

INTERMISSION#130

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and other suckers. Follow ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen. This # offers space movement, Romanian fantasy, skiing, a chance to a worthwhile nomination. Watch out for the evil typos! Late Feb 2022

Editorially: Nominate Bertil!

Except for the usual History Corner and a Picture Gallery, I'm not sure what this will offer you. It may say a few words about the ongoing World Championships in cross-country skiing (my secret vice). I nurture a hope it may be a few pages thinner than usual, to ease your strain of having to *read too much*.

But there's one IMPORTANT MESSAGE for this editorial. I want all my Swedish readers to *nominate Bertil Falk as Grand Master*, for the European SF Society awards to be decided on Eurocon in Uppsala 8-11 of June. (I just ask the Swedish readers. Nominations by foreign fans does not count.) Bertil has been active in science fiction since the 1940s, making his debut at the age of 12 in 1946 with the short story "A Trip in Space", as noted - with an English translation - here <https://File770.com/bertil-falk-from-a-space-hobo-to-finnegans-wake/>. For seven decades on Bertil has written, reviewed, translated, published skiffy and similar! He has eg written a fine series of short stories about a Viking detective! Bertil turns 90 this spring, so *we better nominate him now!* (Nomination deadline is 17 March.)

On top of everything he has recently, last year, completed *two unique, MONUMENTAL projects!* He spent years researching the Lund University Library for his 3 volume, 1000 pages pioneer *history of sf in Swedish*, titled *Faktasin*. [https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/faktasin-bertil-](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/faktasin-bertil-falk/1137093070?ean=9789187619465_9)

[falk/1137093070?ean=9789187619465_9](https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/faktasin-bertil-falk/1137093070?ean=9789187619465_9) This cornerstone in any academic library is the first to cover all of our genre written in Swedish, unlike earlier studies that cover sf in other and any language - Swedish being a tiny part. Thousands of stories, books, authors, magazines etc are covered. Just imagine the huge work behind this!

But an even greater achievement may be that he in 2022 also published his 500 pages translation to Swedish of James Joyce's "untranslatable" surrealist modernist masterpiece *Finnegans Wake!*

<https://alephbok.com/finnegans-likvaka-2/> In fact Bertil *spent 66 years* on it, beginning in the 1950s! (Not 9 to 5 every day, of course, but now and then through the seven decades.) *FW* has many fantastic, absurd elements, being what Bruce Sterling would call "slipstream". It's been considered almost impossible to translate as it is full om wordplay, Irish mythology, historical references, surrealist absurdities and other whims, much that maybe nobody else than Joyce himself understood.

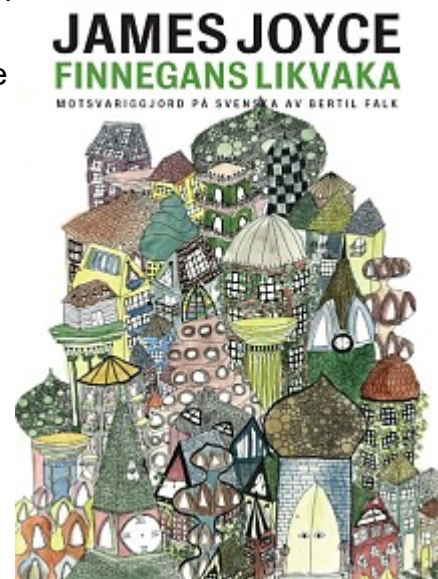
There's no one I can think of more worthy of being chosen as European SF Grand Master than the Investigator of all Swedish science fiction since medieval times and the conqueror of Mount Finnegans, the energetic nuclear reactor of our genre, 90-year-old "Berra" Falk! Here's the site with the nomination form

<https://form.jotform.com/221346448073354>

Jag ber alla Intermissions svenska läsare att nominera Bertil Falk som Grand Master! Sf i över sju decennier, 1000 sidor om svensk sf, "omöjlig" Joyce-översättning! (That was to my Swedish readers.)



Nominate Bertil Falk as European SF Grand Master! Here three heavy reasons why!



Surreal masterpiece, claimed "untranslatable". Your nominee as SF Grand Master proved it wrong!

And while at it, though it's of secondary importance, please nominate *Intermission #122* as "best fanzine" too. Nominations should be for a single issue, and I think #122 is worthy with the unique story of the world's first spaceflight exhibits in Kyiv and Moscow in the 1920s (in a backward way being a bit topical today!). That issue also had the National Mimeographic parody, Pippi Longstocking in space, Martians from 1905 and 1948, A-bombs, Sputnik and more. I should of course remind you of all the work that goes into your favourite fanzine every month... We should be aware of that the mechanisms of ESFS nominations and awards are a bit obscure, but your nomination helps to underline who should and must be the natural Grand Master nominee:

Bertil Falk.

--Ahrvid Engholm

Nordic Skiing Championships

95% of you will skip this.

It's called Nordic Skiing, where you unlike in Alpine skiing go cross-country and not down a hill. It's my secret vice, as you've seen in *Intermission* before. The Nordic skiing world championships is on at the time this issue is written and distributed. (I did my tiniest bits of X-country skiing as a boy, in the park near our house. But it really wasn't much.) TV here shows the skiing competitions wintertime. The Olympics and World Championships, the 90 km Vasa race, the World Cup... (Alpine skiing is also popular on TV, especially the era when the Great Ingemar Stenmark won his 86 World Cups!) I remember in the 1980s with great skiers like Gunde Svan and Thomas Wassberg. The 1980's was also a time when technology took great strides (plastic skis arriving) and free-style skiing (skating) came. It was actually an American who introduced skating, one Bill Koch who by this new skiing style also won the World Cup in 1982. Thereafter the Swedish team was lead by greats like Torgny Mogren, Per Eloffsson, Johan Olsson and Marcus Hellner. All male.

The Swedish women's side long lagged behind, but lead by Charlotte Kalla (six Olympics and Worlds gold medals) in the late 00's a new generation of Swedish women skiers popped up, and is today the world's best national team. Our arch adversaries of Norway have had single skiers that could get ahead (recently Therese Johaug, now retired) but the Swedish Women's Team has overall been ahead for a while.*

Some like motorsport. Cars go round and round a track for hours, it seems, engines roaring, not much seem to happen as positions rarely change. Some say Nordic skiing is the same. Skiers breath heavily as they force their way through the woods, while the only thing happening is an electronic clock ticking. (In "interval start" each one starts alone, in 30 seconds interval, and winner is determined by clocked time.) But just as lap after lap in motor sports is somehow hypnotising, it's the same with the race against the clock in skiing. "At 3.3 km Ebba was 4.7 seconds ahead", the commentator notes. "Let's see now...at 5.1 km...it has increased! She's 7.8 sec ahead and looks fresh!"

