

An abstract artwork featuring a dark, textured background of deep blues and purples. Several large, overlapping circles are outlined in a light, shimmering gold. These circles contain various textures: some are filled with a mottled blue and green, others with a solid gold shimmer, and one is a solid dark blue. Thin, straight gold lines radiate from the circles, extending across the frame. Scattered throughout the background are numerous small, bright gold dots and a few four-pointed star shapes. The overall effect is reminiscent of a cosmic or celestial theme.

ASKANCE 52

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What you have here in your hands (or on screen) is another Mythical Publication. Copies of this fine, thrice a year appearing fanzine can be had for The Usual, which means expressed interest, submission and eventual inclusion of articles and artwork, letters of comment, and cold hard cash in the amount of \$3.00 USD if you want a printed copy mailed to you. Bribes are also accepted. Of course, if you send in locs, articles, and artwork, you just earned a life-time free subscription. Consider yourself lucky, indeed. This fanzine is also available on <https://efanzines.com/>.

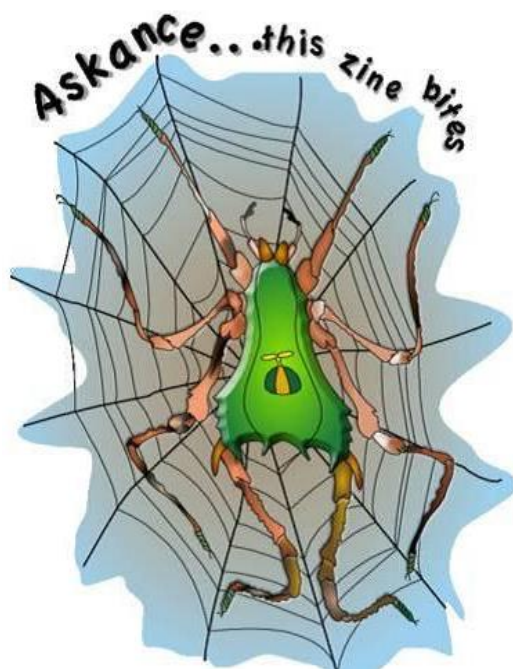
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Official TAFF 2022 ballot.....	attached document

Art Credits

Front cover by Sarah Felix

Sheryl Birkhead - 2; Teddy Harvia - 9, 21; A. B. Kynock - 24, 29;
Nicked off the Internet - 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 19; Jose Sanchez - 30.



Facilis Descensus Averno. *

*Going to Hades is easy.

Member: FWA (since 2007!)

The theme of this issue is “blue”

Why? you ask. Why not? I reply.
 Blue is such a pleasant colour to spy;
 it is the hue of the sky, my true love's eye.
 The song of birds that wing on by
 That fills my soul with heartfelt cry;
 Thus becomes the theme of why
 I type and drink not hot-spiced rye.

Burma Shave



Whither This Fanzine

Every time I get around to producing an issue of *Askance* at the end of the year I start wondering if I really want to keep the zine going. I know, I know: I have babbled like this before, which is why I am at it again. This time my reason is not for the lack of love and interest I have in fanzines. Far from it. Those are the reasons I keep it going. No question in my mind, I really do enjoy writing whatever I can for not only my fanzines but for those of other faneditors. Case in point, the next issue of Guy Lillian's *Challenger* has an article from me about *More Than Human* for the Theodore Sturgeon special issue, and I am working on another piece for Justin Busch's *Far Journeys*, this time about H. G. Wells' 1936 novella *The Croquet Player*. The more I think about this particular book, the more I am convinced that Wells' strong point was his ability to explore the subconscious fears and inadequacies of human society, plus projecting those observations into the future or other situations. The deadline for Justin's issue is two months off, so once this issue of *Askance* is over and done with, then it's onto that article in full. Maybe.

But back to the future of *Askance*. Publishing this fanzine at a breakneck pace is definitely out of the question simply because writing material for it takes time that I sometimes do not have. The Fall 2021 semester practically wore me out: like many of my colleagues at Blinn College, I had an overload class and that created a LOT of extra work! And now I have been playing my guitar a lot more often, writing new songs, acquiring home-recording gear and software, and wanting to get out and play more. The pull of music is becoming rather overwhelming, and I really want to do more with it while the desire is there. Hey, why not? A life-long goal of mine is to record a bunch of my songs and see how good I can make them. I really want to get back into the studio Very Soon Now. Not surprisingly, this desire is claiming more personal time instead of fanzines.

