

*Bandits, armed with Nazi ideology, have been killing our compatriots for eight years
--Sergei Lukianenko, Russian writer, in open letter (GoHof Chengdu Worldcon).*

INTERMISSION #135

E-zine by Ahrvid Engholm, ahrvid@hotmail.com, for EAPA, N'APA and other fans of folly. Follow ed's newstweets from @SFJournalen (updates slow lately due to Ukraine syndrome: being occupied). More history in this, the death of a musician, virus roundup, Finncon, etc. Despite NATO, typos sometimes attack this zine! Sorry. Early Aug 2023 (Parts of this # p'haps NSFW...)

Editorially: Finncon, E-music, AI

Another sad RIP awaits you in #135. Ralph also made the soundtrack for a strange dystopian film we'll have a surprising look into (look away if you have moral qualms). From the famous Sunkit club comes ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus' celebration of wine, chicks and parties. There's a report from the latest Finnish convention and you may have to look away again - if you're that kind - when Hugo Gernsback lectures about s...e...x (his magazine *Sexology* was much more successful than *Amazing Stories*, you know). To this irrelevant APA comments.

There are good and bad news from the Freedom Fight down south: the Ukrainians are making progress, but much slower than we hoped. The problem is hundreds of miles of Russian trenches and that they've mined every square foot of the land. Our heroes have to work methodically and their commanders are careful not putting their troops under unnecessary risks. (Unlike Russians, they value lives.) This is shown by that, from what I've understood, the defending Russian side takes much heavier casualties. It's so bad that one month of Russian losses equals ten years of Soviet losses in Afghanistan! The Ruski's morale seems to be rock bottom, being badly equipped (using gear from the 1940/50's!) and under-supplied. Swedish CV90 combat vehicles have been sighted on the Bakhmut front and US and British long range missiles make frequent visits to the terrorist army's command centres, ammo dumps, camps and supply routes.

A combination of prediction and a dear hope, is that this craziness will end with the fall of the Putin regime, one way or another. The Rebellion of the Wagner group (they were just 20 km from Moscow when aborting!) clearly shows that Mr P is losing his grip. He has lately been firing generals en masse. The Crimea bridge has been critically damaged again. The Russian economy is retracting. The more pressure the yellow and blues apply, the more difficult it is for the Russians to continue.

Slava Ukraini! Herojam slava!

--Ahrvid Engholm

Ralph Lundsten, 1936-2023 – Cosmic Composer

I think the cosmic composer, friend of fandom, Ralph Lundsten was more appreciated abroad than in Sweden. For instance, folks of the national radio were sour when he hosted the popular "Summer" show and broke an unwritten rule by playing only his own songs... He never hid his talent under the bushel and that won't go down well in the Jante Law land.*

Ralph Lundsten was born far up north from, which he acquired the calm, common sense and love of nature of the northerners.

But deciding to move to Stockholm at young age 15, he also showed initiative and being enterprising. The first time he heard a violin concert, he said in an interview, he immediately bought musical note paper and began writing



Ralph in his Andromeda studio.

* 1. You're not to think you are anything special. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law_of_Jante

his own concert... His first electronic music was made with a tape recorder, on which he recorded strange sounds and then cut and glued with small tape pieces. He helped creating the famous Electronic Music Studio (EMS) in Stockholm reflected in his debut on record, EMS Nr 1 (1966, see also "Elektron Musik Studion, Dokumentation 1-4", 1966-1973, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7V6hIQ8qbg>). And he was early with building his own electronic instruments and synthesizers, being much of a pioneer. The better equipment he acquired the less "concrete and dissonant" his music became and he developed a style of a broad "sound carpet" of soft meditative thought , often inspired by nature and love.

I first met Ralph when a local sf club was invited to a very appreciated visit to his magnificent home Villa Frankenburg around 1980, his pink "castle of wood" just east of Stockholm. It was a dump when he took over and he spent many years renovating it to a magnificent site of cosmic dreams and fantasy, which included his own advanced electronic Andromeda Studio. I remember we

between sipping tea could try his

Andromatic love synthesizer, which

produced sounds as we touched each other. I know he loved science fiction. He had shelves of skiffy books and named albums after A E Van Vogt, Cordwainer Smith and others. We also had Ralph guesting or conventions a few times.

Here's a detailed article about Ralph's music equipment, showing he was a real pioneer:

<https://translate.google.se/?hl=sv&sl=sv&tl=en&text=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.teknikaliteter.se%2F2023%2F07%2F17%2Ffotterna-pa-jorden-men-huvudet-bland-molnen%2F&op=translate>

Art magazines and TV shows would make colourful reports from his cosmic castle. He often talked about space and liked to call himself an ambassador of Andromeda. If someone had a cosmic mind, it was Ralph Lundsten! He also made movie soundtracks, most notably for "Thriller - a Cruel Picture" (1973) starring Christina Lindberg seeking revenge in an apocalyptic world.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thriller_%E2%80%93_A_Cruel_Picture This film is a favourite of Quentin Tarantino, inspiring him to make "Kill Bill". He also did the music for the dystopian "Breaking Point" (1975), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breaking_Point_\(1975_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breaking_Point_(1975_film)).

And he had his own fan club, Andromeda Fan Society, which every summer invited to a big gathering at Ralph's with music, ballet (he wrote many ballet pieces), cakes, and relaxation. Ralph Lundsten also entered the Guinness Book of Record as composer of history's most played "jingle". A piece of his "Out in the Wide World" was for decades played hundred of times every hour as intermission signal of Radio Sweden's international broadcasts - a total of over 4 million times!

I think I've cracked his secret: despite seeming so relaxed and easy going, when nobody watched...he was a workaholic! Over 100 records (in all different editions), 700 opus, dozens of films (often experimental, some award winning), years creating his Frankenburg home, exhibitions, time for his fan club and much more - it all speaks for itself.

And BTW, he was a reader of my fanzine. I note a LoC from him, April 2019, though only saying "Thanks!" it sufficient for a message from a galaxy far, far away...

More (in English):

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_Lundsten



Ralph on his famous home.



Ralph and his Villa Frankenburg wooden castle.

<https://echoes.org/2023/07/10/ralph-lundsten-r-i-p-1936-2023/>
<https://synthandsoftware.com/2023/07/ralph-lundsten-10-6-36-7-5-23/>

Fan-Related Skiffy Porn

Let's investigate one of the films Ralph Lundsten made the music for - and we'll be in for a surprise! We have "Breaking Point" from 1975, by cult director Bo A Vibenius, Bergman's anti-thesis, known for many B movies, usually directly for video. This film is labelled as a "pornographic thriller" and said to have been banned in Sweden, but later released...on video, of course. It has several dystopian elements from a disintegrating society of violence [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breaking_Point_\(1975_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breaking_Point_(1975_film)) It starts with a newscast where a psychologist says 98% of all women like to be raped... The hero, one Bob Bellings seems to become inspired by this and encounters several women he has sex with throughout the film (that and some shooting and car chases is most of the plot). IMBD

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0072736/>

claims "Bob, an unassuming office worker has snapped and teeters on the edge of reality and leads a double life as a schizophrenic and misogynist killer. He is a rapist murderer who runs amok. He stalks women, follows them home, then rapes and kills them." (I saw now rapes or killings. All sex was consensual. So I wonder if I have an edited version of the film? Still, he seems to be wanted by the police as we see in the end.) With the hero we're on an odyssey in a very strange society in an incomprehensible



plot, where for some reason the government has decided to equip all citizens with firearms! (There is even atomic ammunition, but only for the military...)

Ralph Lundsten's music is abstract, atonal, not much like his later production. In the 1970s porn was almost respectable, as some sort of moral-challenging avantgarde and established artists would sometimes work for the productions. Eg Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson of ABBA did music for soft-porn flicks (like "The Seduction of Inga", 1970).



Arming all citizens: "Let me tell you they now have atomic ammunition too!"

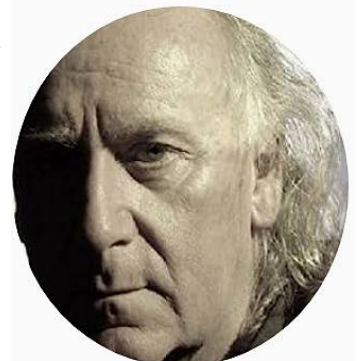
A film with lots of sex and guns wouldn't be worth much attention, except

that the hero is played by one Andreas Bellis, a Greek-Swedish cinematographer who here turns into a bona fide porn actor, hiding nothing. And this Bellis is the father of one Anders Bellis, a k a Belly for "stomach enhancement" in later days, the fraudster we met in #133. (To recap: in a



Mr Bellis has a lot of spunk!(The hot action here slightly blurred.)

late 1980s fan fund he invented "votes" in the form of name lists of eg former school mates, to embezzle \$1000s, in today's worth.) I don't know - haven't seen it - if Bellis did any more impressions of John Holmes, if you knew about him, but in "Breaking Point" he does enough for a whole adult movie career! Who knew that the perpetator (with one Mr Humbug) of Nordic fandom's biggest scam and shame came out of that wicked backdrop?



Andreas Bellis

"Breaking Point" is available on the net - turn off any "safe"

filter and some sites may need the TOR browser - if you look...hard. You find the strangest things on the Interweb!

(This is even stranger than the 1974 parody "Flesh Gordon", which I heard the proud LASFS club was involved in shooting - if anyone has more details on that, I'd like to know.)