Around the year 2000 we got the new sprint discipline where groups of sprint skiers race neck and neck in knockout rounds for a mile. And the Swedes has often been very good in sprint. If you don't fancy watching lone skiers in the woods for an hour, the fast sprint events is there for you. And the top four women sprinters right now are blue-yellow-white: Jonna Sundling (3xOlympic/World champ; update 5xchamp!), Maja Dahlquist (WC sprint total winner 21//22), Emma Ribom (two wins this season), Linn Svahn (sprint sensation before an unfortunate injury, now back).

In the first championship event, individual sprint, those four



Jubilations as Jonna Sundling is crowned ski sprint world champ. Emma Ribom (behind) won silver, Maja Dahlquist (outside pic) won bronze.

*I should add we recently had the "Biathlon" world championship, with 11 Swedish medals - not bad!. But I'm not that fond of the idea of skiing a bit just to stop and target shoot. It adds an illogical, random element. This odd sport originally developed from military patrolling in winter time, I think.



above made it to the final - and won gold and silver and bronze and place 4! A total success. The sprint ladies 4-in-top was followed two days later by a double win in skiathlon (2x7.5km-classic+free style), Ebba Andersson winning gold, Frida Karlsson silver. Ebba took a dive into the snow in a slope, but was up fast and



JUST NU: Jaaaaa! Svenskt guld och silver – trots fall

Skiathlon headline: "Right now: Yeeees! Swedish gold and silver - despite a crash"

Jonna on finish line in team sprint, Emma cheering. Norway was 2nd, USA 3rd.

her win was never in danger. (Norway's AÖ Slind was 3rd. 35 years and a debutant. Great achievement!) Russia wasn't there. They are too occupied occupying.

Then a new day, a new gold for the unconquerable Swedish skiing ladies. Emma Ribom/Jonna Sundling in 6 laps of team sprint. The US lead for most laps, the Swedes tactically using the slipstream ie not the almost-sf genre, but the air drag. The last uphill, Jonna accelerating. That was it!



Ebba Andersson jumps on the podium after 30 km gold, outclassing Norway's Anne K Kalvå (silver) and team mate Frida Karlsson (bronze). 11 medals was Swedish championship record.

Two days later. Two more medals, silver to Frida, Bronze to Ebba. US Jessie Diggins won (very good for the sport!), her first individual gold - congrats! The Swedish lady team reaching eight (8!) medals. Unfortunately, the relay race that followed became a slight disappointment. Ebba Andersson had a fall on her leg and lost 5-6 seconds. Frida tried to make up for it, but overstretched on bad skis and lost more. Top sprinter Maja on saved the day on the last leg with a dash to the bronze - medal 9. The relay team complained about less than optimal ski wax - important in this sport.

km in Johaug style (Norway's now retired snow queen). Behind her Frida Karlsson grabbed the bronze - medals 10 and 11. The yellow sun shone across the blue sky as the similarly coloured flag went up. 11 metal discs is a record, earlier championship record for the Swedes was 9.

But the 30 km race made up for it. Ebba Andersson made a push after 12 km and increased her lead every

Ukraine's National Anthem translated

I don't know the Ukrainian language. But here's an attempt to translate the Ukrainian national anthem, "Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished", to Swedish using English sources. (English speakers can see several English versions, incl a footnote with my Swedish interpretation translated, and Youtube versions with the music.) The original Ukrainian anthem in Latin alphabet transcription.

<https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/periods-genres/national-anthems/ukraine-state-song-lyrics-english-translation/>

*Shche ne vmerla Ukrayiny, ni slava, ni volya,
Shche nam, brattya molodiyi, usmikhnet'sya dolya.
Zhinut' nashi vorizhen'ki, yak rosa na sontsi,
Zapanuyem i mi, brattya, u svoiy storontsi.*

*Dushu y tilo mi polozhim za nashu svobodu
I pokazhem, shcho mi, brattya, kozats'koho rodu*

The last two lines are repeated once. It is based on a poem by Pavlo Chubynsky from 1863, the anthem version having a tiny grammatical change, and the two last lines of the original poem deleted. The English translation from classicfm.com:

*The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished
Luck will still smile on us brother-Ukrainians.
Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine,
and we, too, brothers, we'll live happily in our land.
We'll not spare either our souls or bodies to get freedom
and we'll prove that we brothers are of Kozak kin.*

Youtube has a couple of other English translations. The original poem's last two new lines are left in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHzHISLhtmM> (Syan and Don are rivers):

*Ukraine's freedom has not yet perished nor has her glory
Upon us fellow Ukrainians fate shall smile once more
Our enemies will vanish like dew in the sun
And we too shall rule, brothers, in a free land of our own
We'll lay down our souls and bodies to attain our freedom
And we'll show that we brothers are of the Cossack nation
We'll stand together for freedom, from Syan to the Don
We will not allow others to rule in our motherland*

The next Youtube-translation seems to be based on the original poem's *all* verses.:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZwYxxd4iJY

*Glorious spirit of Ukraine, shines and lives forever
Blessed by Fortune brotherhood will stand up together
Like the dew before the sun enemies will fade
We will further rule and prosper in our promised land
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people
For the liberty the folk strives ardently from san to Don
And will not let any alien power in our common home
Aged Dnieper and Black Sea arm in arm rejoice
And Ukraine will see daylight and live by Fortune's choice
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people
Passion and hard-working hands prove bright future true
Song of freedom, loud and clear, guide us all way through
Over mountains and steppes it flows, over ages told
Valorous Ukraine stands strong in a thriving world
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people
We will lay our soul and body for the cherished freedom
Cossackblood will raise the nation of the joyous people*

You can read all about the anthem here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Anthem_of_Ukraine

Finally, my Swedish version below is an interpretation rather than a straight translation (see footnote for "verbatim" English translation of it):

*Ära och frihet för Ukraina ännu inte död är
Ödet ännu ler åt oss, vi ukrainska bröder
Likt solen dödar daggen blir fienden ock gjor
Och alla vi fränder regerar på fri ukrainsk jord
Vi skonar varken kropp och själ för att friheten nå fram
Och vi visar att vi bröder är av kossackens stam
/Last two lines are repeated/*

*Honour and freedom for Ukraine isn't dead yet / Fate still smiles at us, Ukrainian brothers / Like the sun kills the dew the enemy is also made / and we friends rules on free Ukrainian soil / We sparee neither body nor soul to freedom reach / And show brothers are of cossack tribe

Picture Gallery

On the Holocaust memorial day Feb 27, there were many events, here and all over the world. I saw a discussion in my local library. The man in the middle is Thomas Hammarberg, former UN high commissioner of human rights. They of course also touched upon the genocide now committed by



Holocaust panel. Former UN human rights commissioner Hammarberg in the middle



Picking fingerfood. We also had white or red wine. The man in red is Harald.

Putin's troops in Ukraine.

On February 16 the Romanian surrealist fantasy writer (the best way to describe him) Mircea Cartarescu visited the Romanian Culture Institute. In later years a constant Nobel Prize nominee (it's said, nominations are secret) and he seems to have a fan base in Sweden. The hall was more than packed. I had to sit far back in a window niche. It was quite interesting. I for instance noted his rather strange writing habits, which he described from the stage. Here: 1) He writes everything in longhand, in special notebooks. 2) He writes every day, weekends too, between 10 and 12 AM. Never any



Afterwards mingle. Per and Helga (I think it was), I know them since before.