Sure'n begorah, I also enjoy pubbing my occasional little personalzine *Askew* from time to time, in which I wax political and such, but again, sometimes I am just not interested in doing it. There is always something to say thanks to the bizarre behavior of politicians, natural phenomena, unnatural phenomena, plus the given oddball behavior of science fiction fandom. It is so durned easy to burn out on fanac. I should know: forty years ago, I did just that and survived.

Of course, it could easily be that I am getting a bit tired of pubbing zines. Maybe I just need to take a break from doing this sort of thing. But not just yet. I have a grand cover art for the 53rd issue from Alan White that demands publication. He is so good!

Oh! Before I forget, there is something else near and dear to my heart I want to discuss:

TAFF: it's not just a funny word.

In fact, it is back in all its glory – maybe I should rephrase that: this might conjure risqué images in readers' minds – and ready to bring a well-deserving fan across the Atlantic Ocean to attend Chicon 8 over next year's Labor Day Weekend. The 2022 official Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund ballot is accompanying this issue as an attachment, and therein readers shall find all the rules, contact information, along with the names and platforms of the four candidates in this year's race. It is wonderful to have such a full field of fine fans vying for this honour. As the 2017 TAFF delegate to the Helsinki Worldcon, I can attest to how wonderful this fund is – as are the other fan funds. GUFF and DUFF, which also deserve support – and shall continue to support TAFF.

Now I need to decide who I want to vote for! This is going to be a difficult decision, and one I do not mind making. Whoever wins this year's race is going to represent European fandom and enjoy Chicon 8 and the rest of their trip. On behalf of the eventual winner, I thank you all for your support.

Who is In This Issue

Sarah Felix

It is indeed a great honor to have cover art by a FAAn Award and Hugo Award winning artist on the front of this issue. She sent this back in June of this year, and it was really cool to see the original piece on display in this year's ArmadilloCon 42 art show labeled as "*Askance* cover." It actually sold as a quick sale for a nice amount, which I am sure made Sarah happy. Here is what she says about this piece:

My Cover for *Askance*

I have been so involved in the tiaras I hadn't been painting much. Especially with the space circle pieces that were some of my favorite pieces to do before the pandemic. The *Askance* cover was a good way to get back to that style as John let me have creative freedom.

To create this piece, I laid down circles of masking fluid and let those dry. Then with alcohol inks I created the space background and added acrylic paint starts. The final layer is iridescent blue acrylic and gold leaf. At different angles the iridescent color really shines!

Bill Fischer

It is always a pleasure to have Bill's contributions in this fanzine. "Figby" returns yet again, and Bill tells me for the nonce he wants to do single strips instead of a string of inter-related comics that can stretch over a year, possibly more. That actually sounds like a good plan considering what I said earlier about this fanzine's publishing "schedule." Welcome back, my friend.

Sam Long

For the last couple of years I have been whittling my way through the batch of filk songs that Sam graciously sent. In this issue are three more from his filk collection "*Parodies Lost & Parodies Regained*." Once I run out of these maybe Sam will send more of these for inclusion in future issues. If so, no complaint from this end.

=====

"I've seen hammers with the handles off cleverer than he is!"



As the end of another year rushes our way at a full head of steam, it is time once again to turn my gaze backwards and think of what I have survived – so far, that is.

Daily life here in SouthCentralEastern Texas has attempted to return to what used to be called normal, but life has no-where near approached that former conception of normality. As the Coronavirus pandemic began to spread its wings in early 2020, I was attempting to maintain a sense of “I’ve got this!” as preparations continued for Corflu Heatwave here in College Station. Even chairing a small science fiction convention as Corflu presents logistical problems that need to be solved; having a potentially lethal infectious disease bearing down on the land caused many fans who were planning to attend drop out at the last minute, making me feel like the last fan on Earth hoping to rebuild fandom following the apocalypse, much like the protagonist in M. P. Shiel’s 1901 end-of-the-world novel *The Purple Cloud*. Yet, the convention finished just ahead of Texas shuttering itself (fat lot of good that did, but that’s for another rant in another fanzine of mine), and Corflu 37 was declared a success despite its low attendance (33 attendees out of the 65 total memberships), even netting a slight profit that was forwarded on to Rob Jackson for Corflu Concorde.

