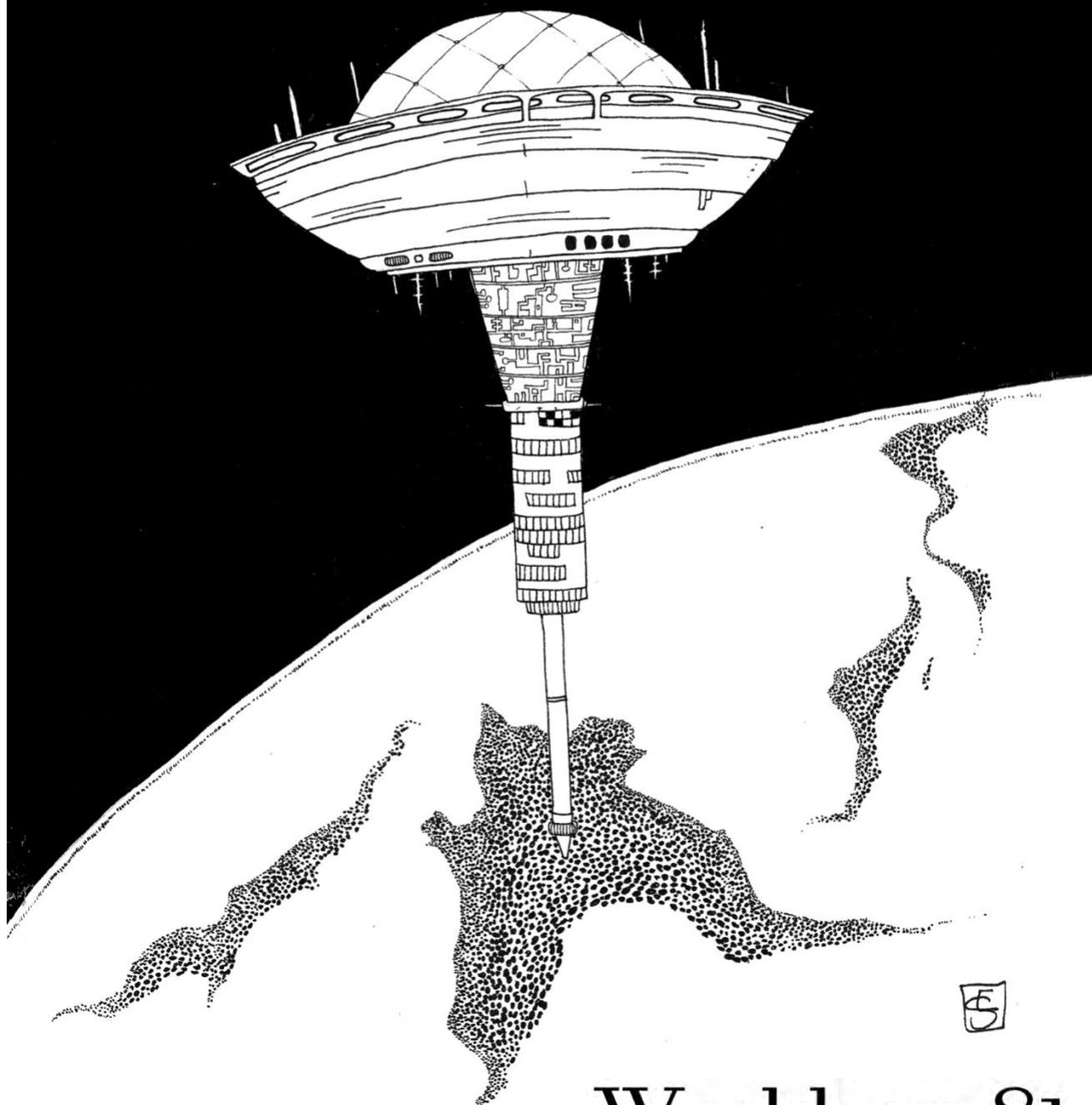


WOOF

48



Worldcon 81

WORLDCON ORDER OF FAN-EDITORS

Chengdu (2023) 成都

Bruce Pelz: Founder

Donald E. Eastlake III: Official Editor

John Hertz: Organizer-in-Chief

España Sheriff: Cover Art

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INTERMISSION #137.5

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, a special condensed issue for WOOF! Follow my @SFJournalen newstweets before Musk makes Twitter ex-X. Glory to Ukraine! Oct '23.

Editorially: Silver throne, Ukraine, Reagan Rotating, etc

This is a special issue of my regular PDFzine *Intermission* for WOOF. I'll compile a few excerpts of the most interesting bits from recent issues. If you're not already among the lucky readers of my outstanding quality publication send me a word (to

ahrvid@hotmail.com) and your blunder can be remedied.

In #137 I reported from the golden anniversary of king Carl XIV Gustaf of Sweden, now 50 years on the throne. And told you that a constitutional monarchy suits us well - I'm definitely no republican! - with a king having just a ceremonial, non-political role. (If you've studied the egotistic loud-mouthed Mr Trump you know how divisive presidents can be.) Our king is very cost efficient and gets us more attentions since royals are rarer in today's world. I also think it's a big benefit in blocking the chief of state position from also being occupied by another grey politician. I think politicians already take up too much space. But I'll leave that subject now.

#137 also talked at length about the gang violence we've recently seen in Sweden, a subject I'll also leave.

Ukraine is something I've always covered. I talk about that brave yellow and blue nation in every issue (the cyrillic at the end says "Glory to Ukraine!", of course). The fronts may change before you see this. But I like to point out that the Ukrainian slow, but steady, progress apparently is the tactics to grind down Russian forces as much as possible. They want to hit - to speak with von Clausewitz - the *Russian will to fight*. The primary goal isn't to go forward at any cost. It's shown by that Russian losses are triple that of Ukraine's, according to several sources. The Russians have been forced to field 1950's tanks as 10 000+ armoured vehicles have been lost. They must cannibalise old guns for spare barrels, as the original ones are worn out. They have difficulties in the air, getting many both choppers and jets shot down, their fleet has lost about 10 ships and must relocate. Credible sources say that Moscow's department of "defence" has ordered 230 000 (!) death certificates for fallen troops! Putin's forces can't sustain these losses. Ukraine's general staff apparently bets on destabilising Putin's regime through losses, which may either down Putin or force him to retreat. That's what I conclude.

Meanwhile a small even tiny group of opportunistic republican congressmen in the US can't do math. For the cost of a just few percent of the heavy US military budget, and with no US soldiers on the ground, a main foe of the USA is humiliated, isolated and her military capacity crumbled for a long time. To a little sum in dollars. A very profitable investment! And add to this morals! If Ronald Reagan had been alive he'd rotate in his grave... Reagan wouldn't wait a year to send jets and the heaviest US tanks: he'd do it at once in numbers. With that, Mr Zelensky could very well have entirely disposed of the Russians already in the Kharkiv and Kherson offensives. The dragging of feet is costly! Reagan would stand on the Maidan Square and say: Mr Putin, tear down your colonial illusions!

--Ahrvid Engholm



The then young King opening the parliament in 1974. In background Charles XI's Drabant Corps.



The throne of Sweden. From 1650, in silver



Historic jubilee formation by the Air Force, LtoR: JAS 39 Griffin, J35 Dragon, A32 Lance, J37 Thunderbolt, J29 Flying Barrel. Unique with all main SAAB jets from 1950s to now together!

Stockholm, USA

I found an interesting book, *United Stockholms of America*, visiting towns and places in the US with the name...Stockholm. There are a few named after the Swedish capital there, from Maine to Texas! You also find Stockholm in upstate New York, New Jersey, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. A million or so Swedes emigrated to North America 100+ years ago, built their log cabins and thought: "Hm, what shall we call this place? Why not...Stockholm!"

Most Stockholms are small, one is just a gas station from a now virtually deserted place. Some give me a melancholic feeling. The biggest North American Stockholms are in New York and in also one in New Jersey, both with ca 3.5K red-white-and-blue Stockholmers. Our original Stockholm has about 1 million in the administrative area, 2.4 million in "region Stockholm" and was founded around 1252 by Birger Jarl, the "strongman" of Sweden at the time.



Post Office building in Stockholm, Maine. Note the wheelchair ramp. One must assume most Maine Stockholmers are old.



But there were almost certainly settlements there since before, as the location between the Baltic Sea and Lake Mälaren was quite strategic.

Stockholm, Minnesota, brags about their famous Stockholm Pies. Stockholm, Wisconsin, looks odd: "With a population of just 66 people, Stockholm is certainly a tiny little town, but it's packed with cool things to do and see."

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/wisconsin/wi-unique-town/> They talk about the nature but also "There are tons of quaint shops and restaurants as well as places to learn about the Swedish history of the town." Tons of establishments



The Fire of Stockholm festival, Wisconsin. Looks wild!



Stockholm Wisconsin - a real metropolis with 66 inhabitants!



Most US Stockholms are small. Here trains won't even stop.

among 66 inhabitants? They every summer also arrange something called the Fire of Stockholm festival with huge bonfires. Looks like a whole island is on fire!

I also looked for Canadian Stockholms. There's at least one, in

Saskatchewan (population 329). I looked for Stockholms in the UK too, but there are none. Britain wasn't settled by 19th Century Swedes. However, it did take quite a lot of 10th Century Vikings, and all British towns ending in -by and -thorpe were named by the Vikings. And the Vikings called the town of York *Jorvik*. If it had kept that name, it's possible that we across the pond would find *New Jorvik*. Or if the Vikings had settled North America *Nya Jorvik*.



Downtown Stockholm, Saskatchewan (locals just say "Sask").



Stockholm, Minnesota, famous for their Stockholm Pies! <https://www.stockholmpie.com/famous-pie/> This is the pie HQ, I believe.

If we cross the Atlantic east with *M/S Stockholm* (who in 1956 collided with the Italian liner *Andrea Doria*, so it sank) and go further east we come to *New York, Ukraine!* This town with a pre-war population of 9 735 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York,_Ukraine) is now near the front line and shelled daily, unfortunately.



A street view from New York, Ukraine.

The town name goes back to the mid 19th century but the origin of “*the name of the town remains a mystery that is the subject of many local legends.*” It could come from an old US business contact, a distortion of the German town name “Jork”, be a translation error from Latin to Cyrillic, or something else. I wonder what Frank Sinatra would have sung about this place?

These vagabond shoes, are longing to stray...

Snippets From Recent Issues And Events



From the September meeting of the small but brilliant Short Story Masters society. Selfie with in the background Peter, Helena, Cecilia and Ulf. We do anthologies, sponsor the 24 year old sf/f/h short story contest and lecture about writing sometimes. Wine and Swedish sandwich cake consumed.,

As a writer, apart from funny little articles (science, tech, sf, history, space etc) I'm much into short stories. I estimate over 125 published in different forms, lately a lot in the Short Story Masters' anthologies, from which many stories for obscure reasons have also been made into downloadable small books by publisher Saga Edmont. We have two meetings per year, and the latest was September 2nd at the home of Ulf Broberg in Storröta, north of Uppsala where Eurocon was in June.

The summer saw the passing of electronic music pioneer Ralph Lundsten, who we used to see on our sf cons, and pop culture



My Greta Thunberg parody, from Saga Edmont.



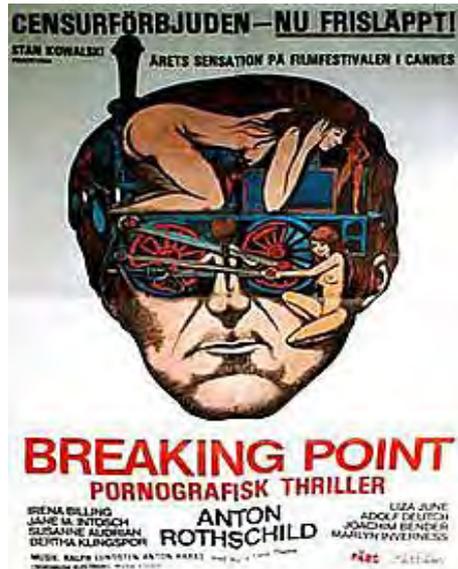
My latest anthology contrib, from a “Creating Worlds” course I took last spring. My contribution is with the pulp hero Captain Dynamite.



Famous electronic composer, whom I knew very well, Ralph Lundsten died in July. Here in his pioneering music studio, with lots of stuff he built himself, in his fairy tale “wooden castle”

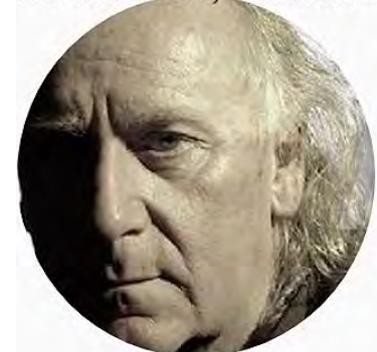


From *Breaking Point*: “Let me tell you they now have atomic ammunition too!”



journalist Hans Sidén, co-founder of Gothenburg's Club Cosmos. Ralph did the music to the 1975 Swedish dystopian film “*Breaking Point*”, a porno with fandom connections... The stiff leading part was performed by the pop of a known fan fund kleptomaniac.

The film's star, from IMDB

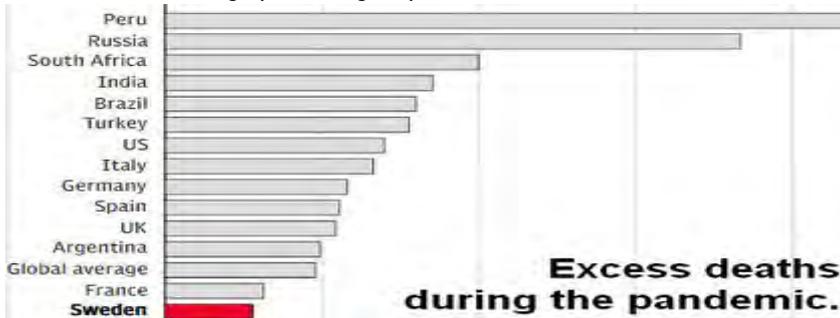


Andreas Bellis



H. Gernsback, Editor of RADIO NEWS, receiving the television broadcasts from WRNY at his home in New York City, with the simple apparatus described in this article. For purposes of the test, the neon tube and loud speaker were connected in series temporarily, with successful operation simultaneously.

#136 was a big Hugo Gernsback issue. Here Hugo watching the experimental TV programs his radio WRNY broadcasted in the 1920s. Inserted what the 1.5" picture would have looked like. In that ish also Hugo's crazy inventions, his Xmas booklets and huge publishing empire, a title of it inserted too.



Finally, *Intermission* reported on the fact that Sweden's excess death rate - a better measurement than self-reported covid deaths, from standards that vary *extremely!* - during the pandemic was *lowest in Europe!* Lockdowns, facemasks, closed schools etc was unnecessary. It was a folly from bogus "models" and populist politicians who panicked.

History Corner

The History Corner, covering the past of sf and fandom, is the perhaps most appreciated part of *Intermission*. Now we'll cover something you could call a cousin to the world of fanzines: the underground opposition newsletters, books and pamphlets, usually from thin paper and carbon sheets, published in the USSR. They were called *samizdat*, a term meaning "self published". It also connects to today's world as Putin's Russia sees a return to oppression and censorship. Maybe it's time for a samizdat comeback?

Your trusty editor can relate to samizdat as I myself published in samizdat style, in the small carbon-copied APA Gurka ("Cucumber"). You find the history of it in the Lynch's *Mimosa* #15

<https://fanac.org/fanzines/Mimosa/Mimosa15.pdf>, "The Rise and Fall of Cucumber". (I did a series of fan history articles for *Mimosa*. Fanac.org has them all.) It wasn't because of censorship we turned to carbon, but because we were only half a dozen members and sandwiching thin airmail paper with carbons was faster and easier than using a mimeo - and it gave you a feeling of being special and



Dancing with the famous Sunkit music club in July, as the sun sets over Stockholm's harbour.



The main hall of Uppsala Eurocon, June 7-9.



Also reported from Finncon, July 7-9. Entrance with hucksters.

» We remain in Europe for another visit to Swedish fandom. Last issue, the writer of the following article described some of the hoaxes perpetrated on Swedish fandom over the years. This time, he tells us about some of the Amateur Press Associations that have been active in Sweden, in particular, (and in keeping with our 'food' theme) a secret APA called Cucumber...



Anyone interested in Swedish fandom will soon hear of secret fanzine publishing. The fans in this northern country, so close to the Galactic Circle...sorry: Arctic Circle, have often engaged in secret Amateur Press Associations or APAs. In Swedish the word APA also means 'monkey' or 'ape'. Maybe APA members feel a need to be monkey-like. Judge for yourself as we unfold the untold story of the secret Cucumber.

The first Swedish APA was not secret. SAPA was active a few years during the mid-60s, with Official Editors like John-Henri Holmberg and Leif Andersson. (Leif was known from TV as a teenage astronomy wiz, when he won the 10 000 Crowns Quiz in the early '60s. He later became a professional astronomer, died in the US in 1979 and got a crater on the Moon named in his memory. The way for a fan to pass away, I'd say.) It was followed by LPPSAPA and SWAPA, that didn't last. In 1976 the most successful Swedish APA was founded: SFF. The letters are short for Sveriges Fanzine Förening - Sweden's Fanzine Association. It was the existence of SFF that inspired a group of fans to start a new APA in 1979:

Gurka.
"Gurka" means 'cucumber'. It's unclear why this name was chosen. Maybe because it can be mentioned with others present, without giving any hints of what it is. It also sounds a bit funny. I will from now on write 'Cucumber', instead of 'Gurka', so that you will think it is funny too.

Cucumber was different. It was secret. The original members were: Anders Bellis, Roger Sjölander and me of Stockholm, Ingemar Carlsson of Scania, Mika Tenhovanen of Hallista, and Lars Larsson and Jonas Söderblad of Nybro. The famous Nybro-fandom later launched the national Star Wars club. They once published a story with Star Wars characters engaged in something hinted upon as sex. Lucasfilms went mad on the other side of the globe and engaged their lawyers to 'protest their trademarks'. (No, 'see' is not a trademark of Lucasfilms.)

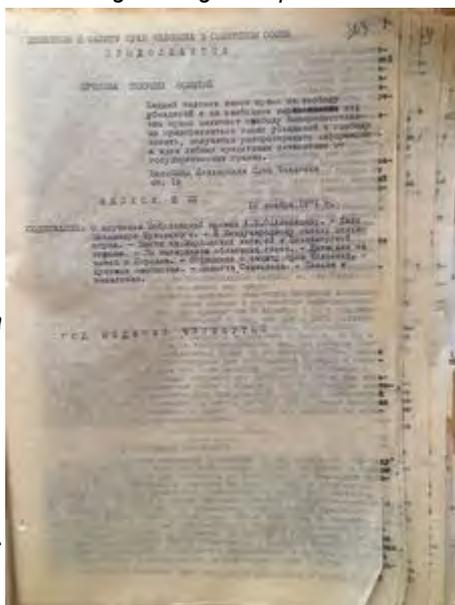
Why a secret APA? I and Bellis already did a weekly newzine, *The Wheel's Adferences* (WA), but had also tried small print-run cartoon zines. It felt nice to write to a closed circle. My secret hobby is to write constitutions so I wrote one for Cucumber. Members

“underground”... Samizdat was a bit like Soviet fanzines, if you stretch it to science fiction as the publishers lived in a *dystopia state believing it was an utopia!* Wikipedia will give you a ground course, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samizdat>:

a form of dissident activity across the Eastern Bloc in which individuals reproduced censored and underground makeshift publications, often by hand, and passed the documents from reader to reader. The practice of manual reproduction was widespread, because most typewriters and printing devices required official registration and permission to access. This was a grassroots practice used to evade official Soviet censorship...in decades prior to the early 1960s, offices and stores had to submit papers with examples of their typewriters' fonts to local KGB branches so that any printed text could be traced back to the source ... Samizdat is unique to the post-Stalin USSR and other countries with similar systems. Faced with the state's powers of censorship, society turned to underground literature for self-analysis and self-expression...Not everything published in samizdat had political overtones. In 1963, Joseph Brodsky was charged with "social parasitism" and convicted for being nothing but a poet. His poems circulated in samizdat, with only four judged as suitable for official Soviet anthologies...The longest-running and best-known samizdat periodical was *A Chronicle of Current Events*. It was dedicated to defending human rights by providing accurate information about events in the USSR...The *Chronicle* editors maintained that, according to the 1936 Soviet Constitution, then in force, their publication was not illegal. The authorities did not accept the argument. Many people were harassed, arrested, imprisoned, or forced to leave the country for their involvement in the *Chronicle's* production and distribution...Samizdat covered a large range of topics, mainly including literature and works focused on religion, nationality, and politics. The state censored a variety of materials such as detective novels, adventure stories, and science fiction in addition to dissident texts, resulting in the



Collection of samizdat material.



An issue of *Chronicle of Current events*

underground publication of samizdat covering a wide range of topics. Though most samizdat authors directed their works towards the intelligentsia, samizdat included lowbrow genres in addition to scholarly works.

The samizdat books and journals would be painstakingly typed and multiplied by using carbons and very thin paper, called onion paper, getting ca 10 copies. (Our Cucumber zines used what was called air mail paper, 30 grams/m², standard paper is ca 80 g/m². Air mail paper was in every office supplies store and of better quality than Soviet paper. I saw some as I corresponded eastward.)

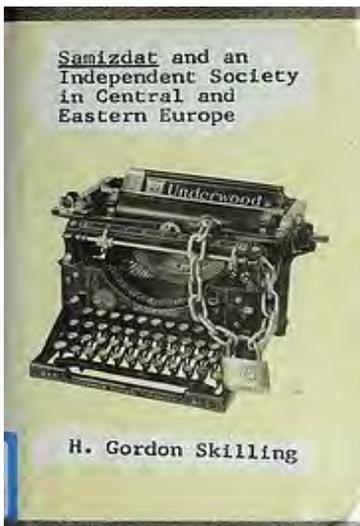
The samizdats where distributed through personal connections, carried by people hiding them in their luggage. Someone getting hold of an interesting publication would often - if there was a typewriter available – make more copies of it. As successful samizdat could this way be a bit of a growing chain letter.

If you're interested, George Saunders edited a collection of samizdat material translated to English, in *Samizdat - Voices of the Soviet Opposition*, available here: <https://annas-archive.org/md5/3eff748ae012d75ae1fe8afc880c40d4>

And one Gordon Johnston has covered *What is the history of Samizdat?* Here: <https://annas-archive.org/md5/42b8a5133704aeb733ba72072423549d> He tells us:

samizdat was prosecuted under Articles 70 and 190-1 of the Criminal Code... Article 70 requires evidence of anti-Soviet purpose or intent while Article 190-1 requires evidence of 'defamation', 'discreditation', and 'false fabrication'...Article 190-1 covers dissemination in oral, written or printed form

Samizdat wasn't unique for the USSR, but existed in all former Soviet bloc countries. This is covered in H Gordon Skilling's *Samizdat and an independent society in Central and Eastern Europe* from <https://annas-archive.org/md5/1ed65f3dcf94e7ab11523b9daeffa3cb> Here's a short lecture of samizdat: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfPehnTLoOU> and a short film with samizdat production re-enactment: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD_2ehs3gFQ, in this case doing banned religious texts. Today's Russia has instead allied itself with religion. The corrupt Russian-Orthodox church, lead by former KGB agent patriarch Kirill who enthusiastically proclaimed that Ukrainian president Zelensky is anti-christ. Indeed! So we can add delusional madness to transparent lies.



On samizdat from other parts of the Soviet bloc.

I guess you have to a bit interested in the history and culture of the Soviet sphere to dig deeper into samizdats. But there is every reason to nurture such an interest, because Putinist Russia is becoming the biggest *geo-political disaster of our time* as a wannabe USSR. You need to understand the Soviet Union to understand the former KGB officer Putin, and thus get clues to why we have to suffer the biggest and bloodiest war in Europe since World War II.

Today Russians get arrested and threatened with several years in prison for waving a *blank piece of paper*. The kangaroo courts will slam you with “defamation of the glorious, victorious Russian army” - which means the same as “anti-Soviet activities” back in the bad old days. Now, you may ask, a blank paper says nothing, so what the heck... The point is that the message is in your head, the paper is supposed to create anti-Putin thoughts in the heads of the onlooker as they fill in the blanks. So the mere *thoughts* of people are banned. Thinking negatively about the Russian army is seen as thinking about Putin-Russia. The army *is* the state. To paraphrase Rudolf Hess. *The army is Putin, Putin is Russia, and Russia is Putin. Зие хайль* (“Sieg Heil!”)