Cartarescu is quite popular. It was cramped. I got a window niche a bit from the stage.

everything in longhand, in special notebooks. 2) He writes every day, weekends too, between 10 and 12 AM. Never any



Mircea Cartarescu signs. His latest book in Swedish is Melancolia.



Cartarescu (left) interviewed on stage by poet, journalist Cecilia Hansson (right)



other time. 3) It becomes 1.5 pages each time. If you think output is slow, it's actually becomes 500+ pages/year. 4) He never goes back to edit or cut. Only first drafts! 5) The finished notebooks never leave his home except for initially when he takes it to his publisher where an elderly lady



I found straight banana! Mutation from Putin's nuke labs?

Feb 24, 1 year after Putin's suicide war (it'll be his fall, I'm sure) Stockholm libraries had poetry readings of Ukrainian poetry. Swedish TV aired Ukraine themed documentary the whole week.

types it into a computer.

Anyway, a very nice evening! Snacks, chat and wine ended a very nice evening. This zine has often reported from events at the Romanian Culture Institute - a pearl in the capital's cultural life.

Gudrun-effekten

Från Europeiska sydobservatoriet rapporteras att planeten Jupiter, genom Gudrun Schymans kursändring, nu rubbats en aning ur sin bana. Man undersöker just nu den patriarkala astronomins strukturer, för att komma till rätta med gravitationens genuskonstruktion, och könskvotera in en bättre bana för Venus.

AHRVID ENGHOLM

Historiska Hörnet

First a funny little thing I totally forgot. *The Gudrun Effect* from Dagens Nyheter Dec 28, 2004. Gudrun Schyman was the leader for the Left (Communist) party who left it to start a Feminist party. I made fun of it (I've always been sceptical to feminism) and it must have been the "light page" of the big morning paper DN that printed it, because the paper itself is otherwise very PC...

The European Southern Observatory reports that the planet Jupiter due to the change of course by Gudrun Schyman, is now nudged a little from its orbit. They now investigate the patriarchal structures of astronomy to get a grip on the genus construction of gravity and give Venus a better orbit by gender quotas.

Hilarious, wasn't it!

Next, just a picture, from when the "local Pulitzer" winner space reporter Eugen Semitjov met the first man in space, Jurij Gagarin. It could have been from when Gagarin visited Stockholm in 1963. It looks like Eugen is showing Gagarin one of his articles. He travelled a lot, also in Russia. I lost from where it is, but the



Eugen Semitjov har många vänner bland rymdforskare och andra som sysslar med rymden. Här möter Semitjov ryssen Jurij Gagarin som var den förste människan ute i rymden. Han gjorde sin rymdfärd ombord på Vostok-1 1961.

typeface hints it could be one of the weeklies, perhaps the men's mag *Se* (where BTW the fan Anders Sfröberg used to work, leader of Fannyvall in the 1960's Great Fannish War). Caption:

Eugen Semitjov has many friends among space scientists and others into space. Here Semitjov meets Russian Jurij Gagarin who was the first human in space, He did his space journey onboard Vostok 1, 1961.

Speaking of space and sky objects (the interest in such seems to be ballooning...) this may be the first little article in Swedish press about so called flying saucers! It's from Dagens Nyheter in 1947, date of July 4. (I think it's a possibility it was Roscoe. That date is a holy one for the fannish beaver Ghod.) It was a rather short time after the "original" saucer sighting by pilot Kenneth Arnold, which happened Jun 24 that year:

"Flying saucers" spooking in America - Private to Dagens Nyheter - UP. Canada has also had visits by "flying saucers", a sort of mysterious projectiles that earlier have been visible over 8 of the US states. The "Saucers" have been observed by many credible persons, but their information is very contradictive. Some eyewitnesses claim that they have flown "faster than an airplane, but not as fast as a meteorite". Others maintain the monsters have stood practically still in the air.

As I may have explained before, I see the risk claimed sightings are uninvited guests from Alpha Centauri as infinitesimally small - officer Einstein of Universe PD (Physics Department) doesn't look kindly upon anyone trying to break the speed limit.

What UFO sightings really are: in most cases natural phenomena (satellites, Venus, balloons, airplanes, drones etc), in some cases hallucinations or daydreams, in other hoaxes by attention seekers. The phenomena of objects in the sky actually started earlier. During WWII there were hundreds of observations of what became known as "ghost rockets" (AFU and Clase Svahn, covered in last issue, made a thorough investigation of the cases, but found no aliens AFAIK.) I believe that the flying saucer craze was further strengthened by the flood of Earth invaded films the B-league of Hollywood produced in the 1950s. The best of these were about aliens landing, like "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951) and "War of the Worlds" (1953), while "Forbidden Planet" at least had spaceship and an alien monster. Generally, I'm rather fond of

"Flygande tefat" spökar i Amerika

— Privat till Dagens Nyheter. —

NEW YORK, torsdag.

UP. Även Kanada har haft besök av "flygande tefat", ett slags mystiska projektiler, som tidigare varit synliga över åtta av USA:s stater.

"Tefaten" har observerats av många trovärdiga personer, men dessas uppgifter är ytterst motsägande. En del ögonvittnen påstår att de flugit fram "fortare än ett flygplan, men inte så snabbt som en meteor". Andra anser att luftvidundren stått praktiskt taget stilla i luften.

Hr Redaktör

Det är en trostakt, grundad på okun-
skhet, att de flygande tefatens inre firma
eller i bästa fall att observationerna be-
ror på en mängd missförklaringar av kända
objekt eller fenomen. Två extrema
riktningar har befäst denna tro. Den
en innehålls av mörtmännigheten
som är utsatt en avvisande, händlighets-
full hållning i frågan. Den andra rik-
tningen har genom sina visserligen histo-
rier omvilligt men effektivt bidragit till
att tefatsproblemet råkat i varaktig.
Vad folk läst om tefaten börjar sig ha-
vidsakligen från dessa extremistikaller.
Folk känner emellertid inte till fakta i
tefatssaken. Med åren har bevis och in-
dicer hopats för tefatens verklighet och
interplanetariska ursprung.

En annan sak är moten med rymd-
reiser, skildrade av personer som antingen
är psykopater eller lögner. Efter-
som dessa ställigheter har fått den stö-
rsta publiciteten har de utlöskats till
det värde som förstås visat med hr Sture
Lönnerstrands artikel i SvD. Allt i denna
utredning breda ut sig om okkultis-
ter och andra personers syner för tefat-
sproblemet närmare sin lösning,
särskilt, hr Lis skildring av sitt till-
fångade byte och deras lugna befråg-
ningar är inte bara oredovisande, det
är direkt signat att försvira som smått
i ögonen på en större allmänhet.