Fandom as we all knew it was knocked down but not out. Always a resourceful lot, fans shook it off, got back on their feet, and promptly converted their in-person fan activity into online fan activity. Last year’s world convention ConZealand went virtual, although at a price that was still prohibitive. Lots of regional conventions did the same thing, many for free, such as ArmadilloCon 41 (usually held in August over in nearby Austin, Texas), which I “attended.” It was an interesting experience.

Zoom chats with fans around the world became common, too. For a while I joined weekly Zoom chats with fans belonging to the InTheBar and BCSFA groups, then slacked off on those when my teaching duties were simply eating up way too much time. My life was suddenly transformed – hell, *all* of our lives were transformed – into living and working and relaxing and conversing in a VR world. If I was not recording lectures, conferencing via Zoom with students, teaching online, giving and grading assignments on course pages of my design, and so on and so forth, I would be reading online fanzines, watching and listening on my computer screen to convention panels

where participants and audience resembled a global version of the opening credits of *The Brady Bunch*. Often I would be sitting at my desk at home in College Station and chatting with fans anywhere from Australia to British Columbia to Las Vegas, Minneapolis, New York, Boston, on down to Abingdon, Virginia (hi, Curt Phillips!), and then across the Pond to Croydon Central, in addition to a dozen or so European fans ranging from Sweden all the way down to the Mediterranean coast. All of this happened either simultaneously as fans spread across 24 time zones would adjust their schedules to all be online at the same time, or they'd simply pop in and out whenever to continue a conversation that might have begun hours earlier in, say, Poughkeepsie. (I always wanted to work that name into a fanzine article. Cross that one off my fannish To Do List.)

Without any warning days, weeks, and months ran together, and if it wasn't for my pill caddy I probably would not be able to figure out which day it was, let alone whether I had work to do, present at a video conference, or meet with a student. As Valerie started saying, "Today is just another Blursday in Whentember."

And that is exactly what happened: time became an amorphous unreality. Everything ran together. At least, that's how it seemed to me and many of our friends.

Yet here we are, at the end of the year 2021, still plugging along, dealing with the on-going pandemic sporting yet another new variant – the omicron – *du jour*. I guess we are all just waiting for the omega variant to arrive. When that happens, we might finally be at the end of it all.



Well, that's not exactly how I envisioned this particular article ending. I really hate stories or articles that end with a gloom and doom prediction. My apologies, but with this all out of my system, there is good news to report. Valerie and I have been fully vaccinated since April, just had our booster shots (on Friday afternoon, December 17th), and we have made our room reservations for Corflu Pangloss, the next Corflu in the series, up in Vancouver, Canada. Now we must wait and see what kinds of travel restrictions might arise that could result in our cancelling that reservation. This is why we haven't reserved our plane tickets yet: we would not receive a full refund on that if we can't get to Vancouver. Life goes on, tra la. Stay tuned for further developments.

This situation reminds me of a filk song that Nic Farey and I - mostly Nic, to be honest - generated a number of years ago to the tune of the Rolling Stones song "Satisfaction": our version is called "Earl Kemp's Traveler's Blues." The lyrics are on the inside back cover of *Beam #3* (May 2011). Look it up. It's on efanzines.com, for chrissake!

The Time-Binder's Wife

Faanfic by John Purcell

first appeared in Askance #20 (June 2010)

It was another quiet night at home. At one end of the couch Valerie was fine-tuning a steampunk-style wrist band, craft table in front of her, and I was eye-tracking the two latest issues of Fred Lerner's *Lofgoernost* that had arrived in that day's mail. The television was on "the First 48 Hours," one of the many crime shows that Val and I enjoy watching. I glanced at the wristband she was working on. "That's looking pretty cool," I commented. "Lots of tiny 'Alice in Wonderland' trinkets on it."

"Yes, that's the idea," she replied, her fingers deftly attaching to the band an itty-bitty spotted ceramic mushroom with black thread. "Hopefully I'll have some of these ready for Apollocon, but by Armadillocon I should have a full table of these and other handmade jewelry in the art show."

