



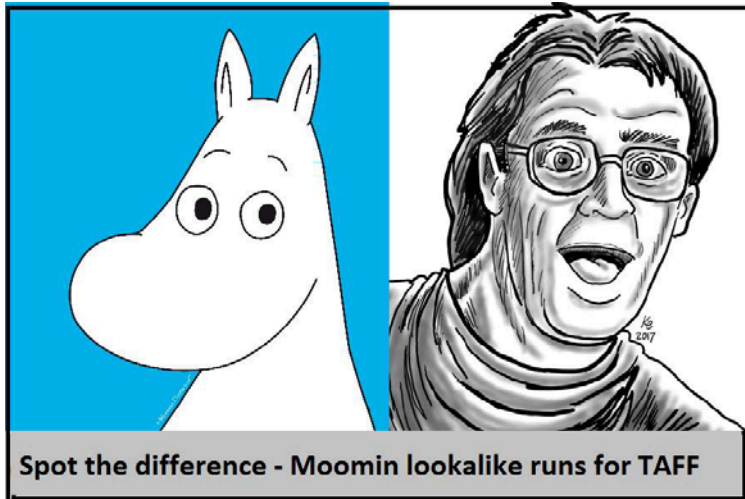
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November 5, 2016

Even before reading *Askance #38*, I had heard that some southern states take football quite seriously. In terms of seriousness, the residents of those regions rate it somewhere between world war and jihad. If you were to judge by appearances, you might think the residents of South-Central Los Angeles were even more serious about football. In those parts of town, a football game just wouldn't be a football game without a few casualties. However, appearances can be deceiving. The folks in South-Central don't really care that much about football. They just like shooting people.

I came to a startling realization while reading Taral's article on the Hugos. I think fans spend more time and ink talking about the Hugos than they spend talking about sex or religion. That must say something strange about our priorities. Taral's article also made me think of the movie "On the Waterfront." In that movie, Marlon Brando laments that he could have been a contender. He could have been **SOMEBODY**. Does being a Hugo nominee make you somebody? Does winning the award make you somebody? I rather hope not. If you need a nomination or a win to be somebody, the rest of us must be nobodies. That thought makes me feel so insubstantial.

My regard for the Hugos has changed over the years. I first heard of the Hugos back in the fifties which was before I entered fandom. I thought the awards represented some sort of divinely revealed wisdom. I definitely thought they were important. At the time, I didn't think I would ever actually attend a worldcon. The thought that I might even get to vote on who received the Hugos was beyond my wildest thoughts.



In the early days, I tried to keep informed on all the categories. These days Best Novel is the only category that still gets my full attention. As you may recall, I was the one who submitted the motion to get rid of the fan categories altogether. That obviously didn't work. Despite this year's results, I don't think "real" fanzine fandom has made a permanent come-back. Next year, we will probably have more whodat nominees.

I wonder what would happen if we held a Corflu-like gathering for electronic fanzine fans. As a group, they seem to be far more hostile than paper fanzine fans. Maybe they would kill each other if they actually met face to face. That might be one way of eliminating the competition.

MILT STEVENS

{Well, Milt, it's unlikely that the fan categories of the Hugos will ever be eliminated, especially since certain parties have discovered that they are easy pickings to cop some hardware if you can line up a good number of voters for that particular category since the fan Hugos traditionally garner fewer votes in the first place when compared to the major awards. Ergo, the Fan Hugos will remain.}



Paul Skelton
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Stockport, Cheshire
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November 3, 2016

I agree wholeheartedly with your *Fugghead* comments, but can't really enlarge on that as it would effectively be LoCing Dan's fanzine in a letter to you. By an amazing coincidence (is there any other sort?) I've recently been reading some copies of the third chapter of Bill Donaho's *Habakkuk* from the 1990s. These featured Ted White's fanzine review column, *The Trenchant Bludgeon* and in the third issue of that iteration (Spring 1994), in a review of Art Widner's *YHOS 53* Ted took issue with something rich brown wrote in his *Totem Pole* column therein. Ted wrote...

