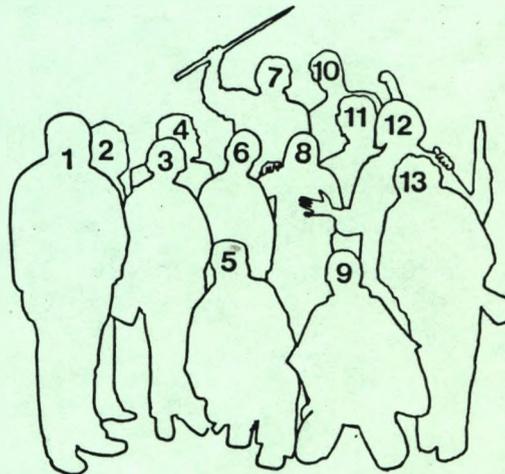


FILE 770:71 December, 1987



NOW, WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE TRAIL OF BREADCRUMBS? This photograph by Scott Custis shows fans in the center of Hampton Court's hedgerow maze after Conspiracy.

Jeanne Gomoll furnished the screened black-and-white copy of the color original in her TAFF trip collection. Jeanne also prepared the key at right. Publication of this photo, like other scientific experiments, is a search for reproducible results...



1. Bryan Barrett
2. Greg Ketter
3. Judith Hanna
4. Martin Tudor
5. Steve Stiles
6. Cindy Evans
7. Joseph Nicholas
8. Lise Eisenberg
9. Amy Thomson
10. Tony Berry
11. Rob Hansen
12. Jeanne Gomoll
13. Elaine Stiles

EARLY STOCKING STUFFER

THEME FROM SHAFT: For those who just tuned in: the New England Science Fiction Association (NESFA) bought a clubhouse in 1986 and dispossessed the dry cleaner who was on the premises. One part of his leftover equipment was an eight-foot steel shaft, with flywheels. That's when NESFA got the bright idea to give LASFS the shaft.

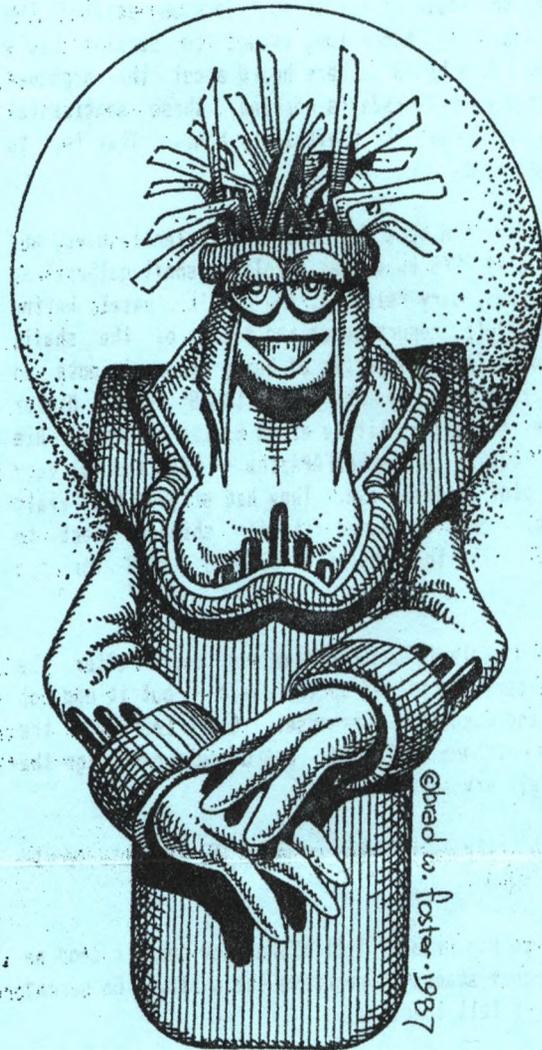
A massive wooden shipping crate, which looked like Frankenstein's coffin, arrived in front of LASFS' Freehafer Hall in January. The boxed shaft seemed well on its way to becoming a permanent display at the LASFS clubhouse, if only because nobody could lift it. But one Thursday in July, Hare Hobbs went to show the shaft to his guests, tipped up the lid and found the shaft was missing. The anonymous Vandroids, already notorious for zebra-stripping the LASFS' cargo container, then trying to collect a \$6.00 fee, had left inside the empty crate a bannergram claiming credit for the theft -- "Use it or lose it!"

Early in November, the Vandroids came back for the crate. It seems the Vandroids were inspired by Lew Wolkoff's flyers requesting contributions to a Time Capsule for the Philadelphia SF Association. Wolkoff planned to display contributions at Philcon, the weekend of November 13, before they were packed away in the sf collection at Temple University for 50 years, not to be opened until a PSFS meeting in 2037.

A floral deliveryman came to the November 5 LASFS meeting and presented President Patrice Cook with a forget-me-not bouquet. The enclosed card said, "A shaft has been donated in your name to the Philadelphia SF Association Time Capsule." Guess what showed up on the loading dock of the Adams-Mark Hotel in downtown Philadelphia, its original 9' crate painted robin's-egg blue, speckled with yellow triangles, red dots and orange squiggles?

Philly fans thought Wolkoff had fouled up and ordered the biggest damn time capsule he could find. Then they opened the crate and discovered they were the proud owners of the Shaft. There were several tours conducted to this historic gift during Philcon.

Back in LA, "The Emperor", Charles Lee Jackson 2 received Lew Wolkoff's call asking did the LASFS want to send him



FILE 770:71 is finally brought to you by Mike Glycer, at 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys CA 91401. (About bloody time! they cry.) This fanzine fires the flaming arrow of truth, and all the other accoutrement of outrageous fortune, almost once a month. (Make that horseshoes and fanzines.) All this can be yours at the rate of 5 issues for \$5.00, mailed first class in North America, printed rate overseas. Air printed matter delivery available for \$1.25 per copy. **File 770** is also available for arranged trades, primarily with other newzines or clubzines, as well as your news tips, including those relayed by phone to (818) 787-5061. Don't be intimidated by my busted answering machine -- after it finishes garbling my greeting, let the beep be your guide.

December, 1987

some money to have the shaft returned? Otherwise they threatened to sell it for scrap. Jackson stifled the imperial sense of humor long enough to decline Lev's offer. But when LASFS members heard about the orphaned shaft at the next Thursday's meeting, those sentimental softies voted to pay the shaft's way home. That is, to its original home.

Now, a few days can be a lot of time efficiently used, and the members of PSFS know that a rolling shaft gathers no moss. Besides, Gary Feldbaum, the club's counsel, having read File 770's report about the theft of the shaft, warned them against the perils of being the recipients of "stolen" property. By the time LASFS' Craig Miller reached Lew Wolkoff -- little aided by Lew's typoing his own phone number in his LASFAPAZINE -- PSFS had already hatched a plot of their own. They had screwed the crate shut again, and consigned it for shipment back to California, with the intent of billing LASFS for the service!

Craig called Wolkoff and Feldbaum just hours after the trucking company had picked up the shaft -- but it had not yet left the company's warehouse. Since LASFS was the consignee, Feldbaum explained, LASFS could reassign the cargo for delivery anywhere...!

Guess which city is the next stop on The Shaft's World Tour of Fandom?

(Postscript to Pam Fremon: Tell NESFA they needn't send me any more 22-cent stamps to retrieve the shaft. On second thought, don't tell them...)

Craig Miller read aloud his letter of explanation to Boston fandom at December 3's LASFS meeting.

December 3, 1987

New England Science Fiction Association
504 Medford St.
Somerville MA 02145

Dear NESFA:

As you are no doubt aware, earlier this year an organization known as the Vandroids appropriated The Shaft from the grounds of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society clubhouse. This act was done as part of an ongoing dispute relating to the unrequested redecorating of a temporary structure. The specific details of this dispute are unimportant.

As you are also no doubt aware, the Vandroids donated The Shaft to the Philadelphia Science

Fiction Society's Time Capsule project. While the Vandroid's legal rights to The Shaft are clouded, and, thereby, their right to donate it to a worthy cause, we applaud their decision.

The Shaft is, we feel, an important Fan-Historical relic. The Shaft was a part of the New England Science Fiction Association clubhouse, and was presented by your estimable organization to the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society as a token of your esteem. It has provided great pleasure to members of both organizations. In different ways, of course.

Therefore, we feel that the Vandroids' decision was the correct one. This physical example of shared joy and cooperation between our organizations is a fine and important addition to any representation of this period in Fandom. For that reason, among others, we have instructed the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society to retain The Shaft as an element for their Time Capsule.

Unfortunately, the PSFS does not yet possess a clubhouse, and, lacking same, is unable to store an item the size of The Shaft. Therefore, it was decided that The Shaft should reside with a reputable Science Fiction organization that does have its own clubhouse and is in close proximity to the PSFS.

Therefore, under separate cover, the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society has shipped to you The Shaft. Please treat it with all due respect.

(signed) Craig Miller, on behalf of LASFS

There was just one minor glitch in the plan. The trucking company must have mistaken themselves for an airline, and the crate for some luckless fan's suitcase, because they proceeded to deliver it to Somerville -- Georgia!

The trucking company notified Gary Feldbaum of the mistake, and he briefly toyed with the idea of simply having it thrown on Jim Gilpatrick's lawn. But he resisted the temptation, therefore The Shaft should be on its way north again, sort of like Sherman's March in reverse...

BUDRYS

RUMORS FLY IN AFTERMATH OF BUDRYS AWARDS APPEARANCE: The controversy surrounding Algis Budrys' leading off the Conspiracy Hugo Awards ceremony with plugs for Writers of the Future, and other Hubbard promotions, has resulted in

the withdrawal of Mexican's invitation for Budrys to be a special guest at the con in 1989.

Responding to Mike Glicksohn's letter about the controversy in The NASFA Shuttle (Huntsville, AL clubzine), Budrys wrote, "Mexicon is withdrawing their invitation for me to be a special guest -- not Guest of Honor -- in 1989. That's (a) agreed-upon between us as a means of saving the Mexicon committee whatever extra fuss might be involved as a result of all this nifty business, and (b) the Mexicon committee and I are still cordial toward each other. Anyone knowing the address of Greg Pickersgill, who heads Mexicon, by his permission is free to confirm that with him if my word does not suffice."

As part of defending his Hugo Awards leadoff remarks against the charge of being a rambling ad for Bridge and New Era (the agent and publisher of Hubbards' work), Budrys explained, "What I intended to convey to the crowd was that masquerade chair Anne Page's frequent repetitions of the phrase 'New Era-Bridge' were entirely her subcommittee's idea. I gather hardly anyone ever lends substantial support to costumers in the UK. New Era was asked to, by the con, and did so. I'd been hearing some unrest about it; I'd decided no one on the staff at the con was going to clarify he mater publicly, so I figured I'd better." Added Budrys, "As far as I can determine by asking Anne directly, New Era in sponsoring a masquerade category imposed to conditions about being thanked or even mentioned in the public announcements."

