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## THE LATEST

TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE OF FILE 770: On March 28 I walked out of my Tuesday night accounting class and my 1986 Nissan Sentra was gone.

The thieves rode around in it for a couple of days, then abandoned it to be found three weeks later near the college in a neighborhood my father and I had searched without results the first day after the theft.

Although the loss was insured, the cost of an interim rental car was only covered \$10 per day and it took five weeks to complete the processing of the claim and buying a replacement car. The rental expense and choice of a used car costing somewhat more than the insurance money have pinched the editorial purse, to say the least.

The effect on File 770 has been a financial dislocation that taken together with the drain on my time of taking two night accounting classes caused a three-month gap between issues.

Under the circumstances you might not expect this to lead to a revised format and subscription rate adjustment for File 770, but we are only halfway through the story.

Albeit tardily, having entered all the text, laid out the issue and cut the mimeo stencils in the usual way, I set about producing this issue. The experience was just as frustrating as the two other issues published after I was forced into using bond by a lack of a supply of mimeo paper: virtually every copy had to be peeled off the drum

## Even More Excuses Than Ever Before!

and despite involving twice as much effort to reproduce those copies were only marginally readable. On the Glicksohn scale of 1 to 10, 10 being Energumen, they rated about a 3.

While issues of File 770 have been generally attractive, and the artwork has been adequately reproduced, the main point always has been to bring you the written word clearly printed in an easy-to-scan layout. Photocopying and desktop publishing have changed the marketplace so that cheap mimeo paper is no longer available in Los Angeles and File 770 has not been able to adapt successfully to using what is available.

Turning accounting knowledge to fannish purposes I computed that subscribers need to pay \$1.60 per issue (5 issues for \$8) in order for me to afford xeroxing File 770. I was appalled by the idea at first, questioning whether fans would consider paying such a price for a newzine that is not about pros and publishers. Of course, subscriptions to semipro newzines like SF Chronicle are even more expensive, \$2.25 per copy \$2.75 mailed first class. Semiprozines aspire to make enough money to support their editors, who work full-time on them, and pay contributors. In the case of File 770, even an astounding increase to \$1.60 per copy is only calculated to recover the cost of a more expensive copying process.

Fans I have asked say the continued publication of File 770 -- in a more readable format -- is definitely worth a higher price. I expect all of you to reach your own decision and vote aye or nay with your subscription renewals.

Perhaps touchier is the need for me to adjust existing subscriptions to make this work: Understandably, if I increase my production cost over \$100 per issue and it takes four to ten issues before the subscription increase actually starts to help pay the difference, this won't work. Because there can be controversy about changing the issues to be received for prepaid subscriptions, I will wait for your comments on this issue to put into effect what I want to do. My proposal is to reduce outstanding subscriptions by one copy for every five. This would make the true cost of those copies about \$1.25 (not counting fractions.)

You wait and see what's in store for next issue though -- the advent of desktop publishing in F770!

## BAYCON '90

BAYCON PLAGUED BY 'FANARCHISTS': Over 2600 fans and pros came to Baycon '90 at the San Jose Red Lion Inn over

Memorial Day weekend. Always a convention that pleases a large number of people, this year's mix of attendees evidently included an alarming number of people who had not come to enjoy a gathering of science fiction fans, but for a cheap, rowdy time. There has not been such stern discussion about controlling the con since the 1987 Boskone, which subsequently lost its hotel as a result of rowdiness and vandalism by a few attendees that President's Day weekend.

Daniel Murphy reported, "The biggest problem was with the parties. Minors with alcohol ran rampant. Not because of Baycon's con suite -- they were carding \*everyone\*, as far as I could tell (including a friend of mine, age 46, grey hair, grandmother of two) -- but because of other parties, and kids bringing liquor and drugs to the con. Baycon has attracted an increasingly young crowd, especially at the party scene, and it hasn't been a good thing. Too many of them aren't so much sf fans as much as they're fans of the cheapest (\$40) weekend of booze and drugs in the whole Bay Area."

Cherp (Cheryl Peterson) attended Baycon the last three days, observing, "Saturday was nice and things went well until about midnight. At which point some people (I hate to make a generalization and then get caught in it later, so I won't accuse any member of any particular group. Though I have my suspicions!) decided that trashing the hotel was appropriate behavior. If you can imagine someone "atomizing" a concrete-formed ashtray, you have some idea that it wasn't accidental destruction."

Lex Nakashima noticed, "The growing problem of destructive attendees (Fanarchists?), a problem that appears to be cropping up at cons everywhere with disturbing frequency. While most of us started going to cons because they were a place we could be ourselves, the ideology of some of the punks, skinheads and scumbags seems to be one of 'I go to cons because I can do things here that I can't do anywhere else.' This last is a quote I overheard an underage metalhead exclaiming to his friends in the hall. A small, but significant perversion of the original reason many of us started going to cons. Though it wouldn't be popular, banning alcohol at open parties might be the best way to deal with this."

The BayCon committee is already working on methods to take this problem under control.

Speaking individually, Daniel Murphy said, "I don't approve of the draconian lengths Boskone took, and Baycon is \*already\* in the suburbs, but I do think they need to turn up the fascism knob, just one notch." He added, "I don't know if banning alcohol at open parties is the answer. I think it forces them underground a bit. I would like to see con security play the same game the

State of California does: Send underage (19 and 20 year old) security people around to parties, asking for booze. If they don't get carded, shut the party down, on first offense. You know, I haven't always been a convention fascist. But the last five years have turned me into one."

Gary Anderson, active costumer, filker and one of Costumeecon's organizers recommends that "no open parties serve alcohol, on the basis of liability and sense/reason. Weapons liability is nothing compared to what would happen to a con which knowingly (and especially after this discussion, who can say it wasn't knowingly?) served alcoholic beverages. Individuals will still bring booze/drugs with them, and use them in closed parties, but if the con takes active steps to control open parties, and ensure closed parties stay that way, then there is at least an argument to use. As it is, conventions are very exposed. At Costumeecon 8, we did run a no-alcohol con, officially, and a lot of folks seemed to have a good time and those who wished to drink somehow did."

These problems should not be allowed to eclipse what otherwise was a successful convention with several noteworthy features.

Cherp noted, "The Masquerade was small but well-done. It started on time, and was telecast to the rooms over BCTV so everyone could see without having to look over heads. The line to get in wasn't overly long and as I understand it, the room could have seated about 650 people and only 600 showed up. We watched it from the room and it was great. Judging took a while, but the decisions seemed to please most of those who watched." Gary Anderson added, "The Audience Choice costume (Thank God I Wore My Armor was the title, and Cheryl Serr was the costumer) was given the Itsie-Bitsy-Teensie-Weenie Arrow-Dotted Chain Mail Bikini award by the judges (Janet Wilson Anderson was one of said judges) and the judging took an actual 40 minutes, VERY quick by most standards. But the masquerade was pretty well done, and the post-mortem on Monday only turned up about 6 or 7 items for the next victims. There were a few really good innovations which also got passed along."

Memorable was the hands-on workshop in computer animation that featured artists from Skywalker Ranch: Carolly Hauksdottir was the principal computer animation artist giving the panel. The panelists couldn't bring the proprietary software that they use at Industrial Light & Magic, but they did bring five computers and Deluxe Paint II and III let volunteer artists from the audience come up to work on the computers.

This year's BayCon saw the last Fish Dance. Their guiding force, Diana Dougherty, will no longer be running them. However, committee member Charlie Prael tells us there will be a dance next year. It just won't be the Fish Dance.

## LIZ PEARSE

ELIZABETH PEARSE: Liz Pearse, well-known as leader of the "Team Eh?" convention art show crew, suffered a heart attack at Marcon, and died, on May 20.

Michael Pearse, Liz's oldest son, (paraphrased by Michael Kube-McDowell on CompuServe) said, "she suffered a massive heart attack at about 1:45 a.m. Sunday morning, in the public rest room across from where the masquerade dance was being held. Virtually no one at the convention -- even those still up at the time -- knew anything had happened until much later." Kube-McDowell added, "She was a sweet, smart, sassy, dangerously efficient woman, very much loved, and will be very much missed."

Pearse's funeral was held in Toronto on the Thursday after her death. Pearse is survived by her husband, Tony, children Michael, Debra, Richard and Lauren, 14 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. Cards can be sent to: Lauren Marlatt, 1474 Thistledown Road, Oakville ONT, L6M 1Z1, Canada

Fifteen years ago Pearse was active in Toronto's Draco



Film Society, forerunner of the Draconis and the Ad Astra conventions in Toronto. She also ran the first Star Trek convention in Toronto, around 1975. Known in recent years for her "Team Eh?" work, and activity in the Association of Science Fiction Artists (ASFA), outside fandom Pearse is remembered as an Akela for the 3rd Clarkson Cub Pack and as a supporter of Joshua Creek Ratepayers Association. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

Bob Passovoy, a Dorsai Irregular who had worked with "The Team, eh?", noted the Team was scheduled to run Chicon's art show next year. While time would have to pass before any decision could be made about that commitment or a change in leadership, he said, "The core of people is still there. I think it's very likely that the same group is very capable of doing a damn good job."

## J. J. JOHNSON

KNOXVILLE FAN MURDERED: J. J. Johnson of Knoxville died May 4 from injuries sustained during a robbery. "An affable, intelligent and able fella, J. J. was a video nut who could always be found taping masquerades and other ceremonies at Tennessee, Kentucky and other Southern conventions. He was extremely popular, with good cause," recalled Guy H. Lillian III.

According to Knoxville police, whom Lillian contacted for details, J. J. was found by police May 3 in the middle of the street outside a local housing project, the apparent victim of a mugging. He probably had been returning home from his job at the University of Tennessee Media Center. His wallet was missing; his ATM card was used that night, and police are reviewing the bank video tapes in hopes of identifying the user. Johnson's distinctive raspberry Plymouth Laser, festooned with Back To The Future paraphenalia, was gone; seen later but not stopped for some reason.