Major Donald Keyhoe höe till den in-
tellectuellt friska minoriteten av tefat-
forskare. Hans sköje som pesten de strö-
liga historierna. Detta nämner ej hr L-
ston återberättar några fall ur kronikan
— ett rent misslag som låta Keyhoe stå
för dem. Hr Lis "Sun-dogs" synes
vara direkt hämtat från Keyhoe's reflek-
tioner, om inte hr L, best prof. C. G.
Jung's bok om överens i tefatfrågan.
Vadare talar inte prof. Menzel om "sol-
katter" utan om "sundogs" eller "mock
suns", vilket är något helt annat (s. k.
vädersöar eller nachthäas). Till slut en
varning: Alla rapporter och möten med
rymdreiser är ej tokiga påhitt!

K. G. Rehn

Herr K. G. Rehn tycks ha blivit
irriterad av min artikel "Möten med
rymdreiser", den enda slutsats jag skil-
kert kan dra. I övrigt finner jag hans
alltjäms meninglösa. Beträffande tefat-
ens verkliga natur visar jag ju att
jag inte vill avfärda möjligheten av
realistiska farkoster på vaga gränser.
Denna fråga är dock inte löst för
min artikel som i stället behandlar vis-
sa mänskliga reaktioner. En grupp in-
flyder har inte bara sett tefat landa
utan också kommunicerat med vare-
ternas ombord. Dessa personer skriver
böcker om sina upplevelser som sprida
i stora upplagor runt jorden och deras
äskär presenteras av en hel organi-
sation med föreningar och säkerligen
åskådliga tusentals mer eller mindre
aktiva medlemmar. I motsats till herr
Rehn vill jag inte kalla några i sam-
manhanget för "psykopater eller lögn-
båtar". Jag konstaterar bara att "nä-
goning är i görningen". Jag ut-
repar att jag finner det intressant med
denna symbolik som är hämtad från
sanskritlitteraturen och jag utrepar
också Madame Blavatsky's namn. Jag sur-
de säga mera, t. ex. att de s. k. män
i svart som ofta förekommer i skild-
ringarna är moderna versioner av my-
ten om Quetzalcoatl. Jag kunde desu-
vonta säga att de enda personer i Sve-
rige som påstår sig ha sett ett flygande
tefat landa och till och med försäkra
att de varit ombord på det hatt denna
upplevelse nära den stad där det bok-
förlag finns som ger ut de flesta av
dessa böcker. Varför en sådan lokal
slump? Personligen vill jag tillägga att
jag inte tycker alls det skulle vara så
märkligt om rymdskepp besökte jor-
den, snarare är det märkligt om
de inte gjorde det. Befinner sig Quetzal-
coatl ombord och landar i närheten
av Hälsingborg, tycker jag dock det
börjar bli äret konstigt.

Hägersten i sept.

Sture Lönnerstrand

all the funny, sparkling, sometimes downright silly Earth-invaded films of the era!

Speaking of this, here's an exchange of Letters to the Editor in Svenska Dagbladet, September 7 1961. Signature "KG Rhen"? argues that the saucers are real space visitors as a reply to a recent article by sf author Sture Lönnerstrand (rather well-known as his *The Space Dog* just a few years earlier won a big novel competition, awarded what today would be worth ca €30 000!) about meeting aliens Unfortunately I don't have Sture's article, but it'll be in SvD one of the previous days. For technical reasons my copy of it is very bad - I've tried my best to technically improve it - but with sharpened eyes I'll give you an English translation (with not too many misinterpretations, I hope)

Mr Editor! It's a dogma, based on ignorance, that the flying saucers don't exist or in the best case that the observations come from a series of misinterpretations of known objects or phenomenon. Two extreme directions have cemented this belief. One is from military authorities who have adopted a rebuffing attitude of secrecy. The other direction has through its history of superstition involuntary but efficiently contributed to the bad reputation of the saucer problem. What people have read about the saucers primarily comes from these extremist sources. But people don't know the facts in the saucer issue. Through the years the evidence have gathered for the reality and interplanetary origin of the saucers. Meetings with space beings are another thing, described by persons who are either psychopaths or liars. Since these things have had the biggest publicity and are commonly known, it's difficult to understand the point of Mr Sture Lönnerstrand's article in SvD. To write about occultism and other things to this extent /Sture was into Eastern mysticism and myths/, doesn't bring the saucer problem closer to its solution as I can see, quite the opposite. Mr L's description of the easy prey and their silly, preposterous stories are not only irrelevant, it will directly confuse and give the wider public dust in their eyes. Major Donald Keyhoe is with the intellectually honest minority of saucers researchers. He detests the bug-eyed stories. This isn't mentioned by Mr L who retells a few cases of the chronicles - it's a mistake to let these represent Keyhoe. Mr L's "final evaluation" seems to come directly from Keyhoe's reflections, unless Mr L read prof CG Jung's book on superstition in the saucer question. And further, prof Menzel doesn't talk about "sun cats" but about "sun dogs" or "mock suns", which is something different (sun activities or /unreadable/). Finally a warning: all reports about meeting aliens aren't crazy inventions.

*Should be Gösta Rehn, later famous for many UFO books. Sture Lönnerstrand answers below:

Mr KG Rehn seems to have been annoyed by my article "Meeting an alien", I must conclude. Otherwise I find his article quite meaningless. Concerning the real nature of the phenomena I don't want to dismiss that the vehicles are real on to vague grounds. But that question isn't the topic of my article, which instead is about certain human relations. A group of individuals have not only seen saucers land but also communicated with the beings onboard. These persons write books about their experiences that are spread in huge numbers around the world and their views are presented by a whole organisation of societies with probably thousands of more or less active members. Unlike Mr

Rehn I won't describe any of those "psychopaths" or "liars". I just note that something is going on. I repeat that I find it interesting with this symbolism which is taken from Sanskrit literature and I also mention the name of Madame Blavatsky /a known "psychic"/. I could say more, eg that all the people appearing in the stories are modern versions of the Quetzalcoatl myth /from the Maya indians/. I could also say that the only people in Sweden who have seen a flying saucer land and also claim to have been onboard have had this experience near the city where where the publisher of most of these books is based. Personally, I'd like to add that I wouldn't find it so strange if a spaceship visited Earth, it's rather strange if it didn. If Quetzalcoatl is onboard and lands near Hälsingborg I'd find it'll begin to become strange.

If I interpret this correctly, Lönnerstrand's article was sceptical to meeting-alien stories, mentioning myths and a fraudster like Blavatsky, even if he in principle thought visits by alien spaceships were possible (as an sf author for two decades at the time...). But *these* encounters aren't credible. His critic KG Rehn (1891-1989) would become the Grand Old Man of Sweden's UFO movement and a prolific author (an article about him, in Swedish but try Google Translate:

<https://www.ufo.se/index.php/intervjuer-och-nekrologer/1393-k-gosta-rehn-1891-1989>)

Now, moving from saucers to real space activities. I have earlier talked about the illustrious *Swedish Space Movement*, a society active in the 1980s until the early 1990s. It was a space activity promotion society, to "boldly go..." you know: space research, spaceflight, space colonisation and so on. I was active in "The Space Mess" ("Svenska Rymdröran") as we sometimes called it internally because it was often a mess...