Concerning the extent of New Era's involvement as a WorldCon sponsor, Budrys said, "In all, the con, in stages as the date approached, requested sponsorships and ads worth about \$8000 from New Era. If it [the WorldCon] hadn't [made the request], Conspiracy '87 would have been about \$8000 in the red on the day it opened, according to what Chairman Malcolm Edwards told me ten days after he con. I'm not sure we know enough yet about who did what to whom, or how close it is to when they can roll over at last, light cigarettes and sigh."

Budrys sent me a copy of the letter pre-publication under cover of his letter-of-comment in File 770:69. Commenting on File 770, he said, "I do want to point out something about the 'temperature drop' [after Langford repeated Brian Aldiss' crack about have just 'won the L. Ron Hubbard Award, formerly the Hugos'], which is that it would have been a perfectly understandable reaction under the circumstances. Here's why:

"The literary agents for the Hubbard estate, on my advice, had been checking with Awards chairman Paul Kincaid as soon as Black Genesis got on the ballot, to make sure there hadn't been anything funny in the nominating, or later, in the voting. With Kincaid's assurances things

were on the up-and-up, my advice to the literary agency had been not to withdraw the book from the ballo, and take whatever happened. What happened makes a hollow joke of any post-awards assertion anyone had won 'the L. Ron Hubbard Awards.' I imagine it may well have been Fred Harris, from the agency, who was present when Dave uttered it.

"And I wonder what would have been the object of 'that lot' buying its way to the top of the Hugo ceremony of 'it' hadn't already bought the Hugo. That only makes sense until the emotions die down a little: please take another look at the logic."

In the next issue of File 770 I'll publish my interview with Budrys about his association with Writers of the Future, and Bridge Publications, including relevant questions about his own background and beliefs.



FANTHOLOGY A'COMING! Dennis Virzi, aided by Pat Mueller, will produce a Fanthology of 1986 writing, largely (though not entirely) based on selections from my "Dream Fanthology" (File 770:65). Skel's "A Modest Proposal" set off such a flurry of attention to fandom's need for an annual summary of top fanwriting that Dennis jumped in to fill the breach. At this writing, the table of contents contains:

"Thank You Girls", Christopher Priest (CHUCH)
 "We Remember...the Missing Man", Greg Bennett (WESTWIND)
 "Letter From London, July 1985", Avedon Carol (XENIUM)
 "Close Cap Tightly To Retard Thickening", Patrick Nielsen Hayden (FLASH POINT 8)

"Win A Day With Mikhail Gorbachev", Tim Jones (TIMBRE)
 "An Open Letter to British Fandom", Dennis Virzi (TTSFI)
 "An Open Reply To Dennis Virzi", Kate Solomon (CUBE)
 "A Berry Odyssey", Eric Mayer, (HOLIER THAN THOU)
 Letter of Comment, Dave Langford (TTSFI)
 "Real Fen Don't Eat Greeps", Elst Weinstein (HOAXARAMA)
 "The Ballad of Lost S'Mell", Skel (HOLIER THAN THOU)
 "I Was a Teenage Cyberpunk for the FBI and Found God",
 Arthur Hlavaty (DIAGONAL RELATIONSHIP)
 "Hell, 12 Feet", Teresa Neilsen Hayden (PREVERT)
 "I'm Over Heegee, Gerhardt!", Jeanne Gomoll (WHINSEY)
 "Fizz! Buzz!" Dave Langford (TRAPDOOR)

Several leading fanartists have dug into the archeological vastness of their files for vintage 1986 illustrations to decorate the collection. Taryl was so bemused by my form letter mailing soliciting permissions from selected writers and artists that he drafted his own in response:

"Dear Mike: Please excuse this blatant form reply, but I think you'll agree it's being written in a good cause... saving me time.

*(Check one)

___ I would be pleased to kiss ass, and have selected my finest artwork and/or writing for your prestigious fanzine.

___ I'm a little busy right now, but as soon as I can I will contribute what I'm able to your zine.

___ I like to help neos, but I'm terribly busy with my own affairs. Do you mind waiting, or would you prefer to reprint one of my older pieces?

___ While I appreciate the egoboo, I'm afraid your zine is of rather a different sort from the ones I normally contribute to. Can I suggest you get in touch with Darrel Schweitzer for art?

___ I think you can save yourself postage in the future by removing my name from your mailing list.

___ Was that a fanzine? Are you Swedish?"

Article headings and profiles will be by Mike Glycer.

ON THE MET SPOT: Torrential rainfall struck Los Angeles the even of Thursday, October 22. Many major boulevards in the San Fernando Valley were choked with water running off from side streets much faster than the drainage system carried it away. Hundreds of gallons of water sloshed over the curb of Ventura Boulevard and ran under the front door of Dangerous Visions Bookstore, drenching the front third of the store. At the same time, rain pounded

through the roof. If it had to happen, at least the flood was conveniently scheduled for a Thursday night with the LASFS meeting just three miles way. A call brought out a dozen fans, including Gavin Claypool, Edwin Austin, Casey Bernay, Regina, and Nola Fraee, who helped Lydia Marano and Arthur Byron Cover shift stock from the sodden floors and the leaky stock room to safer shelves.

WENDAYNE ACKERMAN STROKE: Wendayne Ackerman suffered a stroke paralyzing half her body. According to Craig Miller, this was precipitated by an assault on the Ackermans while they were in an auto during a visit to Italy. Wendayne is hospitalized locally, in Los Angeles.

ACKERMAN COLLECTION TO AUCTION BLOCK: Since last issue, many fans have received a promotional mailing from Guernsey's a New York auction house, announcing "The Auction of the Century", involving "a great portion" of Forrest J Ackerman's collection. Two thousand items will be sold in New York December 12 and 13, "Precious artwork, rare books and magazines, important manuscripts, photographs, documents, and other highly desirable ephemora [sic], L. Ron Hubbard treasures, plus spectacular film posters." Bidders may contact Guernsey's at (212) 794-2280.

STAKE IN THE HEART OF TEXAS: When last we looked in on Texas fandom, in the form of Fandom Association of Central Texas (FACT), it was six months ago, and Steve Jackson and Willie Siros were wrestling for leadership. As a result of board of directors elections, each man thought he might have the support of a majority on the board. Who was right?

Pat Mueller explained that after director Rembert Parker moved to Chicago in the middle of the year, without resigning his directorship, only four FACT directors remained in Texas. Although Willie Siros was chosen chairman at the annual FACT meeting, Steve Jackson and Monica Stephens provided counterpoint at Armadillocon by running an alternate con-suite on the third floor of the con hotel, a 24-hour party titled Eternicon. Theoretically, the party promoted their Austin sf club, said Pat.

So the stage was set for another political bloodbath during the directors meeting the first Saturday in November. Who came out on top -- Siros or Jackson? Actually, "None of the above" seems to have swept the field.

FACT director Monica Stephens successfully campaigned for the removal of alleged-nonworking director Edwin Graham. But Stephens' other proposals, one of which would have ousted Willie Siros as a director, were frustrated by the voters and in the showdown she resigned from the board. During the meeting Siros resigned as chairman, not from the board, and Fran Booth was chosen to succeed him in office.

She was an inevitable choice, since Graham's removal and Stephens' resignation left her the only other director still living in Texas.

Meanwhile, work on a computerized version of "If I Ran The Con", the role-playing game premiered by MCFI at the 1986 Smofcon, has suffered a setback. Matt Lawrence, of Steve Jackson Games, wrote the game software, while the FACT computer committee was doing data-entry of the text. But SJG has retrieved its program disks and will no longer be doing the game for FACT. According to Pat, MCFI is now exploring other ways of getting the computer game produced.

FANDOM: THE NEXT GENERATION: Melva and Greg Bennett are expecting a baby in April 1988. Greg adds, "The tragic side of that is after 37 years of frivolous and chaotic living, I'm going to have to grow up and be a responsible parent. Eeeesh! Got any ideas on how to kid-proof a house? So far, mother and baby-in-development are doing just fine, a textbook pregnancy with not one of the legendary complications. (Superstitious knock on particle-board bookshelves.)"

Another big milestone in the Bennett household has to do with the space program. "We expect NASA to award the contracts for the final design and development of the space station [by November]. Of course, we at McDonnell Douglas are keeping our fingers crossed in hopes that the contract at the Johnson Space Center goes our way. Of course, there's no pressure; it's just a matter of a few billion dollars for the company and my entire future career, not to mention the critical node in future space development for the free world. Other than that, no pressure at all!" Congratulations are, I hope, in order, since McDonnell Douglas indeed got a piece of the station contract announced in late November.

OBIT

FANNISH OBITUARY: Mari Beth (Wheeler) Colvin died of cardiac arrest on October 19, 1987, in Duarte, California, at age 65. According to Bob Tucker, "In either late May or early June this year she suffered a first cardiac arrest, but was successfully revived. This was her 46th year in fandom. She began attending conventions in Jackson and Battle Creek, MI, in the early 1940s, and was a regular at the first few Mindwestcons in the early 1950s. Her first WorldCon was Los Angeles in 1946, and the most recent was Los Angeles in 1984. As a fanzine publisher, she edited and published five issues of Rosebud in 1944-46. She was the uncredited inspiration behind the notorious Three Fingers published by Liebscher and Tucker

in 1945.

"Sometime during the mid-1940s (date not available) she was instrumental in editing, and causing to be published, a printed Welcome Booklet by the NSF. She sent a copy of that booklet, with a letter, to a columnist in the old Saturday Review of Literature which resulted in a favorable review and a mention of the Federation in the Eastern Establishment Press."

BIRTH PANGS FOR BRAZILIAN FANDOM: Mike Glicksohn shared that in mid-November "I spent a few hours with a science fiction reader/fan from Brazil who has almost singlehandedly invented the ideas of fandom and fanzines down there. With no prior contact with organized fans he started up a club (very sercon, of course) and decided to publish a newsletter which has now appeared monthly for almost two years and is a most attractive-looking xeroxed publication, filled with Portuguese reviews, articles and fiction. The guy eventually discovered Locus but since it's illegal to send money out of Brazil he has to get his subscription through a government licensed export agency which is why Locus is currently his only contact with fandom." Glicksohn footed him a subscription to File 770, which I'll send at the air rate. Anybody who would like to contact the (George Washington/Forry Ackerman; pick one) of Brazilian fandom should write to:

Robert C. Nascimento
Caixa Postal 2209 - Ag. Central
01051 Sao Paulo, SP BRAZIL

NYCLONE CANCELLED: Robert Sacks' press release states the 1988 NYClone, that would have run July 4th weekend, has been cancelled. "The hotel 'discovered' a local ordinance prohibiting retail sales and reneged on their agreement, even though the Committee was willing to try and work out the problems. Efforts to find an alternate hotel have not been successful within a reasonable period." Planning for the 1989 NYClone has begun.

