rogue Theatre cast performed excellently.

#

**Under Milk Wood**, by Dylan Thomas and presented by the Rogue Theatre in Tucson during January 2024.

This was presented by actors representing the characters portrayed in Thomas's work. The work was originally written to be performed as a reading or a radio play. The Rogue Theatre brought it to life by creating a set to represent the Welsh village of Llareggub. As each character speaks, he stands in an appropriate location on the stage. All the actions take place on a single day, which is representative of their lives.

It was excellently done and reminded me of a production of *The Spoon River Anthology* I saw performed at one of the high schools I attended. It turned out that the director had that poem in mind as he created the staging of this production.

#

**An Iliad**, by Homer and presented by the Rogue Theatre in Tucson during February and March of 2024.

This was different from other productions I've seen there. It was a one-woman production. She played the bard who is reciting the poem for an audience. As the well-known climax approached, she linked the classic war story to wars that have taken place closer to our time. This, especially references to Israel and Ukraine, created gut-wrenching reactions in a number of audience members, including me. During the discussion following the play, I couldn't speak. If I had tried, I would have burst into tears. I told the actress that afterward, and she gave me a hug. It was truly a memorable performance.

#

**Love's Labor's Lost**, by William Shakespeare and presented by the Rogue Theatre in Tucson during April and May of 2024.

I don't know why "Labor" wasn't spelled the original way, but I'll let that slide. It wasn't performed with a British accent either. But it was nevertheless very entertaining. Since this isn't one of the most popular of Shakespeare's plays, I'll give a brief description. It is one of Shakespeare's earlier plays. Four young noblemen take a vow to study, fast, and see no women for three years. Almost immediately they are visited by a French princess and her escorts. Technically, of course, the four noblemen are already breaking their vows just by speaking to these women. However, they tell the women that they must camp in the nearby forest and cannot enter the castle at all. Of course all the young men fall in love. A compromise of sorts is reached at the end when the women agree to go away and return after a year. It's anyone's guess what might have happened a year later, since there is no known sequel.

It was amusing to watch as each of the men tried to hide his feelings of love from his comrades. Notes to the women didn't always reach the correct target. It was excellently performed as usual.

\* \* \*

## \* Australia/New Zealand Trip

In spring of 2023, a college friend and I signed up for an eclipse trip to Australia. We added a bunch of stuff at the end, probably too much, in terms of both money and time. But we're not getting any younger. Saturday, 8 April 2023, was a very long day. I flew to Los Angeles, where I would meet up with my travelling companion and friend, Marcia. I overdid leaving plenty of time between the flights, so I had all sorts of time to kill. I checked in to my flight on Air New Zealand to Sydney, Australia, before my friend arrived at LAX. After check-in I was referred to the Star Alliance lounge, and I rested in there with a glass of OJ until Marcia was at the gate. I joined her there until boarding time. Our business class portion of our flight had seats that change into beds.

After dinner about 23:30 I had my seat converted to a bed and lay down to eventually sleep.

We lost the next day due to crossing the International Dateline.

I slept on our flight somewhat fitfully, but I did sleep. Toward the end I kept waking up. I eventually asked the flight crew to fold up my bed.

Breakfast was served about an hour before we reached Auckland, New Zealand. My gluten-free meal included a large muffin and other things. I can highly recommend Air New Zealand, at least for international flights. Service was great, and my gluten-free meals were excellent.

In Auckland I accompanied Marcia to the boarding gate of our connecting flight. This plane was smaller and seemed to be all one class. We were served another breakfast. Mine included a fried egg, sausage, a small frittata, fruit, and a small muffin. The second breakfast made up for the two-hour time difference between Auckland and Sydney.

In Sydney we basically sailed through customs and immigration. Then we took a taxi to our Four Seasons Hotel.

Not surprisingly I slept rather fitfully the first night; this is par for the course for me. I got up shortly after 06:00 about dawn.

We went down to breakfast about 07:30. I had my usual bacon and eggs, just more of it than usual; on the other hand, there was no fruit.

A bit later we left for the Taronga Zoo, which was across a bay from the hotel. The ferry was easy to find, but we inadvertently ended up buying duplicate zoo tickets. After we reached the zoo, Marcia decided she wasn't up to all the walking. Because of her inactivity during the COVID shutdown, her stamina had deteriorated; she hadn't realized this and only learned after trying to be as active as previously. Instead we split up and took different routes. She ended up taking the main trail. I went off to the Australian exhibits which were up a gentle incline.

We met back up for lunch, where we found a



varied offering. I had a poke bowl with chicken.

Then we parted ways again. One trail I took to see the tigers (see photo on previous page) was almost too much for me, as it was steeply uphill all the way. On the other hand, the return was on the same route, so downhill all the way. In any case we met up at the Zoo Shop earlier than expected, and we missed the first return ferry and would have to wait two hours. After some thought and discussion, we decided to call a taxi. We returned to the hotel about an hour later. Below is a photo I took of Sydney from the zoo.



Breakfast was about 08:00 on Wednesday, 12 April 2023.

We relaxed until it was time to meet up with the Insight Cruises people. We each received a name badge before boarding a bus for a harbour cruise with lunch.

Lunch was very nice and filling. Mostly Marcia and I talked. We'd both been to Sydney before, so we didn't really spend a lot of time looking at the scenery.

After we returned from the cruise, we had a couple of hours to regroup.

We went downstairs for cocktail hour. I managed to get a large pile of gluten-free food and had no need for a separate dinner.

The next morning we took our luggage down to the third floor after unsuccessfully calling for assistance. The tour people collected the luggage and tagged the ones to be checked into the plane. We also left behind some loose things we wouldn't need in the next few days; the hotel provided us with bags.

We had a buffet breakfast about 06:00.

We boarded a coach about 06:30 and drove to the Sydney Airport. The domestic area is much more primitive than the international area. Everything went smoothly until we were ready to board; then the plane had technical problems, and our takeoff was delayed. Our arrival in Tamworth, however, was only five minutes later than scheduled.

After we landed we boarded a coach that took us to Coonabarabran.

There we had lunch at Tibuc Gardens about 13:30. I had shrimp and calamari on a bed of rice (or something similar) noodles. My dessert was blueberry cake.



In the afternoon we toured the Anglo-Australian 4-metre Telescope (photo below shows the observatory and surrounding area). While there we saw a number of kangaroos and wallabies, which I unfortunately didn't have the chance to photograph; they moved quickly to avoid our cameras. On the way there, we also saw emus. Afterward we checked into the Matthew Flinders Motor Inn. The room had been sprayed with a horrible pseudo floral scent that I found irritating.



We had dinner about 19:00. I had soup and chicken, though I was unable to finish. We had mousse for dessert, and I had an Australian white muscat. Marcia was too tired even to finish dinner.

At night we made a brave effort at stargazing, but clouds prevented us. I got to bed about 22:30.

We left for the Parkes radio telescope shortly after breakfast at 07:00. On the bus we started viewing the movie *The Dish*; this movie covers the story of the telescope's part in the 1969 American Moon landing. There were problems because of high winds. Telescopes are very unstable if there is wind; so things were touch and go. If you've never seen the movie, I highly recommend it.

We stopped for lunch about mid-day.

We continued on to Parkes while we finished watching the movie. In Parkes we visited the radio telescope (see photo at right). It's still being used daily, so we couldn't go inside. However we watched three short films related to radio astronomy. We also listened to a talk



about the telescope as we stood near the telescope. I tried to take some photos of birds and bought a postcard. Afterward we checked in to the Station Motel in Parkes.

We had dinner about 18:30.

At night a bunch of us headed out to a dark site and observed the night sky. It's weird seeing Orion upside down! I eventually discovered I was underdressed for the cold and sought shelter on the bus along with Laurel from just south of Phoenix. Back at the hotel, I got to bed far too late at about 00:15.

On what would have been tax day at home, we left the Station Motel about 08:00 and drove to Scenic World with one comfort stop. On the way we watched the documentary *Good-Night, Oppy*, about the Mars Exploration Rover *Opportunity*. At Scenic World we had a choice of activities. I did everything: the railway, skyway, and gondola. The problem was having to wait long times in line, because it was a Saturday. The crowds made things less enjoyable; I couldn't really see much with all the other people blocking my view.

We had lunch about 13:15 at Lookout at Scenic Point. This is the area where the Three Sisters are. Because I had seen them before, I didn't try to get to the viewpoint. The place is so built up now that all the charm of the place is gone.

After that we drove back to Sydney and the Four Seasons.

Because we were running late, we had no time after getting to our rooms before we had to head down to dinner.

The next day we left the Four Seasons hotel about 06:00. We reached the Sydney Airport with time to spare. Unfortunately just before boarding had been scheduled to start, we were informed that a mechanical problem had been found and there would be a delay of nearly an hour. The airport WiFi was the pits. We started boarding our plane to Perth about 08:40.

Breakfast was served about 10:15. I had omelette with sausage. It also came with spinach.

After breakfast I dozed off intermittently. We landed in early afternoon, giving us no time for lunch. After we got to the Intercontinental Hotel, we retrieved our luggage and got our room assignments.

There was a cocktail party at 15:00. Almost no food was gluten-free, so I didn't eat anything. The Schweppes soda I had provided me some caloric intake. I think it was guava flavoured.

Dinner was about 17:00. The food was satisfactory.

On Monday, 17 April 2023, I got up shortly after 06:00, because I was essentially awake and I kept hearing someone's alarm from another room. We did our COVID testing and took photos of the results as requested by the ship we would be boarding.

We went down to breakfast about 08:30. While we ate I had conversations with people sitting nearby; they were also here for the eclipse but were travelling on land.

After breakfast we picked up our souvenir hats. Then we adjourned to our room to finish packing and use the remaining time as wisely as we could. I mostly caught up with e-mail. We got on the tour bus about 13:00 for a tour of Perth and Fremantle.

We had no real lunch, just some snack food.

We stopped in King's park for an hour. Marcia informed me that we would be staying near there later. The coach dropped us off at Fremantle pier, and we were able to board the *Pacific Explorer*. Boarding was pretty complicated, but we eventually both got to our room: 10011. My luggage arrived not too long after.



Marcia's went astray, but our tour leader Tim managed to find it in front of the wrong cabin. Tim and his wife were our minders for Insight Cruises. I haven't been able to find out how big the ship is, but I don't believe it held not much more than a thousand passengers. I also don't know how big our Insight Cruises group was, but the ship had other groups and many individuals travelling on their own.

Dinner was about 19:30 at the Dragon Lady restaurant. I had a beef curry and crème brûlée. I tried a Pinot gris, but it was only passable. There were four restaurants on board where we could eat at without paying extra.

After dinner we were too tired to spend too much time doing much other than preparing for bed.

I got up the next morning shortly before my alarm went off at 06:30.

We had breakfast about 08:00 in the Waterfront restaurant. When we were not eating as a group, the restaurants on board gave us the option of sitting with other passengers. This way we had the opportunity to speak with a variety of people, which I enjoyed.

Then Marcia did her laundry, and I went in search of a trivia game. It turned out I had the wrong time, and there were two trivia games. I was too late for the first one but played the second one with two women from the Perth area. I also walked in on a dark skies talk.

About 12:15 I had lunch at the Waterfront restaurant with a couple from Baltimore and a woman from Brisbane.

After lunch I looked around on the next level and found a store that sold sundries and bought a large packet of facial tissue. Then I returned to our cabin, where Marcia was resting. About 14:30 we went down for a talk by Kelly Beatty about the eclipse, which was well attended. Kelly Beatty was the Insight Cruises organizer. He was recently retired from working for *Sky and Telescope* magazine. He also organized the eclipse trip we took in 2017.

We had dinner about 19:30 at Angelo's. We sat next to a couple from Brisbane. Service was quite slow.

After dinner I went upstairs on the ship for stargazing. I didn't stay long, because there were too many people to stargaze comfortably. I got to bed about 23:00.

The next day was basically a free day.

The next day I got up to my alarm at 06:15. We went up to the Pantry for breakfast and sat down with an Aussie couple from a small town in northern NSW. This was on one of the upper decks that is partly uncovered.

Then we patiently waited for the eclipse. I read some e-mail, but the wi-fi was very slow. The eclipse started shortly after 10:00. Totality started about 11:30 and was spectacular. I saw the diamond ring at both the beginning and the end. In between I saw prominences. It only lasted for about a minute, but it was very beautiful. I



didn't get quite as emotional as my first time back in 2017. We watched the last part of the eclipse for a while until Marcia started getting hungry. I didn't get any photos, but a few others shared theirs. On the previous page is one taken by Manny Leinz.

Our search for lunch ended up at the Waterfront, where we were seated with a couple from Perth. The husband, Keith, was originally from Coventry in England and was a very young lad during the blitzkrieg.

After lunch we returned to our cabin to rest and regroup. We left the cabin for a trivia game. We did pretty well, but some others did better. In the end four teams had to play a tie breaker.

We had dinner about 19:45 at the Waterfront. Our table had a couple from Redondo Beach, CA, and a family from Wellington. One of the Wellington people has seen Mittens the cat but recommended another cat named Sylvester as easier to find. Of course, our chances of seeing either were slim, considering we would only be there for a couple of days. Mittens has a Facebook page.

On Friday, 21 April 2023, I had breakfast at the Waterfront about 7:45 with a couple from Kent, Washington.

Then I went to an Insight Cruises group photo session at the Marquee about 8:45. Photos were taken with and without our eclipse souvenir hats. I returned to our cabin afterwards to regroup. Marcia had just finished her room service breakfast. After about an hour, I left in search of a game called "Where in the World?" which turned out to be fairly tame. However afterward I had an enjoyable conversation with a local couple. I learned a lot about vegetable gardening, but of course I've forgot everything.

I headed to lunch at the Waterfront about 11:15, but I found that lunch would not start until noon. I returned shortly before noon with Elizabeth and Margaret (Peggy) from Perth and somewhere in NSW. I had Philly cheesesteak with sorbet for sweets.

I returned to the room, where Marcia still was. Abdul was cleaning up. After he finished I packed my checked luggage; we put our large luggage outside before we left for dinner. I spent the rest of the afternoon updating my diary, reading e-mail, napping, and touching base with Facebook.

We had dinner about 20:00 at Angelo's. Dinner was excellent. I had salad and fish with a custard-like dessert.

I got up to my alarm at 04:30 the next day. I had breakfast about 05:30 in the Pantry, the only restaurant open so early.

I returned to the cabin before 06:00, but Marcia had already left. I finished packing. Then I went in search for her; with little trouble I found her and proceeded to wait together for disembarkation. I read e-mail until the wi-fi deteriorated. We disembarked after a long wait then waited a long time in the taxi line. When we arrived at the apartment, we discovered that we had to climb stairs to the bedroom and laundry. Because there were no railings for the stairs, this was not going to work for Marcia; so I made reservations at the Hyatt Regency Perth. I also ordered a taxi using the Internet. We managed to get down to street level, with the kind assistance of a resident, just before the taxi drove up. The Hyatt Regency appeared typical for the chain. I e-mailed my husband about our change of location.

After dropping our belongings in our room, we got lunch downstairs at the Café. I had salad and tea.

After lunch I unpacked. Marcia took care of some business with the apartment manager and lay down for a nap. I read whole bunches of e-mail.

After looking about unsuccessfully for a dinner venue, we ate in the hotel. We both had barramundi. I had sorbet for dessert.

At night we checked out a list of restaurants we got from reception, and I read more e-mail and touched base with Facebook. I got to bed about 22:45.

That night I slept straight through and awoke shortly before my alarm went off at 06:30, at which point I got up.

We went down to breakfast about 07:45.

After breakfast we took a cab straight to Kings Park. I got dropped off at one end, and Marcia continued on to the spot where our coach took us before we boarded our cruise. With the assistance of many other park visitors, I managed to find the elevated walkway (see photo below). It's quite impressive, and the views are very



nice. From there I found the baobab tree. Then I was close to where we'd previously been. Marcia was nowhere to be found, so I called her and she answered. We sat talking for a while outside.

Eventually we moved closer to the restaurant with the expectation that we would develop an appetite for lunch. Marcia had a muffin but ate only a part of it. I eventually opted for hazelnut and pistachio ice cream.

Soon after that we decided to get help getting a cab. The volunteers at the park were extremely helpful. We spent the afternoon resting.

We went to dinner at the Maruzzella Italian restaurant not too far from the hotel. The food and service were excellent. We used a taxi both ways, as Marcia wasn't up for walking.

On Monday, 24 April 2023, we had breakfast about 07:30.

Not long after breakfast we went to the Perth Museum. It turned out to be very different from what Marcia had expected. We decided to go to the Western Australia Museum after that, but that turned into an adventure. Marcia tried to get to a nearby taxi stand that was slightly uphill from where we started. She had trouble after a short distance. A helpful businessman aided us, but she still had to get up the rest of the hill. We finally got a taxi. We ended up getting memberships at the museum in order to allow us to go there at least a second time. It was relatively inexpensive. We looked over exhibits concerning the aboriginals.

Then Marcia wanted to get lunch. There was a restaurant connected to the museum.

I thought we were going to look at more exhibits, but Marcia wanted to return to the hotel. It was a challenge getting a taxi until I asked a cafe worker to call for us. We spent the afternoon in our hotel room. I read e-mail and Facebook.

For dinner we went to the Oyster Bar on the Quay. It was very good. When we emerged from dinner, it was raining again.

The next day we went down to breakfast about 07:30. I tried their yogurt but didn't much care for it.

We stayed in during the morning. Most things were closed for ANZAC day.

We skipped lunch.

In the afternoon we went back to the Western Australia Museum. I looked through the third floor "Wild Things" exhibit (basically natural history) while Marcia looked through historical exhibits. We returned to the hotel fairly early.

We had dinner in the hotel about 18:00. I had a half chicken, which was too much.

The next day was one of rest and regrouping.

I got up to my alarm at 06:30 the following morning.

We went down to breakfast about 07:45 after calling for laundry pick up.

Shortly before 10:00 we left for the Art Gallery of Western Australia. The exhibits were interesting. One was a sort of playroom where people could assemble things or draw things. Another was an imaginary world creation (see photo next page). The elevator was fur-lined with the same fur as the carpet in the photo.

We had lunch at the café outside their gift shop.

Then I took a spin through the 1st floor historical exhibit in the Western Australia Museum. We had a challenge getting a taxi, because we got the street names mixed up. We had to ask a second person to call a taxi for us. Back in our hotel room, my laundry was eventually delivered; but one sock was missing. I spent time reading e-mail and Facebook.

For dinner we went to the Boatshed, which turned out to have very good food. The place is on the water. From the restaurant window, we saw a great egret and some black swans. On the taxi ride over, we passed the zoo.

At night I ordered in-room breakfast for the next day, but it was unclear whether it would be delivered on time. I got to bed about 22:15.

I got up to my alarm at 5:30 the next day. We got room service breakfast, because we were leaving too early to allow us to eat in the restaurant. It arrived a bit late, but





we had time to eat without hurrying.

We left about 07:30 to walk to the Mantra Hotel on Hay Street. We got there early, but the pickup bus was late. However we reached the Rottneest Island Ferry terminal in ample time. The ferry ride to the island took about forty-five minutes. We had ample time to walk to the train station for a tour despite stopping a few times to get directions. The train ride took us to the location of a war defence post. Unfortunately the tour mostly involved steps, so Marcia and some others had to sit it out. The rest of us were taken to an underground defence station and shown rooms that used to house armaments and the machinery needed to use them. It was very interesting. The place never saw action. There is an empty gun placement above ground, again involving stairs.

After we boarded the train again, we were given boxed lunches. Mine was a salad and cookie.

In the afternoon we boarded a chartered bus and were driven all around the island with one stop where we could disembark. There are a lot of beautiful beaches and coves (see photo next page) around the island. After the drive we were let out in the Settlement, where we saw three quokkas; they are a small marsupial about the size of a domestic cat. The town quokkas are not healthy from eating too many things that are unhealthy for them. They like to hang around the bakery. Their lifespans are half those in the wild. The town quokkas are often seen during the day, though the wild ones are nocturnal. Out of three we saw, two were sleeping. We reached the nearby dock shortly before the ferry began loading. After we returned to the mainland and boarded the shuttle, Marcia asked to be let off at a hotel different from the pickup one. We lucked on a taxi at a stand and took it to the Hyatt Regency.





I went up to the room to drop off a few things, while Marcia waited for me to join her for dinner. I had a Cosmopolitan and bream with cappuccino after.

Back in our room, I read some e-mail until I began to tire. I got to bed about 22:15.

I got up to my alarm at 06:30 but didn't feel as rested as usual. Marcia said she didn't sleep well but said she'd be okay. We're not having such a heavy day, so I thought we'd be okay.

We went down to breakfast about 07:45. Afterward I walked to the corner in search of non-aerosol hair spray but with no luck. I returned to our hotel room, where Marcia wanted to delay our departure for the zoo in order to charge her phone. However when the time approached for our departure, she told me she was too tired. So I went on my own. I took a taxi, since going by bus required too many changes. The Perth Zoo is relatively small but interesting despite much construction work. Quite a few Australian animals, including quokkas (see photo next page). The place is not much bigger than the Tucson zoo but more interesting to me.

I had an ice cream bar for lunch.

I had to ask the zoo to call a cab for me. My attempt had failed. Marcia seemed much better when I returned to the hotel. I read e-mail and napped for a while in the afternoon. I also started packing for our early departure the next day.

We went downstairs for dinner. Service was slow and erratic; they seemed quite short-staffed.

At night I finished most of my packing and retired relatively early.

I got up to my alarm at 05:00 the next day.

Our room service breakfast, ordered off the late night menu, arrived at 06:00.

About 07:00 Marcia requested help getting our luggage down. As soon as the help arrived, we went down to check out and got a taxi to the train station. At the train station, there was a long wait; I don't know why they asked us to be there so early. We boarded about 09:00. The train started moving



about 10:00. Our car was one away from a lounge and two away from a dining car. The lounge car had wi-fi but just barely. I managed to clear the already downloaded e-mail.

Lunch for us was served about 13:15. We ate with a couple from New South Wales. The dining car resembles the ones I've seen in movies about the Orient Express.

We returned to the lounge car for the afternoon, which included a trivia contest. Our team won. I got an Indian Pacific mug. Otherwise I talked with other passengers or read. The wi-fi was spotty. The photo above shows the route of the train.

Dinner was about 19:15.

After dinner there was a rush to get ready for our first outing in Kalgoorlie to tour Paddy Hannan's Ounce of Luck, where gold is mined today. I got to sleep about 00:30.

Sleep was off and on with the train rocking back and forth and sometimes stopping. After the sun rose, on Monday, 1 May 2023, I got up. It was about 08:00.

Shortly afterward we crossed into the next time zone, so it was suddenly ninety minutes later. It was time for brunch. I ate with Elva and Louise and a man.

The afternoon was punctuated by one stop, where the train stopped for servicing at a town of population four. Most of us got off to look over what had been a sizeable community. I also got a nap sometime later.

Dinner was served for us at 18:00. We sat with the couple from the Isle of Wight. I got to bed about 21:30.

The next morning I got up to my alarm at 05:00.





There was an early breakfast about 06:00 that I partook of.

Then we arrived in Adelaide, where we divided up into tour groups. Some people disembarked there, and some new people boarded. We had opted for the countryside around Adelaide, but the weather was not good for this option. It had rained, and the area was still covered with clouds and fog. In addition raindrops fell from the trees. On Overlook mountain we had a second breakfast. There was a gift shop there, and I bought some postcards. We returned to the train.

Soon after we sat down to lunch.

In the afternoon I read some e-mail. There was some musical entertainment. There were games led by a drag queen, who also did a dance number. Many of us had our photos taken with him (see photo next page).

Dinner for us was about 18:30, just before we passed into another time zone and gained half an hour.

Marcia and I talked for a while afterwards before retiring. I got to bed about 22:30.

On Wednesday, 3 May 2023, I got up to my alarm at 06:00.

I had breakfast about 06:45 and sat with a man originally from Victoria, Canada, his Australian wife, and another Aussie woman. We had a kangaroo sighting!

After breakfast we sat in the lounge. Marcia retrieved her belongings from the room, so I did as well eventually. We got off the train about 12:15 and caught a cab to the airport about fifteen minutes later. The cab ride took a while. I was dropped off first. With the help of an airline (not Qantas) employee, I found a manned check-in desk and managed to catch an earlier flight.

The flight boarded shortly after 14:00. The back half of the plane were sent to the stairs, and I struggled with it. Another passenger helped me with my carry-on. The flight attendant told me I didn't need to use the stairs, that I could stay put and disembark through the connecting ramp.

Lunch was a snack served on the plane.

When we landed everyone exited via jetway. It was cool but mostly dry. During

my cab ride, it started raining again. There was a beautiful double rainbow. The cab was a Lexus!

Shortly after I checked in to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, I went down to dinner at the hotel restaurant. I had prawns, fruit, and a cappuccino. By the way this was the same location where the Aussiecon (the World Science Fiction Convention) was held in 1999; I think it had a different name then.

I got up about 07:30 on Thursday, 4 May 2023.

I had breakfast about 08:45 at the hotel restaurant.

I walked to the train station in the morning to add funds to the MYKI card that the hotel let me use and to scout around. The card is used to pay for tram and train rides. I also found a new bottle of hairspray and two Kind snack bars from shops at the station. I spent the rest of the morning reading e-mail and Facebook.

I went down about 13:00 to get lunch but was a bit disappointed. The web site had claimed that salads would be available, but they weren't. I got a muffin (cupcake) and OJ.

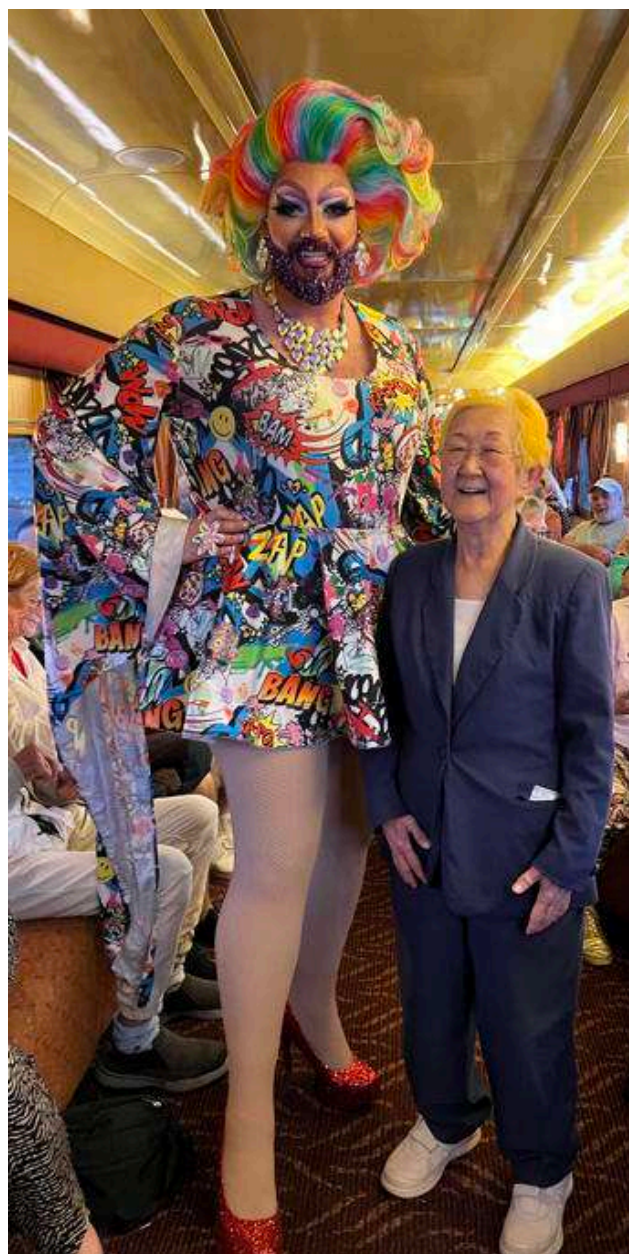
After "lunch" I read e-mail and Facebook and napped.

I met Bruce Gillespie in the lobby shortly before 18:30. We went together on the tram to the Spaghetti Tree restaurant, which seems like a pretty nice Italian place. Four others also came—Anne Poore, Alan Stewart, Terry Morris, and Kam Ho. Four of us shared a pretty good white muscat, best Aussie wine I've had. Much of the conversation was about science fiction fandom. Terry and Kam Ho escorted me on the tram most of the way back to the Crowne Plaza, as their route coincided with mine.

After preparing things for the next day, I got to bed about 22:45.

The next day I got down to breakfast about 07:30. I had an omelette. I tried a gluten-free muffin, but it was way too sweet.

I returned to my room to change for the Melbourne Zoo outing. About 09:00 I headed out to the Southern Cross station. With helpful assistance from station staff and other passengers, I boarded the correct train and reached the zoo early. I waited past the agreed upon meeting time. Anne was the first to arrive. We waited quite a while for LynC and were in the process of calling or texting when she showed up. She



had been delayed by some problems. We had time to look for the elusive platypus before we congregated in the meeting place for a close encounter with kangaroos. Eventually the time arrived, and a small group of us headed to the kangaroo enclosure. We all went in and sat on benches. The zookeeper put some food into a trough, and most of the kangaroos gradually came over. One female roo had a joey in



her pouch. One kangaroo snuck up behind me, sniffing away, before joining the others at the trough. I took many photos.

Then we toured the other Aussie exhibits before turning our thoughts to lunch. I got a couple of sushi rolls of a sort. We were joined by Leigh Edmonds.

Anne and Leigh left after eating. LynC and I went back to the platypus exhibit and hit the jackpot (see photo above). We also saw dingos, a Tasmanian devil, two lions, a red panda, and a snow leopard. LynC walked me to the train stop. A fellow passenger gave me aid in catching the right train. I got back safely to the hotel, where I read e-mail and napped.

For dinner I went down to the hotel restaurant about 17:30 and had pork chop and a cappuccino.

Saturday, 6 May 2023, I got up to my alarm at 04:15. After packing up everything, I called down for help with my luggage. I had to pack up some last minute things, but then I was on my way. I checked out and got in the taxi that had been arranged. We arrived early at the airport, so there was plenty of time to find the correct checkin desk. The man there was pleasant and helpful. There were security and emigration gates to go through.

The Qantas flight to Auckland boarded late, apparently due to some technical problems. I dropped off soon after the flight took off.

Lunch was a couple of gluten-free snacks that were available.

We landed in Auckland late. My luggage took forever to emerge. Then the luggage inspection line went on forever. Marcia started texting me, wondering where I was. I finally reached our hotel in Auckland as a meeting about our coach tour started.

This being Saturday night, we had dinner at the hotel about 20:30 as all the area restaurants were full up. It's a vegetarian restaurant, but it wasn't at all bad.

At night I shifted the things I use daily from my purse to the back packs we received. Then I prepared things for the next morning. I got to bed about 22:15.

On Sunday I got up to my alarm at 05:45. We got down to breakfast about 06:45



and found people already eating. We sat with Donna from Brisbane.

We were delayed a bit departing from the hotel because of late arrivals for our tour.

Marcia and I had lunch at a CBK Bar and Kitchen by the ocean in Kerikeri. I had a cheeseburger. In both Australia and New Zealand, there was usually plenty of gluten free food.

After lunch we drove to a viewpoint beside a golf course. Then we checked into the Copthorne Bay of Islands, a resort hotel. Shortly after I went for a walk along the rocky shore.

Dinner was about 18:30 and was served buffet style. We had a very enjoyable conversation with the people sitting near us.

We went down to breakfast about 08:00 the next day.

Immediately after breakfast, or as immediately as we could manage, we walked to the Treaty Museum and grounds nearby. We signed up to see the tribal performance. Unfortunately Marcia found herself out of energy before she made it to the performance place, so she returned to the museum by the front entrance. It wasn't a huge place, but there was some walking involved between buildings. Some of the walks were at a slight incline. I went through the house where the treaty had been signed and to a museum called The Price of Citizenship. Shortly thereafter I saw the Māori tribal ceremony. It bore a resemblance to the Hawaiian ones that I've seen. After that I started back toward the entrance. I looked over the gift shop but didn't buy anything. I eventually caught up with Marcia at the front door. The museum people called a taxi for us, and we returned to the hotel.

It was about 12:30 when we ordered lunch at the bar. I had soup and salad with iced tea.

After lunch we rested in our room.

We went down to dinner about 18:00, forgetting about the 19:00 reservation we had made. But it turned out okay. There was a downpour during the meal.

At night we packed for the next day's departure.

I got up to my alarm at 05:45 the next day, which was a Tuesday. It's raining pretty heavily.

We got down to breakfast about 07:00.

We got off to a late start because of the weather. One of our activities, a Hole in the Rock Cruise, had been cancelled because of it. In mid-morning we had a pit stop in Whangarei.

We started off for a museum in another town, but the road conditions got increasingly worse; and Matt, the coach driver, decided it was safer to go straight to Auckland. About that time most of our phones received a series of alerts from the Civil Alert service in Auckland. We had to get back to the main road, and it was a bit dicey at times.

We missed lunch, but that couldn't be helped. Our safety came first. I had a snack bar.

Our coach rode pretty high on the road, so we were reasonably sure we'd make it okay. The diciest time was crossing a bridge whose access ramp was starting to flood. We reached the Sudima Hotel, where we'd stayed before, about 14:30. We're in room 308, which was nicer than the room we had before.

We had a group dinner about 18:30. We sat with couples from Hobart and Melbourne. One of the Melbourne couple was from Hong Kong. The husband of the

Hobart couple was from southern Italy.

The next day we got ready for departure and then went down to breakfast about 07:00.

The coach drove to the Waitomo Caves, where we took a tour to see the glow worms. Unfortunately Marcia didn't go, because we had to go up and down many stairs. It was slippery in spots as well. Photography was not allowed. At the exit we were guided to the gift shop.

We drove to a nearby restaurant for lunch. We ate at a decent sushi place.

Our coach drove us to the Sudima Hotel in Rotorua, famed for their hot springs.

We had dinner about 18:30 in the the hotel restaurant. It was very good. A fish dish was tailor-made for me. We also shared a prawn starter. I had a chocolate mousse for dessert and also a cappuccino.

We went down to breakfast about 07:30 Thursday morning. I had my usual bacon and eggs, just more of it than usual; on the other hand, there was no fruit.

About 07:15 we were picked up for a tour of Hobbiton (see photo below) that we had signed up for. It took a couple of hours to get there. Our bus driver arranged for



Marcia to tour in a golf cart. The rest of us walked in the rain for much of the tour; the rain wasn't continuous. We still had a good time and took lots of photos.

After the tour we got a free pint (mine was ginger beer) and lunch with gluten-free selections. Because of construction on the site, we were also gifted with limited edition souvenir mugs.

During the bus ride back to Rotorua, I fell asleep for a while. Back at the hotel, we had about ninety minutes before our evening outing. Then we were driven to the Te Puia experience and dinner. There are mud pots and geysers there. They're also breeding kiwi birds. I got to see two of them—much bigger than I expected. Photography of the kiwis was not allowed.

The buffet style dinner was about 18:00. Everything in the buffet was labelled as gluten-free, vegetarian, or whatever. This was true elsewhere we had gone to with buffets.

After we ate there was traditional Maori entertainment that was very similar to the one I saw at Cophorne Bay . We got back to the hotel about 20:00.

Friday, 12 May 2023, I got up to my alarm at 05:45. We got our luggage ready for pickup.

Breakfast was about 06:45.

The bus got underway about 8:00. The day was clear, sunny, and cold. From our bus we could see obvious evidence of New Zealand being volcanic. As we drove south, we started seeing snow-covered mountains. We stopped about 09:00 at a waterfall-like feature created by water going through a narrow bore. A while later we made our morning coffee stop. The place was by a lake with beautiful views of mountains.

Our lunch stop was about 13:00 in a small town with restaurants that seemed below par, but we managed to get food of a sort.

The afternoon was spent driving to Wellington. We arrived at the Travelodge Hotel about 16:30. This is probably the least impressive place we stayed in New Zealand.

We went downstairs for dinner about 18:00. The restaurant seemed sub par as well.

The next morning we went down to breakfast a little after 08:00; this was the last bit of our trip included in the coach tour.

After breakfast I walked to the Museum of New Zealand (Te Papa Tongarewa); that turned out to be quite a walk for me. Marcia was the one who really wanted to see the place, but she was too tired. She wouldn't have been able to do the walk, which turned out to be much longer than we had been told. There were also steps involved. There were many exhibits relating to the unique fauna of the islands and immigration.

About 12:45 I took a lunch break and had a fruit bowl, a gluten-free cake, and coffee.

After lunch I finished looking at the exhibits and took a taxi back to the hotel. With all the walking to get to the place and the walking inside, I didn't have much energy left.

We had dinner about 17:00. I had a steak and cappuccino.

At night we settled our accounts. I packed and prepared clothes for the next day and made arrangements for an early departure.

Both of us had trouble sleeping. We had to leave early in the morning, and I guess we were both anxious. We had lots of trouble getting our luggage down to the lobby. We had asked that the night manager help us, but there was no sign of the night manager. We had locked our keys in the room, so I couldn't get a luggage cart up; the elevator required a room key to go up. I ran out to see if our taxi was there; he

was and I spoke to him to reassure him we were on our way. I got locked out of the hotel. Fortunately the night manager finally showed up; no one had given him the message about helping us. I hustled him up to the hallway where Marcia waited with our luggage. The cab took about half an hour to get to the airport. Then we had to wait another half hour for the ticket counters to open. Security was really careful and checked inside my carryon and purse. Marcia wasn't at the gate when I got there. Apparently she got taken to the business class lounge, which she said was freezing. Eventually we met just before boarding.

We had breakfast on the flight to Sydney.

We had about an hour before our flight to LAX.

On our long flight, we were served lunch starting from about 12:45 that was stretched out for about two hours.

I didn't sleep well on the flight.

We were served breakfast about 21:30; this was the time by my watch. Since we were in airplane mode, my watch was unable to update.

We landed in Los Angeles shortly before 07:00. I walked with Marcia to baggage pickup, since she had both our luggage tickets. We parted ways after she managed to contact the friend who was picking her up. Then I walked to the Delta terminal, which seemed to be mobbed. I stood in a long line in the hopes of getting an earlier flight but no dice.

I grabbed lunch from a Jersey Mike's, since they offered gluten free. It was okay, but not great.

I eventually boarded my flight home shortly after 15:00. There were four airline personnel flying with us, including a pilot seated next to me. Mike picked me up as planned. It was a long trip, but I enjoyed it. You can see more photos of the trip on my web site: [http://www.weasner.com/vacations/AU\\_NZ\\_2023/index.html](http://www.weasner.com/vacations/AU_NZ_2023/index.html)

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## MAILING COMMENTS ON WOOF #47 (2022)

**Roger Hill (Report from Hoople #146.870):** Thank you for the nice history of WOOF. For whatever reason, I seem to miss out on some collations.

**Rich Lynch (Remembering Bill Tanner):** Nice write-up, but I unfortunately never met Bill Danner.

**Jan Vaněk, Jr. (Newt News):** Nice to meet you. I will not be attending this year's worldcon. I have met very few European fans in person.

**Chris Garcia (Claims**

**Department):** Quite a zine!

Wasn't at the Chicago worldcon and won't be at this year's.

Enjoyed all the photography. When did I send you the photo from Oro Valley? I went on a pubic art tour in Brea, California. I went on another one in Oro Valley, Arizona. Since then I've taken a few more photos. I should write them up.

**Alison Scott (For WOOF):** Impressive ribbons.

**Guy H. Lillian, III (Hand Shake):** I'm sorry to read about your Parkinson's. I hope it hasn't got

much worse.

Enjoyed your photos.

**Aaron Feldman (The Book of Imaginary Animals: Vol. 1: A Animals):** I never heard of those animals.

**Guy Lillian (The Zine Dump #55):** You always have kind things to say about my zines. They are appreciated.

**John Coxon (The Galaxy with Two Edges):** Sorry to read that COVID made you miss getting to Walt Disney World; happy to read that you were able to get there two years later. I

haven't been there since before EPCOT. I had a trip to Iceland postponed for the same reason but eventually made it.

**OASFIS (Event Horizon July 2022):** Nice club zine.

**Alan Stewart (Ytterbium Decoxide):** Nice report on the previous worldcon.

**Nigel Rowe (The Ink Machine Colour Supplement):** Nice zine

**Daniel Miller (Looking Up):** Sorry you didn't find fandom to be a good fit.

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**\* Closing Remarks**

My current plans are to attend the upcoming worldcon in Seattle. As it looks like the 2026 worldcon will be in LA, I will probably attend that one as well. I also hope to attend the one in Brisbane if that comes off. We'll have to see about the ones in between.

This zine was mostly stitched together from pieces of the most recent issue of *Purrsonal Mewsings*. If you're interested in seeing other issues, you can check them out at <http://www.weasner.com/laurraine/Felinemewsings/index.html>.

*Laurraine*  
23 July 2024



# YTTERBIUM

# DODECOXIDE

**July 2024**

## **WOOF Collation #49 (Worldcon 82)**

Prepared by Alan Stewart,  
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Artwork by Bill Rotsler

As some of you will know my ANZAPA zine is called *Ytterbium*, and I'm putting together this one-off for WOOF, but trying to give some of the flavour of that zine. There probably won't be the regular features of that zine (Chocolate roundup and beer). I'll save it as a PDF and email it off. As one version of the collated WOOF mailing will be electronic, I've played around with font colours and hopefully that won't cause too much of a problem getting the print version finalised.