For a time Johnson was in hospital as an "Unidentified Black Male", but he was eventually recognized. He died Friday afternoon, May 4.

Carol Gathings wrote on CompuServe, "The last thing I ever heard from J.J. was about another friend who had died. He said 'As long as we love them, no one is ever gone.' If that's the case, then J.J. Johnson will always be as close as the film room at the local convention for those of us who knew him and cared about him. Science fiction fans will remember you, J.J."

# LOLA ANN CENTER

LOLA ANN CENTER: William Center writes, "I have some news for you that I wish I didn't have to report. My wife, Lola Ann Center, died on Friday, April 13, 1990 at 8:10 AM at St. Johns Mercy Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri.

"[Lola] was a long time fan and had been active for years in the National Fantasy Fan Federation [N3F]. She had served as a member of its Directorate for years and had been Chairman most of those years. She also had served as Treasurer and was still serving as Secretary along with running the Round Robin Bureau and the Welcomittee. I am currently the President of the N3F and it was through the N3F that we happened to meet.

"We both joined the N3F at about the same time -- I in 1979 and she a bit later.... We started a long correspondence, at first mainly just club business but gradually developing into a more personal bein. I asked to join a round robin and she put me on one of hers so that we would have even more opportunity to correspond. She had been attending conventions all over the country while I had just been attending cons in St. Louis. She finally decided that she had to meet me and so she arranged to come to Archon in St. Louis in 1985. It was a classic case of love at first sight although I didn't find out until later that she felt the same way, too. You see, she had always been a cat lover and had always had a cat or two while I usually had a dog and (at best) only tolerated cats due to the fact that I am somewhat allergic to them. During the con, she had steered the conversation around to cats and asked what I thought of them. I told her that while I liked cats well enough that I was allergic to them and so didn't have a cat and probably never would. It too her several months to decide that her love for me was greater than her love for her cat. We continued our correspondence augmented by numerous phone calls and in 1986 we got engaged, and were married on May 9, 1987. As it turned out, I am only bothered by cats when they get right up in my face or if I handle them too much so she was able to bring her cat along after all.

"Ours was a true fannish marriage: when we combined our libraries, most of the books were duplicates of the ones that the other had. We enjoyed going to cons together and shared the same interests in fandom. We kept up our activity in N3F, serving on the Directorate together and running several bureaus.

"She had been battling cancer for almost ten years. We we got engaged she had been in remission for over five years and she felt that she was now home free. Unfortunately, about a year after we were married the tumors started to

appear again and she had to start chemotherapy all over again. There were several bouts with the cancer but each time she seemed to pull through them with little difficulty. She never had bad reactions to the chemo (other than losing her hair, which upset her more than anything else) and was always cheerful, living each day to its fullest. Since last August she had to go to the hospital five days per month for chemo but again this didn't seem to faze her -- she said it gave her a chance to catch up on her "corry" and reading. She kept up a regular correspondence with several hundred people and how she kept them all straight I'll never know.

"Her mother died suddenly on March 25 and this hit Lola very hard. She and her mother had been very close and Lola had just talked to her on the 23rd. We traveled up to Iowa for the funeral, a 10-hour drive, and the trip was very hard on Lola. She pushed herself very hard to help her sisters straighten up her mother's effects for her father and came back from the trip totally exhausted, both physically and mentally. She had been scheduled for chemo the week of the funeral but had put it off. We arrived back home on the 31st and she entered the hospital on April 2 for her regular chemo. That day she seemed dazed and confused and the doctor was quite concerned about it. He ran a series of tests and found that the tumors in her liver had started to grow at an alarming rate and that they had spread to her bones and lungs. He said that at this stage there was nothing that could be done except to make her as comfortable as possible. She was fairly coherent for about a week but then slipped into a coma and never woke up. She died in her sleep.

"I will be doing a memorial zine for her and am soliciting appreciations and artwork from those who knew her well and whose lives she touched. I am carrying on but I miss her more than words can express. Whoever coined the phrase 'complete and total love' must have known Lola."

++ William Center, 1920 Division St., Murphysboro IL 62966; (618) 684-6090.

TED MCADAM: Known for years for his work printing National Fantasy Fan Federation zines, Ted McAdam died April 3 of a heart attack. In Howard DeVore's appreciation published in Tightbeam, he DeVore quoted Richard Tulchoika's line, "If Ted McAdam and I hadn't met Howard DeVore we wouldn't have gotten involved in printing and we might have grown up like regular Human Beings."

McAdam's printing career spanned 32 years, beginning with a three dollar mimeo he bought from DeVore, then an old multilith he found advertised for \$250 that he and DeVore lowered on ropes and pulleys into McAdam's basement, down to the computer and laser printer he had at the last.

May 1990

# WENDAYNE ACKERMAN

BY FORREST J ACKERMAN: WENDAYNE ACKERMAN: November 4, 1912; March 5, 1990. Nee: Mathilde (Malka) Wahrman.

The only Wendayne (Mondelle) in the world died at 8 o'clock on the evening of March 5th in our home after a five-month period of increasing and immeasurable misery due to renal failure compounded by dialysis dementia. In the end her gallant heart simply stopped.

The first words my Wendy ever spoke to me (as a book clerk in a department store) were, "May I help you, sir?" Heartbreakingly but comforting, the last words she ever said to me were, "Forry -- help me!" In between she:

...Was the translator-in-chief of 137 novels of the German space opera series Perry Rhodan, the majority a phenomenal success for Ace Books and some she published herself, proud to have created Master Publications. To this day legions of fans love her for her role in bringing Perry Rhodan to America.

...Was the translator of Stanislaw Lem's "The Invincible", her rendition of which (from unorthodox East German German) was not received kindly by most critics. I suppose I must bear the brunt of the blame as I did the final editing on it. She was consolved by the fact, however, that the author himself expressed his satisfaction with the translations.

...Was the translator (from French) of Pierre Barbet's "Games Psyborgs Play" (her title) published by DAW.

...Was the translator of the Strugatsky brothers' "Hard To Be A God", which is being made into a motion picture. Met the authors in Russia.

...Was the author of one of the most popular and oft-reprinted features out of 191 issues of Famous Monsters of Filmland magazine, the entertaining and informative "Rocket to the Rue Morgue", originally a paper for a university project.

...Earned a degree in biology, taught science in high school, acquired an M.A. magna cum laude in record time in her 40s, and was a professor of German and French for 20 years at East Los Angeles Jr. College.

...Accompanied me around the world to England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Scotland, Wales, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, China (one tiny border town), Sweden, Norway, Lapland, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein (we longed and planned to return to this fairyland),

Moscow/Leningrad/Kiev, Finland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia. She did more than accompany me, she took care of it all: the transportation tickets, accommodations, passports, that sort of thing; things I have no patience for and am not apt at. I quail at the thought of international travel without her but this year it's back to Holland and Belgium, where we were happy once before, and Denmark, which she never saw. Abroad, her command of languages was indispensable: French, German, Spanish, ordinary Italian...and Hebrew.

Perhaps some eyebrows raise at the mention of Hebrew? Why did she know Hebrew? Because according to the laws of Germany at the time she was born there, since her mother and father were Jews born in Poland, Wendy was considered a Polish Jew. Yes, racially she was Jewish -- so what? Do you think it mattered for one iota to this Esperantist? Not for one fraction of a nanosecond. I only hope you're not one of those unfortunate people who cracked a Jewish joke in her presence or made some anti-Semitic remark which now embarrasses you when it's too late to apologize. She suffered in silence and never let on. She didn't practice Judaism. She lived the major part of her life an American Angelena Agnost. In prewar Germany she was a pre-med student at Goethe University til one day Hitler disaished her because of her ancestry. In 1933, a pariah in Germany, she went to France and practiced midwifery; long hours, grueling work, one day a month off. When she moved to London she continued the nursing profession until she left for Israel (then Palestine) where she experienced enough of the horrors of war to last her a lifetime; married and had her son. In '48, getting a divorce, she moved to LA where she became a clerk in the book department of a major downtown emporium. When her body chemistry reacted attractively to a 32-year-old shy-guy she saw approaching her station with an armload of books, she said to her fellow clerk, "Lay off him, he's mine." The moment I heard her charming accent I asked her where it came from. "Oh, my ancestors," she replied mischievously, "were highly civilized while yours were hanging by their tails from trees!" Naturally, I never spoke to her again!

In 1963 she co-drove with me on the 8700-mile cross-country adventure to meet as many as possible of the 1300 filmmonster fans who wanted to see us. She was the world's slowest eater, had the world's most sensitive nose. Accompanied me to nudist camps for five years. Accepted gay men and lesbians. Loved sushi and gefilte fish. Had a sweet singing voice (we dueted on "True Love" and "Side by Side.") Didn't drink, smoke, dope or swear: Curt Siodmak, Albert van Hageland (Belgian sf agent), George Pal, Georges Gallet, Dave Kyle, Vincent Price and several others considered her "a real lady." "Her sparkle, enthusiasa, feistiness, wit, intelligence, protectiveness-of-Forry, generosity" -- these are some her attributes for which admiration has been expressed in the first two days' cards



and condolences. I think she was a candidate for the Big Heart Award.

Favorite singers: Theodore Bikel, Al Jolson, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Marlene Dietrich, Maurice Chevalier, Brigitte Bardot (!), Aznavour and (blush) me! (She said she preferred my singing to Sinatra's!) Actor: Burt Lancaster. Novelists: Thomas Mann, George Smaenon. Films: "African Queen", "Cabaret", "Lies My Father Told Me", "The Jolson Story(s)", "Metropolis" and all Busby

Berkeley musicals. SF: The Forever War, "4-Sided Triangle", the Auel Series, Childhood's End, "Letter To An Angel" (by me) and "Forever" by Mildred Cram. She read the latter to me years ago; I read it to her a few weeks before she died. She had no use for religion of any kind, didn't believe in a life before or hereafter. Was reserved in her praise of my writing (how do you judge this obit, my dear?) Was once active in LASFS and early Westercons. Especially liked the San Diego Comic Cons and their sponsors.