'It has two topics. The first is a suggestion with which I agree – that fanzines should talk to and about each other more. There are solid reasons why this should occur – but rich mentions only two: 1. More egoboo and 2. "it would be a simple way to let fans relatively new to the microcosm know... that they (fanzines) form a community."

But that's the long way around. The short reason is that it would make for a better and more solid community. I mean, to the extent that fanzines ignore each other and talk only about themselves, there is not only the **appearance** of greater isolation between them, there **is** greater isolation. Fanzines begin to develop private followings, little coteries, and to share readers less and less. The reducto ad absurdum of this is a *LAN'S LANTERN*, whose readers are largely ignorant of, or hostile to, other fanzines – and who bloc-vote Hugos.



Of course I don't see that last as much of a problem anymore, but I still believe that sense of community is as important as it ever was. So good on you for this piece! Also, practicing what we preach, between us, Ted and I have mentioned three fanzines. Of course you'd need Mr. Peabody's Wayback™ machine to establish anything other than a trans-temporal sense of community with them, but nobody ever promised this fandom stuff would be easy.

Speaking of it not being easy, one thing fandom is good for is keeping your feet on the ground. *Askance 38* for instance has taught me that I am a lot more stupid than I thought I was since I could make neither head nor tail of Dr. Bright's piece. Speaking strictly personally you understand, I couldn't decide whether it was utterly pretentious twaddle or a monumentally straight-faced piss-take (in which latter case of course it would be both). Somewhere on the second page I realised I didn't care either way and simply gave up. In passing it on to you I think Joseph Major definitely got the better part of the deal. This sort of thing is why I stopped reading sercon SF fanzine.

It must be galling to be nominated for so many Hugos, to come so close, yet always to fall tantalisingly short. It must be especially galling to lose to Joe Mayhew who I don't believe has a fraction of Taral's talent, and especially-in-spades when one of the losses was to Teddy Harvia who has always struck me as managing the seemingly impossible task of 'making a living' in fanzines as a fanartist whilst being singularly unable to draw. Kipling wrote that if you can "Meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two impostors just the same" then "Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!" It must be even harder if you never quite manage to meet with the triumph but sup on a diet of interminable disaster, so in managing this Taral must indeed be a veritable Man among men. I have mentioned to Taral in the past that I thought he suffered by being seen as a Jack of All Trades, very good at them all, but never quite the best in any single one. On further consideration I'm not sure if I wasn't underselling his artistic talent on the basis that I didn't particularly care for his oeuvre of what I termed "Fuckable Squirrels". I was not, however, in any way responsible for him not winning any of the Hugos for which he was nominated, as he wasn't nominated for 1979, which was the only Worldcon of which I've ever been a member, and at which I almost certainly voted for Harry Bell, and simmered with suppressed resentment when Rotsler won it. Mind you that resentment was as nothing to that which almost the whole of UK fandom felt on seeing the brilliant BBC



radio version of *Hitchhiker's Guide* lose out to the empty glitz of *Superman*. I did like the way Taral's article was illustrated with a cartoon in which one of the creatures was reading the *SFWA Bulletin* upside down. Of course I read this on my tablet, which meant I practically had to stand on my head to verify this, given that when I inverted the tablet, the picture re-inverted itself. Of course I could have tried to remember how to reset the setting that does that, but come on. That was over a year ago. Nor am I the only

one who has this sort of memory trouble. You should see Cas get increasingly frustrated and angry as she attempts to reset the extremely user-unfriendly clock on the electric oven. Mind you she does eventually manage it these days, whereas for many years our kitchen spent six months of every year in a different time zone.

Art-wise, the covers were superb, particularly the back cover, and your main *Hinterlands* picture this time was brilliantly evocative of a lush and inviting alien landscape.