Sunkit in the Sun

I have had little time lately to attend all those book releases, seminars etc I pestered before the pandemic. I have even missed a couple of meets of the cult music club Sunkit, but now July 13 it was time again for their music of the weirdest kind. We met outdoors on the fantastic Ersta Terrace, the place with the absolutely best view over the gorgeous Stockholm harbour.

The sun slowly set over the Old Town, the cruise ships, the Skeppsholmen old naval stronghold,

the Skansen, ABBA and Vasa museums, the Gröna Lund amusement park... Buddy Martin finally turned up and offered me beer (Ghod, he'll go bankrupt!), but unfortunately few other regulars came around - no Trampe, no Danne, no Anna-Lena...



Me and Magnus, DJ of and main force behind Sunkit.



Me and Martin "Santa Claus" Kristenson.

Well, DJ Magnus at least came along and mingled with us.

But the weather was fine and music inspiring. As you know from many earlier Sunkit reports, this club plays music so bad it is good... Cringy sports songs, strange interpretations, whacky lyrics, people who sing rather than well. Did you know that 24 hours from Tulsa equals just 20 minutes from Eslöv? And you'll definitely feel the crave for pizza hearing "Calleoni Macaroni"! You may learn how to "Pick up girls without booze" and hear the praise for the boring town of Södertälje... (Sorry, Henry!) And here's Björn Ulvaeus' perhaps not proudest moment as a lyricist (Benny Andersson and ABBA manager Stikkan also contributed, here in my translation):

*It's super having a party, wine and chicks and raj-raj
Food and drinks, dance and songs - makes you a
man so strong*

Dear friend, come have a jug

Oops, it fell to the rug

*Cheers, have another and feel like home, this is a
party*

Aj aj aj, party, aj aj

*It's super having a party, wine and chicks and raj-.raj,
and a party!*



The famous Sunkit human carterpillar.

The Swedish version is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKzXC0-P7Kg>

Still feeling a bit bad in my back I refrained from dancing, but we did see the traditional human "Sunkit carterpillar" for some songs, where people cling to each others' backs to form a long, ringling snake. I did capitulate later, and joined the famous "This the End" song where we embrace each other in a big ring. It was still a bit of brightness in the sky as we wandered away, along the magic waters of the Summer Night City.

Finncan, Tampere 7-9 July

If there's a Finncan, I'll be there, come rain, come shine. It's a habit all the way from the very first Finnish sf con, King-Con in 1982 (though not formally a Finncan, the first by that name was in 1986). This year it was in Tampere, a university town in mid-Finland also having the Swedish name

Tammerfors. I sailed with the Baltic Princess ferry, a boat I don't think I have had the honour of taking before. I nice boat. The Finland ferries are among the most enjoyable in the world (I guess) with lots of bars, restaurants, shops and more - of course also a taxfree shop. (I acquired a box of strong bheer and some Finnish vodka. Finns load up on Swedish "snus" tobacco.)

The Tampere train was an interesting doubledecker, where it seems the upper floor was some sort of business class. The con was in the university main building, on three floors, rather close to the railway station. Some 1500-2000 fen turned up (among them ca 10 Swedish fans). I discussed the figures with organisers and we couldn't decided a fixed figure. There were fewer Japan comics



The double-decked train I took.

fangirls in silly dresses than before. I've never been a fan of having sf cons turn into masquerades. There were a lot of information and hucksters' tables, mostly with Finnish books, but there were a couple of decent English language tables too (I bought ca 5 books, paperbacks for €1-2/each).

The major glitch for me was being unable to connect to the university Wifi. The "verification" process wouldn't work (it worked for others) and the alternate



Hall of the main entrance to the convention.

verification to get access to your Hotmail was to receive a code...through the mail you couldn't reach. (Brilliant thinking there!) So no, tweets from Finncon this time. I counted to ca

75 program items, of which a dozen were in English and three in Swedish (still one of two official languages of Finland; in Turku street signs etc will be in both languages, but in Tampere not so much). I only went to ca 4-5 program items (and some maybe only for 15 minutes - I often drop in and out of con programs). I



Interview with author Henna Johansdotter.



Lecture on Finnish AltHistory. It could have become a Soviet Republic...

heard the interview with the Finland-Swedish sf-writer Henna Johansdotter, something about AI, Diane Duane's GoH interview, something about alternate histories for Finland and some "academic" program I don't remember. Unfortunately I had a little backpain that the painkillers couldn't totally deal with so I walked around not feeling in tip-top shape.

Sometimes I went out on the nearby town for groceries. Finnish supermarkets have some



So far three wins for Swede Dames in the soccer World Cup down under! Tall Amanda Illestedt leads scoreboard! Here her header goal in 5-0 crush of Italy. The Blueyellow are #3 in world ranking and surely medal contenders. Grab that metal girls!



GoH interview with Diane Duane. She talked about writing for TV and fanzine games. Movie/TV scripts are more difficult than novels, she said.

interesting food items we don't have in Sweden, for instance interesting "salads" in plastic or aluminium foil boxes (intended to be heated, but can be consumed cold). I also spent some time in the sun, enjoying bheer from the ferry and some book recently bought (I've been reading a lot of space opera recently).

A pretty normal Finncon, for which some problems remain though those are the same for the recent Eurocon in Uppsala and most other cons in later years: too much seriousness, too little fannish program, a tendency for too much bureaucracy...hey, loosen up, have more fun! Don't be so sercon! I think Nordic fandom would need something like

Corflu, a small con for fannish fans. It was



The sun sinks into the sea as a romantic couple watches.

a doubledecker train and the same proud ship Baltic Princess on the way back. I think I read something by the space poet Poul Anderson as the sun set with an orange glow in the archipelago of the Baltic Sea on this third planet from that burning body.

History Corner

Time for some more NSFW (Not Safe For Work, not Nutty SF Writings...) but this time from Uncle Hugo.. As earlier reported Hugo Gernsback's most successful magazine wasn't *Amazing* but a rag named *Sexology*, published 1933 to 1983 and topping 200 000 in circulation! [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexology_\(magazine\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexology_(magazine))

Hugo was interested both in whacky inventions and sex: He sounds like a true sf fan, doesn't he!

In his yearly popular science newsletter *Forecast* of 1957, Hugo covers his favourite subject at great length going back all the way to cavemen and cavewomen, under the title "*The Riddle of Sex*". (I only have the 1955-57 *Forecasts*. I'd be interested if you have more of them!) We learn that women dislike really hairy men, why humans tend to keep nudity and sexual matters non-exposed and then Hugo gives us straight answers to some difficult sex questions.

But Uncle Hugo wasn't finished yet. In the same *Forecast* he proposes we should nuke the Moon! New nuclear bombs need to be tested, and setting them off on the Moon won't cause radioactive hazards on Earth. He's right there, but there's no guarantee the transportation of nukes to the Moon is so safe... If



THE RIDDLE OF SEX

POSSIBLY the most amazing fact about sex is the extraordinary attitude of humans toward it.

Although the sex act is a natural and universal function, without which our planet would be a lifeless world—nearly everything connected with sex is despised, ridiculed or met with shamefaced mien and raised eyebrows by our self-proclaimed civilized races.

What should be the loftiest of all human expressions, and the most revered, is dragged through the mud and treated with outrageous ribaldry.

● Why do intelligent humans act in so astounding and wholly incomprehensible a manner when it comes to sexual matters? The answer is quite complex and cannot be given in a short sentence. Curiously enough, if we analyze the problem as it pertains to mod-

ern man, we find that *sex is rarely an object of levity if it concerns ourselves—the levity is almost always directed at someone else*, just as our risibilities are aroused when we see a dignified person slip and fall on the pavement. We are NOT amused when it happens to us.

From this it would follow that man constantly tries to impress his fellow man with his dignity. Foolishly, he often thinks that sex is a sign of weakness and therefore not dignified. Hence the misplaced levity.

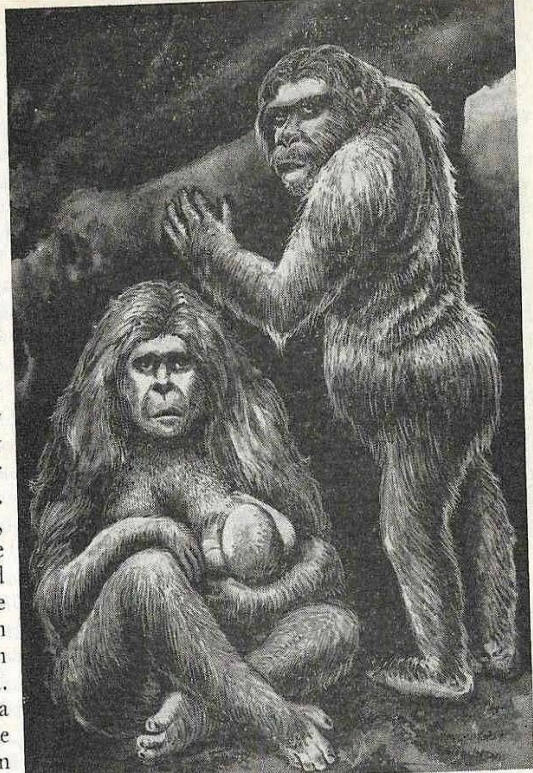
Most aborigines take sex life in their stride. To them, sex is what it should be—a natural function like eating or drinking. The same is true of most of the animal world.

