

F I L E 2 2 7 0



QUAKE SMASHES L. A. FANDOM

Before dawn on January 17, an earthquake registering 6.6 on the Richter scale rocked the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles, home of the LASFS clubhouse, inflicting substantial property damage on local fans and pros, but no fatalities or major injuries. Many experienced minor injuries and narrow escapes.

Genny Dazzo had just gone into the living room with a coughing fit when the quake started, overthrowing a wall unit which landed on her side of the bed and struck Craig Miller in the head, inflicting a "goose-egg-sized" bruise and lingering headache.

Harlan Ellison was working at home in his second-floor office when the quake struck. Rushing downstairs in the dark he fell and broke his nose, and suffered numerous bruises. Susan Ellison is all right. All the possessions and collectibles displayed on every wall and shelf were thrown to the floor, with many valuable things destroyed, including a favorite art deco glass dining table and the chandelier which fell on it.

Dangerous Visions Bookstore owner Lydia Marano was buried in books and bookcases at home and had to be dug out by Art Cover. The book cases fell even though Art and Lydia had taken the precaution of bolting them to the walls. In fact, the bolts are still in the walls. The shelves and books in the store were also thrown into disarray: reportedly, it will take them a week to reopen.

Bookstore owners Alice and Marty Massoglia told Dave Berry they were unharmed, but had also been forced to close A & M Bookcellars for cleanup.

At this writing (the day following the quake), there are still conflicting

reports about the condition of David Gerrold's house, near the epicenter of the Northridge quake, though Gerrold himself is unharmed. Monday, Karen Malcor told CompuServe readers, "There is major structural damage to the house and pool, and no water, gas or electricity." But Tuesday, Val Ontell told Craig Miller that she phoned Gerrold who said his house is fine, although a major mess inside.

The house that Michael Mason and recent Loscon co-chairs Shaun Lyon and Christian McGuire moved into on January 8 was substantially damaged. Shaun's summary of the structure damage included a chimney and block wall both on the verge of collapse, fourteen structural cracks, including one above the dining room table on the vaulted ceiling, a collapsed deck behind the house, a burst water heater, and a broken window. The list of appliances and furnishings destroyed by the quake was echoed over and over (with variations) by other home-owning fans: "We've lost two VCR's, two televisions, my monitor and HP IIP laser printer, two bookcases, three torchiere lamps, my glasstop lowboy table and the entertainment center."

The night after the quake Dennis Miller slept in his garage, according to Lisa Greene, because "his house is not connected to the foundation and the garage is."

The quake brought down the cinder-block walls on three sides of Elayne and Bruce Pelz' home, as it did to many other homes in their Granada Hills neighborhood, nearby the quake epicenter. Much more disturbingly, they discovered one of their cats, Scrabble, had been killed by the falling bricks. Bruce and Elayne are unharmed. Their house may have structural damage and they, too, suffered a great deal of destruction to household goods and collectibles.

Marv and Noel Wolfman's house was

seriously shaken -- a great deal of damage caused by falling bookcases, china cabinets and things flying off of shelves. (Noel had been away in San Diego when the quake hit.) Larry and Fuzzy Niven, Jerry and Roberta Pournelle and Steve and Toni Barnes were also reported safe and sound.

Bob Null reported the LASFS clubhouse had no structural damage, but the contents of the library had fallen off the shelves and blocked the door. A post on CompuServe reported the Ackermansion was structurally intact and Forry safe, but his collection is turned out on the floors. At my apartment there was little breakage: only one of half a dozen bookshelves toppled, but it hit a picture and ripped it loose from the wall. A Hugo rocket dived off the top of another bookcase, smashing a glass lamp. There was much more damage and breakage at my mother's house in Sylmar -- even more extensive loss than from the major 1971 quake.

LASFS chairman of the board, National Guard sergeant Ed Green, is a member of a unit activated in this emergency. Beverly Warren immediately reported to work at the city Department of Water and Power on what would ordinarily have been a holiday, Martin Luther King's birthday.

Fans in the U.S. and Canada used CompuServe, GENie and the Internet to share news of friends in the quake area, overcoming AT&T's blocking out-of-state calls to the area, and the power and phone service failures that kept L.A. fans from posting for hours after the quake. Posts on the net listed pros and fans confirmed to be safe. A typical example of friends' persistence in the face of the emergency was Janice Gelb's call to me at 6:45 a.m. -- I told her about the experience and she described CNN's quake coverage to me, the first I knew about the condition of the worst-hit areas.



FIRE THREATENS FANDOM ON TWO CONTINENTS

- **Sydney:** Raging fires burned up more than a million acres of Australian forest and grassland, propelled by 60 m.p.h. winds. The fires roared to within a few miles of downtown Sydney on January 8. Television networks broadcast footage from helicopters of whole streets burned out in some northern and southern suburbs. Worried by the reports, former DUFF traveler Marty Cantor called Sydney-area fan Ken Ozanne. Ozanne

said the fires came within a couple kilometers of his home, but his family had come through unharmed, and so had other fans including Jean Weber and Eric Lindsay.

Laguna Beach: Helicopter scenes of urban hells were all too familiar to Los Angeles-area fans who witnessed local wildfires from their backyards in October. The front page of the *Los Angeles Times* blazoned a picture of hillside properties in Laguna Beach reduced to charred foundations: the picture showed Skyline Drive, Greg Benford's address, but his home was in a neighborhood spared by the fire. The news gave Bill Rotsler a pleasant surprise, for he had already taken from the shelf all the autographed novels Benford had given him over the years, intending to help Greg replace his own library.

Altadena: Fifty miles away in Los Angeles County, fire forced fans from their homes in Altadena. Lynn Maudlin's midwest vacation ended just in time for her to spend all day flying home, knowing there was a chance the flames had already claimed her home. It came within three-quarters of a mile to her, and even closer to the home of Gary Anderson and Janet Wilson Anderson.

Gary told friends on CompuServe, "The Altadena fire didn't get us, quite. But it was a bit close. We are physically located in Pasadena, California, right up near the Altadena border. The firestorm passed about 175 feet to the

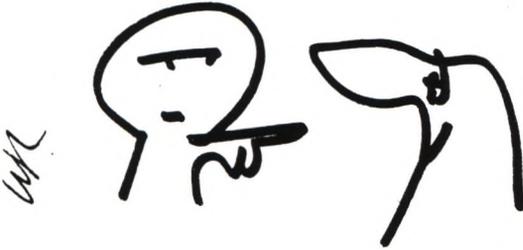
west-northwest of us on Wednesday, on its way down the canyon. A house one street north and two houses over got torched, and another one around the curve to the west. Both were wooden shake roof construction. At one time we had fire on three sides of us, and I was making plans to jump the south canyon walls.

"We had been watching since about 6 a.m. I had an appointment in Irvine at 9 a.m., and had been getting up anyway, when the power glitched and a whole raft of electronic devices set about informing me of this by beeping and blinking. The fire was just coming around the Eaton Canyon portion up in the hills, and an ominous red glow lower down behind Pasadena Glen said the fire had crept down the mountain already. So we got dressed, and started doing some selecting of things to take, packing, etc. This was interspersed with watching the news until the cable went at about 9 a.m. Then the power went at about 9:50.

"We could see the red glow and the tops of leaping flames everywhere to the north, northwest, and a bit to the northeast. The houses just across the canyon were burning, now, and more to the north where we couldn't see

SKY

I DESIGNATE
YOU 'CHICKEN
LITTLE!'



them directly but knew what the big puff of gray smoke meant. The ashes were falling thicker than most snowstorms, and you could tell the heat was intense by the fact that carbonized leaves, still intact, would float down out of the sky and only crumble upon landing. We got out the hoses and turned on the sprinklers.