We always planned to celebrate the year 2000 together. My broken heart asks, "How could you leave me?" My reasoning mind tells me you couldn't help it. I forgive you; I love you.

## CARD DEAL

THE CHARLIE CARD FUND FAN/TASY ART CALENDAR: When last named in these pages he was on CompuServe banging his tocsin about the Hamilton/Beese contretemps, but this year Michael Kube-McDowell is using his CompuServe access in the cause of niceness. He posted the following announcement at the request of the Contraption convention committee:

Contraption is proud to sponsor the Charlie Card Fund for United Cerebral Palsy. To raise money for the fund, we have produced the Fan/tasy Art Calendar. The calendar runs from April 1, 1990 through March 31, 1991. It features illustrations from 13 noted artists, convention dates and addresses, and other useful and/or amusing information. It will be available by mail for \$6.00 including postage and handling. Order now! Make checks payable to Contraption, P.O. Box 2285, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

The Charlie Card Fund is named for the son of Orson Scott Card, who was Contraption's very first Professional Guest of Honor. Charlie is very ill with cerebral palsy; the fund is our way of saying "thank you" to a great writer and his family for supporting our convention. United Cerebral Palsy offers many kinds of assistance to people like Charlie -- only through the generous assistance of people like you.

WEDDING BELLS: Robin Doig and Rene Colls were married April 7 in Chula Vista, CA. They are members of the S.T.A.R. San Diego club who met at the 1987 NASFiC in Phoenix. (Source: Interphase)

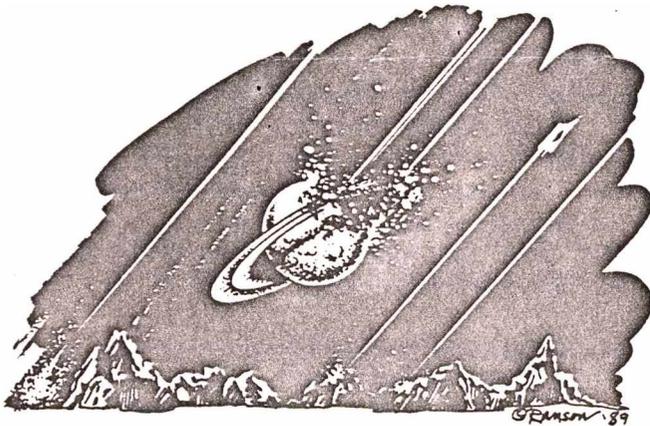
HOT DAMN! The April Locus reported that Jane Yolen left her recently-received Skylark trophy (a large magnifying lens atop a wooden base) on her kitchen table and sunlight passing through the lens set her coat on fire. (Source: Instant Message 475.)

## DUFF WINNER

**DOWN UNDER FAN FUND:** Greg Turkich has won the 1990 Down Under Fan Fund Race. John D. Berry, North American DUFF Administrator, writes, "The vote was 132 for Greg [Turkich] and 105 for Roger Weddall, with half a dozen write-ins and a similar number of Hold Over Funds votes and No Preferences. The total number of votes (including No Preferences) was 256; 183 of those votes came from Australia, making it, according to Terry Dowling, the largest vote ever recording in Australia in a DUFF race."

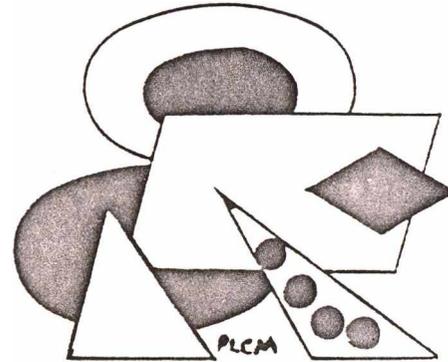
Turkich will loop through the US starting in San Francisco and ending up, after ConDiego, in Los Angeles.

Berry promises another issue of the DUFF newsletter, Redback, "almost before you can blink twice", with the first installment of an ongoing postal auction of fanzines and anything else that seems likely to generate money. Persevering in spite of overwork and mild ill health Berry anticipates completing to his own DUFF trip report in the not-too-distant future.



**NOW THEY ARE WRITERS OF THE PRESENT:** Eighteen novice writers have sold stories to L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of the Future Vol. 4. They are James Gleason Bishop of Colorado Springs, CO; David Carr of Thomaston, CT; David Ira Cleary of San Francisco, CA; Charles D. Eckert of Columbus, IN; James Gardner of Waterloo, ONT; Michael I. Landweber of Madison, WI; Jo Etta Ledgerwood of Bond, CO; Pete D. Manison of Houston, TX; Stephen Milligan of Chapel Hill, NC; Scot Noel of Latrobe, PA; John W. Randal of Pittsburgh, PA; Bruce Holland Rogers of Boulder, CO; Michael L. Scanlon of Seattle, WA; Jason Shankel of San Francisco, CA; Annis M. Shepherd of Mesa, AZ; Sharon Wahl of Ithaca, NY; Matt Wills of Iowa City, IA; and James Verran of Port Noarlunga, Australia.

Volume 4 will also publish the work of a complement of winners in the Illustrators of the Future contest: Beryl Bush of Reading, PA; Kevin Dzuban of Edison, NJ; Kelly Faltermayer of Houston, TX; Jeff Fennel of Concord, CA; Derek Hegsted of Provo, UT; Allison Hershey of Granada Hills, CA; Kevin Hopkins of Milburn, OK; Daniel S. Ogan of Dawson, MN; Peggy Ranson of New Orleans, LA; Timothy Standish of Binghamton, NY; Ruth Thompson of Tuscaloosa, AL; and Timothy Winkler of Knoxville, TN.



One of the writers and one of the illustrators will win the annual \$4,000 Grand Prize from their respective contests.

Those interested in Writers of the Future contest information should send an SASE to PO Box 1630, Los Angeles CA 90078. Illustrators of the Future information may be obtained from PO Box 3190, Los Angeles CA 90078.

**BLANK CHECK FOR SITE SELECTION:** Allan D. Burrows files this complaint about the Dutch Worldcon's scheme for securing payment for membership by voters in the 1993 site selection. "ConFiction says that the voting fee payment must be made either in person (at the con) or by a personal, post-dated check in either American dollars, British pounds or Dutch guilders. That's a bit of a problem for members whose countries don't use any of those currencies! Canada, for instance; some of our banks will open American dollar savings and checking accounts, but surely they don't expect us to open an account for just one check! Canada Post (aka The Canadian PostHole Service), sells US dollar money orders, but ConFiction is swearing blind that they won't take them! So what am I supposed to do?"

I have a plan: remember how NESFA floated a Lunar Realty Trust to buy their clubhouse? Let's do it again: NESFA can issue Canadian site selection voters an engraved IOU backed by the full faith and credit of the NESFA Clubhouse. Then when everybody votes for the Hawaii in '93 being backed by so many NESFAns, they can square the whole thing with an accounting entry. Should any other bid accidentally win, they can forward the clubhouse to Phoenix or San Francisco using the same truck company that delivered The Shaft...

# ANNEMARIE VAN EWYCK

## NETHERFANDOM

((The third in a series of three articles about the Netherlands, its fantastic literature and its fandom.))

FANDOM IN THE NETHER REGIONS: Fans there have always been, as long as speculative literature has been written and published. And so it was in The Netherlands. But for a long time they remained private fans, not sharing their interest with others because they didn't know where to find them.

It was not until after WWII, when modern science fiction indeed even the name of science fiction itself, came into this country for the very first time, that Dutch fandom started to put out its shoots. Quietly at first -- for finding kindred souls was not easy. A fan might nose out another fans in the same town, by way of a mutual fannish contact in the USA! Even then fandom was confined to private visits, letters and much reading.

But the future was inexorably on the march. In 1965 Forry Ackerman, being in the neighborhood anyway because of the London Worldcon, came for a visit. And one of his "foreign correspondents" in The Netherlands, P. Hans Frankfurter, decided to throw a party. Not only did he arrange for a number of students to meet Forry at the station in monster outfits, he also organized a festive reception at the Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam, and told all his sf friends to come.

They flocked to see a real live fan in the flesh. And some of Forry's real fannishness must have rubbed off. For there and then it was decided to meet again. And at the next meeting founding fathers P. Hans Frankfurter, Albert Taal and Leo Kindt conceived NCSF, the "Nederlands Contactcentrum voor Science Fiction." The deed was done. Since then Dutch fandom has never looked back.

In 1966 the first issue of Holland-SF, the magazine put out by NCSF, appeared. It is still published. In 1966 NCSF also held its first convention, still called "congress", with poets, authors and speakers. Fandom began to discover itself. In 1970 Kees van Toorn started his first Dutch fanzine, Atlan. In 1971 Perry Rhodan fans got together to protest the threatened mothabbling of the series and founded Terra; a magazine soon followed.

Conventions bloomed. Modest one-day cons to begin with, but soon Terra's annual Perry Rhodan daycon drew 600-800

visits, while NCSF started weekend cons in 1974. Beneluxcons alternated annual between NCSF and Flemish (Belgium) fandom.

In 1976 Rob Vooren instituted the King Kong Award, for the winning story in the Beneluxcon story contest. In 1977 King Kong started its own annual contest for original Dutch short sf fiction, up to novella size. The award is accompanied by a very welcome money prize, made up from donations solicited from fans, publishers and unsuspecting outsiders alike.

Once started, fans do as is their wont. Fanzines came...and went. Beginning authors and artists graced their pages and tried to strike out on their own. Some made it, too.