SKEL

{As you can see thish's – sounds like I'm speaking without my teeth in - Skel, the main "Hinterlands" picture is opposite of last time's pic. Not so inviting, eh? Unless you're an iguana, scorpion, or some sort of desert creature. () I must say, I like your take on Taral's being "a veritable Man among men." Bet*

he'd like that, too. And this for the guy who draws "fuckable squirrels". I could have voted for the 1979 Hugos, but didn't, and I doubt that if I had cast my vote for Taral Wayne that year, it would not have made a difference because Bill Rotsler won by a large margin. Even so, I think Taral is deserving of a Best Fan Artist Hugo someday. Ah, in a perfect world...

(*) To me, science fiction fandom is definitely a community. Lots of people describe fandom as an extended family to the point of absurdity, but that makes sense. Your thoughts that fanzine fans are an isolated island in the larger sea of Fandom is another point that rings true, but funny thing, it is on that island where most of my close friends in fandom reside. We share interests, which is good. SF Fandom has become too farging big – it **has** been too big for nearly 40 years now – so it really shouldn't surprise anybody that people of like mind will glom together. There is some overlap here and there, but by and large I think fanzine fans will always hang out with and take care of each other. That probably explains why I have this sneaking suspicion that I'm going to be this year's TAFF delegate. Or maybe not. In a couple weeks we will all find out.}

i also heard from

As usual, a fair number of folks wrote to me in one way, shape, or form – typically via emails – and these folks are as follows:

Brad Foster – besides conversing in a DNQ fashion, Brad submitted the cover for *Askance #40*, the tenth Annish. Do I need to say anything else here to whet your fannish whistles?

Mark Leeper In response to a throw-away comment on the typos in *Askance #38* (that a fanzine isn't a fanzine without typos and being late), Mark opined, "Sir, you have insulted The MT VOID and its staff."

Murray Moore – Informing all the recipients on his fannish mailing list that the deadline for the FAAn Awards nominating period is close at hand (end of March)

Andrew Porter – Andrew passed along the word of the passing of British fan Mike Dickinson at the of of 69 on January 20, 2017. I am sorry to hear this since I was hoping to meet him later this summer.

Steve Stiles – He is just being Steve Stiles. What a guy.

Felicity Walker - She thanked me for writing a loc on *BCSFazine*, which is one of the longer-running clubzines these days.

Taral Wayne – Once again, he sent an article. Actually, Taral send two; the first one he yanked back and that was just pubbed in the current *Alexiad*, now on efanzines.com.

Alan White – Alan sent a couple TAFF illustrations, used in the issue you are reading.



Regional Convention Calendar

This year may very well go down in history as the year when the surreal became real. As most normal people know, the United States has a new president who did not win the popular vote by a large margin – nearly 3 million votes – and that fact sticks in his craw like a rock wedged in a chicken’s windpipe. Yet despite the lunacy of daily life on this pebble in the sky, science fiction fans continue to plan, host, and attend gatherings of like-minded fen. Once again, here is an edited version of science fiction related events in the Texas-Louisiana-Arkansas-Oklahoma-New Mexico region, with a few others tossed in of a general nature – NASFIC and WorldCon, for example – because they are such major events. I hope to see some of my readers at the cons Valerie and I will be attending.

ConDFW XVI

A Science Fiction & Fantasy Literary Event

February 10-12, 2017

Radisson Hotel Fort Worth Fossil Creek

2540 Meacham Blvd

Fort Worth, TX 76106

DFW Metroplex area

Author GOH: Rachel Caine

Artist GOH: R. Cat Conrad

Literary science fiction & fantasy convention featuring writing/publishing based programming, science programming, an excellent collection of guests, art show, a charity book swap and auction, & a slew of non-traditional activities such as the Sci-Fi Spelling Bee.

Brought to you by the Texas Speculative Fiction Association, a 501(c)(3) organization. 100% volunteer-run.

RevelCon 28

March 10–12, 2017

Houston, Texas

RevelCon is THE only fan-run relax-a-con/zinefest in the Southwest US. It's a fab weekend of vids, panels, art, zines, merchandise, food and frolic! [Note - Revelcon is an adults-only/18-and-over con.]