"The sheriff's department gave us an evacuation notice at about 10 a.m. We had had a chance to pack really important stuff, (the cats, photo albums, artwork, some of Janet's personal library of costume books, some clothes, some of the computers, business papers, tax papers, and such) and Janet got it down to her aunt's house. I stayed to water stuff down, and the sheriff finally caught me

out watering down the trees and chased me off about 10:30, just after the fire had roared down the canyon and one of the houses had caught. I explained that I had a tile roof, and the principal danger was from embers hitting my trees and setting them on fire, but they wouldn't listen. So I drove down to Janet's aunt's place. Janet and I sat watching coverage for 5 or 10 minutes, then went back up the hill. They weren't letting anyone up, but Janet and I made it back by walking up the hill sorta inconspicuously and we both started watering everything. Of course, power was off (VERY spectacular explosion when the big transformer went, on up the canyon) and things were frenzied. They wouldn't let us bring any vehicles up, resident or no, so we were trapped. (The sense of this escapes me).

"The earthquake preparedness stuff came in handy. But the watering kept any embers from igniting the trees or grass, so we lost nothing but sleep, peace of mind, and civilization for 3 days. Now we are working at the somewhat daunting task of putting all the stuff back where it belongs.

"We were very lucky, and there are a bunch of folks who weren't. A suggestion: decide in advance what is really irreplaceable and what isn't. Make a list. You never know."

NESFANS BACKDRAFT TWO NEW FELLOWS

Fireman Kurt Siegel and NESFA president Gay Ellen Dennett have been selected Fellows of NESFA. Kurt declared the honor took him by surprise. "I really had never considered the possibility that I would ever even be *considered* for Fellowship," wrote Kurt on CompuServe. "And, barring remarks from the Peanut Gallery about making Gay Ellen a Fellow, and the plastic surgery it would entail, I'm even more (insert appropriate adjective here, since I'm at a real loss for words!) to be in such stellar company."

ANTIDOTE FOUND FOR CHATTY FAMILY NEWSLETTERS

Newzine editors look forward to the holiday season because we can count on finding lots of juicy tidbits in those family letters folded in the greeting cards. For instance, let's see what happened in the George Alec Effinger/Debbie Hodgkinson household last year:

"Our older cat, Kitty, got a federal grant to sleep in the sun. Our younger cat, Baby, had a temporary job substitute-teaching particle physics at UNO for the fall semester. The Jovians came for a two-week visit, but their mothership blew a vacuum tube and all the testers that used to be in the drug stores the last time they came have been removed; they had a terrible time getting a new tube, but they finally left. They said they had a good time. The Effinger-Hodgkinson Cooperative Venture was declared a free republic by Boris Yeltsin. George was asked to pitch for the Cleveland Indians, but he needed to finish a story for Marty Greenberg, so regretfully he had to say no. Debbie finished sixth at Indianapolis in her '77 Fiat, then turned in the programming schedule for NOSFFF."

GILLILAND/UBA VOWS

D.C.-area author and fanartist, Alexis Gilliland wed Elizabeth "Lee" Swanson Uba on October 31. It was his second marriage and her third. The bride was given away by her 15-year-old son, James. Claimed Alexis, in the family greeting card, "He tried to charge \$1.25, but I said No." Charles Gilliland, 28-year-old son of Alexis, was the best man.

They held an informal reception before the wedding at the Washington Science Fiction Association's 5th Friday party, "featuring a case of Asti Spumante and a wedding cake shaped like the Great Pumpkin rising out of

the pumpkin patch, with Mortitia and Gomez on top."

Weinstein/Speck Wedding Set

Hogu raconteur Elst Weinstein will wed Carol Wolf Speck on February 13 in Pomona, CA. While the mundane can focus on their perfect professional match -- the pediatrician, Elst, and the family law attorney, Carol -- there's clearly a deeper bond, one that cannot be disturbed by Elst's friends retelling all the mischief they've been in together for the past 25 years! Meantime, don't show up for the next regularly-scheduled LASFS Board of Directors meeting: it's been cancelled as a courtesy to L.A. fans attending the ceremony.

ORGAN DONATION SAVES LIFE OF VANCOUVER CHILD

"If you are willing to accept an organ donation to save your life, then you don't need to think too long and hard about whether or not to be a potential donor," wrote Tony Brearly, father of fan artist Sarah Brearly, in the October 29 issue of the *Vancouver Sun*.

Brearly explained, "The week before Easter, I was told to face the fact that my daughter was losing her fight with a chronic lung infection caused by cystic fibrosis -- she was going to die, the doctor said. I still choke when I remember my wife asking through her tears to sign the papers needed to donate my daughter's organs when the end came.

"But thanks to a kind family who, in their grief, agreed to their child's organs being donated, my daughter received new lungs that saved her life three days later.

"Now my grief is replaced with exhilaration as I watch my daughter regain her health. We are enjoying every moment of her new life."
[[Source: BCSFAzine 246]]

Aussie Fandom in Jeopardy

Catherine Kerrigan returned to Australian television's version of the game show *Jeopardy!* on August 11 to compete in heat three of the "Superchallenge." She muffed a \$1000 Double Jeopardy question and settled for second prize, a weekend at the Sheraton Noosa resort including air transportation -- for two, of course.

Claire Andrews appeared on *Jeopardy!* last July 15. She also finished second, entitling her to choose something from a sponsor's clothing line. [Source: *Thyme* 93]



Running Proven Dangerous to Fans' Health!

Teddy Harvia winced as he penned his note to *File 770*: "The new year sees me in a little pain, even as I write. I injured my wrist when I fell running down my hall in sock feet. It makes drawing by hand or computer hard. I'm going in for X-rays next week."

Benefit For Burglary Victims

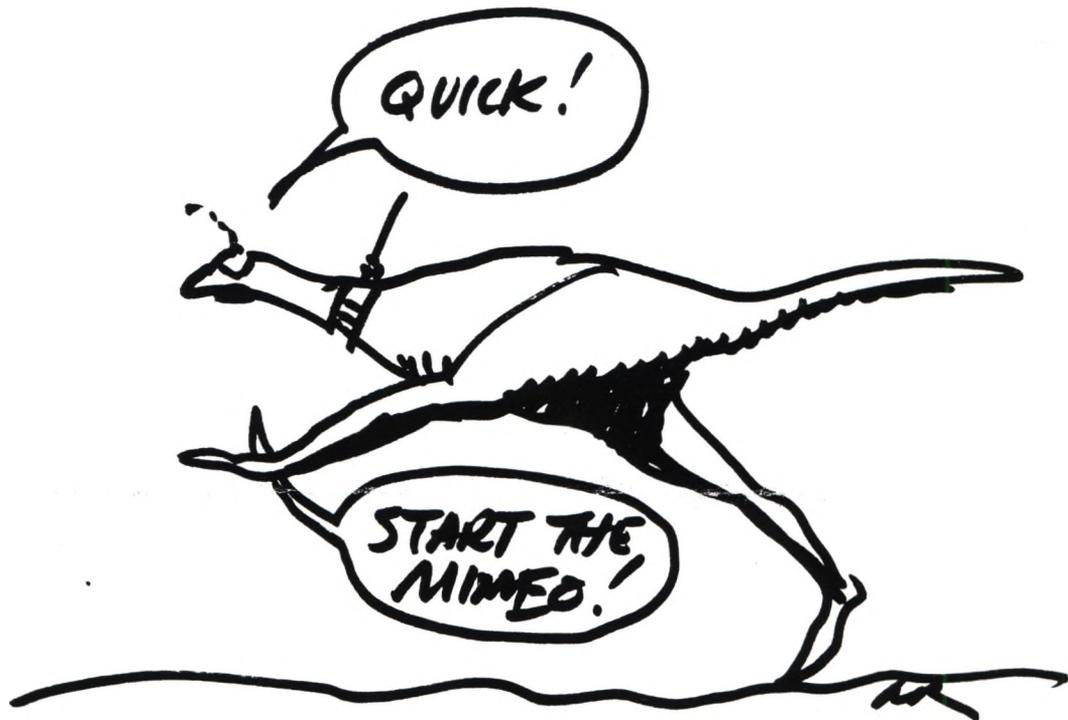
Dean Dierschow was ready to head home after ConFrancisco, his Subaru wagon fully loaded with his and friends' belongings. He pulled up behind his hotel and went to pick up his children. When the three came downstairs they discovered the Subaru's rear window had been smashed with a brick. Among the items stolen were artist Erin McKee's cash box, art supplies and an unfinished artwork, Dave Clement's guitar case, accessories and satchel and wooden boxes and calendars belonging to Phyllis White. The loss amounted to \$2,600, much in cash.