### **Brownian noise**

The main event in my life lately was moving from my house in Richmond which I've owned for 36 years. Long story short I've moved into a 2 bedroom (1 being used as an office) apartment in Brunswick which was bought off-the-plan by my sister, but her plans changed and she will not move in for 5-6 years. Agreeing that a move might be good for me, and construction next door is still going on (it started in 2015), with damage to my property, and a six-storey building built across the road which blocks my view of the city skyline and includes a 3-storey child care centre (with its associated continuous noise, not to mention drop off and pick up traffic problems). I'll see how Brunswick turns out.

My library is now in a 3 m × 5 m × 3 m storage place on Moreland Road (North Brunswick). Everything is in bookcases, apart from the 79 A4 storage boxes I already had books in. Down the track I plan to down-size it, get all the books onto shelves, ultimately having no 'double stacking', and with a collection I love that fits into just 1 bedroom. Then after the probable 5-6 years I will move again, buying a 2 or 3 bedroom apartment (who knows if that will be in Brunswick, Richmond, or even Southbank or Docklands in the CBD) and fitting all my worldly stuff into the one location again.

Some things ticked off along the way. Reducing 6 filing cabinets to 4. Moving everything out and starting cleaning etc. in preparation to sell before I head off to Worldcon. A hard rubbish collection is scheduled for 25 July, and that should be about it. A plasterer has already done some work, and next is getting the shower recess replaced as the bathroom and that end of the hall have borne the brunt of the wall movement due to activities next door, with tiles and grouting also having to be replaced. Annoying as the bathroom and kitchen were renovated in 2011. It looks like the painter might not be available until September.

## Recent reading

This is a regular section of *Ytterbium*, and as my reading has really slowed down, I can easily squeeze in a list here. I won't list the TV shows and films seen which usually accompanies it.

1 November 2023 – 31 July 2024

The Lost Metal	Brandon Sanderson
After Many A Summer	Tim Powers
Xanth 44: Skeleton Key	Piers Anthony
Men at Arms	Terry Pratchett
Dreams & Nightmares #125 (September 2023)	edited by David Kopaska-Merkel
Dwarf Stars 2023	edited by David C Kopaska-Merkel and Miguel O Mitchell
The Voice That Murmurs in the Darkness	James Tiptree Jr
Interesting Times	Terry Pratchett
The Last Hero	Terry Pratchett
The Plot Against America	Philip Roth
He Who Drowned the World	Shelley Parker-Chan
Dreams and Nightmares 126 (January 2024)	edited by David C Kopaska-Merkel
Night Watch	Terry Pratchett
The Evolution Man	Roy Lewis
Wildcards: Pairing Up	edited by George R R Martin
The Wee Free Men	Terry Pratchett
Airside	Christopher Priest
Monstrous Regiment	Terry Pratchett
Hopeland	Ian McDonald

My project 'read the terry Pratchett books I have but have not yet read' continues. I'm going through them in published order, at least the fiction. I will have to decide about any non-fiction later. Of the ones covered in this period *Interesting Times* was my favorite, with so many threads and plot lines coming together, being sorted out, tied in unusual knots, and ending up travelling into a satisfying conclusion (which this reader had sort of thought was coming).

*Airside* reportedly ended up set in the Melbourne Convention Centre (where the last 2 Aussiecons were held) but it turns out the text describes something imaginary more down St Kilda beach way, so a bit disappointing that.

I'm intrigued as to why the latest Wildcards volumes have been published by Bantam rather than Tor. Maybe I can catch up with some of the people behind this enjoyable saga (hi George and Melinda) at Glasgow and ask them about it.

*The Plot Against America* had been on my shelves for a while (as a philatelist, how could I resist a book with an imaginary postage stamp on the cover?). I read it, and followed up with viewing the mini-series which had screened here on Foxtel a while ago, which I had recorded. There were a few discrepancies between the novel and the show (just what happened to the protagonist's stamp collection for instance), but I thought it was a reasonable adaptation. I have no idea how it rated here or overseas.

## Comments on WOOF 2023

### Ahrid Engholm

Interesting review of the Stockholms in the US book. The world is indeed stranger than you would think.

### Juan Sanmiguel

Thanks for all the reviews. I might see about tracking down some of the publications.

### Chris Garcia

Medical issues are always awkward and sometimes unpleasant. I hope things are sorted out now. Nice Dave Kyle anecdote, and involving Ted White. Wow!

### Nic Farrey

*Asteroid City* confirmed I'm interested in Wes Anderson's films, but I'm not sure that makes me a devoted fan.

### Roger Hill

I hope to catch up with the fanac.org people in Glasgow, and copyright/okay-to-scan-or-not will probably be discussed.

### Guy H Lillian III

Is this the first time a Worldcon aligned with Halloween?

I've recently moved, and my library is in storage. I plan to reduce its size so it will fit in a bedroom sometime, but that is probably very long term. Getting books I can live without to a good home, rather than the recycling bin, is problematic and something I hope I can solve without too much time and effort being involved.

### Dave Langford

An *Ansible* franked through an APA. I still supply them to ANZAPA. Alas the R.I.P. section keeps turning up sad news I was previously unaware of.

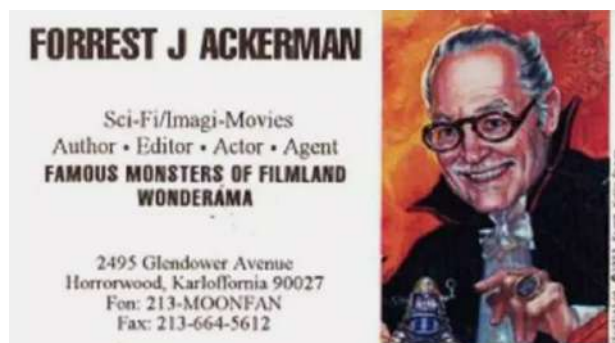
### Jan Vaněk Jr

It has been many years since I read a Lem, and probably just glossed over such "strange language" knowing I was reading a translation.

### Rich Lynch

In my recent moving a business card of Forry's fell out of a folder or zine.

As I cannot find where I stashed it during the rest of the move, here's a Google image that matches.



I read it and noted that he had ‘punned’ more lines of the address than I had expected. “Horrorwood” rang a bell, but “Karloffornia” was a bonus.

### Heath Row

Thanks for the Loscon 48 report. I wish we had more cons like that in Australia. Really the only match is the Natcon, and that moves around the country.

### Donald E Eastlake

Thanks for being the OE of the 2023 WOOF.

Great photos of Chengdu. I knew the dates had changed due to construction, but I didn’t realise a whole new building was going up. Excellent aerial shot of the Museum.

I am intrigued by your comment “The Chengdu Worldcon was able to pay for the airfare, hotel and three meals a day ...”. Was this reimbursement after you had decided to attend and made arrangements, or was there somewhere you could apply to in order to receive this largesse? As a voting/supporting member I never received such an offer to entice me to attend.

### John Thiel

So zines like Ansible remain the ideal size for posting. I’m afraid this contribution will probably be over the 2 page size, but I’m not sure by how much.

[This issue’s Rotsler is also courtesy of Eric Lindsay who sent me a bunch of unused illos a while ago. As you can see from the scan, this one was also on a paper plate, presumably at the same 2001 banquet which was mentioned on the one I used last issue]



Well that brings me to the end of a rush read and comment evening of Monday 22 July using my work laptop, left to the last minute just like last year. There is still some possible scanning to be done, and some possible photos, but this should soon be on its way as a PDF to Christina.





# GUY-ZER

**A contribution to the Worldcon  
Order of Fan-Eds, 2024 edition  
From GUY H. LILLIAN III**

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**GHLIII Press Publication #1368 6-7/24**

**[with apologies for the lame title]**

And it *is* lame, possibly my weakest zine name since I was slapping titles like *It* and *Us* on my WOOF publications. That it's appropriate to our major adventure of the year so far – a week in Iceland, home of geysers even greater than those at Yellowstone – doesn't negate that fact. I should be ashamed.

But I'm not. A slack pun is better than no pun at all. And by the way, Iceland was *boss*. The scenery was stunning (and stark – black lava boulders against fields and mountains of white), the people were tall (many guys approached 7 feet), the horses were *hairy* (their winter coats, y'see), the food was phenomenal (the fish – salmon, soup – superb). A trip report (*The Icelandic Route*) has been posted on eFanzines.com. It includes a few photos of a beautiful, fascinating country. Oh – was it cold? Not for polar bears!

Among several regrets about the trip: no significant time in Reykjavik, the capital, no Northern lights – it was cloudy every night – the reindeer we saw hadn't grown their antlers yet, and I encountered no fans. Is there fandom in Iceland? If so, it'd be a spiffy site for a Worldcon ...

Speaking of which, no Worldcon for us this year, for aside from the usual reason, money, there's my health to consider. If you read my Icelandic report you'll see that my Parkinson's was a nuisance throughout the trip. I had a minor fall on a stone stair and a major scare on a shuttle train in New York City. Airport personnel everywhere were terrific, trundling my flab hither and yon in a series of wheelchairs, and on the return flight home, a gorgeous blonde flight attendant valiantly hauled me to my feet from the pencil-box the airline called a seat, She led me down the narrow aisle to the rear bathroom – through the bevy of beautiful Nordic cheerleaders heading to Orlando for a competition at Disney World. (I see I've wandered off topic, but who on Earth could blame me?) Anyway, those of you enjoying Glasgow, please accept my envy.

We hope to get to Seattle and its Worldcon in 2025. Rosie lived there long ago and she wants to show me her old haunts. And the Southern regional I regard as my home convention,

DeepSouthCon, will be held in a New Orleans ‘burbs in – they think – early October of next year. If I’m still metabolizing, Rosie and I will be there.

What else is going on? Not much to tell. I look at the stacks of paper that hold the court anecdotes with which I’ll someday fill my memoirs – yes, it’s still not finished – and try to translate my Parkinson’s-mangled handwriting into something legible for my diary (begun September 29, 1966). I do zines – well, *duh* – *Spiritus Mundi* for the mighty Southern Fandom Press Alliance every two months (and for the past 53 1/2 years), my perzine *Spartacus*, my zine about zines *The Zine Dump*, and the rare *Challenger*, a genzine, thoroughly outclassed by the beauties being published nowadays. (Have y’all seen Geri Sullivan’s *Idea*? Nic Farey/Ulrika O’Brien’s *Beam*? Kurt Erichsen’s *Endeavor*? Bruce Gillespie’s *SF Commentary*? Jeezum!) I even think about writing some fiction from time to time. Reading has become a challenge – Parks tires one’s eyes pretty quickly – but Rosy and her dad, Joe Green, keep heaping books-they-think-I’d-like onto me. I’ve secured new, stronger specs, and brighter reading lights. Maybe they will help.

And by the time this is read, I’ll be –holy heartburn – *seventy-five* years old. I just realized that I won Southern Fandom’s Rebel Award in 1984 – *forty* years ago. *Then* I felt old. I better do mailing comments on last year’s WOOF now, before I get any older.

## WOOF #48 (2023)

**CONTENTS (EASTLAKE)** Lookin’ good in the neighborhood! I wish, though, that it had been possible to include an account of the ghastly Chengdu Hugo controversy, threatening now to wreck several distinguished fannish careers, all positive memories of the Chinese Worldcon and the Hugo Awards themselves. I refer to the marvelous *File 770* article by Chris Barkley and his partner (name escapes! BOLO!), which ought to be Hugo-honored itself in 2025.

**INTERMISSION 137.5 (ENGHOLM)** Grand natter throughout. I liked learning about American towns named Stockholm (I wonder how many Swedish burbs are named “New York”?) and following Arvid’s history of his country’s fandom, his righteous support of Ukraine in the current unpleasantness (he has a higher regard for Ronald Reagan than I do – and I shook hands with the man), even his approval of Swedish royalty. Can’t blame him; *we* worship politicians, athletes and actors. Except for Al Gore, Jimmy Connors and Sissy Spacek, a good king (or queen) is worth any fifty of them.

**OASFIS EVENT HORIZON (SANMIGUEL)** I wish the Orlando (Florida) SF group, of which Juan SanMiguel is the heart, soul, muscle and brain, would revive Oasis, its annual convention. We enjoyed it a great deal and unlike any other Florida con, it was within daily driving distance. Juan pours his fannish energy these days into attending other people’s cons and producing *Event Horizon*. This issue is especially readable and valuable. The editor/author lists the nominees for last year’s Stoker Award (the winner was *savage*) and reviews a slew of Hugo nominees. I could use that this year!

**LITTLE PASSPORT FOR WOOF (GARCIA)** Chris leads off his yearly contribution to this madness with the cheerful but terrifying tale of his spate of hospitalizations from 2023. I’m freaked. My Parkinson’s and other issues don’t demand time in the horse-pistol but still, health matters still unnerve me. Having read everything I can on the grisly subject and visited the sites in Whitechapel, I’m curious about this *Big Book of Jack the Ripper* Chris listened to while in the sheets. Anything new? Does it include and/or debunk/support the DNA on Catherine Eddowes’ shawl? I’m told Scotland Yard is convinced the psychotic barber Aaron Kosminski

was the culprit; where's the book come down on that? \*\* Listen, Chris, enough of this *sick* business, *capice*?

**YTTERBIUM HENDECOXIDE (STEWART)** We've met Alan a thousand times, of course, but I always flash on his exhausted greeting at the Melbourne airport, when we first set feet in Australia as the 2003 DUFF delegates. Memories of that trip flood back and I'm lost in nostalgic reverie, We returned in 2010, but was that It die our time in Oz? \*\* Melancholy musings aside, this is a colorful fannish issue mostly devoted to convention badge ribbons.; Alan collects them, I have one he doesn't seem to possess. Pre-Hugo reception one year, as I'm filling a plate with munchables, I'm tapped om the shoulder. None less than George RR Martin. "Lezli Robin told me you wanted one of these," he says, referring to a wonderful mutual friend and a HUGO LOSER ribbon, which George sported himself, the twin of which he gave to me. I would protest that George owns a spaceport load of Hugos, won for stories and episodes of *Game of Thrones*, while I have only a record 12 losses for best fanzine and two more for best fan writer. I undoubtedly deserve the ribbon more. But I'll never begrudge George his generosity. I've a photo of the moment in one of my *Route* con reports. And right here →.



**MUSTN'T GRUMBLE (Farey)** Didn't see *Asteroid City*, in fact have taken in but two of Wes Anderson's *oeuvre*— *Moonrise Kingdom* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. That's still enough to qualify him as a King of Quirk. Perfect for this zine.

**REPORT FROM HOOPLE #150.012 (Hill)** You put quite a lot into a single page. starting with your kind question about how I'm handling Parkinson's, or rather, how Parks is handling me. I cling to a few weird facts: Roger Bannister, the scrawny Brit who first ran a mile in less than 4 minutes (and whose grave marker was the first we saw in Westminster Abbey), became a neurologist yet, ironically, died of Parks. Like you, everyone knows some sufferer who lived a long life and/or a happy, productive one despite it. Parkinson's is an elusive ailment; no one seems to understand it. My legs hurt and are terribly weak – I walk like a rusty robot -- and my left arm is a dead weight. To sum, I forget I have Parkinson's sometimes, but the disease remains a blue-eyed bit- ... beast. \*\* I was born and mostly raised in California and would not mind spending these golden years there, outside of the fire and flood zones, of course. but there are the overwhelming problems of health and wealth. \*\* Apans go nuts when the question is statistics. We've actually had feuds = nasty ones! – in SFPA over pagecounts. \*\* Marty Cantor was Little Tin God in LASFAPA for most of the many years I was a member. LASFAPA, I understand, is in the serious skids, down to 7 members or somesuch. Cantor will indeed be missed. \*\* We live within 10-12 miles of Cape Canaveral and have seen dozens of launches from the backyard. So I luvs me that "Road" Thingy!

**ANSIBLE 435 (LANGFORD)** I should have responded to this late 2023 issue when I first saw it, but the news it contains of Allan Asherman's death must have been just too lousy to keep in my head, Allan was a DC staffer during my year in the comics fifty \*urk\* years ago, Joe Kubert's assistant, and a founding editor (like me) of *Amazing World of DC Comics*. A fine workmate; this is rotten, rotten news. I also note New Orleans fan Ira Thornhill's passage; his publication of obscure Lafferty works in beautiful hardback editions was and remains a godsend.



**NEWT NEWS 0<sup>0</sup> (VANEK)** Jan, a personal note: have you ever heard of a Czech academic named Martina Klicperova? She's with the Academy of Sciences, was a frequent visitor to New Orleans in the '80s and much beloved. She wept for my special neighbor Cindy when she fell victim to Katrina, a tribute to both of them. Haven't heard from her in too many moons. \*\* From your natter, Czech fandom seems hale and hearty, rich with cons and fanzines. I *luvs* me a good SF convention, be it a great Worldcon (like

Iguanacon II, or Confederation) or a solid regional (DeepSouthCon in 1977 and many other years) or what you call a *relaxkon* (our Halfacons, especially in '73 and '75). Nothing tops seeing The People in person, playing Hearts, chasing girls (in my unmarried and distant youth). At the same time, if I had to classify myself in a fannish sub-strata, I'd call myself a *fanzine* fan. Losing a record number of Best Fanzine Hugos pretty much establishes that! As such, I'd like a look at that PDF of *Bradbury's Shadow*. I'll even review it in my zine about zines, *The Zine Dump*, sometime this eon.

**FOUR ESSAYS (LYNCH)** Four memorials, actually, for grand members of this community whom you were lucky enough to know well. Eloquent stuff, as befits them. I knew Forry and Art Widner, but Ron Bennett and Noreen Shaw I don't think I ever met ... except here. You provide a great service by refusing to let such people fade.

**SPACEWARP AND WOOF #2023 (Row, Row, Row Yer Boat ...)** WOOF is an ideal place to deposit lost bits of fan writing, like these excellent updates on fan info like *The Zine Dump* or \*gulp\* lists of those who have departed this vale of gafia in the past year. Thanks for these. Enjoyed the Loscon 48 report – good to see a picture of Greg Benford when he was still hale and hearty = and the reminder of how cool the old LASFS clubhouse was. Such a treat to visit L.A. and see apamates and con buddies wander in one at a time. \*\* I was impressed by *Worlds of If* during its heyday; funny how it was considered a secondary publication to *Galaxy* but ended up collecting more Hugos for itself and its stories.

**CHENGDU REPORT (EASTLAKE)** “The World Science Fiction Convention in Chengdu, China, was, on balance, quite a success.” And you cite strong evidence for that judgment, the stunning edifice where the convention was sited only the most obvious. (Thrice the size of the Sydney Opera House – fantastic!) Having a toy panda, Mib, as a personal totem (sports a red bow tie, y'see) practically forces me to approve of the convention mascot and Hugo base. Obviously our hosts spared no effort to give us a great show. *But*. For reasons as yet unknown, and with consequences yet undecided, the Chengdu Hugo committee, composed of several well-known and hitherto greatly respected SFers, scrubbed several nominated works from the ballot. *Wky?* The relevant fans on the committee have kept a buttoned lip. Suspicions are rife that they felt, or *someone* felt, that those stories would offend China's totalitarian government. Huge brouhaha! BNFs fired from con committees! Reputations wrecked! Chris Barkley, who broke the story in *File 770*, has proposed that the Hugo contest be severed from the Worldcon committee, wherever and whoever it is. A good idea, but unfortunate; the rockets have been a committee duty and pleasure since they began doling them out. If this idea is adopted, the design of the Hugo base should be left to the concom as the con's lasting material legacy.

**PARABLES OF PLAYLAND #1 (THIEL)** As usual with Thiel-sines these days, the art is superb. Where do you find it all? \*\* No one needs an invitation to contribute to WOOF; you

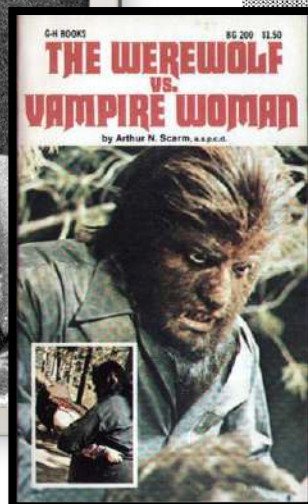
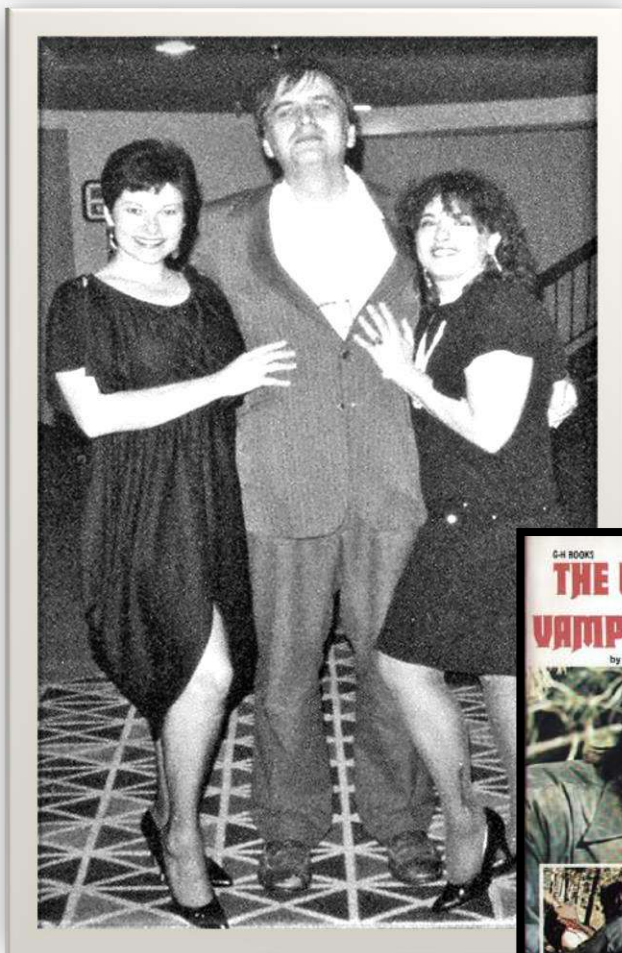


just up and –as they say – *pub your ish*. Plenty of fan-edds have hacked out a zine just before collation at the con. Just make sure to get the copy count right – and this year, convert your zine to A4. \*\* If you're interested in visions of Heaven, check out *The OA* on Netflix. The work of the magnificent Brit Marling, it's a serious look at the trope of multiple universes and transit between them. Like all of her work – *Another World*, *The East*, *Sound of My Voice* – it's profound and profoundly weird. \*\* Speaking of weird, I don't understand your closing natter, but the final page, consisting of an illo of a scared spacer and a single line, "This is the end of the zine", makes perfect sense. It's the end of the mailing, too.

Space here to bid farewell to one of Southern fandom's great people ... **George Wells**, for more 50 years of membership in the Southern fandom Press Alliance and devotion to Southern fandom and its conventions. A devotee of bad SF, George was a constant champion of Arthur N. Scarm's execrable adaptation of an execrable Paul Naschy horror flick, *Werewolf vs. the Vampire Woman*, continually promoting it over P.T. Olem's *The Clones* for the title of Worst SF Novel of All Time. With lines like "She dug her teeth into Sandy's neck who screamed" and "She vaulted into the air, throwing up as she soared," how could it miss?

George was a gentle giant of a guy, a constant friend. His death this summer after a long tussle with Crohn's Disease has left Southern fandom stunned and saddened. We shall not look upon his like again.

*Below: Ruth Judkowitz, George and JoAnn Montalbano as Waldo the werewolf and friends. The source, The man, VALE, old friend!*



# newt news

another Worldcon/WOOF special, semi-dead-tree  
issue 0<sup>-</sup> (yes, zero yet again, with a minus index!)

[sites.google.com/site/janvanekjr/newtnews](https://sites.google.com/site/janvanekjr/newtnews) July/August 2024

**a Czech('s) fanzine in English:** one-man, with occasional sercon pretensions

**0. Hello, world! (EditOrial)** → Hello, Worldcon, my old friend, I've come to talk to you again... as it were. For half a decade I was looking forward, planning, even promising, to attend Glasgow. Then Bad Things started happening. This has been the *annus horribilis* of my life so far indeed.<sup>1</sup> And of course, lots of people have died, including the BNF generation which is called “dinosaurs” in Czech fandom, and I don't feel that well myself.™ So I'm just sending a PDF once again, relying on kindness of strangers, and wishing everybody at the fandom lounge, collating party etc. a great time. ¶ There is some silver lining: I won't spend money I need elsewhere; travelling has always stressed me out (so has congoing, in fact... just when I finally decided not to catch as much program as possible and instead simply try to enjoy myself); and while Glasgow is obviously going to be a great convention, there is enough unpleasantness brewing anyway, so it will be some relief watching it from afar, uninvolved. But still, it feels a bit like dying inside; there used to be time not that long ago when I imagined that nothing short of a real-life life-or-death matter would prevent me from “pilgrimage to European Worldcons”, as I once put it... and now here I am (not). ¶

And just so, this is not the proper fanzine I had planned but a last-minute stopgap (as usual, alas). So I am going for a variation on zero once again, after the original #0 (available at the URL above or [eFanzines.com/WOOF](https://eFanzines.com/WOOF) (2019) and 00 (2022). Last year I considered numbering the ish “〇 (zero in Chinese)”<sup>2</sup> and then pointedly ignoring the 200-pound panda in the room (little did I know!); but in the end I chose a simpler 0<sup>0</sup> (even in ASCII it can be emulated with just a caret). No point returning there and being cruel to bibliographers; so 0<sup>-</sup> it is: zero with a minus, index optional. Like sub-zero cold. Like less than zero. Like (IIRC, it's been decades) the function limit when approaching a singularity from below. Like the blood type (FWIW, I was not lucky even enough to be an universal donor; ISTR I am the boring A- and don't even know if I could still give blood in my health state). But I do promise the next issue will be #1, finally, really.

**1. Eva Hauserová and her Australian Diary (GUFF 1992 trip report)** → Among the worst losses of the season was Eva Hauserová (1954–2023). The unexpected news came on the Christmas Eve morning, casting a shadow on that sunny yet cold and wet day. For who she was and what she did, see [fancylopedia.org/Eva\\_Hauser](https://fancylopedia.org/Eva_Hauser); to read what she had written, [efanzines.com/WildSharkaah](https://efanzines.com/WildSharkaah) (sic!). But how should I tell you the how and why? Perhaps it does not really matter anymore, perhaps, as my mom says, experience is incommunicable. But let me at least quote the little I was able to contribute to the semi-memorial issue of the Czech newszine *Interkom*:<sup>3</sup> ¶ I owed to Eva more than I realised. It's not about the workshop which I joined in my youthful foolishness.<sup>4</sup> It's not even that, as [a sociologist and activist] wrote on Twitter, “in my teenage years she principally formed my feminist orientation”. But the era of Eva's greatest activity coincided with the time when I was learning the ropes as a “scientifictionist” and entering fandom. In almost each issue of *Ikarié*, and when I started to subscribe to it, *Interkom*, there were a few paragraphs or pages in her unmistakable style. And I, without realizing it fully, learned from them how good fanwriting looks. Many of Eva's con reports stuck in my memory forever. They were comprehensive,

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<sup>1</sup> Despite some undeniable good bits. I would like to believe that it's going to stop RSN... but I can't fail to be reminded of the joke about a man falling from a skyscraper and assessing his situation at the 13th floor. After all, in the long run I am all dead, right?

<sup>2</sup> At least Wiktionary told me so: U+3007 / &#12295;

<sup>3</sup> At [interkom.vecnost.cz/pdf/ik202401-02cl.pdf](https://interkom.vecnost.cz/pdf/ik202401-02cl.pdf) should anyone be able to read it, or wish to crack it with DeepL.

<sup>4</sup> As noted by other contributors before me, during Eva's stint (1990–92) as an (assistant) editor at *Ikarié* sf monthly, she founded and promoted a workshop group for aspiring (in various degrees) writers.

detailed, timely, brisk, observant, witty, even sly, as she used to say... I took it back then as a matter of course; and I don't think I ever thanked her directly. ¶ Among those unforgettable articles, foremost was “Australský deník” ([The] Australian Diary) from Eva's April 1992 GUFF trip, published that summer.<sup>5</sup> As regular readers of this zine (or *Fancylopedia* now) would know, she also produced an English version “My Australian Diary”... in her perzine of very few copies, and then reprinted in *Guffaw* #4 (ed Paul Kincaid, 2000),<sup>6</sup> and generally forgotten. When I happened to discover it, I could not fail to notice that the English version is significantly shorter and the funniest bits missing, making the remnants much blander, just a procession of names and places. My explanation is threefold: Eva's platform claimed “Unfortunately, I can't write anything funny in English”. Self-deprecating irony, of course; yet humour is hard to translate,<sup>7</sup> so if she was in a hurry (as she always tended to), and possibly wanted to save space, she might have gone the way of least resistance and limited herself to just the facts. What's more, much of the humour in the report is, or could be read as, irreverent, and Eva might have preferred its subjects, not knowing her as well as we did, not to see it... ¶ A terrible pity, because the report as originally written can stand with the best of them all, and I say this with the hindsight of more than three decades. So below, finally, is my best stab at translating the introductory chapter (about an eighth of the whole text), which does not deal with Australia at all yet, but gives a good idea of the rest. (I won't be able to ask Eva anymore, but her partner Cyril Simsa and her sons gave me permission, and I hope even Hazu Hiroaki would not take any offense now.) Let me know how you liked it, and especially if you know any venue that might be interested in publishing the whole thing when I'm finished sometime in the autumn. ¶ Eva cut the English version of this chapter to just about a third, but still it contains new facts (“I found out that the cheapest airline is Alitalia ... Staying overnight in the transit hotel was really expensive, \$70 per person per night”) or explanations tailored to the foreign reader. For a while I thought about producing a “synoptic” version that would merge them, but the differences are too big for this to work well. It might make more sense to print the two variants side-by-side, yet somehow there is not enough space left here; I can only recommend, Kinbote-like, that Kind Reader opens that version in a separate window. On the other hand, some details are dependent on the Czech readers' fore-knowledge; fortunately they are not so frequent (so far) they can't be handled by a few more footnotes.

**2.1. Italian intermezzo a little à la Japanese (by Eva Hauserová) →** When I was getting ready to travel to Australia for SYNCON 92, the Australian national con, I felt rather exhausted than anything else and didn't have the right enthusiasm for it at first. Proper travel jitters gripped me only on the last day before departure. I had heard from acquaintances that in the southern hemisphere the sun crawls across the sky in reverse (not from left to right as we are used to, but from right to left) and that water in the bathroom when draining from the bathtub creates a vortex oriented in the opposite way. So with František<sup>8</sup> we spent the last evening draining and repeatedly refilling the bathtub, whereby we discovered that the vortex is oriented quite randomly, now in that, now in the other direction. The children pestered me with foolish but a million times repeated requests for a live koala, and I pondered heavily whether or not to take along various debatable items, like my driver's license (as they drive on the left), Liana Hamzová's<sup>9</sup> textile art with brass rods, which would stick out of my backpack by a good chunk, or a swimsuit, shorts and sandals versus a thick sweater and jacket – since imagining the weather there was beyond me.

Finally, on Tuesday 14th April I presented myself for the departure of the Alitalia airlines flight to Rome (I was to fly from Rome to Sydney only on the following day). The clerks from Alitalia told me the plane was fully occupied and that I should wait. So, all sweaty, I waited and contemplated on how before

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<sup>5</sup> Long available at [interkom.vecnost.cz/1992/19920657.htm](http://interkom.vecnost.cz/1992/19920657.htm), second part at [...751.htm](http://...751.htm)

<sup>6</sup> See either eFanzines link above (issue 8), or (for an OCRed version) [fanac.org/fanzines/GUFF](http://fanac.org/fanzines/GUFF)

<sup>7</sup> And frankly, there were bits where it seems that her English then would not be quite up to such a task.

<sup>8</sup> Eva's (then) husband.

<sup>9</sup> Liana Hamzová (1952–): artist and filmmaker; contributed some illustrations for *Ikarie*.

Easter apparently too many people want to fly to Rome, desiring to pray there at this time. Finally, this tiny gentleman in a striped jacket came running and tried to negotiate with me. He suggested whether I might not wish to fly in the cockpit with the crew, which I would have accepted enthusiastically, but in the end it worked out so that I flew in the better (business) class.

At the airport in Rome I was to be awaited by the Japanese fan Hazu Hiroaki,<sup>10</sup> a friend of the Dutch administrator of the fan fund (thanks to which I was able to travel) Roelof Goudriaan. Strangely, however, in the crowd of waiting people, behind an enormous sign with my name, I saw an Italian girl, who introduced me to a driver and explained that she was Hazu's secretary. She further apologized about five times that Hazu hadn't come in person, as he was too "busy",<sup>11</sup> and loaded me into a huge limousine. That took me downtown to Villa Borghese Park, where Hazu's office is located.

Hazu is one of the European correspondents of the Japanese daily *Yomiuri Shimbun* and has certain hours during which he must not leave his office; theoretically he should be there from about five in the morning until nine in the evening or something like that, but in practice it is not that drastic. He showed me his laptop, which types in Japanese characters and in addition at the press of a button turns them into Chinese ones; however then it offers several alternatives, as there tend to be several translation options. I was amazed at this and absolutely don't understand how something like this can be done.

He showed me carefully archived SF texts from Czechoslovakia, including an Italian magazine with an article by Mrs Freiová<sup>12</sup> and texts by Szalai,<sup>13</sup> Eduard Martin<sup>14</sup> and Ivan Skála.<sup>15</sup> On the wall of the office hung a painting by Martin Zhouf.<sup>16</sup> I was delighted by this.

Then Hazu drove me to his apartment. In his car lying around on the the dashboard were three books by Czech authors. I was delighted by this, but I began to suspect it wasn't all natural. In his beautiful apartment with marble floors, I was welcomed by his wife and three cute kiddies. The wife kept bowing and prancing and it made me fall into strained behaviour, smile awkwardly and generally feel out of place. I didn't want anything to eat because I was really stuffed from the plane, and poor Hazu didn't get anything either, and only after about an hour he asked me if he may eat dinner! On the other hand, I was immediately (at seven pm) offered if I wanted to take a shower; after coming from work and school, apparently they all shower and then walk around home in their pyjamas. This made me self-conscious, and for a while I went in my pyjamas too, but I was so disconcerted that I better went to sleep already at nine o'clock. They also played some terribly familiar music – I came to the conclusion that it was Smetana's *My Country* and expressed my excitement that they were listening to Smetana. Hazu noted that it was Dvořák, *Slavonic Dances*, and that he liked Dvořák very much. What a nice fool I made of myself. Then they prepared more hot moments for me by marveling and gasping in amazement at my gifts from

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<sup>10</sup> It looks like Eva was not aware that the name is in the Japanese and not Western order, i.e. Hazu is actually the family surname and not personal, given name to be used informally.

<sup>11</sup> "Busy" left in English for colour, as this was indeed among the first words all Czechs learned in the 1990s.

<sup>12</sup> Ludmila Freiová (1926–2014): writer and translator from Italian, after mainstream beginnings moved to sf in the 1970s. She had good relations with fandom but was older by a generation, and teacher by profession as well as nature, hence the reverentially formal Mrs.

<sup>13</sup> Ladislav Szalai (1951–2022): unusually bohemian or proletarian author of unique sf stories, perhaps best though still only distantly comparable to Lafferty. Just the surname was used, both since it is unique and instantly recognizable (unlike the two following), and suggesting familiarity as opposite to the previous one.

<sup>14</sup> Eduard Martin (1951–): originally poet, switched to writing thick collections of sf stories in a vaguely lyrical, wordy style full of one-sentence paragraphs and sentences ending in ellipses or emdashes, even double — — Disdained by fandom but published in big numbers.

<sup>15</sup> Ivan Skála (1922–1997): poet and literary functionary, hardline Stalinist. Never had anything to do with sf but produced lots of articles on successes of socialist literature.

– The overall impression such a combination of these four made on Czech readers is a bizarre hodge-podge.

<sup>16</sup> Martin Zhouf (1962–): by far most popular Czech sf artist of the 1990s, introduced the airbrush technique to common readers. Does not seem to have a dedicated website currently but image search will give you an idea.



Czechoslovakia (those were just some stickers with a kitschily colourful Bohemian lion).

In the morning came the hardest trial – a beautifully laid table with omelettes, fruits, vegetables, various juices, preserves etc. etc. – but only for two people: for Hazu and for me. The wife and kiddies ate in the kitchen. While the host and I were breakfasting on omelette with minced meat, the hostess pranced around, offering yet new dishes and drinks; afterward she fetched a decorative coffee spoon with a picture of Prague, which Hazu had brought as a souvenir from his stay there, and gave it to me with my coffee; everyone watched me stir coffee with the spoon.

Then Hazu drove me through the traffic jam to his office (screeching of car horns, interweaving of banged Fiats and motorcycles, a terrible Roman bedlam). When we finally slogged our way there, Hazu began to prance through the office and hastily and nervously pound something into his computer. “Give me two minutes!”<sup>17</sup> he kept shouting, “*dej mi dvě minuty* and then we'll go sightseeing!” After waiting like that for about ten minutes, I gathered my courage and assertively told him that I would much rather walk around the city alone. From his office, one could get everywhere easily on foot. I was a little worried this might offend him, but it turned out well: he was visibly relieved and just emphasized to me that I should be back by half past twelve, when I had a car booked to the airport, and that I had to see the Colosseum, because it was the most important monument.

And so I wandered through Rome, walked very slowly to the Church of the Holy Trinity, where there is a fine view and stairs on which it is nice to sit and just stare, I ambled to the Piazza del Popolo and watched the youngsters whizzing around on motorbikes, I quietly environmentally mumbled that the streets here were full of roaring and stinking motorbikes that rode onto the pavement all the while, and I stayed quite a long time at the Di Trevi Fountain, which was washed to brilliant whiteness and really fascinating. And suddenly it was noon and I hadn't seen the Colosseum yet. Now, I couldn't do that to Hazu since when he had implored me so much. And so at a brisk pace I hurried towards the Colosseum. I ran past it, but for God's sake – it was already a quarter past twelve! I started running down the streets, but somehow the way was not getting shorter. At every intersection it was necessary to reorient myself... I succumbed to a true panic. It was already half past twelve and Hazu's office was not within reach yet. Finally I caught a taxi and spent ten thousand liras to get there at quarter to one. It ended up well, I made the Sydney flight, but it made me really nervous by then!

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Next time, remind me to tell you about the extra final Czech sentence in “Horrible Old Man” by HPL

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**2. Closing remarks** → Cranked out in the wee hours of Thursday 25 July (yes, the deadline is especially deadly this year. So apologies for all inevitable disgraceful typos ) by Jan Vaněk jr.

<[jan.vanek.jr@gmail.com](mailto:jan.vanek.jr@gmail.com)> (or [fb.com/jan.j.vanek](https://fb.com/jan.j.vanek) – little of my content is likely to be accessible to you, even if machine translation works, but am always up for a debate on topics of mutual interest – hi, Gary! I also tried to start a [bsky.app/profile/jvjr.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/jvjr.bsky.social), but *it turned out like always*. And why not check out [fancyclopedia.org/User:JVjr](https://fancyclopedia.org/User:JVjr) ?). Yet again not-really-typeset in MS Word 2003 (I am quite used to it by now), Calibri 11 points,<sup>18</sup> masthead in Franklin Gothic Medium Cond.

**2.1. October surprise** → I gather this may not be a Done Thing nowadays (unlike the good old 60s?) but I do not need to care about such stuff: I feel it is time for a Fancyclopedist to run for TAFF, and not much time to lose. So I am announcing in advance that in the autumn I will release a dedicated issue explaining in detail (again) who I am, what you can expect from me, and why you should *not* vote for me. (Yes, it would have been better to have it all already here, but you can't have everything, nor can I.) Should anyone still be reading this, and willing be to become my nominator, please let me know... or I'll start asking you anyway.

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<sup>17</sup> Left in English for flavour again.

<sup>18</sup> It did not look bad last time when I looked at a printed copy, but I suppose I should better switch to 12pt next time. Again, apologies for any inconvenience.



# Null Island

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Created during Verdant's Shark Week for Glasgow 2024, WOOF, editorial whim and all that jazz.

A Kernow TruFan production / Doug Bell, August 2024 / doug@bigfootviking.co.uk

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Like the great British Summer, Glasgow 2024 has spent an age arriving, and now, its suddenly here. I'm hoping the convention will be less damp and filled with disappointment than the Cornish climate has been since spring. On the plus side, I guess it means, we're not in drought this year...

And so I decided to use the latest WorldCon as an excuse to get back on the fanzine publication horse after years out the saddle. The last **Unreliable Narrator** was sometime during lockdown and PDF only. This little thing, a WOOF-let, sees me at a point in life where I want to reconnect with fans, and desperate to be more creative after a long period of depression, doubt and anxiety. I'm sure I can do this, two pages of minac, two pages of waffle, to get the old fannish grey matter going again.