All-Con the XIIIth

Multi-format convention featuring autographs, gaming, comics, & a burlesque show.

March 16-19, 2017

Crowne Plaza North Dallas-Addison

14315 Midway Rd

Addison, TX 75001

(DFW Metroplex area)

For three days All-Con provides an umbrella of content supporting fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Renaissance, Anime, Costuming, Theater / Performing Arts, Mystery, Art, Crafts, Collecting, and Film Making. To help 'give back' there are several charity events at the convention every year.

All-Con is fan organized and built on community participation. We offer a track dedicated entirely to cross promoting clubs, conventions, and events. The best part is you may cross promote as a panelist for FREE as long as we have space and your content is appropriate. Don't forget to bring flyers for the flyer table.

AggieCon 48

Anime, gaming, & cosplay con.

March 24-26, 2017

Brazos County Expo Center

5827 Leonard Rd

Bryan, TX 77807

Bryan/College Station, TX area

We like to call ourselves a "conglom-con." We cater to all fandoms, including Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Gaming, Horror, Anime, and many more.

See also [AggieCon Facebook page](#)

Brought to you by [Cepheid Variable](#)

Furry Fiesta

Texas' only furry convention

March 24-26, 2017

Intercontinental Dallas

15201 Dallas Pkwy

Dallas, TX 75001

(DFW Metroplex area)

Dealer's Den, Artist Alley, Art Show, Video Room, Charity, and more!

Furry Fiesta is produced by the Dallas Regional Anthropomorphic Meeting Association (D.R.A.M.A.), a 501(c)(7) Not For Profit Organization.

FanExpo Dallas

Comics, Sci Fi, Horror, Anime, Gaming.

March 31-April 2, 2017

Dallas Convention Center

650 South Griffin Street

Dallas, TX 75202

(downtown Dallas, TX)

Comics, Celebrity Guests, Artist Alley, Panel discussions, Cosplay/Masquerade, Movies, Comics, Toys, Video Gaming, Games, TV, Horror, Original Art, Collectibles, Anime, Manga & More! Over 60,000 fans in over 600,000 square feet. Presented by Dallas Comic Con.

Anime Matsuri

Anime, Japanese Culture, &

Related Arts Convention

April 7-9, 2017

George R. Brown Convention

Center

1001 Avenida De Las

Americas

Houston, TX 77010

Hilton Americas Houston

Houston, TX

Greater Houston, Texas

metropolitan area

Panels, Gaming, Anime

Theaters, Dealers Room,

Artist Alley, Contests, Club

AM (the ultimate anime dance/rave), and more!



MagCon 9

Mad About Games Convention. Gaming con.

April 1-2, 2017

SAT 9 AM - 2 AM

SUN 9 AM - 7 PM

New Caney ISD Annex

21569 U.S. 59

New Caney, Texas 77357

(Northeast Houston Area / Montgomery County. Northeast up US59 from Greater Houston Area)

Huge, FREE Board Game Library, RPGs, Miniatures, Board Games, Door PRIZES! Plus, it's a SCHOOL FUNDRAISER!

FREE, Convenient PARKING !
The Flea Market!
AFFORDABLE Admission, Concessions, and Hotel
THE SNACK CART!
IT'S A LOT OF FUN!

CyPhaCon

Southwest Louisiana's premier Anime, Gaming and Scifi convention

April 7-9, 2017

Lake Charles Civic Center

900 Lakeshore Drive

Lake Charles, LA 70601

Lake Charles, Louisiana area

Anime Industry Panels, Anime Screenings, Artist Alley, Board Games, Charity Auction, Cosplay Events With Prizes, Dealer Room, General Cosplay All Over, Guest Panels, Live Action Role Playing, Role Playing Games, Video Gaming, Workshops.

Sponsored by the non-profit Future Possibilities Foundation.