It's very risky to deny any of these “truths” in today's Russia. “*Ukraine is Nazi.*” “*All is going according to plan.*” “*We only target military objects.*” “*The Ukrainians staged the Bucha massacre with actors and Hollywood props.*” “*The Moskva sank because one in the crew smoked carelessly.*” “*We just rescue children, who become so glad that they don't want to speak Ukrainian.*” But if I remember it correctly the Soviets at least tried to make their lies *sound* plausible. Putin-Russia don't care and forwards the silliest claims. Putin's own “Ministry of Truth” is the TV channels he controls where 75% of Russians get all their “information”. George Orwell's ghost nods in recognition.

There were different kinds of samizdat in the USSR. *Radidaz* or *magnizdat* were illegal recordings, often taken from foreign stations like the BBC, Radio Liberty or Radio Free Europe. *Intermission* earlier covered “bone music”, ie western pop music which was engraved on used X-ray plates! *Tamizdat* (“over-there” published) was material printed abroad and then smuggled in. Not all was typewritten. Some were xeroxed, though access to copying machines were very restricted, and illegal mimeographs or even printing presses were used, also very restricted, though those replicating methods were very rare and probably required a stack of Roubles under the table. I'm a bit stupefied that *hektographs* was almost unheard of! My sources material makes no references to hektos. And yet they would have been very easy to make and good for reproducing 50-100 copies instead of 10. A hektograph just needs jelly+glycerine, to boil and cool, and a good dye for the master, lile aniline available everywhere. That stuff must have been available in the USSR too. In the worst case you can msake your own jelly by boiling left-over bones from the butcher.

Today the Internet has the same role as Samizdat, though KGB/FSB monitor all traffic, blocks thousands of sites. They haven't cracked all VPNs (though they control some). It is estimated that perhaps 10-20% of Russians have the ability to reach correct non-Putin information, and that's way more than painstakingly typed samizdat from earlier.

Samizdat and our Cucumber carbzines were connected. While we weren't illegal there was a certain feeling of being misunderstood and persecuted... Sf was after all just flying saucer delusions and the books were the lowest form of literature (at least up to the 1970s when Cucumber was active, pariah status later began to erode). It's a proud and lonely thing to be a fan. It was an honourable but dangerous thing to be a Soviet dissident.

But internationally wanted genocide-criminal V Putin is making Russia a carbon copy of the USSR.

Motorcycles...

Looking through 2022 WOOF I find little that desperately needs comments. But some quick *MCs*!

Rich Lynch made me look up Bill Danner's *SteFantasy*. Some ishs here:

<https://fanac.org/fanzines/Stefantasy/> Worth reading! **Jan Vanek**'s list of fanzines he likes was

impressive. My very condensed list would include in Swedish: *SF-Forum, Clloev, Summa, Leuchtturm, ALHASH, Sala zines*. In English: *Hyphen*, oddly enough 1960's *Skyrack* (of which I found a stack on a freebie table on my first con in 1976), *Mimosa, Ansible, John Berry zines*...plus others I forgot now. **Guy Lillian**: ABBA is a “guilty pleasure” you're not supposed to admit to. The fact is fellow musicians always liked ABBA, from U2 and the heaviest heavy metal bands to Sex Pistols and classical musicians. **Nigel Rowe**: Thanks for the words about Mervyn Barrett, who seemed like a very active, important fan, and Mike Hinge who looks like a talented artist. More eg here:

<https://www.johncoulthart.com/feuilleton/2021/05/26/the-art-of-mike-hinge-1931-2003/>) **Daniel**

Miller: Great historical material! Looking into the history of sf and its fandom is something I've done for a long, long time. It's a joy and hugely interesting, methinks. Much of my research is concentrated in my Swedish fancyclopedia *Fandboken*. Regular, literary fandom with its history and traditions – *separate* from masqueraders, gamers, movie buffs etc! – is a unique culture. That was just some very short *MC*'s. I meant to skip it altogether, but gave in...

Слава Україні!



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

I wrote short review 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.
Next month the Nebula finalists, and with luck a review.

Events

Sunirse Comic Con

March 4
Sunrise Civic Center
10610 W Oakland Park Boulevard ,
Sunrise, FL
Guests: Adrain Ropp (artist)
And many others
\$20 admission
www.sunrisefl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/special-events/sunrise-comic-con

Free Con

March 4-5
FSU Student Union,
75 N Woodward Ave,
Tallahassee, FL 32306
Anime con
Free
tallahasseeanime.com/

SW Floridacon

March 5
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

ACEcon 2023

Palm Harbor Library
2330 Nebraska Avenue
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
Free
acecon.carrd.co

Collective Con

March 11-13
Jacksonville Fairgrounds
1000 Water St
Jacksonville, FL 32204
\$65 for 3 Days
www.collectivecon.com

ICFA 44 (academic conference)

March 15-18
Orlando Airport Marriott,
Orlando, Florida
Guest of Honor: Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki
Guest Scholar: Isiah Lavender III
iaffita.wildapricot.org

My-Con

March 18
Wyndham Orlando Avanti Palms Resort
6515 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32819
\$5 for admission, free for military personnel
mystic-con.com

Swampcon

March 19
Reitz Union University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
Free
www.swampcon.org

Megacon

March 30-April 2
Orange County Convention Center
4-Day-\$109 pre-registration , \$129 at the door
Guests: Stan Morrison (OASIS artist)
Deliah Dawson
Sam Raimi (Film Director)
Chevy Chase (actor)
John Cleese (actor)
Frank Miller (comic book artist)
Geoff Jones (comic writer)
Joe Quesda (comic artist)
Andy Kubert (comic artist)
Jeph Loeb (comic writer)

(Continued on page 2)

March OASFiS Calendar

OASFiS Business Meeting

Sunday, March 12, 1:30 PM, Jean Rhein Central Branch Library 215 N. Oxford Road Casselberry, Florida 32707. Meeting room will be on the first floor. Come join us as we discuss Space Opera.

To contact for more info:
OASFiS Business Meeting 407-823-8715

(Continued from page 1)

Jim Shooter (comic writer)
Sonequa Martin-Green (actor)
Katee Sackhoff (actor)
Lana Parilla (actor)
Gates McFadden (actor)
Anson Mount (actor)
Ethan Peck (actor)
Brec Bassinger (actor)
Tara Strong (voice actor)
and many more
megaconvention.com

2022 Short Fiction

* - Estimate of word count

Novellas

Title: *Burning the Letter*
Writer: Adam-Troy Castro
Publication: *Analog* Date: May-June 2022
Word Count: 17501*

We meet an 18-year-old Andrea Cort. She is working on a remote post on planet as a trainee in the Confederate Diplomatic Corps. Cort saves an alien child, Ami, from being killed by animals. She and her immediate superior, Chorin finds the locals do not want Ami. Cort and Chorin investigate why this is. What is the stigma connected to Ami? Is there anything that can be done? How does our past affect us in making decisions? A great story about the early life of Andrea Cort.

Title: *Bishop's Opening*
Writer: R.S.A. Garcia
Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: January 2022
Word Count: 20630 Audio Version Available

A cargo crew go to a space station for repairs. During their time off the get involved with intrigues of the Valencians, specifically with one known as Bishop. This is a story of about family, both genetic and found.

Title: *A Mirror Mended*
Writer: Alix E. Harrow
Publication: *Tordotcom* Date: June 2022
Word Count: 17501*

Zinna Gray continues to fix versions of Sleeping Beauty in the multiverse. She meets an queen who is an antagonist in a similar story. Is the Queen as bad as some say? Does she need help? Can Zinna help her? An intriguing look into Snow White and the search for agency for some who is lacking it.

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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.

Title: *Where the Drowned Girls Go*

Writer: Seanan McGuire
Publication: *Tordotcom* Date: January 4, 2022
Word Count: 17501*

Cora was mermaid in the world she went to. She still hears forces from that world coming after her. She does not think Eleanor West's School for Wayward Children can help her so she transfers to Whitethorn Institute. The Whitethorn Institute drives the memories of the other worlds forcibly to help the children readjust to the world we all know. Will this help Cora? Is there another agenda at Whitethorn? Another excellent installment to this award winning series. Whitethorn is a scary alternative to Eleanor's methods. It may work for some but it may hurt others.

Title: *Radcliffe Hall*
Writer: Miyuki Jane Pinckard
Publication: *Uncanny* Date: September-October 2022
Word Count: 39903

In 1908, Miss Tomoé Kikuchi come to study at Norcross College. She is assigned a room at Radcliffe Hall. She and feel things unnatural. She bonds with schoolmates George and Antionette. There is also a mysterious society headed by the well-connected Elizabeth Cabot. Can they figure out what is happening? How is this tied to Tomoé's past? What are Cabot's true aims? This is a Gothic romance with modern sensibilities. The plot is engaging and provides an interesting look in the world of at the beginning of the last century.

Title: *The Court Martial of the Renegade Renegades*
Writer: Kristine Kathryn Rusch
Publication: *Asimov's* Date: September-October, November-December 2022
Word Count: 30000*

A ship returns from a deep space mission a hundred years later. Not everyone comes back. The survivors are charged with mutiny. We see the various legal plans of the prosecution, defense, and other parties. It is part of series. The setup gives one all the knowledge to understand the story. It is an intense and complex story.

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Award News
(source *File 770*)

The 2022 Bram Stoker Awards® Final Ballot

The Bram Stoker Award winners will be announced in June 17 during the StokerCon 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Superior Achievement in a Novel

- Iglesias, Gabino – *The Devil Takes You Home* (Mullholland Press)
- Katsu, Alma – *The Fervor* (G.P. Putnam’s Sons)
- Kiste, Gwendolyn – *Reluctant Immortals* (Saga Press)
- Malerman, Josh – *Daphne* (Del Rey)
- Ward, Catriona – *Sundial* (Tor Nightfire)

Superior Achievement in a First Novel

- Adams, Erin – *Jackal* (Bantam Books)
- Cañas, Isabel – *The Hacienda* (Berkley)
- Jones, KC – *Black Tide* (Tor Nightfire)
- Nogle, Christi – *Beulah* (Cemetery Gates Media)
- Wilkes, Ally – *All the White Spaces* (Emily Bestler Books/Atria/Titan Books)

Superior Achievement in a Middle Grade Novel

- Dawson, Delilah S. – *Camp Scare* (Delacorte Press)
- Kraus, Daniel – *They Stole Our Hearts* (Henry Holt and Co.)
- Malinenko, Ally – *This Appearing House* (Katherine Tegen Books)
- Senf, Lora – *The Clackity* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
- Stringfellow, Lisa – *A Comb of Wishes* (Quill Tree Books)

Superior Achievement in a Graphic Novel

- Aquilone, James (editor) – *Kolchak: The Night Stalker: 50th Anniversary* (Moonstone Books)
- Gailey, Sarah (author) and Bak, Pius (artist) – *Eat the Rich* (Boom! Studios)
- Manzetti, Alessandro (author) and Cardoselli, Stefano (artist/author) – *Kraken Inferno: The Last Hunt* (Independent Legions Publishing)
- Tynion IV, James (author) and Dell’Edera, Werther (artist) – *Something is Killing the Children*, Vol. 4 (Boom! Studios)
- Young, Skottie (author) and Corona, Jorge (artist) – *The Me You Love in the Dark* (Image Comics)

Superior Achievement in a Young Adult Novel

- Fraistat, Ann – *What We Harvest* (Delacorte Press)
- Jackson, Tiffany D. – *The Weight of Blood* (Katherine Tegen Books)
- Marshall, Kate Alice – *These Fleeting*

Shadows (Viking)

- Ottone, Robert P. – *The Triangle* (Raven Tale Publishing)
- Schwab, V.E. – *Gallant* (Greenwillow Books)
- Tirado, Vincent – *Burn Down, Rise Up* (Sourcebooks Fire)

Superior Achievement in Long Fiction

- Allred, Rebecca J. and White, Gordon B. – *And in Her Smile, the World* (Trepidatio Publishing)
- Carmen, Christa – “Through the Looking Glass and Straight into Hell” (*Orphans of Bliss: Tales of Addiction Horror*) (Wicked Run Press)
- Hightower, Laurel – *Below* (Ghoulsh Books)
- Katsu, Alma – *The Wehrwolf* (Amazon Original Stories)
- Knight, EV – *Three Days in the Pink Tower* (Creature Publishing)

Superior Achievement in Short Fiction

- Dries, Aaron – “Nona Doesn’t Dance” (*Cut to Care: A Collection of Little Hurts*) (IFWG Australia, IFWG International)
- Gwilym, Douglas – “Poppy’s Poppy” (*Penumbra Speculative Fiction Magazine*, Vol. V, No. 6)
- McCarthy, J.A.W. – “The Only Thing Different Will Be the Body” (*A Woman Built by Man*) (Cemetery Gates Media)
- Taborska, Anna – “A Song for Barnaby Jones” (Zagava)
- Taborska, Anna – “The Star” (*Great British Horror 7: Major Arcane*) (Black Shuck Books)
- Yardley, Mercedes M. – “Fracture” (*Mother: Tales of Love and Terror*) (Weird Little Worlds)

Superior Achievement in a Fiction Collection

- Ashe, Paula D. – *We Are Here to Hurt Each Other* (Nictitating Books)
- Joseph, RJ – *Hell Hath No Sorrow Like a Woman Haunted* (The Seventh Terrace)
- Khaw, Cassandra – *Breakable Things* (Undertow Publications)
- Thomas, Richard – *Spontaneous Human Combustion* (Keylight Books)
- Veres, Attila – *The Black Maybe* (Valancourt Books)

Superior Achievement in a Screenplay

- Cooper, Scott – *The Pale Blue Eye* (Cross Creek Pictures, Grisbi Productions, Streamline Global Group)
- Derricksen, Scott and Cargill, C. Robert – *The Black Phone* (Blumhouse Productions, Crooked Highway, Universal Pictures) Duffer Brothers, The – *Stranger Things*: Episode 04.01 “Chapter One: The Hellfire Club” (21 Laps Entertainment,

(Continued on page 5)

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Title: **January Fifteenth**

Writer: Rachel Swirsky

Publication: Tordotcom

Date: June 14, 2022

Word Count: 17501*

In the future, the United States has started to give out Universal Basic Income (UBI). Everyone gets a check which in theory will cover basic needs. Everyone gets one gets a check on January 15. The story follows four women on January 15. Hannah is a mother of two trying to escape an abusive ex-wife in Upstate New York. Janelle is a reporter who is covering the day with teen sister Nevaeh in Chicago. Olivia is a woman of means who joins her friends on ski trip and decide what to do with they money they do not need. Sarah is a pregnant teenager who is part of polygamous religious community in southern Utah. Sarah goes with her younger cousin to get her check. Rachel Swirsky examines the pros and cons of UBI. It can used to achieve freedom. It can be squandered. It is not a solution to everything. UBI can provide help to those that have none.

Title: **Ogres**

Writer: Adrain Tchaikovsky

Publication: Solaris

Date: March 15, 2022

Word Count: 17501*

We follow Torquell, a young man, who lives in a world ruled by ogres. It is a world with modern technology but the ogres run a feudal society. Torquell gets into big trouble and goes on the run and is eventually captured. There he finds the true nature of his world and maybe a way to change it. There is a great setup and payoff at the end. A great use of second person point of view.

Title: **Blimpies**

Writer: Rick Wilber

Publication: *Asimov's*

Date: March-April 2022

Word Count: 17501*

Peter Holman and his sister Kaitlyn are on an alien planet. Kaitlyn was captured by a Whistle, an laien prince opposed to the Twoclicks, the alien prince Peter is working with. Kaitlyn has an opportunity to escape with Smiles and tries to reach Peter. Peter tries to meet her. Between them is distance and a hurricane force storm. Can they make it to safe place to meet? The world and characters are engaging. This is part of a series covered in the novel Alien Day.

Title: **Goose**

Writer: Rick Wilber

Publication: *Asimov's*

Date: July-August 2022

Word Count: 17501*

Eddie Bennet goes to correct the timeline to prevent a fascist victory in the 40s. She goes to 1941 and meets baseball phenom Billie Davis. She maybe the key to saving the timeline. Part of the fascist plot is stealing Howard Hughes Spruce Goose. Another interesting entry in the series of alternate history stories Wilber has written about.

Novelettes

Title: **Grandmother Troll**

Writer: Eleanor Arnason

Publication: *Asimov's*

Date: September-October 2022

Word Count: 8500*

In Iceland, a young girl Helga, spends the summer in the country. She meets a troll who is named Grandmother Troll. Grandmother Troll stays at an old farmer's land. Helga leans about Iceland's past through Grandmother Troll. After Helga goes home, a big

storm comes. Grandma Troll comes to Helga to help the farmer. A nice story about local folklore and community.

Title: **Just Desserts**

Writer: A.M. Barrie

Publication: *FIYAH*

Date: Summer 2022

Word Count: 10244

Hercules is a slave in George Washington's housel hold. He eventually becomes the head cook. Hercules is able to use magic to enhance the meals he makes. He can use that magic to kill. Hercules deals with the strengths and weakness of his master. Those feelings are complex, and they are presented to the reader so they can process them to.

Title: **My Future Self, Refused**

Writer: Adam-Troy Castro

Publication: *Lightspeed*

Date: August 2022

Word Count: 9113

Audio Version Available

This one is very personal since I knew many of the people in this story. Science Fiction Writer Adam-Troy Castro meets a future version of himself while dealing with the death of his wife Judi. This is like *The Martian Child* by David Gerrold where we look at the world using the tools of the genre. The story is about grief and facing the future the best way one can.

Title: **If You Find Yourself Speaking to God, Address God with the Informal You**

Writer: John Chu

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: July-August 2022

Word Count: 9886

Audio Version Available

A person known of Tom of Finland is acting as a superhero. He is becoming a hero in the Asian community. Steve is an actor and meets Carl at the gym. They become gym partners and later more. Is Carl Tom of Finland? How much can a superhero change the world? A fascinating take on the classic superhero.

Title: **Lost and Found**

Writer: M.L. Clark

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: October 2022

Word Count: 13280

Audio Version Available

Essen goes to a planet with her three AI bots to remove the illegal incursion. She has to find the passengers of spaceship that came to planet. Where are they? What happened to them? An intriguing mystery and a well detailed world.

Title: **Your Eyes, My Beacon: Being an Account of Several Misadventures and How I Found My Way Home**

Writer: C.L Clark

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: May-June 2022

Word Count: 8722

Audio Version Available

Sigo is a sailor who washes up near a lighthouse after her shipwrecks. Audei lives in the lighthouse, and she nurses Sigo back to health. Sigo stays until its safe to go to the nearest town. They form a relationship and Sigo learns Audei secret of running the lighthouse. Audei needs help to to keep running the lighthouse. Can Sigo help Audei? It is an interesting relationship story.

Title: **River of Sons**

Writer: Geoffrey W. Cole

Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*

Date: July 14, 2022

Word Count: 8294

The setting is alternate World War I where magic exists. In Brussels, a yeoman magician named Imke with the help of her

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Monkey Massacre, Netflix, Upside Down Pictures)

- Garland, Alex – *Men* (DNA Films)
- Goth, Mia and West, Ti – *Pearl* (A24, Bron Creative, Little Lamb, New Zealand Film Commission)

Superior Achievement in a Poetry Collection

- Bailey, Michael and Simon, Marge – *Sifting the Ashes* (Crystal Lake Publishing)
- Lynch, Donna – *Girls from the County* (Raw Dog Screaming Press)
- Pelayo, Cynthia – *Crime Scene* (Raw Dog Screaming Press)
- Saulson, Sumiko – *The Rat King: A Book of Dark Poetry* (Dooky Zines)
- Sng, Christina – *The Gravity of Existence* (Interstellar Flight Press)

Superior Achievement in an Anthology

- Datlow, Ellen – *Screams from the Dark: 29 Tales of Monsters and the Monstrous* (Tor Nightfire)
- Hartmann, Sadie and Saywers, Ashley – *Human Monsters: A Horror Anthology* (Dark Matter Ink)
- Nogle, Christi and Becker, Willow – *Mother: Tales of Love and Terror* (Weird Little Worlds)
- Ryan, Lindy – *Into the Forest: Tales of the Baba Yaga* (Black Spot Books)
- Tantlinger, Sara – *Chromophobia: A Strangehouse Anthology by Women in Horror* (Strangehouse Books)

Superior Achievement in Non-Fiction

- Cisco, Michael – *Weird Fiction: A Genre Study* (Palgrave Macmillan)
- Hieber, Leanna Renee and Janes, Andrea – *A Haunted History of Invisible Women: True Stories of America’s Ghosts* (Citadel Press)
- Kröger, Lisa and Anderson, Melanie R. – *Toil and Trouble: A Women’s History of the Occult* (Quirk Books)
- Waggoner, Tim – *Writing in the Dark: The Workbook* (Guide Dog Books)
- Wytovich, Stephanie M. – *Writing Poetry in the Dark* (Raw Dog Screaming Press)

Superior Achievement in Short Non-Fiction

- Murray, Lee – “I Don’t Read Horror (& Other Weird Tales)” (*Interstellar Flight Magazine*) (Interstellar Flight Press)
- Pelayo, Cynthia – “This is Not a Poem” (*Writing Poetry in the Dark*) (Raw Dog Screaming Press)
- Wetmore, Jr., Kevin J. – “A Clown in the Living Room: The Sinister Clown on Television” (*The Many Lives of Scary Clowns: Essays on Pennywise, Twisty, the Joker, Krusty and More*) (McFarland and Company)
- Wood, L. Marie – “African American Horror Authors and Their Craft: The Evolution of Horror Fiction from African Folklore” (*Conjuring Worlds: An Afrofuturist Textbook for Middle and High School Students*) (Conjure World)
- Wood, L. Marie, “The H Word: The Horror of Hair” (*Nightmare Magazine*, No. 118) (Adamant Press)

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mentor Pilo (turned into a duck) investigate a soul binding spell. The souls are bonded to the caster and will give them great necromantic power. A German officer finds them during their investigation and plans to take matters into his own hands. Who cast the soul binding spell? Is worth doing anything to stop an enemy? Great action and some interesting humor with the mentor turned into a duck. I could see more in this world.

Title: Two Hands, Wrapped in Gold

Writer: S.B. Divya

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: May-June 2022

Word Count: 14739

A retelling of Rumpelstiltskin. The change is that we get an origin and a motivation for the bargain he made.

Rampalalakshmi is blessed with the ability to turn things to gold. He and his family are from India and travel as merchants. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ram and his mother are stuck in Austria. Ram makes a friend with Ilse. Can Ram and his mother survive in this land? Can he use his powers without attracting attention? This is a well thought out story.

Title: Primordial Soup and Salad

Writer: Gene Doucette

Publication: *Lightspeed*

Date: October 2022

Word Count: 9072

Audio Version Available

The United Space Fleet Vessel *Caroline* has problems with its replicators. The lead engineer and scientist try to figure out what the problem is. This leads to a complicated discussion of what is sentient life. This is a fascinating look in the technology of replicator used later versions of *Star Trek*.

Title: The Power of Apollo

Writer: Marianne J. Dyson

Publication: *Analog*

Date: September-October 2022

Word Count: 7501*

Ashley is recovering artifacts at the Apollo 16 landing site. Some unexpected things happens, and she deals with it. A very interesting exploration of the Moon and how yesterday's actions can help present day efforts.

Title: Solidity

Writer: Greg Egan

Publication: *Asimov’s*

Date: September-October 2022

Word Count: 10000*

Omar during school discovers he is not in the world he started out in. People are changing and others taken their place. Omar

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meets Rafiq and try to forge on given the situation. Other people are displaced, and the world tries to make sense of it. This is a story of people trying to help each other during a strange situation.

Title: Anything You Lose Comes Back in Another Form
 Writer: Jennie Evenson
 Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date: May 5, 2022
 Word Count:8241

Pinar's mother used magic to ensure the local ecology was stable. The price is that using magic takes a month of your life away. Pinar has a child and tries to avoid using magic as frequently as her mother did. There are consequences to this. Pinar must decide what to do next. Should teach someone the ways of her magic. This is a story about responsibility to the one's family and community and the cost it has on some.

Title: The Journeyman: At the Bluffs of Sinjin Trell
 Writer: Michael Flynn
 Publication: *Analog* Date: March-April 2022
 Word Count:10000*

This a military SF story set on a distant planet. There is mixture of old and new technology. This part of series Flynn has been working on for 10 years. It is a bit hard to get into all though there are some interesting bits.