## Time Skiffs: A random assortment of Worldcon memories

Intersection, Glasgow 1995: Hall 4, boredom, did I really volunteer to gopher at this shitshow? People said it was a good way to meet folks and have a great time, but all I've done is guard an enormous bouncy giraffe thing on my own. I'm contemplating leaving and heading back home to Edinburgh, giving up on this fandom lark when *Steve Glover* finds me and drags me into helping out with the daytime fan programme. Next thing I'm re-stacking piles of freebie fanzines, folding t-shirts, re-arranging chairs, meeting passing fan-fund visitors (even though I didn't really understand what that was about then) and was given instructions by *the Glovers* to "make sure *Vinç* doesn't do too much work". If the truth be told I'm a little in awe of *Vinç* after hearing his story in the Fan GOH slot. Over a cuppa, in a quiet moment, he tells me that everyone should do a fanzine. I nod silently, pretending the 30-odd copies of my badly typed, poorly proofed and frankly dull zine **Spoo** remain undistributed in the bag underneath my chair. I'm too ashamed to distribute them after I'd read some of the quality zines that mysteriously made it into my bag from the freebie table. Older now, I'd like to see that zine again, not that I believe it'd be any good, just because it's good to know where you come from.

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One of the strongest arguments I ever saw for there being no God is the existence of Lennart.

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If anything could purge a girl of reckless ideas, it was Kettering.

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Interaction, Glasgow 2005: Back at the Central Hotel, this time to stay rather than the student accommodation of 10 years ago. It's a short walk from the party hotel, and a walk which in my mind always happened in the rosy glow of pre-dawn in the company of *Christina Lake, Clarrie and Tim Maguire and Ken Shinn*. We'd spent our evening(s) sitting in a group, off to the side in the wide corridor half-way between the real ale and the bid parties, a prime party spot. It felt like the whole convention came to us as characters rotated in and out of the floor party over the 5 days of the con. The other ever present fan revelling in focal point floor lounging was *Randy Byers*. We got some mighty strange looks from passersby as we tried to recite from memory the whole of Frank Zappa's Billy The Mountain. The influence of the frozen beef pies...

Loncon 3, London: All I really remember was the cavernous hall including the Fan Village. I sat at the Novacon desk a good while when I wasn't going to panels, and think I sold a total of 1 membership during the whole con. On the face of it, it sounds horrendous, almost like the whole guarding the bouncy inflatable animal from Intersection, but it wasn't. It was more the sober, daylight companion to Interaction's floor party, plus I had a guaranteed seat. I'd sit down and get my book out and before I knew it a string of random friends would pass buy for a chat. I was never bored, never over-stimulated, just in that sweet zone where time passes at an amiable sociable rate. I also remember winning big on roulette despite trying to loose all my chips as I wanted to go find a beer.

Woldcon 75, Helsinki: Bar hopping with *Christina Lake, Rich Coad and Lucy Huntzinger* on the eve of the convention in Tallin...Depeche Mode and the Hellhunt were involved. Bars featured predominantly at this convention and it remained locked firmly in my mind as "the Untappd convention". Gone were the days of not knowing where your friends were; just load up the little yellow app and find out which bar they were hiding out in in real time. I made a return to Brewdog Helsinki with a Legion of Super-Heroes tattoo on my arm, the scene of where I first decided I really wanted one. Meanwhile back at the convention I met *Sara Ellis* at the DC Comics meetup, my first encounter with a real life member of the Legion of Super-Heroes APA Klordny I'd been in for years.

Dublin 2019, Dublin: *Christina* and I went to see the Book Of The Kells. It was kinda nice, and about yay big and expertly drawn and lettered and such. There was something about it though... that stuck in my mind for hours afterwards. It finally dawned on me, it had the size, heft and general look of Warhoon 28, *Richard Bergeron's* collection of *Walt Willis* fan-writing. I mentioned this in passing to *Tobes* while in the bar, and next thing I know he's plotting an elaborate Ocean's Eleven type heist to break into Trinity College Dublin and switch the two volumes over. He seemed really really into the idea, which made me worry for the rest of the convention that this might happen. Despite it being the most recent Worldcon I've attended, my memories are decidedly hazy, almost as hazy as the Garage x Verdant DIPA that I found on the first night in Dublin. After the con *Chris* and I visited the Martello Tower from the opening pages of *James Joyce's* Ulysses, continuing the summer of Joyce stalking us around Europe. In Dublin I gave up, relented and decided I'd read that damn big book. Years later I've completed just Telemachus, the barest minimum of Ulysses. With regards to my own writing, Joyce inspires me, not in terms of content, but trying to get by through doing the barest minimum too.

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Other sausages.

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## Nothing is Sacred [Any More]

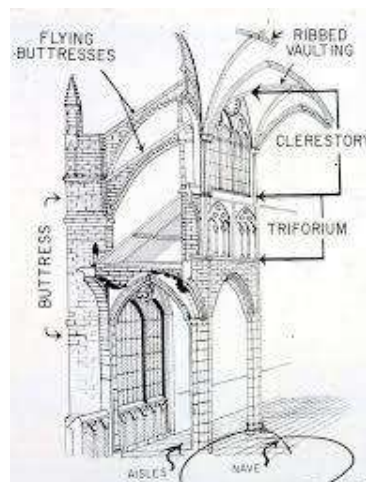
Not even WOOF. At least not according to *Christina Lake, 4 West Rise, Falmouth, Cornwall TR11 4HJ (christina.l@virgin.net)*

### Confessions

I've been to 10 Worldcons and have never contributed to WOOF before. Not even once. But here I am at my eleventh Worldcon, not only contributing but making WOOF happen (with lots of help from Alison Scott and others) as Official Editor.

### Buttresses

I can't even claim to be a buttress of WOOF, unlike John Hertz who is proud to provide the external support that keeps WOOF going. I'm more like a piece of scaffolding borrowed from another building and bolted on to the clerestory. I may not have contributed to WOOF before but I have been administrator for other apas, most recently TWP (The Women's Periodical, Britain's flagship women's apa). Less recently Pieces of Eight (is there anyone left alive in British fandom who remembers that rather jaunty apa that hijacked Franks Apa and threw out all the cool kids? No, of course not, that was the '80s. And besides that wasn't how it happened.) I might even have been responsible for collating some issues of Get Stuffed, the soft toy's apa. I have to tell you that at the time we thought the idea of an apa for toys was hilarious and so an apa called WOOF (an apa for dogs?) was doubly-hilarious especially as one of the stuffed toys was called Woofy Bear. The reality was disappointing. Apas were meant to be fast and frequent so what was the point of one that only came out at Worldcons? Back then (I'm still in the '80s. Please bear with my temporal shifts) WOOF was only available at the Worldcon, not online, and international transport was expensive. No, WOOF was something bizarre that American fans did and not for the likes of me.



### Ten deadly sins

But it could have been. Here is the list of Worldcons I went on to attend, all without giving any thought to WOOF:

1987: Conspiracy '87 (Brighton, UK) ; 1988 Nolacon II (New Orleans); 1990 ConFiction (The Hague, Netherlands); 1995 Intersection (Glasgow, UK); 1996 L.A.Con III (Anaheim, California); 1998 BucConeer (Baltimore); 2005 Interaction (Glasgow, UK); 2014 Loncon 3 (London); 2017 Worldcon 75 (Helsinki, Finland); 2019 Dublin 2019 (Dublin)

Mostly I've relied on Worldcon coming to Europe, though with some forays to the US after winning TAFF in 1988 (co-winning with Lilian Edwards). Much to my surprise and regret I've not made it to an Australian Worldcon.

My favourite Worldcons have been in exotic places. Top of the list are New Orleans and Helsinki. British Worldcons may be local and relatively more affordable, but they come with baggage. For my first Worldcon I was responsible for fan displays with my then partner Peter-Fred Thompson. We spent most of the convention selling t-shirts. At my second British Worldcon I helped run the evening fan programme with Lilian Edwards, and co-edited a fanthology with her (TimeBytes). By 2005 I knew better and just attended the convention. I can't remember how I got out of helping with 2014. At the time I was pretty inactive and in Cornwall so easy to ignore. And this time – well, here we are with WOOF.

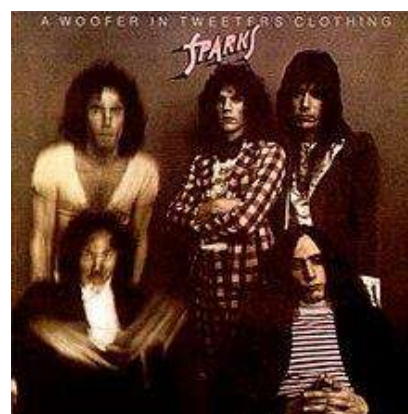


### **Father Forgive Me**

It's true that I write more for apas than for fanzines these days. I still publish a fanzine (*Nowhere Fan*) but only once every year or so. On the other hand I publish an apazine called *Sketchy* for Anzapa every 2 months and write a few pages for TWP on top of that. I did contemplate combining the two into a regular publication of the best parts of my apa activities, but once extracted from their context the pieces felt too minor to bother the extended reading public of efanzines with. Also, I was already bored with them. I'd published them once. Twice was too much. And finally, most of the people likely to read them will have seen them in their original incarnation. But, and this is important, if I wasn't writing for apas, I probably wouldn't be writing at all. It's only the apa deadline that gets me galvanised into action. If fanzines had deadlines, maybe I would publish more. But they don't. They also need decent production values, covers, letter columns and proper articles, not just rambling thoughts on the latest book I've read, or what I did on my holidays, or something boring that happened at work. Or maybe I just want to express opinions that need further thought before they step out into the real world.

### **A Woofers in Tweeter's Clothing**

The second Sparks album is called *A Woofers in Tweeter's Clothing* and clearly alludes to the Mael Brothers experience of writing for WOOF while pretending to tweet. Obviously this reference pre-dates X as the album was released in 1972. Sparks were seen by many in the UK as a one hit wonder when their single *This Town Ain't Big Enough For Both of Us* almost topped the charts in 1974. But Sparks are still around, releasing albums, writing a musical and a film soundtrack, and even collaborating with Scotland's Franz Ferdinand.



But arguably they peaked with 'Woofers', or at least sparked some extraordinary hyperbole from the music press:

'A Woofers might be the first neo-Dada concept album...Not a single recognizable riff on the whole album, not a single hackneyed phrase, A Woofers is the weirdest fucking album of 1973 from America's most advanced band...!' (Dan DeWitt, *Creem*, 1973)

'Sounded like a musical burlesque of Visconti's 'The Damned' (Nick Kent, *NME*, 25 May 1974)

And that, my friends, is an inspiration to all Woofers.

### **Glasgow bys vykken!**

I've been living in Cornwall for the past 20 years and have absorbed some of the local colour including an interest in the Cornish language. I mention it here not just because I have a small space to fill at the bottom of the page, but in solidarity with the minority languages being celebrated at this convention. Cornish is a Celtic language and distantly related to Scots Gaelic, though much closer to Welsh or Breton. Indeed the name Glasgow is a Brythonic (or British) Celtic name from the language formerly spoken throughout Britain and perfectly comprehensible in Cornish where "glas" is the word for a colour which can be described as the blue or green you see around you in plants and the sea, while 'kow' means hollow (mutated to g in compound words). But Glasgow went the way of most of England outside Cornwall and lost its Celtic roots as the linguistic influence of Anglo-Saxon and early English spread. So Scots became the language of Glasgow and other parts of Lowland Scotland, a language more closely related to English than to Cornish or Scottish Gaelic, but distinct in its own right and rightly celebrated as an indigenous language of Scotland. **Scots for aye!**



## Ansible® 445 August 2024

From **David Langford**, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK. Website [news.ansible.uk](http://news.ansible.uk). ISSN 0265-9816 (print); 1740-942X (e). Logo: **Dan Steffan**. Cartoon: **Brad W. Foster**. Available for SAET, a deeglo for a cup of oglo, or a first-class return ticket to Tranai.

### The Galactic Whirl

**Frank Cottrell-Boyce**, novelist and screenwriter with many genre credits including *Cosmic* (2008) and three authorized *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* sequels, was named as the new UK Children's Laureate on 2 July – taking over from Joseph Coelho. (BBC, 2 July) [PY]

**Greg Egan** on the great IT disaster of 19 July: 'Crowdstrike have advised that the world will be reverted to its last valid backup set, dated 7 Jan 2014, within the next 30 minutes. Please make paper notes of anything important to you from the intervening period, and tape them to the refrigerator door in a prominent position.' (Mastodon, 20 July)

**Stephen King**, in a newspaper symposium where many authors named their '10 Best Books of the 21st Century', was not afraid to include *Under the Dome* (2009) by Stephen King. (*New York Times*, 8 July) [AIP]

**George R.R. Martin** had a little grumble about Glasgow 2024: 'I am not on any programming. It is not for lack of trying, though.' He wanted a phone discussion of proposals for a Wild Cards event and a Howard Waldrop memorial (with films), but was asked to fill in the official online 'Panorama' form like everyone else; whether he did isn't clear from his post, but one assumes not. (9 July) The story was picked up by the local and then national press (*Glasgow Times*, 11 July; *Guardian*, 17 July; BBC, 18 July), and large tracts of social media were duly Plunged Into War.

**Mike Resnick's** five Hugo awards have been donated by his widow Carol to the US Worldcon Heritage Organization for their regular Worldcon exhibit. (WHO press release, July)

**J.M. Straczynski's** afterword to *The Last Dangerous Visions* (of which advance copies have been circulating for a while) takes the unusual step of naming and shaming eleven authors, mostly women, whom he invited to contribute but who said no or didn't reply. He suggests they're afraid of online outrage ('This is not necessarily the best time to be dangerous'), neglecting less exciting possibilities such as lack of time, lack of interest or simply not wanting to get involved with a Harlan Ellison project which for several decades was a cobwebbed fannish joke. Of the 102 authors announced in 1973 plus the uncertain number later acquired by HE, fifteen have made it to the final cut, with nine more added by JMS.

**Jack Vance's** anagrammatic homage, the major *Dungeons & Dragons* bad guy Vecna, appears on one of the Royal Mail D&D stamps. (25 July)

### Confriar

SOLD OUT 2 Aug • **Writing Fantasy** (discussion and signing) with George R.R. Martin and Sir Philip Pullman, Oxford. Live streaming to be available via the link at [www.oxfordwritershouse.com/events](http://www.oxfordwritershouse.com/events).

3-4 Aug • **Surrey Steampunk Convivial**, Stoneleigh, Epsom. See [bumpandthumper.wixsite.com/steampunkconvivials](http://bumpandthumper.wixsite.com/steampunkconvivials).

6 Aug • **Extra London Pub Meetings** before Worldcon: Cask Pub & Kitchen, 6 Charlwood Street, Pimlico, from 3pm (meet the GUFF delegate!) and The Crown, 51 New Oxford St, upstairs 7-11pm. All welcome. If the Crown is closed try Bloomsbury Tavern, 236 Shaftesbury Avenue (ground floor, same times). See also [news.ansible.uk/london.html](http://news.ansible.uk/london.html).

8-12 Aug • **Glasgow 2024** (Worldcon), Glasgow SEC. £230 reg; first Worldcon and 'historically under-represented' £165; Scots residents £150; under-26s £135 (£95 if Scots); under-16s £90; under-11s £55; under-6s £5. Virtual membership £80. Day rates at [glasgow2024.org](http://glasgow2024.org). *Owing to a mix-up regarding the cancelled 1 July price rise, PR5 as initially released gave higher at-the-door rates (£255 reg etc.) which will not take effect.*

9-11 Aug • **TFnation** (*Transformers*), Hilton Birmingham Metropole near the NEC. Various day ticket rates at [tfnation.com/2024](http://tfnation.com/2024).

16-19 Aug • **Erasmuscon** (Eurocon), Rotterdam, Netherlands. €125 reg; under-23s €75; under-13s €10, under-3s free. Under-19s must be accompanied by an adult. See [www.erasmuscon.nl](http://www.erasmuscon.nl) for day rates.

17 Aug • **Small Press Day**, various events throughout the UK and Ireland, and online. See [smallpressday.co.uk](http://smallpressday.co.uk).

17 Aug • **Stars of Time** (comics), Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare. £11.55; child/concessions £7.21. See [www.starsoftime.co.uk](http://www.starsoftime.co.uk).

23-26 Aug • **Frightfest** (film), London, Odeon Luxe, Leicester Square. Festival passes £225 rear circle, £240 stalls, £250 circle; for day

passes at various rates see [www.frightfest.co.uk/filmsandevents/](http://www.frightfest.co.uk/filmsandevents/).

23-26 Aug • **Asylum XIV** (steampunk), The Lawns and other Lincoln venues. Weekend pass £45 inc fees at [www.ministryofsteampunk.com](http://www.ministryofsteampunk.com).

24-25 Aug • **Dublin Comic Con**, Convention Centre, Dublin. Various ticket prices (extra for early entry, etc.) at [dublincomiccon.com](http://dublincomiccon.com).

29 Aug - 2 Sep • **Oxonmoot** (Tolkien Society), St Anne's, Oxford. £120 reg. See [www.tolkienesociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2024/](http://www.tolkienesociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2024/).

SOLD OUT 31 Aug • **Whooverville 15** (*Doctor Who*), QUAD Centre, Derby. No more tickets at [www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/whooverville15/](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/whooverville15/).

7-9 Feb 2025 • **Contabile 35** (filk), Wensum Valley Hotel, Norwich. £43 reg; £33 concessions. More details at [c35.contabile.org.uk](http://c35.contabile.org.uk).

18-21 Apr 2025 • **Reconnect**, Hilton Lanyon Place Hotel and ICC, Belfast. *Now £80 reg*; £40 discounted (under-18s, concessions, Eastercon first-timers, Irish residents); £25 supp. See [easterconbelfast.org](http://easterconbelfast.org).

23-26 May 2025 • **Jodiworld** (Jodi Taylor), Doubletree by Hilton, Coventry. Waiting list – £10 deposit asked – at [www.jodiworld.org](http://www.jodiworld.org).

7-8 Jun 2025 • **EM-Con** (media), Motorpoint Arena, Nottingham. Weekend tickets £30 (11am entry) or £40 (10am) at [www.em-con.co.uk](http://www.em-con.co.uk).

21 Jun 2025 • **Stars of Time** (comics), Steam Museum, Swindon. Ticket sales awaited at [www.starsoftime.co.uk/swindon](http://www.starsoftime.co.uk/swindon).

**Rumblings.** *Glasgow 2024* tweeted on 15 July that draft programme schedules had gone out to nearly a thousand people. 'There is over 1000 hours of programming!' • *Business Meeting* agenda publication was slightly delayed because there are a record 50 items of business, with multiple proposals sparked by the horrors of 2023. What a fun meeting it will be. • *Hugo Voting* closed on 20 July; two days later, Nicholas Whyte's Glasgow Hugo team announced that 3,813 final-ballot votes were cast and that 'at least 377' fraudulent votes, with 'obvious fake names' etc., had been detected and disqualified. Many favoured a particular 'Finalist A' in an unspecified category. Reportedly at least one sponsor refunded WSFS membership fees for those who confirmed they'd voted as instructed. See full statement at [glasgow2024.org/hugo-awards/statement-22-july-2024/](http://glasgow2024.org/hugo-awards/statement-22-july-2024/). Much media coverage followed; the *Guardian's* headline (23 July) asserts that, as was carefully not stated, Finalist A is 'one writer'.

### Infinitely Improbable

**Science Masterclass.** 'Hippopotamuses can become airborne for substantial periods of time, researchers discover' is a Sky News headline somewhat deflated by the revelation that 'substantial periods of time' here means 'up to 0.3 seconds' (6 July) Hey, I myself can levitate! For a little bit.

**Awards.** *Arthur C. Clarke: In Ascension* by Martin MacInnes. • *Prometheus* (libertarian): NOVEL *Critical Mass* by Daniel Suarez. HALL OF FAME *The Truth* by Terry Pratchett. • *Scribe* (media tie-ins): ADAPTED NOVEL *Ultraman* by Pat Cadigan. GRANDMASTER ('Faust' award) James Reasoner. • *SF and Fantasy Hall of Fame* creators: Nicola Griffith, Nnedi Okorafor. • *Shirley Jackson*: NOVEL *The Reformatory* by Tananarive Due. SPECIAL/NOVEL *A Haunting on the Hill* by Elizabeth Hand.

**Mazing Stories.** The 2024 York Maze design commemorates the 25th anniversary of Julia Donaldson's *The Gruffalo* (1999, illustrated by Axel Scheffler), with characters from the book outlined by winding paths in a 15-acre field of more than a million maize plants. (i, 14 July)

**Invisible Dbiot: AI Masterclass.** 'The researchers found that feeding AI-generated data to a model caused subsequent generations of the model to degrade to the point of collapse. In one test, text about medieval architecture was used as the starting point, but by the ninth generation the model output was a list of jackrabbits.' (*Nature*, 25 July) [JH]

**R.I.P.** *Erica Ash* (1977-2024), US actress in *Scary Movie V* (2013) and *We Have a Ghost* (2023), died on 28 July aged 46. [SJ] • *Zeev Bar-Sella* (1947-2024), Israeli writer and critic who wrote a 2013 biography of Russian sf author Alexander Belyaev, died on 27 July aged 77. [AM] • *Leo (Lee) Chaloukian* (1927-2024), US sound director for *Near Dark* (1987) and *The Puppetoon Movie* (1987), died on 18 July aged 97. [AIP] • *Cheng Pei-pei* (1946-2024), Chinese-US actress whose films include the wuxia *Come Drink with Me* (1966) and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000, a Hugo winner), died on 17 July aged 78. [SJ] • *Ysanne Churchman* (1925-2024), UK *Archers* actress in *Space Patrol* (1963), *Doctor Who*

(1972, 1974, 2017), *Artemis 81* (1981), *Ghost in the Water* (1982) and others, died on 4 July aged 99. [CM] ● **Frederick Crews** (1933-2024), US academic best known for *The Pooh Perplex* (1963), a tour-de-force collection of essays on the Winnie-the-Pooh tales parodying various critics – including the dread F.R. Leavis – and critical schools, died on 21 June aged 91. [AIP] His follow-up *Postmodern Pooh* (2001) is also great fun. ● **Shannen Doherty** (1971-2024), US actress in *The Secret of NIMH* (1982), *Charmed* (111 episodes 1990-1994), *Satan's School for Girls* (2000) and *Witchslayer Gretl* (2012), died on 13 July aged 53. ● **Tonke Dragt** (1930-2024), Dutch children's author/illustrator whose works include six sf/fantasy novels, died on 12 July aged 93. [AM] ● **Shelley Duvall** (1949-2024), US actress in *Popeye* (1980), *The Shining* (1980), *Time Bandits* (1981), *Frogs!* (1993), *Casper Meets Wendy* (1998), *Big Monster on Campus* (2000) and others, died on 11 July aged 75. [HSB] ● **Yvonne Furneaux** (1926-2024), French actress in *The Mummy* (1959), *The Death Ray of Dr Mabuse* (1964) and *Frankenstein's Great Aunt Tillie* (1984), died on 5 July aged 98. [LP] ● **Peter B. Gillis** (1952-2024), US comics writer whose Marvel work included *Strikeforce: Morituri* (as co-creator) and *Micronauts: The New Voyages*, and who adapted *The Last Unicorn* for IDW in 2010, died on 20 June aged 71. ● **Benji Gregory** (1978-2024), US former child actor in *ALF* (101 episodes 1986-2004), *Back to the Future* (1992 tv), *Once Upon a Forest* (1993) and others, died on 13 June aged 46. [LP] ● **Deborah P Kolodji** (1959-2024), US poet and former SF Poetry Association president who created the SFPA Dwarf Stars awards for ultra-short poems and edited several anthologies of these, died on 21 July. [F770] ● **Jon Landau** (1960-2024), US producer whose films include *Honey, I Shrank the Kids* (1989), *Solaris* (2002); *Avatar* (2009 plus sequel) and *Alita: Battle Angel* (2019), died on 5 July aged 63. [F770] ● **David Loughery** (1953-2024), US screenwriter whose credits include *Dreamscape* (1984) and *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* (1989), died on 9 July aged 71. ● **Randal Malone** (1958-2024), US actor in very many low-or zero-budget sf/horror films from 1996 to 2018, died on 28 July aged 65. [SJ] ● **Claudio Mancini** (1928-2024), Italian producer/production supervisor for *The Tenth Victim* (1965), *Contamination* (1980) and *The Witches' Sabbath* (1988), died on 28 June aged 96. [SJ] ● **Vladimir Matveyev** (1952-2024), Russian actor in the *Fellowship of the Ring* tv adaptation *Khraniteli* (1991, as Sam) and *Salyut-7* (2017), who also dubbed Russian versions of *The Omen* (2006) and two *Pirates of the Caribbean* films, died on 2 July aged 72. [AM] ● **Mike Milne** (1946-2024), UK animator and visual effects man for *Walking with Dinosaurs* (1999), *Walking with Beasts* (2001), *The Last Dragon* (2004) and others, died in June. [AIP] ● **Bob Newhart** (1929-2024), noted US comedian and actor in *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* (1970), *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (1998), *Elf* (2003) and others, died on 18 July aged 94. [LP] ● **Lyubomir Nikolov-Narvi** (1950-2024), Bulgarian author and Tolkien translator whose 8 sf novels include *The Tenth Righteous Man* (1999), died on 20 July aged 74. [AM] ● **Noriko Ohara** (1935-2024), Japanese voice actress in *Doraemon: Nobita's Dinosaur* (1980), *Super Dimension Fortress Macross* (1982-2002), spinoffs from both, and many others, died on 12 July aged 88. [HM] ● **Salvatore Puntillo** (1935-2024), Italian actor in *Deep Red* (1975) and *The Psychic* (1977), died on 14 July aged 88. [SJ] ● **Whitney Rydbeck** (1945-2024), US actor in *Love at First Bite* (1979), *Battle Beyond the Stars* (1980), *Friday the 13th IV* (1986) and genre tv series, died on 15 July aged 79. [SJ] ● **Doug Sakmann** (1980-2024), US independent horror film-maker and effects man whose credits include the HPL spoof *Lovecracked!* (2006 anthology film), *The XXXorcist* (2006), *Evil Head* (2012) and *Curse of the Weredeer* (2023), died on 27 June aged 43. [SJ] ● **Rhondi Ann Vilott Salsitz** (1949-2024), US author who from 1984 published many sf and fantasy novels as Emily Drake, Elizabeth Forrest, Charles Ingrid, Anne Knight, Jenna Rhodes, R.A.V. Salsitz and Rhondi Vilott, died in late July aged 74. [SE] ● **Hassani Shapi** (1973-2024), Kenyan actor in *The Phantom Menace* (1999), *The World Is Not Enough* (1999) and others, died on 17 July aged 51. ● **James Sikking** (1934-2024), US actor whose many genre films include *The Terminal Man* (1974), *Outland* (1981) and *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* (1984) and *Morons from Outer Space* (1985), died on 13 July aged 90. [SJ] ● **Roberta Taylor** (1948-2024), UK actress in *Frankenstein* (1984) and *The Witches* (1990), died on 6 July aged 76. [AIP] ● **Gennady Tishchenko** (1948-2024), Russian artist and creator of animated films including *Vampires of Geona* (1991) and the Tolkien-based *Mr Bliss* (2004), died on 20 July. [AM] ● **Robert Towne** (1934-2024), US screenwriter for *Last Woman on Earth* (1960), *The Tomb of Ligeia* (1964), *Greystoke* (1984, as P.H. Vazak) and others, died on 1 July aged 89. [LP] ● **A. Heather Wood** (1945-2024), UK folk singer and publisher, formerly with Tor as consulting editor and assistant to Tom Doherty, died on 15 July aged 79. [F770] ● **Tom Wyner** (1947-2024), US voice actor in *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* (1993),

*Ghost in the Shell* (1995), *Digimon* (1999-2003), *Transformers: Car Robots* (2000) and many more, died on 30 June aged 77. ● **Michael Zulli** (1952-2024), US wildlife illustrator and comics artist who worked on *The Puma Blues*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Swamp Thing* (unpublished issue), *Sandman* and others, died on 8 July aged 71. [NC]

**The Weakest Link.** Q. 'The mythological hero Hector was killed in which war?' A. 'The First World War.' (BBC1, *The Finish Line*) [PE]

**Publishers and Sinners.** Orbit is launching a new horror imprint called Run For It, whose first titles will appear in Summer 2025.

**Random Fandom.** *Conversation 2023*: this Eastercon has published its final accounts, showing a turnover of £81,565.01. Nearly £25,000 was donated to sf community projects, mainly the 2024 and 2025 Eastercons, plus fan funds, *SFE* (thanks!) etc. ● **Dave McCarty** and **Ben Yalow** were refused full membership of the Glasgow 2024 Worldcon, with attendance fees refunded. No explanation given, but see 2023 Hugos *passim*. [F770] ● **Glasgow 2024** invited members to take part in an advisory online yes-or-no vote on the 2023 resolution to create new Hugos for short and feature-length independent films, which awaits business-meeting ratification.

**No Comment.** "Encyclopedias are like slums," Giles said, "the rotten homes of diseased minds." (Charles Williams, *Many Dimensions*, 1931)

**Sidewise Awards** finalists: LONG *Cahokia Jazz* by Francis Spufford, *Julia* by Sandra Newman, *Sunset Empire* by Josh Weiss, *Wages of Sin* by Harry Turtledove. SHORT 'Apollo in Retrograde' by Rosemary Smith, 'Toe-to-Toe' by Mark Ciccone. [SHS]

**Outraged Letter.** *Jonathan Cowie* gives warning to the world: 'I note that Stokercon is using EventBrite to register. I do wish fans would read Brunner, Gibson, Orwell *et al*. EventBrite has an illuminating privacy policy that includes that they will share your details with business partners and will compile details about you from business partners who together will compile a profile of you....' (Email, 2 July) This didn't seem to bother the all-knowing Arthur C. Clarke Award organizers.

**Fanfunder.** *GUFF*: Simon Litten's report of his trip to the 2019 Dublin Worldcon, *Visiting Nearly Kiviland*, was released in July. Free download with fund donation suggested: ozfanfunds.com/?page\_id=206. ● **TAFF**: a July newsletter gives, *inter alia*, Sarah Gulde's July to October itinerary as 2024 delegate. See [taff.org.uk/news/Taffluorescence5.pdf](http://taff.org.uk/news/Taffluorescence5.pdf). ● **League of Fan Funds**: this informal group which coordinates UK fund-raising for the various causes has a new web presence at [lff.ansible.uk](http://lff.ansible.uk). Meanwhile a boggled Sandra Bond reports: 'Someone is donating to the fan fund auction a pair of boxer briefs signed by Colin Baker.'

**Small Press.** After some weeks of social-media silence, the US Dark Regions Press website disappeared in mid-July; it emerged that the business was listed as for sale in April, though it's since been taken off the market. No recent communication with authors or customers. DRP books remained on sale in online stores, but Amazon at least seems prepared to remove them on sufficiently persistent author request. [WM]

**The Dead Past.** *30 Years Ago*, hyperbole was rampant: 'The Fantasy & SF Book Club claims the *SF Encyclopedia* (offered at £30) is "almost as big as the universe itself!" ... containing in fact "OVER ONE MILLION PAGES"'. On a similar heroic scale, *SF Chronicle* insists that one net fanzine listing calls me a "500-times Hugo award-winning fan author...." (*Ansible* 85, August 1994) ● *80 Years Ago*, fandom was treated to a startling literary insight: 'Remarkably little scientific fantasy has been written posthumously.' (*Futurian War Digest*, August 1944)

**Editorial.** After publishing five fat volumes of Algis Budrys's non-fiction, Ansible Editions now wonders about reissuing his original *Benchmarks: Galaxy Bookshelf* (1985) as a shiny new paperback. Alas, AE, like *Ansible* and the *SF Encyclopedia*, will have no official table at Glasgow 2024 because your editor can no longer cope with such huge acoustic-hell events. Hoping all attendees have an utterly spiffy time nevertheless....

**Chog's Masterclass.** *Snakes Alive!* 'With each step, his mighty thighs flexed, and the muscles leaped like living serpents beneath the flesh.' (Norvell W. Page, *Flame Winds*, 1939) [BA] ● *Looking Daggers.* 'Captain Future's gray eyes stabbed the Uranian.' (Edmond Hamilton, *Outlaw World*, 1945) [BA] ● *Superbooze Dept.* 'I've distilled a highly fermented potent suspension – basically 500 proof ...' (*The Flash* series 1 episode 5, 2014) [BA] ● *Sibilant Syllables.* "Don't try to tell me what to do!" For no very good reason he whispered the words so that they flicked out with the sustained hiss of a scared mamba.' (Peter Van Greenaway, *The Crucified City*, 1962) [BA] ● *The Higher Mathematics.* 'Death is not absolute but zero minus to the unknowable degrees of infinity.' (*Ibid*) [BA]



## Issue #1

A fanzine by Marcin 'Alqua' Kłak  
for WOOF 49 (2024)  
Proofreading: Katarzyna Ophelia Koćma

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### K for Convention

I was not sure what should I write about. In fact, this is an issue I am facing quite often. Seji – a friend of mine – advised me to write about something I currently have in my mind and my heart. So hopefully his advice was a good one. What takes a lot of my attention now are conventions.

I am primarily a convention fan. My first con was the beginning of my fannish journey. Over the years, this social activity became very important to me. Cons were good to attend to and even better to run them. Together with other fannish activities (mainly writing as a matter of fact), they became my safe haven. Bored? I could start working on some fannish initiatives. Overworked? Why not try helping at a convention? Sad? Doing something will surely allow you to stop worrying. And so on. There were times when my first thought upon seeing a building was whether it would make a good convention venue. Planning conventions or articles turned into a habit. They didn't always have to become reality – considerations were good enough.

In the first half of the previous decade, I wanted to organize a convention in Kraków where I live. For some reason that I cannot recall I started with the name. As dragon is one of the symbols of the city (because of the legend about the Wawel Dragon), I decided to refer to it. Dragon in Polish means "smok" and convention is "konwent". Connecting these words was easy and thus the name – Smokon. At that time, I even created a draft

of the script for an animated commercial for the con. I had a general idea of how the convention should look like. Later I abandoned (or rather parked) the concept. One or two years have passed since then, and a new SFF club was established. It was called Krakowskie Smoki (The Dragons of Kraków). Of course, I joined it. Well, when it was being established, a friend asked me to take care of it. Very soon we decided that we wanted to have a small con. You can probably guess what became the convention name. The rest of my initial ideas were not useful for this event but at least the name and the general idea for the logo came in handy.



*Logo of Smokon created by Aleksandra "pajak" Maćków-Neumann in 2014.*

The last few years were pretty hard for me. I would say that it started when the pandemic struck and has continued ever since. Apart from stress, I also had a lot of work – including my involvement in Glasgow 2024. Those were very good years for many reasons too. Yet, whenever life was getting harder, I had the option to delve into something fannish. In 2021, I attended 21 conventions which is my yearly record (of course, they were online events). I blogged about them on my blog – FandomRover.com. That same year I started my fanzine – A~Zyn which I have been publishing ever since. As



I needed some rest from all the hard work, I ~~took~~ ~~holidays~~ started to think about establishing a new convention in Kraków. Whether it will become a reality is a different story.

Naming is important to me. A good name makes promotion way easier. Using simple (and pronounceable) word means that people will be addressing the con in a proper manner. So deciding on how the con should be called is not a useless task.

I like when convention names are interesting and witty. In Poland, it is quite common to name the con in a way that somehow relates to the city where it takes place. It is not a rule but a good starting point when thinking about the event's brand. Unfortunately (from the naming perspective), over the years plenty of cons took place in Kraków.<sup>1</sup> They used many of the good and obvious names. Some of those are still held (Lajconik, Gralicja) while others are discontinued (Smokon, Krakon). My friends suggested me to resurrect Smokon but I didn't find this satisfying.

You may ask why is that the case? Smokon was held between 2014 and 2017. I quite enjoyed running it and passing it to other hands. The reason I don't want to get back to it is that I would have to deal with certain expectations. And the convention I currently have in mind is not the same as we envisioned when creating Smokon. Should I take over the name and run a completely different event it would be unfair towards those who still remember the original con. It would be helpful for promotion for sure but starting with something new will work better

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<sup>1</sup> Last year I started another fannish project of creating a map showing all conventions in Kraków. It is still not finished (and new cons are taking place every year!) but you may check it here: <https://bit.ly/mapakonwentow>  
Descriptions are in Polish but each tag on the map is a different venue. Upon clicking on any you may see the photo of the building (if we already managed to take it), and a list of cons that were held there.

for what I want to achieve. Maybe I should rather write “for what I start to think that I want to achieve”.

So I kept thinking. In fact, I couldn't do more. My list of tasks was way too long to take over starting a new convention! Yet, thinking and planning were relaxing. Moreover, for now, this convention is exactly as I want it to be. I am not tied by the budget, time or anything else. And it may stay like that.

One of the issues I am facing in my plans is answering the very crucial question of “what is the point of this new convention?” Kraków is quite rich with similar events. A general SFF con – Imladris runs yearly in the autumn. Lajconik and Gralicja take place regularly and target RPG and board gamers respectively. There are four commercial cons for M&A fans. As of 2023, a new series of furry conventions was established (Krakówò). Fans of Genshin Impact have their own gathering (which I consider a con).



“Rusałka” by Marta “Artvetka” Markowska.

There are also many other bigger and smaller geeky initiatives. Before making the next convention, here I must understand what new value could it bring.

As I couldn't find the definite answer to the value question I kept pondering about the name. Online dictionaries helped find words that either start or finish with "kon" or "con". Google and Wikipedia provided me with a lot of nonobvious symbols of Kraków. Yet, the best name I found was not very convincing even to me. It could work but was not witty at all. It went better on a funny names front but it is not what I was looking for.

A bit frustrated with my inability to coin a catchy name, I decided to look for the venue. The whole point of making this imaginary convention is to have fun so let's skip the difficult parts. What I knew for sure was that the event should be small – around 150 to 300 members. The con should be cosy and have family-like atmosphere. I wanted it to become very fannish in its spirit. Knowing that I was able to start considering the venue.

What you may not know is that in Poland very few conventions take place in hotels. Most of fannish events are organised in schools, culture centres, libraries etc. This means that the set of arguments to use is way different compared to discussions with hotels. It is not easier or more difficult – just different. I had some venues on my radar so one day before going to bed I decided to check them. I found out that one of the potential candidates is even better than I initially thought. I started to consider what may be convincing for them? What sort of convention they would be willing to host? Considering their activities I figured that appealing to local identity may make sense.

The said venue lies in a Nowa Huta [literally "new steel mill"] district in Kraków. This part of the city was built in the 1950s. To be exact they started the building in 1949 and, of course, new buildings are still being constructed. Some people are trying to put

Nowa Huta on the UNESCO list of World Heritage. For now, it was "only" recognised as a Historic Monument in Poland. The cultural offering in the district is not as good as in the old city which is very unfortunate but potentially helpful to establishing a con.

Please, allow me a small digression related to naming. One of my friends with whom I play RPGs starts character creation by choosing a name. Sometimes it takes her a lot of time. Once I asked her whether it would not make sense to finish other steps of character creation first. She said that it doesn't work like that for her – once she selects the proper name all the other details about the character just fall into place.

How could I appeal to local identity? With a name of course! I didn't have to refer to the whole of Kraków, I could think about connection to the district! My train of thought sped up. I thought "Nowa Huta is abbreviated to NH and N would make a great connection to "kon". This would mean that KoNH is a working name that relates to the place and



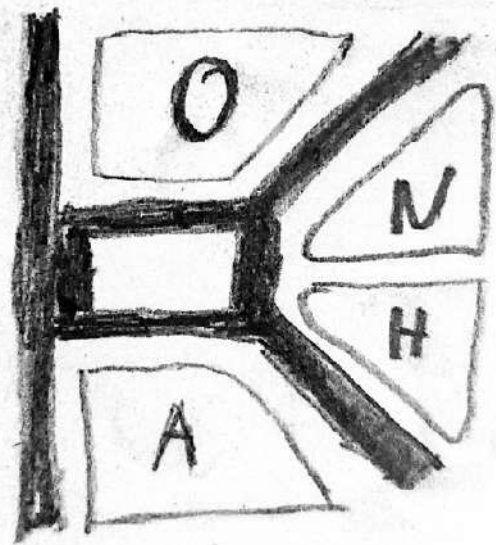
*"Dryad" by Marta "Artvetka" Markowska.*

is easy to pronounce (at least in Polish)!” As a matter of fact, there is a word with exact reading but a different spelling – koncha. In English, it means “conch” although has a different pronunciation. That, of course, meant I could use a snail shell for a logo but would it make sense? “Wait a second!” I said to myself. There is even a better option. The historical centre of Nowa Huta is shaped like a letter “K”. Using it in a logo would even strengthen the bonds to the localization. Mind you all of those thoughts came to my mind just before falling asleep. I noted the name on my mobile in order not to forget it the next day.

The next morning it didn’t sound as good as I thought yet it had some appeal. Enough of appeal to share it with others and ask for their opinions. They were mixed ranging from negative through indifferent to enthusiastic. The fact is, however, that I am now getting more inclined towards that direction. I started drafting the logo and realized that all of the

letters would ideally fit into the neighbourhoods around the central square. Moreover, the puzzles in my head started to find their places. Now I think that what my friend does with her RPG characters makes a lot of sense to me when planning conventions. I started to have some programme ideas and I expect more to come. The value of the con starts to crystallize in my head and everything begins to make sense.