THE VAULT DOORS SWING OPEN: Since Science Fiction Chronicle received a copy, I won't say the 1986 WorldCon (Atlanta) has not published its financial report, but other than word that their bottom-line profit was \$90,000+, all I've received has been a press release from the anonymous directors of Worldcon Atlanta, Inc., announcing the availability of grants for projects to promote the appreciation of sf and fantasy art and literature. (Violins, please! Don't you hate it when newzine editors pout? I know I do!)

Applications for grants should be typewritten, and state the purpose of the project, timeline, complete breakdown of project expenses and income, the names and experience of persons involved, and other minutiae. A press release

gives as examples of grant proposals already received: "promotion of fan publications, audio publication of works of science fiction and fantasy, standardization of handicap access to science fiction conventions and a child education program." For complete information write to: WAI (attn. Jim Gilpatrick), Ste. 1986, 3277 Roswell Rd., Atlanta GA 30305.

By the way, WAI's former financial administrator, Mike Rogers, reports he had an "amiable parting" from the corporation in July. Rogers says a copy of the convention financial statement was forwarded to Conspiracy for presentation at the WorldCon business meeting, but I may have blinked and missed it.

OFFICIAL FILING: Chicago, IL, and Sydney, Australia, filed in time to be placed on the mail ballot for 1991 Site Selection. The selection will be conducted by NOLAcon II, the 1988 WorldCon. Contact addresses for the bids are:

Chicago: PO Box A3120, Chicago IL 60690

Sydney: GPO Box 4435, Sydney 2001 Australia

WINDYCON SITE OF FIRST SFWA AUCTION: At Windycon, jan howard finder, assisted by Jane Yolen and Phyllis Eisenstein, netted \$240 for the SFWA Emergency Fund at the first in a series of fundraising auctions. Yolen, President of Science Fiction Writers of America, invited finder to become SFWA's fundraiser after he had held several benefit auctions on behalf George Alec Effinger.

The SFWA Emergency Fund was conceived a few years ago by Robert Silverberg and others as a scheme to assist pro writers in financial hardship, especially those hit with heavy medical bills. SCIFI committed several thousand dollars of L.A.con II (1984 Worldcon) profits to the Fund on a matching basis.

SFWA Emergency Fund auctions will be held at each Windycon, Boskone, Westercon and Worldcon (in North America). Donations are sought from anyone with quality sf material to give. Contact jan howard finder at 164 Williamsburg Court, Albany NY 12203.

CANFAN BECOMES HERR PROFESSOR DICKSON: Leslie Dickson, formerly of Toronto, has been installed as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bayreuth. Dickson says, "A German academic foundation gave me a fellowship to work over here for a year or two with a professor of environmental chemistry (pollution and such). I hope to get back to Canada after finishing here..."

RUNNING THE ASSYLUM: Ron Salomon updates us, "I already told you about my new wife (last year), and new baby (next year) and finally there's news for this year: new job. After 7 years I'm moving into state employment for the Commonwealth of Mass. I'll be working (literally) in a

mental hospital (I expect a few comments, yes) helping to automate inventory control and working with vendors to get the most bang for the buck, so to speak, on contracted services. I'll be examining contracts and expect my own magnifying glass."

BRAD FOSTER FAST-DRAW: Hugo-winning fanartist Brad Foster says he spent most of his time the past few months working on his Mechthings comic series. Two issues are in print, and he sent his pages for #3 to the publisher in October. Unfortunately, the future for Mechthings is not rosy. "Things are looking bad, but hoping I can keep it coming out long enough to build an audience with the few folks who are getting it now. Not that that means no one is buying, but the shops are ordering low, selling out, and not reordering. An over-cautious market after last year's glut."

THYME MARCHES ON: The new editorial team at Thyme, the Aussie newzine agented by yours truly, is Peter Burns, Clive Newall and LynC. Correspondence should go to Newall at PO Box 4024, University of Melbourne, VIC 3052 Australia.

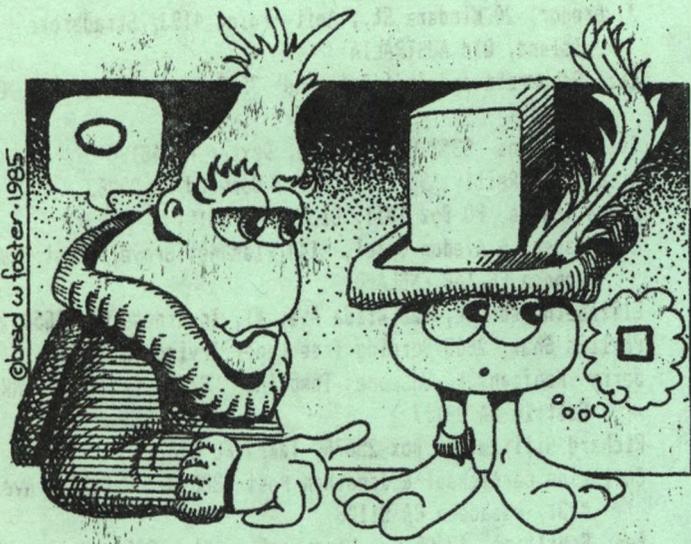
NEW ORLEANS, THE 1988 WORLDCON, AND OTHER THOUGHTS

Relatively little has been heard from the New Orleans committee about planning for the 1988 WorldCon, so a welcome first sign there is any was the first issue of Drew Sanders' newsletter for NOLAcon Costume Events, Behind the Masque. The Masque will take place Saturday evening, September 3, at 7:00 PM in the New Orleans Municipal Auditorium. Shuttle buses will be provided to transport fans to the auditorium that day. Sanders will stage the Masque in the auditorium's Park Side Hall, which seats 4500 (1900 on the floor, 2600 in the balcony). A technical rehearsal for the Masque will take place that Saturday morning and afternoon.

Sanders also plans a Living Historical Costume Display Friday, September 2, at 2:00 PM in the Orpheum Theater, seating about 2000. This will be a noncompetitive function. He is also negotiating for another unnamed event Friday evening.

Permanent displays of costume work emphasizing work which has been seen at Westercon, or Costume Con, but never at a Worldcon, will be on view. (Contact Drew Sanders at 13657 Rayen St., Arleta CA 91331.)

Other (visibly) active department heads include Guy



Lillian, who recently finished Progress Report 2, and Dick and Nicki Lynch. The Lynchi have been appointed to lead head of NOLAcon's Fan Programming track by program czar Dennis Dolbear. Dick is interested in hearing any ideas and suggestions for the Fantrack, especially those dealing with the main theme, "WorldCon". Write to Dick and Nicki Lynch at 4207 Davis Lane, Chattanooga TN 37416.

Greg Bennett volunteered his own scouting report on the city of New Orleans, containing some recommendations to plan your trip around. "Next year, in New Orleans... Melva and I were snooping around the convention facilities and the main hotels while we were vacationing there, goofing off this past 4th of July. (Fantastic fireworks show from a riverboat the Mississippi!) Bring a hat, and sunscreen. Add a swamp tour of your list of Things To Do; it's great fun! Be prepared for heat, sunshine, very high humidity, and sudden thundershowers. Bring money if you like to shop; they have one of the most fun shopping districts I've yet seen. The French Quarter is both fun and rowdy, and dangerous and scary. Travel in groups; ~~large~~ groups. The facilities should be adequate, but not more than that. The convention center is a bit decrepit, but it'll do for the big static programs. The main hotel looks fahrncy, but hey, this is New Orleans, the party town!

"The one thing I couldn't quite figure out about the New Orleans layout is where the Great Fan Gathering place will be. The hotel lobby just isn't set up for it -- no good vantage point for the long-range scan. It'll be too hot and muggy to do that outside. So I suspect finding friends will be a problem. Get your reservations in ~~early~~ for the main hotel. And, make arrangements in

advance to meet with the folks you like to meet with at a WorldCon. If it looks like some of the events are going to wind up at the domed stadium, run, do not walk, to the nearest mailbox and post your reservations for the Hyatt. Melva and I stayed at the Hyatt (which is built adjacent to the Superdome). We could walk from the river to the Hyatt at night, but not without some feelings of trepidation. And remember that I present a pretty imposing figure. It's about a 20 minute walk, uncomfortable in hot, muggy weather.

"But, cabs and buses and trolleys are plentiful and cheap in New Orleans. You shouldn't have any problem getting around. I do ~~not~~ recommend renting a car. We drove our pickup road rocket over there (really pretty drive across the swamps from Houston to New Orleans); but left it parked in the Hyatt's garage for four days. You can forget about finding a parking space anywhere downtown or in the French Quarter. So save your tire rubber, leave the beast at home, and take a horsedrawn carriage to get around town.

TAFF

THE NEXT TAFF RACE: North American Administrator Jeanne Gonnell has announced the schedule for the next Trans Atlantic Fan Funs race. Nominations opened November 1, and will close December 31, 1987. The ballots will be available January 15, 1988, with a voting deadline of April 15, 1988 (ha, why does that ring a bell?) This is the Europe-to-North-America leg (notwithstanding Jeanne's terming it a UK-NA race in Taffiles 1), and candidates need signed statements from three nominators on the European side of the Atlantic, two from North America, and must send these to one of the administrators together with a 100 word platform and a \$5.00 bond (affirming the nominee will make the trip if he/she wins).

The European TAFF Administrator is Greg Pickersgill. Jeanne reports £895.52 was raised for fan funds at Conspiracy, the lion's share of which was divided between DUFF and TAFF.

We'll try and find something in the US to help the TAFF winner watch Jeanne's photo on page two -- maybe we can lead 15 fans to form a human pyramid in the center of the maze formed by all the cartons in Bruce Pelz' uncataloged fanzines!

DOWN UNDER FAN FUND RACE STARTS: Australian fans Cathy Kerrigan and Terry Dowling are the 1988 DUFF Candidates. The deadline for voting is April 4, 1988. Ballots will

circulate with the next issue of F770, and about a zillion places before then!

STANDING CLEVELAND JOKE: Franz Trilich furnished a clipping from the November 1 Cleveland Plain-Dealer which foreshadows more hard-sledding for the Cleveland '94 WorldCon bid. Says the article, "Nearly a dozen developers have unveiled plans or proposals for more than 5000 additional downtown hotel rooms since 1970, only to see their visions vanish. Consequently, announcements of new downtown hotels have become yet another Cleveland joke." Such is the public's attitude toward new downtown projects recently announced. Aside from a long history of problems financing these projects, Cleveland's hotel occupancy rate of 50% does nothing to encourage new construction, said the paper.

SUSAN C. PETREY AWARD: The 1987 Susan C. Petrey Clarion Scholarship went to Susan Kray of Urbana, Illinois. The scholarship, \$975, paid Susan's tuition to the six-week Clarion West Writer's Workshop in Seattle, WA. It was the sixth time the scholarship has been awarded. It is given to an attendee of the Clarion workshop in Michigan or Washington, in alternate years. More information may be obtained about the scholarship, which is sponsored by Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc., may be obtained from the administrators, Debbie Cross and Paul M. Wrigley, 5429 S. E. Bush, Portland OR 97206. Phone: (503) 774-7592. The Scholarship is mainly funded by auctions at conventions and the administrators are always looking for items (manuscripts, galleys, books, etc.) to sell. Donations are tax deductible.