Modern *homo sapiens*, man, instinctively wants to hide every sexual function, so much so that it has today become a devastating phobia responsible for many of man's neuroses.

To find further reasons for our strange behavior we must go back many millions of years to our earliest cavemen ancestors. In those days most of man's body was covered with shaggy hair. His sex life did not differ much from that of the quadruped mammals which surrounded him and with which he was in intimate contact. Sex was as natural to him as hunting—he probably

never gave it much conscious thought—since instinctive action was his main motivation in those dawn ages.

Ever so slowly over a span of hundreds of millenia of years there came a subtle change. Various new forces were now acting on our hairy ancestors. More and more, man forsook the forests and caves for the plains and open country in search of food. He became a nomad. In the open spaces in warmer zones, his thick, furry skin became a distinct handicap. In the torrid summers some human species began to shed hair, as do many animals. Then slowly through the ages and by sexual selection, many human beings began mating with less shaggy specimens, who appeared more



"Alalus Europaeus" . . . ("Pithecanthropus alalus") painted by the renowned German artist Gabriel Max, after suggestions by anthropologist Karl Vogt. This painting of early man shows his protective thick matted hair.

desirable. They probably were fleeter of foot and were not winded as fast as the more hairy ones.

Quite likely there were other reasons which science has as yet not unraveled that contributed

to making man less and less hirsute through the ages. One of the most compelling no doubt was a very practical "survival compulsion."

● In the dense primeval forests and in the deep caves—the habitat of dawn-man—the light was always poor. Seeing and observing were difficult most of the day, far worse at night. The hunter could not distinguish between his own species and the beasts, hence many hunters were killed mistakenly for animals. This made a deep and lasting impression on the survivors and, as with all species, man strove unconsciously to change his appearance in his battle for existence.

Just as the brown rabbit changes his fur to white at the onset of winter for his protection and survival in the white snow, so through evolution man shed his heavy fur for lighter and thinner coverings, till finally there was no fur at all—only a sparse bodily hair cover. This evolutionary process is still going on in modern man—there are still males and females who have a fair amount of body hair.

● Let me cite a case which came to my attention a few years ago and which speaks for itself. A very fine-looking Southern gen-

tleman consulted me in connection with a divorce action threatened by his wife. It appears that there had been a whirlwind "love-at-first-sight" marriage after only a week's acquaintance. But his bride left him after a three-day honeymoon. The reason? The husband had as heavy a matted, hairy front and back as I have ever seen. His wife was, as he put it, "so horrified and frightened" that she could not face him any longer.

● Why did she act thus? Instinct inherited over a span of hundreds of thousands of years dictated to her that this man was not her equal—he was a "hairy animal." Her inborn mechanism of sexual selection came to the fore and—*she rejected him*.

But let us go back to our dawn-age hairless—or nearly hairless race. Man had now begun to climb the long road to what we are pleased to call "culture." He also had become more observant and his "thinking processes" had become more acute. The winters were quite cold even in the temperate zones, so man began to use animal skins and furs to keep warm. These he discarded when spring and warm weather came. He kept only a loin cover or similar device which he needed as a vital protection while hunting and fishing.

● Many thousands of years later—after the last ice age—when he had learned to weave fibers, man took to more and more bodily covering, till finally a good deal of his anatomy was covered and stayed covered.

During this long evolutionary stage, a new emotion had gradually made itself felt in man—*shame*—particularly the shame of total nakedness. He now became conscious of the fact that somehow he had risen above the animals, but he no longer was as unthinking as he was when he roamed the plains nearly naked. He knew now that he was *different* from other mammals and he began to reason that he was *above* them.

Too, the insecurity which he felt in the nude state made a powerful impression on him, which proved cumulative during succeeding generations. Exposing oneself became shameful and degrading; hence, sexual functions, directly linked to nudity, came under the same taboo in our so-called civilization.

In most aboriginal societies—when left alone and uninfluenced by the "civilized" races—nudity is the rule. There is, consequently, no shame-emotion connected with nudity *per se*—and sex is treated in a matter-of-fact way. Sex functions are not ridiculed and thought obscene. Indeed, most

aborigines do not understand obscenity. Modern man, as we said at the beginning of this article, finds it difficult to discuss sexual topics with his fellow-men in a serious manner. Levity invariably crops up, particularly among laymen.

● Why is this so? Obviously, only because the average man (or woman) has only the most superficial "education" in sexual matters—if any at all. Nearly all so-called "sex education" in our present society goes back to our earliest childhood, long before our teens. *It is then that the deepest impression is made.*

Childhood beliefs in matters of sex are the most difficult to eradicate. Most of us are conditioned in much of our adult sex patterns before we are six. We listen avidly to the childish fantasy-prattle of our young friends or buddies, particularly if they are a bit older. No matter what nonsense they are teaching us, we believe them far more implicitly than the hard-to-understand ponderous things our unsure-of-themselves parents try to impress us with, if they talk to us at all on that subject. As we grow up, if we are average humans, we absorb more weird "knowledge" from our friends. It is true that when we come of age we *may* acquire some books on sexual subjects,

but it is equally true that we rarely read them attentively from cover to cover. Most of us skim through them, because our old taboo—shame—subconsciously prohibits us from reading certain chapters. Anyway, *we know all about sex*, have known all about it since childhood, so why cram such nonsense into our heads?

● And that is precisely what makes man's attitudes toward sex so incongruous today—the universal ignorance of what sex really is from a scientific point of view.

The overwhelming majority of people everywhere have no conception of the great complexity and the tremendous range of sexology. They see sex only as a bouddoir topic, never dreaming that thousands of researchers all over the world are discovering new and unsuspected sex facts every month in the laboratory and elsewhere.

This snobbish ignorance of sex often extends even to the so-called educated classes, although most educated persons will scoff at such a possibility. You can easily convince them of their error with the following questionnaire. If they can answer 20% of the questions correctly, they will indeed know far more than the average educated person about sex.

QUESTIONS

1. How can a girl become pregnant yet remain a virgin?
2. What is a stone baby?
3. Do men actually suckle and nourish infants?
4. Can one beget children years after death?
5. What are transvestites?
6. Why do some boys become pregnant?
7. Why are girls in some primitive tribes circumcized?
8. How often are twins born, one black and the other white?
9. What is phantom pregnancy?
10. Is fatherless birth possible?
11. How rare are children with tails?
12. What is telegony?

Here are the answers:

● **Answer 1.** According to the late Dr. Maxwell Vidaver, it is an established and incontrovertible fact that impregnation has taken place in women with unbroken hymens, when penetration of the vagina had not been accomplished. Such cases have been recorded in medical literature, from time to time. Although conditions must be extremely favorable for impregnation to occur in such a manner, it has happened. All hymens have perforations through which live male semen, deposited on the outside of the female genitalia, can enter into the vagina.

FORECAST

● **Answer 2.** Dr. Eugene B. Mozes explains "stone babies" in this way. "Stone babies" are always found in the free abdominal cavity and not in the womb (where normal pregnancy develops). Here is how pregnancy outside the womb, or *ectopic pregnancy*, takes place. Fertilization takes place in the fallopian tube, where the male and female sex cells are united. The fertilized egg then moves to the womb, where it develops. Sometimes, however, an accident happens following fertilization. Instead of traveling to the interior of the womb, the fertilized egg remains in the fallopian tube and becomes attached to its wall.

Sometimes an abdominal pregnancy is not recognized in time. In such cases, the baby dies and is retained in the mother's body indefinitely.

Often excess amounts of lime salts may be deposited on the calcified fetus, increasing its weight. Thus a "stone baby" is not stone at all. Ages ago, before much was known on the subject, this misnomer originated and the ignorant still believe in the term.

● **Answer 3.** Impossible as it sounds, the late Dr. Max Bartels, Ph.D., famed anthropologist and anatomist, of the University of Berlin, related a number of cases where men suckled infants.

1957

"Some medical observers," he wrote, "have reported a number of instances of milk-secreting breasts in men. Dr. Schenk knew a man who secreted a rich supply of milk from youth until his 50th year. Dr. Walaeus gives a similar report of a Flemish man of 40 with one enormous milk-producing breast.

● **Answer 4.** Human spermatozoa have been successfully frozen and preserved. A recent report discloses that three American babies have been born of women who were artificially inseminated with frozen human sperm. The babies were reported to be perfectly normal and healthy. This epoch-making event was announced by Dr. R. G. Bunge, University of Iowa urologist. Scientists now believe that human sperm can be stored for many years without deterioration; hence a man can now have offspring years after his death.

● **Answer 5.** Says Harry Benjamin, M.D., endocrinologist: "Transvestism is the desire to dress in the clothes of the opposite sex. This term, first used by Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, has the disadvantage of naming a disturbance of behavior and emotion after only one of its symptoms, although the most conspicuous one. This symptom, which is

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also known as 'cross-dressing,' is the symbolic fulfillment of a deep-seated and more or less intense urge indicating a disharmony of the sexual sense, a sexual indecision or a dissociation of physical and mental sexuality. Few transvestites are homosexuals."