So in the end I have the capital K for a convention. I may not have a convention but no one will take away from me the pleasure of working on that concept. The stress relief was a great help. If I end up running a successful con, that would be an amazing addition. Still, even should there be no con, the time I spent thinking about the community, its needs, and how I can meet them was satisfying and worthwhile.



*Centre of Nowa Huta with the draft of the logo concept. Should the convention ever take place logo would be created by someone who knows how to do it well, but I am happy with the idea itself.*



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I wrote short reviews for short fiction I found from various sources. The *Lady Business* and *Locus* recommended reading lists and Twitter posts were very helpful. *Asimovs'* and *Analog* also put their annual readers' poll finalists on their websites.

I tried to catch up on our Letters  
Next month the Nebula finalists, and with luck a review.

Events

Comic Book Barn and Tent Sale

March 1-2  
18410 S.E. Hwy 42  
Weirdsdale, FL 32195  
Free  
[www.thecomicbookconnection.com](http://www.thecomicbookconnection.com)

Sunrise Comic Con

March 2  
Sunrise Civic Center  
10610 W Oakland Park Boulevard ,  
Sunrise, FL  
Guests: Ernie Reyes (actor)  
Elise Baughman (voice actor)  
And many others  
\$20 admission  
[www.sunrisefl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/special-events/sunrise-comic-con](http://www.sunrisefl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/special-events/sunrise-comic-con)

Swampcon: Cirque de Gator

March 2-3  
Reitz Union University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL  
Free  
[www.swampcon.org](http://www.swampcon.org)

SW Floridacon

March 3  
Crowne Plaza  
13051 Bell Tower Dr,  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
Guests: Bob Hall (comic book artist and writer)  
And many others  
\$20 admission  
[www.swfloridacomicon.com](http://www.swfloridacomicon.com)

Collective Con

March 8-10  
Prime F Osborn III Convention Center  
1000 Water St  
Jacksonville, FL 32204  
\$60 for 3 Days  
[www.collectivecon.com](http://www.collectivecon.com)

ACEcon 2023

March 9-10  
Palm Harbor Library  
2330 Nebraska Avenue  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
Free  
[acecon.carrd.co](http://acecon.carrd.co)

ICFA 44 (academic conference)

March 15-18  
Orlando Airport Marriott,  
Orlando, Florida  
Guest of Honor: Mary Turzillo  
Guest of Honor: C.E. Murphy  
Guest Scholar: Woppa Diallo  
Guest Scholar: Mame Bougouma Diene  
[iaftfita.wildapricot.org](http://iaftfita.wildapricot.org)

Hero Hype

March 16  
Miami Airport Convention Center  
711 NW 72nd Ave  
Miami, FL 33126  
\$15 at the door  
[www.herohype.com](http://www.herohype.com)

Florida Polygon

March 16  
Florida Polytechnic  
4700 Research Way  
Lakeland, FL 33805  
Guests: Stanley Morrison (artist)  
Paul Castro Jr. (voice actor)  
Joshua Seth (voice actor)  
And many others  
\$30 at the door  
[flpolycon.org](http://flpolycon.org)

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## March OASFiS Calendar

### OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, March 10, 1:30 PM, on Zoom (contact Juan). Open discussion.

To contact for more info:

OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

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#### Free Con

March 30-31  
FSU Student Union,  
75 N Woodward Ave,  
Tallahassee, FL 32306  
Anime con  
Free  
tallahasseeanime.com/

#### My-Con

March 30  
Wyndham Orlando Avanti Palms Rsortt  
6515 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819  
\$8 for admission,  
mystic-con.com

#### Letters of Comment

1706-24 Eva Rd.  
Etobicoke, ON  
CANADA M9C 2B2

December 31, 2023

Dear OASFiSians:

It's New Year's Eve!, and here's a short message to you on issue 430 of the Event Horizon. After a hectic and busy (and calorie-filled) Christmas season, our New Year's will be held at home, and that's just fine for us. It's been crazy.

Looks like your December has been crazy, too. Lots of cons in December, and as for us, I doubt we will see anything before the end of May. Just as well, we've got to save up the money to go to these events, anyway. We have planned a meeting – yes, a meeting – to determine the budget for the cons we have listed, and see what we can afford. The rooms are not cheap, but because our plans for NASFiC and World Fantasy are merely at a table for *Amazing Stories*, nothing says we have to be at each convention for all the days of the event. We might go for two or three days, depending on money. Our big con as far as expenses go will be Loscon 50. We are also thinking that we will have to get more in the loop for major conventions again, like Worldcon. I doubt we'd go, but we need to be more knowledgeable.

Yeah, I think that's about all for now. For me, New Year's is about 5 hours away, so I wish all members a Happy 2024, may we get all that we need, and even all we want in this New Year. See you with the January 2024 issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

## OASFiS People

Steve Cole	407-379-1530 stevepc@hotmai.com
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Arthur Dykeman	407-314-5506 adykeman@bellsouth.net
Steve Grant	352 241 0670 stevegrant@embarqmail.com
Mike Pilletere	mike-sf@2webbedfeet.net
David Ratti	407-282-2468 dratti@eudoramail.com
Juan Sanmiguel	407-823-8715 sanmiguel@earthlink.net

Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan.  
Any of these people can give readers information about the club and its functions. To be included in the list call Juan.

January 11, 2024

Dear OASFiCians:

Thank you for issue 431 of the OASFiS Event Horizon, and while it's a short issue, I will try my best at some kind of response.

Much of this issue is on movies, and I admit have seen none of them, and haven't been in a theatre in a few years. Nonetheless, so much of new movies show up on television ads and on the internet, so I find, as do others, it's easy to miss these movies, feeling I've already seen the good bits. As for TV episodes, all I have seen are the newest Trek episodes available for me on CTW Sci-Fi Channel, which is a part of our cable package, so we may be among the few who do not have to pay for a streaming service to see them.

I have very much enjoyed the three seasons of *ST: Picard*, especially the final episode. (Saw confirmation today, a Picard movie is in production.) *ST: Strange New Worlds* has been fun, even the musical episode that made me wonder, and the best part for me is that it is produced locally, in the cities of Toronto and Mississauga. The crossover with *ST: Lower Decks* was very imaginative. Voice actors are seldom seen as on-screen actors, so I wonder how IMDB will handle that. I admit I wasn't impressed with the first episode of *Lower Decks*, as I found it far too fast and hectic, but after seeing how people react to it, I would like to see more *Lower Decks*, and same applies to *ST: Prodigy*, which will get its second season.

I am so tired, it's been a busy day, and there is still more to come. Take care, and I am already looking for the February issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

## Award News

(source *File 770*)**2023 BRAM STOKER AWARDS® FINAL BALLOT****Superior Achievement in an Anthology**

- Aquilone, James – *Shakespeare Unleashed* (Crystal Lake Publishing, Monstrous Books)
- Golden, Christopher, and Keene, Brian – *The Drive -In: Multiplex* (Pandi Press)
- Hawk, Shane and Van Alst, Jr., Theodore C. – *Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology* (Vintage)
- Peele, Jordan, and Adams, John Joseph – *Out There Screaming* (Random House)
- Rowland, Rebecca – *American Cannibal* (Maenad Press)

**Superior Achievement in a Fiction Collection**

- Files, Gemma – *Blood from the Air* (Grimscribe Press)
- Keisling, Todd – *Cold, Black, & Infinite* (Cemetery Dance)
- Malerman, Josh – *Spin A Black Yarn* (Del Rey)
- Nogle, Christi – *The Best of Our Past, the Worst of Our Future* (Flame Tree Press)
- Read, Sarah – *Root Rot & Other Grim Tales* (Bad Hand Books)

**Superior Achievement in a First Novel**

- Carmen, Christa – *The Daughters of Block Island* (Thomas & Mercer)
- Compton, Johnny – *The Spite House* (Tor Nightfire/Macmillan)
- LaRocca, Eric – *Everything the Darkness Eats* (CLASH Books/Titan)
- Leede, CJ – *Maeve Fly* (Tor Nightfire/Macmillan/Titan)
- Rebelein, Sam – *Edenville* (William Morrow/Titan)

**Superior Achievement in a Graphic Novel**

- Bunn, Cullen (author) and Leomacs (artist) – *Ghostlore*, Vol. 1 (BOOM! Studios)
- Cesare, Adam (author) and Stoll, David (artist) – *Dead Mall* (Dark Horse Comics)
- Chu, Amy (author) and Lee, Soo (artist) – *Carmilla: The First Vampire* (Dark Horse)
- Ito, Junji (author and artist) – *Tombs* (Viz Media)
- Tanabe, Gou (author and artist) – *H.P. Lovecraft's The Shadow Over Innsmouth* (Dark Horse Comics)

**Superior Achievement in Long Fiction**

- Due, Tananarive – “Rumpus Room” (*The Wishing Pool and Other Stories*, Akashic Books)
- Jiang, Ai – *Linghun* (Dark Matter INK)
- Khaw, Cassandra – *The Salt Grows Heavy* (Tor Nightfire/Macmillan/Titan)
- McCarthy, J.A.W. – *Sleep Alone* (Off Limits Press LLC)
- Murray, Lee – *Despatches* (PS Publishing)

**Superior Achievement in Long Nonfiction**

- Coleman, Robin R. Means and Harris, Mark H. – *The Black Guy Dies First: Black Horror Cinema from Fodder to Oscar* (Gallery/Saga Press)
- Fitzpatrick, Claire (ed.) – *A Vindication of Monsters: Essays on Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley* (IFWG Publishing International)
- Hartmann, Sadie – *101 Horror Books to Read Before You're Murdered* (Page Street Publishing)
- Morton, Lisa – *The Art of the Zombie Movie* (Applause Books)
- Murray, Lee and Smith, Angela Yuriko (eds.) – *Unquiet Spirits: Essays by Asian Women in Horror* (Black Spot Books)

**Superior Achievement in a Middle Grade Novel**

- Henning, Sarah – *Monster Camp* (Margaret K. McElderry Books)
- López, Diana – *Los Monstruos: Felice and the Wailing Woman* (Kokila)
- Senf, Lora – *The Nighthouse Keeper* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
- Tuma, Refe – *Frances and the Werewolves of the Black Forest* (HarperCollins)
- Young, Suzanne – *What Stays Buried* (HarperCollins)

**Superior Achievement in a Novel**

- Due, Tananarive – *The Reformatory* (Gallery/Saga Press/Titan)
- Hendrix, Grady – *How to Sell a Haunted House* (Berkley/Titan)
- Jones, StephenGraham – *Don't Fear the Reaper* (Gallery/Saga Press/Titan)
- LaValle, Victor – *Lone Women* (One World)
- Wendig, Chuck – *Black River Orchard* (Del Rey/Penguin Random House)

(Continued on page 5)

## 2023 Short Fiction

## Novellas

Title: "To Fight the Colossus"

Writer: Adam-Troy Castro

Publication: *Analog*

Date: July-August 2023

Word Count:27380

This is set in the same universe as the Andrea Cort series. This takes place after Cort's War which had great repercussions in the interstellar community. Esker is persuaded to join Griff, Bob (a reptoid) and Yrna. They are set to see a mythological creature a Colossus walking out among the stars. What does Griff want from Esker? What does man who was good at fighting do after the fighting is done? This is very character driven. One finds out what each of the characters place in Griff's scheme.

Title: "The Many Different Kinds of Love"

Writer: Geoff Ryman with David Jeffrey

Publication: *F&SF*

Date: November-December 2023

Word Count:24126

A group of machines are exploring the Saturn's moon Enceladus. One of these machines has the memories of several humans in it. They face the physical challenges of exploring this world and changing priorities. This is a strong hard SF story that makes one sympathetic to the machines performing this mission.

Title: "The Tinker and the Timestream"

Writer: Carolyn Ives Gilman

Publication: *Analog*

Date: March-April 2023

Word Count:18122

Rustem and his people live on a planet not best suited for human life. A group of beings capable of interstellar travel come to their planet. They are willing to scout nearby star systems for better suited worlds. Rustem, a young woman named Trini, and a dog take a great trip. This is a solid SF story with good characters and plot.

Title: *Blade and Bone*

Writer: Paul McAuly

Publication: *Asimov's*

Date: November-December 2023

Word Count:24650

We follow a company of soldiers on a partially terraformed Mars. They are getting relics for a client captured by a group of rebels. Will they get them? Should they get them? There is a great sum up early on in the state of affairs in the Solar System to set up the world. This is straight forward action adventure story.

Title: *Lost in the Moment and Found*

Writer: Seanan McGuire

Publication: *tordotcom*

Date: January 10, 2023

Word Count:17501

Antsy's (short for Antionette) father has died and her mother remarries. All is not well at home. She discovers a shop where there are door to anywhere and anything that is lost can be found. Can or should she find a way back home? McGuire again breaks with the format of the Wayward Children series. Here we see the child in the other world. Antsy is able to escape a scary situation and sometimes escape is what is needed.

Title: "The Kingdom of Darkness"

Writer: Sarah Monette

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: September-October 2023

Word Count:20728

This is a world where witches and demons existed in the 1600s. A small town in New England has been afflicted by a witch and professional Witch Finders are rare in the American colonies. Witch Finders use demoniac who are people that are formerly possessed to sniff out witches and demons. One Witch Finder arrives unexpectedly to investigate what is happening and is murdered. John Cooper who left before completing his Witch Finder training is ask to take up the investigation until a new Witch Finder arrives. Can Cooper handle the demoniac? What is going on? This is a good Fantasy-Mystery. Cooper has to deal with situation and how it conflicts with his beliefs.

Title: *The Mimicking of Known Successes*

Writer: Malka Older

Publication: *tordotcom*

Date: March 2023

Word Count:17501

Earth has been abandoned for colonies in Jupiter orbit. Someone has mysteriously disappeared on a remote station. Investigator Mossa follows the trail to the academic colony of Valdegeld. There she reunites with her scholar ex-girlfriend. They work together to solve this case which may put them in danger. This a great mystery. It has a good setup. The science part is firm as is the relationship aspect.

Title: "To Sail Beyond the Botnet"

Writer: Suzanne Palmer

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: May 2023

Word Count:21920

Audio Version Available

Bot 9 finds itself out in space. It discovers the ship has been taken over by the Ysmi and needs to figure out how to help the Ship (the name of artificial intelligence that runs the ship). There is another ship nearby. Can the aliens there help Bot 9? This another action packed adventure in this series of novellas. There is a lot of interesting characters in this one both organic and non-organic. Palmer is thinking about more stories in this world.

Title: "The Ghosts of Mars"

Writer: Dominica Phetteplace

Publication: *Asimov's*

Date: November-December 2023

Word Count:26520

Paz is a teenage girl living on Mars. The other colonists left for medical reasons. Paz does research and monitor the robots on Mars. One of the robots start to behave oddly. They start building something not part of their tasking. What is it? Will Paz be able to cope on her own? This an interesting SF mystery?

Title: "Axiom of Dreams"

Writer: Arula Ratnakar

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: September 2023

Word Count:22570

Audio Version Available

Alvira is trying to get accepted to a math PhD program. She has been given a brain implant to road test and to help her focus on her research. The implant will help with lucid dreaming. Alvira uses psychedelic drugs with the implant. Her research becomes a surreal alternate reality populated with people in her dream. Can Alvira find what she is looking for? How real is the world in her dreams? This is a very trippy story about how the mind works, Maybe they should call stories like this neuropunk?

Title: *And Put Away All Childish Things*

Writer: Adrian Tchaikovsky

Publication: *Solaris*

Date: March 2023

Word Count:17501

Harry Bodie is a struggling actor/TV presenter. His grandmother

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 3)

### Superior Achievement in Poetry

- Gold, Maxwell Ian – *Bleeding Rainbows and Other Broken Spectrums* (Hex Publishers)
- McHugh, Jessica – *The Quiet Ways I Destroy You* (Apokrupha Press)
- Pichette, Marisca – *Rivers in Your Skin, Sirens in Your Hair* (Android Press)
- Walrath, Holly Lyn – *Numinous Stones* (Aqueduct Press)
- Wytovich, Stephanie M. – *On the Subject of Blackberries* (Raw Dog Screaming Press)

### Superior Achievement in a Screenplay

- Brooker, Charlie – *Black Mirror: Beyond the Sea* (Episode 03:06) (Zepotron, Babieka, Banijay Entertainment, Broke and Bones, House of Tomorrow)
- Cervera, Michelle Garza and Castillo, Abia – *Huesera: The Bone Woman* (Disruptiva Films, Machete Producciones, MalignoGorehouse)
- Duffield, Brian – *No One Will Save You* (20th Century Studios, Star Thrower Entertainment)
- Rugna, Demián – *When Evil Lurks* (Machaco Films, Aramos Cine, Shudder)
- Yamazaki, Takashi – *Godzilla Minus One* (Robot Communications, Toho Studios)

### Superior Achievement in Short Fiction

- Daniels, L.E. – “Silk” (*Hush, Don’t Wake the Monster: Stories Inspired by Stephen King*, Twisted Wing Productions)
- Jones, Rachael K. – “The Sound of Children Screaming” (*Nightmare Magazine*)
- Miller, Sam J. – “If Someone You Love Has Become a Vurdalak” (*The Dark*)

(Continued from page 4)

wrote a successful series of Portal Fantasy novels set in the world of Underhill. After an embarrassing revelation on television, Underhill may not be as imaginary as it seems. Can Harry survive the challenges of a real Fantasy world? What responsibility does he have for Underhill? What do we owe our creations? There is some great turning points in this. This is a fun look at fiction and how we relate to it.

Novelettes

Title: “We Grew Tall and Strong By the Water”

Writer: Leah Andelsmith

Publication: *FIYAH*

Date: Winter 2023

Word Count: 12999

Helen as a girl misses an opportunity to leave her town of Rainey, Oklahoma with her friend Ada. Did she do the right thing? Will she get another chance? This about the choices one makes in life. Sometimes it is scary to leave the familiar and explore an unknown.

- O’Quinn, Cindy – “Quondam” (*The Nightmare Never Ends*, Exploding Head Fiction)
- Tabing, Nadine Aurora – “An Inherited Taste” (*No Trouble at All*, Cursed Morsels Press)

### Superior Achievement in Short Non-Fiction

- Bissett, Carina – “Words Wielded by Women” (*Apex Magazine*)
- Bulkin, Nadia – “Becoming Ungovernable: Latah, Amok, and Disorder in Indonesia,” (*Unquiet Spirits: Essays by Asian Women in Horror*, Black Spot Books)
- Kulski, K.P. – “100 Livers” (*Unquiet Spirits: Essays by Asian Women in Horror*, Black Spot Books)
- Murray, Lee – “Displaced Spirits” (*Unquiet Spirits: Essays by Asian Women in Horror*, Black Spot Books)
- Wetmore Jr, Kevin – “A Theatre of Ghosts, A Haunted Cinema: The Japanese Gothic as Theatrical Tradition in Gurozuka” (*The Wenshan Review of Literature and Culture: Special Issue on Asian Gothic*)

### Superior Achievement in a Young Adult Novel

- Dimaline, Cherie – *Funeral Songs for Dying Girls* (Tundra Book Group)
- Simmons, Kristen – *Find Him Where You Left Him Dead* (Tor Teen)
- Smith, CynthiaLeitich – *Harvest House* (Candlewick Press)
- Tingle, Chuck – *Camp Damascus* (Tor Nightfire/MacMillan/Titan)
- Tran, Trang Thanh – *She Is a Haunting* (Bloomsbury YA)

Title: “Money in the Bank”

Writer: John Kessel and Bruce Sterling

Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: September 2023

Word Count: 9841 Audio Version Available

A hacker fixer is sent to protect a crypto currency fat cat. His journey takes him to Las Vegas and Miami in the near future. Can he protect this person? Not all is as it seems. This is an interesting look to a future underworld.

Title: “Collaboration?”

Writer: Ken Liu and Caroline M. Yoachim

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2023

Word Count: 7550

We see a story being collaborate on as it being read. We see the creator’s styles and methods at work. The ideas include a pair who on the other side of the mirror, a cat with its own motives, and a poet look for her path. This is a complex story which may need re-reading for full impact but there some great writing in it.

Title: “Bruised-Eye Dusk”

Writer: Jonathan Louis Duckworth

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date: May 4, 2023  
Word Count: 7809

Rugg is a spellbreaker passing through a town that has been cursed. He is asked to investigate and kill the conjawitch causing the trouble. The setting is a southern swamp land. Instead of a horse Rugg has a gator named Tugboat. The story goes for a better solution than what we expect.

Title: "Spell for Grief and Longing"

Writer: Eboni J. Dunbar

Publication: *FIYAH* Date: Spring 2023  
Word Count: 8650

Anissa is a widow and a crafter. She is asked by the local ruler to raise someone from the dead. Can she do it? Should she do it? Sometimes we need closure with our loved ones and one should take the opportunity when it is offered.

Title: "Anais Gets a Turn"

Writer: R.T. Ester

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: January 2023  
Word Count: 15590 Audio Version Available

There is a world organism called Waldo playing tic tac toe using the planet as its board. It has a simple mind and keeps having ties, Anais is a graphic designer has been recruited to fix the game so Waldo can move on. To do this she goes on a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico to fix the next move. There Anais meets a tattoo artist named Rose who could be a key player in the scheme. This is story based on observation of Xs and Os being made in the world that fits an explanation given to Anais. In the process of getting involved Anais takes control of her fate.

Title: "The Unpastured Sea"

Writer: Gregory Feely

Publication: *Asimov's* Date: September-October 2023  
Word Count: 11098

A ship has journeyed and settled near Neptune. We follow a young astronaut as they explore the atmosphere of the planet. What will they find? There are some interesting ideas about a place in the Solar System that does not get as much attention as other places.

Title: "Where the God-Knives Tread"

Writer: A.L. Goldfuss

Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: October 2022  
Word Count: 15187 Audio Version Available

Sien has found an ancient Teshiarr pleasure ship *Thousand Dancing Beetles*. Sien with the help of Jaks explores the ship. The Teshiarr was a powerful civilization whose artifacts have changed the modern times. Sien goes to explore the ship. What will they find in the huge ship. There is great detail on Teshiarr's and Sien's journey through the ship and it is exciting.

Title: "Such Is My Idea of Happiness"

Writer: David Goodman

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: October 2023  
Word Count: 9550 Audio Version Available

Andrew Ferguson is working in the rat race of a future London. He does financial work using implants and stimulants. He tries to seek a promotion into the Bright class. Is this life worth it? Is there another way to live? The world is described quickly and to the point. It is brutal world, yet there is some hope.

Title: "De Profundis, a Space Love Letter"

Writer: Bella Han

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: October 2023

Word Count: 7540

Audio Version Available

In a post human written fiction world, a space explorer finds the tomb of human poetry and literature. This sets him on a quest to bring back human fiction. This is to remind us that AI will never satisfy us fully. It is the human psyche which can create works elevate that human spirit.

Title: "Your Great Mother Across the Salt Sea"

Writer: Kelsey Hutton

Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date: February 23, 2023  
Word Count: 8695 Audio Version Available

Miyotwaw, a member of the Otipeyimisowak Nation, is sent across the sea to meet the great mother than rules the land. She is to give a petition asking the great mother to address the concerns of the Otipeyimisowak. The queen becomes fascinated with the dress Miyotwaw brought along with other goods. The great mother wears it while dealing with those in her government and it gave her advantage during negotiations. Miyotwaw's dresses have power and the great mother wants more to help her. Will the great mother address the the petition? What can Miyotwaw to help her people? When one is at a disadvantage, one will use the tools necessary to aid in their cause. Miyotwaw uses her skills to bring hope to her home.

Title: "FORM 8774-D"

Writer: Alex Irvine

Publication: *Tor.com*

Date: September 27, 2023

Word Count: 9374

Leelee works at the Bureau of Metahuman, Mutant and Occult Affairs (BMMOA) as a clerk. She records the information on FORM 8774-D, the affirmation of powers. The form is first step of getting certified as superhero. We follow Leelee as process the form for applicants. This gives us a look into her life and the world she lives in. She finds there is usually more to people that meets the eye. As a bureaucrat I like story of other bureaucrats doing their job and having interior lives. Leelee tries to her best for people who are making a big choice in their lives.

Title: "Muna in Barish"

Writer: Isha Karki

Publication: *Lightspeed*

Date: July 2023

Word Count: 7971

Audio Version Available

Mona comes to the city of Barish to become a word weaver (writer). She faces challenges due to her background and gets a job a bookstore. Muna writes to a popular writer of her favorite book series. She gets back letters of encouragement. Can she find a place in this city for her dreams? The shows the obstacles and prejudices too many face when trying to enter the creative arts. Despite the hardships Muna faces there is still hope.

Title: "Cold Relations"

Writer: Mary Robinette Kowal

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: January-February 2023

Word Count: 82560

Audio Version Available

Claudette is a independent magic user. She has a strained relationship with her older brother Rupert who has signed up to be a government wizard. This adds to the tension. Rupert is hurt and she has to make a choice on how to help him. This is a story about family with pressure from within and without and how people deal with their problems.

Title: "The Year Without Sunshine"

Writer: Naomi Kritzer

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Publication: *Uncanny* Date: November-December 2023  
Word Count: 10833 Audio Version Available

A disaster has placed ash in the sky and disrupted power distribution and supply chains. Despite these challenges a community figures out how to work together. They figure out what they have and what they need and develop an exchange system. This is a positive disaster or semi-apocalypse story. People help each other rather than fight each other. Something as described in the novel is scary but people can come together and help each other.

Title: "Headhunting"

Writer: Rich Larson  
Publication: *Tor.com* Date: August 9, 2023  
Word Count: 8291

Amir is sent out to recover the head of a dead monk stolen from a cathedral. The suspect is the nephew of the cathedral director. All Amir has to do is get the head back to its rightful owners. The nephew says there head is communicating with him. What is special about this head? How does it relate to Amir's mental issues? Amir is trying to do a job and deal with his own problems. This is a good Science Fiction Detective story. It has the good elements of the genres.

Title: "Imagine: Purple-Haired Girl Shooting Down the Moon"

Writer: Angela Liu  
Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: June 2023  
Word Count: 8190

An artist works at Warehouse working on Name Change (NC) orbs during the day and the Love Manor at night. They live in an oppressive surveillance state. They gets an offer from a client to do a commission. What can go wrong? People use the NC worlds to become other people to escape this world. Our protagonist wants to escape with their roommate to something real. The story conveys the struggle of living in this world.

Title: "The Passing of the Dragon"

Writer: Ken Liu  
Publication: *Tor.com* Date: September 13, 2023  
Word Count: 11453

Kay is a painter struggling to find an audience. She looks for inspiration at the house of her favorite poets. There she sees a dragon flying. This inspires her to paint a picture called *The Passing of the Dragon*. One sees what happens when art is released into the world. It can be interpreted in many different and sometimes negative ways. Kay finds peace with her art and people's takes on it. The story does a great job of bringing this relationship to art in the modern age.

Title: "Planetstuck"

Writer: Sam J. Miller  
Publication: *Asimov's* Date: March-April 2023  
Word Count: 7500 Audio Version Available

The universe is connected by wormhole portals. Aran is a sex worker and information trader. His world closed itself off from the rest of the portal community. He finds evidence that there may be a way back to his home planet. Is there way back home to his family? This is action packed space opera with some good twists.

Title: "No Spoilers"

Writer: Ben Murphy  
Publication: *Many Worlds* Date: June 15, 2023  
Word Count: 10553 Audio Version Available

This is a complex story told as research publication. A scholar tells about scholar's experience in an another world which explores the notion of free will and the power of narrative. This challenges some of the main ideas that drive the world where the paper is written. Are we stories? Do we need a narrative in our lives? This story bears closer examination.

Title: "The Case of the Blood-Stained Tower"

Writer: Ray Nayler  
Publication: *Asimov's* Date: March-April 2023  
Word Count: 8417

In the Middle East (pre-industrial), a soldier becomes a scribe for Qadir, a natural philosopher. Qadir is asked to investigate the death of a women found at the base of tower. Qadir explains to his scribe that they live on the crossroads in many dimensions and that may explain what happened at the tower. This is an interesting SF mystery. Qadir is an intriguing investigator. One wonders if Nayler will do more with these characters.

Title: "Down To The Root"

Writer: Lisa Papademetriou  
Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: October 2023  
Word Count: 7830 Audio Version Available

Luriel leads a team repairing communication satellites. A new team member is an alien who is named Manwin by the crew. Manwin is an efficient and quiet person. Luriel starts to learn about him and his race. They will face challenges which could endanger their lives. This story shows we should treat all beings with proper respect, and we can work with others that are different.

Title: "One Man's Treasure"

Writer: Sarah Pinsker  
Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2023  
Word Count: 8566 Audio Version Available

We follow a group of garbage men on bulk day in world with magic. People discard the magical items as well as traditional trash. Aden and his team find a statue that is not a statue, it was a person. Something odd is going on and Aden will look into it. This is a look what trash would be like in fantastic world. Aden is trying to figure out what the right thing to do. This also question are the authorities the first place to go for help.

Title: "Ivy, Angelica, Bay"

Writer: C.L. Polk  
Publication: *Tor.com* Date: December 8, 2023  
Word Count: 12980

in 1980, Ms. Theresa l'Abielle has just buried her mother who protected the city of Thurston Hill. She must take up that job. Jael, a young girl comes to her after offering someone a boon. Jael seems to take to magic and Ms l'Abielle trains her. At the same time a group is trying to buy up properties in the neighborhood and wreck the community. Can Ms. l'Abielle handle this? What role will Jael play? This is a great story about family and community with a twist.

Title: "Detonation Boulevard"

Writer: Alastair Reynolds  
Publication: *Tor.com* Date: July 12, 2023  
Word Count: 8187

Catlin is an augmented racer who goes to tournaments all over the solar system. She is in the Trans Ioian race. Io's volcanic landscape provides dangerous challenges for the racer especially the area Detonation Boulevard. Can she win? What is the price

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of victory? This is a tense hard SF sports story.

Title: "An Ode to Stardust"

Writer: R.P. Sand

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: February 2023

Word Count:15100 Audio Version Available

Tara Jacksingh is a new commander of mining colony. The colony provides an element critical for interstellar travel. The miners are beings called Esslugai or Slugs. Their bodies are adaptable to hazards of mining. Tara forms a bond with the granddaughter of their Queen. The granddaughter helps Tara deal with her anxieties and the chronic pain she suffers. She discovers a secret about the slugs. Her decision will affect many. By learning how to deal with her own interior conflicts gives Tara the ability to deal with the exterior conflicts. There is great set up to the problem and the world build is top notch.

Title: "Introduction to 2181 Overture, Second Edition"

Writer: Gu Shi

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: February 2023

Word Count:9630 Audio Version Available

We follow the story of the science of cryosleep (suspended animation). One sees at the pros and cons of such technology from woman and her daughter. How long to we go to pursue life? Should we do it whatever the cost? This a great look at an old SF idea.

Title: "What the Mountain Takes, What the Journey Offers"

Writer: Jae Steinbacher

Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date:

January 26, 2023

Word Count:12041

Ilhani's wife is sick and goes to the Mountain to get a cure. The Mountain asks a price for a cure. Can Ilhani afford it? This is a great quest tale. Ilhani is challenged throughout the long journey. This very well paced.

Title: "Saturday's Song"

Writer: Wole Talabi

Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: May 2023

Word Count:8677

A group of siblings meet outside of space and time and tell stories. There are seven and they are named after the days of the week. Saturday has chosen to tell the story of Saura. Saura does not dream even after using extraordinary means to fix that. Saura falls in love but her lover dies during a nightmare. She seeks revenge against the nightmare god. She finds out what happens and takes steps. This ties in with some of the ideas the novel *Shigidi and the Brass Head of Obalufon*. The story outside story deals with forgiveness and ties in with the story being told.

Title: "Six Versions of My Brother Found Under the Bridge"

Writer: Eugenia Triantafyllou

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: September-October 2023

Word Count:10692

Olga goes to under a bridge and finds what looks like her brother. Is it? This story is about dealing with loss. It is not easy to get over it and sometimes we can make bad decisions when we should try to accept what is.

Title: "The Nameless Dead"

Writer: Kristine Kathryn Rusch

Publication: *Asimov's* Date: March-April 2023

Word Count:14066

We are in a future where interstellar travel is achieved but results in a time dilation effect. Days at high speeds become months and years from the departure point. Our main character left Earth with that warning not realizing what she would leave behind. She would set up a business to help people dealing with losing everything due to time dilation. The local coroner asks her to investigate several deaths of people who had no records. What she discovers is that a horrible crime took place. One that could not bring the perpetrators to justice and only left victims. This is a great example of Science Fiction Mystery. The problem can only exist in a world of time dilation space travel. One must live with the decisions one makes but how do deal with what people did to you?

Title: Time: "Marked and Mended"

Writer: Carrie Vaughn

Publication: *Tor.com* Date: January 11, 2023

Word Count:8471

Graff is a living data recorder. His home is a database and its inhabitants record everything the experience. Graff is working on ship. A gap is found in Graff's memory which is impossible. Graff and Ransom, his ship's captain Ransom to Graff's homeworld to deal with the gap. This has never happened. Will Graff be allowed to return to his ship? The idea of a database world and its people recording everything is fascinating. Though the immediate problem is dealt with this could be part of a bigger story that I want to read.

Title: "On the Fox Roads"

Writer: Nghi Vo

Publication: *Tor.com* Date: October 31, 2023

Word Count:10130

It is the time of Dillinger and Pretty Boy Floyd. A young Asian hooks up with Jack and Lai, noted Asian bank robbers. They want the deed to their parent's house which Jack and Lai stole from another bank. They join Jack and Lai on their bank robberies until they can find the stash where the deed is. They use the fox roads to evade the police. The fox road can take you anywhere if you know how. This is a story of families both biological and found. Not everything goes to plan.

Title: "Contracting Iris"

Writer: Peter Watts

Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: March 2023

Word Count:10285

Iris is a data curator for AI companies and has MS. Something new is happening to her. Iris seems to be feeling better and doing her job faster. An anonymous article on the suggests some type of net infection is out there which could explain Iris's new condition. How do you determine if something is beneficial? There are some scary looks at how AI will effect future health care. There could be no challenges before seeing a human doctor. Is there a better way for patients and doctors can interact?

Title: "Hausferatu"

Writer: Chris Willrich

Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date: June 15, 2023

Word Count:15847

A thief Imago Bone meets Greta Schreck, a huasferatu (a vampire bound to domesticity instead of soil). They form a friendship and partnership. Imago decides to help her but it doing so he will journey in the land of dreams and fight the lead

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vampire. Can he help Greta? This is a story of friendship. Can the charming thief help the cursed hausferatu? This is also a good action story.

Title: "SuperMax"  
Writer: Daniel H. Wilson  
Publication: *Uncanny* Date: July-August 2023  
Word Count: 7914 Audio Version Available  
Dr. Grayhorse has surrendered himself to SuperMAX rehabilitation facility. He help create the AI that runs SuperMAX. Grayhorse used his son to model the AI. SuperMAX will allow the inmates to leave once it determines they have been rehabilitated. Can Grayhorse be rehabilitated for his crime? This is how we deal with guilt and maybe a more humane way to deal with criminals. This explores an idea and the emotional journey of Grayhorse.

Title: "Deep Blue Jump"  
Writer: Dean Witlock  
Publication: *Asimov's* Date: September-October 2023  
Word Count: 12784  
A new fruit, called dream berries that gives one dreams is created but can only grow in specific places. Because of the location children will can be effective pickers. We follow the role Kim and team of pickers. It is harsh life with a harsh future. Is there an escape from this life? Kim is doing her best to take care of her crew and protect them. She finds there are limits to what she can do.

Short Stories

Title: "The Cuckoo of Vrežna Mountain"  
Writer: Filip Hajdar Drnovšek Zorko  
Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date: April 20, 2023  
Word Count: 5922 Audio Version Available  
Emre is an outsider. He is in love with Ivor who will marry

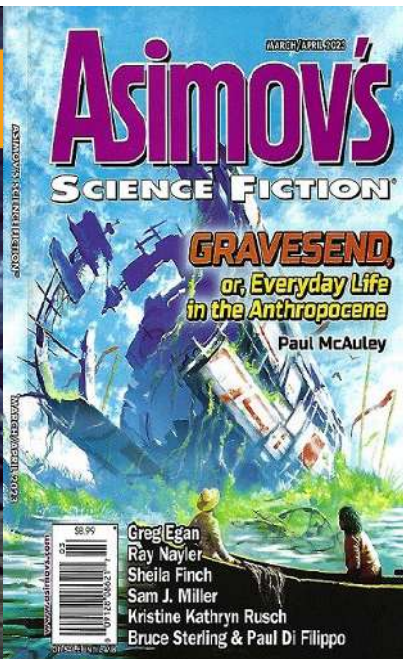
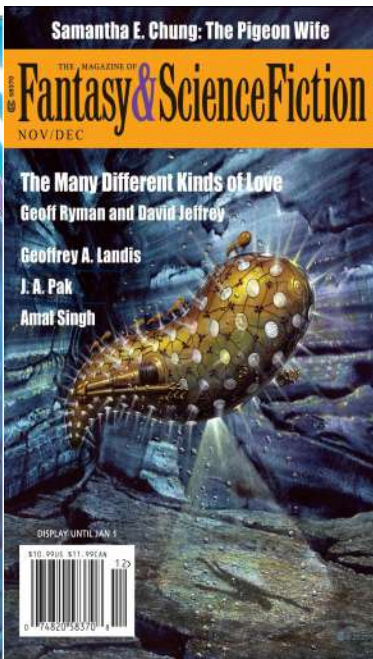
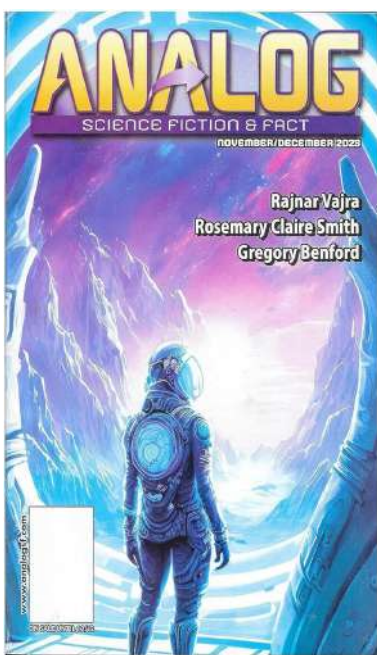
whomever the oracle of the local goddess tells him too. Emre realizes something is off with local goddess based on what happened in his homeland. Can this be fixed? This story gives one a look at the rise and falls of belief and the need to work things out for oneself.

Title: "Death Is Better"  
Writer: Oluwatomiwa Ajeigbe  
Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: July 2023  
Word Count: 1471  
On a plantation on an alien world, a brother and sister try to escape. The plantation is guarded by large robots. Can they escape? We get a great tense scene where the protagonists has to make an agonizing decision. Taking a chance for freedom is always preferable to the alternative.

Title: "A Soul in the World"  
Writer: Charlie Jane Anders  
Publication: *Uncanny* Date: March-April 2023  
Word Count: 4835 Audio Version Available  
This is a prequel to the *Unstoppable* series. This is how Gwen got the raise Tina, a clone of an alien space captain. Gwen wants a child and all the other avenues are closed. Aliens entrust her with this baby on the condition one day the child will leave for space. This is about the complex relationship between a parent and child. It can be a bumpy journey, but it can work out.

Title: "Thin Ice"  
Writer: Kemi Ashing-Giwa  
Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: November 2023  
Word Count: 2110 Audio Version Available  
On a world dying from loss of heat, an inhabitant tells stories of their world to a construct from another planet. The inhabitant's group is frozen by the construct. What does the construct want? This told in the second person POV. There is more to a world that what resources it has. Culture is just as important maybe just as fleeting.

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Title: "Emotional Resonance"

Writer: V.M. Ayala

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: December 14, 2023

Word Count:3624 Audio Version Available

Humans can be turned into MINDs, digital versions of themselves to pilot combat mechs. Arbor meets another MIND Crowe and they become friends. They work to fight for a corporation's interest in the galaxy. Occasionally their emotions cause unexpected reactions in their mechs. This is called Emotional resonance. How human are Arbor and Crowe? Is fighting for corporate interests their only way for them to live? Thos has good dialogue that looks at nature of being human.

Title: "Those Hitchhiking Kids"

Writer: Darcie Little Badger

Publication: *The Sunday Morning Transport* Date: April 2, 2023

Word Count:2684

How do you travel when you are a ghost? Corey and Jimena face that problem. While difficult they find a way to satisfy there wanderlust.

Title: "Patsy Cline Sings Sweet Dreams to the Universe"

Writer: Beston Barnett

Publication: *Strange Horizons* Date: November 20, 2023

Word Count:4714

A METI (Message to Extraterrestrial Intelligence) carrying a memory transverses space to deliver a message. During the journey we examine the memory and other memories connected with it. The moments in our lives are connected to others which make them what they are. This maybe the perfect thing to send to the stars.

Title: "The Farmer's Wife and the Faerie Queen"

Writer: K. Tempest Bradford

Publication: *New Suns 2* Date: March 14, 2023

Word Count:7000

Titania takes Amelia, a farmer's wife, to Faerie. The farmer goes to his mother and two wise women to find a way to get her back. Can he get her back? This takes a new look at the classic faerie myths of Titania and Tam Lin.