CANADIANS AWARDS GIVEN: In June, the 1986 Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards, (the "Caspers"), were given out at Ad Astra 7, doubling this year as the seventh Canadian National SF Convention. Winners: Best Work in English of 1986: Guy Gavriel Kay for The Wandering Fire. Best Work in French of 1986: Elisabeth Vonarburg for "La carte du Tendre", nouvelle publiee dans l'anthologie Aimer. Fan Achievement in 1986: Elisabeth Vonarburg for contributions to Solaris and for improving Francophone/Anglophone fannish communications. Winnipeg will host Convention 8 in conjunction with Keycon 5, May 20-22, 1988.

SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION: Joyce Scrivner was terminally tickled to hear from last year's SFC President, Cliff Amos, that the total number of dues-paying SFC members in 1986 was 4. Says Joyce, "One quarter of that number was a damn Yankee and a NESFA SMOF at that, still Rick Katzé is enough to balance out a lot of Southern fen, no?"

This year, P. L. Caruthers-Montgomery (hey, does the "P" in her name stand for the same thing, "Spike" stands for?)

::://////###X(((CHANGES OF ADDRESS))>###\\\\\\\\\\\:::

Bruce Diamond 1805 Lauther, River Oaks TX 76114
 J. Gregor, 20 Kindara St., Amity Point 4183, Stradbroke Island, Qld AUSTRALIA
 Liz Schwarzia and Jeff Copeland 3612 Dunn Drive, LA CA 90034
 Steve Simmons 9353 Hidden Lake, Dexter MI 48130
 Michael N. Reilly 96 Ellis Ave., Norwood MA 02062
 David Travis- PO Box 1011, Clovis NM 88101
 Rob Hansen & Avedon Carol, 144 Plashnet Grove, East Ham, London E6 1AB ENGLAND
 Elizabeth Osborne, 425 Wilda Ave. #1, Inverness FL 32650
 Phyllis Shaw, 2805-Burning Tree Lane, Irving TX 75062
 Jerry Kaufman & Susanne Tompkins 8738 1st Ave. NW, Seattle WA 98117
 Richard Gilliam PO Box 25676, Tampa FL 33622
 Christine Carmichael & Jonathan Post 385 S. Catalina Ave. #231, Pasadena CA 91106
 Ben Schilling 45605 Fox Lane East, Apt. 206, Utica MI 48087-4228
 Mark & Priscilla Olson, 10 Shawmut Terrace, Framingham MA 01701
 Harry Andruschak 946 W. 220th St. Unit 106, Torrance CA 90502
 Leslie Dickson, Konigsallee 35, 8580 Bayreuth, WEST GERMANY
 Ben Fulves 624 Park Ave. #3B, Hoboken NJ 07030
 Jeff Schalles c/o Savage Rock Photos, PO Box 9074, Long Island City NY 11103
 Fred Cleaver 153 W. Ellsworth, Denver CO 80223
 Leon Monroe Frazier PO Box 8600, Universal City CA 91608
 Jim & Laurie Mann 12 Shady Lane Ave., Northborough MA 01532
 John A. Purcell, 7225 3rd Ave. S., Richfield MI 55423
 Albert L. Jackowiak, 800 S. Pacific Coast Highway B-158, Redondo Beach CA 90277
 Wilson Tucker: (New zip only) 2516/H E. Washington St., Bloomington IL 61704-4444
 Charles Seelig PO Box 752, Rowley MA 01969
 Mike Rogers 5915 Trammell Rd. Apt. V-7, Morrow GA 30260
 Alan Winton, Vanessa Schnatmeier, 2320 Howard Ave., San Carlos CA 94070

is cranking up the membership engines. She reminds me that DeepSouthCon 26 will be held in Atlanta, GA, June 10-12, 1988. Guest of Honor is Gregory Benford; Toastmaster is Joe Haldeman; other announced guests include William Gibson, and Frank Kelley Freas (tentative). Fan 60H's Jerry Burge, Hank Reinhardt and Walt Guthrie have been selected to celebrate 40 years of fandom in Atlanta and the Southeast, hearkening back to the Cosmic Legion. Membership is \$20 until 5/15/88, \$25 thereafter and at the door: DSC 26 (PhoenixCon 3), 752 1/2 N. Highland Ave., Atlanta GA 30092.

1987 BUSINESS MEET

CONSPIRACY OF (ONE) DUNCE

Katze withdrew his name. Consequently, a seat on the committee went unfilled.



Friday's Preliminary Business Meeting set the weekend's agenda, including limitations on debate (usually some number of minutes per motion, up to 20). The preliminary session was also the forum where members could "object to consideration" of new motions, if the majority agreed. That was the fate of a motion to delegate the Hugo and Site Selection voting processes to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee, made by Liz Gross and seconded by Victoria Smith, Beverly Brandt, Bob Hillis and Robert

CARRY ON AT YOUR BUSINESS MEETING: 1987 WorldCon Business meeting chairman Tim Stannard came highly recommended as "fandom's solicitor", the font of legal wisdom consulted by British fandom about hotel contracts and other serious issues. Frankly, the man couldn't find his behind with both hands. Stannard made a shambles of the Business Meeting, seldom certain which day's agenda he was trying to run, and totally confused about the order of business and how to conduct votes.

At Friday's Preliminary Business Meeting Stannard cheerfully admitted his inexperience with running meetings, and largely confined his efforts to assuring enough quiet so that Parliamentarian Ben Yalow could explain what was going on. Occasionally Stannard interrupted with inanities. When Yalow was explaining that written acceptances of nominations to the Mark Registration and Protection Committee were required of any absent nominee, Stannard remembered from Ripley's Believe It Or Not "A check written on the side of a cow is acceptable."

At that time, only four people were nominated to fill the four open committee slots: Rick Katze, Leslie Turek, Bob Hillis and Liz Gross. Zonal restrictions prevented Katze and Turek from both being elected, therefore on Saturday

Sacks.

The WSFS Mark Registration and Protection Committee reported at the preliminary meeting. Donald Eastlake III said their main achievement since 1986 had been the service mark registration of "NASFiC" in the United States. The committee had selected a United Kingdom law firm, and filed applications, to register all WSFS marks in the United Kingdom (except "Science Fiction Achievement Award", rejected in the US, and "NASFiC", an inappropriate mark to register in the UK).

The Committee also reported they had found a solution to Conspiracy's gaffe of distributing to attendees a brochure for World SF, without its containing the appositive "the international association of science fiction professionals". The mark infringement inherent in World SF's name had been hotly debated at the AussieCon II business meeting. Although the writers had succeeded in derailing further action against them, there had been an agreement by World SF to accommodate WSFS by always using the complete formula (given above) thereby distinguishing themselves from WSFS. Conspiracy's infringement of the World Science Fiction Society mark was handled by printing a disclaimer in the daily newzine.

Finally, the Mark Committee made a financial statement, and noted that sources for the \$2,000-\$3,000 necessary to register WSFS service marks in the UK had already been located.

Putridos Business Meeting, Day Two: Saturday morning, Tim Stannard trooped into the Main Business Meeting wearing a full Nazi lieutenant colonel's uniform, and smirked, "Today there will be no interruptions -- and my decisions are final." But Stannard still didn't know what business he was leading. During the umpteenth rereading of the Broadened Hugo Nominations motion, Stannard tiredly asked for a glass of water. Scott Dennis handed it to him -- and Stannard promptly spilled it down his uniform. Scott fetched him another drink. A vision of an old Laurel and Hardy routine flashing before my eyes, I yelled at the chairman, "What time is it?" but he didn't check his watch, or else glass two would have qualified him for unterseeboot service.

After years of wrangling about the Site Selection Rotation system, and the scope of duties for the Mark Registration and Protection (nee Standing) Committee, the Conspiracy Business Meetings were practically without controversy. (Considering who was presiding, this was a distinct blessing.) Every single motion that was passed on from the 1986 Business Meeting, and every other motion that was submitted to the Main Business Meeting, passed (some, after amendments).

Business passed on to Conspiracy '87, and ratified there, included the following. (1) Creation of a nonvoting member of the MR&P Committee appointed by each future selected NASFiC Committee, and for each NASFiC held in the previous two years. (2) A requirement that each WorldCon Committee shall provide an annual financial report to the Business Meeting until the first or second year after its convention when they shall submit a cumulative final financial report. (3) A revision to move the islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon from the Central to the Easter Rotation Zone. (4) Redefinition of the Best Nonfiction Book category to explicitly include books about the subject of fandom. (5) A procedure for notifying Hugo nominees and requesting their acceptance or declination, and specifically permitting declinations. (6) Revording the requirement to distribute the WSFS rules to members of the WorldCon.

In brief, new business passed on from Conspiracy '87 for possible ratification at the 1988 WorldCon consisted of the following: (1) Setting the Business Meeting quorum at 12 members, physically present. (2) Establishing a "question time" during the Business Meeting where future selected Worldcons -- not only the most recent winner -- may be asked about their plans and actions. (3) Reviving the practice of permitting Hugo nominations from members

of the previous WorldCon as well as the present WorldCon. (4) An amendment eliminating NASFiC Site Selection mail voting, and permitting NASFiC bids to delay their filing until after the close of WorldCon Site Selection Voting -- when the need for a NASFiC is confirmed. (5) A motion enumerating the rights of supporting members, and setting a ceiling on any fee to convert from voting membership to supporting membership.