South Texas Comic Con

April 28-30, 2017

McAllen Convention Center

McAllen, Texas area

Comics, celebrities, art, collectables, cosplay contests. Plus literacy initiative in conjunction with McAllen Public Library fighting illiteracy in South Texas.

Sponsored by Ka-Boom Comics & Collectibles.

Yellow City Comic Con

Gaming Con

April 28-30, 2017

Courtyard Amarillo Downtown

724 South Polk Street

Amarillo Texas 79101

Amarillo, TX area

Guests, Panels (including fantasy writing), gaming, cosplay, video screenings, and much more!

Official charity: Children's Miracle Network Hospitals

This fanzine supports _____.

(a) smoothies (b) milkshakes (c) chocolate milk (d) dark lager (e) all of the above

WhoFest 4

A fan celebration of everybody's favorite Timelord.

May 5-7, 2017

Westin DFW Airport

4545 West John W Carpenter Freeway (SH 114 at Ester's Road)

Irving, TX 75063

Dallas/Fort Worth MetroPlex

Special Guest: Peter Davison

WhoFest is a production of the Dallas Future Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the advancement of science, literature, and music for the future of all mankind. This material is published by the Dallas Future Society in furtherance of its literary and educational purposes. The opinions expressed are those of the editors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Dallas Future Society, its officers, or directors.

Comic Palooza: Texas' Largest Comic and Pop Culture Event

Comics & gaming con

May 12-14, 2017

George R. Brown Convention Center

1001 Avenida de las Americas

Houston, TX 77010

Two host hotels:

Hilton Americas–Houston

1600 Lamar

Houston, Texas 77010

Hyatt Regency Houston

1200 Louisiana Street

Houston, TX 77002

(downtown Houston, TX)

Comicpalooza's mission is to provide the best and biggest annual multi-format pop culture convention in the southwest region of the United States, serving not only the fans of comics, science fiction, fantasy, video and table top gaming, anime, music and film, but also as a trade show and showcase for the studios, publishers, and manufacturers in those industries.

Largest comic con in Texas. Live Art Event, Comicpalooza Film Festival, industry panel discussions, roller derby games, quidditch matches, live music, dancers, circus performers, and much more. Comicpalooza is also one of the largest art events in Houston, featuring scores of artists as well as numerous writers, celebrities, and performers, and much, much more!



I have no flipping idea what to support in this box. It's your turn!

[Space City Comic Con](#)

Space City Comic Con is the Gulf Coast's fan-culture convention and family entertainment, pop-culture expo for all ages. For fans of comics, sci-fi, fantasy, gaming, literature and art.
(Presumably May 2017)

Greater Houston, TX area

A number of actors, artists, cosplayers, and industry guests.
We love bringing fans together! Your Houston hometown comic con!

[Arkansas Anime Festival](#)

Anime con for Northwest Arkansas.
(Presumably May 2017)

Springdale/Fayetteville Arkansas area

Cosplay, video games, two viewing rooms, tabletop gaming, anime activities, guest panels, Japanese food, displays by local artists, some local vendors, door prizes (we are working on a dance) and much more!

For more information, [send email](#)

Sponsored by [Realms Anime](#) at 2579 N. College Ave. in Fayetteville, AR

[A-Kon 28](#)

The Southwest's Largest Anime Convention
Anime, comics, cosplay, media, & gaming convention
June 1-4, 2017
Hilton Anatole
2201 North Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75207

(DFW Metroplex area/ downtown Dallas)

Dealers Room, Guests, Seminars & Workshops, Multiple Video Rooms, Gaming & Tournaments, Premier Film Showings, Art Show & Auction, Autographs, Banquet, Costume Contest, Goodie Bags&Freebies, and Musical Concert
A-Kon is the oldest continually running, anime-based convention in N. America.

[Texas Comicon 2017](#)

State's Premier Pop Culture Event(TM). Comics & gaming
June 23-25, 2017
San Antonio Event Center
8111 Meadow Leaf

In cyber-space, no-one can hear you fanac.