Friends of the Minneapolis fans raised money to help the burglary victims. Musicians in the fannish community also held a benefit concert at Dreamhaven Books, headlined by Cats Laughing, Piebald Dog, Decadent Dave Clement and Sneaking Suspicion.

SOCIAL INSECTS ATTACK LASFS

"Bugs, Mr. Rico!" A summer-time yellowjacket infestation of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society clubhouse ended in 301 casualties: 300 yellowjackets bit the dust after one bit Len

Moffatt... The unexpected thing is only half a dozen were ever seen at one time flying around the meeting room, but after several dozen accumulated on sticky-strips more aggressive steps were taken to get rid of them by cover vents with finer mesh to seal access into the building, and spraying some of their likely hiding places.



Whatever Happened to Edmonton Fandom?

Cath Jackel, caretaker president of the hibernating Edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Arts Society, has "some news more recent than '85."

"In 1991, Catherine Girczyk, last editor of *Neology*... won an Aurora award for best fanzine editor. In January 1992, the Edmonton SF club was put into hibernation. The society still exists, and I'm still president, but we ain't been doin' nuthin' lately.

"A lot of the older ESFACians have got mortgages, kids, jobs/no jobs, and don't come out to much except cons.

"The last con held here was Noncon 14 in 1991, which I chaired. The 1992 Noncon (the *Alberta* regional convention) moved to Vancouver, BC, where a frenetic bunch of ex-Edmontonians put on a wonderful weekend.

The chair, Adam Charlesworth, won himself a 1992 Aurora for fan organization.

"Noncon this year will be in Calgary, with GoH Pat Cadigan. It is chaired by John Hilton, a young man who has just set a new regional record for overwork: this summer he also chaired ConVersion (also in Calgary), which happened in July. Meanwhile, there do not seem to be any plans for fan-run cons in Edmonton. The younger generation fill their time with the SCA (the current king and queen live here). Star Trek/Who, gaming and BBS's. There is also a group called the Live Role Playing Society who do live-action gaming. But combat is handled by dice-rolling."

Some members of Edmonton's earlier fan generation are still going, involved with the local semipro fiction magazine, *On Spec*, which Jackel administers ("I try to keep things running"). It's edited by a collective, mostly writers with non-fannish backgrounds.

Georges Giguere checked in, too, having

been lately at work "repairing movie projectors in the smaller centres... When in Edmonton I'm writing for a local arts rag called *SEE* magazine under the pen name Yorg Fewchuk." He notes that Winnipeg fan guest of honor Robert Runte has finished his Ph.D., "Doctor Robert? Rad. Awesome."

BECK CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Martha Beck's holiday letter mentions, "Hank and [his brother] Andre go to Las Vegas once a year and this time the visit fell over my birthday [October 1] -- I don't go, as my cheap heart can't stand to lose monies that way -- book, art work, etc., that's different! So I stayed home alone, and felt very sorry for myself on birthday." The day wore on without Martha hearing from any family members, "and I was really getting upset, when the phone rang -- Earl Kemp and son were down at the local fast food place and called, asking if I wanted company for the night, as they were on their way to Arkansas to visit his parents. I hadn't seen Earl since '72 and it was the best birthday surprise ever!"

PLAY FOR PAY

Jon Gustafson, co-editor of the 1994 Winnipeg Worldcon (Canadian) Program/Souvenir Book, is seeking fiction and nonfiction for possible inclusion in the upcoming publication. For the first time in history, so far as Jon knows, the authors will be paid for work included in the Program/Souvenir Book -- the rate will be one cent per word for fiction and nonfiction, paid upon publication. Work from both professional and amateur writers will be considered. While there is no "theme" for the book, work with a Canadian focus will have a slight edge in the selection process. Closing date for submitting material is May 15, 1994. Submissions should be sent to Jon Gustafson, 621 East "F" Street, Moscow, ID 83843.

FANART PUBLISHING PROJECTS

Want to cultivate an early appreciation in kids of fine fannish artwork? Or are you simply a fan of Ray Capella's illustrations? You can please yourself either way by sending \$2.00 for a copy of the *Science Fantasy Coloring Book* from Weather Vane Press, 1244 E. Elm Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91775. Ray Capella has adapted twelve pieces of full-page art, some previously seen as fanzine covers, to coloring book format. What's the proper color for a centaur, the Metropolis robot, a wizard's castle, the alien customers of Draco Tavern? It's all up to you.

Meanwhile, the 1994 *Charlie Fund Fantasy Art Calendar* has been announced. This calendar is named after Orson Scott Card's son, who is stricken with cerebral palsy. Since 1990, ConTraction, a Michigan science fiction convention organized by Forbidden Knowledge, Inc., has sponsored this effort. All proceeds are donated to United Cerebral Palsy to research this disease, as well as assist in funding for the equipment for mobility and rehabilitation for those afflicted. The cost of the calendar is \$7.50 plus \$1.00 for mailing. For more information, contact The Charlie Card Calendar, P.O. Box 716, Ypsilanti, MI 48197-0716.

You're also invited to contribute to the Fan Fund for Australia and New Zealand by purchasing *The Ever So Slightly Unusual Dinosaur Colouring Book*, drawn by Gerard Ashworth, Sheryl Birkhead, Brad Foster, Ian Gunn, Teddy Harvia, Craig Hilton, Lewis Morley, Marilyn Pride, Darren Reid, Helen Reilly, Martin Reilly, David Russell, Jay Shell, Steve Scholz, Kerri Valkova, Bill Ware and Phil Wlodarczyk. Send \$5 for the booklet and \$2 for postage, in the currency of your country, to Karen Pender-Gunn, P.O. Box 567, Blackburn, VIC 3130 Australia.

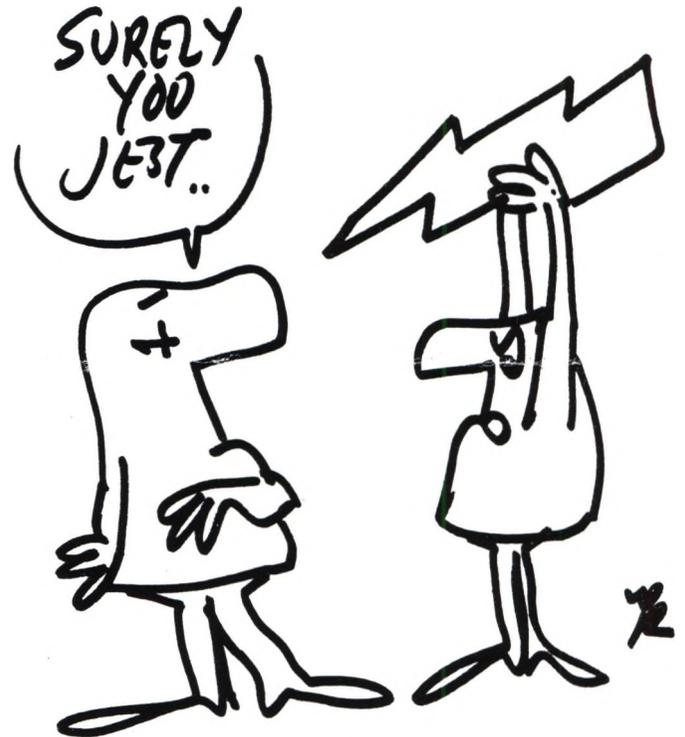
ANSIBLE BITS

Dave Langford sent two bundles of *An-sible* -- several more recent than the ones I'd been getting as riders with Melbourne's *Ethel the Aardvark*! But Dave guarded his product against the ravages of age by enclosing notes to update several of the stories, including:

Ansible 73: "John Brunner, sad to say, is now sending out a depressed circular about the poor state of his marriage with Li Yi ('I asked whether she would take 20,000 pounds to go back to China....')" Langford adds, "The Brunner bit in [issue] 73 has been superseded by a calmer JB circular in which he decides that he'd be OK (and so would his marriage) if he had some money....so they're selling the long-time mansion in South Petherton and moving to, probably, Brighton. Hope it has the desired effect."