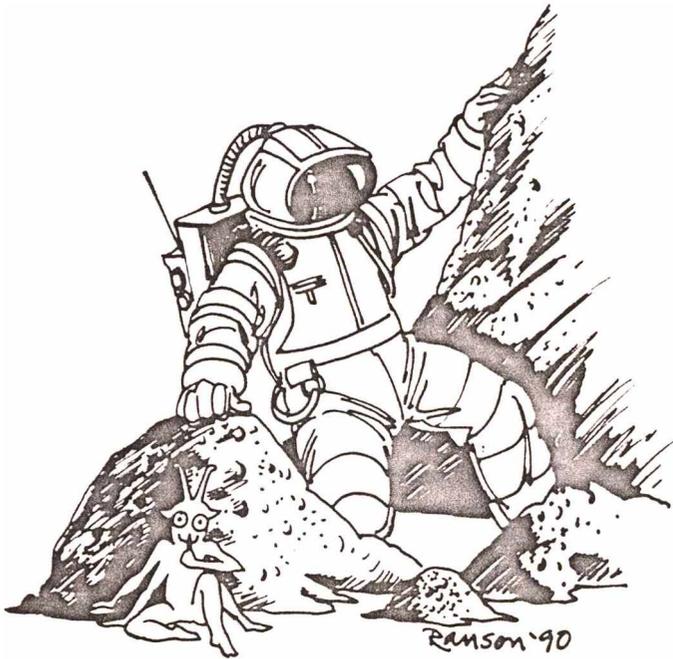
Busy bibliographers plied their index cards and in '78 Gorreman, Spaink and Gaasbeek got the first comprehensive bibliography of SF in The Netherlands, Fantasfeer, published by Meulenhoff -- the most pretigious publishing house for SF in this country.

Following the trends of fandom, or reinventing them all over again, small semiprofessional presses popped up like buttercups. Let's name just a few. Info, by Robert Zielschot, bringing novellas or short novels in a digest format, and then striking out on a tangent in '77 with Essef-magazine, that stressed sf comics but foundered after a two-year run. In 1977 Kees van Toorn started Orbit, a color quarterly that is commercially available but still a fannish labor of love. It is now mothballed, but after 1990 who knows? Fantastische Vertellingen by Reaco Meisner started out as a fanzine in '79, but soon branched out as a small press for short novels and story collections.

Netherfandom Today: Most of us are still at it, and lots of new fans have joined us in the meantime. NCSF confidently looks forward to celebrating its silver jubilee when Confiction rolls around. Terra still thrives, and recently a small but lively Star Trek fan club has joined the ranks, the Flying Dutch. All national rather than regional or local organizations, which is only natural in a country that may be crossed by car in a few hours.

It makes meetings and cons that much easier to attend, too. Terra has regular meetings and social evenings for members. The Flying Dutch meet every month and NCSF turns the two yearly business meetings into one-day minicons with a book room, movies and a banquet at the nearest restaurant.

Terra still holds its large annual Perry Rhodan daycon; since the large Beneluxcons in '81 and '83 NCSF has been aiming at more intimate and fannish weekend or day cons.



Dutch fandom and vice-versa.

Holland is a small country -- we told you that before. So it seems only natural that we should also look at whatever lies over the border. Dutch fans have international contacts in all fandoms all over the world. They travel to distant cons, correspond with fans in out of the way places, participate in apas or produce their quirky personalzines -- who does not know of Shards of Babel? And all in English, for many Dutch, and especially fans, have English as their second language.

Netherfandom today is very much alive. We gave some inkling of that when we went for the Worldcon bid. If you come over in 1990, you can see for yourselves how fans can thrive in the Nether Region.

++ Annemarie van Ewyck

## COSTUME GUILD TRIES TO TAKE PHOENIX HAT FROM RING

A monthly SF-pub in The Hague is run independent of clubs, preference or fannishness; all comers welcome, a large choice of beers, and coffee and snacks at all hours. It has proved a good hunting ground for roping in future Confiction helpers or collecting contributions for the King Kong Award Fund.

All national clubs publish magazines featuring the usual book reviews, articles, fiction and news items, as do the independent magazines, but there is enough difference in main interest and overall approach, so that many fans take more than one or even all magazines. A small muster of magazines and their main interests:

The Flying Dutch, quarterly - Star Trek, popular science  
Terra, bimonthly - popular science, film, video, comics, Perry Rhodan series

Holland SF, bimonthly - articles, authors and trends, fiction, fandom

Fantastische Vertellingen, quarterly - original fiction, Dutch authors

Horrorscoop bimonthly - horror in books, film, video

Orbit quarterly - foreign fiction, special features

Don Lawrence fan magazine quarterly - color illustrations and rare comics

All in Dutch, of course, and not counting the Dutch language zines from Belgium that are also widely-read in

NOW IS THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT MADE GLORIOUS: Those checking to see whether the '93 Worldcon bidders have gone flatline will find fresh signs of life in the April issue of the Costumer's Guild West newsletter.

Costumer's Guild West president Joyce Best, who lives in Southern California, endorsed San Francisco in '93 and held out this carrot to the membership: "How does a World-Con [sic] sound? The last World-Con in our chapter of ICG [International Costumer's Guild] was 1984. The next possible is San Francisco in 1993, and the bid committee has asked little old us (CGW) to run the masquerade. In light of this, CGW is officially supporting the bid (not being stupid)." The issue gives instructions how to vote for San Francisco.

Did the Costumer's Guild West innocently forget that a win by Phoenix would also return the Worldcon to the Western zone, much as File 770 forgot which Indiana Jones movie was up for a 1990 Hugo? Well, probably not. The Guild has been feuding with Phoenix since the Guild was rebuffed for trying to dictate terms about the 1987 Phoenix NASFiC and 1988 Phoenix Westercon.masquerades.

# CONVENTIONAL REPORTAGE

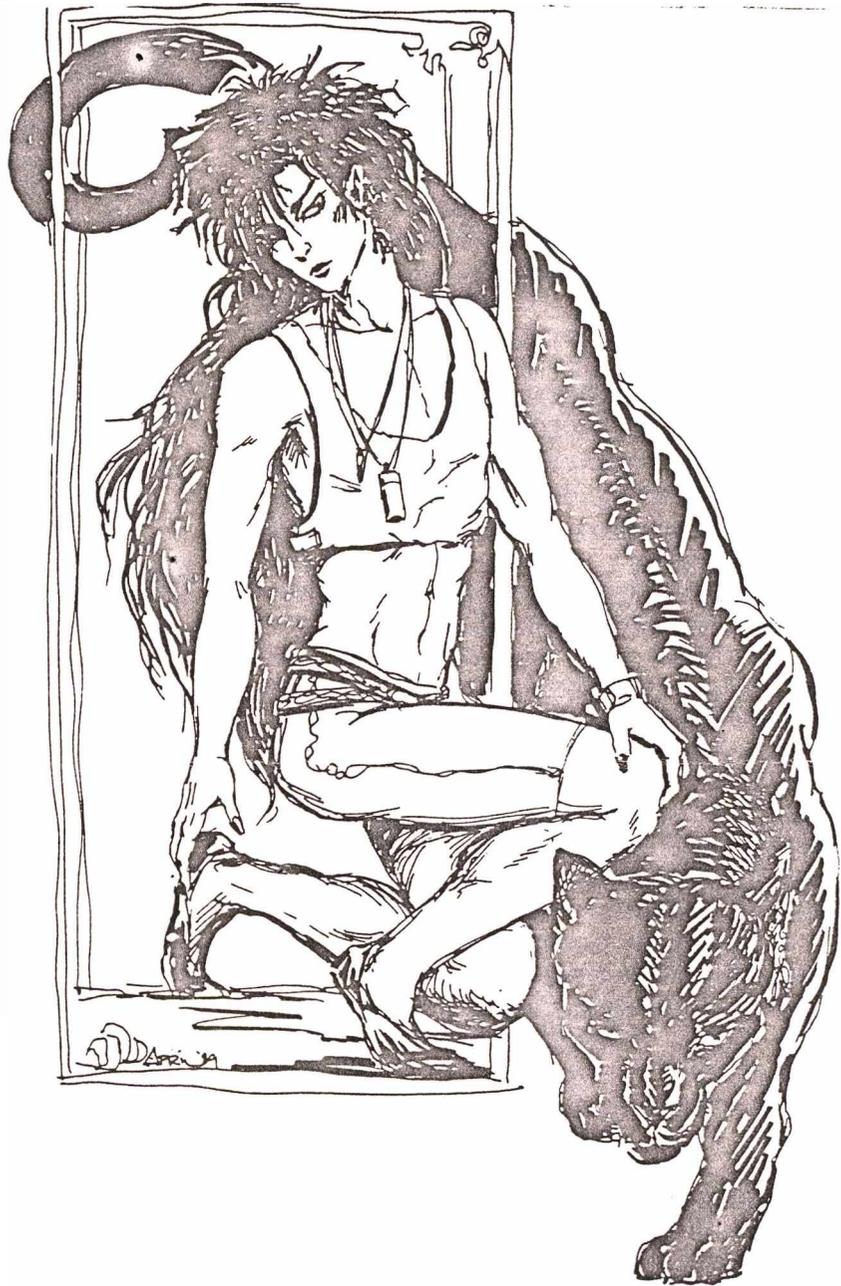
CORRECTION: MAKE THAT LOUISVILLE IN '94 Sue Francis confirms that the Nashville in '94 committee will be unable to use the Opryland facility and has shifted its efforts to bring a worldcon to Louisville in 1994.

## VALCOUR

PINEKONE TAKES BATH, FANDOM INVITED TO WADE IN: As Dean Rolcot tells the tale in the Spring issue of XenoFile, Ottawa's Pinekone II, designated that year's Canadian national convention, suffered substantial losses. Says Rolcot, "There were a lot of problems with Pinekone II's finances. Debt was inherited from the first Pinekone. There were problems with the hotel contract. The committee overspent. Pinekone II lost money...a lot of it. The concon took a walk, leaving [treasurer] Paul Valcour personally in debt for a grand total of over ten thousand dollars."

Rolcot chronicles three western Canadian cons that suffered losses and survived thanks to fannish contributions, then views with jaundiced eye the help offered Valcour by eastern Canadian fans, including the "substantial contribution...made by the successful Toronto Trek Con. They gave Paul (absolutely free of charge) a free membership and dealer's table, enabling Paul to have the honor of selling off his private collection of books and magazines to pay for the Pinekone debt."