● **Answer 6.** Pregnant boys, while rare, are now well recognized by medicine. One case of a pregnant boy was described by Prof. M. Lombard of Algiers to the French Academy meeting in Paris on Nov. 25, 1953. Occasionally a male child is born, apparently normal, yet bearing in his abdominal cavity a little twin which he had absorbed during his fetal career. A few cases live on, apparently normal in health, till adolescence brings with it a rapid and intensive growth. The change is caused by the increased amount of the internal secretion of the testes (male sex glands). The miniature hidden fetus, which has been feeding all the time on the blood supply of its big brother, receives its share of the testicular secretion. It also responds by intensive growth, and soon an abdominal tumor is diagnosed. An operation reveals it to be a type of *teratoma*; not always a complete human body, but clearly recognizable as a separate human being. There does not seem to be any record of such

an operation resulting in the surgical birth of a child who remained alive. An excellent specimen of this abnormality was dissected and is preserved in the Hunterian Museum of London.

● **Answer 7.** Female circumcization has been practiced for ages in many parts of the world. This is what Professor Denise Paulme, head of the African Department of the Museum of Man, and professor of the Institute of Ethnology of France, says on the subject: "Clitoridotomy, or female circumcization, with its accompanying ritual, is a major event in the lives of the girls of the *Kissi* people who inhabit Upper Guinea (on the west coast of Africa). It is initiation into adulthood and is almost always immediately followed by marriage, betrothal having taken place a long time before. To evade this painful operation is an invitation to social ostracism."

● **Answer 8.** Dr. John Archer (the first physician to receive a medical degree in America, in the year 1810) relates that he confined a *white woman*, delivering her of twins, one of which was black and the other white! The woman informed Dr. Archer that she had had relations with a white and colored man, respectively, *within a short period*

of time. This may appear impossible, but it is confirmed by other cases on record of a similar nature; few, it is true, since few women will make such admissions!

● **Answer 9.** Phantom pregnancies are well documented in medicine. They are not rare. Let us listen to Dr. Eugene B. Mozes: "Phantom or spurious pregnancy, sometimes called *feigned* or *hysterical pregnancy*, is one of the greatest medical curiosities. Known scientifically as *pseudocycosis*, it is a condition in which the woman firmly believes that she is pregnant and develops the usual characteristics and distinguishing signs of pregnancy without being pregnant at all. She misses her periods, or they become extremely scanty, and her abdomen swells gradually as it would in ordinary pregnancy."

The signs sometime deceive even a physician on superficial examination, as her abdomen may appear as large as that of a woman 8 or 9 months pregnant. Almost every one of these women "feels" the movements of the "baby" and some of them actually go through labor pains.

Hippocrates, the "father of medicine," some 2,300 years ago described 12 cases he had observed. One of the most interesting cases in history was the

imaginary pregnancy of Queen Draga, the wife of the last king of the Obrenovitch dynasty of Serbia. The Queen's desire for an heir was so strong that she finally persuaded herself she was pregnant. The famous Professor Snygrov, who was summoned from Russia, had great difficulty in convincing the Queen that she was a victim of pseudocycosis. Up to the present time, 465 such cases have been described in medical literature.

● **Answer 10.** Virgin birth must be given serious consideration and study, said Dr. Stanley Balfour-Lynn in the English medical journal *The Lancet*. He was discussing the assertion of a British woman who claimed that her eleven-year-old daughter had no father. Dr. Balfour-Lynn stated that investigation had been unable to disprove the mother's claims. All of the evidence obtained is consistent with what would be expected in a case of *parthenogenesis* (reproduction by development of an egg without fertilization by a sperm).

Parthenogenetic development going full term and producing live and healthy offspring can be induced in mammals by cooling the fallopian tubes; many fatherless rabbits have already been produced by this technique.

The time may come when hu-

man eggs can develop into babies without fertilization by a male sperm. However, up to the present time, the possibility of this process taking place in human beings has not been conclusively proven.

● **Answer 11.** Humans with tails are well authenticated throughout medical history. Nor is the extra appendage too rare. Dr. Maynard M. Metcalf, professor of biology in the Woman's College at Baltimore, in his work on *Organic Evolution*, states (page 163): "It is interesting to know there have been instances in which a human being has retained, in an abnormal condition, the muscles of the ancestral tail."

The American Text Book of Surgery calls attention to the occasional births of children with tails, and suggests their early removal by surgery. From an embryological standpoint, every human being begins life with a tail. Strange as it may appear, the unborn child, in its development in the womb, passes through many phases of evolution. In the first half of the second month of life in the womb, it does not differ essentially in appearance from other animals!

● **Answer 12.** Telegony is defined by the authoritative *Gould's Medical Dictionary* as "the influence of a previous husband on the children of a subsequent one [husband] through the same woman." In Germany during World War II men were warned not to marry widows on account of the possibility that the offspring of the second husband might be "tainted" by the first husband.

While a controversial subject, as far as humans and their offspring are concerned, there is little controversy in zoology. Says the great Charles Darwin: "Careful breeders avoid putting a choice female of any animal to an inferior male on account of the injury to her subsequent progeny which may be expected to follow. . . ."

● These are just a few random facts to illustrate that vast subject of sexology which still baffles modern humans, as it did their prehistoric, less learned predecessors. Does it not behoove man to take stock of himself and ponder that ancient truism of Plato, uttered by that great philosopher over 2,300 years ago: "*Know thyself!*"

you read the article, you'll BTW see that Hugo claims he solved how to make efficient atomic energy in...1915. What a guy! The rest of that year's *Forecast* eg details how the US during the International Geophysical Year of 1958 plans to launch 6 to 10 small satellites. He suggests dropping dust etc from them to give them a "comet tail" making them more visible, as he did for a spaceship in *Ralph 124C41+*. Nobody knew the Soviets would beat them to launching sats...

We'll continue in space. Mathematician Tord Hall was a long-time expert on space poet Harry Martinson but he often also covered more general space topics. In *Svenska Dagbladet*, 29 sep 1974,

TEST-BOMBS ON THE MOON

THE current controversy whether we should or should not test H-bombs is likely to continue for a long time to come. Unfortunately, there seems so far no assurance that nations will ever agree upon a practical plan

to outlaw atomic bombs. Even if they did, it would solve nothing whatsoever.

Clandestine tests could still be made in the huge underground caves which abound in many parts of the world. Because they are sealed off from the outside atmosphere, no radioactive fallout could be detected in other countries. Nor does it make any difference if large or baby type bombs are so tested, because, with technological progress, H-bombs may become so "clean" that they will emit little or no dangerous radiation.

For war purposes, bombs in the main should be as destructive as possible, in theory. Radioactive fallout is not always desirable—the en-

emy may want to occupy the bombed city later. If it is highly radioactive, he will not be able to enter it for perhaps a long time. In the end, war is never waged for the sake of deadly radiation alone. Sooner or later, the "conqueror" must occupy the vanquished area for mop-up operations and to exploit his former enemy. If all the big centers are "hot" and poisoned for perhaps years, he stands to lose more than he gains.

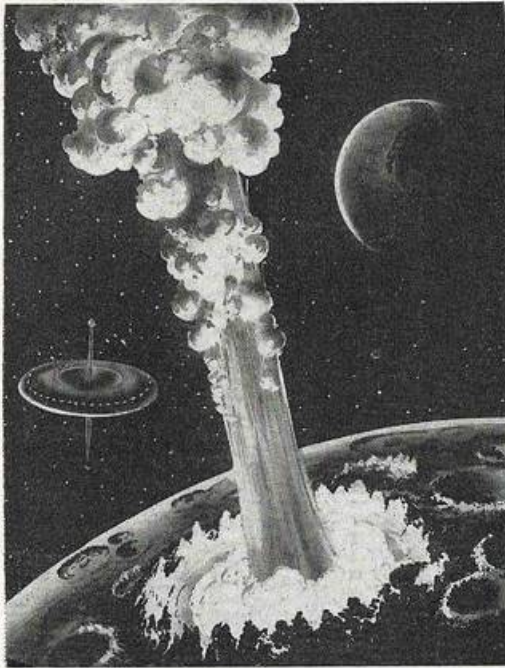
As for testing present and future super-bombs, in my opinion the radioactive bugaboo is a vast exaggeration. I am certain that the present rate of testing H-bombs can go on for the next 20 years without affecting the health of the present world population or our descendants. The plain fact is that all current opinions are pure guesswork—one group of scientists is positive of the great danger of continuous tests; the other scoffs at it.

One fact, however, stands out in all the controversy: for billions of years, the Earth has been bombarded with all sorts of dangerous radiation—including the most dangerous of all, cosmic rays and X-rays. This colossal

bombardment goes on continuously and, while it is true that our atmosphere screens a percentage of the radiations, far more comes down to earth than the effect of thousands of H-bombs if they were all exploded simultaneously.

Far more dangerous, to my mind, is the continuous pollution of our atmosphere by the noxious gases generated all over the world, especially near large industrial centers, by the automobile and the incinerator. These hydrocarbons and other poisonous gases vitiate our atmosphere so rapidly that it is becoming more and more saturated as time goes on. Many medico-scientists are convinced that the rise of pulmonary cancer is directly attributable to the increasing hydrocarbon content of the air we breathe. If a change is not effected soon, they maintain, the index of respiratory cancer must increase inevitably.

Shall we go on with our present cumulative air pollution till all our cities have become smog centers like Los Angeles? Fortunately, there is no necessity for such an outlook. We do have the means to rid our atmosphere of an excessive content of hydro-



View of H-Bomb explosion on airless Moon in the center of huge crater. Earth is to right. Space ship is on the left.