"Yeah, I am really looking forward to getting to these cons this summer. You'll like them. The people watching is most of the fun, besides meeting old and new friends. That's why I've always enjoyed cons so much: the friends."

"Hmm-mm." Valerie nodded distractedly, which wasn't a surprise: the task she was concentrating on looked like she was performing open-heart surgery on a gnat. "Damn! My fingers are cramping," she said, shaking out the kinks in her right hand. Glancing over at me, she asked, "Is Fred going to be at any of these cons?"

"No. He lives in Vermont. In fact, I don't think I've ever met Fred; mostly he's been a correspondent or apa-hack. We were both in Minneapa back in the 70s, that I know."

"It really amazes me," Valerie said, "at how many people you only know in print."

"Yeah. That's another big plus for cons: they give you the chance to meet people you've only been writing back and forth with in fanzines or apas. Remember when we were at Minicon in 1992? That's where you met Rusty Hevelin and many other fanzine and convention fans I knew."

"Sure do. I also remember those Demicons we went to in 1990 and 1991. Weren't those the first ones? And what was the name of that one guy you knew who looked like a young Gandalf-in-training? He always carried around that gigantic walking stick."

"Yes, I think they were, and that was Dean Gahlon. Man, I haven't seen him in many a year." "Sure takes you back, doesn't it?" I absently glanced at the February 2010 issue of *Lofgoernost* in my hands, flipping through the pages, noted the names: Lee Gold, Lloyd Penney, Dave Langford, Joe Major... With a sigh, I said, "It sure does. Sometimes I just like to look at old fanzines and remember..."

SHOOMPFI

We jumped out of our seats at the sudden noise. "What the hell was that?" I asked.

"Beats me," Val said, "but it sounded like it came from the kitchen."

We both went to investigate, saw the refrigerator door wide open with clouds of frost-vapor rolling out coating the floor. To our surprise, two animated figures jumped out: first, a poorly drawn beagle wearing dark horn-



rimmed glasses and a black bowtie, followed by a large-headed, bespectacled boy wearing gray knickers, sneakers, and a black-and-white horizontally striped shirt.

"Golly, Mister Peabody," the boy was saying, "that sure was a rough landing!"

"That's what happens, my boy," explained the smug beagle, "when the time-stream hasn't been adjusted correctly. Observe the dial at the back of this particular Way-Back Machine™: notice it is set just barely after the 3 instead of on the exact setting of 3.14159; a small discrepancy like that can make all the difference when one is entering or exiting the timestream, which results in such a turbulent...."

By now, our overly large Labrador, Duckie, had figured out what was happening and charged into the kitchen, barking furiously, fangs dripping froth.

"EEK!" Cried the boy. "It's a dinosaur, Mr. Peabody! One of those caninus devouruses!"

"Quickly, Sherman! Get back in the refrigerator!"

SLAM!

Valerie and I stared at the closed refrigerator door. A half-dozen magnets had fallen to the floor and tiny paper notes fluttered in the air. Meanwhile, Duckie growled and barked at the base of the now-quiet appliance. "Good boy, Duckie. That's a good doggie," I consoled our pet, scratching behind his ears to quiet him down. "Thank you for defending our home from the cartoon dimension, there's a good boy..."

Duckie made a sound like Humphrey the Bear scratching his back on a tree, looked very pleased with himself while Valerie muttered, "What in the world happened?"

All I could do was shrug and say, "Beats me. You have to admit, that was danged strange."

"Since when has this been going on? We've had this refrigerator ever since we moved in, and nothing like this has ever happened before."

Nodding in agreement, I said, "I know. But when you stop and think about it, that would explain a whole bunch of things around here. You know, like how some of your stuff always disappears for no apparent reason, then suddenly you find it someplace where it shouldn't be because you would have had no reason to put it there?"

Valerie's eyes grew in sudden comprehension. "Of course! That would explain everything! Like that old-fashioned alarm clock Aunt Polly bought at a garage sale shortly after we got married. Couldn't find that clock after we moved down here, then last month there it was in a box of denim fabric out in the garage. Now it all makes sense!"

"Exactly," I replied. "That's the sort of stuff I'm talking about. And why the dogs bark at the oddest times of the day and night, and nothing is going on that we can see."