In Calgary this July during Con-Version VII (the 1990 Canadian national convention) there will be a fundraiser, probably an auction, on Valcour's behalf. Donations of money (checks or m.o.'s payable to Paul Valcour) are being accepted at: Friends of Paul Valcour, PO Box 1088, Station M, Calgary AB T2P 2K9 Canada. (This is the official Con-



Version/Convention 10 mailing address.)

Calgary fans' sympathy for Valcour's fate met a dubious response Ottawa fandom. (If profit is without honor in its own land, think of how losses fare...) A member of the Pinekone I committee, Andre Lieven, lays the blame at Valcour's feet in the May OSFS Statement. "Both Pinekones

did indeed lose a fair packet of money. Why? Let us remember that a treasurer's job is to allocate and be responsible for the money situation. If another concom member proposes something that the treasurer (Mr. Valcours) feels is too expensive, he should say so -- often forcefully. That's his job. The expensive PK2 Guest slate cost around \$5000. The chair's (Casey's) proposed slate would have run around \$1800. Big savings. The treasurer liked the expensive guest slate, so much so he approved them."

Paul has many friends and others who have worked with him on cons who should take this opportunity to lend him a helping hand.

## AUSSIECON III?

SYDNEY IN '95: The man who brought you Wahf-Full and Sweetness and Light now brings you the bidding zine Synchronicity, prompting a rewrite of an old country/western lyric: "Mommies, don't let your children grow up to pub fanzines named by Jack Herman..."

The masthead declares Synchronicity is the quarterly magazine of "a worldcon bid whose time has come, written, produced and directed by JACK R. HERMAN," yet Jack denies, "It is not a 'Jack R Herman bid', as some have tried to paint it, but an effort from a wide cross-section of Sydney fandom, including those that have been running Cons for over a decade, and many fans who haven't been part of the fannish mainstream. We have a few of the Sydney in '91 people on the Committee and the support of most of the others. But Sydney in '95 is a far more fandom-aware bid. ...We haven't heard if Britain is running yet. We hope that they won't fall for the Business Meeting Saof three-card trick and that they'll continue their bid for 1997."

The Sydney in '95 committee is Rod Kearins (Convener), Graeme Batho, Mike Bourke, Ray Gleeson, Michelle Hallett, Jack R. Herman, Gary Luckman, Kevin Maclean and Gerald Smith. The bid proposes to use the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Centre's main auditorium is divisible into two parts, one seating 2,550, the other 950. There are numerous smaller meeting rooms, plus five Exhibition Halls of 5000 square meters each, column-free. In the vicinity are four hotels; 10 more are due for completion by mid-1992; most are expensive by fannish standards, say the bidders.

Synchronicity 1, prepared for the Australian national convention, sets presupporting memberships at A\$10 or 7 U.K. pounds (no US dollar equivalent is listed.) "Presupporting members will be entitled to participate in the

selection of Guests of Honour, attend all General Meetings and attend a special Pre-Supporters Party at the Worldcon when we win." Subscriptions to the bidzine cost A\$5/year (surface mail rate.) Contact the bid at: GPO Box 429, Sydney 2001 Australia.

Not to say the new Australian bid need look any farther for skeptics than Melbourne. The March issue of Thyme cynically notes, "This is now Sydney's third attempt at bidding for a Worldcon (remember '83?), and while both previous attempts lost the Site Selection vote, at least they made it as far as the vote."

Over here, Jan Howard Finder (164 Williamsburg Ct., Albany NY 12203) has become one of the USA agents of the bid. To become a presupporter send him a check for \$10 made out to Sydney in '95.

## THE WOOSTER FILE

HEXACON 12: (January 5-7) by Martin Morse Wooster

This year marked the third in a row that Hexacon, the annual east coast relaxacon, was not held in Lancaster, PA. This year's convention was moved from the Shawnee Lancaster resort to the Bird-in-Hand Family Inn, in Bird-in-Hand PA, a small touristy town seven miles from Lancaster. Attendance was 125.

I liked the hotel more than most; the staff was largely friendly, the rooms were clean, and, at \$39 for a double, relatively cheap. But there was some friction between the convention and the staff, largely because of the hotel's insistence that there be no nudity in the pool. This year, the traditional nude volleyball game was canceled, and nudity in the jacuzzi was discreet. Sunday morning the pool was closed to con members so that it could be used to perform baptisms!

Most of the things that happen at past Hexacons happened this year, such as the traditional Saturday night smorgasbord at Miller's. Most of the board games were unused, but Darrell Schweitzer and John Betancourt created a new game -- creating an imaginary word ("smeeling") and then coming up with uses to which this word can be used put, particularly in limericks. (Schweitzer's most difficult limerick competition was one where the first line was set by John Boardman in Latin.)

Hexacon founder Neil Belsky was once again absent, but his activities were still discussed. According to an article in the London (Ontario) Free Press of December 5, 1989, Belsky has now founded the London Society of the Fantastic, a bimonthly discussion group which meets every other Thursday in that city's public library. Belsky not only introduced his pet rats to the reporter, but one of them,

according to the article, "peered at close range into Belsky's open mouth" while the reporter dutifully watched.

## DANSE MACABRE

DANSE MACABRE: 29th Australian National SF Convention, report by Jack Herman

Danse Macabre has all the right ingredients and should have worked a lot better. The major problem was that it was planned as a 400 fan con and drew only 200. So with con facilities spread all over the hotel and too much program for its numbers, it became too amorphous to be a real success. In size, therefore, it was the smallest Natcon since 1975 (leaving aside the aberrant 1985 Advention held when most were planning for Aussiecon II.) It was like all Natcons, though, the meeting place of Australian fandom, old and new, and a pleasant time was had by most.

The concommittee's most grievous fault was its determination to keep the con a secret from all but the most inquisitive fan. In George R. R. Martin they had a very saleable guest of honor, and one who was good value for the money. But publicity and promotion were scarce in Melbourne and almost nonexistent outside. No attempt seemed to have been made to use the media or press to gather last-minute publicity and the made no attempt to cash in on George's recent successes with the Wild Card series or his work on Beauty and the Beast. Another 100 fans would have been fine.

But at the con, G.R.R. Martin was great. The committee used him as much as possible and he was around between and after program events to party and talk. There is one reservation here: it was unforgivable for the GoH liaison to allow the GoH to stay at lunch on the first day so that he failed to arrive back in time for either the Official Opening or his planned Reading. The latter was rescheduled, but still... His GoH speech was OK but not as inspired as Varley's had been the year before. But his willingness to participate in panels was a compensation as he shared views on Shared Worlds, Vampires, Horror, working in TV and generally proved a good guy. Fan guest, Eric Lindsay, was equally good to see and heard, and spread himself even more fully around the corridors and parties. But he does that at every con, not just when GoH.

The program, as I suggested, was planned for a much larger con and with three strands on Saturday and Sunday, and two on Friday and Monday, was more than sufficient to meet the needs of those who were attending to talk about SF. If anything, it suffered from a certain amount of sameness. Too many of the program items were simply a panel and a

topic and worked only as well as the moderator and the panel would allow. There were a couple of talks; and Marilyn Pride and Lewis Morley put on a pair of slide shows, one on Mission: Impossible and one on their other professional movie/TV work. For the rest, there was a lot of talking heads, very little audience interaction and precious little creative or performance program.

The latter was confined to the mornings and evenings. Melbourne's version of the Fan Olympics was called "The DUFF Race" and worked a bit of the time. Perhaps if they'd had the materials for the Platform Building it would have been better. In the end there were five events, mainly physical rather than mental, with a disgusting "Bobbing-for-Ditmars" clone. Naturally, the Heavyweights (Justin Ackroyd, Jane Tissell, Jack R. Herman) won. Danse Macabre's other attempt at creativity/performance was Theater Sports, which had worked well at Swancon and has been popular at a couple of media cons. They managed to get only two teams together but it appeared to go reasonably well.

Evening entertainment includes (Friday) a team Scrabble tournament (four teams of six people), a masquerade and (Sunday) an Awards Banquet. The Scrabble was okay. The masquerade reverted to the thematic fancy dress party with a brief show of a few performance costumes at one point -- this approach militates against good and complex costumes because they are too uncomfortable to stand around in for hours waiting for the judging. The banquet was, apparently, the usual hotel standard mass-production food and the best that can be said the Awards Ceremony is that it was brief.

Luckily the partying was strong. Each night saw at least one mass party and plenty of satellite parties around. Given the numbers, I was surprised how well the parties went. Sydney in '92/'95 held a good gather on Saturday night, which was rivalled by the Melbourne in '92/Huttcon party. Both were very convivial as fans moved between. Swancon ran a Sunday night party that finished around breakfast time with the stayers discussing various plans for improving the Awards.

The established Melbourne fandom seems to be aging. Both the Ortliebs and the Handfields came to the con with child accompniment. The Hirshes are very expectant. Many of my other Melbourne friends were busy running the con so we got to see the new generation. Melbourne has a group of insurgents (self-styled "The New Wave") who are, as each insurgent group tends to do, reinventing the fannish wheel. They are answering the perception of cliquishness with a clique of their own, but they are good fun at a con and provide the necessary comic relief. Sydney provided a fair number of the starters as well, and the con was used to launch Sydney in '95 on a suspecting public.

Meeting all my mates, involving myself in some serious program and some light creativity, partying, losing Ditmar Awards 8 and 9, arguing, drinking, kvetching. It was a pretty standard Natcon for me, but I would have enjoyed it all the more with more fans to fill in the spaces. The Natcon remains the best place to meet and get to know Australian fandom.

## BALTICON

BALTICON 24: (April 13-15) report by Martin Morse Wooster  
By now Balticon has become a very large minor convention. Few pros attend; David Hartwell, for example, spent most of the weekend with a very confused look on his face, as if he was trying to have a good time but wasn't quite sure why he attended. If Balticon was farther away from my home than it was, I'd probably have stopped attending some time ago.