FORECAST

1957

5

carbon before it reaches the universal fatal state. The answer of course is atomic power—now in its infancy—which, curiously enough, brings us right back to H- and other bomb testing!

The atomic power—such as it is—which we use today is childish, to say the least. We have not as yet learned how to use atomic power efficiently. Actually, we now utilize only a tiny fraction of the titanic power inherent in the atom. The flea power we use now is really a by-product of atomic energy—heat. We use this heat in a boiler to make steam, then run a steam engine with it, which finally operates an electric generator, giving us the electric current we want!

Yet scientists, since the Curies discovered radium in 1898, have known that the atom gives out radiation which is electromagnetic. Why not capture this powerful radiation and convert it directly into electricity? I have recommended this since 1915,* 41 years ago. In a theoretical illustration, I showed graphically how if we utilized all its inherent energy at one stroke, one-fiftieth of a gram of radium—a

*See "The Wonders of Radium," in the writer's magazine *The Electrical Experimenter*, September, 1915, (1916).

mere speck—could by means of a super electromagnet lift the 103,000-ton Woolworth Building 1 foot off the ground!

Since that time we have discovered the atomic bomb and atomic power, but direct electric power from the atom is still far off simply because research in this direction has not been persevered at with effort equal to that for the A-bomb during World War II.

As time goes on, more and more of the present atomic classified information becomes public property. Yet many scientists would deplore the cessation of all atomic tests at this time. They feel rightly that without occasional tests, scientific progress will be retarded for years. New facts are discovered in nearly every test explosion, large and small.

Nor is there any foreseeable end to new types of atomic bombs. The A- and H-bombs are but a beginning. The uranium-plutonium and hydrogen types are only forerunners because at the time they were designed they were the easiest to make in a new art.

They will be followed in due time by others for special purposes. They need not necessarily be more powerful, more destructive nor more radioactive.

But there is one certainty: they

cannot be evolved without actual tests. And the more types we evolve, the more tests will be required.

Sooner or later, from such tests, true electrical atom power will emerge and may well revolutionize the world. It will do away with war because it will give the impoverished have-not countries abundant cheap power.

I agree too that, as time goes on, it may no longer be wise or safe to continue large-caliber bomb tests on Earth because there may be a radiation hazard, particularly in testing new and at present unknown bombs which may be far more deadly than anything we can conceive of today. Happily, when that time comes, there will be a solution to the problem.

By that time—let us say about 1975—space flying will be in full



41-year-old illustration showing how 1/50 gram of radium could lift Woolworth Building one foot, if radium's atomic energy was instantly released.

swing, with trips to the moon almost a certainty. And what an ideal testing locale the moon offers the physicist! No atmosphere to bother with, no population to worry about. Bombs can be set off from the thick dust-blanketed ground to suck up into the sky for hundreds of miles immense atomic "mushrooms" that will dwarf our mightiest H-explosion on Earth.

Or we can set off bombs from

the high lunar mountains for different tests. There being no atmosphere nor winds, the fallout will begin to rain down directly over the test site within hours. Because of the lesser gravity on the moon the light particles of the fallout will come down slowly but steadily. The resulting deposit can then be scooped up from the ground for analysis.

Naturally such testing will be done only on selected sites, perhaps on the other side of the moon or in the protective shelter of large, walled crater sites. As such test grounds may stay "hot" with dangerous radiation for years, they will be known by all scientists as danger areas.

What will be the difference between a lunar and a terrestrial atomic explosion? On Earth the explosion is followed immediately by severe atmospheric shock waves and heat waves. Witnesses customarily cover their ears, even if they are miles away, so that their eardrums may not be broken.

On the moon, the explosion

produces no shock waves and there is no direct sound because there is no air. Nevertheless, the sound travels through the moon's ground and those that stand on it will be aware of some sound and vibration as both travel up through the legs and body. The observers, too, will feel the onslaught of the heat wave as radiation travels through the lunar vacuum in the form of light. Hence, observers must be sufficiently distant from the explosion if they do not wish to experience severe burns on less insulated parts of their bodies.

Can a large future atomic explosion set off on the moon be seen on Earth 235,000 miles away? Yes, quite brilliantly, if it occurs on the unlighted part of the moon, i.e., soon after a new moon or when it is in its first quarter. Even at full moon we will be able to observe it well, as the atomic flash is more than a thousand times brighter than the moon's illuminated surface.

he writes about travel too and messages from other solar systems, "Message from the Milky Way". (I'll summarize):

On a conference in 1972 the Association in Scotland for Technology and Research in Astronautics (ASTRA) a scientist Duncan Lunan - writing about it in a new book, *Stars: Contact and Communication with Other Intelligence* - claimed there were radio signals from a system a dozen lightyears away that could be interpreted as intelligent. Lunan claims there are at least three star systems with planets, at least Jupiter-sized but perhaps also smaller. Life as we know it needs an "ecosphere" with temperatures that can hold liquid

under strecket:

Därute i Vintergatan på 12 ljusårs avstånd från jorden skulle det kunna finnas planeter, som redan är upptagna av människor. Till denna förmodan kom ett sällskaps skotska stjärnmän vid en diskussion mellan en lång rad experter. Deras sällskaps redogör till och med för hur man skall resa dit. Docent Tor Hall är mera skeptisk. På naturvetenskapens nuvarande ståndpunkt är sådana resor omöjliga.

Av TOR HALL

BUDSKAP FRÅN VINTERGATAN?

ASTRA är en förkortning av Association in Scotland for Technology and Research in Astronomy. Dessa skotska stjärnmän anordnade 1972 en diskussion om astronomiens möjligheter, med deltagande av experter på teknologi, astronomi, logistik, psykologi och allmän rymdforskning. Ordföranden, Duncan Lunan skrev på grundval av inläst den nya komma Men and the Stars: Contact and Communication with other Intelligence (Sovereign Press, London, pris 3,50 lmb). Boken är ett med grundläggande och systematiskt förteckning över mötet; här till kommer en sensationell tolkning av vissa radiosignaler, som förbryllat forskarna sedan de registrerades i slutet av 20-talet. Till vart och ett av de 14 kapitlen finns litteraturlänksningar, sammanlagt ungefär 230 stycken.

inte alltför mycket avviker från vad vi känner till, har man infört begreppet "ekosfär". Därmed menas att en stjärnas ljusstyrka bestämmer livets villkor; möjligheten att flytande vatten kan existera på planetens yta bestämmer den övre och den undre temperaturen och därför också den inre och yttre gränzen av ekosfären. Vi måste också ekofären är matematisk rympunkt är följande definierad. Innebörden är givetvis två klotter, där den inre sfären anger vattnets kuglepunkt och den yttre dess fryspunkt. Mellan dessa klotter kan liv i vår mening existera. Den diffusa termen ekofär ger en gällning bland de miljoner — eller miljarder — planeter som bör finnas bara inom Vintergatan. 12 ljusår är ur astronomisk synpunkt inte mycket, men för våra sinnen är det en svindlande och närmast ofattbar sträcka; ett rymdskepp, som går till månen på två dygn, skulle behöva ungefär 1300 000 år för att uppnå detta avstånd från jorden.

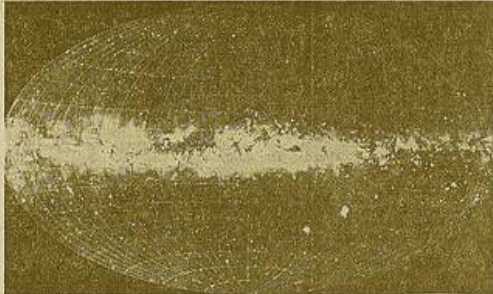
Ett svar hinder för alla resor i denna genre är den speciella relativitetsteoriens axiom, att ljusets hastighet i tomrum — ungefär 300 000 kilometer i sekunden — är en gränshastighet som ej kan överskridas. Efter — som Vintergatan har en största diameter av ungefär 100 000 ljusår, blir t.ex. en galaxomsegling just nu ett orimligt projekt. I minst samma klass som en Jordens runtsegling för 1000 år sedan.

Men Lanan och hans kolleger är inte skrämda av pessimistiska bedömningar. Tvollgen är de inspirerade av science fiction — vetenskap — många av dem är aktiva författare i genren, och flera presterar både vetenskap och vetenskap. Shepherd beskriver en resa som tar 109-1 000 år. Astronauterna, med samma dödföraktande disciplin som de japanska självordvilligarna under andra världskriget, vet att några skall överleva för att dra nytta av deras insatser. Under en 109-årig resa passerar 30 generationer förlö, och den ursprungliga besättningen är en ungdom. Inom 10 000 månader kan ha levat i rymdskeppet i ett sluttet kretslopp, med en egen fauna och flora. Detta ger associationer till Aniana, som skrevs före Shepherds Realities of Space Travel.

Bussard föreslår att rymdskeppet drivas upp till en sådan hastighet att det kan gema ibop interstellär gas (plasma), som sedan accelereras återut enligt den från både jetplan och månketter välkända reaktionsprincipen: en fusion enligt modell den lämda vätekatjoner skall på vägen bakåt induceras i plasmat för att ge drivkraft. Men den interstellära gasen är mycket tunn; där förekommer ungefär 1 till 2 atomer per kubikcentimeter. Nonweiler gör jämförelsen att om vi sätter trycket vid Jordytan till i så är trycket i plasmat 10⁻²⁴, d.v.s. ett decimiljard, som har 24 nollor innan vi kommer till etan.