Filmproduktion:

En väg ut i rymden?

Uppmärksamma läsare av »SFV-sidorna» nr 3/87 såg att det i förteckningen över nya medlemmar hade smugit sig in en frammande fågel. »Rymdrörelsens filmteam» kallade sig nykomlingarna. Rymdrörelsen sysslar i vanliga fall inte alls med film. Deras intresse är rymden och rymdfärder. Orsaken till att de gick med i SFV var att de ville göra två filmer som skulle föra ut rymdrörelsens budskap. De skiljer sig därmed från de flesta av SFVs medlemsföreningar, vilka har filmproduktion som huvudintresse. Filmkrets tyckte det lät så ovanligt att vi stämde träff med Hans Starlife (nej, det är ingen pseudonym – han heter så!), redaktör för rörelsens tidskrift »Space Life».

Det visade sig att Svenska Rymdrörelsen är en organisation som propagerar för människans expansion i rymden. De anser att en kolonisering av rymden är en naturlig – och nödvändig – fortsättning på människans utforskning av jordklotet. Nu är rymdrörelsen en förening som sätter hårt intryck bara på människans expansion i rymden, utan även på sin egen expansion på jorden. Och som ett led i försöket att nå ut till folk, ville de nu göra film.

Rymdrörelsen beslöt att göra två filmer. Den första skulle göras billigt och fungera som »öppnery» inför den andra, vilken skulle bli mer påkostad. Även till formen skulle filmerna skilja sig åt. Den första (filmerna är ännu namnlösa, däras mitt hjärta om den första och den andra) ska vara uppdelad i två delar, en spelfilmsdel och ett dokumentärt avsnitt. Andamålet med filmerna – ty dessa filmer görs i första hand för att sprida rymdrörelsens budskap – blir att informera om föreningen, samt att propagera för avskaffandet av den s.k. rymdlagen, en lag som förbjuder svenska privatpersoner att syssla med rymdfärder. Filmen, som ännu inte är färdig, ska bli ca 30 minuter lång, så att den passar in i de tidsramar en normal skolektion har. Hans Starlife vill nämligen



I Kungsträdgården bedriver Rymdrörelsen opinionsbildning och filmproduktion på samma gång.

att filmen ska visas på skolor, i syfte att informera om rymdrörelsen.

200 intresserade ringde!

Om rymdrörelsens erfarenhet av filmproduktion var liten, så var dess förberedelser desto vidlyftigare. De gick ut och sökte medarbetare i Radio Stockholm och Stockholms närradio. Nästa dag ringde 200 personer hem till Hans Starlife. Mestadels tonsträffkor med filmensärmedrömmar, men även några som var intresserade av att stå bakom kameran. Massmötet och provfilmningar anordnades. Sommaren 1987 spelades spelfilmsdelen av Film 1 in. Naturligtvis kunde inte alla sökande

Hans Starlife vill gärna ta tillfället i akt att i Filmkrets söka medhjälpare till filmprojekten – det finns fortfarande platser att fylla, både framför och bakom kameran. Sponsorer är rara fåglar idag, men skulle det finnas några författare som känner att de vill nå ett slag för människans expansion i rymden, så kan de – liksom oavsett – få intresserade medhjälpare – ringa eller skriva till!

Hans Starlife
Branta backen 19
147 00 TUMBA
Tfn: 0753-340-32

få var sin roll, men då handlingen innehåller en demonstration i Kungsträdgården kom de många flickorna ändå väl till pass. Eftersom demonstrationen var en verklig sådan, blev filmningen en märklig kombination av dokumentär och spelfilm! Måhända fann sig dock flickorna demonstrerande för något varom de själva hade en ganska vag uppfattning.

Film nr 1 fungerade alltså som en »repetition» inför film nr 2 – ett tillvägagångssätt som jag tycker verkar vettigt. Det tyder på en insikt om sina egna begränsningar. (Måste det till en förening som inte har film som huvudsyfte för att vinna den insikten?) Och de noggranna förberedelserna kommer att behövas. Film nr 2 ska nämligen, om allt går som planerat, bli en på alla sätt »stor» film. En film som ska byras ut på video och hålla för att visas i TV. Till detta kommer naturligtvis att krävas pengar. Med dagens produktionssituation önsket pengar. Rymdrörelsen har därför köpt en professionell videoproducent, Bahi Barakat (Video-Film International AB) som har lovat att hjälpa till att försöka skaffa sponser. Regissör blir den för Filmkrets läsare välkända Laszlo Schászler (ol. Adaro, »Såsom i en känsla» m fl). Manus till film 2 har Hans Starlife själv gjort tillsammans med några

I'll give you the story of our film "Brottsplats: Rymden" ("Crime Scene: Space"). You can watch it on Vimeo here <https://vimeo.com/groups/filmfandom/videos/86451545>, as it was a part of my amateur fanthology *Filmfandom* (from if I remember 1992). The quality is awful: original edit would be VHS generation 2, my edit to a *Filmfandom* master tape was generation 3, so this copy is *VHS generation 4* or worse.. Despite crackling sound but perhaps not the most cracking production, you should be able to follow the plot, which in short is and I came up with the basic plot idea - about crime against the Space Law, adopted in 1982 to make Swedish space activities a government monopoly:

A new law bans private space activities, incl remote control of space systems from the ground. Our hero "Hacke" hacks into satellites, a crime against the Space Law. Swedish Security Police hunts him down (eg in a silly car pursuit - more soon!). A female reporter is following the story. As Hacke is arrested the glorious and mighty Space Movement starts a campaign - via press, radio, a demo march - to have him freed and to scrap the Space Law. They finally succeed and celebrate their victory.

The Swedish Space Movement was the brainchild of one Hans Myrfjäll, our own version of Claud Degler (https://fancylopedia.org/Claude_Degler). While he didn't

travel around as an unwanted house guest and stole books, he did try to start the utopian "United Future" organisation - branded *Vereinte Zukunft* by us bystanders who saw its populist, even Nazi tendencies. He wanted the Space Movement to become a sub-division of this organisation, but we refused, Hans thus left us, and not much later committed acts I won't detail - but it was really SHOCKING things. Hans was a guy swirling around high up in space, and he changed his last name to Starlif, to which he added an E to become the Hans *Starlife* he dreamt of.