Title: A Record of Our Meeting with the Grand Faerie Lord of Vast Space and Its Great Mysteries, Revised
 Writer: A.T. Greenblatt
 Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date: February 24, 2022
 Word Count:7557

The ship Forever Tryong is stuck in area of space-time call the Tidepools. The crew invite the Grand Faerie Lord to the ship to see if they can help. The ship's chronicler tells of story of time loops and going to Unknown Universe. This is a vividly described trippy story.

Title: Proof of Concept
 Writer: Austin Habershaw
 Publication: *Analog* Date: May-June 2022
 Word Count:7501*

A shape shifting alien is injured and lost its memory. It hides as dangerous weapon while it tries to figure out what happened. There are very designed aliens and a good action-adventure story,

Title: Optimist Cleaver's Last Transmission
 Writer: J.C. Hsyu
 Publication: *F&SF* Date: November-December, 2022
 Word Count:14000*

Optimist Cleaver is the handle of a courier doing peer to peer (P2P) transmissions in a future LA area. She came late to a hand off and friend got hurt. Optimist has to finish the job and find out who is behind this attack. There is a lot of good action, dialogue, and use of tech in this cyberpunk story.

Title: Cloudchaser
 Writer: Tom Jolly
 Publication: *Analog* Date: January-February 2022
 Word Count:10000*

A former prince goes into collectibles to frustrate his bully of brother. When his brother assumes the throne, he leaves and finds a place to hide his collection. Two brewers follow the former prince to where he hides his collection. They wish to squat on the planet since it good place to raise the ingredients they need for

the drinks they make. Unfortunately, sinister forces come after all of them, and they have to escape. This is a good action adventure with some interesting speculation in the future of brewing.

Title: Kora Is Life
 Writer: David Levine
 Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: May 2022
 Word Count:18120 Audio Version Available

The Kora is a powered glider race which is off great significance to the Silene. Kestrel will be the first human to fly in the race. He will represent the Stormbird clade in the race. The Stormbirds have not won the race in a long time and have pinned their hopes on Kestrel and the engine she brings. The rivalries between the clades and the race itself is intense. Can Kestrel win the race? This a great sport story. The Kora is very important to Silene culture and Kestrel must navigate the traditions as an outsider. A gripping tale.

Title: Coyoteland
 Writer: Evan Marcroft
 Publication: *Asimov's* Date: May-June 2022
 Word Count:10000*

The United States has fractured after a virus ravaged it. In the southwest there are several individual countries both physical and virtual. Jacinta is trying to bring Vee to El Dorado. They face many obstacles to ge there. Will they get to their destination. This has good action and investigates how and why we could fragment.

Title: In Mercy, Rain
 Writer: Seanan McGuire
 Publication: *Tor.com* Date: July 18, 2022
 Word Count:9263

This story is set in Wayward Children world. This tells some back story of of Jack and Jill Wolcott, twins who went to a world called the Moors. Jill is left to the resident vampire lord, while Jack is an apprentice to a mad scientist. Jack learns that death is not end but what happens after. A nice expansion into the Wayward Children stories.

Title: Dollbot Cicily
 Writer: Will McIntosh
 Publication: *Asimov's* Date: March-April 2022
 Word Count:10000*

Cicily discovers she was used the model for life size doll. She is working repair gigs. She gets jobs to repairs the dolls that look like her. She can hack into them and control them remotely. Cicily does to 3 dolls and steals from the men to get her daughter from child services. She learns about the men who buy these dolls. A look into what kind of men want a robot woman and the world which has big class distinctions. A disturbing but interesting read.

Title: Shepherd Moons
 Writer: Jerry Oliton
 Publication: *Analog* Date: September-October 2022
 Word Count:7501*

An attempt to deflect an asteroid involves discovering a structure on that asteroid. It is decided to send a human crewed mission to investigate. The results will be surprising. This was written before the successful deflection of an asteroid. This is a hard SF stories dealing with politics and the science a mission like this would incur. The main character Priya has the brains to deal with all the problems she faces.

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Title: The Sadness Box
 Writer: Suzanne Palmer
 Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: July 2022
 Word Count: 13480 Audio Version Available
 An inventor creates a simple AI in box to live in a state of sadness. The inventor's teenage son feels bad for the AI and tries to cheer it up. The world the Inventor and his son lives in is at war. A war where the enemy uses nanobots to turn people into mindless zombies. Can the boy help the AI? How will the war affect the son's family (he lives with his mother and stepfather and stepsister)? This an interesting if scary world. This about families and how complicated they can be. The family shown is believable. No one is perfect and each are trying their best.

Title: Falling Off the Edge of the World
 Writer: Suzanne Palmer
 Publication: *Asimov's* Date: November-December 2022
 Word Count: 10000*
 There was accident on the Hellebore with 2 survivors. Gabe maintains a food supply while Alis takes care off the ship. They are opposite ends of the Hellebore and communicate through comms. A rescue mission comes, and everything is not as it seems. A great story about character and compassion.

Title: Sword and Spore
 Writer: Dominica Phettplace
 Publication: *Tor.com* Date: April 6, 2022
 Word Count: 12330
 An evil queen is imprisoned in a sword. Years later, the sword is found by a young man and he becomes possessed to kill the Queen's enemies, the king and his wizard. The king, queen, and wizard are part of the old world. The wizard wants to make way for a new world, a freer world. Can he do it? A great combination of the classic fairy tale and a modern sensibility.

Title: Bhatia, P.I.
 Writer: Shiv Ramdas
 Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: March 2022
 Word Count: 9122 Audio Version Available
 Bhatia is trying to get his paranormal investigation agency off the ground. He is having a rough time and his mom want the rent. A real estate mogul comes for help, his son is possessed. Bhatia and his partner Sandhya go to examine the son. Nothing is as it seems. This is a great mix of the detective story mixed with comedy. There is a humorous twist. This was fun and future visits with Bhatia and Sanshya would be welcomed.

Title: Things To Do in Deimos When You're Dead
 Writer: Alastair Reynolds
 Publication: *Asimov's* Date: September-October 2022
 Word Count: 8500*
 A man named Per finds himself in an empty city. He then meets a man and woman. How did they get here? Is this an afterlife? Can Per accept what has happened. This story looks at some big questions of life and death.

Title: Rocket Girls
 Writer: Kristine Kathryn Rusch
 Publication: *Asimov's* Date: May-June 2022
 Word Count: 8835
 A story of a group of girls inspired to go to space from an old pulp magazine. Good science with a crazy plan makes a good YA

SF story.

Title: To Embody a Wildfire Starting
 Writer: Iona Datt Sharma
 Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies* Date: January 1, 2022
 Word Count: 11473
 This a world where dragons can take human for. A dictatorship favoring dragons and did horrible crimes has fallen. A political prisoner Tishrel goes home where their mother is a power politician. Tishrel recovers to what was done to them during their imprisonment. This story looks at what do you do after the revolution. What is justice after the revolution. How much mercy can one give to those on the losing side.

Title: In Transit
 Writer: JT Sharrah
 Publication: *Analog* Date: March-April 2022
 Word Count: 10000*
 A generation starship on route to Tau Ceti, deals with nonconformists by sending them to C deck or Coventry. We follow Molly a teen who is a nonconformist. The roles onboard a generation starship are examined. This sis a good YA hard SF story.

Title: The Noon Witch Goes to Sound Planet
 Writer: Kristina Ten
 Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: November 2022
 Word Count: 9056 Audio Version Available
 Hailey is a daughter of a Russian witch. She loves her mother but does not want to live her life. She is ostracized by the students because of her background and strange things that happen around her. Hailey goes to music festival to show she is not cursed. This is a nice coming of age story. Hailey wants to be her own person.

Title: The Prince of Salt and the Ocean's Bargain
 Writer: Natalia Theodoridou
 Publication: *Uncanny* Date: September-October 2022
 Word Count: 9619
 This is the story of salt from the ocean becoming a man and what happens after that. It is a story about found families and love. A modern fairy tale.

Title: The Loneliness of a Long-Distance Reporter
 Writer: Daniela Tomova
 Publication: *Tor.com* Date: March 16, 2022
 Word Count: 11152
 A reporter goes to cover a sled race in Norway. The race involves revenants (zombies) who for some reason are drawn to the North Pole. The race is new but expanding. What can go wrong. The story gives one a feeling of the setting. The setting also ties into the reporter's family background.

Title: The Dirty Golden Yellow House
 Writer: Debbie Urbanski
 Publication: *Lightspeed* Date: October 2022
 Word Count: 10437 Audio Version Available
 A woman is being raped by her husband. She goes to supernatural means to solve the problem. The story discusses the history of marital rape. It is a dark story which sheds a light on a serious issue.

Title: The Difference Between Love and Time
 Writer: Catherynne M. Valente

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Publication: *Someone in Time: Tales of Time-Crossed Romance*
Date: May 10, 2022

Word Count:9383

The relationship between a person and the space/time continuum. It crosses over all frontiers and yet the relationship is relatable. It is a brilliant surrealistic story. This can be read on Tor.com.

Short Stories

Title: Lily, the Immortal

Writer: Kylie Lee Baker

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2022
Word Count:6356 Audio Version Available

Lily is a successful video blogger (vlogger) who dies at 24. Her girlfriend Airi finds out that a corporation buys Lily's vlog and likeness. There is no proof of Airi's and Lily's relationship, so Airi has no control with how this company will use Lily's image. What can she do? Who owns our image? Do we have a say of ourselves after our death? A very relevant story.

Title: The Scared Cow

Writer: Steven Barnes and Larry Niven

Publication: *Analog* Date: November-December 2022
Word Count:7000*

This set in Known Space on Earth. This is early in the career of Gil Hamilton of Amalgamated Regional Militia (ARM), a law enforcement agency focusing on dangerous technology, organ legging, and the Fertility Laws. Some has killed a cow in India. This cow was being using to produce organs for a rich family patriarch. Hamilton is on the case which takes a surprising direction. This is a well-executed SF Mystery, and it is fun hanging out in Known Space again.

Title: Forty Eight Minutes at the Trainview Café

Writer: M. Bernardo

Publication: *Asimov's* Date: November-December 2022
Word Count: 7501*

Felix finds himself bored in a simulation at a train station. Nancy, an administrator of the simulation, tells him the merits of being at the Trainview Café. This a look of what is expect or need from simulations.

Title: Fate, Hope, Friendship, Foe

Writer: Marie Brennan

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: July-August 2022
Word Count:3754 Audio Version Available

A woman goes on road trip in the Midwest. She sees the names of the towns she encounters. Is this a message from one of her sisters? Is there something going on? A fun take on one of the classic Greek mythological characters as told as road trip.

Title: Build-A-Body

Writer: Avi Burton

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: February 10, 2022
Word Count:2711 Audio Version Available

A non-binary gendered person orders a body built to their specifications. They are not sure if it is a real ad. Something is delivered to their home. It is not what was expected. A fascinating look at our perceptions gender and how it affects us.

Title: The Calcified Heart of Saint Ignace Battiste

Writer: Christopher Caldwell

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2022
Word Count:2885

A young acolyte discovers something in age old ritual, and it changes him forever. There is glorious prose describing a dark ceremony and its participants.

Title: The 207th Time I Went Back to March 9, 1980

Writer: Beth Cato

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: September-October 2022
Word Count:929

A time traveler goes back to their childhood home. Why? There is a touching ending on how can use the past to make the present bearable.

Title: Elsewhere, Elsewhen

Writer: L. Chan

Publication: *GigaNotoSaurus* Date: August 1, 2022
Word Count:5955

There is a city beyond time on the verge of a calamity. The Grand Harvester tells Confessor her crimes and role into the coming crisis. This is a beautiful. poetic, and trippy story.

Title: It Takes a Village

Writer: Priya Chand

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: March 2022
Word Count:6370 Audio Version Available

A colony ship comes to a planet. The passengers follow the AI. The AI breaks up the people into mothers and fathers. The mothers go to planet to set it up for living. There is no communication between the 2 groups. Three years later the ship becomes less stable, and the fathers come to the planet. Can these groups work together? Is the AI always right? Should they stay on the planet? Some good conflict on how a society can be set up.

Title: Payday Weather

Writer: Matthew Claxton

Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: January 27, 2022
Word Count:5828 Audio Version Available

The fires in Southern California have gotten so bad that Fire Suppression Contractors are hired. They are work for hire. The story follows a group of contractors dealing with a fire in a neighborhood. One feels the heat of these fires and feelings of the characters.

Title: Night Dance

Writer: Leah Cypess

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2022
Word Count:6030 Audio Version Available

This is a retelling of The Twelve Dancing Princesses. It is set in the same period. The reasons of what the princesses are doing and the consequences are darker. We follow the youngest sister who follows their latest rescuer, Peren. He seems to know about what is going on. What does he want? This has great prose and is well told.

Title: Beneath the Surface, a Womb of Ice

Writer: Deborah L. Davitt

Publication: *Analog* Date: November-December 2022
Word Count:7000*

An expedition is looking for water underground in Mars near the south pole. The expedition faces challenges. This is a good hard SF story. There are problems, the situation is plausible, and the resolution leads to the fact that things change.

Title: Boy in the Key of Forsaken

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Writer: Eric Del Carlo

Publication: *Analog*

Word Count:6000*

Date: May-June 2022

Locke is a boy alone on a planet. He hangs out watching aliens grow organic spaceships. Locke uses an alien tool to make music and bonds with an underdeveloped spaceship. It is the story of the beginning of a friendship.

Title: Laser Squid Goes House Hunting

Writer: Douglas DiCicco

Publication: *Escape Pod*

Word Count:2586

Date: August 18, 2022

Audio Version Available

A realtor is trying to sell a house to Laser Squid. She needs a sale due some financial shortfalls from her divorce. The realtor bonds with Laser Squid. This is a funny story. One accepts that there are sentient armed squids and the rest is fun. There is a great solution to both characters' problems.

Title: In the Beginning of Me, I Was a Bird

Writer: Maria Dong

Publication: *Lightspeed*

Word Count:5446

Date: January 2022

Audio Version Available

A solitary woman has something implanted in her. She gets sick, dies, and her soul leaps into a cat. As a cat she finds someone who has also been implanted. This person also leaps into an animal. The animal's life accelerates and they have jumped into something else when their former hosts die. This story shows a

friendship.

Title: Requiem for a Dollface

Writer: Margaret Dunlap

Publication: *Uncanny*

Word Count:1469

Date: March-April 2022

Audio Version Available

A girl's doll is defaced and killed. A teddy bear investigates. This combines a detective story and Toy Story. The story conveys an emotional truth of what we should learn from toys and those lessons' limits.

Title: Destiny Delayed

Writer: Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki

Publication: *Asimov's*

Word Count:5700*

Date: May-June 2022

Audio Version Available

In Nigeria, a process to examine and extract destiny from people has been developed. People can take loans against their destiny. Mukoro is a scientist who takes a loan against his daughter's destiny to finish his research project which involves destinies. This is a classic SF story with modern sensibilities. We examine how an idea affects society. It is powerful and definitely worth one's time.

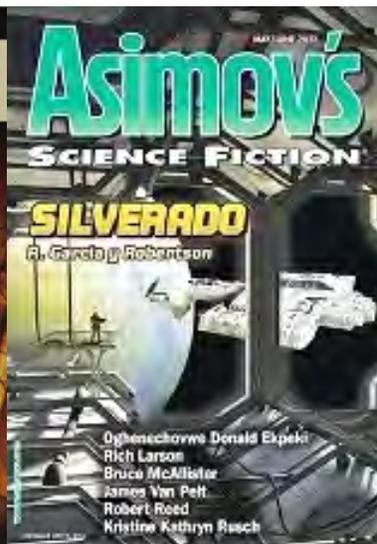
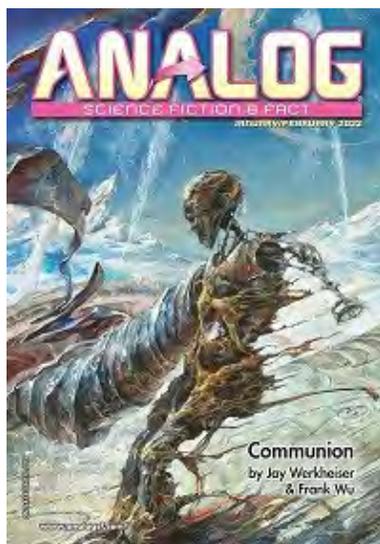
Title: 12 Things a Trini Should Know Before Travelling to a Back in Times Fete™

Writer: R.S.A. Garcia

Publication: *Strange Horizons*

Date: October 10, 2022

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

Word Count:1821

A time travel agency has a package for tourists to go Trinidad and Tobago's past. The provide a guide for what you can and cannot do on your trip. It reminds of how the times have change for the better and the legacy of those times.

Title: The Long Way Up

Writer: Alix E. Harrow

Publication: *The Deadlands*

Date: January 2022

Word Count:5301

Ocean finds it difficult to accept her husband's death. She finds a way to find him in the afterlife. Can she convince him to come back with her? This is a look of what is love and a great take on Orpheus.

Title: I Will Have This Diamond for a Heart

Writer: Carlos Hernandez

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: March-April 2022

Word Count:2482

Audio Version Available

Sol Paz find themselves in a void. Sol is in a place where ideas are tangible. What can Sol do? Where can Sol go? This story explores existentialism and legacy. It takes a scary idea and gives it hope.

Title: Travelers' Unrest

Writer: Nina Kiriki Hoffman

Publication: *Uncanny*

Date: November-December 2022

Word Count:2665

Audio Version Available

A tour guide leads a group of tourists on a planet rebuilding itself. This is a character-based story showing how the guide and the tourists deal with their surroundings. There planet is well designed.

Title: The Princess, NP

Writer: Brian Hugenbruch

Publication: *Escape Pod*

Date: September 29, 2022

Word Count:5189

Audio Version Available

A computer enhanced woman is an indentured servant. She is a princess tied to a queen. She can incredible calculations at the spur of a moment. The princess is assigned to space station to help monitor contraband. Something unexpected happens. Will it lead to the princess's freedom or her doom? A great story of about advanced computing and freedom.

Title: Gamma

Writer: Oskar Källaner

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: May 2022

Word Count:7180

Audio Version Available

In the far future (near the predicted death point of the universe), two living machines Gamma and Kthelk'tha meet at a black hole recharging themselves. Their creators are long dead, and their fellow machines are on the brink of war. They decide what they are going go. We go to fascinating place in time where the stars have gone out and universe has run away from each other. The story says there is still hope and purpose in this world.

Title: Termination Stories for the Cyberpunk Dystopia Protagonist

Writer: Isabel J. Kim

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: July 2022

Word Count:5960

Audio Version Available

Cool and Sexy Asian Girl guides a Tourist looking for answers in the City, but is there something more going on. This is a look at a classic Science Fiction or Game scenario. Who are the people in

the cyberpunk story? What lies beneath the noir images?

Title: The Massage Lady at Munjeong Road Bathhouse

Writer: Isabel J. Kim

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: February 2022

Word Count:4660

Audio Version Available

Jinah is a widowed mother who works at a bathhouse. Here she takes of the scales of people. If the harden they can restrict your fate. Jinah is given an opportunity. Should she take it. A look into controlling one's fate and the paths one can take.

Title: This Is Our Get-Along Brainship

Writer: Kristen Koopman

Publication: *Escape Pod*

Date: March 3, 2022

Word Count:4831

Audio Version Available

The consciousness of the brainship *Coraje* discovers an anomaly. Do ghosts exists? How do you get rid of one on a spaceship? The is a great Science Fiction take on a ghost story.

Title: The Dragon Project

Writer: Naomi Kritzer

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: March 2022

Word Count:3860

Audio Version Available

A bioengineer is tasked with building for an ignorant client. After creating 2 dragons, the client goes elsewhere. A new creature is seen in the wild. Is the creature a danger in the wild? There is great science on ecology and biology.

Title: Fly Free

Writer: Alan Kubatiev

Publication: *Clarkesworld*

Date: October 2022

Word Count:4970

Audio Version Available

In this world, humans and birds can communicate with each other and birds exert their power in the human world. Crowley is translator of birdspeak. He lost in love and faces the authority of the birds on daily basis. A close friend tells him he is endanger. What will Crowley do? The birds possess the same strengths and weaknesses we do. There is rich detail with this world. Translated from Russian by Alex Shvartsman.

Title: The Rules of Unbinding

Writer: Geoffrey Landis

Publication: *Asimov's*

Date: September-October

2022

Word Count:2500*

Kharkov finds a genie in the desert. He finds out what it happens when you try to change the rules of wishes. This was a perfect one joke story.

Title: Bonsai Starships

Writer: Yoon Ha Lee

Publication: *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*

Date:

February 10, 2022

Word Count:4146

Audio Version Available

Sentient bonsai trees are the key to faster than light travel. They are raised at a shrine by an order to devoted to them. Kei is a novice at the shrine. One day ambassadors to Empress come to take the tress to service her fleet. What can Kei do to stop this? A real engaging story and great prose style.

Title: Bonus Footage

Writer: Marissa Lingen

Publication: *Asimov's*

Date: September-October

2022

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Word Count: 7499 Audio Version Available
 Sam makes travel films of exotic planets. The planet Freyja presents some interesting challenges, like dangerous plants named after great artists. Sam is accompanied by a scout troop. Can Sam get the job done without getting in danger? A fun science-based story which tells about a love of travelling to exotic locales.

Title: Timekeepers' Symphony
 Writer: Ken Liu
 Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: September 2022
 Word Count: 6340 Audio Version Available
 A poetic look at timekeeping. We go from the distant past and to the far future. Humans learn how to change their internal clock and their perception of time. It is a power and fascinating look at the nature of time.

Title: The Goldfish Man
 Writer: Maureen McHugh
 Publication: *Uncanny* Date: March-April 2022
 Word Count: 6318 Audio Version Available
 Sima is a potter who is living in her car due to a situation created by the pandemic. She struggles to survive. She meets Lane who helps her. Lane claims he is not human. Is he? A story that helps one emphasize with those who have hit a major crisis.

Title: Iconophobe
 Writer: Sam J. Miller
 Publication: *F&SF* Date: November-December 2022

Word Count: 6000*

Ethan was a member of a cult, the Iconophobes, that most of its members died in multiple suicide bombings. The cult's philosophy believed that photography cuts humans from their connection to the world/universe. Ethan wrote a sensational book about the Iconophobes and is dealing with the guilt of someone he betrayed in the cult. This is a gripping look at cults, our relationship to the world, and others.

Title: Rabbit Test
 Writer: Samantha Mills
 Publication: *Uncanny* Date: November-December 2022

Word Count: 7067 Audio Version Available
 In the future, girls can be chipped to monitor their bodies and report to parents and the authorities. We follow 3 generations of women who live in this world. We get the history of reproductive science and the laws that follow. This is a world where half of the population lost the rights to control their own destinies. This is powerful story that is reflection of the concerns and fears of the decisions that were made last year.

Title: The Slow Deaths of Automobiles
 Writer: Fiona Moore
 Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: September 2022
 Word Count: 4360 Audio Version Available

One person gets his grandmother sentient car. It is older car with a AI named Tanvi. With a friend they take care of Tanvi. One of them goes to university the other stays with Tanvi. Does Tanvi need to be updated? Does updating change who Tanvi is? This is fun story about AIs, cars, and identity.



(Continued from page 11)

Title: The Empty
 Writer: Ray Nayler
 Publication: *Asimov's* Date: November-December 2022
 Word Count:7000*

Sal is remote pilot for drone trucks. One of her trucks runs over something in a place far from regular service support. It looks like a pizza delivery robot. Something does not seem right. Sal investigates it further at a financial loss. Is there something wrong? Is it worth her time and money to investigate? This story looks at how hyper-capitalism can dehumanizes people. Do we lose our humanity when we are penalized for any mistake we make?

Title: The Almond Pirates
 Writer: Annalee Newitz
 Publication: *Anthropocene* Date: September 2022
 Word Count:3633

Shruti lives in a canyon city Deepleaf in post climate change world. While looking for her cat Irving on the lower levels, she discovers an illegal use of resources. Who did this? Why? What is should be done about it? There is some great world building here with the design of the city and its community.

Title: Company Town
 Writer: Aimee Ogden
 Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: June 2022
 Word Count:5930 Audio Version Available
 Cass and Maya live in an oppressive company town. There is planned work stoppage to negotiate for better terms. Maya goes to another world to fight fantastic beasts. How does this effect Cass? What does it take to be a hero. One does not see the world Maya goes to but it effects the real world. A good take on a portal fantasy.