Senare, i kapitel 11, kommer dock som en viss kompensation en utdrift redogörelse — med (föglats) underavdelningar eller olika fall — om hur vi bör möta besökare från främmande planeter. Det är ett avsnitt som bör tillfredsställa även en fantastisk byråkrat eller kommittéskretare — fast verkligheten var en sådan oerhörd händelse tvollgen inte går att stoppa in i konferensens systematiskt arbetande tröskverk.

Kapitel 12 handlar om de mystiska radiosignalerna, som rapporterades i tidsskriften Nature 1932 av Störmer och van der Pol. Först tolkade man dem i allmänhet som ekon från någon jordisk såldare, men senare framträdde en annan åsikt: Signalerna är typiska för ett



Vintergatan sedd från jorden. Panoramat är ett s. k. Aitoffprojektion av stjärnhimlen med Vintergatans diffusa bånd.

förök till kommunikation från ett obemannat rymdskepp. Om så är fallet, hur skall vi överträffa detta budskap? Lunan anser att härin lyks fram med dechifferingen, som han styrker med 21 diagram. Han anser sig ha bevisat att rymdsonden kom från en planet i närheten av stjärnan Bessel i stjärnbilden Björnvaktaren, dit avståndet är ungefär 200 ljusår. Denna planet började för 13 000 år sedan bli oböjlig på grund av hetten från dess expanderande sol. Invärnarna sände då obemannade rymdskepp mot Jorden för att ett desperat försök att finna en ny hemplanet, dit de kunde fara innan deras egen smälte ner.

Att man överhuvudtaget fått ut något för oss beprögligt ur dessa signaler är i och för sig intressant. Men hur kan vi veta att Lunans tolkning är entydig, den enda möjliga? Med god vilja, och en författad mening om ett annat ursprung än den rymd där Björnvaktaren drar sitt siderska koppel i Karlavagnens spår, bör man kunna få fram många tolkningar.

I de två sista kapitlen tar författaren fram den ut tidigare här beaktade av främmande civilisationer, och om de runtav är här nu. Det är väl närmast ett försök att konkurrera med den på detta område — ur förslingsynpunkt — långt mera framgångsrika Dämlen.

Lunans bok är ett exempel på en ny metod att behandla astronomiska månskälfande problem. Tv författaren blandar på ett ofta förbryllande sätt ihop enkla vetenskapliga resultat och tekniskt främliga projekt med ren vetenskap. Huvud följer att man ofta har svårt att tro honom. Lax, i hans tolkning av de färdiga radiosignalerna. Man vet inte på vilken stof han sitter — eller om han sitter på golvet. Detta hindrar inte att hans bok bör roa personer med intresse för olika former av utrottnin.

Tord Hall

water. 12 lightyears may not seem much but a spaceship that needs two days to reach the Moon, would need 180 000 years to travel that distance.. ASTRA has ideas on how to do the journey. The theory of Relativity declares the speed of light as the top speed possible. The Milky Way is about 100 000 lightyears wide. One hope for travelling far is the time dilation slowing down time as the speed increases, but a speed near the speed of light is needed, which is difficult to reach considering that a moonship reaches a max of 10 km/s, while 299 000 km/s is needed. It's necessary with a certain ship mass in relation to the useful payload. Already a trip to Tau Ceti 12 LY away gives totally impossible mass relations, and it wouldn't be much better if we could use hydrogen fusion. Turning hydrogen to helium would still need a start mass of a million tons to reach 99% of light speed on a trip to Tau Ceti. The figures become slightly better if you use the ultimate fuel, antimatter. A payload of 10 tons would for a roundtrip of 28 years requite 400 000 tons. And the problem how to make and isolate 200 000 tons of antimatter is here ignored, and how to protect Earth from the radiation at launch, etc. At the present standpoint of science it's totally impossible to travel in the Milky Way. This doesn't deter Lunan and his colleagues, who seem to be inspired by sf, as some of them are active sf authors. One Shepherd (in the book Realities of Space Travel) describes a journey that would take 100-1000 years. Like kamikaze pilots the crew knows it wont survive to the goal, and 30 generations pass during 1000 years and he original crew is just a legend. Up to 10 000 people have lived in the spaceship in closed environment with its own flora and fauna. It gives associations to Harry Martinson's Aniana. One Bussard suggests that a spaceship is given such a speed that it can collect interstellar plasma that can be used to drive a spaceship through fusion power. But the interstellar gas is very thin, about 1-2 atoms per cm3. If we say Earth pressure is 1, that density becomes a fraction with 24 zeroes. Bussard's "ramscop" for a ship of 100 000 tons need to scoop an area with a radius of 34 100 km, half the diameter of Jupiter. The book has several other ideas, like crews suspended in freezers, gene banks with "seeds of life" to spread over a new planet, ideas only hinted at but already used in sf. Though Lunan is enthusiastic before the prospect of meeting other civilisations his advice sounds like from Earth colonialism: best to shoot first and ask questions later. With that attitude we'll get few friends in the Milky Way, and we can't be sure aliens are worse shots than we. Later parts of the book has instructions on how to meet aliens, in ways that'd satisfy a bureaucrat or committee — though the reality of such a meeting would be reported in 1928 in Nature, by Törmer and van der Pol. They were first thought to be echoes from Earth transmitters, but another opinion later emerged: The signals were typical for attempts to communicate from an unmanned spaceship. If so, how to translate it? Lunan thinks he has succeeded decipher it, shown in 21 diagrams. He thinks it is proven that the space probe came from the star Epsilon, about 200 LY away. This planet began becoming inhabitable 13 000 years ago from the heat of its expanding sun. The inhabitants then in desperation sent out unmanned spaceships to find a new planets to go to before their own melted. To have found something comprehensible in those signals is interesting, but how can we now that Lunan's

interpretation is the only one? There should be other interpretations. The two last chapters discuss if we've had visits from other civilisations or if they are here now. It's more an attempt to compete with - from a sales perspective - far more successful *Däniken*. Lunan's book mixes exact science and the technologically reasonable with pure sf. It's often difficult to believe him, eg in how he interprets those radio signals. You don't know what side he is on. But his book should be of interest for persons interested in astronautics.

I hadn't heard of these signals from Epsilon, but this Duncan Lunan was a chairman of ASTRA, wrote a lot about interstellar travel and you can read about him and his claimed alien signal here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duncan_Lunan He claimed the signal came from an alien probe orbiting our Moon! There's more about the Les Shepherd also mentioned here: <https://www.centauri-dreams.org/2012/02/28/les-shepherd-rip/>

Ralf Parland (1914-1995) was a Finlandswedish author https://translate.google.se/?hl=sv&sl=auto&tl=en&text=https%3A%2F%2Fsv.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRalf_Parland&op=translate sometimes getting into the fantastic genres. Here are his views about robots, which should be of interest in today's AI context, "On Kind Machines and Lazy People", Svenska Dagbladet, Dec 8 1961:

*In one of his stories sciencefictionist Isaac Asimov tells about a robot which is very fond of children, but after a revolt against his masters caused by an electronic overload, is found in a factory where the situation is easier for old, unrepaired robots. He is still rebellious but when the little girl he had earlier cared for is threatened by a transport robot – she is playing it its way – he runs there fast as a flash and lifts her away in his metal embrace. The episode is worth think about. It has been shown that vi humans can construct mashines along our own patterns of sense, that may measure, count, hear, see, recognise, read, smell things etc. They are superior with playing chess and composing music. In Asimov's version of a future that seems already being here he has noted the good old "human factor" in the machines, since they are built according to a human pattern. These servants of humanity may also collapse, have fits of rage and even turn over to pure destruction. A certain Norbert Wiener already a decade ago created a simple little thinking electronic brain being which through simple little coupling in the network could be put in a status of reduced motoric effect or "being like drunk". The step from this to direct pathological short circuits is not big: an aircraft, ie a travelling missile, refuses to lift more than around 10 metres after which it hits the ground head on. You can read about such almost daily in the papers. What we would need today is a "kind robot" as with Asimov – one that suddenly corrects derailed behaviour and saves a little girl. In other words, we'd need a sort of prohibiting electronic peace brain, mounted on Atlas rockets, military Sputniks and all other terrible metal beings with nuclear nose devices.. This would happen: the general pushes a button, a fleet of pencil-shaped murder beings lifts like migrating birds to destroy the enemy land. But the built in "irrational" factor then reacts: in an elegant curve touching the border of the enemy country the air fleet turns to a course home and nestles at its home base again . The push button general of the enemy country has seen the similar event – his rocket fleet did the same. Both sides have shown their muscles and both sides have been saved by the built in "kind" robot. It's easy to realise that our world at present doesn't have any other choice than to rely on this last possibility that the "wise" man-built machine offers. Those who recently have read a book titled *The Flowers of Hiroshima* and in great detail witness how a little stupid atomic giant in a single minute destroyed 60 000 houses and 100 000 thinking human beings, must ask: has the original by the Creator build human robot lost her built in senses? Dogs who get stuck in boiling asphalt, black-burnt mothers with children on their back, naked as shock waves and heat have ripped of their clothes in the moment of explosion, fleeing through boiling air in the big city. All this is nothing compared to the effect of the megaton giants."*



Jag förstår inte varför folk måste sätta sig ner och skriva s. k. science fiction för att få tillfälle att beskriva upp- och nervända världar. Atombeväpnade rymdplåtar slår fredliga marsrobotar på käften, rövar bort undersköna kvinnor från Venus och hämtar radioaktivt stoff från Saturnus. Är sen då?