"But why our refrigerator? That's just plain stupid."

"True. But Doctor Who's time machine is an old phone booth, so why not?"

Val thought for a moment. "You know, while knowing this makes me feel a bit better, I still think it's scary."

I put an arm around my wife's shoulder. "I agree. But so long as nothing supremely dangerous comes out of the refrigerator, we're fine."

SCHAWUMPH!

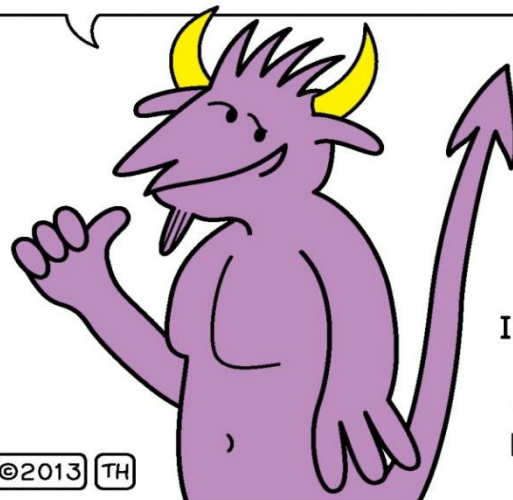
Once again, the refrigerator door sprung open, and out with the frost clouds jumped a madman dressed in black boots, dark slacks, and a powder-blue knit body shirt with a gold insignia over the left breast, screeching, "ASSASSINS! MURDERERS!!"

He wheeled maniacally, searching for an escape, then his wild eyes locked on mine. Pointing a bony finger at me, he screeched, "YOU! What is this place?"

Oh, Christ, I thought and sighed. Shrugging, I dejectedly said, "My life."



I am the demon Belphegor. My followers erected a phallic idol in my honor.



I was excited when they asked me to poise for it.

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*A time-honored tradition of science fiction fandom that dates back to the 1950s is that of the filk-song. The vast majority of them are based on familiar or traditional tunes, and the term itself is reputed to have been a typo (typographical error) of the term folk music by Lee Jacobs in his article, "The Influence of Science Fiction on Modern American Filk Music." To wit, in the **Fancyclopedia 3** entry on filk songs, Jacobs "misspelled folk song in a piece he'd submitted to SAPS entitled 'The Influence of Science Fiction on Modern American Filk Music.' The article was about supposed sf incidents in folk songs, but actually discussed a number of thoroughly smutty songs, taking various metaphors in them as if they were meant literally. Wrai Ballard, the OE of SAPS, decided the piece might run afoul of censorious postal authorities, so he didn't run it in the mailing, but he noted the typo of 'filk' for 'folk' and mentioned it to a lot of fans. (This may be why some people believe filksinging to be an abbreviation for 'filthy folk singing'.)*

"Not long after that, another SAPS member, Karen Anderson, took Lee's typo and defined it as musical parodies written by fans. Then, in Die Zeitschrift für Vollständigen Unsinn #774 p22 by Karen Anderson is the first-known song published as a filk song, written (see 'How to Write a Filk Song' in The Zed #780) by Poul Anderson."

*In this spirit, **Askance #52** is proud (?) to present still more fine examples of this particular genre of sf fandom's music. You have been warned.*

PARODIES LOST & PARODIES REGAINED

By Sam Long

ON THE DEATH OF A FAVORITE FEMFAN, DROWNED IN A TUB OF CORFLU

After Gray; by SL, first appeared in *QWERTYUIOP* 4, Dec '70, revised '93. No tune; to be recited

'Twas by a Stack of Stencils' Side,
Where Fandom's best Fanwriters scribed
Th' immortal Words that glow,
Demurest of the femfan Kind
The pensive Selmia, reclined,
Gazed on Corflu below.

Still had she gaz'd, but in the Air,
A Fragrance wafted to her there:
The fragrance of Corflu.
Its oriental midnight Tint,
Its wild and waxen Ether-scent,
These would her soon undo.

So from the Tub she took a Whiff—
A short one—then a deeper Sniff
She tried in vain to take.
She sniff'd once more, and, loath, withdrew.
Who hath not breathed in airplane Glue?
Who hath not smelled fresh Cake?