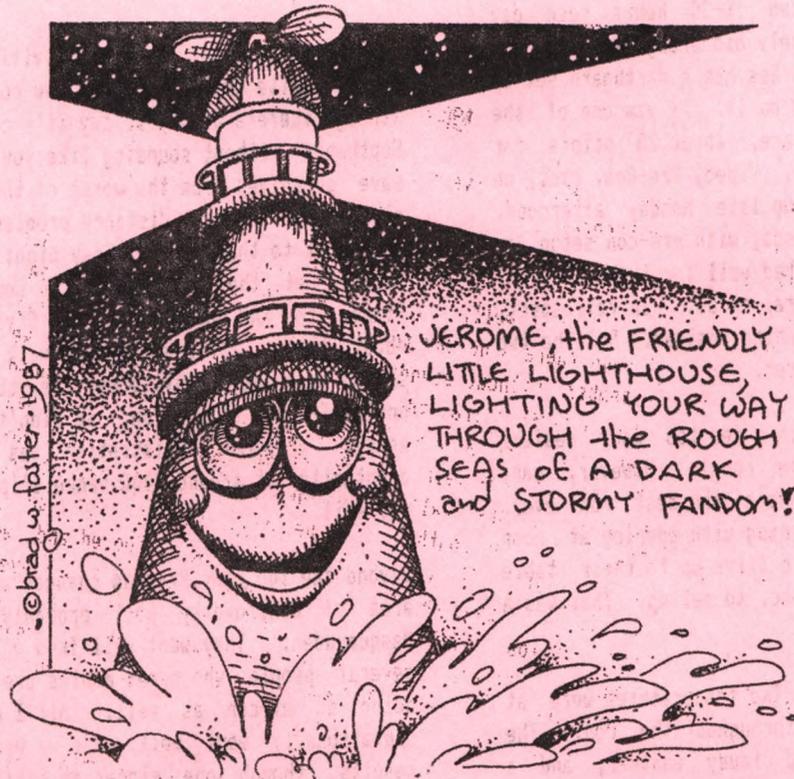
WOLFE LAMPOONS WORLDCON: According to Maia Cowan, attendees at October's ConClave got a treat -- Gene Wolfe doing comedy. "Gene Wolfe's GOH speech...was a slide show (without slides) of Conspiracy. Brian Earl Brown got a transcript to print in Sticky Quarters. (Mis)quoting a few high points from memory: "That gentleman in combat garb with the automatic weapon is the manager of the Metropole... There's the gray-and-black Doubleday Spad strafing the Gollancz blimp over the English Channel... Here's Andy Porter taking flash photographs of the laser show -- the guest of honor speeches -- the masquerade -- here's Andy Porter perched on a pile of committee members taking flash photographs of the Hugo ceremonies... Focus please -- no, Boris always looks like that... Here are Mr. & Mrs. Yolen, celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, checking into their Metropole room with twin beds and the Fire Brigade Marshal standing guard between them -- Mr. & Mrs. Yolen checking out of the Metropole... Here's the Fire Brigade patrolling to limit room party attendance to one person or less..." The one good thing about Conspiracy is that it makes one heckuva story.

UPDATING MAIA COWAN'S LEG Maia's broken leg reported last issue actually occurred some months ago by now, and she concludes, "I was in a full-leg cast for nine weeks and in a walking cast for another six weeks, until September 8. Thanks for the mention, but I don't want people thinking that this is new news, and that I did it again."

UPDATING OTHER FANNISH ANATOMY: Sheryl Birkhead's hand, injured by an animal bite at veterinary school, is working better, says Sheryl. "Apparently the sensory nerve is at least damaged, if not severed, but recent tingling seems a good sign. I've only about 70% motion of the index finger and less strength than that. I have therapy twice a week with a re-evaluation in two months to see how motor function and sensory perception are doing.

"I graduated on time and have been working a month. I have 56 hours scheduled and that's a minimum (19 days on -- then a 3 day weekend -- I haven't had one yet..."

40TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF HYPHEN RELEASED: More than a shade of legendary fanzines past, the 40th anniversary issue of Walt Willis' Hyphen, subtitled 40 years of Irish Fandom, has reached these shores. It is among the finest zines of 1987.



CONVENTION BEAT

1987 NASFiC "CACTUSCON", BY CHAIRMAN BRUCE FARR

(September 28, 1987) We're now working on closing details for our 1987 NASFiC "CactusCon". Final figures and details will be in our Progress Report 5, due out sometime in the next couple of months (best guess right now is mid-November or later.) The final PR will include photos, financial statements, membership list, the final Program, guests, etc.

As to numbers, we had approximately 3100 attend and 3540 total members, making us just slightly larger than the Austin NASFiC (they had about 2900 attend). Our breakeven ended up at about 3000 members and our projected membership had been 3500. Pundits had been estimating our membership from anywhere in the range of 2000 to 7000. For planning purposes, we decided to use Austin's approximate numbers with a range to allow for somewhat greater advertising and the fact that we were losing 1000-2000 Americans to England. We were overall quite pleased

with our turnout.

We did make a non-profit on the convention (we're still a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation). Prior to refunding volunteer memberships (estimated at \$11,000), pass-ons, PR 5 costs (\$2000 to \$3000) etc., we show a profit of about \$20,000. This will naturally see-saw over the weeks as requested reimbursements come out of the woodwork and vendors come up with imaginative billings. We still have to collect on a few Program Book ads and other items, but have a fairly healthy \$18,000 cash balance right now so we're in good shape.

I'm pleased by the way the convention ran. We had rough spots in several places, but it wasn't bad considering that this was the first time many of our people had run such a large convention. We'd all worked together on many local cons (we have two Phoenix conventions each year, LepreCon and CopperCon, of about 1000 people each), but it's been since 1982 that we'd hosted a con of over 1000. We've had a few committee changes in the two years leading up to the convention and no squabbles in the three years since. That's how I usually judge the success of a convention as to its local impact.

The Committee, staff and volunteers did a great job. About 400 people worked on the con, many putting in 12 or more hours each day (I worked 16-20 hours each day myself). One thing we definitely did wrong was that the con was too bloody long! Con Ops had a dartboard set up with a large photo of me pasted on it. I was one of the first to zap me -- in this case, about 25 points for starting up Hospitality, Films, Video, Pre-Reg. etc., on Wednesday evening and closing up late Monday afternoon. Many of us worked starting Tuesday with pre-con setup in the Civic Plaza. That all worked well for the attendees, but it damned near killed several of us. In retrospect, I'd have started on Thursday evening instead. But the two days of setup time was a lifesaver.

The Dealers' Room ended up with a few too many dealers (about 180 tables total in the room). However, many dealers commented that it was one of the best run ever. Setup started on Wednesday morning with opening at noon Thursday. Dealers were able to drive up to their table with their vans, trucks, cars, etc. to set up. That was a big hit.

Our weather cooperated nicely. The temperatures were at least ten degrees below normal throughout the con. The first two days we even managed cloudy weather, and a decent breeze most of the rest of the con. However, it took sacrificing our last two virgins to manage the good weather. The screams of those four-year-olds bothered me for weeks.

The largest problem area was Programming. We were plagued during the months leading up to the convention with peoples' plans being up in the air because of the Worldcon. Writers and others were constantly changing their plans as things happened with Brighton. We were afraid that we'd be hit with a lot of changes at the con as well -- and we were. Many people showing up at the con who were not on the Program wanted to be added, and were in fact put in the Program...and perhaps they shouldn't have been. I'm personally a little more hardheaded when I do programming.

Doreen Webbert, who was in charge of our Program and is also in charge for WesterCon in Phoenix next year, has learned a lot from the experience and plans to do things differently for WesterCon. Confirmations to Program Participants were sent too close to the convention, which also caused a lot of at-con changed. The lateness of the changes also caused problems with our Pocket Program and Program Booklet (for example, the Program Booklet couldn't show the times and places of panels, contrary to our planned format.) Doreen talked to many pros throughout the con and has gotten a lot of input on things that went well and poorly. Both I and our SFWA Liaison have had a chance to debrief on Programming and I'm sure that others

have as well. (I've done a WesterCon and a World Fantasy Con Program.)

Our concentrating daytime activities at the Civic Plaza worked quite well. I heard few complaints about the heat (though there's no way to say it's cool in Phoenix in early September without sounding like you have sunstroke); we save ourselves from the worst of the problems by advanced planning. The only distance problem we seemed to have was the walk to the main Saturday night Masquerade. That was located at the Ballroom on the south end of the Civic Plaza...the FAR south end of the Civic Plaza. Ah, sorry about that. It was a longer walk than it looked and we should have added shuttle service, but we didn't break even until Friday of the con, so didn't know we'd have the money. (Pre-con registration was 2420 with breakeven eventually at around 3000 memberships). Again, oops and oh, shit.

Beyond the too many Program changes at the con, the other area of controversy will probably be our having two Masquerades. They went well from what I saw, but I heard several people who spent months pre-con ripping the idea doing so at-con as well. All I can say is that it operationally went well, and we were pleased with the results, though one singer at halftime of the Saturday night event I heard was rather poor. We had about 50 individuals and groups entered between the two events on Friday and Saturday. There would have been many more if not for the fact that we were being boycotted by many pro-class costumers (reportedly for being so audacious as trying something new as having two masquerades) and that other costumers were in England. I spoke with many attendees and participants who enjoyed the two masquerades.

I make no apologies for having two events. It was greatly preferable to having one interminable event, as they had been conducted in the recent past. I also believe that they went off well. Not perfectly as this was an experiment and so had to have some rough spots. It's one possible solution that had to be tried. And yes, our stages were elevated (sorry, couldn't resist).

I'm afraid that I could go on about the convention for many more pages, but I need to get back to post-con details. Overall, I heard many favorable comments from attendees. They especially loved the many movie premieres we hosted (including The Princess Bride from 20th Century Fox) -- we rented a 1200-seat theater three blocks from our main hotels, for three days to show them; a 1920s era Paramount theater, which was worth seeing by itself.

We tried to do everything we could for the con workers as well. Several people in Operations commented that this was the smoothest running large con they've seen in awhile. For example, we had NO damages in the hotels or Civic Plaza

billed to the convention. Our only significant problem was that we had a couple of thefts of convention property (total loss of about \$750.)

Our group's next project is the 1988 WesterCon in Phoenix, and the 1988 SMOFcon (not to mention CopperCon and LepreCon). After that, we're bidding for the 1991 World Fantasy Convention for Phoenix or Tucson (we conducted the 1985 WFC in Tucson).

NASPIC PARTIES

DAVID AXLER: Overall, Cactuscon was a pretty quiet affair, with about 4,000 attendees. The on-site newzine was decent, though usually late. Alas, their printer's camera broke on Monday, so there were very few copies of that issue -- most posted at non-obvious spots about the hotel. The parties were generally quiet ones, mostly located in the various poolside rooms on the Hyatt's third floor. In fact, with the exception of the Gay/Lesbian fandom parties, all the parties were somewhere in the Hyatt. Bid parties included Chicago ('91), Discon ('92 good party), Orlando ('92 good party, excellent t-shirts), San Francisco ('93), Winnipeg ('94), and Cleveland ('94 serving "Flaming Cuyahogas", an incendiary ice cream concoction). Other bashes included an excellent show by Ladera Travel, a hospitality (=sales) suite run by Alcor Cryonics ("BYO ice" read the graffito on one of their posters), a joint bash put on by ArmadilloCon IX, Sercon 2 and Nolacon II, the usual libertarian gathering, and assorted others. The con suite -- four connected poolside rooms -- offered an excellent spread of soda, beer, slushies and helium balloons.

The best night for partying, though, proved to be Monday. Because there was only one dead dog announced, more folks headed for the pool zone than usual, possibly encouraged by the full moon. The con suite was busy, and the overflow from the nearby SFWA suite (fueled, in part, by leftover champagne from the closed-door TOR party a few days earlier) made for an interesting mixture of people.

Thursday night's rock dance, sponsored by Baen Books, suffered from problems with the sound system. However, later bashes, including two Regency affairs, a 50s dance and several others, managed to recoup.