Om de där författarna hade ögonen öppna skulle de mycket snart upptäcka att förhållandena här nere är minst lika märkvärdiga och att det åtminstone bildligt har fallit ner stora bitar av månen på de sista åren.

Den största olycka som förr kunde drabba en människa var att bli fattig. Livets största sällhet bestod i att äga ett stenhus. Nu har hyresvärdarna i ett skänkt sambände erbjudits att få det stenhus de bod i skildes gratis men hyresvärdarna tackade nej. Möjligen reflekterade de på anbudet, om de slapp zapareya och därmed torde marsroboternas sällsamma förhållanden vara distanserade med flera bekte.

I ett annat sambände, där hushandshästen förde varens lika skriande som på alla andra ställen i landet, har man beslutat riva ett stenhus därifrån att det är en meter för brett, därför att fönstret inte sätter som på ritningarna och därför att det skymmer grändens rödbeter. Tyvärr är en science-fiction-författare skulle våga berättas en sådan saga ens från Saturnus med hopp att bli tagen på allvar?

Fast naturligtvis skulle han också bli betraktad som en sagoberättare från det gamla Österlandet om han berättade hur det gick till att hyra våningar förr i tiden (Bära tiotal är sedan). Hur folk häppte en särskild, ganska tjock broschyr som bara upptog adresser på lediga våningar. Hur hyresvärdens beskäftigt tog emot de hugade våningssökande. Hur han generöst utlovade ett första kvartal hyresfritt bara man flyttade in i våningen. Hur beredvilligt han

av Flips

lävade nya tapeter i alla rummen. Hur självklart han fann att man ville ha köket målat och taket i sängkammaren tonat i en grönare nyans.

Detta hör till forntiden.

I en stad upptäcker en affärsman att han kan sälja keppor billigare än alla andra om han nöjer sig med en måttlig vinst. Det blir allmän revolutionsstämning och t. o. m. polisen kopplas på fallet. Märkvärdigt nog kan man inte hitta något lagrum som förbjuder folk att nöja sig med litet. Sådant händer sällan på Mars och på Venus.

Sedan upptäcker en möbelhandlare samma sak. Larm slås bland fabrikanter och leverantörer och han hotas med avstängning. Sedan staten tagit på sig uppgiften att hindra folk från att tjäna för mycket är det lite mer än rätt att vi själva tar på oss den andra uppgiften, att hindra våra medmänniskor att tjäna för litet.

Det värsta öde som just nu tycks hota är att man vinner högsta vinsten i den här tvätmedelstävlingen. Då får man en villa som är värd 100.000 och en förut relativt lycklig människa ingår därmed i en tillvaro vars fasor inte tycks ha någon ände. Ty om hon vill ha villan, exempelvis att bo i, kommer fogden och vill ha så mycket pengar att den stackars villavinnaren måste störta till banken och skuldsätta sig över örnen.

Därtill kommer att den beklagansvärda människan kommer att få hela svenska folkets samlade vilja över sitt huvud, att döma av det skri av missnöje som varje dag stiger mot justjärnan i form av inbördesprater. Skall man gissa rätt på ett enklare sätt eller enkelt på ett rättare sätt?

Den första månkraketen är snart på väg. Jag förstår passagerarna. De vill naturligtvis ännuigen komma till en plats där saker och ting är som de skall vara och inte står på huvudet.

Parland wasn't alone being afraid of atomic bombs as the cold war turned hotter in the 1950's. But that the military would accept circuits that aborted attacks they launched was more than naive. Why build the missiles in the first place?

I have earlier had articles by the signature Flips in the evening paper Aftonbladet, who often wrote about our dear sf genre. I have now finally found out that it was one Gösta Rybrant (1904-1967), musician, critic, translator, author etc. Here's another sf column by him, Aftonbladet, Oct 25, 1954:

I don't understand why people have to sit down and write so called sf to describe worlds upside down. Atomic-armed space pirates hits peaceful Martians in the face, kidnap beautiful women from Venus, picks up radioactive stuff from Saturn. So what? If those authors had their eyes open they'd soon discover that the situation down here is just as remarkable and that there in later years in a figurative sense have fallen pieces of the Moon on Earth. The biggest disaster that could happen to you earlier was to become poor. The greatest joy of life was to own a stone house. Non tenants in a Scanian town been offered to get the stone house they live in for free, but they said no. Perhaps they'd think about the offer if they didn't have to do repairs and the strange doings of the Martian robots would be surpassed with several pounds. /AE: I understand nothing./ In another town where the shortage of housing is as big as in other places they've decided to tear down a stone house because it's 1 metre to wide, because the windows aren't like on the drawings and because it blocks the view of the neighbour's beets.. Do you think an sf author would dare to tell such a tale from Saturn hoping to be taken seriously? But he'd of course also be seen as a storyteller from the Orient if he said how you went about to rent flats earlier (tens of years ago). How people

bought a special, rather thick folder that only listed addresses to free flats. How the landlord received willing tenants. How he generously offered the first quarter rent free if they only moved in. How he willingly offered new wallpaper in all rooms. How he found it so obvious to paint the kitchen and the roof in the bedroom in a greener nuans. This belong to ancient times. In one town a businessman discover that he may sell coats cheaper than others if he just takes a moderate profit. There erupts an atmosphere of revolution and even the police is contacted. Strangely enough now law can be found that forbids people to be satisfied with less. Such things seldom happens on Mars and Venus. Then a furniture seller discovers the same thing. There is raised an alarm among manufacturers and distributors and threaten him to be cut off. Since the state has taken upon itself to stop people to earn too much, it's no more than right that we also take upon ourselves to stop our fellow beings to earn too little. The worst fate now threatening seems to be to win the top prize in washing powder contest. There you win a house worth SEK100 000, and a previously reasonably happy person will then enter an existence with horrors without end. Because if you want the house, to live in for instance, the taxman comes and wants so much money that the poor winner must rush to the bank and take huge loans. To this comes that this deplorable person will get the collective malice of the Swedish people, to judge by the discontent every day raised in letters to the editor. Shall you make the right guess in a simple way or the simple guess in the right way. The first moon rocket is soon on its way. I understand the passengers. They naturally want to come to a place where things are as they should and don't stand on their head.

The column is a bit odd, but it seems the writer is simply angry at some things (housing shortages, envy against cheap furniture sellers - early IKEA? -, the taxman taking too much) and claims its stranger than science fiction! Finally. about the TV series one sf Sam J Lundwall did, covered in *Intermission*, but this note has been left out (possibly because I missed noting paper and date, I still only have it noted as Autumn, 1969):

TV:s sk färggrupp producerade i våras en serie science fiction-program, dvs visionära bilder från sällsamma världar förutom vår egen. Man inbillade sig lite var att science fiction inte hade någon marknad i Sverige men där bedrog man sig alldeles. Svenska TV-tittare hänyrcktes av den här sortens fantastiska fantasier med prägel av marsianer och människan. Förra säsongen gav det besked till TV:s science fiction-serie att man fått fler supportrar än man hade vägat ana.

Nu går man ut med fyra inslag i en ny fiction-serie för att tillfredsställa alla de nyvunna intressenterna.

Framför allt är den franskproducerade filmen "Tusen solars eld" signerad av den världsberömda dokumentärfilmaren Chris Marker som har varit prisbelönad många gånger om, av intresse. En animerad skräckfilm som spelats in i spökstaden Stockholm kallas "Titta inte", ett reportage om och kring inte minst sk fiction-fans på kongress i Oxford får vi också se. Det är Torsten Jungstedt som pratar ut med John Henri Holmberg, stockholmsstudent och science fictionist.

Skådespelarna Erik Hell, Öllegård Wellton, Bert-Åke Varg samt Åke Ljungqvist får vi se i en lång novell som heter "Jakt-säsong" av Frank M Robinson. På onsdag introducerar Torsten Jungstedt serien i TV.

SVT's colour group last spring produced a series of sf programs, ie visionary stories from strange worlds outside our own. One would imagine that sf hasn't any market in Sweden, but that showed to be untrue. Swedish TV viewers were fascinated by this type of fantastic fantasies with Martians and moon men.. Last season the sf series had more supporters than they had dares to think. Now they'll offer four new entries in an sf series to satisfy the new interest. Most interesting is will be the French film "The Fire of 1000 suns" signed by the world famous documentary filmer Chris Marker, awarded many times over. There's an animated horror film shot in the ghost town Stockholm called "Don't Look Now", we'll also see a report with and about so called sf fans on a convention in Oxford, It's Torsten Jungstedt who'll be talking with John-Henri Humbug, a Stockholm student and sciencefictionist. The actors Erik Hell, Öllegård Wellton, Bert-Åke Varg and Åke Ljungqvist are seen in a novelette named "Hunting Season", by Frank M Robinson. Torsten Jungstedt introduces the series on Wednesday.

What's Netflix compared to that! New history Corner in nextish!

Mailing Comments

Comments to latest EAPA and N'APA. Intermission started in APAs, that's why - though some lucky outsiders get it too. I want to promote the fanzine world! It gets too boring if fandom is reduced to serious conventions with uptight lectures, mumbling panels, expensive bheer and no fannish program! Fanzines should lead fandom, underpinning it's about text, writing, literature! Do a fanzine yourself (eg as a PDF) and find out the fun of it.