Title: "Triptych"

Writer: Avi Burton

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: March 9, 2023

Word Count:3829 Audio Version Available

Senator Marcus Delaney has 3 clones (2 male, 1 trans woman). They are sequestered when the original dies. They discuss what their fate will be and a decision is made. The story is told from the POV of Delaney, the trans clone. This is a story of identity and being able to choose ones fate.

Title: "Miz Boudreaux's Last Ride"

Writer: Christopher Cadwell

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2023

Word Count:6337

Davion and Tommy are asked by Ms. Bourdeaux to help her complete something she could not finish in life. It is risky but there is a fitting reward. The meet up with Ms. Bourdeaux's god daughter to do the job. A nice little ghost story with some good characters.

Title: "We're Looking for the Best"

Writer: Cecil Castellucci

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: November-December 2023

Word Count:5939

Audio Version Available

Olive gets fired. On the same day she meets an old friend who offers a new job. Though she meets resistance at first Olive egts hired and goes to work. She figures out a new twist in old industry. What scares us? When is the scariest time of the day? This story has some nice surprises. There are always new ways of doing things.

Title: "Seed"

Writer: Adam-Troy Castro

Publication: *Lightspeed*

Date: December 2023

Word Count:6714

Two people are in a room. One of them asks the other to eat a seed. That will change this person's life forever. The conversation explores of what will happen to the person who ate the seed. This story looks into questions of identity of what it means to be human and why we would cut such ties.

Title: "How to Raise a Kraken in Your Bathtub"

Writer: P. Djèli Clark

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: January-February

20023

Word Count:7159

Audio Version Available

It is the 19th century where merpeople live and are oppressed by the great powers. Victorian gentleman Trevor Hemley wants to be a man of great ambition. He finds an ad to raise a kraken. He gets an egg, reads the manual, and goes to work. Things to do not go according to plan. This about arrogance and pride and how it goes out of control.

Title: "The Coffin Maker"

Writer: AnaMaria Curtis

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: September-October

2023

Word Count:5263

Audio Version Available

Stephanie is the outfitter of spacesuits on mission to find possible planets to colonize. An earlier mission ends in disaster and Stephanie thinks they should return home rather than explore another candidate planet. The mission presses on and Stephanie does her best to prepare the suits. Will the next mission succeed? We go through the risks and preparation of the mission. When is the risk to great to go forward?

Title: "A Small Bloody Gift"

Writer: Naomi Day

Publication: *FIYAH*

Date: Winter 2023

Word Count:6167

Kehaka is descended from Keepers and will become a Keeper. Blood bees with take her blood and turn it into a fluid which helps nurture the soil. Become a Keeper is permanent and locks one's future. They may have found a way to synthesize what the bees produce. What if there is an alternative? I like the science aspect of researching the process of the blood bees. Can choices be selfish?

Title: "The Mausoleum's Children"

Writer: Alette de Bodard

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: May-June 2023

Word Count:5411

Audio Version Available

There is a mausoleum of dead ships that employs children. The children are worked to the bone try to salvage or scrap the ships. Thuận Lộc escaped from the mausoleum but left her sisters. She dares to go back for them. Can she bring them back? The description of the mausoleum is breath taking, There are mazes

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of corridor and parts being melted together. Escape is always an option.

Title: "Supertime"

Writer: Tananarive Due

Publication: *New Suns 2*

Date: March 14, 2023

Word Count: 7000

In 1909, Mat is a teen African American girl who lives on farm in rural Florida. Just before supper she spots a bobcat she bonded with before. She follows the cat named Bobby to the swamp where it attacks a creature and it is mother attacks the cat. Mat runs but finds something followed her and Bobby. This is a good horror story that keep everyone on the edge.

Title: "After the Animal Flesh Beings"

Writer: Brian Evenson

Publication: *Tor.com*

Date: June 21, 2023

Word Count: 3549

Humans are no longer on Earth. The synthetic beings they created are still on Earth. One hears the stories of their children, their past, and future. This is a look at what our creations might do once we leave the scene.

Title: "The Retcon Man"

Writer: Cameron Fischer

Publication: *Escape Pod*

Date: October 26, 2023

Word Count: 2879

Audio Version Available

A man named Mr. Roper can help you rescue your loved ones for a price. The key is time travel and there is a price. We follow Roper on a job to recover a woman's husband who died in a failed kidnapping. We see Roper's plans and methods. What would we do save our loved ones? Is any price too high? A dark tale about how to change time while not letting anyone know.

Title: "Waystation City"

Writer: A.T. Greenblat

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: January-February 2023

Word Count: 4468

People from all different times end up at Waystation City. Twins from the 1970s wish to return and ask for a journalist's help. They must tell her their story. Can they leave? Should they leave? The city is a lovely place but has drawbacks. Is it worth to stay young if you lose yourself?

Title: A Cosmonaut's Guide to Talking to Your Parents

Writer: Adriana C. Grigore

Publication: *Escape Pod*

Date: March 16, 2023

Word Count: 4381

Audio Version Available

Sam is mapping a solar system with a blue sun. He also helps other astronauts/cosmonauts write letters to their loved ones. There is something in his Inbox he does want to face. What is it? This shows how helping others maybe easier than helping ourselves.

Title: "Hey George"

Writer: Elizabeth Guilt

Publication: *Escape Pod*

Date: March 30, 2023

Word Count: 4276

Audio Version Available

There is a shared consciousness personal assistant service. You leave your assistant in one city and find the same in another but in a different body. One calls them George no matter what body they are in. We follow a George assisting a rich older woman. He gets involved in the woman's family problem. Can he help out with violating the rules of being a George and not getting caught? Should someone sacrifice control of their body for money? Is it worth the price? What are the ethics in the situation? These questions are looked into.

Title: "Window Boy"

Writer: Thonas Ha

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: August 2023

Word Count: 4370

Audio Version Available

Jakey lives in a fortified house in the city with a parlor window that looks at the mail drop outside the fence. Cyborg mailmen act as law enforcement and there are large birds that grab people off the streets. Jakey builds relationship with a boy who comes to the mail drop which he can see by the window. Where will this relationship go? This story portrays people fear of the city. Are they justified?

Title: "A Name is a Plea and a Prophecy"

Writer: Gabrielle Emem Harry

Publication: *Strange Horizons*

Date: August 14, 2023

Word Count: 4682

Kuyom is an outsider. She meets Death to ask a favor. To remember a deal she made in her next life. Death tells her how. This an interesting mythological story about how outsiders try to find a place for themselves and it is not easy.



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Title: "Secondhand Music"

Writer: Aleksandra Hill

Publication: *Analog* Date: September-October 2023

Word Count:4828

Ava is a violinist who loses an arm in an accident. She is able to get a very good prosthetic arm that once belonged to another violinist, Natsuki. Ava is pressured by the other Natsuki's widow to play for her and eventually play in public. What makes one's art their own? Is Ava being true to herself or trying fit Natsuki's form? When judging art comparisons are expected, but how does one find their own form.

Title: "Zhao and the Flightless Crane"

Writer: Andrew K. Hoe

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: April 13, 2023

Word Count:4709 Audio Version Available

Zhao works at a park. He is partnered with an AI crane. He is dealing with grief and strained relationship with his daughter. Can he sort himself out? Can AI understand what it is to be human? Sometimes we need someone or something from the outside can help us understand our problems.

Title: "The Uncool Hunters"

Writer: Andrew Dana Hudson

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: June 22, 2023

Word Count:3370 Audio Version Available

In the future marketing is done on the micro level and it is cut throat. Two market researchers or uncool hunters fight to get data from a Costco. Who will get the critical data? This was a light hearted story looking at were retail economics can go.

Title: "Good Night Gracie"

Writer: Alex Jennings

Publication: *New Suns 2* Date: March 14, 2023

Word Count:7000

Laurel, Runt, and Gracie are trying to find a way back home through portals. They find one at a party and Gracie disappears. Did she leave? Will she come back? Where did she go? These are three interesting personalities trying to solve a common problem.

Title: "Tuesday, June 13, at the South Valley Time Loop Support Group"

Writer: Heather Kamins

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: October 12, 2023

Word Count:4214 Audio Version Available

A group of people gather to discuss their experience of being caught in a time loop. They share how the experience changed their lives. One may need the help desperately. This a new take on the time loop story. What happens after living the same day over day after, week after week, month after month or longer. Can one get used to the next day being different after living the same day over and over?

Title: "Day Ten Thousand"

Writer: Isabel Kim

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: June 2023

Word Count:6610 Audio Version Available

This is a story about stories. It is also about a man who was cloned using DNA from 10,000 corpse and how that man deals with that information. This is also about a reporter dealing with reporting a suicide. They are all named Dave. This story has some great narrative bits and it is thematically related to Shaharazad since telling the the story right may keep someone alive.

Title: "The Narrative Implications of Your Untimely Death"

Writer: Isabel J. Kim

Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: January 2023

Word Count:5122

Jaime is in a competitive reality show. He is too popular to leave even if he is killed. How does a popular player escape the show? This is an interesting take on life and death mixed with a competitive reality gameshow.

Title: "Zeta-Epsilon"

Writer: Isabel J. Kim

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: March 2023

Word Count:5200 Audio Version Available

Zed is a cyborg. Epsilon is a navigator AI onboard a starship that has an interface with Zed, the ship's pilot. Having this interface with Epsilon has been the focal point of Zed's life. What is the limits of this type of life? What happens when the parts of a system wear out? The story presents a relationship between man and machine. This is a good mix of Space Opera and Cyberpunk.

Title: "Better Living Through Algorithms"

Writer: Naomi Kritzer

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: May 2023

Word Count:5610 Audio Version Available

What if a new app made people happier? How would it go about doing it? The story is a benevolent AI app that is doing its job of making people better on their own terms.

Title: "Six Incidents of Evolution Using Time Travel"

Writer: Derek Künsken

Publication: *Asimov's* Date: September-October 2023

Word Count:3264

We here six stories of how time travel changed evolution on different planets. It is fun to play with that science that effects the development of life. What we do can create important changes, good and bad. Time travel just adds another vector for that change.

Title: "Counting Casualties"

Writer: Yoon Ha Lee

Publication: *Tor.com* Date: April 26, 2023

Word Count:4940

An attacking fleet is coming. The ships do not take territory but culture. We follow a fleet commander tasked with stopping or at least delaying the enemy. In the process, the commander may get an opportunity to discover more about the invaders. This another great Space Opera by Lee where the stakes are slightly different.

Title: "Pinocchio Photography"

Writer: Angela Liu

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: March 2023

Word Count:6450 Audio Version Available

Mei Mei Chen is a pre-Med student. She gets a job as an intern at De:Life. De:life makes it possible to take pictures with your dead loved that look real. One sees the workings of De:Life and how Mei Mei deals with her father's deteriorating health. This about the moments with had or wanted to have with our loved ones. What would we do to create those moments? There is never enough time.

Title: "His Guns Could Not Protect Him"

Writer: Sam J. Miller

Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: February 2023

Word Count:5013 Audio Version Available

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Win's father is in the hospital after an accident. Win knows it is not accident but keeps that fact from his little brother Rem. While their mother goes to check on their father the boys stays at a friend's house. Win knows that his father was attacked by a monster. In this world monsters specifically target everyone though is a 33% chance of being attacked. Win ponders about the world they have to live in. Will his father survive? Can they beat the odds? How do we live if we can be attacked at anytime? Win thinks of the big picture and look at what his choices are.

Title: "The Spoil Heap"

Writer: Fiona Moore

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: March 2023

Word Count:6640 Audio Version Available

Morag is a farmer and scavenger near a junk or spoil heap in world which has collapsed. Someone from her past comes to visit her. Morag remembers how she came to be. She worked for the big house and learned how to be a tech and fix robots and other electronic devices. Has Morag's past caught up with her. Morag is a good and kind person who made a hard decision in bad time. There is great description of this world and what is in it.

Title: "Four Years Minus Twelve Days"

Writer: Samantha Murray

Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: March 2023

Word Count:746

The narrator bonds with an alien that will physically and mentally change in the time described in the title. Will the relationship last past the time allotted? Is the narrator deluding themselves? This is about the clash of reality and hope. We go on despite what seems inevitable.

Title: "The Job at the End of the World"

Writer: Ray Nayler

Publication: *Tor.com* Date: August 30, 2023

Word Count:3570

We follow a worker who clears up and rebuilds after natural disasters. They are called Resilience Workers. Sadly their job is quite common know and they are thinking of retiring. The story looks at why we rebuild after a calamity.

Title: "Berb by Berb"

Writer: Ray Nayler

Publication: *Asimov's* Date: November-December 2023

Word Count:4217

Set in the same universe where an alien spaceship crashed in 1938. Americans reversed engineered the spaceship and used the discoveries to win World War II and prevent the Cold War. We follow a person who was responsible for the work that helped win the war. The live on a patch of land in the Mohave with small alien creatures on it called Berbs. In dealing with the Berbs the lead character deals with costs of the war and his connection with it. This is hard look on the not so obvious consequences of war.

Title: "Enchanted Mirrors Are Making a Comeback. That's Not Necessarily a Good Thing"

Writer: Mari Ness

Publication: *Fantasy* Date: March 2023

Word Count:1630

An examination of the world enchanted mirror. The story tells their role in modern world. This is a fun looking at one the classic props in fairy tales.

Title: "Carnival Ever After"

Writer: Mari Ness

Publication: *Apex* Date: January 10, 2023

Word Count:2048

A snake handler gets a visit from her brother in law. He wants her to leave the carnival and return to the palace. She makes a decision. This is a story is about what a home is. A palace may not be a home for some. A home is where one is always welcomed and accepted.

Title: "Just Us and the Mannequins"

Writer: Linda Niehoff

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: April 6, 2023

Word Count:5264 Audio Version Available

In a post apocalyptic world, the human spaces are filled by mannequins. We follow someone who deals with emptiness in the city. The only thing giving the character hope is a radio broadcaster. This story about dealing with loneliness and how we cope with it.

(Continued on page 14)





(Continued from page 13)

Title: "Driftwood in the Sea of Time"

Writer: Wendy Nikel

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: October 19, 2023

Word Count: 3992 Audio Version Available

Time travel is available to average person via Timebands. Causing a paradox sends one in a sea full of driftwood with no way out. The people there start to form a community to make living in this place bearable. When someone comes with knowledge how to fix the Timebands, can they find a way out? This is a story about the power of community. Instead of trying to beat each other, helping each other gets better results.

Title: "Challenges to Becoming a Pro Dragonracer in Apapa-Downtown"

Writer: Uchechukwu Nwaka

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: November 30, 2023

Word Count: 5341 Audio Version Available

We follow Ishola as she tries to become a pro player in video game about dragon riding. This is a challenge for her in the Nigerian neighborhood she lives in. Ishola faces obstacles to her goal, but she luck find some of the equipment she needs. This story is just five minutes into the future. We see someone going for their dream despite all that opposes them.

Title: "Stones"

Writer: Nnendi Okorafor

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: September 2023

Word Count: 5790 Audio Version Available

A beautiful creature of space is cruising in space exploring worlds in our Solar System and beyond. An encounter with a human space station does go well. Can the being recover? This is about exploring space without equipment and a bad first contact. This has a great sense of wonder feel to it.

Title: "The Plant and the Purist"

Writer: Malka Older

Publication: *New Suns 2* Date: March 14, 2023

Word Count: 7000

In a distant future, an expedition is looking for a volcano which has a tomb near it. Our POV character has many implants which lets feel seismic effects. Can they find this tomb? There a lot of commentary of mentally of people in our time and the foreseeable future. Some of the ideas and character would be great to see in other stories.

Title: "Jamais Vue"

Writer: Tochi Onyebuchi

Publication: *Asimov's* Date: January-February 2023

Word Count: 6052

Two patients cyber-enhanced minds have their memories examined. We see how memory effects us. How can they be worked on to improve the patients condition. This story uses a complicated style that can be challenging.

Title: "Common Speech"

Writer: Elise Stephens

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: February 2, 2023

Word Count: 5335 Audio Version Available

Vita Colony is dealing with plague that will wipe them out. One hope for a cure maybe with the native and plant like aliens Sonitus. Dr. Jaiyesimi Obiaka is trying to figure how to communicate with the Sonitus. The disease has killed her husband. Can she find away to talk to Sonitus before the disease kills more colonists. This is a great setup with biology and

language. The colony came to the planet because the Sonitus did not appear sentient or mobile by long range observation. This is an engaging story about family, science, and colonialism.

Title: "Love at the Event Horizon"

Writer: Natalia Theodoridou

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: July-August 2023

Word Count: 7259 Audio Version Available

A film maker is found by lost ship going to a distant destination. During his time on the ship the film maker bonds with captain. The film maker learns about the ghosts of the ship and learns from his time the importance of the moment. This is a somber story of people determined to finish a long journey and someone facing self doubt.

Title: "Undog"

Writer: Eugenia Triantafyllou

Publication: *Strange Horizons* Date: 15 May 2023

Word Count: 1734

Anna feels a dog in her house but does not see it. It an undog. She hears a story which may explain the situation. What do you do with an undog? It is good to see someone respond to cruelty by being kind.

Title: "In Time, a Weed May Break Stone"

Writer: Valerie Valdes

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: March-April 2023

Word Count: 5648 Audio Version Available

A veteran blacksmith puts her armor to save a child from a weapon of war and then she deals with the consequences. This story shows how the vestiges of war still continue and how communities can come together.

Title: "Can You Hear Me Now?"

Writer: Catherynne M. Valente

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: September-October 2023

Word Count: 5980 Audio Version Available

This is about the embodiment of the woman we see in commercials. Commercials we see on television and now on streaming. What are there wants? What is like to be a creature of pixels and dreams? The language of this beautiful. One is reminded the commercials of days past and what is on now. This conveys the desperation of someone who wants to be truly seen.

Title: "Cheaper to Replace"

Writer: Marie Vibbert

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: July 2023

Word Count: 3370 Audio Version Available

A grad student is trying to get a lab robot fixed. She is told it would be easier to just get a new one. Can she find a way to fix her robot. This is a criticism of planned obseleteism. We should not have to buy something new when we can repair what we have.

Title: "Harvest the Stars"

Writer: Mar Vincent

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: December 23, 2023

Word Count: 4251 Audio Version Available

A mother and daughter work to harvest starships. They love their work but the daughter feels the process can be improved but some in the farm push back. What will she do? This is about a the conflict between new and old. No one is a real bad guy but something has to give and its not a bad thing.

(Continued on page 15)

*(Continued from page 14)*

Title: "Silk and Cotton and Linen and Blood"

Writer: Nghi Vo

Publication: *New Suns 2* Date: March 14, 2023

Word Count:7000

A kingdom has been conquered by a barbarian king. While pillaging the palace he finds the royal wardrobe and its mistress. What can the wardrobe mistress do to stop the invaders? This was fun story of brains versus brawn to solve a problem.

Title: "An Infestation of Blue"

Writer: Wendy N. Wagner

Publication: *Analog* Date: November-December 2023

Word Count:3944

A dog feels there is another presence in her brain. Who is it? What has happened.? This story gets in the head of a dog that has been augmented. It sounds like a dog but with a noticeable difference.

Title: The Rain Remembers What the Sky Forgets

Writer: Fran Wilde

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: May-June 2023

Word Count:6710 Audio Version Available

The late Mr. Ventri was devoted to birds and was campaigning for a local ordinance to preserve rare species from being used in this way. His ward Celia is a hatmaker. She is forced by Mrs. Ventri to make a monstrous hat with dead birds on it. This will be for the funeral. Celia and Colin, Mrs Ventri's nephew and Mr. Ventri assistant, know that hat at the funeral could kill the ordinance. As Celia makes the hat something odd seems to happen. This is told from diaries of Celia, Colin, the vicar along with news articles. The story presents the beauty of birds and convinces us their use for fashion sake is cruel. The solution is

subtly set up in the story.

Title: The Dark House

Writer: A.C. Wise

Publication: *Tor.com* Date: March 15, 2023

Word Count:6583

An artist turned an abandoned house to a drakroom or dark house. Something bad happen there and seems to continually happen. Two friends go to explore the house. What will they find? The house is in Providence, Rhode Island and one wonders if this tries to ties with Lovecraft's work (hard to say for me since I am not a fan). The house is creepy. The story shows the protagonist doing research with first source materials. The photographer and the narrator questions was there any more they could do? Are there somethings beyond our control.

Title: Bad Doors

Writer: John Wiswell

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2023

Word Count:4298 Audio Version Available

Kosmo is being stalked by a mysterious burgundy door during the height of lockdown. The door follows him to a new house and it takes his cousin Jesse. Can Kosmo escape the door? The story is really about COVID and how ignoring something does not make it go away. Sometimes running away is an viable option.

Title: Bird-Girl Builds a Machine

Writer: Hannah Yang

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: November 2023

Word Count:2940 Audio Version Available

A single mother is building a strange machine. Her daughter wonders what it is for. This is about the pressures of family relationships. Some decisions are hard to make.

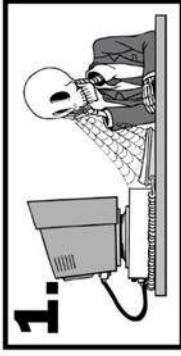
## Publication Breakdown

PUBLICATION	PERCENT
<i>Analog</i> *	3.64
<i>Apex</i>	0.91
<i>Asimov's</i> *	9.09
<i>Beneath Ceaseless Skies</i>	4.55
<i>Clarkesworld</i>	17.27
<i>Escape Pod</i>	11.82
<i>F&amp;SF</i> *	0.91
<i>Fantasy</i>	0.91
<i>FIYAH</i>	2.73
<i>Lightspeed</i>	9.09

PUBLICATION	PERCENT
<i>Many Worlds</i> *	0.91
<i>New Suns 2</i> *	4.55
<i>Solaris</i> *	0.91
<i>Strange Horizons</i>	2.73
<i>The Sunday Morning Transport</i>	0.91
<i>Tor.com</i>	10
<i>tordotcom</i>	1.82
<i>Uncanny</i>	17.27

\* Word length is an estimate in review from this publication

# There are two ways to be a science fiction and fantasy fan in Florida.



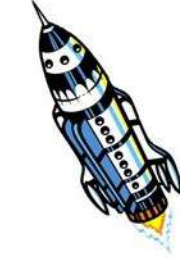
**1.** Read about the exciting fan activities other people are doing.



**2.** Start doing exciting things yourself, and meet new friends "in the flesh" with OASFIS!

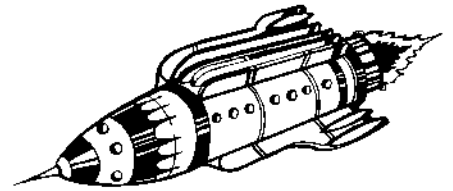


Were OASFIS-the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society. We enjoy and promote Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, books, movies, TV series, costuming, gaming, - every part of the most imaginative hobby in existence. Bring your unique fan interests to life and share them with Florida's fan community. We work with other fan organizations to bring our passions to life. Visit our monthly meetings...and help shape Fandom's future by joining OASFIS. Individual and Family memberships are available. If you're tired of just sitting, you're welcome at OASFIS..no bones about it!



**Besides out monthly meetings, read about our special events and activities on our website! Members can contribute articles, reviews, and original fiction to our newzine *Event Horizon*. We want to hear from you!**

**OASFIS: The Orlando Area Science Fiction Society**  
**[www.oasfis.org](http://www.oasfis.org)**



OASFIS  
1421 Pon Pon Court  
ORLANDO, FL 32825

# Thought Tangents

2024, WOOOF apa - Glasgow

Gregory Bridges, 141 Stonehaven Circle, Jackson, TN, 38305, USA. My first WOOOF. As for the name of this zine, my mind went off on tangents trying to find one name or the other than I thought "Well, why not Thought Tangents?!!". We all go off on tangential thoughts for one reason or another. Psychiatrists even see that as a condition. Then too, more than a few times, when in conversations with others we get to a point where we say, "How in the world did we get to this topic?!" Thought Tangents strike again! This will not be an A4 format so I am now not sure that this will be acceptable to the WOOOF mailing. I plan to trim a  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. off the right side so will be the right size in that dimension as A4 is 8.27X11.7 inches so perhaps a bit short. I shall see, just call me a dummy!

-----++-----

I am going to keep this a bit short. First a bit about who I am NOT. I am NOT the talented Australian Science Fiction Artist, GREGORY BRIDGES nor am I the engineer Dr. Gregory Bridges in Canada. How many Gregory Bridges there are in the world when I look on the Internet or if you were to do a search on your own name like I did when the Internet came along. I will have to say the only Gregory Bridges I have met was the SF artist who was at LACon with his art (of which we bought some, he is very good). I went to High School with a very sweet, shy, red head by the name of Beth Bridges but that's ancient history is it no? I was fanzinally active up to 2008 when I last did an issue of MEMPHEN, then with my wife's cancer plus three young kids I backed off.

I can say is that I got my first fanzines in 1968 in a bundle from SETH JOHNSON of Philadelphia who I understand was a street vender who got fan editors to send him extra copies of their zines. Then he would bundle them up and for a \$1 he'd send you a bundle. I was in High School. They were some of the first fanzines I ever saw. In my bundle were Science Fiction Reviews, Locus (Loci?), and others. About the same time joined the NFFF (National Fantasy Fan Federation) so I got a lot of mail from and about NFFF.

After reading the membership list I saw that there was Dr. Darrell Richardson in Memphis too. I called him then kept in touch with him. IN 1970, he had a few fans over to his house inviting me as well. What I did not know was that there was a casual group that gathered at Burke's Bookstore in Memphis every Saturday already. Several took the bus across the Mississippi then the city bus there to hang around with Dr. Richardson and others. One was the fan artist - Tom Foster (a friend of Ken Fletcher) who loved >>>>>>>>>>>>>> so that his style was very much like >>>>>>>>>>>>>>'s..

As these were casual things plus I couldn't afford the books at Burke's, I never went to Burke's on Saturdays so didn't know of these gatherings. After 1970, I was very active in the SF clubs that resulted from that invite at Dr. Richardson's house - The Mid-South Fantasy Association which became the Memphis SF Association, the members of whom were the nucleus of MIDSOUTHCON, starting in 1977.

FAN EDITOR ME - What credentials do I have as a fan editor you might ask. Well, I have to admit I am not a BNF, perhaps at most a LKF (Little Known Fan) or perhaps more exactly Almost Unknown Fan (AUF?) although I have done hundreds of fanzines since 1970 - mostly MEMPHEN for the club - a bit of clubzine/bulletin/wannabe Genzine sometimes. IN the early '70's the club members did a zine called 'diversity 1'. Then James W. Harris and I did two more 'diversities'. Jim Harris basically gafiated about then. I had to get a job so although I had some plans to put together a 'diversity 4', had even done some double-column mockup of it, with my finances absolutely crippled, I began to move things into my parents' house.

The box with the typewritten pages, mockups and so on disappeared into that attic as my mom filled the top of the box with fabric for her sewing and stacked a bunch of other boxes on it. I have had a few things turn up - an article by Grant Carrington for example.

So, besides hundreds of Mimeo'd Memphens, those Diversities, a few APA zines I would like to say I am a certified FANEDITOR! Walt Willis said a True Fan is any fan who has had his hand on the crank of a mimeo turning out a zine. I have done that hundreds of times, cut hundreds of pages of mimeo stencils with the constant scent of corflu wafting around (I was a miserable typist back then, now somewhat better). I have used A. B. Dick, Gestetner, Roneo mimeo's (have an 80lbs. Gestetner on a shelf in my garage now, even!). I did a few ditto zines as well. Never did the Mae Strelkov thing of gel printing ..... tho.

So having taken a 15 year hiatus I hope doesn't rule me out. I put out MEMPHEN 283 at Pemmi-con last year as a response to the WORLDCON MEMPHIS fiasco but also get back into the fanzine editor thing.

I can't say I'm expecting any great excitement or accolades but will be happy if a few of those who pick up or get a copy of Memphen will read it, even perhaps enjoy my burblings.

I did get a very nice response from Mfn 283 from GUY LILLIAN III. It inspired him to do another ish of



The Zine Dump! Or so he says if you read what he says about Memphen in TZD.

A little about Memphis Fandom origins – Harry Warner in his fan histories of the 30's and 40's mentions a fan group in Memphis around 1939-1941. Seems they were a rocketry group as well as one fan was temporarily blinded by the rocket they were launching. I spoke to one fellow from that group who had moved back to Memphis who said when he moved to Little Rock, AR, he couldn't take his pulps or fanzines with him, nor would the apartment owner let him put them anywhere there-bouts so he BURNED them all. He had been drafted for WWII, so the group dissipated.

I am relatively sure that there were not many SF fans in the sense of active fans again until the late 60's as I mentioned with Tom Foster and Dr. Richardson, etc. with the gatherings at Burke's. Then in 1970, Dr. Richardson called together all his local contacts to start a fan group. We met first at his house, a virtual cornucopia for SF, F, & western fans (Dr. Richardson wrote a bio of Max Brand for example) – every wall covered either with bookcases full of his incredible collection of all that literature but also gaps full of SF art, etc. (many J. Allen St. John E.R.Burroughs original art). Dr. Richardson had been on the Cincinnati Worldcon committee then moved to Memphis in the late '60's but had been collecting books since the 1930's, esp. E.R.Burroughs.

After that meeting at Dr. Richardson's house, The Midsouth Fantasy Association as we decided to call ourselves, had meetings in three states, which is why we decided to call it that. We had meetings in West Memphis, AR Crawfordville, AR, Millington, Collierville, Germantown, Memphis, TN, and Southaven, MS (the Northern most town in MS). Eventually we mostly met in Memphis with fewer of us into Fantasy, so it was voted to change the name to Memphis SF Association. While I was in the University Of Memphis I started a club there when it was still Memphis State University so therefore MSSFA. To tell the difference the first was MISS-Fa and the latter was MESS-Fa. When I graduated there was no one to continue it, so we had a big book sale which I called the "Half-baked Books SALE - then with the proceeds (several hundred dollars), we got subscriptions to the PRO-zines.

MISS-FA continued to meet up till 2008 when I stopped flogging the club along, as my wife, Dana, got cancer. With the rise of the Internet, I found there was less interest in in-person meetings.

Now what I call Focused Fandoms predominate which wax and wane. At Midsouthcon, there are still some fans who are interested in Literary SF to judge by the attendance at those panels which that is the topic. I am not sure that there are many, if any, fanzine fans there besides myself although I know there are a few who do blogs – which I guess serve perhaps the same purpose. Also, the writing panels are mostly SF or Fantasy oriented. The way I see it is that printzines are nearly forever, but a blog depends on the provider to stay around which will probably not be the case.

As far as Professional writers – the only one most will know is JERRY POURNELLE who was born in a suburb of Memphis, went to High School in Memphis before going off to college. Other writers of note from the area would be Faulkner and Hemingway. Faulker came into Memphis regularly to drink at the Peabody Hotel and Hemingway married a woman from the around this area, even.

**A note about the pages attached.** I was chairman of MIDSOUTHCON 25, so I did a History of MSC up to that point. For MSC 25, my wife and I used airline points to get TERRY PRATCHETT but he is not on this History of course as his Bio, etc. is in the rest of the MSC 25 Program Book, with these last pages consisting of that MSC history from 1977 – to that year. So, I am attaching excerpts from MSC25 list which is a definitive list

What I found interesting, as I did not put on it that it was copyrighted, was that the History list began showing up all over the Internet, almost never with my name attached as the one who wrote this history. For some reason, those who then took the History did not think it important to show he who wrote it! As a fan, I don't really mind if someone takes off with something like this as that's fandom, Right? But not to credit the author is a bit much as I see it.

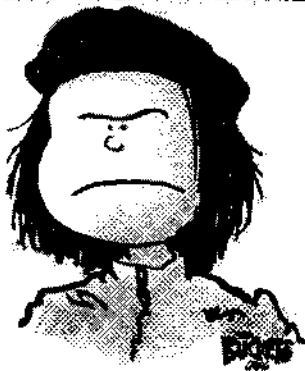
Midsouthcon is now up to #39, with us planning #40. As Midsouthcon and its Progenitors started in 1977, but having missed a few years, we have been at it for 47 years. Gathering Time Flies, aren't we? I am the only person who's been to ALL Midsouthcons but the concomm slowly morphed as those who work on it shift, move around or, sadly die.

Memphis has been a bit thin on the Fannish side but there has been a fan scene of sorts in Memphis, off and on – if only because I keep banging away at it.

I have seen where when I am noted for fan achievements I am listed as a Con Runner. I guess that's accurate as I've been either Chairbeing or Vice Chairbeing for most of the run of Midsouthcon.

CONGRATULATIONS  
MID-SOUTH CARTOONISTS  
ASSOCIATION  
ON YOUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

THE REVOLUTION  
BETTER BE TELEVISED.



**MSCA**  
1987 - 2007



[HTTP://WWW.MIDSOUTHCARTOONISTS.COM](http://www.midsouthcartoonists.com)

# MEMPHIS SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONS (1977-2007)

With an emphasis on MidSouthCon and it's Progenitors (Committee participation)

by Gregory Bridges

{{An initial outline taken mostly from Program Books in my possession. And yes, I know that some of these Guests didn't actually show up (besides Robert Adams who died before the con, for example)}}

## Steven & Don's Memphis Halfacon/ Relaxicon (i.e. that means no Guests)

Dec. 1977

Holiday Inn - Overton Square (on McLean St.)

attendance - 75

ConComm - P.L. Caruthers, Steven Carlberg, Don Markstein (chairs, hence Steven & Don's), Claude Saxon, Greg Bridges

## Just Imagicon

Rivermont Hotel (On Riverside Dr. (Well, Almost))

24-27 May 1979

Attendance - 375

### Guests

Pro Guest - L. Sprague And Catherine De Camp

Artist Guest - Kelly Freas

Master Of Ceremonies - Gerald R. Page

Fan Guest Of Honor - Alonzo P. Atkins

Other Guests

Theodore Sturgeon

Meade Frierson Iii

Hank Reinhardt

Grant Carrington

Robert Asprin

Peter Pautz

Dan Henderson

Sharon Webb

(Nancy A. Collins Also Attended Although She Was Not A Published Author Until Later)

### Concomm

Tom Johnson, Louis Armour (Chairs.)

Others- Pam Armour, P.L. Caruthers, Greg Bridges, Claude Saxon, Mr. & Mrs. Norman A. Wilcox, Ken & Lou Moore, Kay Johnson, Lois Taylor, Deborah Claypool, Irvin Koch, Frank Jordan, Dal Coger

## IMAGINITZACON

Sept.(?) 1980

Holiday Inn Overton Square

Attendance - ~135

### Guest

Author Guest - Bob Asprin

Fan Guest - Stvn Carberg

### ConComm (The Players)

Grand Despot (Chair) - Nancy A. Collins

Treasurer - Lillian Weatherall

Huxter Room Director - Gregory Bridges

Art Room Director - Irvin Koch

Vtr Room Directors - Sidney Jones III/ Claude Saxon/ Steve Williams

SCA Liaison - P.L. Caruthers, John "Bearkiller" Fulton

Con-Sultants - Margaret Middleton, Irvin Koch

Patron Saints - Franklin Jordan, Shelby Bush Iii, Donald Fleisher,

Sidney Jones III

Official Lost Sheep - Michael L. Brown

Special Thanks - Mr & Mrs. John W. Collins, Dalvan & Greta Coger, Lisa

D'angleo, The Barony Of The Grey Niche, The Mid South Fantasy

Association, Johnnie Anderson, Deborah Claypool, Richard Moore, Rick

Ragan, Rusty Smith

## IMAGICON

Sept. 25- 27, 1981

Holiday Inn Overton Square

Attendance - ~145

### Guests

Pro Guest - Andrew J. Offutt

Fan Guest - Charlie Williams

### ConComm - ('those Responsible')

Convention Dominatrix - Nancy Collins

Treasurer/Secretary - Richard Moore

Artroom Director - Greg Bridges

Huxter Room Director - Debbie Claypool

Chiefgopher - Rusty Smith

Chief Of Security - Biff Conrad

Honor Role - Rick Ragan, Franklin Jordan, Claude Saxon, Johnnie

Anderson & Rob Pressman

Masquerade ('micro-Mini Masker Raid Ball') Halftime - Tav Falco's Panthe

Burns (3rd Basement)

## MIDSOUTHCON 2

August 20-22, 1982

Quality Inn Riverview

Attendance - ~145

### Guests

Pro Guest Of Honor - Wilson 'bob' Tucker

Fan Guest Of Honor - Arthur Hlavaty

Toastmaster/Artist Guest Of Honor - Charlie Williams

Also In Attendance - Darrell C. Richardson

### ConComm

Con Chairbeing - Frank Jordan

Con Treasurer - Richard Moore

Con Secretary & Liaison - Greg Bridges

Video & Films - Sidney Jones & Steve Williams

Security - Rick Ragan

Masquerade - Dal & Greta Coger

With Thanks To Andy Purcell, Kay Huey-Johnson, Claude Saxon, Midsout

Fantasy Assoc. & The Memphis State Science Fiction Society

Program Book By Rick Ragan & Greg Bridges.

## MIDSOUTHCON 3

March 16-18, 1984

Quality Inn Riverview

Attendance - ~155

### Guests

Pro Guest Of Honor - C.J. Cherryh

Artist Guest - Steven Dodd

Fan Guest - Margaret Middleton

Toastmaster - Dalvan Coger

### ConComm

Cochairbeings - Frank Jordan And Richard Moore

Treas. Richard Moore

Sec. And Liaison - Greg Bridges

Security - Patrick Owen

Mistress Of Masquerade - Jackie Watkins

Trivia Master - Michael Taviss

Art Show - Carole Onelas-Stuve'

Films - Sidney Jones, Steve Williams, Claude Saxon With Rodney Morrow

Publicity - Rodney Morrow

Huckster Room - Richard Moore & Greg Bridges

Program Book - Greg Bridges With Help From Memphis State Sf Assoc.

Also In Attendance Were Suzette Haden Elgin And Dan Henderson.

## MIDSOUTHCON 4

March 22-24, 1985

Quality Inn Airport

Attendance - ~165

### Guests

Pro Guest Of Honor Was Fred Pohl

Artist Guest Of Honor Was Keith Berdak

Filk Guest - Suzette Haden Elgin

Fan Guest - Ken Moore

Toastmaster - John Steakley

Special Guests - Robert Jordan And Sharon Webb

### Con Comm

Chairman - Jackie Watkins

Co-Chair - Michael Taviss

Treas. - Richard Moore

Secretary - Donna Pass

Hotel Liaison - Ruth Winberry

Publicity - Dalvan Coger

Security - John Fulton

Huckster Room - Dale Staley

Art Show - Sheryl Staley (And Baby-To-Be)

Programming - Richard Moore & Michael Taviss

Gaming - Dale Staley

Masquerade - Patricia Taviss

Hotel Setup - Randall Pass

Program Book - Greg Bridges & Michael Taviss

Resident Aliens - Pat & Michael Taviss

### Thanks Went To

Sid Jones, Randy Watkins, Keith Berdak, Sheri Kline (Shera), Barony Of Grey Niche

Quality Inn Airport, Mais Oui! Creations, Rca Cylix, Hardees

## MIDSOUTHCON 5

June 6-8, 1986

Ramada Inn Sw Airport

Attendance - ~ 169

### Guests

Pro Guest - Joe Haldeman

Artist Guest - David Cherry

Toastmaster - Andrew J. Offutt

Fan Guest - Jodie Offutt

### Con Comm

Con Chairbeings - Richard Moore And Jackie Watkins

Treasurer - Richard Moore

Secretary - Jackie Watkins

Security - John Fulton

Hotel Liaison - Sheryl Staley

Art Show - Ruth Ann Winberry

Dealers Room - Cheryl Smith, Richard Moore

Con Suite - Mid South Science Fiction Association

Films And Video - Dr. Who Club Of Memphis

Programming - Greg Bridges

Masquerade - Jackie Watkins

Gaming - Dale Staley

Volunteer Coordinator - Rick Ragan

Program Book - The Misdled Ptah Press (G. Bridges) With Help From

Belinda Hanson, Rick Ragan, Vicki Gray, & Richard Moore

## MIDSOUTHCON 6

March 27- 29, 1987

Wilson World Hotel (On American Way)

Attendance - 175

### Guests

Pro Guest - Hal Clement

Art Guest - Lucy Synk

Toastmaster - Wilson "Bob" Tucker

Fan Guest - Ricky Sheppard

### Con Comm

Chairman - Richard Moore

Vice-Chairman - Greg Bridges

Treasurer - Richard Moore

Secretary/Volunteer Coordinator - Belinda Hanson

Security - Gary Hanson

Hotel Liaison - Ian Edward

Art Show - Carolyn Wenzler/Debra Blundell

Dealer Room - Rod Morrow

Con Suite - Rick Ragan/ Kate Setbacken

Films And Video - James Smith/ Debra Blundell

Programming - Greg Bridges/ Greta Coger

Masquerade - Dal Coger

Gaming - Erik Setbacken

Registration - Cullen Johnson

Advertising - Susan Harrington

Program Book - Cmos Graphics (?)

Art Credits - Cover - Lucy Synk (Illo Of Mission Of Gravity); Erich Hays,

A.G.Howard, Debra Blundell, Dan Hammersley, Carol Struve, Keith

Berdak, Gary R. Mynatt

## MIDSOUTHCON 7

March 18-20, 1988

Marriott Hotel (On American Way)

Attendance - 175

### Guests

Pro Guest - Larry Niven

Pro Guest - Jerry Pournelle

Toastmaster - Julius Schwartz

Artist Guest - Mitch Foust

Filk Guest - Margaret Middleton

Fan Guest - Darrell C. Richardson

Media Guest - Paul Darrow (Had To Cancel Because He Accepted A

Contract To Portray Elvis In A Stage Production!)