The two questions everyone wants to know about Balticon are, "Is it going to be held in the suburbs or downtown?" and "Who are these congoers anyway?" This year and next year the suburb-favoring bloc of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society prevailed. As for the congoers, I still have no idea who most of the 2000 attendees were; many seemed to have been thrill-seeking teenagers.

The convention was slightly better than last year. The Masquerade still dominated Friday night; but long-time construction at the Hunt Valley Inn was finally finished, making the masquerade easier to avoid. For the first time, a video company made on-the-spot videos of the masquerade for sale at the con. Saturday there were an amazing number of bidding parties for cons, including all the 1993 bidders except for Zagreb, all the 1994 and 1995 bidders, and LA in 1996. Most of these bid parties, however, were handled by agents rather than by members of the bidding committees. There were few pro parties but the Avon party gets particularly low marks by hiring a fan to bar as many people as possible from attending.

Smofs continued to smof about the worldcon bids. Some smofs I talked to were wildly enthusiastic about the Hawaii write-in bid, on the grounds that a Hawaii worldcon would certainly be run by LASFS and thus prevent a LA in 1996 Worldcon. Others preferred to speculate about which 1993 bid would fold first, given the chronic troubles of both the Phoenix and San Francisco bids. Phoenix was predicted to fold first. In other news, Midwestcon put out flyers for the first time. These flyers listed all the famous people who attended Midwestcon in the past, like Harlan Ellison.

INTERIM CONVENTION LISTING: Here are some science fiction conventions scheduled for June and July.

PARICON: (June 14-17) Wyndham Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale AZ. GoHs: Diane Duane, Melinda Snodgrass, Carmen Carter, Peter Morwood, Noah Hathaway. Memberships: \$40. Rooms: \$59 sgl/dbl. Hotel phone: (800) 334-5400. Info: Terra Science Fiction Foundation, 3625 N. 16 St. #100, Phoenix AZ 85016.

NEW ORLEANS SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY FESTIVAL (June 15-17, 1990) Bayou Plaza Hotel, 4040 Tulane Ave., New Orleans LA 70119. GoH: Roger Zelazny; AGoH Dell Harris; TM Edward Bryant; FGoH: Frank & Cece Terry. Memberships: \$15 til 4/1/90, \$20 til 6/1/90, \$25 at door. Rooms: (800) 421-4335. Other guests: GRR Martin, M. Snodgrass, E. Datlow, G.A.Effinger, Denny O'Neil, G. Costikyan. 24-hour gaming, art show, dance, hospitality suite. To: NOSFF, PO Box 791089, New Orleans LA 70179.

ARCHON 14: (June 22-24) Henry VIII Inn, St. Louis MO. GoHs: "Wild Cards" authors GRR Martin, Ed Bryant, John J. Miller, Gail Miller, Melinda Snodgrass, Stephen Leigh, Leanne C. Harper, Victo Milan, Walter Jon Williams, William Wu, Walton Simons, Betsy Mitchell. Memberships: \$22 til 6/15, \$25 at door. Rooms: \$55 sgl/dbl. Hotel phone: (800) 325-1588. Info: Archon 14, PO Box 50125, Clayton MO 63105.

MIDWESTCON 41: (June 21-24, 1990) Cincinnati Marriott, 11320 Chester Rd., Glendale OH. Memberships: \$16 til 6/1/90; \$20 at door. Banquet \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door. Mail to: Jackie Causgrove, 6828 Alpine Ave. #4, Cincinnati OH 45236. Rooms: \$70/sgl. Reservations: (800) 950-8883. Relaxacon. Banquet \$20. TM: Bob Tucker.

INCONJUNCTION X: (June 29-July 1, 1990) Adams Mark Hotel, Indianapolis IN. GoHs: Philip Jose Farmer, Frank Kelly Freas, L. Sprague DeCamp, Michael Whelan; TM: Wilson "Bob" Tucker. Memberships: \$20. Rooms: \$64 sgl/dbl. Hotel phone: (317) 248-2481. Info: Inconjunction X: PO Box 19776, Indianapolis IN 46219.

WESTERCON 43: (July 5-8, 1990) Red Lion Inn, Portland OR. GoHs: Ursula K. LeGuin, Vonda McIntyre, Kate Wilhelm, Art Widner; TM Steve Perry. Memberships: \$40 til 6/20/90; \$50 at door. To: Westercon 43, PO Box 5794, Portland OR 97228. Dealer's room and art show sold out. Info: (503) 283-0802.

CHIMERA: (July 20-22) Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg IL. GoHs: Connie Willis, Howard Waldrop, Gardner Dozois. A small speculative fiction convention; no film room, gaming or masquerade, just talk. Memberships \$40. Rooms: \$63 sgl/dbl. Hotel phone: (708) 605-1234. Info: Chimera 1, 1016 Columbian, Oak Park IL 60302.

CONVERSION: (July 20-22) Westin Hotel, Calgary AB. GoHs: Ben Boa, Spider & Jeanne Robinson. Info: Conversion 7, Box 1088, Stn. M, Calgary AB T2P 2K9, Canada.



# FAN MAIL

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## NOREASCON THREE

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TEDDY HARVIA: Except for a few tense moments, including having my heart in my throat for the 60 seconds immediately before the announcement of the winner of the Best Fan Artist Hugo, I thoroughly enjoyed the convention. Too much fun!

LAN LASKOWSKI: Congratulations on winning the Hugo for Best Fanzine (by a lousy 4 votes!) May you not win again -- I'd at least like bookends!

SKEL: I was totally gobsmacked when I read the following paragraph from your Noreascon III report:

"Because of my work schedule Sunday was my last day at the con and I spent most of it in the fanzine area except during the convention brunch. Fortunately I had lots of help all weekend, like Dick Lynch, Nancy Rauban (sp?) and Hawk who took several shifts at the table."

Now I know that Noreascon III was held in Boston, but helping out on the fanzine table does not seem exactly in character for Hawk, at least not as Robert B. Parker describes him. Maybe he was helping Spenser out on a case, uh? That's one novel I particularly look forward to reading. Particularly the scene in which Hawk blows away the Media Fans bad guys.

LLOYD PENNEY: I had a great time at Noreascon 3. I know some people didn't like the con because of endless walking through the Hynes, but if one word described the con it was innovative. The ConCourse was an idea ahead of its time, and fandom will find those innovative ideas and steal them mercilessly for the benefit of fandom. Subscribing to The Mad 3 Party gave me a sneak preview of what to expect, and I wasn't disappointed.

((I don't know that fandom will have to "steal" the ideas -- many of the features of Noreascon Three were suggested by fandom at large. What fandom should imitate is the committee's years-long, energetic solicitation for these ideas, and talent for skillfully merging outside ideas with their own.))

Another word that described the con was smooth. I saw no problems in evidence, although I'm sure Mark Olson and crew handled their share. Registration was smooth too. This was the first time I'd ever walked into registration and out again within five minutes, if that....

The exhibits in the ConCourse were excellent, especially the complete set of Worldcon program books, the fanzines and the Hugos on display. Seeing this kind of history and those three exhibits in reality reminded me just how big this fandom is, and how many have gone before us. If this exhibit can give me that sensavunda about fandom all over again, then it's vital to future Worldcons. We're not the crazy kids others think we are; we've got our history, which adds that third dimension to what we do.

ALEXIS GILLILAND: The SFWA suite, which was in the Hynes Convention Center, had all the warmth and intimacy of a zeppelin hangar. Probably future conventions would do better putting any hospitality suite in one of the adjacent hotels. The Green Room, in contrast, was quite nice in a vasty sort of way, especially when the coffee machine was working. Putting the smoking section in the foyer with the

30-foot ceilings also worked very well.

As usual there was more party than I could use, though one of the highlights of the convention was sitting down with Bill Rotsler and drawing cartoons. Someone asked if this was a competition? On reflection, I have to say no; what Bill was doing was providing me setups, so that process went a lot faster and in different directions than when I work solo. Synergies? Catalytic cartooning? I don't know what to call it, but it was great fun.

JERRY KAUFMAN: I see that the Locus version of your report removed some of the more obvious (and interesting) mistakes. Like the statement that I published Chip Delany's Hugo-winning book of last year. Nope, my small press Serconia published a book by Chip this year, and it hasn't yet won any awards. And Asimov didn't write World Beyond the Hill; the Panshins did. Maybe Asimov was in the process of reading it.

((Evidently I was confused about which book Delany meant, but I believe people heard Asimov's statement as a claim of authorship; at any rate when I received a review copy I was surprised to learn that the Panshins had done the book. Almost as surprised as I was to get a review copy in the first place, given that I haven't published more than three book reviews in the last 12 years...))

Minor inaccuracies in Chip's report of our first meeting are probably because of his memory, not yours. You're right about the attendance, not him, for an instance of his memory lapse. I was at my first convention, too, not my third. I'd been around an entire day longer than he had, since I lived in Cleveland then. I was 17, not 15, and about a month shy of my 18th birthday. I was excited by showing a pro around the con, and probably didn't connect his name with sf at first, but I knew I'd read one or two of his books before meeting him because I remember ranking on Chip about killing off one of my favorite characters in the second "Fall of the Towers" book.

But I enjoyed the vast majority of your report, and appreciate getting the quotes, the bits of gossip, the atmospheric descriptions of things like the Hugos, etc. Makes me feel more like I was there, and I wish more people would do similar.

TOM WEBER: Enjoyed your Worldcon report; knowledge of your harsh (justified) criticism of NOLAcon and your frequent carpings at NESFA lent credibility to your praise of Noreascon. One thing: given how much you (and everyone else) seemed to enjoy the ConCourse, it is unfortunate that Jane Hawkins has not been given due credit for the extraordinary amount of work and planning she contributed. If you will look at your Program Book you will see Jane listed as Mixing Area Subdivision head (the Mixing Area is

what became the ConCourse).

((In such a large undertaking it is all too easy to overlook the credit due valuable contributors with whom one did not have personal contact. Thanks for speaking up.))