Ansible 74: And from the July issue: "Dave Langford whinges that *PCW Plus* magazine is axing his legendary column (along with other outside contributions) as part of a cost-cutting exercise. He confidently expects his millions of fans not to write in and complain."

Ansible 76: "Worldcon post-mortems go on and on. The curse of fame hit your editor in October, with the arrival of ConFrancisco's 'follow these easy instructions to complete your Hugo!' kit -- little pewter plaques to be stuck around the base, depicting dead sf notables from Mary Shelley to Isaac Asimov (glue not supplied). Less unworldly fans might have written GIFT -- NO COMMERCIAL VALUE on the customs chit. Instead, I was amusingly landed with over 15 [pounds] in duty, VAT and UPS penalty charges for collecting same."



Dave's latest note continues, "The London pub meeting is back at the old stand in the Wellington, although I understand that some of the media folk may be selflessly keeping the crowding down by meeting the Florence Nightengale's down the road."

"David Pringle made up his own list of the 50 Most Powerful People in British SF with tongue rather firmly in cheek, to publish in *Interzone* as a response to the Di Filippo article. Then he changed his mind."

"I was fascinated to learn from Tom Perry that *An-sible* has been censored on the electronic nets. For some months now I've been providing a slavish minion (Charles Stross) with a disk version which he arcanelly puts on Use-Net. This is apparently copies regularly across

to GEnie where so many US sf people seem to hang out -- and regularly deleted by the prudes in charge of the net, whenever rude words are detected in it. (I.e., roughly whenever I quote Greg Pickersgill or Abigail Frost...) Sounds a bit unconstitutional to me.

"You mean no one was saying breathlessly in the post-Hugo elevators, 'ANDY HOOPER BEAT OUT NO AWARD! HE'S ON HIS WAY TO THE TOP!?!'"

THEN AGAIN

What delayed the latest issue of Rob Hansen's fanhistory zine *Then* from reaching faanish mailboxes? In August, Dave Langford went behind the scenes to get the story: "Rob Hansen's *Then* is still delayed, owing to the consecutive breakdown of every single duplicator on which the thing was to be produced. 'Five!' said Mr. Hansen in an exclusive interview. 'Fucking five dead duplicators! I can't believe it!'"

By now everyone on Rob's mailing list has received *Then 4*, an extraordinary 100-page chronicle of British fandom in the 1970's.

FANS STILL BREAKING SCALES

"Just as frogs have their choruses and whales have their doleful songs, so fans of science fiction and fantasy have filk," begins the article on filksongs published in the November 1 issue of *The Wall Street Journal*. Word of the article's existence spread rapidly through fandom, but few have actually seen it. Martin Morse Wooster clipped it for *File 770*.

Writer Tessa DeCarlo walked around Con-Francisco and observed, "Science fiction fandom and its subsets, including filk, are a strange amalgam of high intelligence and sometimes unappetizing weirdness. Judging from the crowd at Worldcon 1993, fans are more likely than most people to wear thick-lensed glasses and untrimmed beards, to consume large quantities of candy and caffeine at all hours and to weigh substantially more or



less than actuarial norms." DeCarlo engages in such comedic stereotyping for several more lines, and not until she returns to filk does she achieve a degree of accuracy and insightfulness.

DeCarlo extensively quotes from filksinger Kathy Mar, and dealers Bob Laurent of Wail Song, and Mary Creasey of Random Factor, who candidly admitted the sometimes strained relationship between filking and music. Said Creasey, "Filkers have a partially deserved reputation in fandom as a bunch of caterwauling no-talents. There are some highly talented performers and songwriters, but if you walk into a room where filking is going on you're more likely to hear something bad than something good." But this admission was balanced by an explanation of "bardic" versus "chaos" filks, and a general tolerance for the vocal abilities of anyone who wants to join the experience.

DeCarlo finished almost poetically, "At around 3 one morning during Worldcon, as filkers in a windowless hotel conference room crooned a Kathy Mar ballad about the failure of the space program, the poignant lyrics and mournful voices also seemed to be commenting on filk itself."

OBITUARIES

Ron Holmes, editor of the first British sf new-zine, *Science Fantasy Review*, died September 21. Holmes' *SFR War Digest* gave Vince Clarke his first fanzine appearance in 1940. [[Source: *Ansible* 76]]

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Garth Spencer, 2051 East 8th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C., V5N 1K5 Canada
Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas, 15 Janson
Rd., Tottenham, London, N15 5HQ U.K.
Maia Cowan and George "Lan" Laskowski,
1306 Cherokee, Royal Oak, MI 48067-3386

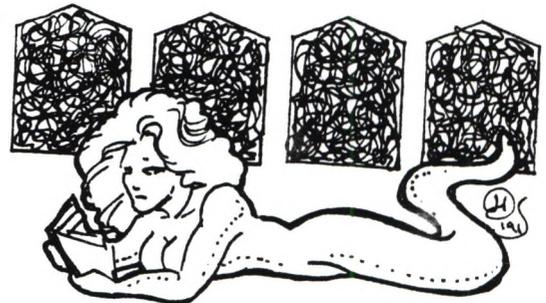
Roger Wells, 3430 Pacific Ave. S.E. #A6-353,
Olympia, WA 98501
Donald & Jill Eastlake III, 318 Acton St.,
Carlisle, MA 01741

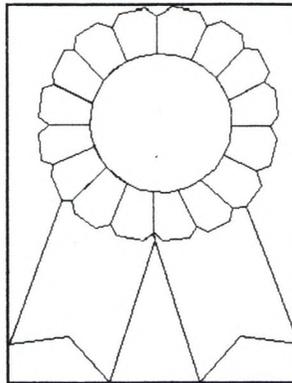
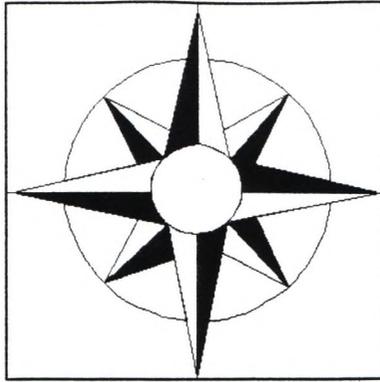
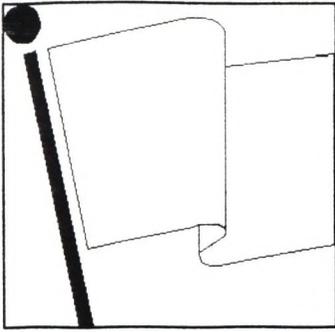
Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas declare that "Yet more bourgeois cultural respectability looms." The self-styled "aging radicals" have celebrated their tenth year of marriage by buying a house -- "Well, going hugely into debt with a building society, anyway." You can begin using their new address at Christmas, "Subject to the surveyor's satisfaction with the damp course guarantee certificate and the mortgage lender not accidentally dropping a nought from the cheque."

Maia Cowan and Lan Laskowski, likewise, are "pleased as we've ever been about anything to announce we've bought a house."

Peggy Ranson notes she "Came back [from ConFrancisco] with bronchial pneumonia and a move to go through. Will pass on new art when up to snuff. Who wouldn't want the opportunity to become a babbling idiot in front of one's thousand odd nearest and dearest [at the Hugo ceremonies]?"

Donald and Jill Eastlake's holiday letter notes that the house they moved into in March, 1993 was "built by architect Scott Simpson for himself and his family in 1977, and featured in the November 1981 *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine as 'The Basic Box'. ...At night it gets **dark** and **quiet** and sometimes you hear the scream of foxes."





Conventional Reportage

Windycon XX (November 12-24, 1993)

Chicago, IL

Notes by Mike Glycer

It was time for Windycon to look back with pride. The twentieth Windycon committee asked every guest of honor they'd ever had to return, including this year's headlined GoHs, Joe Haldeman, Kelly and Laura Freas, Algis Budrys, fan Bill Higgins and toastmaster Barry B. Longyear.

Longyear introduced Haldeman by saying, "He's president of SFFWA, which is a little like being chairman of the grievance committee at Auschwitz. It's not that there isn't anything to complain about, but what good does it do?"