Media Guest - Michael Keating

Other Guests

Jim Eikner - Make Up Artist

Elaine Hinman - Engineer In Flight Robots For Nasa

Joe Michael Straczynski -

John Ozier

Debra Millitello

Glen Cook

Dan Henderson

### Con Comm

Chairman - Richard Moore

Vice Chair - Greg Bridges, Asst. - Angela Pickesimer

Treasurer - Richard Moore

Secretary/Volunteers - Belinda Hanson, Asst. - Whit Brockman

Security - Tim Gatewood, Asst. - Jeff Bango & Bill Hopper

Hotel Liaison - Susan Harrington, Asst. - Pam Contini And Dixie Lucas

Art Show - Carolyn Wenzler, Assts. - Ian Edward & Frank Cowgill

Dealer Room - Lee Dunn

Con Suite - Kate Setbacken, Asst. - Tim Knebel & James Smith

Films & Video - David Walker, Asst. - Richard Taylor & Whit Brockman

Programming - Tommy Wenzler

Masquerade - Dal Coger, Asst. - Matt Smith

Gaming - Eric Setbacken, Assts. - Don Blaylock & Dan Hammersley

Registration - Cullen Johnson, Asst. - Jane Dunn

Advertising - Susan Harrington

Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox, Assts. - Christy Herndon & Shari Hodges

Publicity - Dixie Lucas, Asst. Deborah Blundell

Cover - Mitch Foust & David Porch, Inside Back Cover - Mitch Foust,

Back Cover - Debra Blundell

T-Shirt Art - Debra Blundell (The Horus Line T-Shirt Art And Same As

Back Cover)



## MIDSOUTHCON 8/DEEPSOUTHCON 27

Memphis Marriott On American Way

June 9-11, 1989

Attendance - ~275

### Guests

Pro Guest - Orson Scott Card

Toastmaster - C.J.Cherryh

Artist Guest - Mary Hanson Roberts

Filk Guest - Bill Sutton

Fan Guest - G. Patrick Malloy

Special Guest - Wilson 'bob' Tucker

Other Guests -

Hal Clement Dan Henderson

Glen Cook John Osier

Anthony Scott King Keith Berdak

R.A. Lafferty David Porch

Larry Niven Mitch Foust

Julius Schwartz C.S.William

Bill Breyer

### Con Comm

Chairman/Treasurer - Richard Moore

Vice - Chairman - Greg Bridges

Secretary/Volunteer Coordinator - Cullen Johnson

Dealers Room - Whit Brockman

Con Suite - Cullen Johnson; Asst. - Jim Garifalos

Masquerade - Dal Coger; Asst. - Greta Coger

Security/Hotel - Jeff Bango; Assts. Gary Hanson, Jim Krog, Bill Hopper

Art Show - Carolyn Wenzler; Assts. - Frank Cowgill, Eric Setbacken

Films And Video - David Walker; Assts. - Mike Harper, J. Alan Pool

Programming - Lee Dunn; Assts. - Sylvia Cox, Tim Gatewood, Tommy

Wenzler

Gaming - Don Blalock; Assts. - Joyce Mckibben, Terry Davenport, Dave Ray

Registration - Belinda Hanson; Assts. - Courtney Bray, Debbie Bango,

Megan Mcsperan

Guest Liaison- Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Christy Herndon, P.L. Caruthers-

Montgomery

Publicity - Angela Picklesimer; Assts. - Dixie Lucas, Sylvia Cox

Hearts Tournament - Patrick Gibbs

Thanks To Patrick Gibbs Also For His Help With Rebel/Phoenix Awards

T-Shirt Art Art By Debra Blundell

Program Book - Sylvia Cox, Dixie Lucas, And Belinda Hanson

Cover - Mary Hanson-Roberts From Enders Game - Orson Scott Card

T-Shirt Art - Debra Blundell - Deep South "Con With The Wind"

## MIDSOUTHCON 9

Memphis Airport Hilton (On Democrat Road)

March 16-18, 1990

Attendance - ~222

### Guests

In Memoriam Guest - Robert Adams

Pro Guest - Robert Jordan

Toastmaster - Robert Asprin

Artists Guests - David & Ellisa Martin

Fan Guest - P.L. Caruthers-Montgomery

Media Guest - Mark Ryan

Filk Guest - Gary Hanson

Other Guests -

Frank Kelly Freas Pamela Cripfen-Adams

Laura Brodian-Freas Black Tie Studios

Larry Niven Glen Cook

### Con Comm

Chairman - Cullen Johnson

Vice-Chairman - Greg Bridges

Secretary/Treasurer - Carolyn Dodge

Art Show - Frank Cowgill; Assts. - Ellen Cowgill, Eric Setbacken

Con Suite - Gary Hanson; Assts. - Carrie McGill, Thomas Wenzler

Dealers Room - Whit Brockman; Assts - Bubba Hemphill

Films & Video - Elizabeth Brooks; Assts - Mike Harper

Gaming - Eric Setbacken; Assts. - Don Blalock

Guest Liaison/ Programming - Sylvia Cox; Asst. - Christy Herndon

Hotel Liaison/Security - Jeff Bango; Assts. - Lee Dunn, Tom Feaster, Bill Hopper

Masquerade - Dal Coger; Asst. Greta Coger

Publicity - Jeff SCArpace; Asst. Dixie Lucas

Registration - Angela Bridges; Asst. Debbie Bango

Volunteer Coordinator - Carolyn Dodge; Asst. Dalton Hanson, Tommy Wenzler

Program Book - Jeff SCArpace, Dixie Lucas, And Sylvia Cox

Program Book Art - David & Ellisa Martin, Mitch Foust, David Porch, Erich Haas And A.G.Howard

T-Shirt Art - David & Ellisa Martin (Our First Color One)

## MIDSOUTHCON 10

22-24, March 1991

Memphis Hilton Hotel

Attendance - ~250

### Guests

Pro Guest - Harry Turtledove

Artist Guest - Randall Spangler

Gaming Guest - 'steve Jackson'

Fan Guest - Steve & Sue Francis

Other Guests

Glen Cook

Ellisa Martin

David Martin

Black Tie Studios

Nancy A. Collins

Jeffrey C. Hogue

Dr. George Flinn, Md

Dr. Jack Beifuss, Phd

Undable To Attend Addenda - Steve Jackson, David & Ellisa Martin, And Jeff Hogue

Gary Phillips A No Show

### Con Comm

Chairman/Treasurer - Cullen Johnson

Vice Chairman - Greg Bridges

Secretary - Carrie McGill

Art Show - John McGill; Assts. - Danny Chamberlin, Bonnie Kornrumpf,

Eric Setbacken

Con Suite - Elizabeth Brooks/ Dianne Brooks; Assts. - Gene Hanson,

Robert C. Brooks Iii

Dealers Room - Whit Brockman; Assts. - Tim Knebel

Film & Video - Mike Harper; Assts. - Danny Chamberlin, Karl Raade

Gaming - Eric Setbacken; Assts. - Bonnie Kornrumpf, Chance Kornrumpf,

Don Blaylock

Guest Liaison/Programming - Sylvia Cox; Assts - Dal Coger; Kay Free,

Randall Pass, Karl Raade

Hotel Liaison /Security - Jeff Bango; Assts - Tim Gatewood, Tom Feaster

Masquerade - Dal Coger; Asst. Greta Coger

Publicity - Greg Bridges/Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Dixie Lucas, Angela Bridges,

John McGill

Registration - Angela Bridges; Asst. Carolyn Pearce

Volunteer Coordinator - Carrie McGill

Program Book - Sylvia Cox And Dixie Lucas

Program Cover - Randall Spangler; Program Book Art - Mitch Foust,

David Porch, Dave Ryan

T-Shirt Art Art - Karl Raade "We Are Here On Planet Earth"

## MIDSOUTHCON 11

March 27-29, 1992

Memphis Airport Hotel (Old Hilton, Now The 'generique')

Attendance - ~275

### Guests

Pro Guest - Nancy Springer

Toastmaster - Margaret Weis

Artist Guest - Beth Willinger

Fan Guest - Belinda Anderson

Other Guests

Larry Niven

Gary L. Phillips

C.S. Williams

Jeffrey C. Hogue

Harris Lentz Iii

"Benjamin Dare"

From Prog. Sched.  
Dr. George Flinn, Md            Allen Hammack  
In Memoriam - Dan Henderson

### Con Comm

Chairman/Treasurer - Cullen Johnson  
Vice Chairman - Greg Bridges  
Secretary - Carrie McGill  
Artshow - Bonnie Kornrumpf; Assts. - Randi Brown, Chris Donovan  
Con Suite - Elizabeth Brooks; Assts. - Donna Pass, Robert C. Brooks Iii  
Dealers Room - Claude Saxon;  
Film & Video - Mike Harper; Assts. - Jammer Jorowski, Inger Setbacken,  
Jake Bozeman  
Gaming - Chance Kornrumpf; Assts. - Eric Setbacken, Bonnie Kornrumpf,  
Lee Blazcak  
Guest Liaison/ Programming - Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Dal Coger, Barbara  
Adams, Randall Pass  
Hotel Liaison/Security - Jeff Bango; Assts. - Tim Gatewood, Doug Kunkel,  
Jennifer Lockheart, Bill Wood  
Masquerade - Dal Coger; Asst. - Greta Coger  
Publicity - Greg Bridges/ Sylvia Cox; Assts - Dixie Lucas, Angela Bridges,  
John McGill, Bonnie Kornrumpf  
Registration - Angela Bridges; Assts - Tom Fitzgerald, Carrie McGill  
Volunteer Coordinator - Carrie McGill; Asst. - John McGill  
Program Book - Sylvia Cox & Dixie Lucas  
Program Book Cover - Beth Willinger; Program Book Art - Mitch Foust,  
A.G. Howard, Dave Ryan  
T-Shirt Art - Mitch Foust

## MIDSOUTHCON 12

March 26-28, 1993  
Memphis Airport Hotel  
Attendance - ~275

### Guests

Pro Guest - Alan Dean Foster  
Artist Guest - Carl Lundgren  
Fan Guest - Wilson 'bob' Tucker  
Other Guests  
Hal Clement  
C.S. Williams  
Harris Lentz Iii  
Dr. Darrell C. Richardson

### From Program Schedule Insert --

Dr. John Autian, Phd - Former Dean Of University Of Tenn. Pharmacy  
Dr. James Carter, Phd - Chem. Prof. At U Of M, Former Nasa And Af High  
Energy Fuels Researcher (Ion Rockets)  
Dr. Glenn Richard Chafetz, Phd - Prof. Of Political Sci. At Msu,  
Ilya And Michael Geller - Russian Experts On The Strugatskys  
John Hoffman - Prog. Director For Wmc-Am Radio 79  
Celia Mcree - Am. Indian Singer And Talk Show Host  
Dr. Gerrit L. Verschuur, Phd - Research Prof. Of Astronomy At Rhodes  
College And Popular Science Author  
Dr. David Gordon Wilson, Phd - Russian Section Head In Foreign  
Languages At Msu  
Dr. Steven D. Wilson, Phd - Prof. Of International Finance In Cbu, Recently  
Returned From Russia And Uzbekistan

Michele Lundgren

### Con Comm

Co-Chairpersons - Jeff Bango/Sylvia Cox  
Vice Chairman - Greg Bridges  
Secretary - Carrie McGill  
Treasurer - Barbara Adams  
Art Show - Bonnie Kornrumpf; Assts. - Chris Donovan, Jason  
Montgomery  
Con Suite - Elizabeth Brooks; Assts. - Celynda Brooks, Robert C. Brooks  
Iii, Don Bergquist, Donna Pass, Karl Raade, Kelly Seifert  
Dealers Room - Claude Saxon; Asst. - Sandi (Don) Richardson  
Film & Video - Mike Harper; Assts. - Alan Daughtry, Myra Fox, Anne Myers  
Gaming - Randy Tyler; Asst. Eric Setbacken  
Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Dal Coger, Randall Pass  
Hotel Liaison - Jeff Bango  
Masquerade - Angela Bridges; Asst. Dal Coger

Programming - Bill Wood; Assts. - Tim Gatewood, Rebecca Rollins  
Publicity - John McGill; Assts - Greg Bridges, Dixie Lucas, Carrie McGill,  
Karl Raade, Bill Wood  
Registration - Angela Bridges; Assts. - Barbara Adams, Tom Fitzgerald  
Security - Jim Fox; Asst. James Rhodes  
Volunteer Coordinator - Carrie McGill, John McGill  
Program Book - Sylvia Cox & Dixie Lucas With Assistance From John &  
Carrie McGill  
Program Book Cover - Carl Lundgren  
T-Shirt Art - Mitch Foust

## MIDSOUTHCON 13

March 25-27, 1994  
Best Western Airport Hotel  
Attendance - ~300  
Writer Guest Of Honor - Barbara Hambly  
Artist Guest - Larry Elmore  
Fan Guest - Khen Moore  
Special Media Guest - Robin Curtis (Via Uss Alacrity - Starfleet)  
Other Guests  
Harris Lentz Iii, Dr. Darrell C. Richardson, C.S. (Charlie) Williams, J.C.  
"Doc" Hogue,  
From Pocket Programm ----- Don Franceschetti, Celia Mcree, Dr. Steve  
Charles, Md, Dr. Vincent, Cerutto, Phd, Dr. Mike Rosen, Md, Keith  
Takahashi, Dr. Jaida Mo, Phd., Jim Eikner, Dr. James Stevens, Ph; Dr. James  
Carter, Phd; Dr. Gerrit Verschuur, Phd;  
**Con Comm**  
Co-Chairpersons - Jeff Bango & Sylvia Cox  
Vice Chair - Greg Bridges  
Secretary/Treas. - Barbara Gatewood  
Art Show - Bonnie Donovan; Assts. - Jane Venters-Dyke, Christopher  
Donovan  
Con Suite - Donna Pass/ Don Bergquist; Assts. - Randall Pass, Victor Wills  
Dealers Room - Claude Saxon  
Electronic Programming - Eric Setbacken  
Film & Video - Mike Harper; Assts. - Alan Daughtry, Esther Hutchinson  
Gaming - Susan Durham/ Ron Murphy; Assts. - Tony Durham  
Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Barbara Gatewood, Randall Pass  
Hotel Liaison - Jeff Bango  
Masquerade - Angela Bridges; Assts. - Dal Coger  
Programming - Tim Gatewood; Assts. - Mical Holland, George Holland  
Publicity - Bill Wood; Assts. - Greg Bridges, Dixie Lucas  
Registration - Angela Bridges; Assts. - Elizabeth Brooks, Tom Fitzgerald  
Security - Jym & Myra Fox; Asst. - Jo Lynn Gibbons  
Volunteer Coordinator - Barbara Gatewood; Assists. - Jym Fox, John  
Mcgill  
Starfleet - Deborah Leafey; Asst. - Harvey Johnson  
Media Guest Liaison - Cindy Krell  
Program Book Covers - Larry Elmore  
T-Shirt Art - Larry Elmore

## MIDSOUTHCON 14

March 24-26, 1995  
Best Western Airport Hotel  
Attendance - ~325  
Author Guest - Timothy Zahn  
Artist Guest - Alan Gutierrez  
Fan Guest - Tim 'uncle Timmy' Bolgeo  
Other Guests  
Harris M. Lentz Iii                    Libby Singleton  
C.S. (Charlie) Williams            Jim Hall  
Andrew Smith  
Con Comm  
Co-Chairpersons - Jeff Bango/ Sylvia Cox  
Vice Chairperson - Greg Bridges  
Corresponding Secretary - Tim Gatewood  
Recording Secretary - Carrie Feldhaus  
Treasurer - Barbara Gatewood  
Art Show - Bonnie Donovan; Assts. - Jane Venters-Dyke, Chris Donovan  
Con Suite - Elizabeth Brooks, Don Bergquist; Assts. - Donna Pass, Don  
Loughridge, Victor Wills, Robert & Celynda Brooks

Dealers Room - Claude Saxon  
 Electronic Programming - Peter Setbacken; Assts - Tim Gatewood, Jay Leafey, Joe Hargraves  
 Film And Video - Mike Harper; Assts. - James Rhodes, Myra Fox  
 Gaming - Susan & Tony Durham; Asst. - Jesse Hudson  
 Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox; Asst. Randall Pass  
 Hotel Liaison - Jeff Bango  
 Masquerade - Angela Bridges; Assts. Dal Coger, Greta Coger  
 Programming/Procurement - Mical Holland; Assts. - George Holland, Betty Spiller  
 Publicity - Bill Wood; Assts. - Greg Bridges, Dixie Lucas  
 Registration - Barbara Gatewood; Assts. Tom Fitzgerald  
 Security - John McGill; Assts. - Eric Groff, Janice Williams  
 Volunteer Coordinator - Adrienne Travis  
 Society For Creative Anachronism - Mazelle Neal  
 Memphis Space Center - Bill Wood  
 Program Book - Sylvia Cox, Dixie Lucas  
 Program Book Cover - Alan Gutierrez  
 T-Shirt Art - Mitch Foust

## MIDSOUTHCON 15

March 22-24, 1996

Brownstone Downtown Hotel

Attendance - ~325

### Guests

Author Guest - Barry Longyear

Artist Guest - Frank Kelly Freas & Laura Brodian Freas

Fan Guest - Cullen Johnson

### Other Guests

Larry Niven

Libby Singleton

Glen Cook

Gary Holleman

Harris M. Lentz Iii

C.S. (Charlie) Williams

D. Beecher Smith

Steven Burgauer

Andrew Smith

James P. Hogan

(From Pr - Paul Darrow)

### Con Comm

Chairperson - Sylvia Cox

Vice Chairperson - Jeff Bango

Secretary - Bonnie Donovan

Treasurer - Barbara Gatewood

Art Show - Bonnie Donovan; Assts. - Jane Venters-Dyke

Con Suite - Elizabeth Brooks, Robert Brooks; Assts. Celynda Brooks,

Michael D. Landis, Don Loughridge, Jan Vaughn, Victor

Wills

Children's Programming - Miss Carrie;

Dealers Room - Claude Saxon

Electronic Programming - Eric Setbacken; Asst. Chris Donovan

Film And Video - Mike Harper; Asst. Myra Fox

Gaming - Neale Carter

Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox; Asst. Jym Fox

Hotel Liaison - Jeff Bango

Masquerade - Angela Bridges; Assts. - Dal And Greta Coger

Online Programming - Jym Fox; Assts. - Joe Pusateri, Joe Eaton

Programming/ Procurement - Mical Holland; Asst George Holland

Publicity/Charities - Greg Bridges; Asst. - Dixie Lucas

Registration - Barbara Gatewood; Assts. - Tom Fitzgerald, Tim Gatewood,

Pat Pate, Eric Setbacken

Security - Eric Groff; Asst. - Vincent Wakefield

Volunteer Coordinator - Adrienne Travis

Society For Creative Anachronism - Ben Neal; Asst, Mazelle Neal

Starfleet Shuttle Sehkmnet - John McGill

Program Book - Sylvia Cox And Dixie Lucas

Program Book Cover - Frank Kelly Freas; Back Cover - Laura Brodian

Freas

Tshirt - Mitch Foust

## MIDSOUTHCON 16

March 28-30, 1997 (Easter Weekend)

Sam's Town Hotel And Casino, Robinsonville, Ms

Attendance - ~325

### Guests

Pro Guest - John Dechance

Artist Guest - Mitchell Davidson Bentley

Fan Guest - Cullen Johnson

### Other Guests

Allan Hammack

C.S. (Charlie) Williams

Gary Holleman

Andrew Smith

Harris M. Lentz Iii

D. Beecher Smith

Libby Singleton

### Con Comm

Chairperson - Sylvia Cox

Vice Chairperson - Greg Bridges (& Dana Hager)

Secretary - Bonnie Donovan

Treasurer - Jeff Bango

Art Show - Bonnie Donovan; Asst. Jane Venters-Dyke

Con Suite - Robert Brooks; Assts - Michael D. Landis, Don Loughridge, Jan

Vaughn

Children's Programming - Miss Carrie

Dealers Room - Claude Saxon; Asst. - Adrienne Travis

Film And Video - Mike Harper; Asst. - Leonard Bridges

Gaming - Susan And Tony Durham; Asst. - Jesse Hudson

Guest Liaison - Barbara Gatewood; Asst. Sylvia Cox

Hotel Liaison - Jeff Bango;

Masquerade - Angela Bridges; Assts. - Dal And Greta Coger

Programming/ Procurement - Mical Holland; Asst. - George Holland

Publicity/ Charities - Greg Bridges; Asst. - Dixie Lucas

Registration - Peter Eric Setbacken; Asst. - Tim Gatewood, Pat Pate

Security - Eric Groff; Asst. - John McGill

Volunteer Coordinator - Tim Gatewood;

SCA - Mazelle Neal

Program Book - Sylvia Cox And Dixie Lucas

Program Book Cover - Mitchell Davidson Bentley

T-Shirt Art - Bonnie Donovan

### Darrell Awards

Short Story - Don't Look Back By Beecher Smith,

Novel - Howl-O-Ween - Gary Holleman

Midsouthcon 17 At Grand Casino - Robinsonville, Ms In 1998, Didn't Happen. (Anyone Else On The ConComm Who Hasn't Been To A Casino In Tunica Since?)

## MIDSOUTHCON 17

March 26-28, 1999

Sheraton Four Points Hotel (Old Hilton On Democrat)

Attendance - ~345

### Guests

Pro Guest - James P. Hogan

Artist Guest - Joy Marie Ledet

Fan Guest - Cullen Johnson

### Other Guests

Glen Cook

Dr. Darrell C. Richardson

Carol And Mike Curtis

Andrew Smith

Charles Ettinger

D. Beecher Smith

Allan Hammack

Gary Holleman

C.S. (Charlie) Williams

Warren Lupine & Angela Kessler

More Monsters From Memphis Authors

Debra Parmley

H. David Blalock

Allan Gilbreath

Ken Hughes

### Con Comm

Chairperson - Sylvia Cox

Vice Chairperson - Greg Bridges (Asst. - Dana Hager Bridges)

Secretary - Bonnie Donovan

Treasurer - Jeff Bango

Art Show - Bonnie Donovan; Asst. - Jane Venters-Dyke

Con Suite - Robert Brooks/Jan Vaughn;Asst. Chris White  
 Dealers Room - Jeff Bango/ Sylvia Cox  
 Film And Video - Mike Harper;Asst. - Freda Nicholson  
 Gaming - Neale Carter;Assts. - Wayne Camp, Patrick Maes  
 Guest Liaison - Sylva Cox  
 Hotel Liaison - Jeff Bango  
 Masquerade - Dal Coger;Asst. - Greta Coger  
 Operations - Eric Groff  
 Programming/ Procurement - Mical Holland;Asst George Holland  
 Publicity/ Charities - Greg Bridges;Asst. Dixie Lucas  
 Registration - Peter Eric Setbacken;Assts - Carrie Feldhaus, Pat Pate  
 Security - Dana Bridges  
 Volunteer Coordinator - Michael Kingsley  
 SCA - Mazelle Neal  
 Program Book - Sylvia Cox And Dixie Lucas  
 Program Book Cover - Joy Marie Ledet  
 T-Shirt Art - Joy Marie Ledet  
**Darrell Awards**  
 Short Story - The Shadow People By Beecher Smith  
 Novel - Demon Fire By Gary L. Holleman

## MIDSOUTHCON 18

March 24-26, 2000  
 Holiday Inn Select Airport  
 Attendance - ~355  
 Writer Guest Of Honor - Fred Saberhagen

### Guests

Artist Guest Of Honor - Robert Daniels  
 Media Guest - Lisa Getto

### Guests

H. David Blalock  
 Andrew A. Smith  
 Glen Cook  
 D. Beecher Smith  
 Allen Hammack  
 Harris Lentz Iii  
 Allan Gilbreath  
 Joy Marie Ledet  
 Chris Hanther  
 Gary Holleman  
 Robert S. Sanders, Jr.

### Con Comm

Chairperson - Sylvia Cox  
 Vice Chairperson - Greg Bridges (Asst. - Dana Hager Bridges)  
 Secretary - Bonnie Donovan  
 Treasurer - Jeff Bango  
 Art Show - Jane Venters-Dyke;Asst. Greta Coger  
 Con Suite - Jan Vaughn  
 Dealers Room - Jym Fox;Asst. - Adrienne Travis  
 Film And Video - Mike Harper;Asst. Freda Nicholson  
 Gaming - Wayne Camp;Asst. - Patrick Maes  
 Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox;Asst Dal Coger  
 Hotel Liaison - Greg Bridges;Asst. Dana Bridges  
 Masquerade - Dal Coger; Greta Coger  
 Operations - Eric Groff;Asst. Randall Pass  
 Programming - Mazelle Neal;Asst. Michael Kingsley  
 Publicity - Greg Bridges;Asst. - Sylvia Cox, Dixie Lucas  
 Quartermaster/ Charities - Mical Holland;Asst. George Holland  
 Registration - Peter Eric Setbacken;Asst. Carrie Feldhaus, Pat Pate  
 Security - Dana Bridges;Asst. Bonnie James, Jerry Hager, Kevin Hager  
 Volunteers - Michael Kingsley  
 SCA - Ben Neal  
 Program Book - Adrienne L. Travis  
 Program Book Cover - Robert Daniels  
 T-Shirt Art - Mitch Foust  
 Outstanding Achievement Award - Sylvia Cox  
**Darrell Awards**  
 Novel - Ungrateful Dead By Gary Holleman  
 Short Story - A Favor - H. David Blalock

## MIDSOUTHCON 19

March 23-25, 2001  
 Holiday Inn Select Airport  
 Attendance - ~425  
 Writer Guest Of Honor Laurel K. Hamilton  
 Artist Guest Of Honor - Alan Clark  
 Toastmaster - Cullen Johnson  
 Special Guest - Jack Mcdevitt  
 Special Guest - Algis Budrys

### Other Guests

Jeff Crook  
 D. Beecher Smith  
 Glen Cook  
 Libby Singleton  
 Chris Hanther  
 Mike Norton  
 Allan Gilbreath  
 Roland Mann  
 Joy Marie Ledet

### Con Comm

Chairperson - Greg Bridges (Asst. - Dana Hager Bridges)  
 Vice Chairperson - Peter Eric Setbacken  
 Secretary - Bonnie Donovan  
 Treasurer - Jeff Bango  
 Art Show - Jane Venters-Dike;Asst. - Greta Coger  
 Con Suite - Jan Vaughn  
 Dealers Room - Roger Lee;Asst. - Adrienne Travis  
 Film And Video - Mike Harper  
 Gaming - Wayne Camp;Asst. - Crystal Goff  
 Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox;Asst. - Dal Coger  
 Hotel Liaison - Greg Bridges;Asst. - Dana Bridges  
 Masquerade - Dal Coger;Asst. - Greta Coger  
 Operations - Eric Groff;Asst. - Randall Pass  
 Programming - Sylvia Cox;Asst. - Michael Kingsley  
 Publicity - Greg Bridges;Assts. - Sylvia Cox, Dixie Lucas  
 Quartermaster/Charities - Mical Holland;Asst. - George Holland  
 Registration - Peter Eric Setbacken;Assts. - Carrie Feldhaus, Pat Pate  
 Security - Eric Groff;Asst. Vince Wakefield  
 Volunteers Coordinator - Michael Kingsley  
 SCA - Ben Neal  
 Website - Jerry Hager  
 Program Book Designed And Typeset As Well As Written In Parts By  
 Adrienne L. Travis  
 Program Book Cover - Alan Clark  
 T-Shirt Art - Alan Clark  
 Outstanding Achievement Award - Dal and Greta Coger  
**Darrell Awards**  
 Novel - The Thieves Guild By Jeff Crook  
 Short Story - Flight Of Fancy By Jeff Crook

## MIDSOUTHCON 20

March 22-24, 2002  
 Holiday Inn Select Airport Memphis  
 Attendance - ~600  
 Author Guest - C.J. Cherryh  
 Artist Guest Of Honor - Thomas Kidd  
 Gaming Guest Of Honor - Steve Jackson  
 Media Guest Of Honor - Michael Sheard  
 Special Guests  
 Cullen Johnson  
 Jane Fancher  
 Other Guests  
 Selena Rosen  
 Beecher Smith  
 Keith Berdak  
 Harris Lentz Iii  
 Glen Cook  
 Dr. Darrell C. Richardson  
 Joy Marie Ledet  
 Allan Gilbreath  
 Richard Parks



Laura J. Underwood  
John Jackson Miller  
Garrett Peck  
Chris Hanther  
Dr. Arthur Morgan  
Stephen Pagel  
John Michael & Kim Mccarthy

### ConComm

Conchairbeings - Greg Bridges, Dana Bridges  
Spawn Of The Cbs - Kestrel Bridges  
Vice Conchairbeing - Peter Eric Setbacken  
Treasurer - Jeff Bango  
Secretary - Jane Venters-Dike  
Art Show - Dana Bridges; Assts. - Bonnie James, Barbara Gatewood,  
Kelli (Kat) Hibpshman  
Children's Programming - Pamela Bray  
Con Suite - Jan Vaughn, Jeff Bango; Assts. - Stuart Bergman, Douglas Kruse  
Dance/Studio - Steve Gordon  
Dealers Room - Roger Lee; Asst. - Margie Lee  
Film And Video - Michael Kingsley, Vince Wakefield; Assts. - Mike Harper  
Anime - Jeff Pass, Paul Foster  
Gaming - Jerry Hager; Assts. - Neale Carter, Kevin Hager  
Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox  
Lan Party - Chris Layton  
Masquerade - Dal Coger, Greta Coger;  
Operations - Eric Groff; Asst. - Adrienne Travis  
Programming - Mike Kingsley; Assts. - Carlin Stuart, Science  
Programming : Bill Wood  
Publicity - Sylvia Cox, Greg Bridges  
Quartermaster: Mical Holland; Assts. - George Holland, Randall Pass  
Registration - Peter Eric Setbacken; Assts. Carrie Feldhaus, Pat Pate, Joe Hargraves  
Security - Eric Groff; Asst. - Brian Bergman  
Volunteers - Jan Vaughn  
SCA Liaison - Ben Neal  
Website - Jerry Hager  
Program Book - Dana Bridges  
Program Book Cover - Thomas Kidd  
T-Shirt Art - Tom Kidd  
Outstanding Achievement Award - Jeff Bango  
**Darrell Awards**  
Novel - Me And The Devil Blues By Walter Ellis  
Short Story - The Fighting 77th By Keith Berdak

## MIDSOUTHCON 21

March 28-30, 2003  
Holiday Inn Select Airport Memphis  
Attendance - ~800

### Guests

Author Guest - Robert J. Sawyer  
Artists Guests - Frank Kelly Freas & Laura Brodian Freas  
Gaming Guest - Jolly R. Blackburn  
Science Guest - Les Johnson  
Media Guest - Michael Sheard  
Other Guests -  
C.J. Cherryh  
Jane Fancher  
Cullen Johnson  
Selena Rosen  
Lynn Stranahan  
Glen Cook  
Joy Marie Ledet  
Laura Underwood  
Steven Pagel  
Andrew Fox  
Beverly Hale  
Suzanna Leigh  
Allan Gilbreath  
Jarrod Spicer

### Con Comm

Con Chairbeings - Greg Bridges, Dana Hager Bridges

Spawn Of The Cbs - Kestrel Bridges  
Vice Conchairbeing - Peter Eric Setbacken  
Treasurer - Sylvia Cox  
Secretary - Jane Venters-Dyke  
Art Show - Dana Hager Bridges; Assts. - Barbara Gatewood, Eileen Cutner,

Kelli (Kat) Hibpshman

Children's Programming - Margie Lee  
Con Suite - Danny Chamberlin, Jeff Bango, Assts. - Stuart Bergman, Kim Chamberlin  
Dance/Sound - Doug Clemens  
Dealers Room - Roger Lee; Asst. Margie Lee  
Film And Video - Vince Wakefield Asst. Joe Combs  
Anime - Jeff Pass  
Gaming - Jerry Hager; Coordinators - Ccg-Todd Rowland, Computers - Chris Layton,

Rpga & Forge - Mike Seagrave, Mega - James Schwanger

Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox  
Masquerade - Greta Coger  
Operations - Eric Groff, Jerry Hager; Asst. Kevin Hager  
Programming - Mike Kingsley; Asst. Carlin Stuart  
Publicity - Sylvia Cox, Greg Bridges  
Quartermaster - Mical Holland; Assts. George Holland, Randall Pass  
Registration - Neale Carter, Jane Venters-Dike;

Assts: Rob Steinbach, Esther Steinbach, Pat Pate, Joe Hargraves

Security - Eric Groff; Assts - Brian Bergman, Stuart Berfman  
Volunteers - Mike Kingsley  
SCA Liaison - Mazelle Attiya  
Website - Jerry Hager

Program Book - Dana Hager

Program Book Cover - Frank Kelly Freas

T-Shirt Art - Frank Kelly Freas

Outstanding Achievement Award - Randall Pass

### Darrell Awards

Short Story - Memphis Blue Again By Gerard Houamer  
Best Other Work - Middenstead By Jeff Crook  
Dal Coger Award - Howard Waldrop

## MIDSOUTHCON 22/DEEPSOUTHCON 42

March 26-28, 2004

Attendance - ~1020

Holiday Inn Select Airport Memphis

### Guests

Author Guest Of Honor - David Brin  
Artist Guest Of Honor - Todd Lockwood  
Gaming Guest Of Honor - David Williams  
Toastmaster - Michael Sheard  
Fan Guest - Cullen Johnson  
Media Guest - Dragon Dronet  
Other Guests

Lynn Abbey	Dr. Eric Aitala
Dr. Brett Bolen	M.M. Buckner
C.J. Cherryh	David B. Coe
Glen Cook	Jeff Crook
Vince Docherty	Jane Fancher
Andrew Fox	Janice Gelb
Susan L. Graham	Grant Kruger
Beverly Hale	Chris Hanther
Charlaine Harris	Brian A. Hopkins
Les Johnson	Gary Jonas
Lee Killough	Stephen And Suzie Lackey
Joy Marie Ledet	Kevin Lenagh
Guy & Rosy Lillian	Lee Martindale
Thomas Mason	Scott Mccullar
John Jackson Miller	Jana G. Oliver
Tim O'shea	Sam Penny
Selina Rosen	Dr. Amy H. Sturgis
Alan Siler	Sean Taylor
Laura J. Underwood	Martheus Wade
Eddy Zeno	

### Con Comm

Con Chairbeings - Greg Bridges, Dana Hager Bridges  
 Spawn Of The Cbs - Kestrel Bridges  
 Vice Conchairbeing - Peter Eric Setbacken  
 Treasurer - Sylvia Cox  
 Secretary - Jane Venters-Dyke  
 Art Show - Dana Bridges; Assts. - Barbara Gatewood, Kevin Hager Jackie Gamber  
 Consuite - Danny Chamberlin; Assts. - Randall Pass, Kim Chamberlin, Douglas Kruse  
 Children's Programming - Margie Lee  
 Dance/Sound - Doug Clements, Jerry Hager  
 Dealers Room - Roger Lee; Asst. - Margie Lee  
 Film And Video - Vince Wakefield; Asst. - Joe Combs  
 Anime - Jeff Pass  
 Gaming - Jerry Hager  
 Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Kat Hibpshman, Charli Bardwell  
 Hospitality - Catherine Dike, Ruthie Dike  
 Logistics - Jeff Bango  
 Masquerade - Greta Coger  
 Operations - Jerry Hager; Asst. (Volunteers) - Esther Steinbach  
 Programming - Mike Kingsley Assts - Carlin Stuart, Greg Bridges, Dana Bridges;  
 Live Wizards Chess - Bill Wood, Kat Hibpshman  
 Publicity - Greg Bridges  
 Quartermaster, Charity Auction - Mical Holland; Assts. - George Holland, Randall Pass  
 Registration - Head - Peter Eric Setbacken; Necks - Jane Venters-Dike; Pat Pate, Carrie Setbacken, Bodie - Brett Hargraves Joe Hargraves, Tom Norris  
 Security - Eric Groff; Asst. - Doug Kruse  
 SCA Liaison - Mazelle Attiya  
 Website - Jerry Hager  
 Workers 'at-Large' ("Jacks" Of All Trades) - Randall Pass, Warren Price, Neale Carter, Rob Steinbach, Michelle Johnson, Geoffey Stebbins  
 Program Book - Sylvia Cox  
 Cover - Todd Lockwood  
 T-Shirt Art - Todd Lockwood  
 Outstanding Achievement Award - Eric Setbacken  
**Deepsouthcon Awards**  
 The Phoenix - Gregory Benford  
 The Rebel - Sue Thorn  
 The Rebel - Dalvan M. Coger (Posthumously)  
**MSFA Awards**  
 The Darrell Awards  
 Best Midsouth Novel  
 Winner - E. E. Knight For Way Of The Wolf  
 First-Runner-Up - Jeff Crook For Dark Thane  
 Best Short Story:  
 Winner - Robert D. Brown For "Savin' Ned" From Four Bubbas Of The Apocalypse  
 Honorable Mention - Allan Gilbreath For "The Little Demon Doubt" From Darkness Rising 7  
 Best Other Work:  
 Winner - Jeff Crook For "The Sorcerer's Crystal"  
 Honorable Mention - David Blalock For "Revenge"  
 The Dal Coger Memorial Hall Of Fame Award  
 Winner - Dan Henderson

## MIDSOUTHCON 23

April 1-3, 2005  
 Holiday Inn Select Airport Memphis  
 Attendance - ~1050  
**Guests Of Honor**  
 Writer - Esther Friesner  
 Artist Guest - Steve Hickman  
 Toastmaster - Michael Sheard  
 Fan Guest - The 501st Legion  
 Comics Guest - Steve Rude  
 Gaming Guest - Games Workshop  
 Filk Guest - Luke Ski  
 Media Guest - Brinke Stevens

Science Guest - Dr. Gregory Benford

### Other Guests

Bill Allen	David Beaty
Dr. Brett Bolen	M.M. Buckner
David B. Coe	Glen Cook
Dr. Lionel J. Crews	Jeff Crook
Elizabeth Donald	Mitch Foust
Chris Hanther	E.E. Knight
Grant Kruger	Lee Martindale
Scott Mccullar	John Jackson Miller
Sean O'bannon	Jana G. Oliver
Richard Parks	Selina Rosen
Adam Shaw	Penelope Register-Shaw
Libbysmith-Singleton	Dr. Amy Sturgis
Michael Tierney	Laura J. Underwood
Martheus Wade	Kathryn White
Lin Workman	Eddy Zeno
Greg Cravens	Sean Preston

### Con Comm

Chairbeings - Greg & Dana Bridges  
 Spawn Of Con Chairbeings - Kestrel Bridges, Kiara Tao Bridges  
 Vice Chairbeing - Peter Eric Setbacken  
 Treasurer - Sylvia Cox  
 Secretary Jan Venters-Dike  
 Art Show - Barbara Gatewood; Assts. - Felicia Elam, Jackie Garner  
 Con Suite - Danny Chamberlin; Assts. - Randall Pass, Douglas Kruse  
 Children's Programming - Margie Lee  
 Dance/Sound - Doug Clements, Jerry Hager  
 Dealers Room - Roger Lee; Asst. - Margie Lee  
 Film And Video - Vince Wakefield; Asst. - Joe Combs  
 Anime - Jeff Pass  
 Gaming - Jerry Hager  
 Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Kat Hibpshman, Charli Bardwell  
 Hospitality - Catherine Dike, Ruthie Dike  
 Logistics - Jeff Bango  
 Masquerade - Greta Coger; Asst. - Tim Gatewood  
 Operations - Jerry Hager; Asst. (Volunteers) - Eric Groff  
 Programming - Mike Kingsley; Assts. - Carlin Stuart, Greg Bridges, Dana Bridges,  
 Live Wizard's Chess - Bill Wood, Danny Chamberlin  
 Publicity - Greg Bridges  
 Quartermaster/Charity Auction - Mical Holland;  
 Assts. - George Holland, Randall Pass, Kat Hibpshman  
 Registration - Head: Peter Eric Setbacken,  
 Necks - Jane Venters-Dike, Pat Pate, Carrie Setbacken,  
 Bodie - Brett Hargraves, Joe Hargraves, Tom, Norris, Kim Chamberlin  
 Security - Mic Chow; Asst. - Mic's Crew  
 SCA Liaison - Alexis Lott  
 Website - Jerry Hager  
 Workers At Large (Jacks Of All Trades) - Randall Pass, Warren Pass, Neale Carter, Michelle Johnson, Geoffey Stebbins  
 Program Book - Sylvia Cox  
 Programme Schedule - Carrie Setbacken  
 Program Book Cover - Steve Hickman  
 T-Shirt Art - Steve Hickman  
**Awards Section**  
 Midsouthcon Awards  
 Outstanding Achievement Award  
 Mical And Gorge Holland  
 MSC Student Sci/Fantasy Art Contest  
 Winner - Tba  
 Mid-South Science Fiction & Fantasy Association (Mssffa) Awards  
 The Darrell Awards  
 The Dal Coger Memorial Hall Of Fame Award:  
 Winner - Michael Reisig  
 The Darrell Award For Best Novel:  
 Winner - Jack Dann For The Rebel  
 First-Runner-Up - Nora Roberts For Blue Dahlia  
 The Darrell Award For Best Novella:  
 Winner - Elizabeth Donald For "Nocturnal Urges"  
 First Runner Up - Lanette Currington For "Moonstoned"  
 The Darrell Award For Best Short Story:

Winner - Catherine M. Morrison For Elvis In The Attic  
 First Runner Up - Barbara Gatewood For The Journals Of Dr. Albert Dewey  
 The Darrell Award For Best Other Work  
 Winner - Jeff Crook For "The Sorcerer's Crystal"  
 Honorable Mention - Adam Shaw And Penny Register-Shaw For Bloodstream

## MIDSOUTHCON 24

26-29 March 2006  
 Memphis Holiday Inn Select Airport  
 Attendance - ~1150

### Guests

Author Guest Of Honor - David Weber  
 Author Guest Of Honor - Glen Cook  
 Gaming Guest Of Honor - Rich Burlew  
 Artist Guest Of Honor - Lubov Yegudin  
 Media Guest Of Honor - Regina Pancake  
 Comics Guest Of Honor - John Jackson Miller  
 Costuming Guest Of Honor - Christopher "Tyger" Roth  
 Filk Guest Of Honor - Tom Smith  
 Persistent Guest - Cullen Johnson

### Other Guests -

D.A. Adams	Bill D. Allen
Mark Berry	H. David Blalock
Dr. Brett Bolen	M.M. Buckner
Dr. Lionel J. Crews	Jeff Crook
Elizabeth Donald	David Drake
Mitch Foust	Andrew Fox
Jackie And Dan Gamber	Haley Elizabeth Garwood
Alan Gilbreath	Jim Hall
Kenneth Mark Hoover	Les Johnson
Lee Killough	Michael Klossner
Steven Lopata	Rickey R. Mallory
Lee Martindale	Dennis Mchaney
Tracy S. Morris	Richard Parks
Selina Rosen	Adam Shaw
Penelope Register Shaw	Luke "Ski" Sienkowski
Libby Smith Singleton	Alicia Sparks
Dr. Leslie Stratyner	Dr. Amy Sturgis
Dr. Travis Taylor	Martheus Wade
Joy Ward	Kevin Ward
Dean Zachary	Eddy Zeno

Michael Sheard - In Memoriam

### Con Comm -

Chairbeings - Greg Bridges, Dana Bridges  
 Spawn Of The Chairbeings - Kestrel, Kiara Tao  
 Vice Chairbeings - Peter Eric Setbacken

Treasurer - Sylvia Cox  
 Secretary - Jane Venters-Dike  
 Art Show - Barbara Gatewood; Assts - Tim Gatewood, Janet McGregor, Cindy Strong  
 Consuite - Jan Vaughn, Eric Groff; Assts - Douglas Kruse  
 Children's Programming - Danny Chamberlin  
 Dance/Sound - Aradani Studios (Paul & Michael Bielaczyski)  
 Dealers Room - Carrie Setbacken, Roger Lee; Asst. - Geoffrey Stebbins  
 Film And Video - Vince Wakefield; Asst. - Stuart Bergman  
 Anime - Zach Kruse; Assts - Arkansas State U. Anime Club  
 Gaming - Jerry Hager, Beverly Eldred  
 Guest Liaison - Sylvia Cox; Assts. - Kat Stephens, Charli Bardwell, Kim Chamberlin  
 Logistics - Jeff Bango  
 Masquerade - Greta Coger; Assts. - Tim Gatewood, Warren Price  
 Operations/Technical Services - Jerry Hager, Eric Groff;  
 Assts. - Danny Chamberlin, Jane Venters-Dike  
 Programming - Carlin Stuart; Assts. - Mike Kingsley, Danny Chamberlin, Jennie Gaither, Denise Bowman  
 Publicity - Greg Bridges  
 Quartermaster, Charity Auction - Mical Holland; Assts. - George Holland  
 Kat Hibpshman,  
 Brian Bergman  
 Registration - Head - Peter Eric & Carrie Setbacken;  
 Necks - Elissa Hargraves, Pat Pate, Joe Hargraves;  
 Bodies - Bret Hargraves, Pam Bray, Warren Price, Geoffrey Stebbins  
 Security - James "Elvis" Stephens; Assts - Kat Stephens, Larry Geeslin  
 SCA Liaison - Mazelle Attiya  
 Volunteer Coordinator - Michelle Johnson  
 Website - Jerry Hager  
 Program Book - Sylvia Cox  
 Program Schedules - Jerry Hager  
 Program Book Cover - Lubov  
 T-Shirt Art - Lubov

### Awards Section

Outstanding Achievement Award - Vince Wakefield  
 Mid-South Science Fiction & Fantasy Association (Mssffa) Awards  
 The Dal Coger Memorial Hall Of Fame Award:  
 Winner - Alan Rodgers  
 The Darrell Award For Best Novel:  
 Winner - Sherrilyn Kenyon For St Martins  
 First-Runner-Up - John Farris For Phantom Nights  
 The Darrell Award For Best Novella:  
 Winner - Sara Banks For "Coriander"  
 The Darrell Award For Best Short Story:  
 Winner - Allan F. Gilbreath For Lepus Europaeus  
 The Darrell Award For Best Other Work:  
 Winner - Jerre Dye For Sid And The Magic Box

## Memorials

### Our Guests since 1977

Robert Adams - In Memoriam GoH, MSC 9  
 Dr. John Beifuss - Guest, MSC 10  
 Hal Clement - GoH MSC VI and at MSCV  
 P.L. Caruthers-Montgomery - Fan Guest  
 L. Sprague & Catherine de Camp - Just Imagicon Writer GoH  
 Dal Coger - Toastmaster(TM), MSC II  
 Kelly Freas - Art Guest, Just Imagicon, MSC 15, 21  
 Meade Frierson III - Just Imagicon Fan Guest  
 Dan Henderson Just Imagicon and many later cons  
 R.A. Lafferty - MSC 8  
 Darrell Richardson - Guest at Just Imagicon and all MSC's  
 Julius Schwartz - TM, MSC 7  
 Michael Sheard - Media, MSC 20, TM, MSC 22 & MSC 23  
 Theodore Sturgeon - Just Imagicon Guest  
 Wilson "Bob" Tucker - TM, MSC VI and SP, MSC 8

### Our Convention Committee now gone

P.L. Caruthers-Montgomery - Fan Guest, MSC 9 and All Round Volunteer(ARV)  
 Dal Coger - Masquerade, MSC 2-20 and ARV  
 Jym Fox - Security, MSC 13, Oline Programming, MSC 15, Dealers, MSC 18, and ARV  
 Mical Holland - Charities Coordinator  
 Tom Johnson - CoChair of Just Imagicon  
 Sidney Jones III - Video room Just Imagicon and later  
 Donna Pass - Secretary MSC IV and ARV  
 Rick Ragan - Security and ARV  
 Claude Saxon - Dealers Room and ARV

# How Was It That Chengdu Was Selected For The 2023 Worldcon?

*August 2024*

The World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) in Chengdu, Sichuan, China, in October of 2023 was admirable in many ways. There were particularly large numbers of young attendees including Chinese school groups. The impressive and permanent Science Fiction Museum building, designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, was built and used for the convention. Simultaneous translation was provided on a more thorough and professional basis than at any previous Worldcon held in a non-English speaking country including for the Business Meeting. The Site Selection for 2025 Worldcon and the WSFS Business Meeting held were administered satisfactorily. The Hugo Awards ceremony was fine but the problems with Hugo Award administration are well known at this point.

However, there have also been questions about the Site Selection at DisCon 3 in 2021 that selected the Chengdu site and committee. This document provides information and what is believed about that site selection.

*Donald E. Eastlake 3<sup>rd</sup>*

*Tim Szczesuil*

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## The Background and the Convention

The background of all this is somewhat murky but here is approximately what appears to have happened:

Chengdu, Sichuan, China, (成都 四川 中国) is the capital of China for science fiction, primarily because of the publication there of Science Fiction World magazine (SFW, 科幻世, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science\\_Fiction\\_World](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_Fiction_World)) which had a circulation between 300,000 and 400,000 around 1999 although circulation has since declined.

SFW sponsors the Galaxy Award (银河奖) for Chinese science fiction. SFW also sponsors a convention, variously called the Chengdu International Science Fiction and Fantasy Conference or China/Chengdu International Science Fiction Convention or the like, which has recently aimed at being held every other year. The first of these conventions was held in 1991 and was confusingly called a “World Science Fiction Society” convention, even though it had nothing to do with the real World Science Fiction Society (WSFS), because it was held in conjunction with “World SF: An Organization of SF Professionals” – this “World SF” has since gone out of existence. (see

[https://fancyclopedia.org/Chengdu\\_International\\_Science\\_Fiction\\_and\\_Fantasy\\_Conference](https://fancyclopedia.org/Chengdu_International_Science_Fiction_and_Fantasy_Conference), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galaxy\\_Award\\_\(China\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galaxy_Award_(China)))

Note that the Three Body Problem novel was originally serialized in SFW, won the Galaxy Award in 2006, appeared in English translation in 2014 and won the Hugo Award in 2015 which greatly increased Chinese interest in the Hugo awards and the Worldcon.

Apparently SFW and Chengdu fans decided they wanted one of these Chengdu conventions to also be designated a Worldcon. It appears that there was initially some interest in 2021. For example, the Chengdu 2021 bid pin shown above. In any case Chengdu wasn't even on the ballot in 2019 when the Site Selection run by Dublin 2019 selected the Washington, DC, DisCon 3 site and committee for 2021.



and the Worldcon was held in Chengdu in 2023, but the SFW convention effort never disappeared and, in fact, both conventions were held at the same time in Chengdu in separate facilities. They had separate opening and closing ceremonies, etc. Above is a sticker for that 2023 non-Worldcon convention.

It appears this effort was taken over by some combination of business/government interests and targeted for 2023 although this was not generally apparent until after Chengdu won. It was declared the winner by DisCon 3

## Advertisements

Chengdu did a substantial recruitment effort.

The following two pages are from the [www.worldconinchina.com](http://www.worldconinchina.com) website, the English version of two different pages as provided on the Chengdu website when English was selected rather than Chinese. They left these pages up on the web for months after they were selected. (In fact, when they later set up their actual Worldcon website, it used a completely different domain name: chengduworldcon.com.)

Notice the following: There is no mention of voting. There is no mention of ballots. There is no mention of a voting fee. There is no mention of a signature. Furthermore, volunteers to support Chengdu are specifically asked, in addition to their email, for their "Mailing address", which is presumably their postal address. But very few people had studied these web pages, so this had not been generally noticed at the time.

**The material below is extracted from the Chengdu bid website worldconinchina.com on December 28, 2021. (They left such material up long after they were selected for 2023.)**

---



## Chengdu's application for Worldcon's pre-registration has started

Date: 2020/10/21 18:03:15

In order to help Chengdu apply for the 81st Worldcon in 2023, the Chengdu application committee now launches the pre-registration process.

Worldcon is a science fiction cultural event with the most attention, the longest history, the largest scale, and the most extensive influence all over the world. Since it was held in 1939, Worldcon has been in a lot of extremely important cities in varied countries, such as New York in the United States, Dublin in Ireland, Wellington in New Zealand, etc. And now, Chengdu is trying to bring Worldcon to China.

Now, we decide to invite the public who support Chengdu and hope to join this grand event to participate in the pre-registration of 2023 Worldcon.

Please send your Name, Phone number, Email, and Mailing address to the official email of Worldcon: [chengdu@worldconinchina.com](mailto:chengdu@worldconinchina.com) ;

Pre-registration members would go through the following process to help Chengdu apply for 2023 Worldcon.

1. Chengdu application committee will submit the official application materials in February 2021.
2. Chengdu application committee will conduct a half year national tour;
3. Chengdu application committee will participate in the 79th Washington Worldcon on August 29, 2021, to canvass votes and learn the results.

And then, the committee will inform all pre-registration members through the Wechat group (Chengdu's Worldcon guest group), SMS, e-mail, and other forms.

If you become the pre-registration member, you will have the following benefits.

1. You will have the opportunity to participate in the national incentive meeting for free;
2. In 2021, you will have the opportunity to become a volunteer at Worldcon. This means that you can go to Washington with the presidium to apply for Worldcon and witness this historic moment. We are more willing to provide this chance to enthusiastic fans.
3. You will be informed of the local science fiction activities in Chengdu for the first time, and have the opportunity to get free tickets.
4. We will regularly present the autographed books of famous science fiction writers and translation scholars to our members.
5. You will first become a sponsor member of Chengdu 2023 Worldcon, and get a "Panda Worldcon battle shirt". After the success of the application, you can attend the 2023 Worldcon in Chengdu at a discount price.

The material below is extracted from the Chengdu bid website [worldconinchina.com](http://worldconinchina.com) on December 28, 2021. (They left such material up long after they were selected for 2023.)

---



## Science fiction fan recruitment

At 10:00 a.m. on July 28, 2020, Chengdu's Worldcon application meeting was held in the InterContinental Century City Chengdu. This conference officially announced the establishment of Chengdu's Worldcon Committee. On August 16, 2018, the Chengdu government officially proposed to host the 81st Worldcon in 2023 in San Jose, USA.

Chengdu is known as the "capital of science fiction" in China. It has cultivated many excellent sci-fi writers and founded many sci-fi culture companies. Meanwhile, it has held many important sci-fi memories, such as the 1991 World Science Fiction Society, 2007 China (Chengdu) international science fiction and fantasy conference, and 2017 and 2019 China (Chengdu) International Conference on Science Fiction. Now, Chengdu welcomes all fans who love science fiction culture to join this science fiction-family!

Mode of participation:

Please send your Name, Phone number, Email, and Mailing address to the official email of Worldcon: [chengdu@worldconinchina.com](mailto:chengdu@worldconinchina.com). Besides, You can also learn more about Worldcon's information by visiting <http://www.worldconinchina.com/>

If you become the pre-registration member, you will have the following benefits.

1. You will have the opportunity to participate in the national incentive meeting for free;
2. In 2021, you will have the opportunity to become a volunteer at Worldcon. This means that you can go to Washington with the presidium to apply for Worldcon and witness this historic moment. We are more willing to provide this chance to enthusiastic fans.
3. You will be informed of the local science fiction activities in Chengdu for the first time, and have the opportunity to get free tickets.
4. We will regularly present the autographed books of famous science fiction writers and translation scholars to our members.
5. You will first become a sponsor member of Chengdu 2023 Worldcon, and get a "Panda Worldcon battle shirt". After the success of the application, you can attend the 2023 Worldcon in Chengdu at a discount price.

## The Vote/Ballots

DisCon 3 posted a clear and complete summary of the ballot count as shown on the next page. Chengdu appears to be the clear winner over Winnipeg but if you have seen the ballots, it is a bit more complicated.

The 800+ Winnipeg ballots looked pretty normal. There were somewhat more at-con votes cast than usual, especially the last two days of the three days of voting, almost all for Winnipeg. As with anything done by people, there are exceptions. In a hand full of cases, even very well-known western fans cast ballots for Winnipeg but forgot to sign their ballot. These were not counted. As with any other defective or incomplete ballot, the voter gets WSFS membership (previously known as supporting membership) but their vote is not counted.

The Chengdu ballots were a different matter. They were very clearly of two types, which are below called “normal” and “incomplete” ballots. As with the Winnipeg ballots there were a few of both the normal and incomplete ballots that had a blank signature space or had no preference marked and were not counted.

The 350+ normal ballots cast for Chengdu were almost all completely filled out with full postal addresses, and almost all had what looked like handwritten signatures in Han ideograms.

The 1,591 incomplete Chengdu ballots were distinctly different from the normal ballots. They all appear to have been filled out with hand printed Roman characters.

- None of them had complete postal addresses. Most of them just said “Chengdu, Sichuan, China” for an address although there were a few “Nanjing, Jiangsu, China” (both of those being City, Province, Country) or “Beijing, China” and occasionally, but rarely, there was a street name, but never a complete enough postal address that mail would be likely to be delivered using that “address”.
- The incomplete Chengdu ballots arrived at the last minute in an avalanche of emailed PDFs.
- The email addresses for some blocks of voters appear to have been issued consecutively. That is, the left side of the email address, before the “@” had a subfield that counted up for successive email addresses in successive ballots in a PDF file. Not all ballots were like this but there were multiple blocks of typically 20 or so such successive email addresses. No similar pattern was noted in the phone numbers on these ballots.
- The “signature” on these incomplete ballots were all just hand printed Roman characters.

The legal definition of a signature is very broad, it being any mark by which the “signer” intends to be bound. So, for example, some person X can authorize another person Y to affix X’s signature with a rubber stamp. But there is no way that some mark, such as a printed name, can be a “signature” if the signer does even know it exists and never authorized it.

Worldcon Site Selection ballots have always required a postal address. Like other defective ballots, the inclination of the DisCon 3 Site Selection staff was not to count the votes on ballots without postal addresses. This question was brought to the WSFS Business Meeting that voted 47 to 30 in favor of this policy (see <https://www.wsfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-WSFS-Minutes.docx>), that such incomplete ballots should be treated as having voted No Preference; however, the WSFS Constitution delegates the administration of Site Selection to the Worldcon so it was DisCon’s decision to make. It was claimed at the time that some Chinese voters were misled by a “Chinese translation of the



ballot” prepared by DisCon 3. But DisCon 3 did not prepare such a translated ballot, and all ballots received had the ballot form, etc., in English. DisCon 3 did, however, have Chinese, French, and Spanish translations of the ballot instructions prepared and it is possible that, if any of the incomplete ballot voters saw those instructions, they could have been misled.

Another peculiarity of the vote was that a huge number of voting tokens were purchased that were never use on a ballot. 917 of them. That’s over \$45,000, a huge amount to have been left lying on the table by voters, particularly if they were substantially from China where average income is lower than were most western site selection voters live. This, of course, leads to the suspicion that many of these were purchased by the Chengdu bid that was paying the voting fee and presumably the DisCon 3 WSFS membership fee for the incomplete ballots. But there is nothing in the current rules prohibiting paying someone else’s voting fee.

Worldcon 2023 Site Selection Results

FIRST BALLOT	Pre-Con	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	TOTAL	WINNER
Chengdu in 2023	1950	7	19	30	2006	<b>WINNER</b>
Winnipeg in '23	332	97	197	181	807	
Memphis in 2023 (withdrawn)	2	1	3	1	7	
None of the Above	2	3	1	0	6	
Free Hong Kong	0	0	3	0	3	
Taipei	0	0	2	0	2	
Anywhere	1	0	0	0	1	
Berlin	1	0	0	0	1	
Boston in 2020	1	0	0	0	1	
Fandom	0	0	0	1	1	
Free Tibet	0	0	0	1	1	
House of the Rising Sun	0	0	1	0	1	
Peggy Rae's House	1	0	0	0	1	
Schkeuditz	1	0	0	0	1	
Slapout, Oklahoma	1	0	0	0	1	
Your Mom's House	0	0	0	1	1	
<b>Total with Preference</b>	<b>2292</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>2841</b>	
<b>Needed to Win</b>					<b>1421</b>	
<b>No Preference</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>75</b>	
<b>Total valid votes</b>	<b>2352</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>2916</b>	
<b>Invalid ballots</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	
Chengdu won on the first ballot with a total of 2915 valid votes cast, of which 2840 expressed a preference. A further 917 tokens were sold for which no matching ballots were received. Included in the Pre-Con totals were 1591 ballots from China missing a street address, but otherwise valid. These ballots consisted of 1586 for Chengdu and 5 with no preference. Thanks to the counters: Robbie Bourget, Ann Broomhead, Warren Buff, Dave Cantor, Raistlin Chen, Linda Deneroff, Gay Ellen Dennett, Carl Fink, Terry Fong, Steve Francis, Eric He, Saul Jaffe, Rober MacIntosh, Pat Molloy, Linda Ross-Mansfield, Ann Marie Rudolph, Sharon Sbarsky, Jannie Shea, Jason Song, Jennifer Steinhurst, Scott Zrubek. Many thanks for your 6-hour counting						

## The Chengdu Science Fiction Society

The Chengdu bid was by the Chengdu Science Fiction Society (CSFS, 成都科幻学会). Searching the web, either from outside China or from inside China, you could find a number of press releases mentioning the CSFS. But all they say is that it was formed by the Sichuan Institute of Science and Technology, and they name CSFS's initial Officers.

You can find bid pages on the web but there never seems to have been any sort of web page for CSFS itself or anything about any meetings (except when an "annual meeting" of the CSFS appeared on the schedule for the Chengdu Worldcon). There was the bid website for the Chengdu bid but there is no locatable web site for CSFS as an organization.

A detailed 9-page Constitution of the CSFS was included with the bidding materials filed by the Chengdu bid to get on the ballot. It is somewhat confusing – it appears that the Officers hold office for 5-year terms and there is a Board of Directors that it says is the ultimate authority, but this Board can only act if 2/3rds of the members are present and only if the action is approved by a 2/3rds vote. Although fans are mentioned, it seems to primarily be a society for professionals. To become a member, you must submit a written application and get it approved by the Board of Directors... Etc. Curiously enough, it says that CSFS is a non-profit, but everyone was told that the Chengdu Worldcon was being run by a for-profit entity. Of course, a non-profit could designate a for-profit entity as its agent.

In the Chengdu bid filing, there is a bid email and a bid website (@worldconinchina.com); however, for CSFS as a society/association there is no email address, no web address, no phone number, only this postal address: 13/F, Chengdu Media Group, 2nd Section, Hongxing Road, Jinjiang District, Chengdu, 610000.

The prospect of an annual CSFS meeting at the Chengdu Worldcon seemed very interesting. Perhaps there would be a table set up for people to join CSFS. Maybe there would be elections; even if it was permanently run by a board where the board elected new members to fill vacancies in the board, something like that might happen. Or the Officers might get confirmed for another year or something. But no. A few people went up to the front of the room crowded with, probably, over 200 people, made speeches and that was it.

From a western point of view, while CSFS probably has legal existence, it is pretty much a shell organization. But perhaps its organization is more normal for Chinese "Societies". It is clear that it is nothing like any western SF or Fantasy society, association, club, bidding committee, or the like.

## The Decisive Meeting and Announcement

The DisCon 3 site selection administration was headed by Tim Szczesuil, an experience Site Selection administrator that had run three previous Worldcon Site Selections. He was inclined to not count the votes on the 1,550+ incomplete ballots, which would make Winnipeg the winner. However, very late Friday evening of DisCon 3, a meeting was held with site selection administrator Tim Szczesuil, Sharon Sbarsky, the Chengdu bid minders, and the inexperienced DisCon Chair Mary Robinette Kowal. No representative of the Winnipeg bid was present. Any criticism of the 1,550+ incomplete Chengdu ballots was met by cries of racism by the Chengdu bid minders. ("Bid minders" is meant to refer to the two older men who were part of the Chengdu bidding delegation but normally did not put in any appearance or say anything. At this meeting they were the only Chengdu representatives – none of the younger more fannish Chengdu people were present.)

The DisCon Chair ordered the Site Selection administrator to include the 1,550+ incomplete ballots in the count. As a result of this order, Chengdu was declared the winner and was so announced the next day, Saturday, at the Business Meeting. Winnipeg conceded and, as soon as that happened, there was no realistic hope of appealing the site selection decision.

## Victory Propaganda

The selection of Chengdu for the 2023 Worldcon was used as a propaganda victory amplified by false statements. See, for example, the article headlined “Chengdu wins bid to host world's top sci-fi event” at [www.china.org.cn/arts/2021-12/20/content\\_77942029.htm?f=pad&a=true](http://www.china.org.cn/arts/2021-12/20/content_77942029.htm?f=pad&a=true)



This article includes statements like “It is not only a victory for Chengdu but also a victory for Chinese culture.” and “It is quite significant as there are anti-China sentiments in many areas in recent years. But this time many foreign voters were fair with China.” and “the world is eager to learn about China and its sci-fi culture, ”. The article very strongly implies that the victory was due to foreign voters who were persuaded to vote for Chengdu. Of course, there were some non-Chinese votes for Chengdu, but Chengdu won only due to the 1,550+ incomplete Chinese ballots that were counted at the order of the DisCon 3 Chair.

This article also featured the picture above whose caption states that it was a photograph of the Chengdu Science Fiction Society secretary-general making a final sales pitch for Chengdu. In fact, it was taken after Chengdu was declared the winner with the Chengdu representative making a brief statement to the Business Meeting and answering questions.

## Summary

A reasonable person considering all this would think it is more likely than not that some business/government decided they wanted a Worldcon in Chengdu by whatever means necessary and then achieved that as below. However, this is with the benefit of hindsight as few, if any, people were aware of all this at the time.

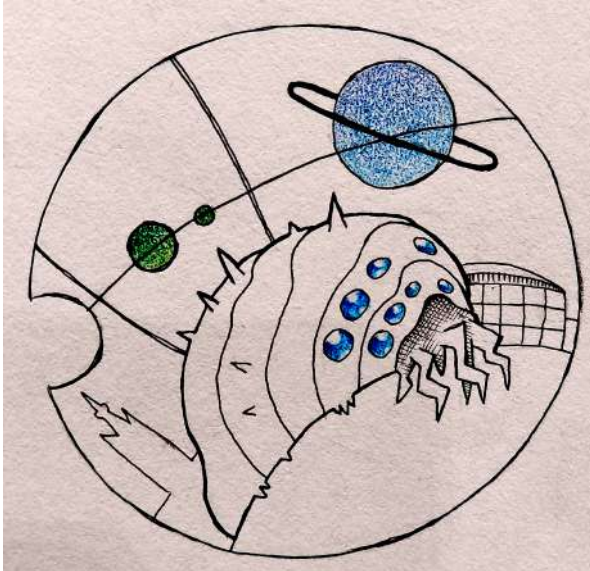
More likely than not, they solicited identification information and then submitted ballots using that information with fake signatures and without the required full postal address information or the knowledge of those on whose behalf they were submitting ballots. Why was the postal address information missing when they seem to explicitly request it? Possibly because they just didn't have enough person hours to copy it over. A western Worldcon normally has a huge staff, around 10% of attendance and, while many of them may only work for a few hours, there are also lots that put in many, many hours of work. It appears that Chengdu had only a very small number of actual convention fans working on it. While they worked very hard, it seems reasonable that they would have been tempted to take short cuts they thought would work in producing the ballots with which Chengdu flooded the system. And the ballots with what appear to be sequentially assigned email addresses could perhaps just be names grabbed from a phone listing when there were not enough people volunteering their information.

It also seems more likely than not that the Chengdu bid paid the DisCon 3 membership and the Site Selection voting fee for all or almost all of the 1,550+ incomplete ballots. There are currently no rules on this, so that did not violate any rules. That would be \$100 each (\$50 + \$50) or \$165,000+ but note that they got the voting fees paid back to them. Counting the additional 917 unused voting tokens (probably a few were genuinely confused people), that's another \$45,000+ but they would get all of the money for any unused voting tokens they bought back. These add up to \$210,000. Adding in a generous allowance for travel expenses to show up at Worldcon and the like, and it would seem more likely than not that for less than \$300,000, Chengdu purchased a Worldcon. That is not a lot of money for a real business/government effort.

None of this is to deny that there are many science fiction fans in China/Chengdu that got to experience something similar to the usual Worldcon. Nor to deny that someone willing to expend enough resources, say tens of millions of dollars and lots of effort, could probably get a Worldcon no matter what. But it seems bad that a Worldcon could be purchased for such a relatively modest amount of money and effort.



# Glasgow 2024 Instant Fanzine



– Sophie van Setten

## Initial observations on the Glasgow specimen of *Linobractea Gigantis Caledonis*, also known as the "Armadillo" or "Pillbug"

By S. van Setten and S. Raine

As our readers are aware, there has been much recent speculation and discussion about the Armadillo. As such, we the authors have endeavoured to lay out the known facts about this fascinating and (almost) singular creature.

The Armadillo made its first appearance in 1995 and seemed to settle in its current position around 1997. This is some time after the appearance of the creature described by Utzon et al. in

Sydney, the *L. Gigantis Australis*, or "Sydney Opera House", which seems to be visually related to the Glasgow specimen. Since 1997, it has not moved much, though seismographic recordings have shown evidence of slight shifts.

As of writing, we do not know where the creature has come from or what it is, exactly. It is tempting to conclude that the Armadillo is a giant extraterrestrial creature, but as we are dealing with facts, we will not make such speculations.

What we do know is that it is a filter feeder, positioning itself into the strong Glaswegian winds to filter its nutrients. It has a large aperture at what is colloquially known as its head, where wind and humans are able to enter.

It has been observed that humans inside the Armadillo have naturally, almost instinctively taken on a mutualistic relationship. Humans circulate the air inside the creature, enabling it to feed more effectively, and cleaning up detritus that might injure the creature, and the humans can safely make use of its vast inner chambers for sheltering and carrying events.

Thus far, attempts at communication with the Armadillo have been unsuccessful. However, leading theories



agree that its nocturnal bioluminescence functions as means of communication, perhaps with the nearby Ovo Hydro, as it too exhibits similar nocturnal bioluminescence.

As the Armadillo has been stationary for some years, it's unlikely to suddenly increase its activities and cause a dangerous situation in Glasgow. That said, if the Sydney specimen is of the same species, we may soon have a growth spurt on our hands. It will do us well to prepare the surroundings, as we do not want to be caught unawares by its inevitable shedding, pupating or molting.

Vis a vis the *L. Gigantis Australis*, it has been speculated that the difference in size between the Australian specimen and the one found in Glasgow might be based on the creature's sex. Other theories include that the *Linobractae Gigantis*, like the clownfish, starts its lifecycle as one sex, and transitions to another as it ages and grows. However, as the *L. Gigantis Australis* and *L. Gigantis Caledonis* are the only observed specimens of this species, only time and rigorous research will be able to tell what exactly causes the difference in size.

We hope to update our known facts about the *Linobractea Gigantis* shortly, following an in-depth spelunking mission to its internal cavity known as "Forth".

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You guys are in a crisis. I'm on my way  
(To make it worse)

Soph W

– Soph Williams

### "If We Ran The Zoo Con"

This game has been going on in the Worldcon discord (organised by John Coxon). During this game a divisive character called Fran (a social media volunteer) emerged to prominence as she quickly became embroiled in the center of a social media storm about Moon Pies.

Some considered her a Fran Favorite. In others, she stirred up feelings of Franimosity. Regardless, it was incredibly fun to get invested in the drama of it all. (With mercifully no horrifying real world consequences!)

– Soph Williams

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## **A worldcon first-timer's guide to ribbon collecting**

This year was my first worldcon, and in fact my first convention of this format. Now, I've been to other conventions, faires and get-togethers so I wasn't completely unprepared for what I'd find. I know about panels, and autographs, and dealer halls! I was delighted to find so many kind people, but not too surprised as nerds are generally a kind sort wherever you go.

But the ribbons. You see, in the Netherlands we don't do ribbons. We don't even do badges. We do wristbands and there's a very active wristband collecting scene. But that didn't prepare me for the ribbons, and the covid-like greed they awoke in me. I simply had to acquire as many as I could. But how? Here are my findings.

Ribbon collecting DO's:

- If you find a pile of ribbons lying on a table, they are often free to take, but do ask to be sure. Sometimes they're a "get one with a purchase" thing.
- If you see someone walking around with an amazing ribbon that catches your gremlinesque avarice, ask where they got it! This does involve Talking to People, but trust me, it's worth it.
- Even if you don't necessarily want to acquire a ribbon, compliment people on their collection! It's a great ice breaker.

- If someone shares the location of an amazing ribbon with you, try to follow up ASAP. They might run out!
- You can remove and restick ribbons, but be careful as this might cause the glue to unstick or the fabric to fray.
- If you need to reinforce your increasingly unwieldy ribbon-scarf, painter's tape or a bit of needle and thread will work wonders.
- Periodically check the freebie tables, people will occasionally leave some ribbon-y goodness there.
- Keep an eye on the discord for tips on where to find ribbons, who has them, and to stew in envy over the beautiful bounty you have not been able to get your grubby hands on.

Ribbon collecting DON'T's:

- Don't take more than a fair share. Taking an extra ribbon for a friend is usually okay, but you might want to ask with the person handing out the ribbons.
- Don't succumb to the urge to shovel an entire table's worth of ribbons into your bag and skitter away sideways, like a possessed crab.
- Don't be pushy. If they're out, they're out!
- Don't latch on to someone's ribbons, engaging in a violent tug of war to the death for your desired loot.
- Don't challenge someone with a ribbon that opposes one of your own to a duel. Or do, but try to schedule it in the secrecy of nighttime and outside of convention grounds so as not to draw the ire of con security.

- Don't stress if you miss a coveted ribbon. You might find it tomorrow. You might find an even better one tomorrow!
- Most importantly, don't forget to have fun!

So far, my favourite ribbon is a toss-up between a rainbow gradient with the words "be kind, be curious, be the darkness" and a very fetching bat given to me by the kind folks at the German fanclub fan table and a sparkly holographic number that says "OOK! SQUEAK! CRIVENS!" located by the freebies.

If (when!) I visit another worldcon, perhaps I'll bring my own stack, if only so I can trade for more... So, what ribbons are you craving?

— **Sophie van Setten**

—

### **Spotted Near the SEC: "Regeneration of the Rotunda"**



— submitted by Radeachar

### **Noticeboard**

Dragon trainer seeks escaped dragon. Dragon is not dangerous, but maybe don't push it. Dragon is about the size of a largish cat or a smallish toy griffin, is green and listens to the name "Pookie".

Android looking to trade for additional modular ram. Will take both the digital and biological type. Curly-horned preferred.

Additional reminder not to ingest any potions found lying around. Please return them to the info desk for the lost and found bin. After last night's petrification incident, any reckless potion-drinkers are on their own.

Tlla tl if aol Vynhupzhapvu mvy Ayhuzmvythapcl Dvyrz mhu ahisl ha alu.

Have you heard the good word of Cthulhu? Find a free flyer at the freebie table and join us now! Tomorrow might be too late!!! IA IA PHTAGN!

*Serenity* crew members, please use the washrooms on the ship. Male and female Operatives may be working in the washrooms at the SEC.

Obligatory daily subversive thoughts scan at the convention entrance.

You will be assimilated.

**EXTERMINATE!**

## Vibrant Food Culture: the Pizza Crunch Supper



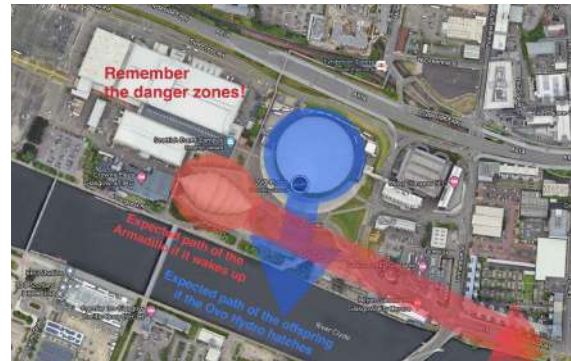
– Clarrie Maguire

## Organ music concert roundup:

Attendees at the Roger Sayer events were treated to a version of the score for the film 'Interstellar' adapted for one organ, in one case performed by Roger on the 123-year-old organ at the Kelvingrove Museum. The actual movie score features six organ tracks performed by Roger and recorded separately, then combined digitally. The recorded performance is available through [glasgow2024.org](http://glasgow2024.org). Reports that Roger performed 'Intergalactic' by the Beastie Boys as an encore but that it was not recorded due to rights issues could not be confirmed at press time.

– Pat Hall

## SEC Danger Zones



– Pat Hall



## Dungeons & Dragons and Album Covers

I saw the "From Glasgow to Avernus" oneshot last night. There was mention of a hastily sketched album cover and I had a vision. Everyone involved was great and I wish I had brought more art supplies with me.

– Soph W

**The Culture precursor – the story  
*Better Living Through Algorithms* by  
Naomi Kritzer (a spoilerless review  
with hints).**

*Better Living...* appeared in mid-2023 at Clarkesworld Magazine and received uniformly high appreciation in the form of multiple nominations, including Nebula, Hugo and WSFA Small Press awards. Not many works receive so many signs of appreciation from the professional community and the fandom.

Reading is talking to others, except the interlocutors may be separated by thousands of miles and hundreds of years. I listened to the audio-version on my usual biking ride to work. Biking, much like running, is a favorite occupation of loners, but if you are not exactly the textbook-type loner, some company in the form of short stories is welcomed and *Better Living...* proved to be an excellent companion, because this story is an exception from the fashionable grim trend “the worst is the best” that has taken over a large fraction of the modern world.

Kritzer meets us with loners: scattered in the urban landscape, every one of them imprisoned inside four walls by their own volition. They are torn between conflicting desires – to keep things the way they are or to change their lives, and the very perspective of change freezes them in horror, so encompassing they can't even take notice of it.

Enter the Application. The capitalization here is not a typo, despite my non-native English. The Application is wonderful – it reads our unspoken desires before we have formulated them for ourselves, but unlike the online retailers, it doesn't use this info to try selling us yet another beauty product, garden appliance or weight loss product (that we wouldn't have needed, if we hadn't bought earlier all those double or triple decker sandwiches, following a suggestion by the same retailer).

This Application is different. It genuinely does good. It helps the users to embrace the changes in their lives that they have thought of and they have long needed, some – desperately. The process is almost intangible, one small step after another and it goes to the credit of the author that the long and slow change is packed into a story of a few thousands words.

To take a break from analyzing the story line – this is a piece based on an idea, but the literary side of the storytelling is not overlooked and characters are fully fledged – as much as it is possible within the limitations of a short story – and it is impressive how well the minimalist tools in the writer's arsenal work: a dialog line here, a short action there, and we already feel like having read hundreds of pages about the character. Of course, the cast is limited in number – as it is usual for a short story.

Back to the idea which I shan't reveal in this review, because reading the surprising ending is a big part of the



pleasure this story gifts. At the same time the ending brings a lot of annoying questions that everybody asks, but prefers to forget them quickly. For example: are we, as a collective human kind, so hopelessly entrenched in our own delusions and captured by our own faults, to need external help for overtaking loneliness? Here comes the connection with the Culture, featured prominently in the speculative fiction novels of Iain M. Banks. The Culture is pan-galactic humanistic human society, to great extent run by benevolent Minds, and people are free to do pretty much whatever they want, as long as it doesn't do any harm.

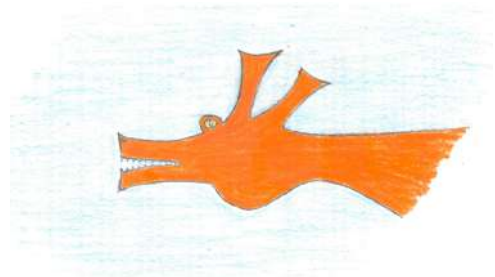
What I liked most in *Better Living...* was that it claimed we could overcome loneliness. What I liked the least is that we would need help. This is the darkest element in the story – we can't do it alone, by ourselves. Some nudge in the right direction is needed, but still, on a long run we or at least most of us – could sustain the positive trend. I highly recommend *Better Living...* It will be an excellent companion to all lonely souls who fill in their time with running, biking... or reading.

– Valentin D. Ivanov

8-10.8.2024, London-Glasgow



– Silvia Ivanova-Tsaneva



– Valentin D. Ivanov



– Valentin D. Ivanov

### **Dune! The Musical: The review!**

Dune! The Musical is a one man comedy show by Dan Collins. It roughly retells the story of the first book in the format of Gurney Halleck getting the audience up to speed.

Now that we've got the dry and dusty details out of the way, what was it actually like? We can't show you what it's like or have you, the reader, listen to the music or Dan Collins' wonderfully varied vocals, so all that's left for us is to paint you a word picture.

First: picture Paul Atreides. The Timothee Chalamet version is fine. Now make him a muppet: give him a voice like a dog toy being stepped on. Finally, make him sing about the girl of his dreams. His bloody, war-drenched, conquering dreams. Yes, perfect. I applaud your imagination.

But don't clap along! NO RHYTHM!

Now that you understand the general vibe of the show, try to project this many-voiced, joke-filled format onto a story that takes itself as seriously as Dune. It may surprise you, but I swear it works quite well. The room was roaring at Baron Harkonnen's death scene: "goodness, that child's got a knife".

The character of the Baron is not my favourite (to phrase it lightly), but that's the fault of the source material rather than Collins. Thankfully, with the Baron out of the way, the musical continues to its dramatic conclusion. Which is hard to take seriously when Paul still sounds

somewhat like a muppet, even when he's setting off to rule the universe. (Good! I didn't want to take the giant worms seriously today anyway.)

All in all, some excellent vocal skills and an enjoyable hour of timing and comedy. Dune! The Musical is off to Edinburgh next, in case you missed it here. Failing that, you can find the [original cast recording](#) (Dan Collins) on bandcamp.

– **Sam Raine & Sophie van Setten**

#### **Instant fanzines are fun, what next?**

If you particularly like the instant nature of it, then volunteer to help with convention newsletters. Short articles and con-inspired art are the sort of thing they love. They're also an endangered species, so get involved now!

For traditional fanzines, the best place to look at what's being done right now is Bill Burns' <https://efanzines.com>. There are thousands of fanzines to download. Many have a letter column – tell people what you think of their fanzines! And there are tens of thousands of historic fanzines preserved at <https://fanac.org>. Fanac.org has a table in the fan tables area and they love to chat to people about fanzines.