LESLIE TUREK: I'm hoping to publish one more Mad 3 Party, but probably not real soon. Since the convention I've been managing to fill my free time taking courses in landscape design. (At this stage in my life, it's a lot more fun than dealing with computers.)

BEN SCHILLING: Congratulations on your victory in the Hugo race. It seems to have been fairly close, from the information that I've seen, but it only takes one vote to win.

((From subsequent letter:)) I believe that it was the Worldcon ballot that Donald Eastlake was talking about when he made his major faux pas. The Best Novel division -- into Fantasy Novel and Science Fiction Novel -- also disappeared in the preliminary business meeting. We will probably be back with another amendment or two about the Best Professional Artist Hugo. I was mildly amused by the struggle to lower the voting and maximum supporting membership fee, especially as the second part of that rule only applies to MagiCon and didn't apply to any Worldcon at the time of the motion. I guess the idea was to throw out the new rule before it got tested...

The fan who couldn't understand how ConFiction's Progress Reports got water-stained hasn't been to The Netherlands. I was in Amsterdam for one day in August 1988 and it rained most of the day. I asked the doorman if the weather was always like this. He said that they rarely got such nice weather for the weekend. If you're going to ConFiction pack your rain gear, you'll probably need it.

ANDY HOOPER: Just a short loc here to tell you how much I have appreciated your sending File 770 to me over the past year. I found it a heartening redemption of the Hugo process in general that your zine won, standing as it does head and shoulders over the other zines nominated.... Coming in the wake of Pat Mueller's victory at NOLA II, this gives me some hope that fanzines as we know and love them still retain some cachet in the fannish imagination. Anyway, congratulations.

I just finished reading #82, and I want to compliment you on the superb picture you painted of Noreascon. As the vision of the convention became clearer and clearer, I found myself feeling ever more regretful at having missed it. All reports that have filtered back here from Boston have characterized it as having been a gruelingly ecstatic experience, but few have undertaken to create as eloquent a description as you provided in F770:82. It strikes me that

this was by far the best of the issues you have sent me, and your passion and affection for fandom really shone through. One gets the impression that this event really gave your batteries a serious recharging, and this would appear to be an unequivocally Good Thing.

CRAIG HILTON: I enjoyed the August '89 and October '89 issues (the ones in question.) Congratulations on the Hugo. Say -- how do you win a Hugo when you only use one staple per issue? Great artwork -- Taral, Teddy Harvia, Alan White and Peggy Ranson stood out in particular. I love to read anything written by Guy Lillian. Your own Noreascon III report was classic Glycer. By this I mean that it will be noted as a valuable addition to the archives of social history. Future historians may discuss 20th century fandom, look at con programme books and ask themselves, "Yes, but what really happened at these events?" And they'll bring out their preserved copies of File 770 for the answer. I hope you realize what responsibility this puts on you, Mike.

((Thanks for the compliment. Just the same let's warn future historians to use more sources than one otherwise they will be realizing Richard Bergeron's nightmares in the aftermath of Topic A -- that the reports in File 770 will be uncritically assumed to be descriptions of objective reality. We all know better than that, don't we?))

HARRY WARNER, JR.: Many thanks for the 82nd File 770. It not only provided me with the most detailed report on the Worldcon I've seen. It also relieved my mind. So little had been written about the event in fanzines up til now I'd feared that inability to bitch about the convention had inhibited conreports and eventually the year would come when there was absolutely nothing to complain about at a Worldcon and this would prevent everyone from writing a word about it. All the stuff I've read so far about Noreascon has been mostly very favorable.

Your reference to disintegrating Hugo bases has caused me to check mine. They appear to be in excellent shape. The cleaning lady apparently picks them up and dusts them on each visit because they're not grimy so it can't be lack of handling that has kept them intact. Maybe it's the smoke-free atmosphere of my home or it could be the fact that I keep them in a corner where they don't get strong light and are never in direct sunlight.

Something else that particularly interests me in this issue was the reference to fans and pros defecting from the Worldcon long enough to attend baseball games at Fenway Park. Maybe after I'm dead I'll be remembered in fandom only for the fact that I was the first to commit this particular heresy, during Noreascon One. Or, at least, the first to admit in print having done so. I

still haven't been able to determine for sure if historians are wrong and Paul Revere wasn't actually warning the population about the British by yelling "The redcoats are coming!" but was publicizing the start of the new season with a cry of "The Red Sox are coming!"

Another memory of Noreascon One was dredged up by the references to facilities for the handicapped at the Worldcon and in Boston itself. In the early 1970s I was covering the county commissioners' meetings for the local newspapers each week. They had just overseen the construction of a large annex to the county courthouse and after it was apparently completed some wheelchair occupants pointed out there was no way for them to get in, so it was necessary to tear up some completed work in order to create a concrete ramp leading to the main doors. When I got to Boston I made a point of inspecting the then-new Prudential Center to see how much more efficiently the handicapped had been provided for. What I found was a wooden board propped up against a short stairway which some good Samaritan was supposed to lay in place if someone in a wheelchair needed to get in or out of the new structure.

In the interests of honesty, I must admit that most of the events you described at this Worldcon wouldn't have interested me or would have made me uncomfortable. But I do feel unhappy for not having been on hand for that Sunday brunch. Inevitably, there can't be many more years in which it will be possible to assemble major figures from the very beginnings of fandom in this manner... I was particularly happy to learn that Charles Hornig was on hand for this Worldcon, although I still think he should be honored with a GoH role at some major con or other before it's too late.

ALLAN D. BURROWS: As ever your complete coverage of Worldcon is the finest thing I've read, including my own... I'm sure it will be a source of links for many years to come. I do have one small correction to make to your coverage.

Regarding the Boxboro Party you said that there were "...chefs carving huge joints of meat in the Kzin embassy." I spent the first hour or two of the party substituting for the room hosts at the Kzin Embassy, (the disadvantage of knowing the amazing young woman who not only organized the room but served on the concom besides). There was one chef there. He had on a propellor beanie chef's hat. He carved one joint of beef. It was large but I wouldn't call it huge. I believe there might have been another, smaller joint of something-or-other besides. There were also chips and pop in that room. Let us not exaggerate. (Not too much anyway.)

I might as well tell you a little of my experiences in the Kzin Embassy. Part of my function was to keep hooligans

and marauders from eating the props, including a pair of Pearson's Puppeteers, one stuffed and one painted cardboard. The stuffed one got a lot of attention as it was not too easily damaged. I did try to chase one yahoo off the cardboard puppeteer. Then I realized I was talking to Larry Niven. This was far worse than the time at Chicon IV when I failed to recognize Mark Hamill in the standing exhibit; that time I was crocked from lack of sleep. This time I have nothing but ignorance to plead. Niven moved reassuringly away from me as I skulked quietly into the background.

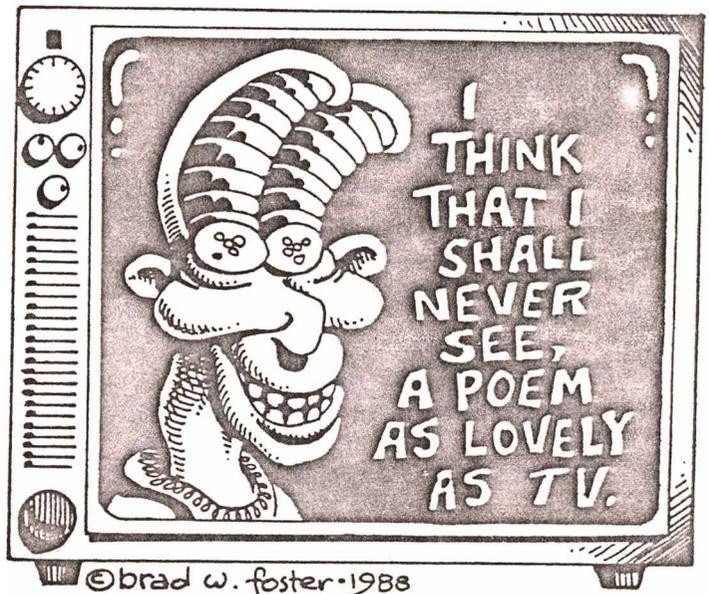
One last word on worldcon. Diana Gallagher Wu has never had a piece of art in a fanzine that I've ever heard of. She doesn't draw in the same style as other fanzine artists, (basically cartoonish). She sells her art as a pro at convention art shows. She tied with Brad Foster for the Fan Artist Hugo. Is this one more indication that the Hugos are leaving us fanzine fans behind? Do they truly represent us to ourselves anymore? Let's end this farce. Let's delete the Fanzine and Writer categories from the Fan Hugos and leave Fan Artist to the con art show auction junkies. Let's drop the Hugos before they drop us!

((There are convention art shows somewhere in the world every weekend, and the attendance at even the smallest one outnumbers the mailing list of an average fanzine. Fanzine fans are just one segment of art-lovers within fandom. In further contrast to the range of work displayed at a typical convention art show, virtually no fanzines publish full-color artwork. That a given artist never appears in fanzines is no indicator of how good their work is or how many people enjoy it. It would be small-minded of fanzine fans to attempt to dictate terms for the survival of the Fanartist Hugo. The suggestion reeks of the "No Award" fiasco of 1986.))

CHRISTINE LOWENTROUT: Your Worldcon report was delightful. Makes one wish more than ever that it had been possible to attend.

The panelist who dreamed up a story (first sale) while tied up in a POW simulation in Central America is J. D. Macdonald. He, with his writing partner Debra Doyle, wrote two of the 10-book Planet Builder series for Ballantine/Ivy and are the authors of a six-book fantasy series, Circle of Magic, which will be Troll Books' (a scholastic book club) first book into the general publishing arena.

KEITH KATO: Thanks for the nice comments. There was one minor error, though: I never met Greg Benford until after I started grad school. My first party was at the 1974 Westercon in Santa Barbara; successive and larger ventures occurred at the 1975 NASFiC in Los Angeles and the 1976



MidAmeriCon. Greg did not attend these cons to my knowledge. I began grad school in October 1975, and first met Greg as my professor of Mathematical Methods of Physics in April 1977. And the rest, as they say, is...