And Longyear broke up Kelly Freas by claiming to have gone all through high school sitting in the back of algebra class drawing pictures. When

Barry went to Pittsburgh Art Institute, the same place Kelly Freas went, though decades before...that's when Barry found out that art is a lot of work. "While everybody was drawing I was in the back of the room writing equations!"

Joe Haldeman reminisced about his first GoH-ship at Windycon, his first anywhere. Joe's funniest moment came as he tried to describe what the sf field was like in those days. He pointed to three helium birthday balloons that had gotten trapped between two air vents on the ceiling and were wildly oscillating in place: they represented the dominant figures, Heinlein, Asimov and Clarke. A purple balloon in the corner of the ballroom reminded him of Harlan Ellison. And so on.

Fans got off their share of one liners during the con. Winnipeg chairman John Mansfield joked about a piece of flatware, "This must be a smof

knife -- it says 'twist to remove'."

Then Leah Zeldes Smith, one of Confusion 20's guests of honor, guessed this is the first time anyone who had been sued by a convention was later brought back as its guest of honor. (Leah was party to a suit for control of the con in the early 1980s).

Even before the con, Ross Pavlac and I filled an idle hour at a mall art gallery which had several lifelike models of velociraptors posed in the window. We could foresee them becoming a fad -- the pink flamingos of the 21st century. But not til the price comes down from \$12,500 a copy!

Loscon XX (November 26-28, 1993)

Burbank, CA

Brief Comments by Mike Glycer

Loscon's escape from the doldrums was aided by a new site, the Burbank Hilton, that fit its needs so well it should put an end to the con's wandering from hotel to hotel. The Con Suite was exceptional: most year's it's been quite forgettable, but this time a new crew calling themselves "Consume" made it the equal of any I've visited. There were more and better parties than usual. The program, organized by Craig Miller and Noel Wolfman, was well-attended and went very smoothly.

Hour 25 is the Friday night science fiction show aired on Pacifica station KPFK, started many years ago by Mike Hodel and now capably hosted by Warren James. The price of phone hookups for remote broadcasts forced *Hour 25* to give up its live Loscon broadcast many years ago, but James has kept the relationship alive by inviting convention guests to the studios. This year Roger Zelazny and Rick Sternbach fielded Warren's questions and callers' comments for the first 90 minutes. Warren also enlisted Ed Green, president of LASFS, and me to give information about the club and convention during the last half hour. So at the end of *Brain the Size of a Planet* we hurriedly climbed into Ed's car and basically kissed his parking space goodbye, then went to the studio.

SMOFCON 11 (December 3-5, 1993)

Lexington, KY

Report by Mark Olson

Smofcon 11, held last weekend in Lexington, KY and run by Scott and Jane Dennis, was IMHO one of the best (if not the best) we've had.

Nearly 90 people attended from all over: England, Canada, Boston, NY, NJ, Baltimore, DC, Orlando, South Florida, Atlanta, New Orleans, Austin, LA, the Bay Area, Portland, Seattle, Colorado Springs, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and too many points in the midwest to list them all. It was a large and interesting crew of people.

Festivities started Thursday night with a party (Priscilla and I got in around 11 p.m. and it was going strong and continued well after we collapsed at 2 a.m.) Friday morning was free, but there was an introductory program in the afternoon followed by dinner (the hotel had good restaurants, but New Orleans it wasn't!).

The evening featured another cleverly-designed icebreaker which divided up the players (nearly everyone) into four committees and asked each committee to plan a small regional (pick date, topic, GoHs, site, time, membership goal, and rates) to be held in River City and then to devise ways to solicit memberships from the non-players who were supplied with play money. TrebleCon, a filk convention ("There's Treble in River City") won but all four were promoted very creatively.

The main program was Saturday on the general subject of "Tradeoffs". There were two sessions, the morning on "The Convention's Core" and the afternoon on "Money". Each began with a summary session where the topic leaders discussed the broad issues. We then broke up into topic groups and discussed one of four related but more focussed issues in a non-panel format. Afterward, we reassembled and the topic leaders summarize their group's ideas. The format was innovative and fairly effective.

The balance of Saturday and Sunday were devoted to a single track of program items in the



more ordinary panel format.

The entire program and most of the topics were videotaped by the SF Oral History Association, and Scott and Jane plan to do a Proceedings.

The program was interesting, but being Smofcon, the people and the discussions away from the panels were probably the most valuable. I know that they were for me -- this is the one place where you have the time and the opportunity to sit down and talk with conrunners from all over.

There was a **lot** of interest in future Smofcons. There were two proposals for 1994, a longstanding proposal by LA and a new proposal by TR Smith for the DC area. After some general discussion and brief presentations, the DC bid withdrew in favor of LA. Smofcon 12 will be held next year in LA following Loscon. (They planned on running two weeks later, but a number of people who expected to be at Loscon requested one week later and no one objected. LA will see what they can do.) The current rate is \$30 and Mike Glycer was accepting memberships.

Brief presentations were made for potential future bids, some for specific years, some not: Colorado Springs (Kent Bloom & Mary Morman) (prefers 1995, I think); Austin, TX (Fred Duarte & FACT) (strongly prefers 1995); San Jose, CA (Crickett Fox, Kevin Standlee, *et al*); Seattle, WA (Richard Wright, *et al*); Boston. MA (MCFI).

There was also a proposal to hold a Smofcon sometime in the summer of 1995 somewhere in one of the mid-Atlantic states run by a consortium of 1998 bidders. There was an overwhelming reaction **against** permitting two Smofcons in one year, and a lot of comments afterward, particularly from Midwestern fans, that the summer is already too crowded.

The site of the 1995 Smofcon will be decided next year in LA.

A significant part of this Smofcon's success was due to the way the suite was laid out. It was two two-bedroom suites connected together in a long

chain so that it ran bedroom-parlor-bedroom-bedroom-parlor-bedroom. The beds had been removed from the middle bedrooms creating a resource room (computers) and an overflow program room. One parlor was the con suite and the other the main program room.

Because it kept everyone together this arrangement made for a very connected convention and really encouraged people to talk. (4th St. Fantasy also manages the same sort of closeness among its members by having a very compact physical setup.) This particular set of facilities was close to capacity, however, and I don't think it would have worked with another twenty attendees.

The Con Suite was run by Sue Francis and a group of Midwestcon people and was as pleasant and comfortable as you would expect it to be. (It had a theme of Derby Day in December with lots of local recipes, an amazing number of which involved bourbon.) In many ways, Smofcon's Con Suite is more critical to its success than its program since we go to talk and exchange ideas (to network if you'll forgive the expression) as much as to sit in formal panels. And in a nice touch, the program book featured recipes for the food featured in the Con Suite.

A fine and productive time was had by all and we're looking forward to next year.

ARISIA REPAYS LENDSMEN

Joe Ross, president of the group which holds Arisia each year in Boston, took me by surprise with his comment in the October issue of *Mentor of Arisia*: "It's been a good year for Arisia, Incorporated [1993]. A year ago we were seriously in debt. We had put on three cons which, despite their successes as enjoyable cons, all showed financial deficits. It appeared we could not afford another financially disastrous con and remain in existence. Now we are solvent. Now we have run one fully successful con and we know we can do it again..."

The issue offered no measure of the dimension of the problem or recovery, but fans of this popular convention will be glad they can count on it for the future.

Australian National Convention

Paul Ewins, editor of Melbourne's clubzine *Ethel the Aardvark*, supplied another compelling glimpse into Australian convention-running fandom in his reply to a letter in the October issue about awards and guest expenses:

"The belief in the credibility, and indeed all knowledge of the Ditmars [*an award given at the Australian National Convention*], is confined to fandom. I do not often encounter the 'who cares it's all raffle/joke/fixed' attitude that is often displayed toward some major (i.e., U.S.) film and music awards when people start talking about the Ditmars.... Take away the fannish categories and you might as well just give a Ditmar to every one making more than \$5000 per year from SF in Australia, chances are you wouldn't give out many awards. To my knowledge the only people who make their entire living from SF in this country are the retailers, but I don't see much support for a 'Best Mail-Order Catalogue' category or a 'Best T-Shirt Design' category, either. At least the current combination of 'pro' and 'fan' categories ensure enough worthy nominees in each section to get a meaningful result.