– **Alison Scott**

The Glasgow 2024 Instant fanzine was conceived by Alison Scott and Valentin D Ivanov, and produced around the convention by Alison, Valentin, Soph Williams, Sophie van Setten, Sam Raine, Pat Hall and (add anyone else here!). It is a contribution to WOOF 2024. See you in Seattle!

# INTERMISSION #144.5

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com), spec-ish for WOOF! Follow newstweets from @SFJournalen (updates very slow now, alas). This zine have criminals of Kremlin under a tough, hard-hitting fanzine blockade! Today major Swefandom history research! Also a little on Ukraine's first skiffy club, more of interest – I hope - from recent issues, and unavoidable typos... July 2024.

## Editorially

I have somehow slipped into the tradition of harassing WOOF with my fanzine. So why quit? Especially as I believe that *Intermission* has an important task in talking history, today eg about our local fandom's first fanzine. And it has an extra edge involving Russia, as you will discover... This "half issue" compiles a few things from recent issues, like a little about Ukraine's first sf club. Let me know if you know more about that, though I usually don't take LoCs. If you have a little extra time cobble together a review of this international culture magazine in your Interweb channel X or Y or Z (or whatever). Fanzines need more attention!

It seems the fanzines, once the backbone of fandom, interest fewer fen today. Many today - I'm unsure if those should be called fans - are more interested in silly costumes, collecting plastic toys, playing pointless games and watching braindead TV series. The old, classic fandom that read books, speculated about the future, even had some serious scientific talk, as well an often drastic and recursive humour is dying. That's one reason behind doing the History Corner column: to document the Good Old Times That Once Were!

In my opinion the chronicles of New York fandom in the 1930s - the Scienceers, the Futurians, the schisms around the first worldcon - is much more fascinating than any TV excursion by that fictitious piece of plastic from the model shop known as USS Enterprise. Any writings by Walt Willis or Robert Bloch is infinitely more interesting than juvenile stories about young wizards in a castle they claim as "fanfiction" (Willis or Bloch was the original, real fanfic!). I find more artistic talent in a good cartoon by Bill Rotsler or ATom than a heavily computer generated gaming landscape, where they can't even get the fingers right. The History Corner un thish also offers pre-*Astounding* atomic revelations, some Alvar laundry, granddad's travelling cinema, and a Farwell to the Master. Also some short story talk, ther weird "Froggy Gordon" and the New Knights of music. Gosh Wow Boy-oh-Boy! --Ahrvid

*Ps.. I can't leave this issue without few words about US presidential prospects. Political issues are decided by debate and ballot boxes, so the attempt on former president Trump's life can only be condemned in the strongest possible way! I don't like the guy though. He has an odd way to view facts and the world (ie lying), he is egotistic to the extreme and his policies unrealistic. His "peace plan" won't work. Ukraine says no. Europe says no. If he cuts support Europe can and will take up the slack (our economy is about 12 times bigger that Russia's, which is falling into deep into a slump). And leaving NATO, which has been the backbone of US security policies for 75 years? Donald Trump is an ignorant clown. But unfortunately, the assassination attempt will probably give him extra sympathy votes, at the same time as doubts rise about President Biden's cognitive capacity. The Democrats may try to find another candidate, but it could be too late and Trump is more than likely take the oath coming January. Sad, so sad. BTW: This fanzine boycotts Kremlin and supports Ukraine. As long as it takes! You'll do so too! Slava Ukraini!*

## History Corner: First Faned Speaks!

The editor of Sweden's first fanzine from 1952 has been found, still alive and kicking at age 89. They were a little club behind it, but Åke Schwartz was the one who typed the stencils and contributed much of the material (and it was printed on his father's job) so he was a major force behind *Vår Rymd*.

Your intepriid fandom historian has been in touch with Åke who today lives in Degerfors, in the province of Värmland in the west (through E-mail, I hate phones). Thanks to Clas Svan from the Archive for the Unexplained (covered in





this eminent publication last spring) who put me in touch with Åke. Clas is involved in UFO Sweden (remember the film, covered in this superior publication next to last winter) of which Åke Schwarz has been and probably still is a member. (BTW, Clas will lecture on photographing Strange Objects in the Sky May 29, at ABF Stockholm in case you have nothing better to do.)

This is almost as if Ray Palmer and Walter Dennis popped up and told how they published The Comet. Though both were active in sf circles and probably talked about their fanzine 94 years ago, Mr Schwarz has been silent, or shall we say: unknown to others.

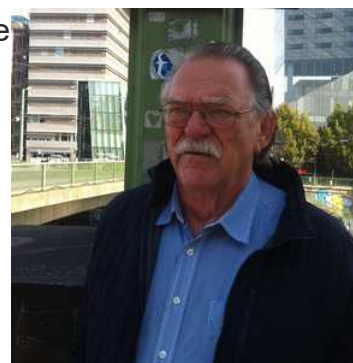
I had for a long time heard rumours that some schoolboys did some sort of astronomy newsletter in the early 1950's at Östra Real high school. I think I first heard it from Sam J Lundwall, but apparently neither he nor anyone did anything to check it. And nobody had even seen the publication. Our local fan folks knew nothing. In the 1950's it would have been very easy to check things. Just go to the school and ask around...and you'd learn it was faulty info.

In 2017 I happened to do some digging in the Royal Library and idly clicking around in their search system, when *Vår Rymd* suddenly popped up. Someone had donated stuff to the library in the 1970 in which it was included. Intermission wrote about it then and I did a PDF of the seven publications (formally nine issues but two were double issues - just ask me for the PDF). I remember I did some half-hearted search attempts on the names of people involved, getting nowhere (in the back of my head think most had passed away).

I'll soon turn over to Mr Schwartz. I've asked him questions and he replied, and I've had follow-ups he replied to, etc. It went that way 5-6 times. I have then put it all in some sort of logical order. The Östra Real school isn't mentioned at all. Several of the young publishing kids were however from another school, the Beskowska High School\*, in the same Östermalm District.'

Now, below is what Åke Schwarz told me, slightly edited:

*It began with that we went to sf-films, which we all liked. A good movie was Forbidden Planet. It talks about the speed of light, other planets and had a fun robot. I saw it in 1951 in the cinema "Lyran" on Svea Street and was afraid as I biked home. It was also fun to go to the cinema Bostock where they let you in even if you were below 15 years /age limit for tougher films/ You heard the tram from the street outside. It was the werewolf,*



Åke Schwartz today.



The Beskowska School, 9-11 Engelbrekts Street

*Frankenstein, Dracula and Lon Chaney and Boris Karloff. When you walked home you went the last stretch in the middle of the road and was scared when you opened the door.*

*And we began to talk about forming a club and publish a magazine. We came to call ourselves the Andromeda Club, and it consisted of those who did the magazine. The club wasn't registered or anything.*

*Me, Sven Muller-Uri and Lennart Henriksson attended the Beskowska high school. Brother Åke Henriksson went to Norra Real, Karl Bjelke to Bromma high school. Johan Asplund joined for a short while. Since we were two Åke i received the nick-name Svartas ("Blackish"). Of these I'm the only one left, 89 this autumn, and Lennart, but he suffers from a stroke and is 86.*

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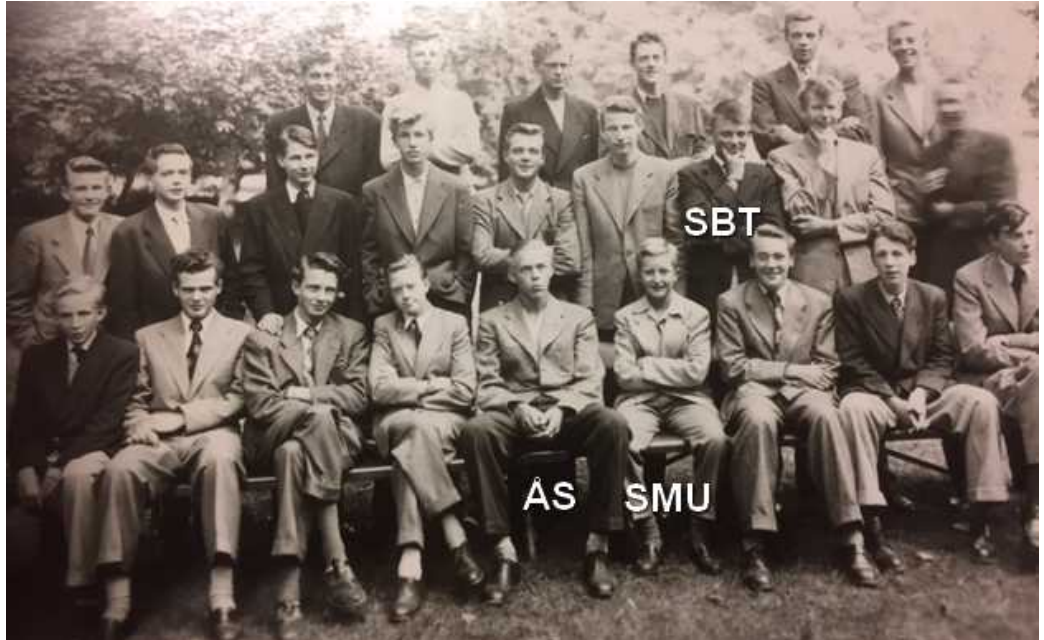
\*Named after the politician Gustaf Emanuel Beskow who founded the school in 1867,

[https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beskowska\\_skolan](https://sv.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beskowska_skolan). Not related to the famous children's fantasy author Elsa Beskow. BTW, I had Elsa's son Göran Beskow as physics teacher in the 1970s, in the Nya Elementar high school...

We gathered in a big room at Åke Henriksson's on 17B Villa Street and produced it. It took a weekend. /For each issue./ I worked the typewriter.

There was no society, more like a little club. The fanzine was sold to relatives and friends. Everyone thought it was nice that we did a little magazine. Our teacher in Swedish mumbled and smiled but thought it was nice. But we had no contacts with other sf interested. There probably weren't any around.

We subscribed to *Häpna* and *Galaxy* /Ed: Later - *Häpna* came in 1954/ and had a fine space art book by Chesley Bonestell. We read Bradbury and Heinlein and others. We went to all the sf films, very exciting at the time but are now probably considered ridiculous. Sven and I had a lecture in school before the class about space and that rockets will be launched and so on. We suffered laughter and irony, but then the Sputnik came in 1957. And then it all went forward fast. How times have changed!



Beskowska class photo from around that time. ÅS=Åke Schwartz, SMU=Sven Muller-Uri, SBT=Sven Bertil Taube (but he didn't contribute to *Our Space*)

It was a time of harmony these days when we were young. We took the stencils to dad's office at Gränges, on Gustav Adolf Square, and printed the zine there.

It was a bit difficult to write on stencils. If there was a typo you had to smear some substance on it, wait and then type the correction. /Ed: I know... Corflu!/  
The Russian Ambassador lived below Henrikssons. Every day he went to the Russian embassy on Villa Street 17. Once we put explosives in his key hole. It was a fairly innocent mix called "blast dough". It was Karl who studied chemistry who made it. When he put the key in it exploded. He just laughed...

Gee! They "bombed" the Soviet embassy! It could have become an international incident... You rascals!

Trivia, Svan Bertil Taube – later very famous actor and trubadour – was in their class. He probably knew about *Our Space*. What would have happened...if he became more involved!

Mr Schwarz would later become a member of UFO Sweden (remember that film!). Gränges is a big mining company, but left their office house in central Stockholm in 1995, when it was sold.

I get the impression the background for *Vår Rymd* is extremely typical! A bunch of guys who loved science fiction ganged together to



The Soviet Embassy at the time, Villa Street. The "blast dough" bombed entrance is probably on other side, not shown.



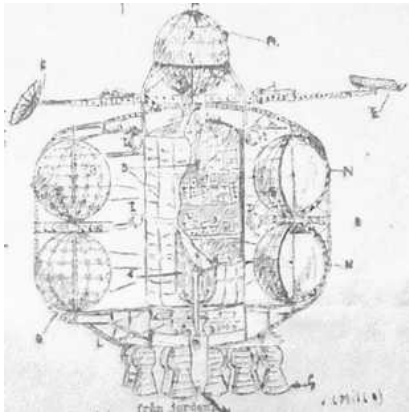
express themselves. Sitting for a weekend at 17B Villagatan is what we call a "fangathering". I know how it goes. I've been on such sessions. You chat, drink – they probably too young for beer, but soft drinks, tea and such is likely - tell stories while ideas and material to publish pop up. Those were the days...

Here's a run-down of the issues, all from 1952 (some very minor things omitted):

#1 March, 3 pages: *The Saturn Ring / Planets in Our Solar System / Crossword / "Mars Attacks Venus"* (short story by Åke Schwartz)

#2 April, 5 pages: *The Comets / Planets in Our Solar System / Crossword / Where the Planets Go and Shines in 1952 / Photo of Saturn from AKA's observatory (a photo glued in) / (Some jokes) / "The Adventures of Vic Torry"* short story by A Muller-Uri, to be continued in next issue / *A Visit to Stockholm's Observatory / "Captain Future as Saboteur on Mars"* short story by Åke Schwartz to be continued in next issue

#3 May 5 pages: *Flying Saucers Fantasy or real? / "Saboteur on Mars"* continued / *The Moon / Some Known Observatories / Moon Picture from the AKA observatory (clued in photo) / Crossword*



Drawing of a space station

#4 June 12 pages (it should be #4-5): *Cover illo of spaceship orbiting the Moon / The Vic Torry story continued / Future Space Station Moon No 2 / "hat do you know about Astronomy, 15 Questions / Did You Know... / Moon Facts / The Planets in Our Solar System 3. Mars / The Asteroids, Small Planets or Planetoids / Martians on a Flight Plate / Second installment of the Uranium War (where was the 1st?) / Cap 2 Death in the Crater / Cap 5 Inside Asteroid 539 / Second installment of Saboteur on Mars / Flying Saucer was photographed in Rio de Janerio / Green on Mars / Beware of Earth / Shall I See If There Is Life On Mars / The Spiral Nebulas / The Editors / The Rocket and Its History*



Spaceship landing on the Moon in the last issue.

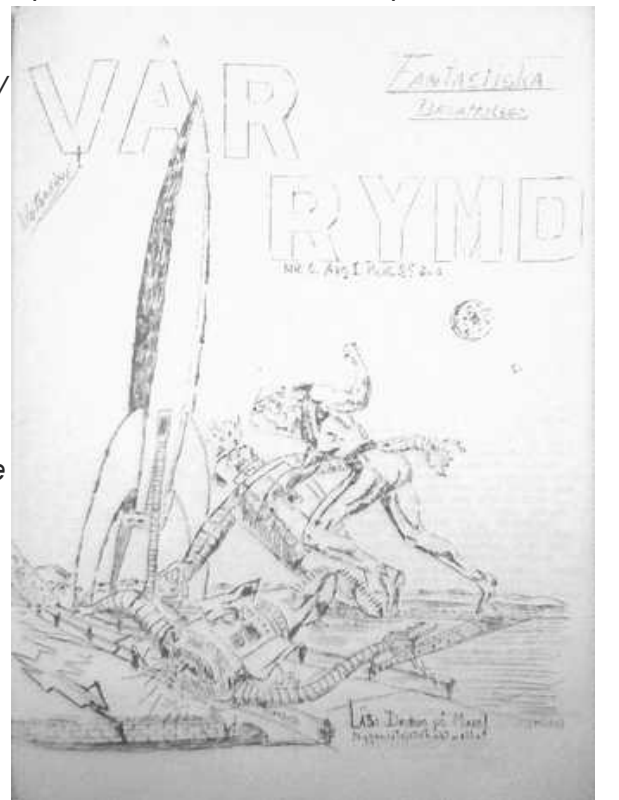
#6 August (?) 6 pages: *Cover with spaceman, spaceship and robot / The Planets in Our Solar System Jupiter / The Sun Spots / The First Pictures of the Flying Saucers / An Unsolved Mystery / Here Some Who Have Seen teh Saucers What are the Flying Saucers? / Did You Know... / Agent to Sell Our Space Employed / Third Installment of "The Uranium War" / The Editors / "They Died on Mars"* short story translated from English

#7 (no month mentioned) 5 pages: *Last Installment of "The Uranium Wars" / The Planets of Our Solar System Saturn / "The Deep Fried*

*Giant Lizards" a Captain Future tale by Åke Schwartz / "Did you know that..."*



#3 had their first illustrated cover, three spaceships going to Earth seen from the Moon.



#6 has a nice cover of a spaceman fighting a robot. But you can see they didn't have proper stencil drawing equipment.



## Uranium-235: Can It Win the War?

by  
MURRAY  
TITCH  
BLOOM



In guarded laboratories all over the world, quiet men of science are engaged in a grim race. The prize? A weapon which alone might win the war.

IMAGINE a substance with explosive power so great that a 10-pound bomb could blast a hole 25 miles in diameter and more than a mile deep and wreck every structure within 100 miles. Think of a magic metal with so much potential energy that a five-pound piece of only 10 per cent purity could be used to drive battleships and submarines back and forth across the oceans without refueling for months.

It's not at all beyond the realm of possibility, either!

As a result of work being conducted in carefully guarded laboratories all over the world, there is every likelihood that cheap, almost inexhaustible atomic power will be achieved in the lifetimes of most of us—thanks to a heavy metal known as Uranium-235. There are those who believe that U-235 will play an important and perhaps decisive role in this war.

As a matter of fact, the world was given a one-day fright in February, 1941, when carefully manufactured rumors emerged from Germany that the Third Reich's scientists had finally perfected a uranium atomic-energy bomb, theoretically two million times as powerful as an ordinary bomb of equal weight. Of course, this was a bald mixture of wishful thinking and Nazi bogey-man tactics. If they had such a weapon, not a single word would have been necessary. An English city razed to the ground would have done the trick.

More than 10 years ago William O. Stapledon, an imaginative Briton, foresaw such an event. Only Stapledon laid the scene on a lonely English beach—and set the date for 1980. Not until then, he prophesied, would physicists finally solve the problem of atomic power.

At that time, a picked group of great international scientists (goes the

# 8-9 December 13 pages: "Did you know that..." / Comparing the Solar System (and) the Comet of 1843 / Proturbances / The Telescope / Prize Contest / "2020" short story by Åke Schwartz / Doed the Moon Have an Iron Core? / The Planets and Their Satellites / Mammoth Crossword / Editorial Staff of Our Space / "The Downfall" short story by Enrique / The Planets of Our Solar System Uranus Neptune Pluto / About a Future Space Station / Does the Moon Have an Iron Core?

"Oppenheimer" was last year's big film, for those who don't like dolls. But was the security around the Manhattan project really that tight? As sf fans we already know about the security service raid on Astounding as John W Campbell had figured out that research into atomics was going on. A lot of his scientific subscribers wanted their magazines to the cramped PO Box 1663 in Los Alamos... But the magazine Coronet (a companion to Esquire) was even earlier. In May 1942 it revealed:

*In guarded laboratories around the world quiet men are engaged in a grim race. The prize? A weapon which alone might win the war. Imagine a substance with explosive power that a 10-pound bomb could blast a hole 25 miles in diameter and more than a mile deep and wreck every structure within 100 miles...could drive battleships and submarines without refueling for months...cheap, almost inexhaustible atomic power will be achieved in the lifetime for most of us - thanks to a heavy metal known as Uranium-235 ... There are those who believe that U-235 will play an important and perhaps decisive role in this war. As a metter of fact, the world was given a one-day fright in February 1941 when carefully manufactured rumors emerged from Germany that the Third Reich's scientists had finally perfected a uranium atomic-energy bomb*

They even knew that the 235-isotope was the key! Read more about "The Astounding Investigation – the Manhattan Project's confrontation with Science Fiction" here: <https://gwern.net/doc/radiance/1984-berger.pdf>

Right an obituary for Alvar Appeltofft (b 1941), Dagens Nyheter Jan 2 1978, whom the main Swedish fandom achievement prize the Alvar Appeltofft Memorial Award is named after. Alvar had been found dead - by his own tormented hand - earlier in the autumn:

*Alvar Appeltofft has passed away at the age of 34 years. He was born in Halmnstad, son of BA Hugo Appeltofft and his wife Ellen nee Linden, high school teacher. After hight school graduation in Halmstad in 1961 he studied at Lund University. He was editorial board member of the sf-magazines Håpna! and Jules Verne Magasinet and early got the honorary title Mr SF. The Alvar Award handed out in the sf movement is named after him.*

It's a sad story and the aftermath isn't a glory road in all details. The Foundation in his honour, set up mainly on the initiative of old-time fan and friend Denis Lindbohm (1927-2005), was set up out of bad conscience by his parents. They pushed their son to despair, when he became active in fandom, by taking all his fanzines and his entire collection of sf literature and burn it. Her should "concentrate on his a school work". They didn't realise that fandom in many ways gives an alternative advanced education: you learn English, how to write, you read

Land, har avlidit i en ålder av 34 år.  
Han var född i Halmstad, son till till händ Hugo Appeltofft och hans maka Ellen, f. Linden, läroverksamhetslärare. Efter studentexamen i Halmstad 1961 studerade han senare vid Lunds universitet. Han har varit redaktionell medarbetare i sciencefictiontidningarna Håpna! och Jules Verne-magasinet, och fiktionskritiker i den tidningskritiska tidskriften "SF Science Fiction". Utvärderingen "Alvar", som delats ut inom sf-rörelsen, är uppkallad efter honom.



Poster from the "Swedish Cinema Company", offering the western "Wirh Coked Guns". Owned by one A Engholm – my granddad. A travelling cinema that enlightened the Swedish countryside in the 1920s. #139 had more on this.



Swedish author and translator BERTIL FALK, 90, died October 14, 2023 after a long illness.

I have never known anyone with so much energy as author-publisher-reporter-translator-SF-expert-etc. Bertil Falk. Now this hurricane of force is no longer with us. His Swedish translation of James Joyce's "untranslatable" *Finnegans Wake* came out last year, a work of love taking 60-plus years. We also saw his massive, three-volume history of science fiction in Swedish, *Faktasin*. Unlike earlier SF history works, it covered only what's been written in Swedish, making it a unique study. A little earlier his biography *Feroze: The Forgotten Gandhi* was published, about Indra Gandhi's husband, written in English and well-received in India, discovering a man who had been mostly forgotten.

But Falk did so much more! I first met Bertil on the SF-Kongressen 1977 and was later contacted to help out with a very nice *Spacecon* in 1980, where Bertil with companions Anders Palm and Lasse Junell launched a *Captain Future* pulp-sized novel. As a journalist he later met and interviewed *Captain Future's* author Edmond Hamilton. When he revived *Jules Verne-Magasinet* in the late 1980s, Bertil published "The Return of Captain Future". His interest in good old space adventures prompted me to found Bertil Falk's Space Opera Prize. I hope there is enough interest to make it annual.

I got to know Bertil really well after I working on the popular tech/science magazine *Teknikmagasinet* in 1982. Bertil wrote lots of articles for us, and though he lived in the south, he often came up before deadlines to help out, beside his then-day job at the *Kvällsposten* evening paper. Though at times breaking even, the lack of astronomical success made our magazine slip to another publisher, but we co-workers kept in touch.

Bertil then crossed the North Sea working for the newly started TV3 satellite channel in 1987. Transmitting from London, it challenged and in effect tore down the Swedish government TV monopoly. He wrote non-fiction on many subjects, as well as hammering out short stories and novels. He was also translator and sometimes the publisher of the results through his publishing house *Zen Zat*.

He was especially interested in "reviving" popular fiction writers from yesteryear. His Swedish Wikipedia entry lists about 50 "selected writings" and 25 "selected translations," but he did more. He was especially proud of his Viking detective stories about Gardar Gätlösaren ("Gardar Riddlösojver").

In *Zen Zat's* planetary system of whirling massive objects, every December saw flashing falling stars in the form of Bertil's small print run - 100 copies, tops - Christmas specials. They would have virtually anything you could wish for, like a reprint of Bertil's short story debut from age 12, "A Trip in Space" (1946), or his debut in longer format, "The Masked Gangleader" (1954). My own first short story collection *Murder on the Moon* was no more than a tiny asteroid in Bertil's rich and vivid publishing space.

From the late 1990s and for several years afterward, he continued exploring popular literature history as editor of *DAST Magazine*. Bertil was among our foremost experts on early magazine fiction and the history of the SF genre in general. Bertil was a main initiator of *Crime the Swedish Way*, probably the first anthology of Swedish crime fiction in English, and attended *Bouchercon* in 2008 to promote the anthology.

"Falk" means "falcon." Bertil flew high and wide, and his sharp falcon eyes gazed at the the broad horizons of literature.

-Ahrvid Engholm

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a lot, you learn how to organise, you probably learn some science, learn to think even, get artistic skills... Alvar never really recovered. And his memorial foundation hasn't exactly always walked the line. In the 1980s it was used as a private bank by board member John-Henri Humbug - as we shall him - borrowing \$16000 (exchange rate then, but in today's worth times 4!) as a whistleblower revealed. Ghod knows when, how and if it was paid back. The foundation had no business handing money to a board member in the first place. (Not

the first time Mr Humbug was caught with fingers in the cookie jar. In 1987 he he mass-produced fake votes to in the Scandinavian fan fund to acquire its rather substantial sum for an accomplice. *Intermission* has earlier published facsimiles of the fake votes.) More details of all this are kept under wraps since the foundation, claiming to be for the benefit of fandom, won't give fandom the benefit to see its minutes. Scandals like this made father Appeltofft cut the foundation from his will (the mother had already passed away when the irregularities surfaced so her money couldn't be stopped).

As for fandom, I'd like to remind of a story, from *Norrskensflamman* - a communist paper so they should know what happens in the Soviet sphere - 22 Nov 1962, *Club for the Adventurous*:

*A club for the Adventure Minded has started in Kyiv. The purpose is that members on their meetings shall discuss science fiction and bold hypotheses of different kinds. Eg what awaits space travellers on alien planets or creation of artificial life. In the board for the Science Fiction Club, as the official name is, there are several well known authors and scientists, e g professor of astronomy Sergei Vsekhsvyatskii and professor of biology Michail Klokov.*

"The Science Fiction Club" would in Ukrainian be something like "Klub naukovoyi fantastyky". It seems it must have been active on the university in Kyiv with academics in the board. Astronomer Vsekhsvyatskii was for a period the director of Kyiv's observatory and interested in "Philosophical Issues of

Cosmology and Cosmogony" (the last is studies of the origin of the universe and solar system). More on that:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357917696\\_Sergei\\_Vsekhsvyatskii's\\_Studies\\_on\\_Philosophical\\_Issues\\_of\\_Cosmology\\_and\\_Cosmogony](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357917696_Sergei_Vsekhsvyatskii's_Studies_on_Philosophical_Issues_of_Cosmology_and_Cosmogony) Professor Klokov among other things studied the

Ukrainian flora and described 547 new species new to science, of which 389 was from Ukraine. But otherwise I've found very little info about these two professors. I've contacted Ukrainian sf fans and clubs about this club to get more info, without any replies. It's possible they don't know about this early club or maybe they are too...occupied. Anyway, if any of you can find more info on this interesting club, *please let me know!*

## Klubb för äventyrslystna

KIEV (APN) En klubb för äventyrslystna har startats i Kiev. Meningen är att deltagarna på sina sammanträden skall diskutera science fiction och djärva hypotester av de mest skilda slag. T. ex. vad som väntar rymdfararna på fjärran planeter eller möjligheterna att skapa konstgjort liv.

I styrelsen för Science fiction-klubben, som den officiellt heter, ingår flera kända författare och vetenskapsmän, bl. a. astronomiprofessorn Sergej Vsechsvjatskij och biologiprofessorn Michail Klokov.

*The first Ukranian sf club! Do you know more?*



As reported in *Intermission* earlier force of nature, author, sf historian, translator etc Bertil Falk (see pic) left us last autumn. On previous page my obituary in *Locus* earlier this year, #755 (Jan/Feb, even got paid, \$35 if I remember). Bertil's three-volume Swedish sf history *Faktasin* was a major undertaking. He became appreciated in India with his a bio over Feroze Gandhi, Indira's husband. He translated the "untranslatable" *Finnegans Wake*. He operated a little publishing house. He wrote Viking Mysteries and Space Opera. Bertil did more than anybody, so it was a *shame* he was snubbed for the European Grand Master title on Eurocon in Uppsala last year. A bloody shame! And now it's too late.

### ABBA Knighted!

But a certain group of four was called to the Royal Palace in Stockholm in late May. Over here we don't tap them on the shoulder with a sword, but the King will hand over a box with the regalia to those newly knighted. The members of ABBA all became knights and commanders first class of the newly revived Order of Vasa.

In the mid 1970's the then Social Democrat government "froze" all royal orders. It was undemocratic

that some people could do fine things and deserve recognition... But the present non-SocDem government (but with support by all except the far left) has decided to revive the Order of the Sword (to the military), the Order of the North Star (to government officials) and the Order of Vasa (to anybody, and the general public may nominate!). The name "Vasa" is from the House



of Vasa, with king Gustaf Vasa *King Carl XVI Gustaf, Queen Silvia, Björn, Frida, Agnetha and Benny* who dissolved the Kalmar Union in 1523, ridding the Swedes of those nasty Danes. ABBA was in the first batch to achieve knighthood as these decorations were dusted off. It's a cheap way to give symbolic recognition to people doing something extra, in ABBA's case a "very substantial contributions to the music world, domestic and abroad" as the phrasing went. BTW, Volodymyr Zelensky was in the palace on a state visit the same day, but I don't know if the president met the band.

Over here we don't take knighthoods as seriously as, I guess, in Britain. You don't have to address someone as "Sir Björn" or a "Dame Agnetha". We don't have sirs or dames. I did a little etymological search and it seems that the old Swedish equivalent of "sir" is "herr" and "dame" equals "fru" - in early mediaval times. Herr and fru (borrowed from German, "Herr" and "Frau") have since shifted in meaning to refer to *any* man or *any* woman, like mister or missus.

But I wouldn't be too surprised if a British reporter addresses the great composer with a "Sir Benny"...

### Talking Short Stories

The illustrious little Short Story Masters society was out preaching this spring. It began April 21st in the House of Literature in Uppsala, the

#### Noveller på längden och tvären väntar

LITTERATUR  
Novellen står i fokus i Litteraturens hus på söndagsseftermiddagen 21 april. Medlemmar i författargruppen Novellmästarna deltar i en novellfestival.

På programmet står bland annat ett novellmaraton där författarna Helena Sigafoos, Lena Köster, Ahvid Engblom, Kjell E. Genberg, Ulf Durling, Eilif Stenberg och Richard Nordström läser sina noveller. Det blir också workshops

och paneldiskussioner. Bland annat ska Helena Sigafoos intervjuas kollegan Kjell E. Genberg, som kan vara Sveriges mest produktive författare. Den nu 84-åriga Genberg debuterade redan 1966 och har skrivit över 250 böcker, bland annat "Ben Högan" serien med 55 titlar.

Bläddra i arrangemanget står föreningen Novellmästarna, Litteraturens hus och Uppsala kommun. Göran Sterner, *Quack* författare



\*BTW, Frida should perhaps get an extra bow, because she is a real princess: Princess Rauss from her





Short Story audience in the House of Literature.

city of last summer's Eurocon. 40+ members of the public filled almost all seats in the lecture room and listened to interviews with us and readings of our short stories. In a side room Joe R Struly talked about short story writing and little about

the history of the sf

genre - to a limited audience of...two. Not a grand success for me, but I did my best. I have earlier distributed the Powerpoint presentation used. Local *Upsala Nya Tidning* covered the event as you see on previous page. May 17th we were on it again, having a mixed program for around 45 members of the Deckarvännerna ("Friends of Crime Fiction") club. One by one, the Short Story Masters entered the stage and told anecdotes out of a writing life and there was a book lottery. I used my time to mumble a short version of the talk from Uppsala.

It all began with food served outside, which I was late to because I believed a starting quiz would take much more time. Stupid me.

I have for a number of years been working on a How-To-Write-SF

guide. It's actually finished but needs polishing – the unpolished PDF of it is one of the prizes through in the 25th edition of *Fantastiknovelltävlingen* ("The Fantastic Short Story Contest") together with stocks in the SF Bookstore chain... More info <https://www.dast.nu/notis/for-25e-aret-fantastiknovelltavling> . Entries in Swedish only (sorry!) by Sep 3 to [fantastiknovell@proton.me](mailto:fantastiknovell@proton.me) AND [ahrvid@hotmail.com](mailto:ahrvid@hotmail.com) max 40 000 characters in length. There's been a lot of short story activity for me lately. During spring I took a "World Construction" course at a "folkhögskola" (an institution between high school and a university) and built an exciting, scientifically accurate (I hope, using some AI help!) far away world which I also described in stories. Playing God.



Audience and stage of Farsta Manor. Anecdotes, lottery, short story talk.



The absurd adventures of Blixt-Gordon ("Froggy Gordon") now collected. Always expect the unexpected!



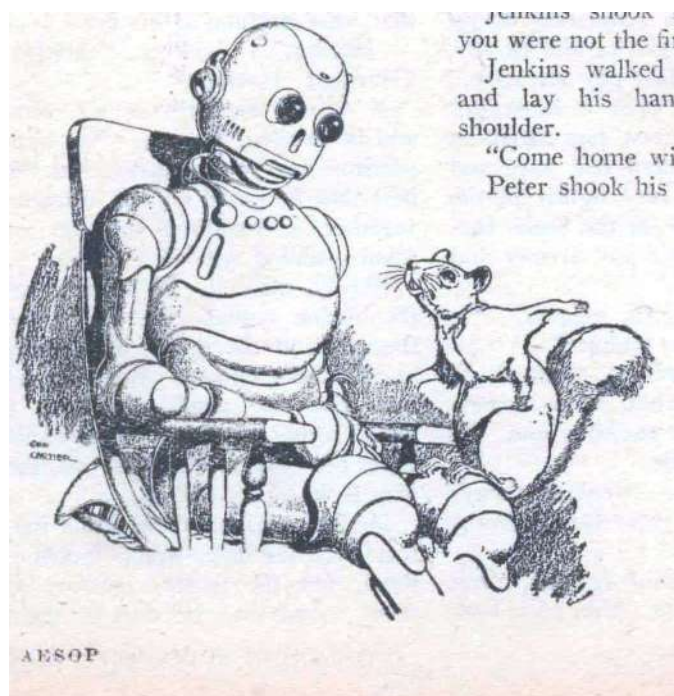
"Froggy Gordon has by mistake switched himself to another Froggy Gordon from another dimension. It was bloody annoying." "You must switch back. But how?" "I got it. Grandma's old identity transformer is still up in the attic!" (You'll find the genius of artist Lars LON Olsson in Intermission. Out now is a collection of his adventures with Blixt-Gordon (or "Froggy Gordon".)

# Слава Україні!

marriage to Prince Heinrich Rauss von Pleuen (1992, in 1999 dead in cancer).

Daniel T. Miller's

# Question Theatre



Don't stress. This is only six pages. And very readable.

Isn't the drawing on the cover wonderful? This is drawn by Edd Cartier. It is Jenkins the robot and Fatso the squirrel, from *Aesop* by Clifford D. Simak. Yeah, what would be part of the 1952 novel *City*. This is from the December of 1947 *Astounding Science Fiction*. I found a copy on [archive.org](http://archive.org). I'll sprinkle more of the art through this zine.

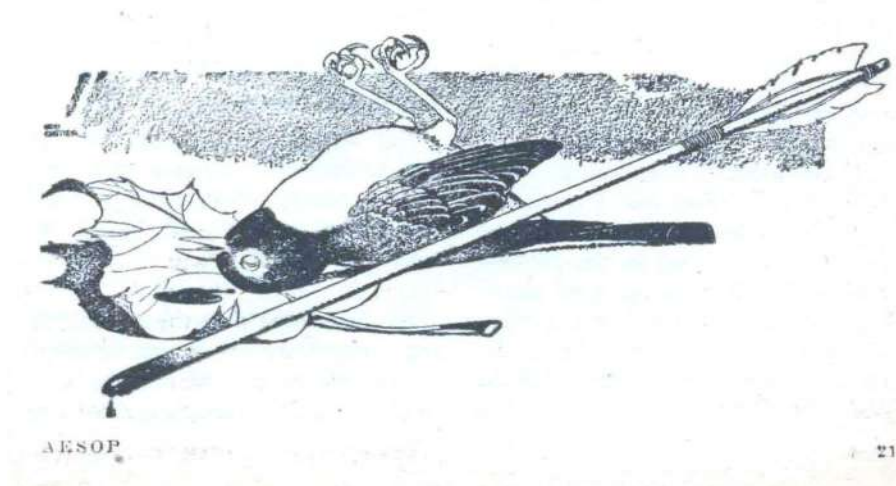
Cartier is an artist fans of today should appreciate. He was comfortable in many genres – fantasy, science fiction, detective mystery. (I've seen most of his work in *The Shadow* pulp – just excellent.) He drew humans, animals, and monsters equally well. He had a slightly exaggerated style that might be called “cartoony.” His characters projected a sense of warmth and relatability. The viewer knows they could speak to these characters – even have a conversation, whether human or animal.





**Fan people, are program books dead in your area?**

**Do you want one? Do you care?**



If a pdf file of a program book was always intended to be only be a pdf file, was it ever a book?

It was pre-covid the last time I went to a sf convention and received a program book. I only go to one or two a year. I went to Chicon 8 where they did that no program book thing at the last moment. Jesus Christ that was stressful!

Anyway, in 2022, right after Windycon ended, I went over to the person who was going to run the 2023 convention. I asked if there would be program book the next year. I expected to be told that the convention just can't afford it anymore. Which I would have accepted. Instead, they immediately snapped, "No one wants one!" I'm not exaggerating. The exclamation point belongs there.



Is that true at your local conventions? Nobody cares about program books anymore?

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### **Should I have a better opinion of the Hugo scandal?**



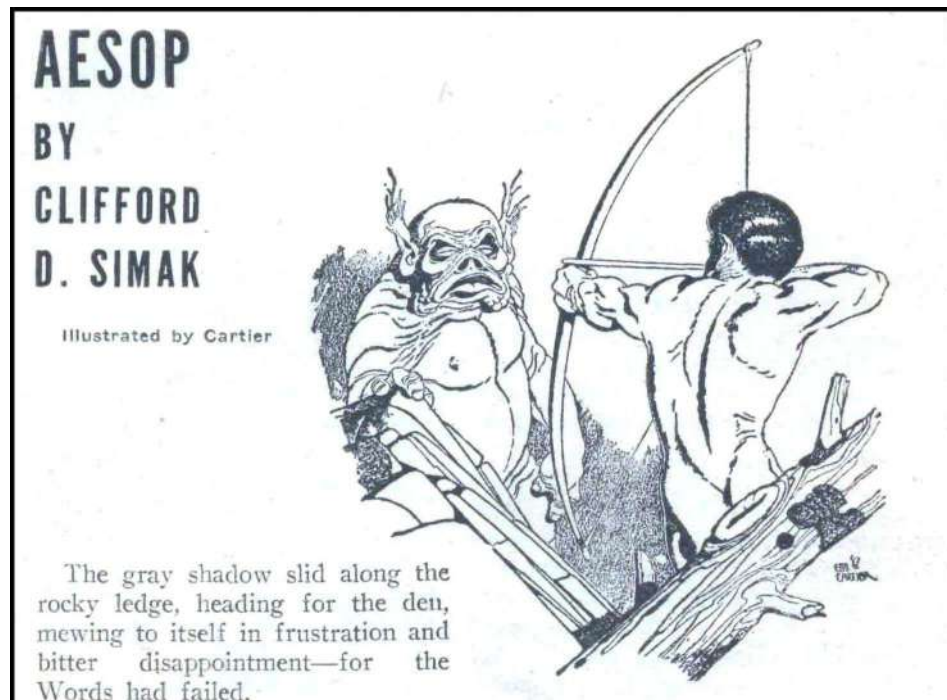
This is the Hugos for me – someone I don't have much in common – or in touch with – something bad happened to them. I wish the person well, but I'm not that broken up.

It is not really a fan thing. It is a fandom thing.

I've been reading science fiction and fantasy my whole life. I know that I'm living in a golden age of sf and f. The genres have

caught up to my sensibilities. But I feel I have more in common – I empathize -- with today’s writers. And not fandom.

**It’s not me, it’s you all.**



Some of the fandom convention types can be a little – umm - “off-putting” might be the nice way to put it.

I’ve tried off and on over the years to get more involved with fandom. It never works out.

Sure, you can say, maybe it is me. I may be a trifle neurodivergent and I don’t relate to some people in what is stupidly called a “normal” way. However, the most irritating of the

convention fandom people I've encountered, went on to fix the Hugos, so maybe my instincts are pretty good.

There is also a chance my location might not match my soul.

I live in a Chicago western suburb. Perhaps, I have the soul – the sensitiveness – of a Scottish, or a French, or a Polish fan.

As for how to save the Hugos, which means saving fandom, you need more people in your group/groups. Preferably, younger people. In my experience, they usually are more inclusive and easier to talk to than many people around my age. Which from looking outside the situation is what fandom needs. Of course, that advice could apply to almost any group.

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I'm Done. Bye.  
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I'm Daniel T. Miller. I live at 350 N. State Street, Apt A-5, Addison IL 60101.  
Online, I'm at [deeteemiller@gmail.com](mailto:deeteemiller@gmail.com)  
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