The weather was, I'm told, actually cool for Phoenix -- dropping as low as 70 in the evening, and generally keeping under the century mark in the daytime. This, I suspect, helped keep people moving into the early hours, though the Hyatt's air conditioning system did seem to be having trouble during some of the dances.

WESTERCON 40: THE AUTOPSY CONTINUES

WESTERCON NOTEBOOK: by John Hertz There was a lot of dim sum in my Westercon. Friday I heard that Dave Nee recommended the Jade Villa restaurant two blocks from the con hotel. Lee and Barry Gold and I immediately said, in unison, "That's good enough for us," and arranged an expedition for Saturday morning. Dave of course was right. Waiters steered a hundred kinds of dim sum past our table by the cartful, savory kinds and sweet kinds, wrapped in steamed bread and baked bread and noodle and free-standing, each more delectable than the last. The triumph of China over Japan is manifest in the price of dim sum compared to sushi. Mary Jane and I were so delighted that I led a second battalion Sunday, at the impossible hour of 9 AM, to reach the Villa when it opened and (even more bizarrely) to accommodate some troupers' convention schedules. Oh, well, who sleeps? In the afternoon I sallied forth again to victual the TAFF-DUFF auction with two large boxes from the Villa's take-out counter. I may never know what else this restaurant serves.

Don Simpson had a Puppeteer skeleton in the Art Show. Wandering dazedly away from it, I nearly collided with Bob Vardeman, who remembered being in Taps with me for several years; we had never met in person. The Program Book was splendid, part of a con to which I have been inhumanly sensitive since doing the Program Book for the 1984 Worldcon (L.A.con II). There was no sign of Clifford Wind (and where is Rhetorical Device?), but Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Tom Whitmore and other helpful souls cheered me about various topics related to Fancyclopedia III. I scored a copy of Bridge of Birds in the Dealers' Room. Two hundred people came to Regency Dancing.

The best Masquerade entries were of Worldcon quality. The Daves, Karen Turner, and Philip Mercier took Best of Show (Recreation) and Best Workmanship (Recreation) with stunning executions of costumes from the London production of Starlight Express, roller skates and all. Jennifer Tift minced unerringly along the border between hall and stage costume as a "Musketier From Mars" in clothes alienly skewed from 17th Century Europe (Most Exquisite, Master Class; Best Workmanship - Original). Best in Show - Original, and a special award for sculpture from the workmanship judge went to "Picnic on Planet X-37" by Hans Reier, Lori Hillard and others; Hillard as an innocent picnicker in a pinafore suddenly beset by two huge bug-eyed monsters and rescued by a giant robot no less weird than its victims. Their voice-over accompaniment was funny. Each participant maintained characteristic and distinct bearing a movement (hurrah!), and best of all, when they

exited down the center aisle it could be seen that the three fantastic costumes were built from painted cardboard, a masterly use of this medium that set an example to everyone. The Novice and even Journeyman classes were unusually weak. However, two humorous entries, always hard to do well, won Best Novice (Alan Skoonberg and Michael Silverling, "The Rocket Boys") and Best Journeyman (members of the acting and Role-Playing Association, "The Tachyon National Guard"). Both were nearly slapstick. The Tachyons had such thorough detail, all comic, that they won a workmanship award. They edged out JoAnne Kirley's group "The Egyptians" (Most Beautiful, Journeyman class; Most Beautiful Workmanship), in which I could have sworn I saw a pair of modern rubber shower sandals; also, unlike the excellent "Osiris Rising" at ConStellation, this entry lacked even the fantasy element of gods. The judges continued the growing tradition of wearing costume themselves. Alison Frankel was superb as a thick-furred biped cat, complete to top hat, walking stick and card case (yes, it had calling cards).

The Fanzine Lounge continued another growing tradition. I saw no repro facilities, and the refreshments could have been improved (so I improved them, see Paragraph 1), but the elements were there: a designated part of the main hotel, quiet but not far from regular traffic flow, historic fanzines exhibited as conveniently as possible (including some of GoH Greg Benford's), other fanzines for sale and browsing, fanzine interest programming located there or nearby, and room to hang around comfortably with the like-minded. A window in the Fanzine Lounge looked down onto the floor of the Dealer's Room. I have sadly forgotten who drew my attention to this wonderful view.

It is awkward for me to find fault with Westercon XXXX. The concom treated me generously. Mary Jane and I had a fine time. Yet it must be done. Everywhere one turned there were blunders. Name badges arrives hours after Registration opened, sorted by membership numbers. Masquerade judging dragged out three times as long as it should have because the judges were inexperienced and so was the clerk. Larry Niven never learned that he was entitled to reserved seating as a guest of the con; he missed the Masquerade. The Dealer's Room had to set up three times, twice from misunderstanding the fire marshal. I sat on no panels this year (actually another snafu; a form never arrived in the mail), but friends told me the Green Room staff was cordial but helpless. Fred Patten wrote in APA L that he arrived at one panel to find the table set up with the names of some other set of participants. Nothing seemed too small or too large for error, thank Roscoe never catastrophic, but readily avoidable out of existing lore.

INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW: Janice Murray of Seattle wrote, "Is there any truth to the rumor I hear that of all

the fanzine panels at Westercon there was nary a female panelist? Do you have an editorial opinion on this subject you would care to put forth? What in the name of Robert Bork is fandom coming to?" It seems to me this calls not for an editorial opinion but a determination whether the rumor is factual. While I didn't see the majority of fanzine track programming, now that you mention it, there were no female panelists on the three fanzine panels I attended. Mr. Bratman, who organized the Westercon 40 fanzine program, can provide a definitive answer, I'm sure. Lucy Huntzinger, DUFF Administrator, participated in the fan fund auction which was on the Fan track of programming. Fran Skene, Teresa Nielsen Hayden and Amy Thomson participated in the discussion from the audience. But were there any women panelists on the fanzine program?

 RUNNING TO KEEP UP WITH THE CON GAME

READERCON 1: June 26-28, 1987 by DARRELL SCHWEITZER: The first Readercon was definitely an artistic success. It was not, as I understand it, a financial success, but if fans support it, I'm sure that will come.

The premise of Readercon is rather like that of the West Coast Sercon: among the media trekkies, costumers, and general riffraff at most large science fiction conventions, there are actually enough readers to have a medium-sized convention of their own.

Attendance was about 300, mostly fans. The professional community did not turn out in great numbers, although professionals present included Gene Wolfe (the guest of honor), David Hartwell, Ellen Kushner, Graig Shaw Gardner, Geary Gravel, Mark Zeising (publisher guest of honor), James Patrick Kelly, Melissa Michaels, Gary Farber, (an editor at Avon Books, who bears an astonishing resemblance to Gary Farber, the noted fan), yours truly, and others.

The convention was held in Brookline, MA, a borough of Boston. A pleasant time was had by all. One of the pleasantest things about it was that the convention did managed to attract the right sort of people, i.e., readers. This was the sort of con where programming was heavily attended and the audience asked interesting questions. You also overheard people talking about critical theory in the parties. When the conversation at the Avon party actually turned to movies briefly, someone jokingly said, "Hey, wait a minute, this is Readercon." "Well, we're being iconoclastic," said Gary Farber.

Gene Wolfe gave a fine speech about reading and the New Illiteracy. he most memorable panel I participated in was

the Kirk Poland Memorial Bad Prose Competition, in which three contestants -- me, Geary Gravel, and Craig Gardner -- were given excerpts of awesomely terrible prose (from The Blind Spot, a Gor novel, a recent Hubbard fiasco, Stephen Donaldson, Lin Carter, a Heinlein nipple scene, and a later Van Vogt novel) then asked to write a few lines of continuation. The passages, our endings, and the real endings were all read to the audience which then voted on which was authentic. Gravel was embarrassed at how easily he won, but then anyone who could insert, "My God! The ant colony!" into a kinky Hubbardian torture scene (which already had lesbian fiends, a cheese grater, and tabasco sauce) deserves to win. Sorry, Geary. I came in a moderate second. It had been neck-and-neck, but I flubbed badly over Thongor. My version of the infamous Slorg attack got a lot of laughs, but no votes.

So the convention was serious and literate, but not at all stuffy, which is what the sort of thing should be. Somehow it managed to come up seriously short of money toward the end, and the attendees appreciation was clearly demonstrated by the last-minute charity auction, which included items as impressive as a Gene Wolfe novel manuscript and a copy of the Philtrum Press edition of The Eyes of the Dragon.

Guest of Honor next year is Samuel Delany. I hope to see some File 770 readers there. This convention is worth supporting.

UNICON 1987 (July 17-19, 1987) by DARRELL SCHWEITZER: Unicons have had a run of bad luck with what New Yorkers called "the subway crowd", bands of rowdy teenagers whose interest in SF is minimal but who come for a cheap weekend of parties. Two years ago vandalism was so bad that the hotel closed down the con at midnight on Saturday. There was no Unicon the next year.

But it is a good con, and now it has escaped by going to Annapolis, a very posh resort town on Chesapeake Bay, about 25 miles from Washington DC, and out of reach of the DC subway. The result was a smaller, but much more exclusive convention, which seemed to come off smoothly, save that for some weird reason hotel rooms for conventioners were \$8 higher than the regular rate. To make this up, the con (or somebody) provided each room with a grocery-bag full of party food. Me, I would rather have had the \$8. In any case, the con committee found themselves up to the ceiling in leftover potato chips, etc. and by Sunday, Guest of Honor David Brin was tossing them out to the masses, which was a bizarre spectacle indeed. My group, which had been given a huge amount of these leftovers for the Weird Tales party, ended up driving home with a carload.

Excess calories aside, it was a good convention. David

Brin's speech was an Ellisonian rap with the audience, with a lot of audience feedback. There was a slight shortage of parties, but not seriously. (or, if there was Saturday night I didn't notice because I was hosting one). Pro guests in attendance included Brin, Alexis Gilliland, Esther Friesner, Richard Grant, Marvin Kaye, Sterling Lanier, Hal Clement/Harry Stubbs, John Betancourt, Roger McBride Allen, Charles Sheffield, L. E. Modesitt, John Maddox Roberts, Mark Rogers, Paula Volsky, Lawrence Watt-Evans and Allen Wold.

It's safe to say this convention is back on track. The Annapolis location is excellent, about 15 minutes from Annapolis harbor, where there are fine restaurants, several good used-book stores, and Pendragon Gallery (which is definitely worth visiting -- the only place I have ever seen Leo and Diane Dillon originals.)

NECRONOMICON '87 (Oct. 16-18, 1987) by ANN MORRIS: Necronomicon '87 held at the Sabal Park Holiday Inn in Tampa, FL, began at noon on Friday and didn't conclude until the last of the "dead dogs" left the con suite late Sunday night.