"Swancon 18 reportedly made around \$6,000 clear profit, an almost unbelievable amount for a local con. I would imagine the major differences in price between Australia and North America would be hotel costs and perhaps public liability insurance. I'm not sure whether CoHs at North American cons are normally paid appearance fees, but it would be a healthy fee that matched the cost of a couple of business class airline tickets that is usually the minimum an Australian con can hope to get away with. If you have to pay an appearance fee (which is fairly normal for actors, etc.) the cost can be horrendous."



Future Worldcons

Here's an update about some of the bids for Worldcons at the end of this decade. We begin with 1997, focus of the next Site Selection vote (to be held in Winnipeg.)

San Antonio in '97: Capitalizing on goodwill generated by the 1985 NASFiC, hosted by many of the same people, bidders would call their Worldcon by a similar name: The Second Occasional LoneStarCon Science Fiction Convention and Chili Cook-Off.

The committee wants to bring the 1997 Worldcon to the downtown San Antonio Convention Center. The site has two halls greater than 120,000 sq. ft. in size, large ballrooms, a Theater, scores of smaller meeting rooms and an Arena. Across the street from the Center are two Marriott hotels, the Riverwalk and the Rivercenter.

Aspiring pre-supporters should send \$8 to P.O. Box 291015, San Antonio, TX 78229. Pre-opposers, send \$10!

St. Louis in '97: Rich and Michelle Zellich are outstanding bid party hosts, the chocolate is great, the bar is generous, the publicity is well-designed. But even two trufans such as these would need a lot of help to run a Worldcon, and bid publicity doesn't name anyone on the committee.

The flyer distributed in November at Windycon alludes to a half-million square-foot convention center, "plenty of hotel rooms already tentatively blocked", and local tourist attractions.

Pre-supporting memberships are \$10, pre-opposing memberships are \$15. Contact St. Louis in '97, P.O. Box 1058, St. Louis, MO 63188.

Baltimore in '98: New leadership is at the helm of the Baltimore in '98, according to a recent issue of the BSFS clubzine *Mark of the Beast*. The officers are: Covert Beach, President; Marty Gear, Vice President; Lance Oszko, Vice President; Robert MacIntosh, Comptroller; Thomas Horman, Treasurer; Thomas McMullan, Recording Secretary; Jul Owings, Corresponding Secretary. McMullan and Gear are officers of BSFS, and along with Owings are part of the Balticon 28 committee.

Boston in '98: As Donald and Jill Eastlake tell it: "After working in Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc., for the better part of two years establishing and fighting for a 1998 bid for Boston, Donald III and Jill refocused those efforts on establishing a new committee for 1998. The committee is comprised of a variety of Boston fandom, including many people from Arisia, the New England Costumer's Guild, Boston's Filk and Art communities. We even have a few members who are members of NESFA. And we've got two new members from Chicago! The bid focuses on the European style convention not wholeheartedly supported by MCFI (which is

now bidding for 2001) and will use the Park Plaza Castle as well as the Hynes Convention Center for major events."

Niagara Falls in '98: The Niagara Falls committee would hold its worldcon in the 150,000 sq. ft. convention center. All hotels used by the con are within four blocks of the center. The Falls are just as close, and the Canadian border is a 10 minute walk away.

The proposed bid committee, chaired by Joe Maraglino, includes Bill Bowers, Mike Glicksohn, Linda Michaels, Steve Scherer, Thomas Recktenwald, Eric Lindsay, Susan Baumgartner, Tim Pruitt, Linda Ruth Pfonner, Karen Klinck, Jeanne Sloan, Leonid Kouritz, Sheila Lightsey, Barnaby Rapoport, Nenevah Smith, Bruce Burdick, Peter M. Sloan, Yuri Savchenko, Sandra Morrese, Marylouise Hewitt, Marybeth Gauthier, Karen Wehrstein, Shirley Meier and W. Paul Ganley.

Supporting memberships, \$5.00, and Associate memberships, \$20.00, are available from Niagara Falls Science Fiction Association, P.O. Box 500, Bridge Station, Niagara Falls, NY 14305. Associate members receive their excellent fanzine *Astromancer Quarterly*.

Australia in '99: A party at ConFrancisco officially launched their bid. Canberra fans first advertised the idea a year before a committee actually formed or a site was selected, but now they have both.

The bidding committee includes Donna Heenan, convenor, Alan Stewart, editor of two Aussie newzines, Eric Lindsay, faned and frequent pilgrim in North America, James Allen, Stephen Boucher, Julie Hughes, Shane Morissey, Clive Newall and Allison Wallace. North American agents are Dick and Leah Smith.

They'd like to stage the 1999 Worldcon in Melbourne's World Congress Centre and the attached Centra Hotel. Melbourne is home to Australia's largest sf club. The city hosted two other Worldcons, in 1975 and 1985.

North Americans wanting to presupport the bid should send \$10 to Dick and Leah Smith, 410 W. Willow Rd., Prospect Heights, IL 60070. The bid's direct mailing address is P.O. Box 99, Bayswater, VIC 3153, Australia. Send Internet e-mail to: Aus99@mtiame.mtia.oz.au

Las Vegas in '99: Not only is there a new and improved publicity flyer, but bid had a room party at Loscon. Since this crusading journalist didn't have the energy to party after two days running Loscon program operations it would be unfair to fault the bidders for my not knowing their names, but bid flyers that fail to identify the leadership make me wonder, especially when half the flyer is spent defending a Chicago-based bidding committee. There is also a great deal of generic information about Las Vegas that has no specific application ("Las Vegas boasts over 57,000 rooms", "assisting us...is the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority").

One thing they're crystal clear about is a willingness to take \$7.00 for a pre-supporting membership. Send it to Conclusion - The 1999 Worldcon in Las Vegas Bid, 1610 W. Highland Ave., Ste. 10, Chicago, IL 60660.

The Millennium Philcon: Todd Dashoff offers a Philadelphia as the 2001 Worldcon venue. So far, the bid consists of a flyer offering to sell pre-supporting memberships for \$10, pre-opposing memberships for \$17.76, and "Millennium Phil-Kin (friend of bid)" memberships for \$40.

Boston in 2001: Massachusetts Convention Fandom, Inc. (MCFI), the group that is bidding for

Boston in 2001 elected new officers in October: Gay Ellen Dennett, President; Deb Geisler, Secretary; and Greg Thokar, Treasurer. Sharon Sbarsky adds, "Just to let you know, we elect new officers on an annual basis to give more people new experiences. We would not expect to have final officers for Noreascon Four until April 1, 1998."



CONFRANCISCO: 1993 WORLDCON REPORT

John Sapienza: Congratulations on reaching issue 100 of the award-winning *File 770*. Peggy Rae Pavlat and I enjoyed reading your account of ConFrancisco and bathing in the liberal praise you heaped upon us. I'll take all the egoboo that comes along.

In the interest of fairness, however, I should point out that the people who actually created the film program on site were our superhero Richard Ney and his crew. I was a programming subdivision head with six departments to coordinate. Richard was both technical operations department head for the Programming Division, and my subdivision's film operations department head.

Over a four day period, I scrambled to acquire licenses to show the films that were on the printed film program. I fed the licenses to Richard as I got them, and he and his fine film crew created each day's film

program and got it into the newsletter. In addition, they went out to rental stores and got us a lot of public domain films to fill out the empty spaces in the program. They all did a great job saving the film program; Richard Ney did a fine job coordinating that while running technical support for programming as well. ...Best of luck as Chair for the 1996 Worldcon.

Renita Cassano: Just to let you know, on page 17-18 of **F770:100** "Turning Klingonese," in the masquerade entry "Quiet Klingon Night at Home" and the volunteer moderator in Federation dress at the Klingon Dating Game, both were local New Orleans fan Aldred Richard. The female counterpart in "Quiet Klingon Night" and the "silver-haired blonde" at the Klingon Dating Game was Alfred's friend, Storm Deojay. It was the funniest panel I went to at the convention.

Ken Keller: Hope you can keep your editorial skills up with a Worldcon on your ~~baek~~ schedule now -- by the

way, welcome to the Worldcon chairman's "club" (you po' dumb bastid, as Ken Moore once said to me years ago -- I say that with the great respect, of course!!!)