Presumptuous Maid! With Looks intent,
Again she stretched, again she bent,
Nor knew the Gulf between,
(Malignant Fate sat by and smil'd.)
The slippery Edge her Feet beguil'd:
She tumbled headlong in!

Nine times emerging from corflu,
She call'd to Roscoe and to Ghu
Some speedy Aid to send.
No Faned, no fanartist stirr'd,
No distant Stenciller had heard--
The Favorite has no Friend!

O Fans, change not your Heiroglyph
With corflu, or else do not sniff
This anaesthetic Stuff.
Not all that tempts your fannish Nose
Or stfnal Brain can we say "goes";
And of this Poem, enough!

THE BALLAD OF BUCK COULSON

May '96

Tune: "John Henry"

When Buck Coulson was a little neo,
Jist a-sittin' on his mammy's knee,
'E pick up a stencil and a bottle of corflu,
Said, "Fanac gonna be the death of me, Lawd, Lawd,
Fanac gonna be the death of me!"

Well, the fakefan say to Buck Coulson,
"Gonna get me an offset press,
Gonna bring that offset out on the job,
Gonna pub my zine offset, Lawd, Lawd,
Gonna pub my zine offset."

Well, Buck Coulson say to the fakefan,
"Well a fan ain't nothin' but a fan;
But befo' I let that offset beat me down,
I'll die with a duper crank in han', Lawd, Lawd,
I'll die with a duper crank in han'."

Well, Buck Coulson say to Juanita,
"Juanita, why don't you filk?
I done run twelve reams thru this mimeo, it seems,
An' the inkin' still as smooth as silk, Lawd, Lawd,
The repro's jist as smooth as silk!"

Well, the fakefan say to Buck Coulson,
"I believe that slanshack's cavin' in!"
But Buck Coulson replied, in a voice full of pride,
"It's only my Gestetner suckin' win', Lawd, Lawd,
Ain't nothin' but my duper suckin' win'!"

Well, the fakefan who pubbed on that offset,
Well, 'e thought it was mighty fine,
But Buck Coulson dupered more than fifteen reams,
An' the offset only printed nine, Lawd, Lawd,
The offset only printed nine!

Well, Buck Coulson was pubbin' in the slanshack,
An' his duper was strikin' fire;
But 'e smof so hard, that he broke his po' heart,
An' 'e took off 'is beanie an' 'e die, Lawd, Lawd,*
'E laid down his stylus an' 'e die.

Well, they took Buck Coulson f'um the consuite,
An' they buried him like a slan,
An' all con-goin' faneds that come wandering by
Say, "There lies a zine-pubbin' fan, Lawd, Lawd,
There lies a zine-pubbin' fan!"

Well, Buck Coulson had a little woman,
An' 'er name was Juanita Ruth;
An' when Buck got sick an' couldn't run for TAFF**,
Juanita sell filk tapes f'um a booth, Lawd, Lawd,
SF and filk tapes f'um a booth!

* *authorized alternative*: "An' 'e take off 'is skunkskin cap an' die, Lawd, Lawd,"

** *authorized alternative*: "an' couldn't pub 'is ish," or "an' couldn't go to cons,"



ON THE ROAD TO FANDALAY

By the old Mo-ul-mien slanshack, lookin' eastward to the sea
There's a trufemfan a-waitin' an' I know she thinks of me.
For the ink is on the stencils, an' the typer bells, they say,
"Come you back, you fafia trufan, come you back to Fandalay"
Come you back to Fandalay
Where the neos dance and play,
Can't you 'ear those dupers clunkin' from the Globe to Fandalay?
Come you back to Fandalay
Where there's bheer, not Perrier;
Where they "smooth" with Beam like Tucker,
An' it's always Mercer's Day.ⁱ

'Er petticut was yaller, an' 'er beanie cap was green,
An' 'er name, 'er name was Feghild—jes' the same as Ompa'sⁱⁱ *cwen*—
An' I seen 'er furst a-pubbin on a mimeo black as soot,
Am' a-wastin' fannish kisses on an 'eathen Idol's foot.
Bloomin' idol o' egoboo—
Wot they call the Ghreat Ghod Ghu—
Plucky lot she cared for idols when I gave 'er some corflu!
Come you back to Fandalay...