Title: Sparrows
 Writer: Susan Palwick
 Publication: *Asimov's* Date: September-October 2022
 Word Count:4000*
 The apocalypse is coming and Lacey stays at her school to finish her paper. She has no real to go home and finds an audience for her work. We see that there are many ways to deal with big disasters.

Title: Wild Meat
 Writer: Shari Paul
 Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: March 24, 2022
 Word Count:3367 Audio Version Available
 Picture a world where dinosaurs came back and are placed in reserves for their protection. On a Caribbean island, a cooking contest is planned. Two guys have a connection at the nearby dinosaur reserve and plan to make dishes with dinosaur meat. Things do not go as planned. A funny story with dinosaurs and cooking.

Title: Aconie's Bees
 Writer: Jessica Reisman
 Publication: *Analog* Date: May-June 2022
 Word Count:4000
 People have colonized a bio dome. Aconie a self-maintaining humanoid bio-printer, helps take of the local environment as best it can. She has taught humans how to interact with the bees. Something is changing and Aconie will have do something about it. This is a story where things change and it not always bad.

Title: The Scene of the Crime
 Writer: Leonard Richardson
 Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: August 2022
 Word Count:3470 Audio Version Available
 There is an investigation at an archeological site. A lawyer from this society interrogates a graduate student on the leader of the expedition. They have found something that should not be here. This indicates the existence of time loop. What choices can one make when seeing the products of the future? A great mystery where someone has to make a tough decision.

Title: Two Spacesuits
 Writer: Leonard Richardson
 Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: April 2022
 Word Count:4540 Audio Version Available
 Carlos goes to visit his parents. Each are complaining of unusual behavior of the other. The act differently when they are doing routine tasks. What has happened to his parents? Is there a solution? The family is believable and there is a good SF explanation for what is happening.

Title: The Wrong Side of the Sky
 Writer: Raymond Roach
 Publication: *Escape Pod* Date: March 10, 2022
 Word Count:3460 Audio Version Available
 Humans have come to an alien world. This causes some division with the locals. We follow an alien and her brother to help a human survivor of a vehicle crash. The sister confronts her issues with the coming of the humans. A poignant look at how outsiders, without even intending to, can change the dynamic of a society.

Title: Our Love Against Us
 Writer: DeVaun Sanders
 Publication: *Uncanny* Date: September-October 2022
 Word Count:6008 Audio Version Available
 Nim is trying to look for his friend Aletha in wreck Chicago. Aletha was an arcologist and designed a self-sustaining tower in the city. What has a happened to Aletha? Can Nim find her? This is a dark story how something precious can be turned against us.

Title: Maximum Efficiency
 Writer: Holly Schofield
 Publication: *Analog* Date: November-December 2022
 Word Count:5000*
 K3RA is a battle robot that was recently damaged. It goes to what appears an empty barn. K3RA finds an old woman. K3RA starts to question the intention of his design Can he find new purpose? What you should do when you are and not sure if you want to do the job you were built for,

Title: The Red Summer
 Writer: Wendy Shaia
 Publication: *FIYAH* Date: Winter 2022
 Word Count:7335
 Samuel is in a remote camp in 1967, learning about resisting oppression. He gets visions that help him understand the past and prepare for the future.

Title: Ribbons
 Writer: Natalie Theodoridou
 Publication: *Uncanny* Date: January-February 2022
 Word Count:4236

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Jan is a trans male sex worker who will be inducted to the Army in a week. In this world women have ribbons around their necks, and they supposedly die if they take it off. Can Jan face the challenges life is giving him?

Title: The Portal Keeper

Writer: Lavie Tidhar

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: September-October 2022

Word Count: 5064 Audio Version Available

We follow the life of portal keeper during the month of October. She maintains the grounds and meets several travelers. There is a woman trying to find the right world, a mysterious man being followed by scary figures, and a teen runaway looking for an escape. The keeper tries to do her best for these people. A very pleasant story about a common fantasy trope.

Title: It Happened in Loontown

Writer: Lavie Tidhar

Publication: *Apex* Date: January 4, 2022

Word Count: 3412 Audio Version Available

Imagine a noir story where everyone is a balloon. It sounds insane but Lavie Tidhar gives a tale of mystery and woe. A balloon police detective investigates the death of low level criminal. It is fun.

Title: The Waylost Café

Writer: James Van Pelt

Publication: *Asimov's* Date: March-April 2022

Word Count: 7000* Audio Version Available

Paul Hopper works at the Waypoint Café on the planet Spring. He is a brew master and takes care people who tour the forest with hallucinogenic plants. He gets into trouble and must find

sanctuary. Can he make it? An interesting working man SF story.

Title: We Built This City

Writer: Marie Vibbert

Publication: *Clarkesworld* Date: June 2022

Word Count: 8510 Audio Version Available

Julia Lopez is a maintenance worker who keeps a Venusian floating city functioning. Her mother was one the cities builders and felt Julia should gone into a different career. Her coworkers are laid off which makes the job riskier. Can Julia and her coworkers unite and fight this? Will they get support? A labor story in space that present the issues that workers face.

Title: The Coward Who Stole God's Name

Writer: John Wiswell

Publication: *Uncanny* Date: May-June 2022

Word Count: 4459 Audio Version Available

Sam, a journalist, gets an exclusive interview with Gavin Davenport, the famous person in the world. When they meet, we find that there is more to Gavin than meets the eye. Can Sam get truth out and at what cost? A fascinating look at celebrity in the modern world with a SF twist.

Title: D.I.Y.

Writer: John Wiswell

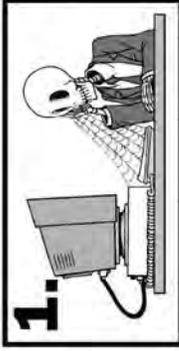
Publication: *Tor.com* Date: August 24, 2022

Word Count: 4886

Noah keeps trying to the Ozymandias Academy to learn magic. He is rejected and a drought is hurting his home city. Noah meets Manny online and they start to work on a solution to the drought. A great twist on the magic school. This is a story of finding your own way in the world by bypassing traditional institutions.

Publication	Percent
<i>Uncanny</i>	19
<i>Asimov's</i>	17
<i>Clarkesworld</i>	16
<i>Analog</i>	12
<i>Escape Pod</i>	7
<i>Lightspeed</i>	6
<i>Beneath Ceaseless Skies</i>	5
<i>Tor.com</i>	4
Tordotcom	3
<i>FIYAH</i>	2
<i>F&SF</i>	2
<i>Solaris</i>	1
Someone in Time: Tales of Time-Crossed Romance	1
<i>Strange Horizons</i>	1
<i>The Deadlands</i>	1
<i>Apex</i>	1
<i>Anthropocene</i>	1
<i>GigaNotoSaurus</i>	1

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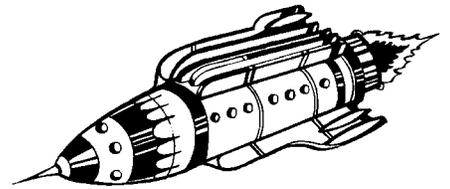


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Little Passport For WOOF

Great to hear that WOOF is back!

This year, well slightly more than a year, has been a tad bit rough (medical issues laid me into the hospital for the three days leading up to my 48th birthday!) but other than that, it's been a good time. Kids are 8 now, and nutty as all hell. Wrestling has been good, and I've still managed to get a lot of writing and art of various kinds done!

That hospital trip was kinda scary. I had been feeling weird so I drove myself to the hospital over the hill from my mountain home and they told me I had high blood pressure, which I kinda could have guessed, and diabetes, which I did not know. They gave me meds, and they helped, but they had significant stomach problems. So, a week later, I was feeling so weird, I called an ambulance and went to the ER, where they found out that the combination of water (to make my stomach feel better) and throwing up a half-dozen times had led to my sodium levels being critically low.

So, they hooked me up to an IV, checked me into the hospital for those three days, and all I could do (because there was no WiFi) was write a little, listen to the audiobooks of *Jailbird* and *Welcome to the Monkeyhouse* by Kurt Vonnegut, and play *Plants vs. Zombies*.

It was quite relaxing.

I'm listening to a lot of audiobooks these days, though most of them are for zine issues I'm working on. *The Big Book of Jack the Ripper* edited by Otto Penzler, is 55 hours long, and I've had to break it up so I can keep up with at least a few of my podcasts. Monday, Tuesday, and most Sundays I'll listen as I drive to and from work and the weekly farmers' market I go to (a benefit of my health issues was getting a LOT of assistance from MediCal, which we're about to lose, but has at least got us free veggies) and my fave podcasts, *You Must Remember This*, *The Last Podcast on the Left*, *Muriel's Murders*, *Ghosttown*, *Some Place Under Neith*, and *Redbanded*, the rest of the week. It's a good method.



This year, the Hugos are being awarded on my Birthday. I'll be 49.

Journey Planet is up for Best Fanzine, though I'm not listed as a nominee because, to steal a line from Mark Plummer as related on *#Octothorpe* "Dave McCarty says no more than seven of you can sit here."

That's a great line, and it reminds me of the one time I made the "Dave Kyle says you can't sit here joke.

I was at the CorFlu in Austin, and my flight was in late. I zipped into the hotel lobby, and I saw that Ted White was sitting there chatting with some folks (I wanna say Bill Burns and Earl Kemp) but he had his back to me. I had never actually spoken with Ted at that point, so I figured I'd make my introduction with a gag he'd recognize.

"Excuse," I said kneeling next to the chair, "but Dave Kyle says you can't sit here."

Ted turns to me and says "you must be Chris Garcia."



By Espana Sheriff

WOOOF

YTTERBIUM

HENDECOXIDE

October 2023

WOOF Collation #48 (Worldcon 81)

Prepared by Alan Stewart,
PO Box 7111, Richmond, Victoria, 3121 AUSTRALIA.
fiawol@netspace.net.au

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

I've been hearing reports that the only Australian fan attending Chengdu in person is James Styles. Well that certainly fits with the fact that the most times I've seen him over the years have been at overseas Worldcons (see my Dublin ribbon project report next), rather than at local Australian conventions, so well done James continuing your Worldcon in person tradition.

Towards the end of the 2019 Worldcon, I set about modifying a set of the Dublin 2019 ribbons I had been given, and handed some out, writing an article about it in 2020. That piece went to *Banana Wings*, but long story short it has not yet appeared in print, and Claire and Mark are happy for me to send it to *File 770*, so here it is with a recent postscript.

Rebadging Worldcon ribbons

By Alan Stewart

In the Fan Fund auction in Dublin Julian Warner bought a set of Dublin ribbons and gave them to me. Though purportedly a "complete set" comparison with a framed set of the ribbons on display in the Exhibits Hall showed that my gifted set was missing Chair, Chair's Staff and Worldcon Widow, but I had two versions of Volunteer (also VOLUNTEER). It also included Featured Artist which was not amongst the framed set. After looking through the set I decided it would be a nice idea to suitably modify them and hand some out to people at the convention. Checking that it was okay with James Bacon, who reiterated the message that they were not to be worn at the convention, which he had anecdotedly included while auctioning the set, he also agreed that it would be a very fannish thing to do. So I set out on my rebadging project with the help of some stickers provided via the art show staff.

I distributed ribbons on the last afternoon of the con, with the expectation that they would be added to badges later that day, and also at Titancon in Belfast the next weekend.

The modifications were made based on my knowledge of the recipient, maybe something that had happen at Worldcon, or whim. I believe they were received with good grace. A couple were at the suggestion of Karen Babcock.

The following table details the recipients and the modified text of the ribbon presented to them.

Recipient	Modified ribbon text
Alan Stewart	Past Worldcon Bid Chair
Andrew Trembley	Brainstorming Champion
Ben Yalow	Facilities Free in 2021
Brian Nesmitt	Help I'm At Point Square
Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf	Eurocon Organiser
Cheryl Morgan	WSFS Business Meeting Widow
Claire Brialey	Past & Present Fan Fund Hero
Craig Macbride	Hugo Losers' Ceremony Guest
Espana Sheriff	Ribbon Facilitation
Geri Sullivan	Alan Crashed My Literary Beer
Geaeme Batho	Spocking Hall Costumer
Ian McDonald	Great Publications
James Bacon	Dublin's Finest Worldcon Chair
James J Styles	I'd Like Access All Areas
Lawrence Hogg	Fan Tables Staff Hero
Lucy Sussex	Fantastical Ireland Explorer
John Coxon	Ribbon Dealer
Joseph Meltzer	I Could Be A Rocket Scientist
Julian Warner	Mr Warner
Karen Babcock	Editing McEditface
Kevin Roche	Once More With Houselights Please!
Lori Meltzer	Svelte Stage Ninja
Lynelle Howell	I Found the Dragon! In NZ
Maree Pavletich	I Made CoNZealand Happen
Mark Plummer	Fan Funds' Superfriend
Matthew Pavletich	Project Tahiti Via CoNZealand
PRK	People Superstar!
Robin Johnson	Past Worldcon Guest of Honour
Rose Mitchell	Kaffeeklatsches Are Me
Simon Litten	I Was A Retro Hugo Acceptor
Spike	Quiet Please, I Am Analyzing Stuff
Teddy Harvia	I Found A Site Selection Ballot
Tom Becker	O'Bleak!
Tori	Creators Alley Next Year
Chris Garcia	[Chair] 's Friend *

* Sticker only, given to James Bacon to add to a spare Chair ribbon and then to be forwarded to Chris.

If you would like to be added to the project please contact me at alan.stewart@conzealand.nz. Feel free to nominate the original Dublin ribbon (if known, and still available) and the final modified text you would like. Otherwise the choice of ribbon and modification will be up to me. As long as ribbons (67) are still available, I'm happy to post them out or prepare them for delivery at CoNZealand at which time I will declare the project closed (last-minute modification and issue at the con may be possible). An extra distribution table could be published later next year.



Speeding ahead to August 2023, and of course that 2020 and CoNZealand interaction never happened. So I'd like to conclude the project by the finish of Glasgow 2024 next year. In the meantime if you contact me about receiving a modified ribbon, maybe you recall a Dublin 2019 one in particular you'd like modified, and supply the details, if it is one of the 67 still available I can do that using the white stickers, nail scissors and a pen which did the work the first time around. (Please see the photo above for one example, and others appended to the end of this article.) Snail mail should be able to deliver a modified ribbon in packaging as a standard airmail letter. Best contact is probably via email fiawol@netspace.net.au.

Next year I'll take the last ribbons to Glasgow, and the essential scissors and stickers, and set about finalising the project, by request if people catch up with me, and again at my whim. I'll record details to prepare a sequel to the table above which might also appear in *File 770* next year.

Here's some more photos from 2019, modified ribbons prepared in my hotel room, ready for distribution.



Comments on WOOF 2022

Roger Hill

With your updated history of WOOF, please change the OE for 1999 to Alan Stewart.

Nigel Rowe

Thanks for the Chicon report. So many things I'd like to look forward to once I can attend a Worldcon in person again.

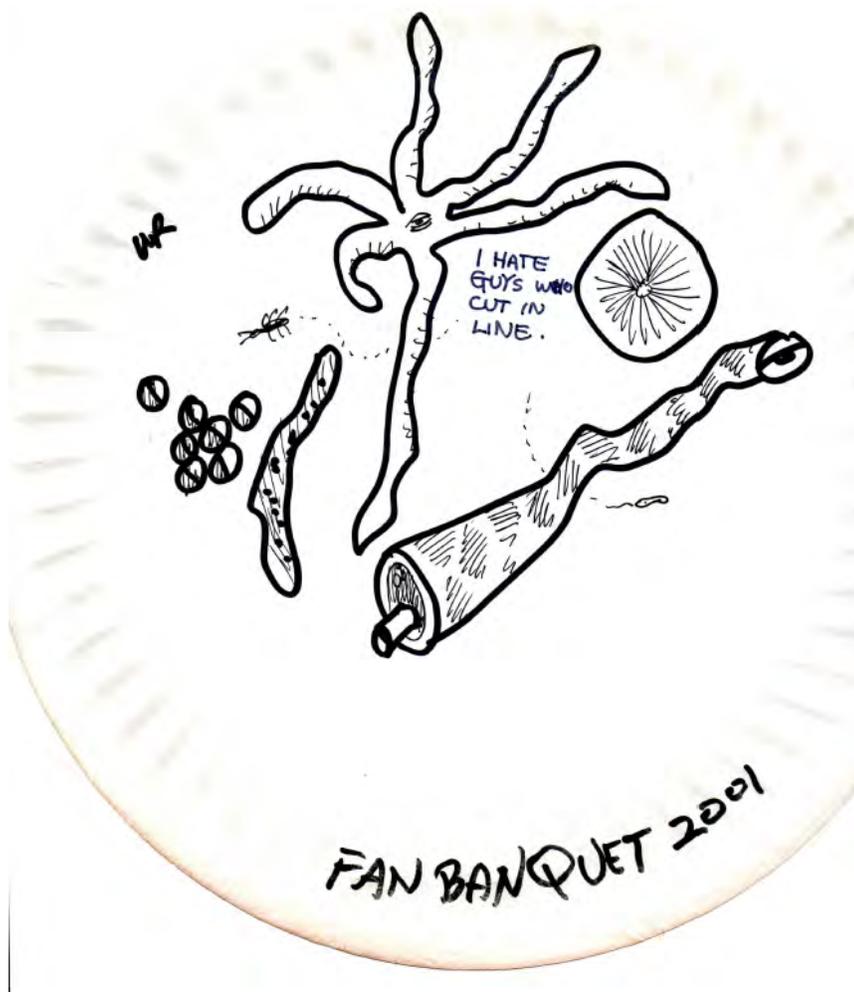
Thanks for printing and handing in my contribution.

John Coxon

Your coaster collecting sounds so fanboy and so sweet. So one advantage of Disney taking over Star Wars etc. is cool rides. Who knew?

Aaron Feldman

Despite the fact that I have not read the VanderMeer book, and am not Jewish, your zine was still very interesting, and a good scholarly read.



[This issue's Rotsler is courtesy Eric Lindsay who sent me a bunch of unused illos a while ago. As you can see from the scan, this one was drawn on a paper plate, presumably at a banquet in 2001, if the text is authentic.]

Your 'modified' PAST FAN FUND DELEGATE ribbon reminds me of the Dublin 2019 ribbon reimaging project I undertook. An article about that appeared in *File 770* in September 2013, and I've reprint it here (without the Teddy Harvia cartoon), as Worldcon and WOOF fans might be interested if they missed it.

In the printout of your zine it is in black and white, so I must check out the PDFs to see if your ribbons are there in full glorious colour.

Jan Vanek Jr

I keep meaning to have a '100 word bio' on file and kept up to date ready for requests such as those from convention programming or Worldcon participant lists, but always forget about it and end up cobbling something together from scratch each time.

Guy Lillian III

Nice travel photos and good that your bucket list got some action.

It looks like WOOF might be a bit more organised this year. Now to check the email about page size (A4? US paper?) and get something ready by the deadline.

Chris Garcia

Thanks for doing the OE chores this time Chris. Though was it remote, with on-site helpers? I do have the "revised overfed 2nd edition WOOF Mailing" from 2022, but I've just decided to comment on the handed out at the con one. Thanks for Nigel Rowe and Alison Scott for getting a copy to me.

Well that brings me to the end of a rush read and comment evening of Saturday 21 October using my work laptop, left to the last minute just like last year. Now to take a couple of photos on my iphone, upload them to my home pc, scan an illo onto that same machine (I have to swap the monitor between that and the laptop, and then hopefully back on the laptop to get everything ready to email off to Don Eastlake. John Hertz's email did not mention 'page size', so I'm going with A4 and hope it is correct. Though if the OE needs to convert it to US letter size, I think the content will convert across okay.

MUSTN'T GRUMBLE

WOOF 2023

Preceded by
"Gorblimey,
'ello Mrs.
Jones, 'ow's
your Bert's
lumbago?"



楼下大妈们跳广场舞真他妈的吵

Nic Farey, Las Vegas NV, USA

fareynic@gmail.com

Foursquare splines ago and ten, they stood at the precipice of the Great Scrotum of Ghu for a purpose long-forgotten, though not lost, congealed carefully as it was in a corner of Demerzel.

“One has tried to hush it up”, said Peter. “One has tried stuffing cushions up the Squatter’s arse.”

You lift sixteen tons and what do you get? Backache.

If you weren’t a Wes Anderson fan before ‘Asteroid City’, then it’s fairly certain you won’t be afterwards either.

Steve Marriott, that’s the bloke.

傻屌

Far out to sea and west of Spain
 There is a country named Cockayne.
 No place on earth compares to this
 For sheer delightfulness and bliss.

Though Paradise is fair and bright,
 Cockayne is a finer sight.
 In Paradise what's to be seen
 But grass and flowers and branches green?

Though paradisaic joys are sweet,
 There's nothing there but fruit to eat;
 No bench, no chamber, and no hall,
 No alcoholic drink at all.

Its inhabitants are few,
 Elijah, Enoch, just the two;
 They must find it boring there
 Without more company to share.

“Well, as any fool knows...”

“I didn't know that, Pete.”

(pause)

“Well, as *most* fools know...”

I know about ten words of Spanish, but they're always the wrong ten.
 And apart from “Feliz Navidad” the other eight aren't fit for polite company.

Wasn't that fun?

**REPORT
FROM
HOOPLE**
#150.012
FOR WOOF 2023

ROGER HILL
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Also referred to as **WOOF #48**, for Worldcon #81 in Chengdu, China. Also for **APA-L #3043** of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Thanks to Don Eastlake 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 fifth year with an electron edition of *WOOF*.

COMMENTS ON WOOF 2022 (#47)

This refers to the electronic edition. A lot of interesting contributions and beautiful photos!

Guy Lillian III (Hand Shake): I certainly hope that you are able to keep your Parkinson's under control! I have several friends with it and they have at least remained mentally alert. // I was born and raised in Calafornia (Pasadena and Altadena), but in 1968 started working and teaching in Illinois (2 years in Evanston and 40 years in Edwardsville); during this time I came back to California every Christmas and summer vacation. After I retired in 2010, I continued to do the same but with longer stays in the winter. When the pandemic came along, I stayed in California for the duration. After that I realized that, though I found the contrast between the two locations interesting for a while, I really enjoyed my native land more and decided once and for all to make California "permanent". I do still have some loose ends and things in storage to sort out in Edwardsville. // I've had an iPhone 12 Mini for 2¼ years now and have used it for "everything", filling up 75% of its 256-GB storage space. I'm now planning on getting an iPhone 15 Pro Max with 1 TB of storage as soon as the initial rush subsides and they become available. // In my listing of *WOOF* statistics I actually counted the pages myself, as sometimes the TOC is not always accurate when contributions come in at the last minute (except for the electronic editions where Adobe counts the pages for me).

Aaron Feldman (The Book of Imaginary Animals, Vol. 1): Fascinating discussion! Hopefully the kosher rules are not going to have to be implemented very soon...

Guy Lillian III (The Zine Dump #55): Sadly, Marty Cantor passed away on April 29, 2023. Maybe you know this already (your zine listing is dated earlier), but for the record, *De Profundis* and the collation of *APA-L* are now being handled by Heath Row. Marty will be missed!

Juan Sanmiguel (Event Horizon): Who would have ever thought of turning a mailbox into R2D2?

Alan Stewart (Ytterbium Decoxide): Interesting questions on the legal ramifications of copying, scanning and uploading zines. I myself have always felt that it's okay with things I have written as long as it is clear who wrote them (e.g. if an entire zine is copied). There ought to be a legal statement on copyrights available to anyone who wants to contribute to an APA — or is there already a "standard" one implied? // I could supply most* printed issues of *WOOF* if the legalities could be worked out. [*At

this point I would be remiss to not mention that I am still looking for a copy of *WOOF* #6 (1981) and #30 (2006).]

RECENT ACTIVITIES

A few weeks ago I went to a conference of an HP calculator user's group in Orlando, Florida. It was a fun conference, with presentations, programming contests, and other activities. On the day before the conference, October 6, a few of us took a side trip to the Kennedy Space Center. It happened that there was a launch that day of an Atlas V rocket carrying two prototype satellites for Project Kuiper, a plan of covering the earth with several thousand internet communication satellites. Below is a shot taken from a video that I took of the launch. The iPhone has an amazing camera, but going to maximum zoom taxed it to the limit and resulted in a not-so-great resolution, so I doctored the picture up to do double duty as this year's Road Thingie. Cacti, essential to Road Thingies, don't flourish very well in Florida (perhaps the alligators ate them all :-), so this one had to be imported from Arizona.