Ross Pavlac: Just got LA's PR, and the 3x5 card showing one's membership status is one of the niftiest ideas in years since the days when providing membership cards was a tradition. Give an attaboy to whoever thought it up, and remind me to put it in the next edition of the Worldcon runners' guide.

Re your discussion of tie votes for Hugo balloting in the pre-1978 years: you implied that a number of the tie winners in the years prior to the disclosure of totals were due to con-coms deciding that an extremely close vote was the same as a tie.

I don't know what the general case was, but I can shed some light on the 1966 Hugos, in which *Dune* tied with *And Call Me Conrad* for best novel. I was on the Hugo ballot administration committee that year

(as a lowly gofer) and I was one of the counters on the night that we did the Hugo counting. (There were all of 850 attendees that year; I don't recall the number of ballots cast, but it was something like a couple or three hundred or so). We were incredulous when the novel category ended up in a tie. I believe we recounted the novel category twice, just to make sure it was indeed a tie. It was. So at least in 1966 the tie vote REALLY was a tie vote.

[[Thanks for the historical insight. I suppose I might add as a reply to your note that just because Chalker told me one tie was a created tie, and I think it's generally suspected that the Farmer/McCaffrey tie in 1968 was managed by the committee, I would not want to foolishly assume there were never any mathematical ties. For that matter, in years past when the total number of votes was much lower than today, the opportunity for a coincidental tie may have been greater than now. Few vote totals from that era are part of the public record but we know that at the Portland worldcon, which had no ties, the top vote-getter in any category received only 10-30 votes.]]

While I appreciate your desire for Hugo reform, has it occurred to you that just because concons are releasing numbers for the Hugo balloting, that it doesn't necessarily mean that those released numbers bear any resemblance to what was physically written on the ballots? Not that I'm paranoid or accusing anyone, mind you. In practice, I think fandom has been more fortunate than it deserves in terms of the integrity of the Hugo administrators over the years. (This is not to say there haven't been problems, but there is a difference between incompetence/Murphy and deliberate rigging of results)

[[So if you're not "accusing anyone, mind you" what is your purpose in arousing people's suspicions?]]

Kevin Standlee: Mike, thank you

very much for the nice con review of ConFrancisco. Those of us who read it at the ConFrancisco ExCom meeting last weekend were pleased and flattered at how nice you were to us. Could we possibly reprint the main con report in *The Never-Ending Meeting* [committee apa]?

What I think we liked was the accuracy of your report. You didn't come in with a bunch of axes to grind, and you accurately reported both the good and the bad. You also pointed out how people were prone to seize on individual problems and blow them out of proportion. Also, you reported how the "tough crowd" wanted to find fault. Because the original SF in '93 bid was anti-SMOF in sentiment and because it beat the SMOF-backed Hawaii bid, there always were people who desperately wanted us to fail, and their views of the con reflected this. You, on the other hand, stayed fair and balanced, and we appreciate it.

[[Thank you for telling me so. I'm glad that your crew felt well-represented by the report.]]

Terry Whittier: I want to thank you for your long Worldcon review. There are many of your observations that I agree with and I learned much from your experiences with parts of the convention that I didn't get to. In addition, your perspective as a very experienced convention worker and go-er is appreciated.

Usually when I find a long line like that one to pick up the souvenir book at Worldcon, I go behind the table and show the workers there that you can shorten the wait by setting up multiple distribution stations. To do this, however, I almost always run into the bureaucratic mentality -- the workers refuse to take the initiative to do something that is obviously better or they won't do anything different unless they hear from their superiors, and of course their superiors are completely

inaccessible, having set things up... and then walking away for the rest of the convention without leaving a clue as how to reach them for the all-important official approvals of any changes.

[[Most Worldcons are compelled by necessity to make efficient use of managerial people by assigning them several areas, and certainly ConFrancisco was no exception. Even if the person responsible for the Souvenir Book line could have organized it better, I have to give him or her the benefit of the doubt for assuming the simple function of handing out publications would go smoothly and moving on to the next worry.]]

This problem and many other problems that you've mentioned could have been avoided if the convention organizers had a source of information about how things have been done in the past. John McLaughlin, and his wife Brin, have been working for many years on just such a reference source about how to plan and run a convention.

John McLaughlin originated and chaired or helped chair the first four years of BayCon, the immensely successful regional SF con in the San Francisco Bay Area. He worked so hard on those first four BayCons that he got burned out and let others take over the running of the con, but he's chairing the one next year.

While John was taking a rest from BayCon, he kept lamenting that people who run fan conventions frequently end up trying to "reinvent the wheel" on so many aspects of the convention. One of the reasons he started BayCon was because he was tired of going to conventions where things were run poorly, despite there having been so many well-run cons in the history of SF fandom to learn from. He conceived of writing a manual about how to run a science fiction convention well, drawing on his experiences and the experiences

of other convention organizers in fandom.

Erwin S. "Filthy Pierre" Strauss: Regarding ConFrancisco, I share your sentiments about unglamorous areas (like registration, or the readability of names on badges) falling through the cracks, and causing unnecessary hassle, which just a little effort reflecting the lessons of past WorldCons could have avoided.

I had similar experiences in doing the message boards and freebie distribution. I sent in a detailed proposal in the spring layout out what was needed, and why. It included illustrative material to be shown to those responsible for a given part of the preparation. I was told, "Great proposal: no problem." But when I got there, none of the people responsible for providing various equipment and services recalled having seen any of it. I had to pitch my case orally, from scratch, for each item. Naturally, at that point there was little that could be changed, but to give credit where it's due I did get a couple of additional bulletin boards from Bobbi Armbruster.

But don't misunderstand: this is not to knock ConFrancisco particularly; this is typical of cons generally. Things like this seem to be below people's radar. I recall one brainstorming session for the role-playing SMOF Game, where players are WorldCon committee members and score points by making correct decisions) where I suggested a question on how many freebie tables or bulletin boards they'd need: the suggestion was brushed off.

I also share your sentiments regarding street life in San Francisco. Now, I have family in New York and spend a long weekend in Manhattan each month (beginning and ending at the Port Authority bus terminal!), so I'm used to encountering beggars and other street people. But the number of aggressiveness of the ones

in San Francisco were something else. One even grabbed for my shoulder bag, something that's never happened to me in New York.

...Beyond that, I agree with you that ConFrancisco was basically well-run and I had a great time.

Sheryl Birkhead: I am pleased at the Fan Hugo categories but don't understand Dave Langford's continuing roll -- he's good, sure, but...

[[Though Phil Foglio said it about the Fan:artist Hugo, I will always remember his remark, "As hard as it is to win one of these things, once you do it's even harder to stop!"]]

Harry Warner Jr.: I'm very glad that you published again the detailed breakdown of Hugo voting. I was quite surprised to find I did so well in the Fan Writer category. Dave's margin was smaller than I would have expected, since most of my non-loc fan writing appears in three apas that don't have many members who are Worldcon members and I don't have any particular rooting section in any geographical or sub-fandom area. More than ever, I'm glad I was present for the Hugo ceremonies, because I very possibly would have suffered physical problems standing there before the ceremonies. I can't stay on my feet that long without occasional rest breaks and add the tension of the occasion and I would probably have keeled over or done something equally obnoxious.

It's very nice that the Shibanos will be fan guests of honor for the next Los Angeles Worldcon. Their choice ties in nicely with the very name of the event and it might help to increase interaction between fandom in the United States and in Japan.

The trouble with badges at Worldcons will continue until my suggestion is finally adopted. Switch from those badges to patches of velcro-

backed cloth shaped to fit the forehead between hairline and eyebrows. Then any fan can look another fan or pro in the eyes and pretend to recognize him or her because the name will be right there in the frame of vision.

It's a good thing Robbie Cantor contacted police about her encounter with the bum. Otherwise, all fandom would have assumed that she had junked a second fluid duplicator and someone had objected even more strongly than Harry Andruschak.

THE CENTURY MARK

Sheryl Birkhead: I presume that, given the "nature" of *File 770*, you get less feedback on an issue than do "traditional" zines.