BRIAN EARL BROWN: File 770:82 has arrived with your Worldcon report and I must say it was delightfully written, with more detail than seems humanly possible to remember.

The ConCourse sounds like a really neat idea. It also sounded just a bit like the way British conventions are run -- that is with a pub in the back of the fan room so people could mingle, browse the exhibits or attend the programming as they pleased. At least that's the impression I've built up over the years, not that I've ever gone to a British convention.

I hadn't realized that Andre Norton was so frail she had to be wheeled around the convention in a chair. I guess that makes me all the more glad that Noreascon Three thought to ask and she thought to accept this honor. I suspect her books have brought more people into fandom than any other SF writer, even Heinlein.

ANDI SHECHTER: [Deputy Director, Facilities Division, Noreascon Three] I much appreciated your WorldCon report in issue 82. You reported on a lot of things I missed and I got a really good idea of events by reading your

descriptions. I never got to the Boxboro party, so your description was really welcome. And while I did get to the Sunday brunch, thanks for your reprints of the comments. They brought back some very good feelings.

One thing I wanted to correct -- while it is a small item in a long report, it's important enough. Since I was sort of involved in some of the resolution of the matter, I wanted you and File 770's readers to know that regarding the theft and the "sting" operation, the theft did not occur during the con. The dealer's vehicle was broken into on the street before the dealer's room was ever opened or set up. In other words, this was not a theft by fans. In fact, it's possible that some of the other thefts were by mundanes who were working the convention. While I assume that any major gathering of people is a target for thieves, and undoubtedly out of 7000 people there are some dishonest ones, it's important to note that the property taken was stuff that anyone would target. Any mundane recognized Stephen King and Batman as popular and hot items. This isn't to minimize what happened -- but I think it's important to keep in mind that the vast majority of fans still appear to be honest and concerned for each other.

An added note on the "sting operation." I'm not sure it's accurate that the dealer had a shop in the city -- I never did learn who the person was. When Worldcon staff apologized for the hassle and the problems caused him (of course, his dealer's goods were confiscated as evidence by the police) he reportedly replied something like, "oh, well, that's okay. This is the most fun (meaning the sting) I've had at a con in a long time." We really were sorry it happened, and appreciated the work done by the police, the dealer's room staff and the cooperative dealer who didn't have a very good con.

On a different note, I'm a little puzzled why you were so down on Effinger. I thought he looked spiff in his tux, and don't understand why his comments mirroring Gehrig's words were in such bad taste. George has had a run of bad times, and it seems likely he would feel lucky. If you're referring to Gehrig having ALS, no way in the world would George Effinger make fun of that.

((I figured as long as I was being so unsparing in reporting people's reaction to my own Hugo acceptance speech, it wouldn't seem like I was picking on George when I reported Fran Skene's negative reaction. I thought he was funny myself.))

Mike, congratulations on the Hugo and thank you for your very good job during SF Tonight.

RICK SNEARY: Thank you for sending the convention report. I enjoyed reading it, and shaking my head. I just can't

believe it is all real. We live in an age when the unbelievable happens twice a week, so I guess I shouldn't be surprised. But I am sort of grossed out. How can anyone manage something so huge? I once said, putting on a con was like producing a Broadway musical, without rehearsals. This one sounds like an Hollywood extravaganza, done by Busby Berkeley, with only one take. To me going to something like that wouldn't be fun, though it sure as John Campbell would be an adventure. That party you described sounded like something Hollywood would think of for picturing the super-rich or infamous at play. I have griped about the fringe-fan attendees, who have complained about things at the con, as if they were paying to attend a theme park and it hadn't lived up to its promises. When I was going, I thought of myself as "joining" the Convention society, and I was part of the con, and also responsible for the way it turned out. But now days it is just a show. And I can't see how some of the low level grunts get any fun out of it...Stuck at some job and missing the fun... But -- gripes like that can't really hide my admiration for a team that can work together than pull it all off. I have been on three Worldcons and this would frighten me. I boggle, too, that so many fans can work together and not be at each others' throats, or backs. I remember when they first proposed bidding for Westercons two years in advance. Ackerman and I both allowed how it was hard enough to hold a committee together for a year, they would never last for two. Maybe they make fans differently.

They certainly are "different" to this old hermit. Of the names you mentioned, well over 80% were total strangers to me. A few names I recognized as new fans, like Spike, and some old friends like Bruce and Fred, but for the most part they were strangers. Sigh!

It has come to appear that Fanzine Fans, who used to be the top of the pyramid, are now a minority in the field. And for us First Stage Fans, the feeling of being strangers in our own house. The Corflu Con seems an answer, but most would still like to go to Worldcons, once in awhile.

HARRY WARNER JR. I was pleased to learn that Elvis showed up at the Hogu ceremony. But you should give details because I'd like to know if my theory is correct: he faked his death and vanished from the public eye for years because he wanted plenty of time to learn how to sing.

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FLASHBACK ON FILE 770:91

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DAVE LANGFORD: I thought I must (quite justifiably) have been hurled from your mailing list; I hope the horrors

which slowed you down have now dispersed. Post-Conspiracy shock left me awfully quiet through 1988, but on the other hand, the death of Ansible did spare me from having to tackle the Nolacon Horror and the Great Hugo Ballot Mess. How well I remember, from the days of the TAFF wars and totally incomprehensible Swedish scandals, the despair at reading thirty pages of accusation and counter-accusation, and wondering how to summarize them in the page or so you think you can manage before actually screaming.

SHERYL BIRKHEAD: After tales of the demolished mimeo I was surprised (pleasantly) when File showed up. As long as the Worldcon continues to be run by volunteers there will be bad-time problems (as pointed out). It has been periodically mentioned that perhaps the time for a professionally run con has arrived...well? Then again, if the the Worldcon ran smoothly fans would have to find other topics to wax vitriolic over!

LLOYD PENNEY: Bravo to LAcon for donating the money to get the masquerade on closed circuit television in Boston. I know it's expensive, but being able to see the Hugos and the masquerade on closed circuit would be terrific. I remember BoSh handing out the Hugos in Atlanta (I hope my faulty memory doesn't fail me on this one) while setting up a Slightly Higher in Canada room party, and thinking how convenient that all was.

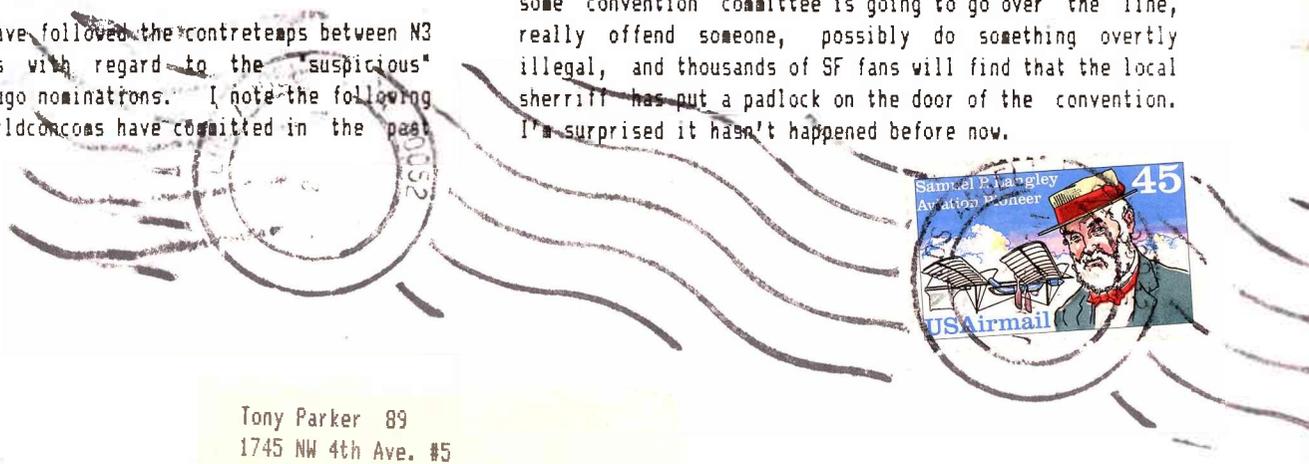
BERISLAV PINJUH: A message for Lloyd Penney: Jadranka has drawn a picture of me, and I promise to send it as soon as she hands it to me.

GEORGE JUMPER: I have followed the contretemps between N3 and other parties with regard to the "suspicious" balloting on the Hugo nominations. I note the following embarrassments Worldconcons have committed in the past ten or so years:

- 1) Iguanacon, in which it was discovered almost too late that the person responsible for signing the Phoenix Convention Center had not done so, nearly leaving Iguanacon without a home.
- 2) The ConStellation fiasco, in which a concon thought it had a bottomless pit of money.
- 3) The Australian concon which embarrassed its GoH by publicly asking him not to charge against his hotel room since they were out of money.
- 4) Conspiracy, which somehow or other ran afoul of its creditors and was forced into bankruptcy.

...I have been told that the World Science Fiction Convention is the largest such gathering in this country still run by non-professional staffing. I would say that it is about time that this situation be changed and the mechanics of worldcons be turned over to professional staffing. You know, people who can do things like set up reasonable hotel contracts, run thr mechanics of the Hugo balloting, determine security requirements, and so forth.

Other organizations which have large gatherings came to this conclusion years ago and have gone the route of professional staffing. Granted, SF conventions are not huge money-raisers, with wealthy exhibitors buying floor space that subsidizes the rest of the convention, but with budgets that now run an appreciable fraction of a million dollars, which may not be so much in comparison with General Motors but is more money than most concon members handle in their personal lives, it would seem prudent to have a professional staff. Otherwise, sooner or later, some convention committee is going to go over the line, really offend someone, possibly do something overtly illegal, and thousands of SF fans will find that the local sherriff has put a padlock on the door of the convention. I'm surprised it hasn't happened before now.



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