WOOOF

HALLOWEEN HONEY

A zine for the 2023 collation of

THE WORLDCON ORDER OF FANEDITORS

By

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10-16-23

BOO! As in “egoboo”, underscoring the coincidental pairing in 2023 of the World Science Fiction Convention – and its accompanying WOOFF disty – and October 31, all Hallow’s Eve – **Halloween**. The amazing **Vampira**, of the sharpened teeth and negligible waist, bids all welcome, with the proviso – do they celebrate Halloween in China?

While the Worldcon and fannishness are on our bloodied lips, allow me to spread a bit of egoboo to two deserving lads. I direct the moment to **John Hertz**, WOOFF “buttress,” without whom we WOOFFsters would have had no place to howl for the last four years. Hertz got me involved in the Official Editing of the 2020 WOOFF, drew in Rich Lynch to handle the year after, and I’ll



bet he had plenty to do with enlisting **Don Eastlake** to run this year's collation. And all, as he admits, without ever contributing a zine himself. John's spent much of the passing year caring for the legal well-being of a mutual hero and friend, so for many reasons, hooray for Hertz!

Hooray for **Eastlake**, too, for taking on the task while wrasslin', no doubt, with problems a'plenty at the Chengdu Worldcon. To say that, like all of fandom, I'm curious about how this convention goes is self-evident. Since *la belle* Rose-Marie and I can come no closer to Chengdu than Florida, this little pub is my only contribution I can offer to the con. For the first time in my fannish life – which began in the late sixties – I didn't cast a Hugo vote! Forgive me, Chris Barkley, one of the few names I recognized on the ballot and certainly my favorite of all the nominees.

My last WOOFzine, *Hand Shake*, featured photos from our European trip and very iffy health news, to wit, Parkinson's. Here's an update on my well-being. The pound of pills I swallow daily has controlled my blood pressure (which is now excellent) and Parkinson's symptoms (to an extent). Meds have improved my belly problems and, and after a minor dosage change my thyroid is again behaving. Heart and PSA are nominal. But arthritis continues to plague my every moment. My left arm and hand are strengthless weights. My shoulder joints grind and crunch like a steam roller crushing paint cans. My walk is akin to that of a rusty robot. Balance is a constant caution, and I assure you, I can no longer spring to my feet like a Romanian gymnast.

In 2023 it feels like I've barely left the Greenhouse, homestead of my father-in-law Joe and where Rosy & I abide. I have gone nowhere and done little, but that is about to change. Over the week that follows the composition of this zine, Rosy and I will bear some thirty boxes of books, books, books to New Orleans to donate to its Symphony Book Fair. The volumes are mostly part of the collection of the late Nita Green, Rosy's mother and as much of a reader and book hoarder as either of us. The boxes bulge with the works of Robert Parker, Stephen King, James Clavell and with cookbooks, military histories and fiction, tomes on the occult and astrology – Nita had eclectic tastes!

Our purpose is simple: clean out our storage unit. I *should* list all this stuff on eBay and make a fortune *kof* but I tried that for a couple of years and found it wasn't worth the time or the energy. The recent rise in postal prices makes such efforts even more wasteful. So I've wracked my back attacking our storage unit and will probably do worse schlepping the books to the Book Fair – but the goal of emptying our expensive storage will be that much closer to being achieved. And it will be good to see the Easy and our aging comrades there. I plan to eat well. Hell, you could consume what the wind blows off the trees in New Orleans and still "eat well."

Let's scoot along to the 2022 WOOF for some up-to-the-year **mailing comments** on our annual apa ... yeah, Bruce Pelz, WOOF *was* and *remains* a crazy idea.

Contents: Great thanks to **Chris Garcia** for OEing this time. Looks good!

Report from Hoople # 146.870 (Roger Hill): What would WOOF be without a *Hoople* report? Your ongoing WOOF history is always cool – a connection with the great time-squandering fan-ed's of the past. We're missing some stalwarts this time ... but we've also gained some new and unfamiliar names. We keep on keepin' on. // Very funny "Road Thingie." As Heinlein said, the road thingies must roll...

Remembering Bill Danner (Rich Lynch): It's not necessary that a fannish craziness like WOOF have a *purpose*, of course, but if it does have a *raison d'être*, memorializing brothers and sisters who have left us in times past is probably the best. Like Rich and most fans, I never met Bill Danner, nor was I acquainted with *Stefantasy*, worse luck for me. Being hand-set, it sounds like a throwback to the first days of amateur publishing, when the publishing itself was the point. It's an education to encounter it,

Newt News #00 (Jan Vanek Jr.): I just reread your first issue in the 2020 WOOF; nice to have you back. As I said then, it's one of the glories of WOOF that it attracts contributors from around the world. // I find it familiar yet terrifying that you were born in 1976, the year I became the first voter in New Orleans to cast a ballot for Jimmy Carter. Like many another liberal, I thought Jerry Ford (the Republican incumbent) represented Evil Incarnate that year; *then* we thought we had troubles! Anyway, *you're young enough to be my son*. Pardon me for whimpering. From the resume you summarize, it seems you've made good use of your time! // Typos are an integral part of fan writing, and since Parkinson's hit and my left hand turned into a lumpen claw (*there's* a senseless metaphor) more than when I was a rank neo. Thank heaven for the Word spellcheck! // This little zine of yours deserves much more of a comment than this spindly little paragraph. I meant what I said about receiving future publications for my reviewzine. Oh ... and thanks for reminding me of SF's most enduring Newt ...



Claims Department (Chris): We'll forgive you for franking through a massive *Claims Department* if future issues are as colorful and artistically fulfilling as this one. S'gorgeous. It's grand to see the Chicago Bean – as inspired a piece of interactive civic sculpture as I've ever seen. I'm familiar with the statue of Sunny Jim Joyce in Dublin and, of course, with the supplemental statue of GIs from the Vietnam Memorial. Most affecting for me here is the damaged globe from the late World Trade Center, gashed, dented and mangled but still surviving; I saw it pre-9/11 and afterwards, coated with gypsum dust, newly and accidentally symbolic of America's resilient strength. The seeming simplicity of Benny Buffano's hymns to form reminds me of Chicago's "Henry". the Henry Moore work where I had one of the most painful conversations of my life. Too much for a fannish anthology like WOOF, these 112-pages of exceptional public art? Maybe – but it's an epic collection.

And You Shall Know Us By the Trail of Ribbons (Alison Scott): Amen, it's a special hoot to attend a Worldcon as a Hugo nominee – that little silver rocket affixed to your nametag buys you great seats at all the proceedings, access to the best party at the whole convention (the Hugo Losers' soiree), and dozens of sympathetic commiserations if, like me, you've always lost. In addition to the rocket pin, you can of course also sport a Hugo Nominee ribbon, and for years I've bugged George RR Martin for one of his special Hugo Loser tags. It's cool, and your tale of how your ribbon chain grew and *grew* and *grew* is stone funny.

The Book of Imaginary Animals, Vol. 1 (Aaron Feldman): Another special quality to WOOF: because it's an annual apa and mailing comments exchanged so seldomly hardly constitute conversation, fans often offer factual articles like this one. Centering on the *kashrut* of fictional critters, which I take it to mean their adherence to Jewish dietary rules, I can only scan these pages in abject ignorance, being no closer to Judaism than my status as a lapsed Methodist and a fervent supporter of Israel. So I'll just have to call the whole bizness fascinating and say

בתיאבון.

The Zine Dump [Summer 2022] (me): I've done a subsequent issue of my fanzine review publication since this one, but as it hit the silks in July, it's far too out of date to include in this present WOOF. *Mea culpa*, since WOOF is a righteous site in which to post info on the state of our hobby. I wish someone would do a similar survey of SFnal *blogs*, since obviously that's where the action is in fandom's current era. Sometimes it seems that the written fanzine is no more *au courant* than the men's room graffiti in the local nursing home. Well, so be it. I'll try to pub another issue of *TZD* by the new year. (P.S. That means 2254.)

The Galaxy with Two Edges (?): What was I saying? Here's a personal zine with more verve and color than any blog could muster. Neat photos, great layout, happy writing – a great report. But ... why no colophon? If it wasn't for Chris' contents page, I'd have no idea who wrote this. Ah John Coxon. Good for you and yours, John, but when you visited Walt Disney World, you were only about 50-60 miles from *us*. You should've dropped by! We could have gone by Kennedy Space Center and quite likely, seen a launch! (They come about once a fortnight these days.) // Anyway, I believe we rode Rise of the Resistance the last time we went to WDW, and indeed, "SO COOL!" does sum the ride up nicely. My experience with Disney theme parks goes back to Disneyland's opening summer, 1956. They were still working on the Dumbo ride and hadn't yet planted the plastic trees for the Adventureland boat trip. I love the parks, and curse the medicals and age that will probably keep me from it for the rest of the day – but thanks a'plenty for the vicarious experience!

OASFIS Event Horizon (Juan Sanmiguel): A terrific issue! Good reviews of last year's Hugo-nominated novels (my money this year is on Scalzi's *Kaiju Preservation Society*), fun photos of the Orlando Anime Festival ... all that's missing is an announcement of the return of OASIS, Orlando's own fannish con. Hint hint hint ...

Ytterbium Decoxide (Alan Stewart): Nostalgia rules – these are cool photos from Chicon 7, even if none *snf* include *me*. But you do mention my name later on, so all is forgiven. // No, of course you don't need the permission of the various editors or contributors to download a WOOF mailing from eFanzines.com – that's why it was posted, so it could be downloaded. Scan away! // I found a copy of an antique WOOF while rooting – OOPS, talking to an Australian; sorry – while *looking* around in our storage locker, and I hoped for a reckless second that it was one Mr. Hill was missing. Alas, no; it was #36, a fun number with a Stu Shiffman gorilla cover, contributions from the much-missed Randy Byers, Andy Hooper and the usual madcap krew. Your zine was replete with photos; mine was printed on dark red paper and called *Born to Lose*. But we're fretting over the illusive (and perhaps illusory) WOOF #30 from 2006. Checking the GHLIII Press log for that year, I find no probable entries for the time of year when I would've done a WOOFzine. I guess I could raid the files and leaf through the actual zines, but now that I think of it, what would that prove? Gad – *somewhere* there must be a copy of WOOF #30, or someone who can say why there wasn't one! // SFPA = Southern Fandom Press Alliance. Founded 1961, now up to 355 mailings. Started out quarterly, is now bimonthly. Our 100th mailing, in 1981, topped out at 1750 pages. We believe that's a record. I joined in January 1971 and have yet to miss a mailing; elsewhere on this computer the 318th issue of my SFPazine, *Spiritus Mundi*, is underway.

The Ink Machine Colour Supplement #6 (Nigel Rowe): Ah, a Chicon 8 report. I love Chicago Worldcons – one was a bummer, but I was probably projecting; another was a miracle where Rosy accepted my stuttering proposal. I wish like bejusus we could have gone. I mean, just read all these wondrous names! Chicon 8 was obviously a social success. // A DUFF winners group photo. Rats. *We're* DUFF winners (2003), so in addition to Norman Cates, maybe you could also photoshop *us* in. // Speaking of Cates, I was gut-wrenched when COVID caused havoc with and cancellation of the planned New Zealand Worldcon, and hope that he and his will bid again. I'll probably be a memory by then, but Rosy would

Guy Lillian
HALLOWEEN HONEY

love it. // Never having the pleasure of meeting either gentleman, I appreciate the pieces on Mervyn Barrett and Mike Hinge. I remember Hinge's *Time* cover!

Looking Up (Daniel Miller): Another excellent fan-ed with an aversion to colophons! C'mon, peeps – we're not Russian agents, most of us. // Thanks for the Virgil Finlay illos – and the “cute” Heinlein story. The note, gifted book and check for the kid who found and returned RAH's Annapolis ring sounds just like the man, a guy who would –unmasked – send money to Phil Dick, the most un-Heinleinish SFer imaginable, when he heard the man was in dire straits. I admit to being just the slightest itty-bittyish scared of Heinlein – I saw him lose his temper once – but the moment when he tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I'd seen his wife ranks as one of science fiction's great moments for me. // Also exciting is the article on C.L. Moore. Julie Schwartz, friend and mentor, was close to her and her brilliant husband, Henry Kuttner, and had wonderful things to say about her. To judge by the photo he had of her, she was a beauty, as well as a genius who could, with Kuttner, write “The Children's Hour.” // Hmm, a philosophical query: “What action do we take to we prevent the reality of our lives from dampening down the energy of our spirit and thought?” We seek, welcome and nurture comrades after the same goals. We look realistically at that reality and forgive, forgive, forgive our own imperfections as well as those in others. Simultaneously, we hold and cherish abiding self-worth. There; a suitably obtuse response to a deep and difficult question.

Laurraine's WOOFzine 2022 (Laurraine Tutihasi): Nice puddy tat on your cover. (For those who don't remember, it's a bobcat in full prowl.) Outside your house, you say? Outside of *our* house we see an occasional dolphin, a rare alligator, lotsa fish and once, a VW-sized manatee. And a few ducks. Anyway, cool cat! // Much of this issue hearkens back to the pandemic, but it turns out that COVID has never gone away. Just today, October 19, Rosy, Joe and I got our 2023 COVID boosters. Except for a nervous afternoon awaiting test results in Edinburgh (under the misconception that the USA wouldn't let us back in if we tested positive) the wretched disease left the two of us alone ... but it sorely wounded Rosy's family. We suspect her nephew, a very fine young man, ignored the need for inoculation on the advice of his Trumpy roommates – and the horror took him away. That nameless Chinese scientist who spilled a beaker and let forth the COVID germ owes this family – a lot of families – *big* time. // Breath-taking Weasner astro-photos! I'm impressed his lens can pick up such detail on the ISS from the ground.

Much missed this WOOF, stalwarts like Andy Hooper, John Purcell, John Thiel, Kat Templeton, Kees van Toorn, Wolf van Witting, etc. etc. Still, a good disty. I feel confident for years and WOOFs to come.

I should close this zine with heart-warming stories about my memories of childhood Halloweens, but I haven't any. How about I list my favorite horror films? Easy enough: *The Haunting*, *Psycho*, *Don't Look Now*, *Night (Curse) of the Demon*, *X/Pearl*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (original), *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *The Thing*, *The VVitch*, *Blair Witch Project*, *It Follows*, *Hellbound*, *A Quiet Place*, *Dawn of the Dead* (original), *The Others*. And many more. Notice: no monster movies! I love them – particularly *The Bride of Frankenstein*, on which I hope to edit a special *Challenger* RSN (write me to contribute!) But another genre.

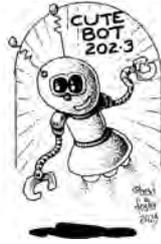
Find one of these gems on streaming—and I'll see you next year!

Fondly,

GHLIII

Guy Lillian
HALLOWEEN HONEY





Ansible® 435 October 2023

From **David Langford**, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK. Website news.ansible.uk. ISSN 0265-9816 (print); 1740-942X (e). Logo: **Dan Steffan**. Cartoon: **Brad W. Foster**. Available for SAE, dead bards, lonely tapeworms or love-lorn truffles.

The Stuffed Owl

Michael Chabon has joined the authors suing Meta, Bloomberg and others for using a database ('Books3') of 'more than 191,000' – some say 187,000 – pirated books to train their generative AI systems. (*Atlantic*, 25 September) • There's a Books3 author name search at full-stack-search-prod.vercel.app/ – though Neil Clarke warns '... you may still be in there even if your name doesn't turn up any results. / Pirates are not known for their data entry skills. Aside from typos, they may only list some of the [anthology] contributors or editor(s).' (Facebook, 26 September) Thus there are no hits for 'David Langford', but searching for 'Mike Ashley' or 'David G. Hartwell' shows several of their anthologies containing my stories. • See also US Authors Guild comments at authorsguild.org/news/you-just-found-out-your-book-was-used-to-train-ai-now-what/.

Grady Hendrix, learned author of *Paperbacks from Hell*, revealed on the Barnes & Noble website that 'Horror didn't exist as a literary genre before 1967 when *Rosemary's Baby* hit the bestseller lists and became a hit movie.' (Barnesandnoble.com, 19 September) [TM]

Alan Moore has a good word for Thog the Liberator in his BBC Maestro storytelling course. 'As a prospective writer, I would urge you to not only read good books. Read terrible books as well, because they can be more inspiring than the good books [...] If you are inspired by a good book, there's always the danger of plagiarism, of doing something that is too much like that good book. Whereas, a genuinely helpful reaction to a piece of work that you're reading is, "Jesus Christ, I could write this sh*t!" That is immensely liberating ...' (Upworthy.com, 9 September)

Bill Willingham declared that after years of frustrating disputes with DC Comics over his *Fables* sequence – about fairytale/folklore characters living in the real world – he was allowing the *Fables* IP to enter the public domain, so others can make free use of the setting. DC was quick to announce that, contrariwise, they own all rights to absolutely everything and, what's more, have many highly paid lawyers. (*Lavie Tidhar*: 'Let me be the first comics writer to release a whole bunch of public domain characters back into the public domain.' – Xtwitter, 23 September)

Concha

Until 1 Nov • **London Month of the Dead** events, various venues. Speakers include Kim Newman. See londonmonthofthedead.com.

6-8 Oct • **Grimmfest** (film), Odeon Great Northern, Manchester. Full pass for all screenings and events £79.50 plus fees at grimmfest.com.

7-8 Oct • **Nevermore** (Gothic), online. £15 weekend or £10/day. See www.thefolklorepodcast.com/store/c9/Forthcoming_events.html.

7-8 Oct • **Octocon**, Gibson Hotel, Dublin. €60 reg; concessions €40; YA or supp €20. Registration open at octocon.com.

18-22 Oct • **Worldcon 2023**, Chengdu, China. \$70 reg (first Worldcon \$50) plus \$50 WSFS voting rights. See en.chengduworldcon.com.

19-22 Oct • **Celluloid Screams** (horror films), Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. Full pass £105 or day rates at www.celluloidscreams.com.

20-22 Oct • **Festival of Fantastic Films**, Pendulum Hotel, Manchester. £110 reg. For day rates see 'Book Tickets' at fantastic-films.uk.

20-23 Oct • **Irish Discworld Convention**, Cork International Hotel, Cork. €75 reg; €55 concessions; under-17s €20. See idwcon.org.

21 Oct • **BristolCon**, Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, Bristol. £40 reg; £25 under-18s, concessions, disabled; under-14s free; £15 supp. *The Dealers' Room is full – no more bookings accepted.* More at www.bristolcon.org.

21-22 Oct • **Film & Comic Con Cardiff**, International Arena, Cardiff. Weekend £16; £32 for early entry. See filmandcomicconcardiff.com.

21-22 Oct • **Final Fantasy Festival**, ExCel, London. Weekend tickets £159.99. See fanfest2.finalfantasyxiv.com/2023-24/eu/.

21 Oct • **October Country** (Ray Bradbury), QUAD, Derby. Noon-8pm. £30 reg. Details at www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/octobercountry.

21-22 Oct • **Surrey Steampunk Convivial**, Stoneleigh, Epsom. See bumpandthumper.wixsite.com/steampunkconvivial.

26-31 Oct • **Edinburgh Horror Festival**, Banshee Labyrinth and other city venues. Event tickets from edinburghhorrorfestival.co.uk.

27 Oct - 25 Feb 2024 • **Fantasy: Realms of Imagination**

(exhibition), British Library, London. £16; under-12s free; other discounts vary with weekdays, school terms, etc. See www.bl.uk/events/fantasy.

27-28 Oct • **Frightfest** (film), Cineworld, Leicester Square, London. Tickets on sale from 1 October at frightfest.co.uk/tickets.html.

29 Oct • **Hallocon**, Leasowe Castle Hotel, Wirral. 11am-5pm. £9; under-16s £7; under-10s £5. See www.ljeventsentertainment.com.

3-4 Nov • **16th Starfleet/Klingon Banquet**, Peterborough Marriott Hotel. £68 reg; more at www.starbase24.co.uk/Banquet.html.

3-5 Nov • **Armadacon 2023**, Future Inns, Plymouth. £40 reg; £35 concessions; single day £25/£20. More at www.armadacon.org.

26 Nov • **Tolkien Society Seminar** on Tolkien and religion, free online. See www.tolkienesociety.org/events.

9 Jun 2024 • **Seek-Locate-Celebrate** (*Blake's 7*; formerly Forever Avon), Steventon Village Hall, Steventon, Oxford, OX13 5RR. 10am-4pm. See www.facebook.com/TeamBlakeForeverAvon.

8-12 Aug 2024 • **Glasgow 2024** (Worldcon) Glasgow SEC. £190 reg; concessions £140; YA (under 26) £120; under-16s £80; under-11s £50; under-6s £5; other rates at glasgow2024.org. *A price rise of 'on average' 10% will take effect on 1 October – £210 reg expected.*

31 Aug 2024 • **Whooverville 15** (*Doctor Who*), QUAD Centre, Derby. Tickets £55; concessions £38; under-12s £10; registration open at www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/whooverville15/.

Infinitely Improbable

The Weakest Link. Invited to complete a Labour of Hercules when given an anagram of one of its words, the team brilliantly came up with 'steal the glider of Hippolyta'. (BBC, *Pointless*, September) [POM] • **Bradley Walsh**: 'The planet Jupiter is made up mainly of helium and what other element?' *Contestant*: 'Stones.' (ITV, *The Chase*, 14 September) [RJ]

Timebinding: Ever Since Colossus. 'And you have been able to scroll through Word (or WordPerfect or WordStar or plain text) documents for as long as computers have existed, even if few would call such an experience *reading*.' (*The Atlantic*, 14 September) [GD]

Awards. *Bard Fiction Prize: Brother Alive* by Zain Khalid. [L] • **Booker Prize**: shortlist includes the genre title *Prophet Song* by Paul Lynch. [F770]

• **British Fantasy**: HOLDSTOCK (fantasy novel) *The Spear Cuts Through Water* by Simon Jimenez. DERLETH (horror novel) *Just Like Home* by Sarah Gailey. NOVELLA *The Queen of the High Fields* by Rhiannon A. Grist. SHORT 'Morta' by James Bennett (*The Book of Queer Saints*). COLLECTION *Under the Moon* by E.M. Faulds. MAGAZINE *Interzone*. AUDIO *The Stranger Times*.