Our society had at most about 10 local chapters and close to 1000 members. We published the magazine *Space Life* (*Starlife* edited most issues, but constantly threatened to resign if we didn't follow his whims - I took over as editor for one issue at one such time), held meetings, aired a local "community radio show", arranged conferences (once also a small sf con),

made exhibitions (eg helping the Technical Museum with a big one), had study circles (one such attempted to build an electromagnetic rail launcher - it failed, but the sf fans of SPI later succeeded as seen in the Nasacon 10 report on *Filmfandom*) and for a while, since we had lots of members, had



Hans Starlife in the (mock) office of *Space Life* magazine. One of 200 phone girls in the back.

vänner. Det är en fantastisk historia de knäpat ihop, med scener från både rymdskepp och planeten Mars. Det ska bli en «kort långfilm», och handlingen uppvisar stora likheter med innehållet i de många amerikanska science fiction-filmer vi alla har sett. Rymdrörelsen vill, förutom att underhålla, också smyga in sitt budskap om nödvändigheten av att kolonisera rymden.

Skandinavisk science fiction – en omöjlighet?

Det kan inte hjälpas att jag tar mig för pannan när jag hör rymdrörelsens planer och läser manuset till film nr 2. Med rymdscener och helikopterjakter som skulle få George Lucas att svettas, undrar jag hur ett amatörfilmgäng ska kunna klara av det. (Utan att Sverige blir en kalkonfilm rikare!) Det är slående med vilken hängivenhet deltagarna ger sig in i projektet samtidigt som Laszlo Schuszler är en duktig regissör, som kanske kan finna okonventionella lösningar på till synes omöjliga scener. T ex ska ett rymdskepp fara in i jordatmosfären och kraschlanda på ett fängelse, vilket i sin tur ska förvandlas till en rykande krater!



Hans Starlife, redaktör för Rymdrörelsens tidskrift »Space Life»

Hans Starlife och jag talar lite om varför science fiction-genren aldrig har fått något genombrott i svensk film. Hans tror att publikunderlaget finns, men att bolagen av tradition håller sig till mer »svenska» teman. Han tycker vidare att de försök till nordisk science fiction-film som har gjorts (bl a några norska TV-serier), har innehållit för lite action. Det beror på bristen på resurser. Jag framkastar också teorin att rymdhisto-

rier i svensk miljö är svåra att svälja därför att vi i Sverige inte har någon rymdverksamhet (åtminstone inte med bemannade färder), medan det i stormakterna faktiskt finns visst verklighetsunderlag och påminner Hans om att science fiction-filmer i Sverige gärna får något tontigt över sig, med »Rymdinvasion i Lappland» som främsta föregångare inom detta pinsamma område. Den enda moderna svenska filmen med rymdanknytning vi kommer på är »Gröna gubbar från Y Ra, som ju mynnade ut i oförblommerad reklam för Bert Karlssons »Sommarlande. Jag frågar därför Hans hur rymdrörelsen skulle reagera om ett företag erbjöd sponsoring i utbyte mot reklam i filmen. Han svarar att om det är enda sättet att få pengar, så OK, förutsatt att det inte påverkar filmens kvalitet i negativ riktning.

Hur det än går för rymdrörelsen och deras filmplaner så ska det bli intressant att följa detta ovanliga svenska filmprojekt.

Est tålesätt säger att om man siktar på stjärnorna, så när man åtminstone trästopparna. Och det kan man vara säker på när det gäller Svenska Rymdrörelsen – de siktar mot stjärnorna!

Fredrik Crappman

a local council grant so we could afford to rent a HQ on popular Skåne Street.

An anecdote about why it was such a mess: when getting rid of *Starlife* we also lost the energy of fanaticism he provided and membership shrunk, to below what needed to get the grant to afford the club house. A plan was hatched (not by me - I promise! - I was drifting away from the Mess at the time) to share the HQ with two young girls who would run it as a hairdresser's saloon! Hairdressers and the Rocket Scientists pooling resources... It of course didn't work.

The HQ was lost and the Swedish Space Movement entered Earth's atmosphere, landing somewhere in the wilderness never to be heard of again. (Except, the fairly recent *Svenska Rymdällskapet* tries to claim roots from our crowd. None of them were with us, as our society was dead as a parrot for all the years in between.)

One of our major projects was the mentioned film. It started with *Starlife* imagining we amateurs could make a full length feature film to sell to the cable channels and become rich and famous. He even wrote a fairly tightly typed 100-page manuscript (something like heroes going to space, fighting evil powers, reaching the wonderful future star life) not realising that such a script would become at least three hours long. Instead it came to a the more down to Earth project, with the plot as above.

No one had told our popular Radio Stockholm station that *Starlife* was Degler reincarnated, so they let him loose on the air one day where he said: a) We would make a huge Hollywood style film, b) we would have auditions and could all young girls please phone him. Hundreds did, and by some sort of miracle of how to use phones hundreds of Hollywood dreamers turned up for filmed auditions in the Citizen House. It was chaos. We were so amateur that we didn't even have the much better S-VHS camcorders, only ordinary VHS. Even better systems were unthinkable.

After a while shooting commenced. Maybe 10 or so, mostly girls, were casted. They hadn't fled fast enough from the auditions realising we weren't much of Hollywood. Early parts were shot in my apartment and a lot in the Citizen House in a mock *Space Life* editorial office. I even let them borrow my typewriter, used to cut stencils. *Starlife* kept his ass away most of the time, and producer/director was Lars Engström, one of the few sane persons in the project. Two interesting episodes...

Of course there must be some "action", and somehow our film group came in contact with some jokers claiming to be stunt coordinators. They were given the task of getting an old junk car and shoot a sequence where this car during a chase tumbles over into a ditch. Which they failed doing...the car tumbled too early. The deal was that they'd find an around €100 car (which you can do, and it'll only be used to crash anyway) but maybe because they were ashamed of their own incompetence or they had the impression that the Space Movement was a huge operation, they sent an invoice to the sum of €1500 and threatened to sue over it. It caused us great concern.

A part of the plot was the campaign to free the film hero Hacke. That required a demonstration march in central Stockholm. We phoned the 100+ (mostly teenage girls) who had auditioned and gathered downtown, marching to Kungsträdgården, with police escort and everything yelling demands to scrap the Space Law and "Free Hacke"... Bystanders must have wondered, who the heck is this Hacke? Who were we? Anyway. It was all filmed and was the *first space politics demonstration* held here, maybe even the first in Europe or the world!



Vid inspektion av Rymdörelsets övningsfilm kraschade bilen innan det var planerat

These amateur "stunt men" failed in their job and tried to extort the film makers.

