

# THE 16

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Comments on NZL-355.

Vixen (DR 19) - Daisy was the first song ever "taught" to a computer. By now it is traditional.

Larry Nielson (GTTW 21) - The early 40's AMAZINGS and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES did include my favorite series - the Lefty Feep stories. They were "written" by Bob Bloch and featured improbable titles, even more improbable plots, wildly colorful characters and language, and the highest density of atrocious puns ever seen in the English language. Two titles I remember are "The Goon From Rangoon" and "The Pied Piper Meets The Gestapo." The phrase "His beady eyes became unstrung" was a MITSFS catch phrase for a while.

Glenn Mitchell (CC 3) - Very neatly reasoned, sir. You obviously have the makings of a great experimental scientist. You no doubt have also observed that light objects fall more slowly than dark objects in the sun's gravitational field because of radiation pressure.

Michael Peralta (Q 5) - The typeface is OK but the typewrite obviously does not cut as clean as a master. THINGS can be done about that - ask THEM.

Tom Digby (PS 355) - Scrap iron is removed with electromagnets. After the scrap has been compressed it ripped with a shredder into small pieces. The electromagnets then lift out the iron and steel. The resulting scrap iron is not usable for all purposes because of the contamination from other metals. Recently the whole process has been improved by freezing the compressed block of scrap metal in liquid nitrogen and then shattering it. The resulting pieces are much smaller and, as a result, the quality of scrap iron retrieved is much better. Certain types of plastic are extensively recycled. This is a downhill process because recycled plastic is always of a lower grade than the original.

Fred Patten (RR 355) - I'm really the wrong person to talk to and most of what I can think of you are probably already planning on but I'll toss out a few things:

Registration - Noreascon had three registration lines - one for converting members, one for pre-registrants, and one for new registrants. Plus, of course, the trouble shooters desk. Registration procedure was worked out and rehearsed before the con. Registration requires personnel and a simple way to get them is to ask people who are not on the committee to spend an hour on registration. Most fans (and pros) are flattered to be asked - especially if it is explained that it will only take an hour of their time and that the time can be adjusted so that it will not interfere with some program item that they particularly want to see. (*Being a natural born sucker I will volunteer to take an hour.*)  
Make rosters of who will be on when. Make some provision for the expected

unreliability of your volunteers. Put up BIG signs.

Hotel - One of the things that the Noreascon committee did was to hold a meeting with the Hotel staff which was to be on duty during the con and go over with them what they could expect and what would be expected of them. This particularly to key personnel such as the day and night managers. You should know these people beforehand they should understand quite clearly what the con is going to be like and what to expect. KNOW your security captain. Make sure that the people who actually will be doing things called for in the contract know that they will be doing them.

Beepers - At Noreascon key committee members (Fred Isaacs, Stew Brownstein, and Tony Lewis) carried beepers. The hotel had a system whereby someone carrying a beeper could be beeped from key locations. When his beeper beeped he went to the nearest hotel telephone and was connected to the party wanting to get a hold of him.

Committee Room - Noreascon had one room which was manned by a committee member at all times.

So much for now. I will add specifics as I think of them.

Jay Freeman (LFO 35) - Your comments about NASA prospects are all too true and are very depressing. At this point I haven't the slightest idea of whom I am going to vote for in November. On one hand I find the Nixon administration's notions of civil rights both revolting and disturbing. On the other hand all of the major Democratic candidates seem to have succumbed to the Leftist "Let's Gut Space" syndrome. Maybe it's a good thing that they won't have direct election of the president. Since Mass is certain to go Democratic my vote won't mean anything and I will be relieved of the moral obligation to make a choice.

FRAN (TCT 11) - I took shorthand in high school on the theory that it would be useful in college for taking notes. It turned out that it wasn't for several reasons. For one thing you need court reporter speed and I never got much over 100 wpm. Also you have to transcribe the notes afterwards. Although it wasn't of much use in college I found it very useful later on in life as an icebreaker with secretaries.

Marsha Elkin (Thingummy 49) - There were at least three short stories in the series - "A Slave is a Slave" (Apr 62 ASF), "Oomphel in the Sky" (Nov 60 ASF), and "Ministry of Disturbance" (Dec 58 ASF). Uller Uprising was a serial in Space Science Fiction, Feb and March 53, and Space Viking was a 4 part serial in ASF, Nov 62-Feb 63. Fox Travis in "Oomphel in the Sky" appears in Junkyard Planet.

Bruce (Nyet Vremia 327) - Dave sort of gafiated after the con but has recently revived. I will try to get a hold of him and have him run off a copy for you. In any case we have two copies - one by name and one by zip and I am sending you the one by zip (not as handy but Marsha needs the one by name for the Boskone art show.)

I should have used quotes since I was thinking of a dialog with "Time flies." being in the imperative.

The tapes of the con have been transcribed (hired typist) and are being edited now. It would be nice to have them out by LACon but they probably won't be. Mind you, this is not official - Noreascon will announce the proceedings when they are ready to publish. You will probably have to put out a proceedings or end up with an embarrassing surplus - LACon rates are higher than Noreascon's and I have a very nasty suspicion that you are going to have a larger attendance than you expect. (Cheerful Cuss, ain't I?)

Len & June (DeJ 166) - I'm not sure but my impression is that it is about the same distance. Toronto also has some very nice restaurants. I was there for the pseudo world con and remember a very good French restaurant. One of the things that impressed me about Toronto was that even the hippies were clean.

Dan Goodman (TOVIGWFASL 15) - Morris is putting out a genzine. NESFA owns an electrostenciller and charges members 50¢ each for electrostencil - 25¢ for paper electro's. You think that \$4.00 provides insufficient margin. I think so too. Obviously we are both tired broken down superannuated fen...

Sheila Stephens (S 18) - But you are quite obviously a sweet, innocent, little kid. It shows in your writing... Your repro is much better.

Bill Warren (WNATWW i00) - Congratulations, happy anniversary, or whatever is appropriate. Also see comment to Bruce.

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I have just completed reading the second installment of Isaac's novel running in Galaxy/If. My reaction to it is quite simple - it is the best thing that has been written this year. The first installment was somewhat disappointing but I wasn't too surprised. After all he has not written a novel for many years and most of his short fiction over the past few years has been rather minor. Consequently I rather expected that the novel would be weak. The first installment bore out my expectations - it is slow talky, poorly characterized, and rather cranky.

I sort of expected that the second installment would be much the same, but it's not - it's BEAUTIFUL!! It is set entirely in an alien universe; the characters are three alien mates of a trisexual species. The characters are totally alien and yet are well and warmly characterized. There is a rather moving description of a trisexual mating that is written better than most human love scenes. The second installment of "The Gods Themselves" is the best thing that Isaac has ever written and is the best piece of SF about aliens ever written. My only regret is that the installment is so short.

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