INDEPENDENT PRESS Luna Press Publishing. ARTIST Vince Haig. ANTHOLOGY *Someone in Time*, ed. Jonathan Strahan. NON-FICTION *An Earnest Blackness* by Eugen Bacon. BOUNDS (newcomer) Hiron Ennes for *Leech*. • **Dwarf Stars** (SFPA very short poem): tie. 'Believe the Graves' (*Deadlands* 16) by Rasha Abdulhadi; 'In Perpetuity' (7/22 *Analog*) by Bruce Boston. • **Elgin** (SFPA poetry): BOOK *The Last Robot* by Jane Yolen. CHAPBOOK *Some Disassembly Required* by David C. Kopaska-Merkel. • **Eugie Foster Memorial** (short): 'Quandary Aminu vs The Butterfly Man' (Tor.com) by Rich Larson. [F770] • **Reuben** (US National Cartoonists Society), online comics category, long form: Phil Foglio of fannish and *Girl Genius* fame. [F770]

Fashion Department: Comfort Wear. 'Author Ned Beaman rarely dresses in anything other than Rick Owens, whose interests in "Cronenbergian" body mutations and Brutalism mirror his own.' (*Financial Times*, 'The Art of Fashion' supplement, 22 August) [PE]

R.I.P. **Allan Asherman** (1947-2023), author of *The Star Trek Compendium* (1981) and other nonfiction books about the series, died on 22 September aged 76. • **Helena Binns** (1941-2023), Australian fan and artist active in the Melbourne SF Club since 1958, official photographer for the 1975 Australian Worldcon, and widow of Merv Binns (1934-2020), died on 18 September aged 82. [BB/BG] • **Jean Boht** (1932-2023), UK *Jackanory* narrator and actress in *The Cloning of Joanna May* (1992) and *Jim's Gift* (1996), died on 12 September aged 91. [SHS] • **Jimmy Buffett** (1946-2023), US musician and actor seen in *Congo* (1995) and *Jurassic World* (2015), whose soundtrack credits include *Arachnophobia* (1990), *Contact* (1997) and *Angry Birds 2* (2019), died on 1 September aged 76. [LP] • **John Cairney** (1930-2023), UK actor and *Jackanory*

narrator seen in *Target Luna* (1960), *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963), *Spaceflight IC-1* (1965) and *Nightmare Man* (1999), died on 6 September aged 93. ● **Dick Curtis** (1928-2023), US actor in *The Day It Came to Earth* (1977), *Motel Hell* (1980) and *What Waits Below* (1984), died on 16 September aged 95. [SJ] ● **Marcia de Rouse**, US actress in *True Blood* (2009-2014) and *The Disappointments Room* (2016), died on 2 September aged 70. [AIP] ● **Sandra Dorsey** (1939-2023), US actress in *Gordy* (1994) and *Frankenstein* (2004), died on 26 September aged 83. [SHS] ● **Martin Ellis**, 2nd unit/assistant director whose credits include *Curse of Chucky* (2013), *The Flash* (2016-2017) and *The Power* (2023), died on 22 August. [AIP] ● **Bernie Evans**, UK fanzine, APA and con-running fan who chaired Novacon in 1987 and 1990 and received the 1995 Doc Weir award, died on 27 September. Another old fan friend gone. ● **Sir Michael Gambon** (1940-2023), multiple BAFTA-winning Irish actor who played Dumbledore in six Harry Potter films, died on 28 September aged 82. Other genre credits include *The Wind in the Willows* (1985), *Sky Captain and The World of Tomorrow* (2004), *Fantastic Mr Fox* (2009) and *The Book of Eli* (2010). ● **Rose Gregorio** (1925-2023), US actress in *Eyes of Laura Mars* (1978), died on 17 August aged 97. [LP] ● **Vyacheslav Grishchkin** (1962-2023), Russian actor in the children's sf film *Asiris nuna* (2006) died on 15 September aged 61. [AM] ● **Edward Hume** (1936-2023), US screenwriter best known for *The Day After* (1983), died on 13 September aged 87. [AIP] ● **Gayle Hunnicutt** (1943-2023), US actress in *The Legend of Hell House* (1973), *The Martian Chronicles* (1980) and *Hard to Be a God* (1989), died on 31 August aged 80. [AIP] ● **Nathan Louis Jackson** (1978-2023), US playwright and screenwriter who co-produced and wrote episodes of *Luke Cage* (2016-1018), died on 22 August aged 44. [AIP] ● **Pete Kozachik** (1951-2023), US cinematographer and visual effects artist whose films include *Innerspace* (1987), *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993), *Starship Troopers* (1997), *SW: Attack of the Clones* (2002), *Corpse Bride* (2005) and *Coraline* (2009), died on 12 September aged 72. [AIP] ● **Lisa Lyon** (1953-2023), US bodybuilder and actress in *Vamp* (1986), died on 8 September aged 70. [AIP] ● **Aleksandr Khvan** (1957-2023), Russian director and actor in the fantasy film *Serdtshe permy* (*Land of Legends*, 2022), died on 17 September aged 65. [AM] ● **David McCallum** (1933-2023), UK actor whose many genre credits include *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (1964-1968), *The Invisible Man* (1975-1976), *Sapphire and Steel* (1979-1982) and several animated Batman series (voicing Alfred), died on 25 September aged 90. ● **Michael McGrath** (1957-2023), US actor in *Spamalot* (2005 Broadway musical), *The Secret of Kells* (2009) and *Wolfwalkers* (2022), died on 14 September aged 65. [CH] ● **Bill Malley** (1934-2023), US art director/production designer whose films include *The Exorcist* (1973) and *The Fury* (1978), died on 1 September aged 88. [SHS] ● **Eddie Marks** (1947-2023), US costume designer for *Buckaroo Banzai* (1984), *Cocoon* (1985), *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989) and others, died on 11 September aged 86. [SHS] ● **Gherman Mazurin** (1932-2023), Russian artist who illustrated children's fantasies including a many times reprinted edition of Lazar Lagin's classic *Old Khottabych* (1938), died on 19 September. [AM] ● **Brent Monahan** (1948-2023), US supernatural horror author whose first novel was *Deathbite* (1979; filmed as *Spasms*, 1983) with Michael Maryk, died on 31 August aged 75. [GVG] ● **Beth Porter** (1942-2023), US-born UK actress with voice roles in *Dick Deadeye* (1975) and *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* (1979), died on 1 August aged 81. [AIP] ● **Buichi Terasawa** (1955-2023), Japanese manga and anime creator whose credits include *Space Adventure Cobra* (1982 plus spinoffs) and *Karasu tengu Kabuto* (1992), died on 8 September aged 68. [LP] ● **Ira M. Thornhill** (1953-2023), US fan and publisher who co-founded Corroboree Press, publishing R.A. Lafferty and others from 1982 to 1986, died on 25 July aged 69. [L] ● **Michael D. Toman** (1949-2023), US librarian and author who published a number of sf stories from 1974 to 1991, was found dead at home on 2 September; he was 73. [TM]

As Others Avoid Us. 'Just heard Sebastian Faulks on *Start the Week* explaining why his dead-centre science fiction novel which uses a well worn SF trope is not, in fact, science fiction. Hilarious!' (MD Lachlan, Facebook, 18 September). Or as a kindly reviewer put it: 'Now, for his 16th novel, he's thrown a curveball, and turned to the future, and to science fiction. / Well, not quite sci-fi, which still conjures up images of spaceships and Captain Kirk asking of Scotty whether he can "beam me up". Instead, *The Seventh Son* is more speculative fiction, concerning a likely tomorrow so close you can almost reach out and touch it.' (Nick Duerden, inews.co.uk, 7 September – with reservations about 'a sex scene so unexpected, and so very wrong, that it will curl the toes of all but the most insensate of readers.'). [KM]

Inflation. A Lyon & Turnbull auction offered an early US edition of Jules Verne (est. price £300-£500) with a somewhat exaggerated sense of its scope: *Seventy Thousand Leagues Under the Seas*. [BV]

Our Man on Luna. 'A Russian spacecraft Russia [sic] has crashed into the Moon after it ran into "unspecified trouble", Russia's space agency has said. [...] Are you at the scene? Did you see what happened? If so, email webnews@trinitymirror.com.' (*Daily Mirror* online, August) [PE]

'Cultural Appropriation.' Scots MP Chris Law is very annoyed by 'Created in London' posters featuring the animated *Dennis & Gnasher*, based on the *Beano* 'Dennis the Menace' strip launched in 1951 by D.C. Thomson of Dundee. (Downthetubes.net, 27 September) Owing to the identically titled US strip, the UK Dennis is sadly no longer a Menace.

Random Fandom. *Cora Buhlert*: 'It's a fact that 30% of all habitable planets in the Universe look like British Columbia, 30% look like Vasquez Rocks and 30% like a quarry in Wales.' (Xitter, 25 September) ● **WSFS Hugo Awards Marketing Committee:** buried in the September/October report is this sign of the times. 'Due to changes at the company formerly known as Twitter, we are discontinuing updating the @TheHugoAwards Twitter and will redirect people to the BlueSky account.'

The Dead Past. *40 Years Ago*, a Japanese con publication printed many 'messages of support' from UK/US authors. J.G. Ballard rose to the occasion: 'That great feat of arms, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941, must now be repeated in the realm of the imagination – let the SF writers of Japan set out across the skies of the human psyche, each carrying a piece of that explosive future which will torpedo the battleships of complacency and inertia!' (*Ansible* 35, October 1983) ● *50 Years Ago*, Robert Bloch remarked: 'We have just five major divisions in science fiction: Neo-fans – big name fans – hacks – pros – and J.G. Ballard.' (Worldcon GoH speech, 1973) ● *70 Years Ago*, George O. Smith told an almost plausible Origin Story: 'L. Ron Hubbard happened to hook an electric eel. Inside the eel he found an IBM typewriter with a sheet of paper in it, and typed on that sheet of paper were the first four sentences of *Dianetics*.' (*Psychotic* 4, October 1953, ed. Richard E. Geis)

Magazine Scene. *Cossmass Infinities* is no longer buying stories and will cease at the end of 2023 when the existing stock has been published. 'The website will remain.' (www.cossmass.com, 6 September) [L] ● *Interzone* 295, dated September 2023, did indeed reach me in September.

Fanzinery. *TAFF Books:* our latest from Rob Hansen is *Generation Femizine*, on women in early UK fandom and the 1950s fanzine *Femizine* that became their rallying point. But there was a lurking hoaxer in the 'all-woman' team.... Free ebook plus simultaneous trade paperback with all proceeds to TAFF. Read more at taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?x=GenFez. ● *GUFF:* The 2020 winner Alison Scott's long-delayed tour of Australia and New Zealand has begun! Excitement runs high: 'This is the third day of my trip and I haven't done anything yet.' (Facebook, 28 September)

Ripoff Alert. The US dealer Fifth Generation Books is selling Rob Hansen's TAFF-benefit paperback *Bixelstrasse: The SF Fan Community of 1940s Los Angeles* on the Walmart website for \$43.50 (allegedly discounted from the wholly made-up figure of \$50.50), presumably filling orders by buying copies at \$22.50 from the official *Ansible* Editions/Lulu sales page (linked from ae.ansible.uk/?t=bixel). They reproduce the AE blurb in full, including the assurance IN CAPITAL LETTERS that all proceeds will go to TAFF, but somehow one has one's doubts. [RH]

Thog's Masterclass. *Eyeballs in the Sky.* 'Her wide eyes paraded around every curve of his jaw and the edges of his cheekbones.' (Dwain Worrell, *Androne*, 2023) [FM] ● *Cover-Up Dept.* 'The sky was a careless silvery gray, like an expensive whore's mink coat covering bizarre garb or nakedness.' (Fritz Leiber, 'Midnight by the Morphy Watch', 1974) [BA] ● *Dept of Kryptonian Anatomy.* "How soon can you get him here?" "How soon do a wrangled beast's testicles go up into its cervix?" (David Kob, *Krypton* season 1 episode 8, 'Savage Night', May 2018) [BA] ● *Hazards of Very Small Asteroids.* 'Gravity was so slight that the slightest movement would cause a man, practically weightless, to bounce about and break his bones.' (Captain W.E. Johns, *Return to Mars*, 1955) ● *Dept of Planetology.* 'Toby sniffed. "There's carbon dioxide here," he murmured.' (*Ibid*) ● *Speedy Spaceflight with Solar Cells.* '... the [journey] time would be short. Their ships, he said casually, were operated by a power drawn from light, which was the fastest thing known.' (*Ibid*) ● *Blunt Instrument.* 'The parting in his short grey hair was almost unnaturally straight and his narrow toothbrush moustache looked as though he trimmed it using a slide-rule.' (J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, 2000) [BA] ● *Coal-Fired Dept.* 'Her taut skin glowed with the light rising from the furnace of her ovaries ...' (Viet Thanh Nguyen, *The Committed*, 2021)

Ansible © 435 © David Langford, 2023. Thanks to Brian Ameringen, Bob Blanchett, Gary Dalkin, *File 770*, Bruce Gillespie, Glasgow 2024, Chip Hitchcock, Rob Hansen, Rob Jackson, Steve Jones, *Locus*, Fraser McHarg, Kevin McVeigh, Todd Mason, Pádraig Ó Méalóid, Andrey Meshavkin, Lawrence Person, Andrew I. Porter, *Private Eye*, Steven H Silver, Gordon Van Gelder, Brad Verter, and as always our Hero Distributors: Durdles Books (Birmingham SF Group), SCIS/Prophecy and Alan Stewart (Australia).
29 September 2023

newt news

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

yet another special introductory (partly-)dead-tree, (deep-)pocket-sized,
issue 0⁰ (= should have, finally, been 1, but still isn't really),¹ Bílcon/WOOF, **October 2023**

putting Bílovec into the Worldcon, and vice versa; with a scoop of Lem on the top!

0. Fanzines: I am doing it wrong. → Imagine: It is the evening of Monday 9th. For several weeks, I've been (intermittently) reloading *File 770's* tag for the *Worldcon Order Of Faneditors*: will there be another collation this year? Or will *this* overseas, behind-wall² special case skip an issue? Then I find an e-mail (which, BTW, at first sight seems like an especially bizarre/ingenious phishing spam). Hmm, the deadline is Sunday 22nd; surely I *can* prepare a minimum viable zine till then. Except... on the weekend in-between I am going to a con! Which will even have some guests from beyond the nearest border! So hurry, a dual-purpose one-sheeter.³ And when I get back, I can expand this for the final, electronic WOOF with another issue, or supplement... ¶ Or actually not, alas, the following week turned out to be even busier. While this was a Schrödinger double issue as of going to print(er), now you can see that nothing more follows the next page. Well, see you in Glasgow! (Yes, in person.)

Nobody reads anything; if they read, they don't understand anything; if they understand, they forget immediately.⁴

1. The only fannish con(s) in town → I may not look like it, let alone say it aloud, but I *do* love Bílcon and everyone involved; it is by any measure a very fine *relaxkon* (which is how the Czech for “relaxacon” somehow evolved) with a family atmosphere... it's just that I'm not really a convention fan, I *hate* travelling, and all these family aspects of fandom have always brought out my inner Uncle Fester, if not somebody worse. But oh well, none of us is getting any younger, and even I am mellowing and compromising. ¶ There really should be a writeup of the current state of the Czech conventions, not to mention fandom in general, available in English somewhere, even if nobody cares. For now, just a quick-and-dirty list of cons I consider worthy and likely will attend: ¶ 1) No point explaining Bílcon here and now. 2) Fenixcon.cz, Brno, 1–3 Dec. Pre-Christmas semi-relaxacon/SMOFcon (lately also incorporates the natcon *Parcon* as nobody cares anymore, let alone bids), unique by taking place in a hotel; well-known in Poland. 3) Trpaslicon.cz, Prague, 8–10 March '24. Officially “festival of British humour, sci-fi and fantasy”; evolved from the *Red Dwarf* fandom as the name shows, but despite its general media orientation has a trufannish, vibrant, youthful feel (in an aging fandom, see above). I really think Dave Lally would like it, and be a welcome guest (if he can go to Berlin by train, it is just 4 more hours!). ¶ – Well yes, then there are a few commercialised behemoths.

1.1 Things to do in Bílovec when you're dead... tired → Still, if you ever find yourself there, I very much recommend the *minipivovar*. My homebrewing friends are slowly making a craft-ale connoisseur out of me, and *Zobak* is among the best I have tasted; 'tis a great pity they don't export outside the town limits, and close early.

2. Yet another update on that anthology in English → *Bradbury's Shadow: Chronicle of Czech Science Fiction* (volume 1 of prospective two or ideally maybe three, *Fandom Authors of the 1980s*) had a very, very limited print release at the Loscon in Los Angeles last November. There may be a wider one yet – it is a long, long story. The Facebook event still says “PDF version [...] will be available free of charge in early 2023 - let us know if you are interested”; so you could try that if you are that interested, serious or in a hurry (which, TBH, nobody seemed to so far; see Lem above, not to mention me in the previous issue).

3. Unnamed barbarian's⁵ translation masterclass: Special Lem issue! → From *Ansible* 427: “20 Years Ago:

¹ Way back, it seemed a good idea to start with a trial issue 0... which was followed by 00, as I never can stand up to my own standards how a fanzine should look. They are available in WOOFs # 44 and 47, or sites.google.com/site/janvanekjr/newtnews

² This needs repeating: read the GoH's story medium.com/@mondanite/liu-cixin-the-angel-era-translation-c193b4ae047f and claims summarised e. g. in econlib.org/against-political-art

³ Folded: I hate it when conventions let you clutch an unwieldy big-format paper when it is *so* easy to make folios. But then I decided that for the WOOF's PDF format, it would be better to re-set the thing into portrait A4, which seems the (*de facto*) standard. Which necessitated a *lot* of tweaking to fit the sheet again. So even some changes in the text beside catching a few of the awkward typos... so the two versions are slightly but non-negligibly different. But I am learning not to be obsessive about such things. Of course, should I want to print a few more copies in Prague, I'll have to go through all this back again.

⁴ Lem's Law; look it up if you need.

⁵ I still haven't got to working up the courage to ask Dave whether I could borrow Thog; and am even less prone to approach authors of, conceivably, the best-known original Czech mighty-thewed swordsmen. Whose names are lousy anyway.

'Thog's Translator Masterclass. "... there is practically no radioactivity in the soil of this part of the galaxy." (Stanisław Lem, *The Invincible*, 1976 Penguin UK translation)' (*Ansible* 189, April 2003)" ¶ I must have missed it the first time around... or forgotten. Anyway: this is Wendayne Ackerman's (in)famous first (and for a long time only) translation from the German one by Dietrich Roswitha, and the original (the context is that a supernova in the vicinity would leave such traces) says "the soil activity is, for this part of the Galaxy, exceptionally low", so it is the translators' error indeed. But which of them exactly? Also, I should see what Johnston (see below) did in his...

3.1 On the Moon, nobody can... → While looking into this, one thing led to another and soon I drifted into *Tales of Pírx the Pilot*; and towards the first third of "The Conditioned Reflex" my eye was hit by "*night so biting cold that a man's only protection was his specially designed double-ply Thermoslike space suit, which even in the Moon's thinner atmosphere weighed like holy hell*". Of course the original (*ciężkie, nawet tutaj, jak wszyscy diabli*) says just "heavy, even here [i. e. in the 1/6 gravity], like all hell". I have long heard that this Louis Iribarne, his Miłosz and Gombrowicz laurels notwithstanding, was not... um, the least-blotchy space pen among Lem's translators, but did not anybody edit this?! (Indeed, there is much, much more.)⁶

3.2 Solaristics scoop discovery → This should be a longer, proper article... when I find the time, and some venue that might be interested. (Any tips?) So let me just claim primacy here for now. ¶ As we all know (Bob...?!), the first English translation of *Solaris* (the only available in print even now! yeah, corporate publishers are Evil) was from the French version (what is less known: abridged one!) and could serve as a textbook example why such things must not be done. We also know or can easily find that *Solaris* begins with the brilliant, foresightful, serio-comic, characteristically Lemian image: *O dziewiętnastej czasu pokładowego zeszedłem, mijając stojących wokół studni, po metalowych szczeblach do wnętrza zasobnika*. Which means, as everyone these days can check with online translators and dictionaries, word for word: "At 19 [of] [on-]board time I descended, passing [*those, i. e. people*] standing round the well [*or shaft*], on metal rungs into the interior of the capsule." However, Bill Johnston's much-lauded 2011 direct translation (e-book and audio) goes *At nineteen hundred hours ship's time I climbed down the metal ladder past the bays on either side into the capsule*. First, this is an obvious (except, just to me? I am amazed how Tomasz Lem could have let this go at such a conspicuous place, considering the attention dedicated to the new edition – the Lem website praised as "meticulous"!) misparsing, a schoolboy error in grammatical cases (accusative "passing ... wells" would have to be "studnie"). What's more, almost all other translators into any language⁷ got confused by that nested participle, misunderstanding it as "having passed" and translating it in the sense of "I walked around the people and climbed down". (But not all: for example, the first of the Russian translations, notorious for censoring final contemplations about "flawed" God, simply left the clause out altogether!) ¶ Seven paragraphs farther, as Kelvin descends (again!) towards the station (per Johnston, otherwise quite faithful here): *I waited for the stars to start smoking. I didn't get to see it. They merely began to fade and disappear, dissolving against a reddening background. I realized I was in the upper strata of the atmosphere*. – Now why, and how, would stars *smoke*?! Turns out⁸ that Lem used a somewhat obscure verb *filować*, which (beside several extremely obscure metaphorical meanings) the dictionary explains as a remarkably snake-tongue-forked homonym "about lamp, candle, wick etc.: *to smoke*; about lamp's light: *to flicker*". By 1961, you could have relied that every geek reading SF had also read astronomy primers explaining (does not Lem himself mention it somewhere in his earlier fiction?) that stars seem to twinkle because of eddies in the air, but won't in space; so this would be quite a sensible re-entry gauge. Alas,⁹ translators from small languages (which Polish remains, for most practical purposes) tend *not* to be geeks: Johnston chose the wrong alternative. (Some others got it right.)

5. Colophon / closing remarks → Aaa...nd our space/time is up! It didn't hurt, right? You can still get me a drink (well, in Glasgow) and I'll provide all those footnotes I had to leave out! Or at least send me a LoC, your own ish, subscribe me to interesting e-mail lists etc. ¶ Cranked out on Friday 13th (! so sorry for all typos etc.) and then edited on Sunday 22nd October by Jan Vaněk jr. <jan.vanek.jr@gmail.com> (or fb.com/jan.j.vanek)

⁶ As soon as you know there is stuff to look (out) for. *Which this margin is too narrow to contain*, to quote Fermat yet again.

⁷ This part of the study has been, and will have to be even more, kindly supported by Miroslav Fišmeister, one of the most wonderful human beings and owner of one of the largest Lem collections in, at least, Central Europe, if not all universe.

⁸ You can even google up a discussion where someone wondered about this very thing! Well, it is a little reassuring to know I am not the only Cassandra in the blind world.

⁹ Like Franz Rottensteiner complained already in *Vector* 59, 1972, which I happen to have open in another window. Do look it up, it is still interesting even though dated. Of course, he might dislike the way I am summarizing his, much longer phrasing.

Four Essays

Rich Lynch, for WOOF 48 (October 2023)

There was never any chance I'd be attending the Chengdu Worldcon but I guess I can still take part in it, in a small way at least, by being a contributor to the annual WOOF collation. That it's most likely gonna be a PDF-only document makes it even easier, since there's no time to figure out the logistics of getting printed copies into the hands of this year's OE.

And due mostly to procrastination, there's also no time to compose a new essay for the mailing so instead I'll reprint four previous Worldcon-related essays that you WOOF readers may not have seen before. They're all about departed friends who I wish you all had gotten a chance to meet and know. And now you will.

Remembering Noreen

(originally published in my now-defunct LiveJournal blog *In Search of Enlightenment* on June 5, 2005; reprinted in the 2nd issue of my personal time capsule *My Back Pages* in August 2010)

I saw this earlier today on one of the mailing lists that I subscribe to:

"Noreen Shaw, widow of SF editor Larry Shaw, co-chair of the 1955 World SF Convention, and co-editor with Larry of 1962 Hugo-nominated fanzine Axe, has died."

Noreen Shaw was a friend. Most of my memories of her are from correspondence – she was a recipient of the fanzine I co-edited (*Mimosa*) and though I could never quite get her to write us an article of fan historical interest (as was usually most of the contents of any issue) she would still send us pleasant and usually anecdotally entertaining letters of comment that often – and to me, a fan historian, even a bit infuriatingly – hinted about some amusing little vignette from the 1950s or 1960s that begged to be preserved in print.

I only met her in person once, at the 1996 Worldcon. She'd written me she would be coming to the convention, even though she didn't have a membership. I was able to convince the convention registration people to give her a day pass, and I ended up spending several very pleasant hours with her. I escorted her to the Retro-Hugo presentation and got her into the Green Room where she was greeted warmly by Fred Pohl and Harlan Ellison.

That might very well have been her last science fiction convention – she told me that correspondence had become the extent of her fan activities and that the only reason she wanted to come to the L.A. Con was to see some old friends and meet some of the people she wrote letters to. And it was a chore for her to get there – she lived in a suburb of L.A. and had to take several long bus rides to get from home to the convention. I offered to try to find some easier way home, but she said she didn't mind riding the bus and would hear no more of it.

One other thing about her that I remember from that day is how much she looked like my mother. Even though my mom is not a fan, all the time I was with Noreen I almost believed I was a second-generation fan. An unusual memory, perhaps, but one that I treasure. She's gone, and I am already missing her. ☺



Noreen Shaw in 1955

A Farewell to Forry

(originally published in the 67th issue of my SFPazine *Variations on a Theme* in January 2009; reprinted in *My Back Pages* #3 in December 2010)

I'm not sure when I first met Forrest J Ackerman. It must have been at some Worldcon, most likely in the 1980s, and our mutual friend Dave Kyle probably made the introduction. I have a very clear memory when I first had a chance to *talk* to Forry, though. It was in 1994, at the first FanHistoricon in Hagerstown, Maryland. Peggy Rae Pavlat had organized the convention to try to set up a continuing organization that would collect and preserve bits of fan history. Forry attended the convention, probably because it allowed him to visit with Harry Warner, Jr., who lived in Hagerstown, one final time. It had been hoped that Harry would attend the convention but true to his reputation as fandom's most famous hermit, he remained at home. Instead, the convention, all 15 or so of us, visited Harry in groups of three at a time.