Hence, knowing you're gonna be busy for the next few years, I just wanted to write and say I really enjoyed #100! The cover (Harvia/Ranson combo) reminds me of how many collaborations I've seen lately (not good/bad -- merely an observation.) *Really* like the lime green cover.

Elizabeth Osborne: I have been getting *File 770* since late 1984. Not as long as some people but rather longer than others. I can still remember reading the issues in the student dining hall at Case Western Reserve University so long ago.

I had heard of the death of Dr. Thomas Clareson but I was saddened nonetheless. I remember him well for his active attempts to bridge fandom and sf professors in Ohio in the early 80's. He was a regular guest at Marcon during that time. He also was a guest at Earthcon in Cleveland in 1985 and headed a conference of the Science Fiction Research Association at Kent State University in 1986. This conference brought together writers, fans and researchers for a weekend of lec-

tures and fellowship.

After I moved to Florida, I lost touch with him and his wife, although I wrote to him after his heart attack a few years ago. He was not always appreciated by people but he worked hard to build bridges between groups. Mary Carey is correct in saying that he will be missed.

Jay Kay Klein: Hey, what is this? I just got a dunning postcard from John Hertz! Your legal expenses must be fabulous. Before I get hauled into traffic court or a paternity suit, I better pay up. Here's a check made of the finest India rubber for *8.00 for another five misshapen issues of *File 770*. Please continue my sub in "continuity" so I don't miss even one single thrilling adventure into the fourth dimension of Mike Glyer's mind.

AND HALF A CENTURY OF POWERFUL PEOPLE

Eric Mayer: I quite enjoyed your critique of "The 50 Most Powerful People in SF." Of course, quite a few of the people listed began as fans and I'm not so sure they still don't count as fans. Which raises another question -- at what point does one cease to be a fan?

[[Many people have successfully kept a foot in both the professional and fannish camps: I don't think they are mutually exclusive activities. But nobody on Di Filippo's list that you or I accord that dual status was selected for his fanac.]]

THE DISCLAVE OF OUR DISCONTENT

Darrell Schweitzer: *[[Excerpts from a 3-page letter]]* The whole story, for the benefit of those coming in on this late, is as follows: The 1993 Disclave decided to save money by not inviting most of their regular professional guests. That maybe people came to conventions to meet

and see professionals, much less that a professional's presence costs no more than the cost of manufacturing a badge, and that the more pros you invite, the more room nights you sell, thus helping the convention get its function space cheap (or free) does not seem to have occurred to Disclave's organizers isn't at all surprising: these folks were amateurs in the worst sense. They didn't know the ropes. Some of them, one day, might be trainable as gophers. They're not, by and large, bad or even rude people. They just don't know. They're not science fiction readers (and thus didn't even know who Gardner Dozois, a former Disclave GoH, was, any more than they had any idea who I was) and they apparently didn't know much about cons, or fannish traditions. I am sure all this "controversy" must seem puzzling to them.

But they caught the professionals by surprise. Disclave has always been a pleasant, hospitable conventions. Suddenly the door was slammed in the faces of all their old friends.

[[I've learned from experience that every policy for handling program participant memberships is controversial: whether a con makes everyone pay or lets all the program participants in free, someone's nose gets out of joint. More important than the policy itself is that the policy be clearly stated to program participants and consistently followed by the committee. How did Disclave announce its change in policy -- that may be the real problem. There is nothing sacred about free pro memberships. The key concern for a con committee is how to do the things they value in a way that is financially responsible. This year at Smofcon fans from various parts of the country said that when their cons were new they competed with established cons for attending pros by liberal membership policies, in one case giving every guest a perpetual invitation to have a free membership. Years later some of these conventions, perhaps including Dis-

clave, feel they have accumulated a vast deadwood of these kinds of entitlements -- unreasonably high in proportion to the overall membership.]]

The only reason they (now) know who I am -- though I had been on the Disclave program every year since the 1970s and had attended 21 consecutive Disclaves -- is that I had the temerity to suggest, "No, no, this isn't how you do things." Possibly this was a mistake. I should have just watched Disclave go down the toilet without doing anything more than the other pros did -- make a few sarcastic jokes.

I certainly did *not* call for a boycott -- as SFWA members know, from my recent letter in the *SFWA Forum*. I don't think the professionals -- much less SFWA as an organization -- have any business boycotting conventions. But at the same time, as word spreads that Disclave observes none of the courtesies, and is actually hostile to professionals, well, I suspect the WSFans apparent goal of drastically reducing professional -- or even SF reader -- attendance in the future will be handily achieved.

[[How much sympathy for being misunderstood do you expect to get from a paragraph that concludes with false statements about the motives of your antagonists?]]

...We (the science fiction community, both pros and fans) don't have to lose our conventions. We lost Disclave this year. This doesn't have to keep happening. ...Science fiction people shouldn't just sit back and let "convention fans" run everything. Before long, the convention fans' interests will so diverge from science fiction fans' interests that the result will be disastrous -- Disclave 1993.

So get involved. Volunteer to help. Frequently the greatest need at SF cons these days is for a token science fiction reader to advise the

programming committee on who the professionals are and what they've done. There is also a need for experienced fans to explain how conventions have been run in the past, what the customs and courtesies are, and how to make things run pleasantly and smoothly.

Now the people who ran Disclave this year, from the convention chairman all the way down, were too ignorant even to ask for help. But this *doesn't* have to happen. I'm doing my bit for Philcon. I'm editing the program book and serving as co-chair of programming. I'm doing my best to insure that Philcon will remain focused on science fiction, on reading, on traditional fandom -- and everyone will be welcome.

Lloyd Penney: Darrell Schweitzer was placed on some penals? An outstanding typo, well done indeed. Does this reflect some well-hidden opinions of Mr. Schweitzer? Just an innocent question. If he's under the impression that SFWA can be a shoulder to cry on if he doesn't get the treatment from cons he believes is due to him, someone should disabuse him of that notion. He should also learn that not every fan who gets involved in convention management is instantly endowed with complete knowledge of who's who in prodom.

SLAGGING ALONG

Harry Andruschak: I especially enjoyed your comments on the fan Hugos, including your defense of *Lan's Lantern* and *Fosfax*. Yes, I do like zines that have science fiction at their center -- Even though my next contribution to *Fosfax* is my Corflu Ten report and *Lan's Lantern* will run my report on rafting the Middle Fork of the American River. And I had an article printed in *The Reluctant Famulus* concerning Ellison.

Eric Mayer: Not being too involved with fandom recently it was only

within the past year that I saw a copy of *Lan's Lantern*. I was quite pleasantly surprised since mostly I'd heard criticism. My impression of LL was that it seemed like about 5 normal-sized zines stuck together and while I wasn't all that interested in the "reviewzine", the "travel zine" and the "perzine" were fascinating. I certainly found it hard to understand why it has become somewhat of a target.

Awards are always a problem. On the one hand publishing isn't a contest and who cares about awards and they don't reflect real merit etc. etc. On the other hand people like getting concrete recognition. I'm sure there is some correlation between circulation and the Hugos. Obviously a zine has to reach a reasonable number of sf fans to make the ballot. But your list makes it obvious there's no direct correlation. Certainly LL and *File 770* and *Fosfax* have higher circulations than *Mimosa* (or am I wrong?)

It seems to me a good thing for fandom to retain some interest in sf. Granted, my interest in sf is pretty much nil right now, but at one time -- when I discovered Fandom -- it was quite intense and might well be again someday. If I hadn't been reading *Amazing* I would never have discovered sf. There really has to be some gateway to fandom beyond a fuzzy appeal to get together with some people who like to publish zines and write letters and get together once in while to discuss whatever strikes their fancy.

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COLOPHON

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I had already finished all but page two of this issue when the quake struck, but by squeezing the typefaces, slipping the colophon to the back of the book and using the last page for text rather than art I managed to get the essential quake news to fit without delaying the mailing.

My thanks to so many fans who called to inquire about my safety, including those who materially contributed to the quake news article, Matthew Tepper, Sharon Sbarsky, Bill Warren, Lisa Greene, Craig Miller and Mary Smith.

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Ray Capella - 14
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