Lars Engström did a huge job with the final editing and fixing, recruiting me as narrator where needed (it seemed I was "least worst" for that...but still far from perfect). "*Crime Scene: Space*"

premiered at the Short Film Festival in Södertälje 1988 to mixed reactions. I don't think it has been shown to a sitting audience since. I included it on my VHS compilation through which some have encountered it, I'm sure, and I have had *Filmfandom* running on TV screens on a couple of cons. As noted it's also on Vimeo, but I'm not sure that'll make the world a better place... The member magazine of the Swedish Film and

Video Federation, *Filmkrets*, at the time wrote an article about the project, interviewing *Starlife* (I'll comment some of it). "A Way Out To Space", in #1 1988, and I'll summarise (the article was written by one Fredrik Crappman):

2 captions + info frame: *The Space Movement performs opinion making and film production at the same time in the Royal Gardens. / Hans Starlife editor of the Space Movement's magazine Space Life. / Hans Starlife wants to use the opportunity to look for volunteers through Filmkrets - there are still spots to fill, both in front and behind the camera. Sponsors are rare today, but if there's a firm wanting to promote man's expansion into space - or just assist in some way they may - call or write to /address + tel/.*

...The reason the Space Movement joined the SFV federation was they wanted to make two films to promote their message /only 1 was made/...We met up with Hans Starlife, no it's not a pseudonym - that's his name) /ex Myrfjäll, ex Starlif/ editor of the movement's magazine Space Life. /I skip explanation of our space PR aims/ The Space Movement decided to make two films. The first to be made on the cheap as an exercise for the second that would have higher budget. The two films would be different also to their form...the second to be in two parts, the first being a feature film, the second a documentary /all to promote space and scrapping the Space Law/ The film isn't yet finished but will be ca 30 minutes long to fit in length for school classes to inform about the Space Movement. If the Space Movement's experience in filming is small the preparations have been thorough. /Went out in radio, and.../ 200 called Hans Starlife, mostly teenage girls with film star dreams, but also some who wanted to be behind the camera. Big meetings and auditions were arranged. The feature film part was shot in the summer of 1987. All applicants couldn't be used naturally, but as there was a demonstration in the Royal Gardens too all the girls came in handy. Since the demonstration was a real one the film became a strange combination of a documentary and a feature film. But the girls perhaps found themselves demonstrating for something they only had a vague grip of. /Film 1 being preparation for film 2 seems sensible/ Because film 2 shall, if everything goes to plan, be a big film in every way. A film you can rent and is good enough to be shown on TV. That will of course take money. In today's production situation a lot of money. The Space Movement has for this contacted a professional video producer, Bahi Barakat (Video Film International Inc) that has promised help with

getting sponsors. Director will be Laszlo Schuszler known to readers of Filmkrets. /All this came to nothing./ Hans Starlife has written the script for film 2 with friends. /A 3-hour monster! It's a fantastic story they've created with scenes from both spaceships and Mars. It'll be a "short long film" and the plot looks similar to the contents of many American sf films. /And with space colonising PR - Scandinavian SF - Impossible?! I can't help hitting myself on the head when I hear the plans and read the script of film 2. It's space scenes and helicopter chases that would make George Lucas sweaty, and I wonder how an amateur gang could cope (without Sweden becoming one turkey richer.) The dedication they go into the project with is striking /mostly Starlife's dreams.../ and Laszlo Schuszler is a fine director,

who perhaps could find unconventional solutions for

impossible scenes. A space ship will eg fall into Earth's atmosphere and crash into a prison transformed into a smoking crater! Hans Starlife and I talked a little about why sf hasn't made a breakthrough in Swedish film. He thinks there is an audience but the movie companies by tradition stick to "Swedish" themes. He also thinks that the attempts made with Nordic sf films (eg a couple of Norwegian TV series) have had too little action. It's due to a lack of resources. I put forth the theory that space stories in a Swedish setting is a tough sell since Sweden has no space activities (at least not manned space flights), /This was



Was this the world's first space politics demo? We were ca 100, many from the 200 hopeful stardom dreamers lured by Starlife on radio.



More from the staged magazine office in the Citizen House. Phone guy in front me, pretending to hunt for info on Hacke (I guess).

before our first astronaut Fuglesang/ while there is more of a reality among the big powers Starlife reminds us that sf-films in Sweden becomes a bit goofy with "Terror in the Midnight Sun" as the main proponent in this cringy field. The only modern Swedish film with space connection we can remember is "Green Men from YR", which ended in shameless advertising for Bert Karlsson's "Summerland". /theme park/ I thus asked Starlife how the Space Movement would react if a company offered sponsorship in exchange for advertising in the film. He answered that if it's the only way to get money it's OK, provided it won't affect the film negatively... There's a saying, if you aim for the stars you at least reach the treetops. And be sure of that for the Swedish Space Movement - they aim for the stars.

There's more I could say about the Swedish Space Mess, but this is enough for now. I can't help thinking we would have done much better if active today, when so much is happening in space - going back to the Moon, SpaceX, Mars, new huge telescopes, thousands of planets discovered, China coming along, our own Esrange satellite base...

For me, the adventures around doing this film lead me to a long interest in amateur short films. Because of our film project I went to the Film and Video

Federation's film festival in 1987 and have since been to it every year (except two years when it was away from Stockholm, and also during the pandemic which had no physical festival). I like the creativity and enthusiasm of these short films, and for me they are the short stories of movie making.

This History Corner will now finish with pictures from the interesting home of

the great Jules Verne, now made into a museum in the city of Amiens, France. It's interesting to see his study or library. His house even had a tower, but I wonder what's on its top? The Nautilus room probably isn't from the Grand Master's time, though.



Big celebrations as the mighty Space Movement protests free Hacke. Here's me clapping hands in joy!



Jules Verne's study in Amiens. Looks cosy.



One of the rooms of the Verne museum, his former home, is made into the bridge of submarine Nautilus.



Jules Verne's home, 1 rue Charles Dubois, Amiens. Interesting tower. Do the arches represent planet orbits, or what? It's now a museum said to be well worth a visit.

Bertil Falk for ESFS Grand Master!

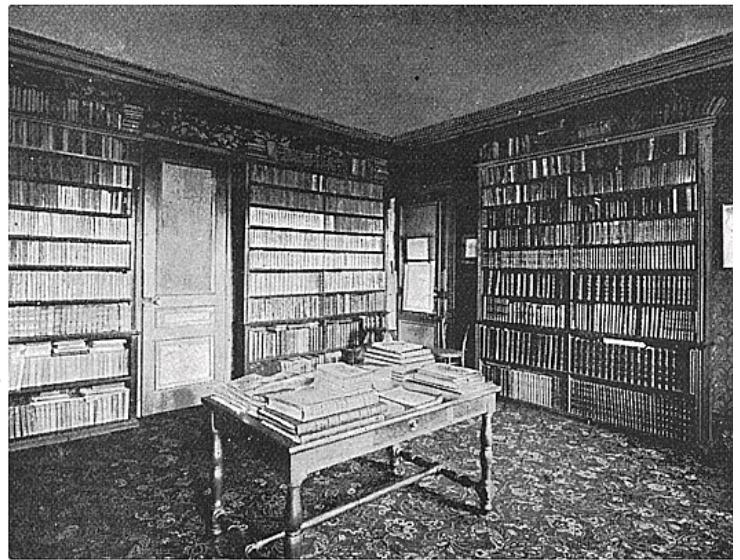
Debut in 1946! 66 surreal years with Joyce!! 1000 pages of sf history!

Mailing Comments

EAPA first, then N'APA. BTW, join the fun! Do a fanzine. If you do, you have something to put Kremlin under fanzine blockade with - like this zine does. Think of that!