Henry Grynsten: That "equality causes problems...slows growth and requires oppression" would be "a political opinion. What I say is based on science...opinion vs science, and I choose the latter". Well, your social sciences claims are also political opinions. In last issue I detailed all the problems with social sciences, incl a huge replication problem, that results can't be replicated so it's not science! It's opinion vs

opinion, but I choose the opinion that results in the greater good, while you don't. Increased growth is greater good. So is more personal freedom. ☐ ☐ ☐Cro Magnon were "more fit and didn't have any of the lifestyle diseases that we have as they didn't consume the poisons that we do". I doubt there were more fit. Their food access must have been uneven, at best, with unbalanced nutritional value. They were prone to hunting accidents, attacks by wild animals, infighting in the group, their respiratory system would degrade from smoke in crammed caves or huts. There may be individual Cro Magnons more fit, but on average we're better off today, despite lifestyle risks that usually only appears post-middle age...an age Cro Magnon didn't even reach! ☐ ☐ ☐ "If you have more brain cells, within the same species, of course you have more smarts." No, our grey matter won't become smart by itself. It needs the right stimulation and training. ☐ ☐ ☐ "We would without doubt die faster if we were transported to his (Cro Magnon) world." With just a little preparation - say, a two-day survival course - a modern man would be far better in surviving! A modern person with just basic survival training would know how to make a water filter to prevent catching etc, would be able to start a fire faster, would know the meaning of stars and how to navigate, how to use different materials, etc. ☐ ☐ ☐ "Only humans can have an IQ." You mean an IQ including some sort of consciousness...yeah, could be true, but it could change. (I think it may take about ten years, and then we'll have an AI with near-human characteristics.) ☐ ☐ ☐ I should look that Aldiss story up! Sounds interesting. (AI as a god has been used before, as you note.) ☐ ☐ ☐ It's likely Vermeer and others used Camera Obscuras and it's possible WA Mozart wasn't the creator of all his music, as well as that Dorothy Wordsworth wrote some of the poems. ☐ ☐ ☐ But I'm not sure computers are detrimental to dexterity skills! Think of the skill you need to type on a keyboard! Think of all those gamers who need to move pointers or cursors in different directions and shoot. They need to work against a very fast computer. (But handwriing suffers from using keyboards. I know that. My longhand stinks.)

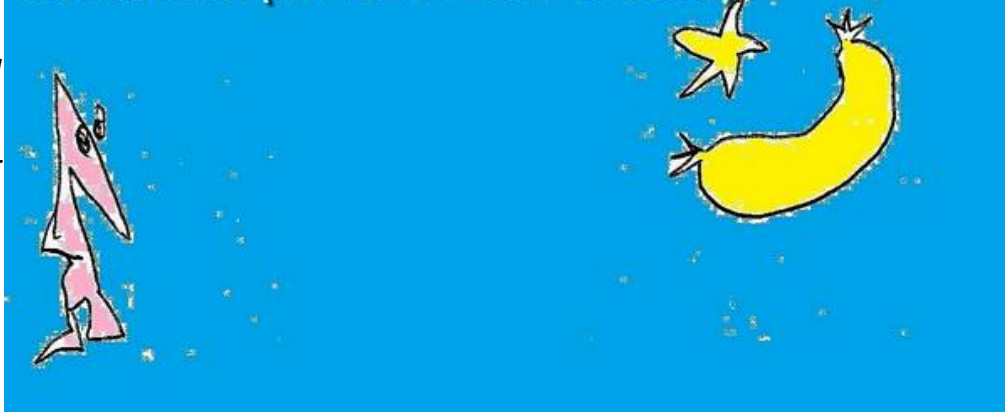
William McCabe: Yeah, establishing your ID may be a hassle. I've suffered from bad tactics of the host system for "validating" different accounts sometimes. Those constructing computer systems are paranoid and often make it unnecessary difficult for users. ☐ ☐ ☐ A contributor to another one's publication has no right to demand a certain layout. That's up to the editor to set. ☐ ☐ ☐ Yes, I believe translations will be heavily affected by AIs. ☐ ☐ ☐ Well, Björn Ulvaeus said Sweden couldn't get the ABBAstars for the 2023 Eurovision shows as they depend on technology that can't easily be moved. (I think ABBA music and ABBA members will turn up in the show in one way or another anyway.) ☐ ☐ ☐ Interesting that it was in Bradford the Doyle fake fairies were done... ☐ ☐ ☐ The SEFF scandal involved thousands of Euros (in today's purchasing power) and about 250 voters. It was far from "small" and the bad consequences (incl lots of gaffiations) have been big and long-lasting.

Heath Row: I'm against having quotas for certain groups to enter university, get a certain job, or whatever. That's discrimination against all who are "diversified" away. You can't fix wrongs with more wrongs. ☐ ☐ ☐ From what I've seen Ais write pretty boring fiction, so I'm not worried yet... I should try Sudowrite, but don't have time for it right now! (The web site is at <https://www.sudowrite.com/> and says you may try it for free.) I'll ☐ ☐ ☐ try to look up the videos you mention. I love amateur films... ☐ ☐ ☐ Have you really told the Swedish American Institute about Intermission? Will I hear from them?

Garth Spencer: I think con committees are too damn' bureaucratic! No, Finns, Hungarians, Basques weren't lone "native Europeans". For Sweden archaeology suggests our area saw hunters and farmers migrate here from the south 4-5 000 years ago (there was a land bridge from Denmark and Germany), in step with the melting ice caps. These people could originally have come from the east European steppes. Some sources - validity uncertain - claim the Germanic tribe of the Goths, that later invaded Rome, came from southern Sweden, which incidentally today is known as "Götaland" (approx "Gothland"). DNA studies have in recent years helped clarify migration pattern. Here's a study that says genetics indicate that a portion of the Goths did indeed come from southern Scandinavia. <https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1672288&dswid=-6681> I don't think AIs are smart enough for war strategy yet.

Mark Nelson: For me RPGs or gaming in general doesn't belong to fandom, by which I mean the literary fandom with roots from the early pulps, the Worldcons, the sf fanzine sphere etc. As for cons and expensive hotels, I think we should revive the old fannish tradition of crashing! Let fans borrow your floor and a blanket, in someone's hotel room or with a local fan. Earlier, this used to be important, when fen were younger and poorer. Those who hypocritically whine about "diversity" strangely never reflect upon that the high costs of sf cons (hotels being on top of that list) is highly excluding. Earlier generations of sf writers were often much better! Writers today waste words as the ease of producing text with a computer makes you sloppy. Also, much sf today is too dystopian, rather than optimistic, following predictable populist trends. Let's get back to the classic sf novel which used to be 150-200 pages and was basically optimistic about space exploration! Word-burping is the fault of word processors. Typewriters forced you to be careful with your words.

Arnie blushed as he saw the wiener wormhole. (III: Lars LON Olsson)



Jefferson Swycaffer: Poul Anderson may have been a better writer than Isaac Asimov, but Asimov had some grander ideas: the Foundation, robots... Also, Asimov had more humour than Anderson. I've become quite fond of his Black Widowers stories. I like single-threaded stories best. Sub-plots usually only cause complications without any real meaning and make the real story harder to follow.

Garth Spencer: I haven't heard that cider bubbles are methane... Quick googling indicates they are CO₂, just as in beer. Intellectual material isn't property! It's concessions (think: equal to a mining concession.) If property, it would last longer than 70 years...forever, and be inherited down the line. Today you'd have to negotiate with 500 000 descendants of Shakespeare to stage "A Midsummer Night's Dream"! If there is discrimination ban it and enforce the ban. But don't "diversify" away and punish others who are innocent through quotas! report sf and fandom news and when I cover the Hugo and Nebula nominations I have noticed that they for many, many years have a heavy over-representation of so called minority collectives. This is unhealthy for the genre! White, middle-aged male writers (who are a majority!) are pushed aside. If you don't award people for their merits and punish anyone working hard doing their best quality suffers. It'd be nice with a little bit more of "engineering porn" à la old Analog. Science and engineering is the strongest forces for progress and needs to be dealt with in literature! I want more science than social fiction!

George Phillies: What story from old New Worlds was it John W Campbell had wanted for Analog? Good luck with your writing!

Kevin Trainor jr: About Chicon: People without humour are dangerous. It may sound like a cliché to say "I have nothing against women, Latino, black etc writers, but..." But, I'm against - and have always been - giving any group special privileges or quotas. We must see people as individuals, not an anonymous part of a collective. Special collective privileges means discrimination against innocent individuals who aren't in the cosy warmth of "diversity" policies.

John Thiel: I don't find much to comment. Sorry.

Samuel Lubell: Of course, award nominations don't have formal quotas. But people are influenced by the Zeitgeist (Spirit of the time) so many will nominate according to what is PC. Very interesting to see your 1989 thesis! Mark Twain was indeed much into technology, being among the first writers to use a typewriter and also investing heavily in a typesetting machine, that didn't work too well and lost him a fortune. (The big typesetting winner was the Linotype, which I covered in an earlier intermission). I haven't read much by Hawthorne - maybe I should.

All you beloved readers: Time to round off. See 'ya! I don't usually run LoCs, but review this super zine in your blog/site/etc. (Or why not do a fanzine yourself? It's easy and something old fandom needs more of!)

Слава Україні!