The Friday night banque was highlighted by what one member called "real edible food", and an entertaining speech by one of the Guests of Honor, Orson Scott Card. One of Necronomicon's staples is the annual, all-female cast Star Trek spoof at the fan cabaret after the banquet. This year the skit poked fun at the new TV series with Captain James/Jean Luc, Spock/Data, and a Scottish engineer and a crotchety old country doctor. The title: "Tomorrow is Yesterday and Today Is Too."

Two new events for the 1987 edition of Necronomicon were the Midnight Horror Show (which began at 11 but justified its name by going strong well past midnight) and the Sherlock Holmes Tea and Trivia Party. Both events had crowds whose abundant enthusiasm made up for small size. One of the professional guests, Ginger Simpson Curry, premiered a horror murder mystery at the Midnight Horror Show and author Lawrence Watt-Evans showed his Holmesian expertise at the Holmes Tea and Trivia Party.

Saturday afternoon gave con members a rare chance to see two of SF's most popular authors together. Piers Anthony interviewed Frederik Pohl about his work and his political views. It was a lively and provocative interview which went twenty minutes over the time allotted without any dismay among the fans.

Con membership for the three days was 587. At least 300 attended Saturday night's Masquerade. At 33 entries, it was larger than the NASFiC Masquerade. The event began on time and finished in an hour and ten minutes, including judging and awards presentations.

The Necronomicon art show once again had a pleasing variety of work by both fan and professional artists. By Sunday afternoon there was little art left to be seen because so much of it had been sold. In a list compiled for ASFA Quarterly by artist Ingrid Neilson, of the top ten money making cons for artists in 1985 and 1986, only two conventions managed to make the top ten both years; Necronomicon was one of them. This year's show was very profitable for the exhibitors as well. The total sales came to \$1,198, quite a respectable amount for a convention of Necronomicon's size.

No convention is without its glitches but not all are as colorful as one experienced at Necronomicon '87. From Friday afternoon through Sunday, the con staff was plagued with rumors that the hotel staff had accused convention members of staining hotel walls with an obnoxious pink paint administered by squirt guns. As the contract with the hotel specified that the con would be responsible for damaged caused by its staff or members, there was concern for finances and the possible loss of the facility for next year's con. Many of the staff spent time looking at and trying to determine exactly how the pink splotches did get all over the walls. The mystery was cleared up when Necronomicon representatives met with the hotel manager to settle the bill. It turns out there is a type of mold peculiar to new hotels (our is barely six months old) which just happens to be pink. This is the stuff of which fan legends are made.

EARTHCON VII: Nov. 13-15, 1987 by LLOYD PENNEY Earthcon appears to be the pariah of Ohio conventions. While reportedly boasting 1400 attendees in previous years, Earthcon attracted about 500 this year, with no appreciable turnout from Detroit or Buffalo, or any other Ohio city.

The organizers of the Cleveland in '94 bid, Chandra Lee Morgan and Michelle Canterbury, were busy with the bid, and left Earthcon with Mary Lee Holzheimer, who proceeded to do nothing and organize nothing as chairman. Chandra and Michelle tell me they literally had to get the con organized within a few days of the con weekend. The con lacked in organization (Chandra told me it lacked a concom, period...Earthcon has never had an organized concom running it, it's always been the sole efforts of a few). It began to fall apart mid-Saturday, and died under the weight of its own problems. The con wound up losing about \$1000. Chandra and Michelle told me there aren't enough people in Cleveland fandom who care enough to be responsible for a specific position on a concom. These two do work hard, although I wonder how the idea of a Worldcon came about if there isn't enough local support to even stock a local con's concom. They plan to try to put together a concom, and reorganize the con, possibly under another name.

SMOFCON 4: Nov. 20-22, 1987. By LLOYD PENNEY: Another warm, friendly gathering [in Columbus, OH] with lots of fans from Ohio, Boston, Washington and Florida, and even representatives from the Berlin in '94 WorldCon bid. We raised Canadian participation from 4 to 6; besides myself and Yvonne, there were Linda Ross-Mansfield (representing the Winnipeg '94 WorldCon bid), Mike Wallis and Allan Burrows from Toronto, and Paul Valcour from Ottawa. Convention organizers Bob Hillis, Liz Gross and Mark Evans provided a comfortable atmosphere with which to work, party and smof. Jeff Tolliver provided a fun and nutritious con suite feast, with varied cheeses, beers veggies and fruit. Bob, Mark and Liz used the usual panel-style brainstorm session instead of the signup for discussion in a quiet room used at Smofcon 3 (1986 in Lowell, MA). The panel style wasn't as effective as the discussion in a room, in my humble opinion, but the topics selected for discussion were useful ones that generated argument and heat on occasion, but always useful conversation. It also served as an ideal occasion for us more isolated fans to meet with old acquaintances and friends from past WorldCons, even past Smofcons. It was a perfect time to hand-deliver fanzines, too.

Windycon (November 7-9, 1987) by MIKE GLYER: Now let's be honest -- this isn't a convention report, it's a trip report where the convention was the excuse and a vacation was the real reason to go to Chicago. Windycon was fine, and I barely missed the pound of flesh Spike extracted for my being AWOL for dinner Friday night. Like a trufan I skipped all the programs in favor of schmoozing in the hallways. At the dance I boogied up a storm til the music ended at 1:30 AM (no, this was not cause and effect).

I loved that visit. Under the supervision of Diana and Ross Pavlac we packed a lot into it. We drove north of town to the Chicago Botanical garden (which, surprisingly, may make a better display of what it has than the LA Arboretum, if it doesn't equal the tropical variety of SoCal). Then came a call at the Field Museum of Natural History (the "stuffed animal" museum, housing a menagerie of taxidermic specimens, plus their 150th anniversary display of Tiffany jewelry). Right across the street in Nemo-esque brass trim was the Aquarium. Gary Larson's "Far Side" cartoon exhibit was in the entry hall, though this incredible display of marine life little needed the hype. Before the week ended we also attended a couple of movies and Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus. Nor should I overlook all the prime junk food places we sought out -- the Superdavg drive-in, Ed Debevic's 50s diner (including the mile-hi platter of meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy), ribs from Leon's, and a stuffed pizza parlor. The weather was beautiful -- in the 50s and 60s, only snowed, briefly, one morning. (Last year it hit 6 degrees in November, Ross and Diana laughed at my "winter coat" and locked me indoors like a hothouse plant.)



FAN MAIL

CONSPIRACY: THE MEMORY LINGERS ON

WALT WILLIS: I always enjoy reading your convention reports and look forward to reading one about a convention I attended myself. Of course it turns out I wasn't at the Brighton Worldcon either, not the one you attended. But it's wonderful to see what was going on while I was carrying on two hundred fascinating but unfinished conversations in the Fan Lounge.

And I'm relieved to find that as far as you know I did nothing worse than wear a Hawaiian shirt, a failing forgivable in someone who has just come under the subtle spell of Lucy Huntzinger. As we all know, it's not what happens at Conventions that matters, it's what happens in the Conreports.

Of course our memories do have something in common, namely the shared nightmare of the Metropole Hotel. I see I wrote just before the Convention to Martin Tudor -- "It's a long time since I left home without knowing whether I would have a place to sleep...I have a terrible forbidding that something of this sort is happening to our American friends. They won't tolerate the incompetence we have come to expect from British hotels. When there was hotel trouble at the last British Worldcon I was at, in 1965 I think, a whole crowd of them checked out the first day leaving the con committee in dead trouble."

Other shared experiences were the BoSh talk...that new White/Shaw act should run and run...and the Hugo ceremony. Unfortunately where I was sitting the latter was not just inaudible but invisible, so I left after deducing that neither Patrick Neilsen Hayden nor Bob Shaw was getting the recognition due to them, or at least that I voted for.

BOB SHAW: Many thanks for #70, which I enjoyed all the way through -- it was good seeing our worldcon through the eyes of an impartial expert.

Please, however, correct a detail in your report of my Serious Scientific Talk. You have stated that my coworker is Erich Von Daniken -- and I'm afraid that this may get me (and perhaps you) into some kind of legal trouble. My partner in all my scientific endeavours is Von Donegan, the German-Irish researcher and inventor of the solar-powered sun bed. The similarity of names is purely coincidental.

JOSEPH NICHOLAS: I hope it doesn't become established as popular wisdom that at the 1987 WorldCon Interzone came within seven votes of depriving Locus of the Semi-Prozine Hugo -- since as the tables in File 770:69 make clear, that was only on first-round voting. As you yourself point out, to win under the Australian system requires a majority rather than a plurality of votes, which Interzone never got -- and indeed, was wiped out at the end by SFC's preferences transferring to Locus. Which doesn't really surprise me -- both are newzines after all, and their readerships are likely to be similar -- and does cause me to wonder whether Interzone could ever win a Hugo in the Semi-Prozine category, largely because it's running in a field dominated by newzines whose readerships aren't likely to overlap much with its. Still, I live in hope.

((The seven vote comment was simply a report of Avedon's remark. You are quite correct that Interzone lost in the end -- though the signal seems to have gone fuzzy on you after that. Interzone was shaded by 37 votes in the race for first place. Algebra shows that Interzone could have secured a majority and the Hugo with 39 more first-place votes. That's more than seven, but still not beyond the grasp of British fandom. As for your brick in the wall of mythology surrounding newzines and Hugos: SFC had 142 votes at the point where it was eliminated; 68 went to Locus, 40 went to Interzone, and 34 were blank (or not cast for a nominee still in the runoff). Somebody must be reading both. The possible existence of fans who read both Locus and Interzone, but voted Locus number one because they think it's a better publication, will be left to the acute deductive processes of my readers.))

((By the way, I admired the clever postcard showing Constable's pastoral Haywain (from a 1821 painting) laden with cruise missiles, captioned "The Cruise missile is small enough to be carted round country lanes on transporters from which it can also be fired. Solely under United States control, it will turn huge areas of Britain into a military target." If Fuck the Tories took a comparable approach, I'd probably be won over despite holding none of the political views involved.))

TED WHITE: The 69th (!) File:770 arrived today. What happened? Sour grapes? Your characterization of my presentation of the fanzine Hugo is not only "graceless", it's inaccurate.

As you well know, having read the instructions we all received (I got my set earlier in the day, and thus had more time to contemplate them), each presenter was allowed four minutes in which to, as you put it, "editorialize". I

used only half that time, and it cannot be coincidence that yours is the only negative reaction I've received. People made a point of coming up to me afterwards to thank me for what I said and to congratulate me on my "speech". Since the con I've received several letters as well, all commending me for what I said.

((So, you never got a note from the fan who commented, "Having Ted White give out the Best Fanzine Hugo is like having the Pope give an award for Planned Parenthood"?))

The signal point I made -- and which you failed to note -- was that Worldcon members who were unfamiliar with fanzines should refrain from voting in the fan categories; I noted that even the highest circulation fanzines reached only a small minority of the total Worldcon membership (probably less than 10% of this year's membership).

I did indeed note that "the highest circulation fanzine usually wins," and I'm startled to find you characterizing this as my "well-known (and inaccurate) opinion," when in fact it is nothing less than well-documented fact.