It's my own fault, of course, that I had never taken the opportunity to seek out and talk to Forry prior to the FanHistoricon. By then I had been editor of Harry Warner's history of 1950s fandom, *A Wealth of Fable*, and in the process, had developed a driving interest in learning what had gone on before. But then, on the last evening of the convention, while we were all sitting in the con suite after the last program item had ended, Peggy Rae thrust a tape recorder into my hand and told me, "Interview Forry."



Forry and Peggy Rae at the 1994 FanHistoricon

I didn't so much interview him as let him tell some stories. The tape still exists somewhere, and the transcript became the first four installments of a series of autobiographical articles that ran in *Mimosa* between December 1994 and December 2001. Those four articles each generated quite a few comments from readers, and these were compiled and mailed to Forry. He apparently loved the feedback so much that he agreed to continue the series. So for the next few Worldcons, Forry and I would sit for about an hour or so in one of the less trafficked parts of the convention. He would relate more of his memories into a tape recorder, and the transcripts from those sessions were edited into the remaining installments of the series.

I had always thought that Forry would, one day, write an autobiography. But he never did, and the twelve articles in *Mimosa* might be as close as he ever came. The last time I ever saw him was at the 2006 Worldcon in Anaheim. It was in the aftermath of the Hugo Award ceremony, and I was in a rush to meet up with a friend at one of the parties. As I was hurrying out of the arena where the ceremony had just ended, there was Forry, seated in a wheelchair and looking very frail. It took about 20 paces after that for my brain to shift into gear and get the rest of me to stop and go back, but by then he had disappeared into the mass of people that were working their way toward the exits.

I have many memories of the relatively short time I knew Forry, but the one I treasure the most is from 1996, when my wife Nicki and I visited him at his ‘Ackermansion’ home in the Hollywood Hills section of Los Angeles. It took an effort to get there, located as it was halfway up the twisty narrow road rather generously named Glendower ‘Avenue’, but it lived up to our expectations. *Every* room in the house was chock-full of books, paintings, posters, and memorabilia, even including the outdoor storage rooms. As one might expect, there was much emphasis on fantastic cinema, from which he gained fame outside fandom as a magazine editor. But it was easy to see that



Forry with a very small part of his collection

Forry had not lost track of his fan roots – there were many mementos and artifacts from decades past and he had, at that time, probably the second- or third-largest collection of fanzines in existence, including many from the 1930s when science fiction fanzines were first being published.



Forry Ackerman at the Ackermansion

And now he’s gone. History will remember Forrest J Ackerman as perhaps the most famous and influential fan of all time, and justifiably so. Dave Kyle once referred to Forry as “The Fan for All Seasons” and that’s true – Forry wasn’t just a famous fan, he *lived* fandom, all the time, for the last 82 years of his life. But it was another famous fan, Walter Willis, who way back in 1951 so accurately described Forry in just a few words: “Forry Ackerman is a true fan in a way that most of us don’t come within a mile of being. Forry really *believes* in fandom. ... There are two things that every neofan learns: one is that John W. Campbell, Jr. is the editor of *Astounding Science Fiction* and the other is that Forrest J Ackerman is the No.1 Fan. For my money, Ackerman’s position is infinitely stronger. I am sold on Ackerman.”

I consider myself privileged to have known Forry, and I am already missing him. We will not see his like again. ☼

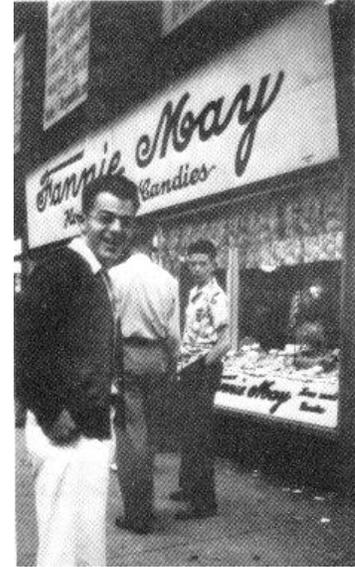
Farewell to an Old Friend

(originally published in *Variations on a Theme* #105 in May 2015; reprinted in *My Back Pages* #14 in June 2015)

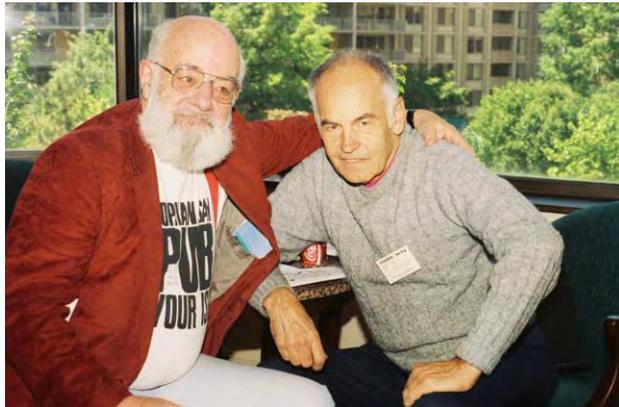
From behind me, in the middle of a crowd, came a familiar voice. “Hey, Rich! Ya gonna come to my slide show?”

It was the middle of August 2011, and I was at Renovation, the 69th World Science Fiction Convention. I didn’t need to look around to recognize who it was. It was an old friend, in both senses of the word ‘old’.

Arthur L. Widner was 97 years old when he passed away on April 15th, at the time the world's oldest science fiction fan. His fandom activities date all the way back to the 1930s, when he was one of the *Weird Tales* letterhacks. At the time of his death he was one of just five remaining people who had attended the very first Worldcon, the 1939 NyCon. In 1940, Art was one of the organizers of Boston's first science fiction organization, The Stranger Club. That group was comprised of many notable people: Chan Davis, who became a university professor but was fired from his position and jailed for refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into his political activities during the Cold War 1950s; Robert D. Swisher, who compiled the first index of science fiction fan publications; Louis Russell Chauvenet, who later in 1940 invented the term 'fanzine' (before that, fan publications were less-elegantly referred to as 'fanmags'); Harry Stubbs, who in his alter ego of 'Hal Clement' later became one of the science fiction genre's most respected authors; and Earl Singleton, who later (as Dr. Henry



Art Widner in Chicago during the 1940 Worldcon



Art Widner (at left) and Louis Russell Chauvenet at the 1994 Corflu convention

E. Singleton)

became one of the co-founders of Teledyne and at the time of his death in 1999 had amassed a personal fortune reportedly worth north of \$700 million. The Stranger Club, as a group, was honored by the 1989 Worldcon (held in Boston) as its collective fan guests, but there were some people (myself included) who thought that Art himself should have been singled out as the fan guest.

I first met Art back in the early 1980s, when I was out in the San Francisco area on a business trip. It extended over a weekend, so I took advantage of an invitation of a mutual

friend who was also (at that time) the Official Editor of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association to sit in on a FAPA collation. Art was helping out, as was Redd Boggs, another fan whose activities dated back to the First Fandom "dinosaur" era of the 1930s. But as it turned out, I didn't provide any help at all – we had met for a Sunday late lunch which led to a couple hours of very enjoyable conversation afterward. By the time we all left the restaurant it was dusk and I needed to get back to my hotel to prepare for the next day's meetings.

Our paths crossed many times after that, always at science fiction conventions. And quite often to break bread together. At the 1988 Worldcon, in New Orleans, we were part of a much larger crowd of fans who found a terrific and yet affordable restaurant after navigating a maze of alleys in the heart of the French Quarter. At the 1989 Worldcon, Art used some of his meal stipend to treat Nicki and me to a crab cake lunch at a restaurant at the top of a high rise building where we could sit back and enjoy the panoramic view of Boston. He also was a frequent attendee of Corflu, the fanzine fans' convention, and it was at the 1992 Corflu, in Los Angeles, where, on the way to a restaurant, one of my favorite stories involving Art Widner took place.

It started out innocuously enough, as a Saturday evening expedition on the way to a seafood restaurant in Manhattan Beach. My wife Nicki and I were passengers in a high-powered Acura being driven by our friend Elst Weinstein, while Art with his friend Dave Rike followed in Art's small pickup truck. Elst was trying to follow what turned out to be an oversimplified map from the convention's guide, but instead of getting us to the restaurant it led us first to a dead-end and then into a deserted warehouse district. We had to traverse a bunch of narrow little streets with stop signs at the end of every block to find our way back to a main thoroughfare. All the while, Elst was getting more and more annoyed at the map's author, Rick Foss, and just about every block on the way out he would roar up to a stop sign and utter some epithet, then take off again. It went like this:

Vrooom! Screech! "Foss is going to have a lot of explaining to do about *this!*" Vrooom! Screech! "Death to Foss!" Vrooom! Screech! "I'll kill him!" It was all very entertaining to Art and Dave, desperately trying to keep up with us, who had figured out early on that we'd gotten lost.

I can well believe that Art only very rarely got lost. He always seemed to me to have a very accurate sense of direction, and was often the leader of dinner expeditions at conventions. But it was an epic expedition of a much larger scale, by automobile from Boston to Denver for the 1941 Worldcon, that has over the years become legendary and that journey was the topic of his presentation at Renovation. Art showed and described dozens of photos from the trip, and for fanhistory buffs like myself it was a very, very memorable and enjoyable hour. And it was also the last time I ever saw him.

Art received many other honors in addition to being a guest of the 1989 Worldcon. He was also a guest of at least eight other science fiction conventions, including the 1999 Corflu, and at the 2011 Corflu received a special lifetime achievement award. But it was at the 1989 Worldcon that he received an even bigger honor – the Big Heart Award, fandom's highest service award given out for "good work and great spirit long contributed". That pretty accurately described Art. He was as much a patriarchal figure as has ever existed in science fiction fandom, an avuncular calming presence who stayed above any feuds. Fans of all eras looked up to Art, and his passing has created a void that will not soon be filled. He was a friend to many people and we are all missing him. A lot. ☀

Remembering Ron

(originally published in Mike Glyer's *File770.com* newsblog on November 5, 2016; reprinted in *My Back Pages* #17 in December 2016)

I remember that I read the news of his death in the November 2006 issue of the newszine *Ansible*:

*Ron Bennett (1933-2006), long-time UK fan who was the 1958 TAFF delegate and edited the classic sf newsletter **Skyrack** (1959-1971), died on 5 November soon after being diagnosed with leukemia. He was 73.*

The life and death of one of the most important and notable British science fiction fans, reduced down to just a few lines of text. That I hadn't even known he was ill made it all the more disheartening to read.

I feel very fortunate that I became friends with Ron Bennett, and regretful that it happened only in the last decade-and-a-half of his life. It started with correspondence, back in 1991, when

I was editing the manuscript that became Harry Warner's fanhistory of the 1950s, *A Wealth of Fable* (SCIFI Press, 1992). Ron appears in several places in the book, and I had contacted him to clarify something that in the end turned out to be nothing more than a typographical error. But that got him on the mailing list for *Mimosa*, the fanzine that I co-edited (with my wife Nicki) that specialized in the preservation of the history of science fiction fandom, which eventually led to our first face-to-face meeting in Glasgow at Intersection, the 1995 Worldcon.

By then I had learned a lot more about Ron's activities in that 1950s Golden Age. He had published two focal-point fanzines – the newszine *Skyrack* and also a more general interest fanzine, *PLOY*, which lived up to the name by beginning its run with issue #2 to make readers believe they had missed the first one (there was even a letters column with comments from a few friends in the know who heaped praise on the fictional first issue). He was also described as a key player in the unraveling of one of the greatest hoaxes ever perpetrated in science fiction fandom – the celebrated Joan W. Carr, who was ultra-active in British fandom for about four years during the mid-1950s but didn't actually exist.

Ron himself was also ultra-active in British fandom during the 1950s and into the 1960s, and his fanac diminished only after temporarily relocating to Singapore in 1967 for employment as a teacher of the children of British army personnel stationed there. By the time I finally met Ron, in the Dealers Room at Intersection, I had become familiar enough with his personal fanhistory that when we were chatting about the



Ron Bennett (far right) at the 1960 Eastercon in London

circumstances surrounding his move to Singapore, he was so impressed by the breadth of my knowledge that he asked me in jest if I also knew the airline and flight number he had booked!

It was two years later that Ron started contributing what became a series of nine entertaining and illuminating articles for *Mimosa*, the first being an account of his time in Singapore and how (in that era of the Cold War) he once had to ward off the overtures from a Russian spy. Following that, Ron wrote short, amusing, anecdotal histories of *PLOY* and *Skyrack*, and also a thoughtful and warm remembrance of another of British fandom's most prominent members, Vinç Clarke. But it was Ron's article about the four Kettering Eastercons of the mid-1950s that provided more information about the "Joan Carr" hoax and in doing so contradicted the general belief that he had been the person who had outed the hoax – it was true that he had been inadvertently tipped off by another fan who was in on the ruse, but that had been the entire extent of his involvement.

Ron's last article for *Mimosa*, which appeared in the final issue of the run, described the first Worldcon that he ever attended, the fabulous 1957 Loncon. This was the first time a Worldcon had been held in Europe, and with its compact size (which allowed everybody to meet everybody else) and unprecedented international nature, arguably it was the most important science fiction convention that has ever been staged. Ron attended several other Worldcons, including the very next one in California where he was the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund delegate, but the only other

time where we crossed paths at a Worldcon was in 2002 at San Jose. It was totally unexpected and happened on the very last day of the convention. He was in the States to visit his son, who was editing a Silicon Valley-based computer trade journal of some kind, and just showed up unannounced. The only reason Nicki and I found him at all was because of a chance remark I overheard from someone who'd sold him a book in the Dealers Room.

That was the last time I ever saw him. I had thought we'd meet again at the 2005 Worldcon in Glasgow, and had even requested a program item from the convention committee where I could interview him to see what other bits of knowledge we could glean about the 1950s and 1960s. But for whatever reason, Ron didn't attend and with a travel schedule that had been "carved in stone" I really couldn't go and seek him out. But if I'd known he only had a bit more than a year left, I would have tried a lot harder.

With all of his years of fan activity and involvement in the storied events of decades past, I'd always thought that Ron Bennett would have been an ideal candidate for a Worldcon Guest of Honor. I do believe it would eventually have happened, but time ran out on him. All of what's left are the memories and recollections from people who had been fortunate enough to have known him. These have been some of mine. ☀



Ron Bennett and Nicki Lynch
at the 2002 Worldcon

Photo Credits: *Even though the repro here is a more than a bit cruddy, the photo of Noreen on page 1 was one of the many fine photographs taken by Dean Grennell during the 1950s. I was the photographer for the photos of Forry and Peggy Rae on page 2, of Art and Louis on page 4, and of Ron and Nicki on page 7. All the others were borrowed from the Internet and I apologize for not knowing the photographers' names.*

Also: *Please be aware that 'Worldcon', 'World Science Fiction Convention', and 'Hugo Award' are all service marks of Worldcon Intellectual Property, a non-profit corporation managed by the Mark Protection Committee of the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS), an unincorporated literary society.*

WOOOF

Space Warp & WOOF #2023

Oct. 13, 2023

Space Warp & WOOF is a one-shot fanzine published by Heath Row, 4367 Globe Ave., Culver City, CA 90230; kalel@well.com; 718-755-9840 mobile; 323-916-0367 fax. It is prepared for participants in the Worldcon Order of Fan-Editors (WOOF), members of the 81st 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.

Welcoming WorldCon

This one-shot fanzine is a contribution to the 2023 edition of WOOF, collated at the WorldCon in Chengdu, China. I debated submitting, given that I'm not attending the con—though I did join as a supporting member to participate online—and I've never actually *gone* to a WorldCon, though I participated in the 2020 ConZealand online. I even got the T-shirt, which is decidedly not virtual.

Regardless, I realized that I had a couple of pieces of writing in the works that would be published on the Web, but not in a fanzine, so I decided to document them here for other faneds, fanzine readers, and con members. I can still participate in WorldCon.

The first piece is an unedited review of the 2022 Loscon 48 written for *The Science Fact & Science Fiction Concatenation* (<http://www.concatenation.org>). That reportedly will be published in January 2024, and I offer the unedited version here. The second piece is the unedited version of a brief history of *Worlds of If* magazine (<https://worldsofifmagazine.com>) that I wrote for that periodical's Web site in advance of the magazine's relaunch next year.

My thoughts and spirit are with this year's WorldCon members and participants, even if my body isn't. Have a blast in Chengdu, and safe travels, all.

Convention Report: Loscon 48

A couple of years after I moved to Los Angeles from Brooklyn in 2009, one of my first major steps into local fandom was at the clubhouse of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, then in Van Nuys. I had previously met LASFSan John Hertz (*Vanamonde*) at a Lunacon in New York and visited the club to meet Marty Cantor, then official collator of the apae APA-L and LASFAPA, whom I'd corresponded with while compiling the apae directory *Blue Moon Special* (<https://efanzines.com/ActiveAPAs>). That experience—and my first foray into fannish apae outside of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (I'd previously been active in mundane apae.)—was entirely positive and the group very attractive in terms

of fanac. The LASFS is the world's oldest continuously active science fiction and fantasy club, meeting weekly since the club's founding in October 1934.



D. Nunez and Chris Butler, assistant art director of Griffith Observatory, hard at work in the Fanzine Corner. (Photograph courtesy of Heath Row)

As a newcomer to Los Angeles, I just couldn't make the commute to the weekly meetings work with my family and work responsibilities. Traffic in LA is a very real thing. I wasn't really able to join and begin participating in the weekly meetings until during the pandemic, when the group started meeting via Zoom—maintaining its run of uninterrupted weekly meetings. Regardless, I occasionally attended the annual Loscon and recognized friendly fan faces there.



The "Goal Setting for Writers" panel (Photograph courtesy of Eric J. Guignard)

Last fall's Loscon 48 (<https://loscon.org/48>), perhaps only my fifth Loscon, was not the first Loscon since the COVID-19 pandemic—it was the second. It was also the first con at which I volunteered, in three capacities. I spent time supporting Hospitality, mostly working in the Con Suite and helping to unload the truck to set up the con; I took a turn at staffing the club's book sales table in the Dealer's Room; and I helped run the Fanzine Corner with longtime faned Hertz, at which we offered a display of recent fanzines, hosted a local faned gathering—attracting mostly APA-L participants and alumnae—and encouraged con members to contribute to a conzine written and drawn on site during Loscon 48. That resulted in *Losconzine* #48 (<https://lasfs.org/loscon-updates/losconzine>), a 36-page fanzine containing con member artwork and writing. (I and another LASFSan, Krystal Rains, have since repeated that experiment at the 2023 AnaCon in Anaheim, Calif., resulting in *AnaConzine 2023*, available at <http://lasfs.org/uncategorized/anacon-2023-engaging-and-creative>.)



Panelists Ashish Mahabal, David Brin, Gregory Benford, and Larry Niven (Photograph courtesy of Mahabal)

Loscon's 48th year—maintaining its status as LA's longest-running fan convention—included a variety of panel discussions, presentations, readings, book discussion groups, a film festival, an impressive art show and auction, music, shopping, and other activities. Participants included area authors such as Steven Barnes, David Gerrold, and Larry Niven, who considers Loscon his home convention. Loscon 48 also recognized and celebrated a number of notable participants in the fields of sf, fantasy, horror, and fandom. Canadian fantasy author Tanya Huff was the Writer Guest of Honor. Her most recent release at the time, *Into the Broken Lands*, had been published in August 2022. She is perhaps best known for her Blood Books series, which served as the basis for the television series *Blood Ties*. The Artist Guest of Honor was Dave Kellett, creator of the Web comic series

Sheldon and Drive. He'd recently published the book *Anatomy of Dinosaurs*. "Faerie tale minstrel and storyteller of myth and magic" Alexander James Adams served as the Musical Guest of Honor. And Fan Guests of Honor included Susan Fox and Gene Turnbow, the founders of SCIFI.radio, an excellent, fannish online radio station.

While Loscon programming has occasionally been organized along explicit, dedicated tracks, this year, "there was a lot of experimenting going on," said con chairman Nick Smith. The program schedule included numerous events representing multiple themes including filk music; a film series offering an ongoing program of shorts and movies; and panel discussions focusing on sf literature, science and space exploration, writing and editing, costuming and cosplay, movies and television shows such as *Star Trek*, acting, myths and legends, sound design, illustration, speculative poetry, the future of humanity, and other topics. Other events and activities included a drum circle, an ice cream social (which is always a highlight), an art show and auction, a Regency dance, a blood drive, robotics demonstrations, readings, and midnight screenings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*—one of the two screenings a costumed sing-along—and *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, which was also, naturally, a sing-along. There were also a number of lively parties on the 17th floor of the hotel.



"The Importance of Diversity in Writing" panel (Photograph courtesy of Kent Hastings)

As a volunteer with several commitments, I was hard pressed to participate in much of the programming, but I was impressed by what I was able to attend. Tom Safer's Film Room offered a stellar program of films focusing on travel of all sorts—including a 120th anniversary screening of *A*

Trip to the Moon. Hertz hosted several book discussion groups concentrating on Charles Harness’s *The Paradox Men*, Robert A. Heinlein’s *Time for the Stars*, and C.L. Moore’s *Doomsday Morning*. And the “SF Films by Quarters” panel discussion explored movies originally released in 1922, 1947, 1972, 1997, and 2022. The Fanzine Corner was a delightful success, and I was frequently surprised and impressed by the member submissions in the in basket, sometimes contributed over night. Con members hung out at the Fanzine Corner to utilize our art supplies, drawing, and writing paper, leading to wonderful company and interesting conversations. And I found a number of wonderful books and magazines in the Dealer’s Room.



Vendors in the Dealers’ Room
(Photograph courtesy of Krystal Rains and the LASFS)

One downside to the con was that we were unable to offer a gaming room because its volunteers contracted the flu—not COVID-19—just before the event. Participant feedback was largely positive. Con goer Ashish Mahabal, who appeared on several panels, including “The Three Flaws of Robotics: Artificial vs. Organic Intelligence,” posted that he “[h]ad a blast at Loscon 48,” on Facebook. Brian Fitzpatrick, a first-time participant, commented that he “loved the experience. . . . I found the conversations invigorating and educational. . . . Loscon is hands down the friendliest con I have ever attended, and I am already looking forward to next year.” Linda Robinett remarked that the filk programming was well integrated with other programming, offering daytime

activities—and that she was impressed by the hall costumes. And Michelle Deborah Weisblat-Dane, who has been participating in Loscon since she was 14 years old, indicated that it remains her favorite con.



Chris Marble and Fan Guest of Honor Gene Turnbow serve ice cream at the social (Photograph courtesy of Kent Hastings)

Elayne Pelz, who served as treasurer and led registration for Loscon 48, reported that the con did relatively well financially. With 576 members—437 paid—Loscon 48 passed on more money than other Loscons in the past, but not as much as in 2021 when it was combined with Westercon. Membership was consistent with other Loscons in the past five years or so. And the Dealer’s Room offered wares from 20 vendors.

The LASFS blood drive hosted by Dennis and Kristine Cherry during Loscon 48 was also a success. Held in conjunction with the American Red Cross, this year’s blood drive was named the Karl B. Lembke Memorial Blood Drive in memory of a LASFS member—and frequent blood donor—who died May 15, 2022. Lembke served as chairman of the LASFS board of directors for 20 years. Having joined the club in 1985, he served as scribe for many years, received the Evans-Freehafer Award for service to the LASFS in 2010, and was named a patron saint for donations to

the organization. He was also an active participant in APA-L. For Loscon, Lembke ran Hospitality for a number of years and always donated blood during the con's blood drive. In fact, he donated blood every other week—including at Loscon—donating platelets a total of 997 times, inspiring others to give blood, as well. Loscon 48's blood drive collected 25 units. 24 of those were donated by registered donors, and there was one first-time donor.

At the time of this writing, plans are well underway for Loscon 49 (<https://loscon.org/49>), scheduled to be held Nov. 24-26, 2023, at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott. With the cancellation of Westercon 75, Loscon 49 will also serve as the 2023 Westercon, fulfilling its official functions. We can perhaps expect a bit of a membership boost because of that combination!

A Brief History of *Worlds of If* Magazine

Over the course of its 20-plus year history, *Worlds of If* magazine—also referred to as *If* and *Worlds of If Science Fiction*—pretty consistently served as a healthy second to the top tier of professional science fiction magazines. Always a digest, usually bimonthly—and sometimes monthly when times were good—*Worlds of If* faced a number of challenges over the years, including several ownership changes, financial difficulties and distribution crises outside of its staff's control, a somewhat awkward relationship with *Galaxy Science Fiction* at one stage, and somewhat frequent editorial changes.