Henry Grynsten: Asimov as claimed to have been "notorious for sexually assaulting women at science fiction conventions". No! "assaulting" means to violently attack with the purpose of hurting or subduing someone. What Asimov did was groping. I believe he saw it jokingly. From reading his memoirs you learn the Good Doctor was quite inhibited and insecure in his relations to the opposite sex, probably from growing up in a Russian-Jewish immigrant family with old time values. Such insecurity leads to odd attempts in seeking contact. (I say this as an explanation, NOT to defend groping.)

Asimov was "bad at writing about people" "Bad", in what way? You mean the people in his stories? No, I think he was quite adequate, but then I'm not impressed by pretentious psychological babble, if that is what you require. One could mention eg the different, interesting characters in his Black Widowers stories. They are all interesting and work fine. "Psychology" in fiction is overrated as I have said before. Asimov being "obsessive in his collection of data.." Do you mean "collecting data" for writing his hundreds of non-fiction books? I see nothing wrong with collecting facts for books. "...and producing text, maybe he had some kind of functional variance." .I Yes, he may have had ADHD or some other four-letter condition. Asimov liked writing more than *anything!* Asked what he'd do if learning he had one day left to live, his answer was: "Type faster!" I agree with you on the non-existing "spectrum" of gender... *** "I assume you refer to Communism" Socialism and communism are just different stages of development of the same ideology, the first being the early stage of the second. *** Socialism has worked excellently in many democratic countries, as for example Social Democracy in Sweden. "Social democracy" isn't socialism/communism in its original form. It borrows some aspects of it and that's bad enough in itself (eg SocDem believes in collectivism, a hugely politicised state, as much central planning as they can get away with, etc). And it hasn't worked "excellently". The major progress was in the 1950/60s, when our local SocDem still limited taxes to max 30%. (Other countries in Europe not under the SocDems had the *same* development under other government, so it wasn't unique in any way.) The 1970/80s were lost and not very "excellent" decades as taxes and the state grew. *** During the time when the Social Democrats could implement their policies almost unopposed, the country became one of the most successful countries in the world. Only through the 1950/60s, when taxes and the public sector was kept limited! In principle that's what liberals and conservatives *also* support. In the 1970/80's - a time MORE true to SocDems - taxes, government spending, public sector skyrocketed, and all earlier relative gains were lost. It clearly didn't work "excellently" (Note: Of these 20 years, 6 had a Liberal non-Soc governments. It's disappointing they did little to stop these failures, I'll admit. 14 years of 1970/80s were still SocDem suicide put-brakes-on-economy-grow-the-state policies!) *** I don't for a minute believe that in any possible scenario it could have been more than marginally better I don't see why it would have been impossible to continue the economy on the 50/60's! If that had happened, it's clear we'd be MUCH more than "marginally" better off! *** Quoting a book by FN Faria claiming "liberal institutions ultimately weaken their social groups in the evolutionary process of inter-group competition". Are you kidding? I've seldom seen an "analysis" that's so dead wrong. The effect is the total opposite! Competition is strength! You get several alternatives for products and services, and can pick the best and most cost-effective one. As a producer you have to improve yourself to keep kickin'. It all spells *improvements*, not becoming becoming "weaker". What a dud Mr Faria is! *** Social Democracy combined with a strong state. SocDems isn't only "combined" with it, they ARE the builders of the big state. But a strong, big state suffocates the individual, creativity, freedoms, citizen's rights. *** Marx's "influence on the world has been monumental" Unfortunately... *** I've tried ChatGPT, and I'm not impressed. Beside ChatGTP I've also tried earlier AI systems, and I am a bit impressed. Compared to older systems, ChatGTP is way more powerful! And it's just the beginning! *** "a computer will never be able to think and feel like a human" I'm not sure of that. *** It "can't copy a human very closely."



The library of Jules Verne. Seems well stocked! Possibly a contemporary picture, from Verne's own time.

What "machine learning" does is actually to copy humans, ie our brain's neural networks.

** "mathematics, it's a very simple system"

Advanced mathematics is actually very, very complex! Fractals, 20 dimensions, imaginary numbers, calculus...

** "If an AI never takes any risks, it will never make any real breakthroughs"

It's inventing and economics that benefits from risk-taking. Expanding knowledge benefits more from making free associations and taking leaps in your thoughts.

** "Artificial intelligence would be so advanced that we don't understand exactly what it's doing"

We often don't even understand what humans do and why, so this shows AIs may get close to our way of thinking...

** "so that we have no possibility of writing those kinds of algorithms"

A misunderstanding: modern AI isn't about writing algorithms. They write themselves in the neural networks. We only write the algorithms for creating the networks (and that we can do).

** Interesting thoughts on death. But also depressing... ** I sometimes wonder about the long-term effects of TV crime shows and detective novels full of murders! I'm not sure the effects are always positive...but I would never agree to banning crime fiction or shows! In arts, death isn't "taboo"!

** Wharhol was clearly a very, very strange guy... That's all I can say!

William McCabe: You're probably right about early sports fans and film fans publishing amateur magazines, but I've found no trace of that they used the term "fanzine". And I've been looking around a bit, and so have scholars - they tend to be obsessed with finding "first use". Webster here claims first use of "fanzine" is from 1942 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fanzine> - but we know it's from the autumn of 1940, by L R Chauvenet.

Heath Row: Interesting about roads and bridges. The Swedish road system was known to be very lousy, until the mid 19th Century. It was local farmers that had the duty to build and maintain the roads, and their enthusiasm varied. ** I have been writing a Xmas/New Year short story every year since 2000. But it was only a few years back I began to run them in *Intermission*. Some of these stories have been in Swedish, but I try to make them in English now (for inclusion in *Intermission*). I try to make these short stories humorous, perhaps also a bit odd. ** "...*The Fannish Inquisition.*" I'm sure the staff meant well" I'm sure the staff is so deep into virtue signalling they can't tell the difference between meaning well and being a die-hard fanatic. ** Fred Brown is also a favourite of mine! We have all read his short-short stories... (That was the kind of stories I started with writing when young. Never reaching his heights, of course, and always getting them rejected by Sam J Lundwall of the JVM magazine...)

Garth Spencer: I'd say a formal OE election isn't necessary - Garth stay, if you want! As for "max page count", only very few of my zines have been over 20 pages. If 20p tops is enforced, I can live with it. In fact, I really hope to go down in page count. As it looks now this will be shorter... ** Why are all cons postponed until 2024? ** Well, I think the best we can do is to aim for the society that has as little of imperfection as possible, reaching perfection is impossible. Anyone claiming to aim for the perfect will become an unbearable (and possibly dangerous) fanatic.. The problem with claiming you know the Perfect Solution is that it prompts you to go over dead bodies to reach it, as the Perfect Thing is the Infinite Good and thus worth any price to pay. ** Well-well-well! Time to finish! See ya' nextish! And do a fanzine! Plz mention or review this zine on your site, (a)social media stream or what have you. *Och glöm inte att nominera Berra Falk!*



Two corona viruses perhaps?
(Artist: Lars LON Olsson)

Слава Україні!