Until now I was unaware that anyone had his head deep enough in the sand that he would contest this fact, and I challenge you to back up your assertion. I, in turn, have made it a point to research the matter, and here is what I found:

((A brief interruption -- I would not deprive Ted of an opportunity to present the evidence that buttresses his opinion, but I was already perfectly well aware of it, and later on will point out why I feel that Ted is far from being on point.))

A fanzine Hugo has been awarded in thirty-two years (none was awarded in 1953, the first year; there were no Hugos in 1954; no fanzine Hugo was awarded in 1958). Five fanzines have won twenty of those Hugos. Those fanzines are:

Fantasy/Science Fiction Times (two), Amra (two), Science Fiction Review/Alien Critic (six), Locus (eight, and four more as "semi-prozine"), and File:770 (two). Without question, these were the highest-circulation fanzines then being published. (Locus and SFR/Alien Critic traded it off from 1969 through 1983, with SFR's last Hugo won in 1979, after which Geis began cutting back his bookstore sales -- in that fifteen year period only two other fanzines edged into the awards: Energumen in 1973, at a Canadian WorldCon, and Algol, which tied with Alien Critic in 1974.) File:770 won its first Hugo in 1984 -- the first year in which Locus was no longer eligible for a fanzine Hugo. (Locus continues to win the "semi-prozine" category, and is the only publication to win that Hugo --

one correspondent suggests we call it the "Brown Award".)

It's quite obvious that had the "semi-prozine" category not been created to remove Locus from contention, you would not have won either Hugo.

But what of the other winners? They are: Inside (1956), Fanac (1959), Cry (1960), Who Killed Science Fiction? (1961), Warhoon (1962), Xero (1963), Yandro (1965), Erb-dom (1966), Niekas (1967), Lan's Lantern (1986), and Ansible (1987). Of these, only Who Killed Science Fiction? is an apparent exception to the "highest circulation" rule. It appeared in SAPS (35 copies), but was also circulated beyond SAPS (I received a copy although not a member of SAPS). More significantly, it won at the WorldCon (in Seattle) with the lowest membership in years (only 300, of whom undoubtedly a smaller number actually voted).

Inside (Ron and Cindy Smith's fanzine) was photo-offset and tricked out with snazzy (for the time) graphics -- a "semi-prozine" of its time. Fanac (arguably the best fannish newzine ever published) won over Terry's contemporaneous Innuendo (then at its peak of quality). Cry was the Holier Than Thou of its era (albeit it better in the quality of its regular contributors, like the Busbys, its popularity rested on its letter column which offered space -- lots of space -- to every neofan who wished to babble.) Warhoon was a class act, then numbering heavyweights like James Blish among its regular contributors (a rare example of the highest-quality fanzine of the year actually winning a Hugo.) Xero (Dick and Pat Lupoff's fat genzine) not only had a high circulation for its era (and since I mimeoed many of them, I know that for a fact), it was instrumental in creating the spin-off comics fandom of post-EC days, which didn't hurt it in the Hugo balloting. Yandro was in that era monthly or close to it, and had a healthy circulation as well. Erb-dom was another exception: nominated and block-voted by the Burroughs Bibliophiles in a well-organized campaign, a good example of the potential abuse of the fanzine Hugo by special-interest groups (albeit thus far the only winning example). Niekas was in the 60s the joint production of Ed Meskys with Felice Rolfe and Charlie Brown, a fat genzine with a huge circulation. And Lan's Lantern and Ansible are recent and obvious large-circulation fanzines.

How can you contest this, Mike? How can you possibly make a claim to the contrary.

((What I see as your major problem, Ted, is that you were asked to present the 1987 Best Fanzine Hugo, not the 1983 award. That was the last time any of these semi-prozines were part of the category. You're applying old criticisms with a broad brush, as if unconscious the fanzine category was subdivided in 1984. You're still claiming that the fanzine with the highest circulation always wins. You don't

present any evidence the trend has continued since 1984. Were File 770, Lan's Lantern and Ansible the largest circulation fanzines in the years they won? If I asked you what their print runs were, would you know? These zines don't publish circulation figures to comply with postal permit regulations like the big boys do. Even if Ansible actually had a 700-fan readership in years past, as I was told secondhand at Conspiracy, the print run of all the other nominees is 450 or less -- File 770 prints 450 -- rendering incredible your attempt to compare the current situation to the Locus/SFR/SFC-era of the early '80s when Dick Geis whined that with 1500 readers he couldn't compete for Hugos with Charlie Brown's thousands! (8300, according to its December issue.) To show that circulation has not been the decisive factor in Best Fanzine Hugo winners since 1984 one need only point to the many eligible zines issuing 300-500 copies which never even make the final ballot. Westwind, the Seattle clubzine, averages in that range, but prints 1500 copies three times a year when the issue doubles as a Norwescon report. Where's Westwind's Hugo, Ted?

((I won't go into detail about your analysis of the other winners from the old days, since your garbled account attributes few of their Hugos to circulation, destroying the very point you were supposedly making.))

As to the Award Ceremonies, I had been told in advance that "the winner is predictable", which I took to mean that in all likelihood File 770 had won. I ranked the winning order as 1) F:770, 2) Ansible, 3) Lan's Lantern, 4) Texas SF Inquirer, and 5) Tranndoor. I was rooting for Tranndoor, but figured it had no chance. I kiddingly told people that if Lan's Lantern won again I'd open the envelope, read the card to myself, and then ostentatiously tear it up. (In fact, I'd have found that hard to do; I don't kick puppies. I simply hoped it wouldn't come to that.) When I opened the envelope and discovered Ansible was the winner, although it was not my first choice I was delighted. I think Ansible is the least of Langford's fanzines (with the possible exception of Cloud Chamber) -- which I researched before writing my piece on Dave for the program book -- but his writing in it sparkles where yours in F:770 often lies leadenly upon the page, or worse, yields up "graceless" putdowns of dubious value (eg, your comments on me).

((Psychological warfare! Medic -- I'm hit!))

Returning to the Hugo Awards ceremony, I've been told that Bridge/New Era pretty much bought and paid for the whole shebang: they rented the hall, they provided the lighting and sound, and they paid all the bills, including the cost of the awards themselves. They "underwrote" the Hugos, in other words. And the "photo-op" following the ceremonies was solely for their benefit, exclusively using their

photographers. Further, Budrys had assured a variety of people that he would not do precisely what he in fact did do: present "an advertisement for L. Ron Hubbard, New Era and Bridge Publications." He had stated in advance that he would use his time to "distance" his Writers of the Future from the Scientologists, something he failed to do.

((I think this all falls under the heading of disinformation. For example, New Era did not pay for the Hugo Awards; in fact, the Brits sent the bill to SCIFI and we sent them the \$1000 we committed to Worldcons 1985-1989. See Budrys statement about the rest earlier this issue.))

It appears that Fred Harris & Co. think that they can buy respectability in the sf community (they paid authors 50 pounds an hour to sit at their table!); I understand that the Brits feel rather bitter toward Harris & Co. in retrospect, and are perhaps a bit chagrined at their own naivete. Personally, I have no objection to ripping off as much money from the Scientologists as can be gotten (they have many millions to spare) before someone above Harris realizes that he's just in it for personal aggrandizement and pulls the plug on him (as they did to his To The Stars magazine), but it should be done by conventions, not individuals. The latter are all too obviously open to charges of ethical compromise and quasi-prostitution (I heard a number of people -- including some of Ajay's oldest friends -- leveling that charge at Budrys following the Hugo ceremonies.) I mean, after all, does anyone really think that "reading The Invaders Plan is simply the most fun" Orson Scott Card "can have by [him]self"?

((I have a lot of problems with your approach to this, Ted, but you're certainly far from alone in your attitude. Perhaps you don't think we fans who organize conventions should hold ourselves to a higher standard than cynical ripoff artists? When we take money from any sponsor or advertiser, we should deal with those people fairly, and require them to reciprocate. No one who would make undesirable use of our events, like the WorldCon, should be allowed in, no matter what they pay. I regard a sponsor's overly-intrusive presence at the WorldCon to be an undesirable use, regardless of who it is. For example, I wouldn't tolerate a four-minute ad from Lester Del Rey at the top of the Hugo program, either.

((Bridge is trying to utilize organized fandom to broaden the base of Hubbard's popularity. Knowing what we do about the organization and commercial enterprise of Scientology, it is reasonable to ask what comes next, and whether we perceive that to interfere with our purpose for being in fandom. Bridge New/Era have already learned that it doesn't really take very much money for them to get leading sf writers, or an entire WorldCon, to jump through their hoop. At the same time some fans are decrying Bridge's effect on Conspiracy, other fans are plotting to get

support not only from Bridge, but any other sponsor they can sign. Although we are being manipulated by Bridge, how would you distinguish Bridge from any other publicity-hungry company (for example, Steve Jackson Games, DAW Books, or Lucasfilm)? It's hard to conclude that commercial promotions unacceptably interfere with fandom.

((What is Bridge looking for? Some say they want a Hugo for Hubbard -- and it's hard to argue that a best-selling book lacks legitimate fan support, just as Heinlein's Number of the Beast had enough backing to be nominated. So far there's been no tangible evidence of a purposeful connection between what Bridge is doing in the marketplace, and religious activity by the Church Hubbard founded. Writers of the Future is to all appearances a wonderful, productive program, the best thing to happen to new writers since Scithers' tenure at IASFM. If someone like Lou Aronica had invented the program he'd be sainted. So what seems behind people's cynicism about taking Bridge's money is the ugly specter of religious bigotry, as at other times in history people have looked to Jewish businessmen for money but otherwise regarded them as contemptible and fair game for exploitation.))

LLOYD PENNEY: Re: [Conspiracy] dealers' room: Having run 10 dealers' rooms, and planning two more, I am amazed to hear that a concon member would scream for everyone to get out right at closing time. Many dealers and buyers are too busy doing business to keep a close eye on the time. The dealers are a major source of convention income (sales of tables and other frills in the dealers' room)

and they deserve some consideration. ...Instead of screaming, calm announcements should be made of 60, 30 and 15 minutes until closing time, and then closing time itself, with 20 minutes allowed for closing of sales, and packing up of the dealers for the day. Screaming teaches nothing, and just angers the dealers.

Re: Gripe Session: While keeping in mind that the concon has only one chance to make good and do the job right, there were some terrible mistakes made. How long will it be before another British bid rears up? I hope it's soon, so that Britfans can learn from the mistakes of 1987....
Re: letters on site selection: The vote was taken away from many, granted, but could any workable solution have restored that vote? Fannish censure of the British concon is punishment enough... ((Pardon me, Lloyd, for taking your two comments a little out of context, but what could better illustrate that axiom: fans can forgive failure -- it's success they can't forgive!))

::++++((((((((([GUIDE TO THE LETTERHACKS])))))))))++++::

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