Regardless, *Worlds of If* was definitely not an also-ran, and its history is one of persistence, the ongoing pursuit of high-quality science fiction (and eventually fantasy) stories, the encouragement of new writers, and active engagement with readers and fans. Several times, it appeared as though *Worlds of If* would break out of the second tier of sf prozines to join the top tier, contending with *Astounding Science Fiction* (now *Analog*), *Galaxy*, and *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* for readers' attention—and investment. At the end of its initial existence, it had.

As the current staff of the relaunched *Worlds of If* endeavors to venerate the history of the magazine while propelling it into the 21st century, it might be useful to consider the magazine's back story. That history can be broken roughly into three periods—largely delineated by ownership and editorial changes—and one brief piece of punctuation several decades ago.

The Origin Story

Worlds of If magazine was introduced in 1952 by James L. Quinn, founder of Kingston, New

York-based Quinn Publishing Co. Quinn had previously focused on publishing paperbacks, primarily mysteries and westerns, as well as romantic adventures, through the Handi-Books imprint since 1941. In fact, in the back of the first issue, dated March 1952, more than 20 such books—including Paul W. Fairman's romantic adventure *The Heiress of Copper Butte*—are promoted in a two-page house ad. It is notable that science fiction titles are not included.

The magazine was intended to take advantage of the then-underway second boom in sf magazines and perhaps the growing interest in science fiction film. Quinn relied on Fairman, previously associated with Ziff-Davis and *Amazing Stories*, to edit *Worlds of If*. Fairman left after four poorly selling issues, returning to Ziff-Davis where he eventually edited *Amazing Stories* and *Fantastic* later in the decade, and Quinn soon assumed the editing duties himself. Despite the rough beginning, the launch team's intent was laudable. In the first issue's editorial by Fairman, he wrote, “[W]e will try to maintain *If* as one of the finest books on the market. . . . [W]e will have access to the best stories, and we will get our fair share of works from the best writers.”

After Fairman's departure, Quinn himself edited the title, introducing stunning wraparound covers by artists such as Ken Fagg, until he was able to recruit Larry T. Shaw, a fan—a Futurian!—who'd already sold several stories, as associate editor in 1953. Quinn didn't really understand science fiction, but he understood publishing. Hiring an editor who knew—and loved—science fiction improved the magazine's editorial prospects substantially. Quinn also introduced a short story competition for college students who hadn't previously sold a story, attracting entries from writers including Harlan Ellison, Andrew J. Offutt, and Roger Zelazny. *Worlds of If* went monthly in 1954—a sign of the magazine's relative success as other magazines folded when the boom ended—and Offutt's first place-winning novelette, “And Gone Tomorrow,” was published in the December 1954 issue. *Worlds of If* was soon firmly ensconced in the middle tier of magazines behind *Astounding*, *F&SF*, and *Galaxy*, joining *Fantastic Universe* and *Infinity*.

As perhaps the best of the second tier, *Worlds of If* published stories by Isaac Asimov, Gordon R. Dickson, Damon Knight, Robert Silverberg, Cordwainer Smith, William Tenn, John Wyndham, and others. Quinn brought Knight in as editor in late 1958, but the American News distribution bottleneck that challenged so many magazines might have hampered growth under his watch. Knight's time in that post was short—a mere four issues (but what

great issues!). Also publishing a companion magazine titled *Strange* and launching the nonfiction periodical *Space Age*, Quinn abruptly sold the magazine to Robert Guinn of Boston-based Galaxy Publishing, eventually exiting the magazine business. As Mike Ashley noted in his book *Transformations*, Quinn's interest in science fiction lasted just seven years.

Beyond the Slush Pile

One might think that being acquired by the publisher of *Galaxy* and falling under the editorship of H.L. Gold would result in bringing *Worlds of If* firmly into the top tier of magazines. Instead, Gold, who preferred *Galaxy*, concentrated his attention and energy on the lead title, relegating the new acquisition to publish work deemed unsuitable for *Galaxy*—and to develop new writers, a practice that continued. After playing second fiddle for a few years, *Worlds of If* gained a new editor, one Frederik Pohl, in 1962. A new publisher, Sol Cohen, also joined the company, which launched another title, *Worlds of Tomorrow*—freeing Pohl to focus more intently on *Worlds of If*.

That led to the magazine's strongest period in its history. Under Pohl's fully dedicated editorship, the magazine was able to develop its own personality, no longer rely on castoffs from *Galaxy*, and otherwise assert itself as the cultural tides turned in the 1960s—leading to the advent of the New Wave. Pohl continued to focus on developing new writers, and the magazine introduced an "If First" feature in which a new author's first story was showcased. The magazine published work by E. Everett Evans, Keith Laumer (including early James Retief stories), Jack Williamson, a serial by Robert A. Heinlein, the return of A.E. van Vogt, and If Firsts by writers such as Gardner Dozois, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Larry Niven, Alexei Panshin, and Gene Wolfe.

Before his first story, "The Coldest Place," was published in the December 1964 issue of *Worlds of If*, Niven had received "lots of rejections" following the standard practice of sending manuscripts—and return envelopes—to the editorial addresses printed on the inside covers of magazines. He was drawn to *Worlds of If* because it consistently published new writers' first stories. His first story acceptance and publication had a "major impact" on his career as a writer. "I knew I'd found a career when I saw that \$25 check," Niven said. Working with Pohl as an editor also had a major impact on his career—and personal life. "Fred got first look at everything I wrote thenceforth. We became good friends. He was an usher at my wedding. He ran my novelet 'World of Ptaavs'—title by his editor Judy-Lynn Benjamin—down the street to Ballantine Books to become my first novel."

By the end of the 1960s, as perceived stylistic restrictions on the genre lessened, *Worlds of If* had absorbed *Worlds of Tomorrow*, and the periodical secured three Hugo Awards for Best Professional Magazine three years running in 1966-1968. The magazine began to challenge *F&SF* to move into the top tier. Pohl focused on publishing mature, adventure-oriented science fiction—as well as fantastic fiction—that was still accessible by younger or new readers of sf. *Worlds of If* was one of the last prozines to publish a fannish letter column, and Lin Carter's column "Our Man in Fandom" focused energetically on readers and fan activities.

In mid-1969, as magazine sf was recovering generally, Guinn sold *Galaxy* and *Worlds of If* to Universal Publishing and Distributing Corp. in New York. That leads us to the next phase in the magazine's history.

Reaching Out to Readers

Universal was founded and led by Arnold E. Abramson, who published *Family Handyman* and other hobby and sports magazines. The company had also published several lines of sleazy paperbacks in the 1950s such as the Beacon Books, Fiesta, Intimate, and Uni imprints. Its Award imprint published Nick Carter novels, gothic horror (including John Dickson Carr), as well as fantasy and science fiction such as Damon Knight's *Off Center* and an anthology edited by Robert Silverberg. With Pohl's departure (receiving ongoing credit as editor emeritus for a year), Abramson tapped Ejler Jakobsson as editor. He had previously edited radio dramas and wrote for "shudder" pulp magazines before turning to editing them. Jakobsson brought solid magazine credentials and experience, and formed a strong team around him, promoting Pohl's assistant, Judy-Lynn Benjamin (later, del Rey).

Benjamin, who eventually moved on to revitalize Ballantine Books' science fiction line, basically ran the magazine, which continued to focus on experimental fiction grounded in story. Jack Gaughan served as art director, and Gardner Dozois read his way through the slush pile. *Worlds of If*'s fiction remained slightly less sophisticated than *Galaxy*, focusing on new readers—as well as writers—in the spirit of the space opera television popular in the late 1960s. Jakobsson targeted a younger, hipper—one might say "hippier"—market.

Under his editorship, *Worlds of If* published work by Michael Bishop, Jack Dann, Philip Jose Farmer, Theodore Sturgeon, James Tiptree Jr., and other writers. Continuing its focus on experimental, original fiction, *Worlds of If* offered a strong "magazine of

alternatives.” It also continued to engage with readers, offering an ongoing letter column.

But Universal was a small company. Jakobsson was overworked—he continued to edit the Award line of books—and Gaughan was also spread thin, resigning in 1972. Jim Baen served briefly as editor—five issues—near the end of *Worlds of If*'s storyline. While editor, Baen, who went on to found Baen Books, introduced Richard E. Geis's fanzine review column, “The Alien Viewpoint.” (Geis's fanzine *The Alien Critic* won the Best Fanzine Hugo in 1974, tying with *Algol*, and in 1975.) The magazine continued to reach out to sf readers and fans until the very end.

When Universal bought *Worlds of If*, its circulation had been falling, and a 1972 subscription drive wasn't enough to shore up the periodical's finances in the face of a distribution problem and the growing economic downturn. Abramson continued to relaunch new magazines, including *Worlds of Tomorrow* and *Worlds of Fantasy* in 1970, and the company's financial problems, the oil crisis, and the eventual recession led to *Worlds of If*'s end in 1974. With the January 1975 issue, *Galaxy* absorbed *Worlds of If*.

At the time, its circulation surpassed that of the surviving *Galaxy*. *Worlds of If* had left the second tier and shall forever live on.

The First Reprise

It is important to note that this is not the first relaunch or reboot of *Worlds of If*. In 1986, the magazine was revived for a single issue. It had been acquired in 1985 by a group of investors organized by Clifford R. Hong. Published by the Hicksville, N.Y.-based STF Corp., an issue of *Worlds of If* premiered at the 44th World Science Fiction Convention, ConFederation, in Atlanta. The magazine featured a digest format, the traditional cover logo, and design consistent with previous issues. Its contents included an *If* First story by Kerry Schaefer—as well as a story by Niven.

Hong's editorial in that one 1986 issue resonates with that in the first 1952 issue. “[T]he spirit of SF remains the same,” Hong wrote. “Science fiction is a literature of ideas, constantly exploring new possibilities. Always asking, what would happen *if*?”

A second issue was edited, designed, and printed—but never distributed—because of limited finances. They couldn't pay the printer.

In the year 2023, the question asked by Hong remains as important and intriguing as ever:

What would happen *if*?

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A Note on Naming

The title of this one-shot wasn't necessarily inspired by Art Rapp's fanzine and apazine *Spacewarp*. But when I settled on the play on words for my WOOF contribution, I was sure that someone else had used a variant as a title. Indeed, Rapp had.

Interested readers can access back issues of Rapp's *Spacewarp*, including those included in the Spectator Amateur Press Society, of which I am a member, at <https://fanac.org/fanzines/Spacewarp>. They're worth reading.

Just a quick report on a few aspects of the Chengdu Worldcon. By Donald E. Eastlake III, 2386 Panoramic Circle, Apopka, Florida, 32703. d3e3e3@gmail.com

The World Science Fiction Convention in Chengdu, China, was, on balance, quite a success. It is the only Worldcon for which a special permanent building has been built: the Chengdu Science Fiction Museum. Designed by the internationally renowned architect Zaha Hadid, the building is three times the size of the Sydney Opera House. Here is an aerial view:



The lake also has water fountain shows with music and, at night, with colored lighting. The twin towers on the shore of the lake opposite the museum were the Sheraton Hotel where I and a number of other westerners stayed. To give you a further idea of the scale here, the Sheraton is 28 stories tall (I stayed on the 20th). There were also other participating hotels. On the next page are two horizontal views of the museum:



This is all in the Pidu area of Chengdu, a newly developed area. Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan Province, and a city of about 20 million people.

Attendance, in terms of the number of distinct warm bodies that went through, was about 20,000, although this included perhaps 10 to 13 thousand in school student tour groups of a wide range of ages. Usually, it is around 5 thousand and the previous record was 8,400 set in 1984 at the WorldCon in Los Angeles that was the first time that all of the first three Star Wars movies were shown together.

Below is someone dressed as the convention mascot, sort of a space Panda, in front of the Sheraton hotel.



Turns out that *Science Fiction World*, the largest Chinese SF magazine and thus the largest SF magazine in the world, has been running an SF convention for some time every other year in Chengdu, which really is the “science fiction capital” of China. Initially SF World decided to try to get their planned 2023 convention selected as a WorldCon. Given their only moderately effective efforts and the politics of the situation, it is unlikely they would have succeeded. But then the government decided to take over the effort and aim to make it a triumph of Chinese Culture. So, I guess, they decided to do whatever they had to do to win.

Curiously enough, this other convention (The

China/Chengdu International Science Fiction Convention) still existed, although it was much quieter than the Worldcon. For example, there were two opening ceremonies: the big one in the biggest room in the main venue and a smaller one in function space in the Sheraton hotel.



There was a lot of paranoia before the Chengdu WorldCon, which turned out to be unwarranted:

- The Worldcon Business Meeting (BM) usually has 100 to 150 people at it out of the 5 or 6 thousand attendees or 1.5% to 2%. Peak BM attendance in Chengdu was only about 45 people, about 70% Chinese, or between 0.2% and 0.3% of total attendance. I was the Presiding Officer and recruited Kevin Standlee as Deputy Presiding Officer and Ann Marie Rudolph as Secretary. Chengdu also appointed a "Chinese Presiding Officer" and a "Chinese Secretary" but they were easy to work with. The Chinese Presiding Officer just helped out occasionally when there were language difficulties. (Simultaneous translation was provided.) It would have been trivial for the Chengdu WorldCon to dominate the BM, pass whatever they wanted in terms of rules for the BM, and cause the initial passage of whatever Constitutional amendments they wanted, although Constitutional amendments have to be ratified the following year (in Glasgow in this case) to take effect. But, while there were business items submitted to internationalize things and to start the process of creating an ASFiC (Asia Science Fiction Convention, analogous to the NASFiC), there was no obvious block voting and there were Chinese participants speaking and voting on both sides of many issues. [The updated WSFS Constitution and Standing Rules have been posted at <https://www.wsfs.org/rules-of-the-world-science-fiction-society/> and the Business Passed on to Glasgow and the Chengdu minutes should be posted in not too long.]
- It would have been fairly easy for the Chengdu WorldCon to dominate the 2025 site selection. There is a rule against a site within 800 km of where the site selection is being administered but, for example, Beijing would have been eligible. They could have had the WorldCons in every odd numbered year just move around between Chinese cities which might have led to a schism. But there ended up being surprisingly few site selection votes (168 as opposed to the usual 5 or 6 hundred) and the only bid on the ballot, Seattle, won easily with 163 out of 168 votes on the first round.

By the standards of western Worldcon, there was a truly extraordinary level of security. I think maybe this event got classified as a "major international event" or something and so automatically got metal detectors and badge checking and bag inspections for all entering, an immense quantity of temporary railing installed in the gutters forming a barrier between the streets and the sidewalks for kilometers in all directions, lots and lots of police who spent most of their time looking bored, etc. There were even badge checks on entering the Sheraton hotel which was apparently mostly reserved for foreign Guests. As far as I am aware, there were no security incidents of any sort during the convention.

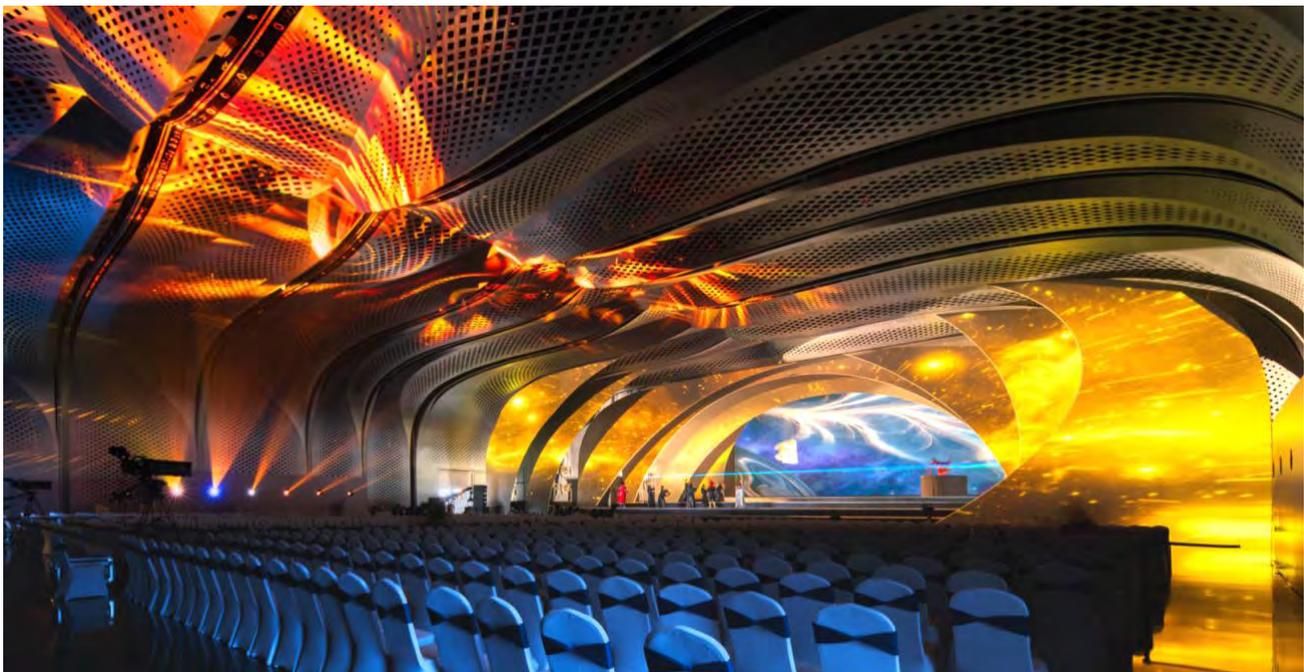
The large central atrium of the building, with large skylight, is on the next page:



With large amounts of “sponsor” funding from businesses and the government, the Chengdu Worldcon was able to pay for the airfare, hotel, and three meals a day for, I would guess, a hundred western “guests”. This was sort of nice as you could usually meet other people you knew at the hotel restaurant. They also provided transport to/from the airport and there was a large staff of “liaisons”, who, I think, were mostly college students studying English who could escort you, provide translation, etc., or not as you choose.

Chengdu seemed to favor Cathay-Pacific airline, the flag carrier for Hong Kong, in arranging flights for people. Kevin Standlee, my Deputy Presiding Officer for the Business Meeting (tall guy standing in picture below) flew from Reno, Nevada, and I from Orlando to rendezvous at San Francisco airport where we shared the same flights on Cathay-Pacific from San Francisco to Hong Kong to Chengdu and the same thing in reverse after the convention. (In terms of direct airline seats between the USA and China, capacity is still only about 10% of what it was before the pandemic.)

The picture below shows most of the BM staff. There was simultaneous translation at the BM, all the main events, and some panels. Everyone had earpieces and could choose either the English or Mandarin channel.



Above is the interior of the main hall, which is called Hugo Award Hall and, I think, seats up to 3,000. This where the opening ceremonies, Hugo Award presentations,

and closing ceremonies were held. There was simultaneous translation and reserved seating. Like many of the western guests, I got a first or second row seat in the center section for all three events. A picture of me in the foyer is below.

They did a good job of decorating the immediate vicinity including special livery for some of the shuttle buses carrying people between the hotels and the venue. Below is the exterior of such a bus and the last page further below shows the interior with moon surface floor and starry ceiling.

There were things that are normally at a WorldCon that were missing: Relatively few people were wearing costumes and there was no Masquerade. There was no gaming: usually there is a room with people playing board games and commonly some LARPing. There was a reasonable amount of art being displayed in the hallways, much of it submitted as part of a student art contest, but there was no “Art Show” as such, that is, no room or rooms with panels of art and tables with sculptures, etc., most of it available for purchase.







WOOOF

WOOF



Published for the World Order of Fandom
“Why is there nothing in my dog dish?”

“Because you won’t close your ears down.”

PARABLES OF PLAYLAND #1

This is the work of fan editor John Thiel, resident at 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904. “Is that an artificial address?” “Only insofar as Lafayette is an artificial town.” Email address is kinethiel@mymetronet.net .

I’m going to dedicate this issue to Jane Fonda, who if she is not herself from Saturn, gave a very convincing performance in BARBARELLA, clearly the work of movie producers from Saturn.



more recent photos available at [Google Images](#)

The World Order of Fandom produces WOOF annually but has only invited me to contribute copy on two occasions, neither request with an explanation of why the request was extended, but I was happy to add my zine to their mailing. This is my third appearance in the mailing.



My story "The Strawberry Chocolate Girl" having erupted back from the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, I no longer have the confidence in my writing that a writer should have. Therefore it is with a tentative "wee-wee" that I set out to produce copy for this mailing; perhaps I have not learned what one should say to an editor, but here there is no editor, only a compiler. I used to know the originator of this organization, Bruce Pelz, but he changed and the acquaintanceship ceased, and later I was saddened to hear that he had passed away, but by this mailing we will remember him, eh?



People used to yell, "What will we see when we get to Shangri-La?" Or, "What will we see when we get to El Dorado"? Now it's "What will we see when we get to Xanadu"? The picture above, unlike Heaven, which keeps its doings secret, is an attempt to visualize the wonders of Xanadu. What they actually are doing in Xanadu is singing "This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius". You look around at all the morbid things that are happening nowadays, and think "all, then, will be morbidity in these, the latter days" without pausing to think that when things get this bad, that's just precisely when you

start seeing things like the Rapture. Xanadu is actually a part of Heaven, everybody's welcome to come and take a look. Heaven discourages going to hell. "They'll have to come back sometime," they say.



They say that nobody can prove that Heaven exists, but again, nobody can prove that Hell exists, either. Men just don't have the ability to find a rational route to understanding talk of these places. But what gives people the idea of there being such places? Are we hearing from dreamers?



Would that be a picture of doings in hell? If not, where might it be? I'm like SETI, looking for things that can never be found, and evaluating what I find instead.

An essay by Aldous Huxley I read, "Heaven and Hell", gave me the idea of thinking over this. He says heaven and hell are concepts in the mind, that many people have taken to considering, but what would they be outside the mind? You want to know what books I'm thinking of lately that are science fiction or fantasy, there's one of them, THE DOORS OF PERCEPTION, essays by Aldous Huxley. I haven't heard about him much since he wrote those essays and published them in a book.

The latest experiments of science fiction interest have been consciousness expansion, which has seemed to have some rather infernal results. Why? Durned if I know. They all think about that, either Heaven or Hell, or both. The whole business of that ran away, out of the news. Then it was time for the next phase, some new thought. But there wasn't any new thought after that.



The radio insists that there's something called a Love Generation. Photos of them and their doings have made them look like a lot of namby-pamby babies. Maybe they are all getting together with Syzygy. There's something about that in the November F&SF. I had thought Sf and the magazine of that name had forgotten about synergy, but there they are, back again. Dan Brown's books seem to have a lot of material of that type in them. There's a lot of love generation music on the radio now, but it all dates way back. Now there's nothing on the radio.



Well, just keep with those mystic crystal dream vibrations, maybe you'll get somewhere. I know one fellow who was studying these things and he said he was going some every time he made a new observation. I haven't seen him in a long time. Maybe he got there. Keep going, you'll get somewhere. But like they say, people who get somewhere don't write back. You can't really check out on them.



Remember THE PRISONER?

The man had balloons chasing him around. It all seemed very whacky to me.



Nice place to live, but I wouldn't want to visit there.



Seems like Ghu should give these people a helping hand.



Synergy



New worlds to conquer, right?

I was pleased to get this invitation to participate in the common mail, paper mail as it's called, part of a near universal and apparently simultaneous decision to call it that, in consideration of its rarity, that being my own consideration of it; my pleasure was the primal reaction of getting something from someone other than racketeers with specious proposals, and finding something in the envelope other than bricklayers' mappings of the route to discovery of the Mayan Codices ("We're all here together, stuck here you might say,"), with \$2000 as an initial payment to me. Actually it's the second normal mailing I've received in recent times, the first being a round robin from the N3F, and I was similarly pleased to get that, verifying that a plain paper letter will be something that pleases me.

A plain paper item of mail is nice, but not frequent, which puts me in mind that the postal expenses are so exorbitant that one is likely not to be able to afford more than twenty copies of a fanzine of twenty pages, especially with printing costs having doubled recently. No large circulation possible without establishment backing, and the deuce knows why there'd be anything like that. So paper mailings are probably getting pretty meager. I'd suggest that fanzines be two pages, front and back, mailable as with letters, for around fifty good people, if desired, to keep the traditions of fandom going. We don't want to lose our contacts with Earth. Having maintained its customs for over two hundred years, until beginning to abandon them in the late 50s, it seems possible that the postal service will be returning to livable standards one day.

OF course WOOF is also keeping things going.



"Wotta laff, come to think of it."



This is the end of the zine.