When the mist was on the slushpile an' the bheer was getting' low,
She'd git 'er little bagpipe an' she'd play "Qwertyuio".
With 'er arm upon my shoulder an' 'er typer goin' thud,
We uster watch the neos and the fakefans pubbin' crud.
Neofans a-pubbin' crud
In the squidgy, squidgy mud,
Where the repro was so awful that it chilled a trufan's blood.
Come you back to Fandalay...

But all that's shove be'ind me—long ago an' far away
An' there ain't no busses runnin' from Mundane to Fandalay,
An' I'm learnin' up in Lunnon what a ten-year trufan tells:
"When you've 'eard fandom a-callin', then you won't 'eed nothin' else."
No, you won't 'eed nothin' else
But them spicy corflu smells,
An' the 'goboo an' the fanac an' the tinkly typer bells.
Come you back to Fandalay...

I'm sick o' wastin' readin' on those grotty SF zines,
An' the blasted Heng-Lit drivels causes me to be obscene.
Tho' I walks with fifty femfen from the One Tunⁱⁱⁱ to the Strand.
An' they talks a lot of SF, but wot do they understand?
Pretty face an' fanzine, an'
Law! Wot do they understand?
I've a neater, sweeter femfan in a cleaner, greener land
Come you back to Fandalay...

Come you back to Fandalay
Where the neos dance and play,
Can't you 'ear those dupers clunkin' from the Globe to Fandalay?
On the road to Fandalay
Where there's bheer, not Perrier;
Where they "smooth" with Beam like Tucker,
An' it's always Mercer's Day.

ⁱ [Archie Mercer](#), at the time—the late ‘50s--OE (Organizing Editor) of OMPA [see below], once absentmindedly set a voting deadline for an OMPA election for 31 April. OMPA’s president Walt Willis, noting that he [WW] had power *ex officio* to deal with *all* emergencies (“...not just [OMPA](#) emergencies—all emergencies!”), decreed that thereafter the 1 May would be known as 31 April or Mercer’s Day, to be followed immediately by 2 May. See FANCYCLOPEDIA 3, s.v. Mercer’s Day.

ⁱⁱⁱ The One Tun was the pub where the London group met from 1974 to 1987 after quitting the Globe.

*There are still more of these gems in the batch that Sam Long sent to me nearly three years ago, and they will most likely appear in the next issue of **Askance**, the publication date of which I refuse to commit. The 53^d issue might be out sometime in the spring of 2022, which means any time between mid-March and mid-June. That is about as accurate as I dare pinpoint that issue. *sigh* Whatever will be, will be.*



FIGBY

By BILL FISCHER

PONDER IF YOU WILL,
FIGBY THE BIZARRE
WORLD OF ENTANGLEMENT!



... TWO, ENTANGLED PARTICLES,
SEPARATED BY LIGHT YEARS,
ONE OBSERVED WITH SPIN "UP"
AND THE OTHER WILL BE THE
OPPOSITE!



... OR ONE POLARIZED ONE WAY
WILL GUARANTEE THE
OPPOSITE POLARIZATION IN ITS
DISTANT "PARTNER"!



?! OK, YOU'VE MADE THE POINT.
PLEASE TUCK IN YOUR
SHIRT AGAIN!



Fanzine Reviews

It is always wonderful to receive a print copy of a fanzine in the mail. These are few and far between these days, and so I think what I shall do here is provide some thoughts about recently received old-fashioned, dead tree fanzines. Granted, these are not mimeographed like those twill-toned zines of yore, but still: it's a hold in your hand, trufannish fanzine. So let's get into it.

Endeavor #14 (April 2021)

Kurt Erichsen, editor & publisher: 2539 Scottwood, Ave., Toledo, OH 43610-1358 USA
Contact at mail@kurterichsen.com for a copy (\$6) or via The Usual

The previous issue of this particular fanzine came out in... hang on a minute... I have to look it up ... oh, yes! The thirteenth issue was published in 1977, or 44 years ago. That's not too many. The fact remains that *Endeavor* is once again being produced, and hopefully its next appearance will happen during my lifetime.

First off, the editor of this splendid reappearance is Kurt Erichsen, a talented artist with a truly warped sense of humor, and quite frankly that is a great combination. There have been many fan artists – and professional artists, too, make no doubt about that – with this mindset, and the end result is always fun. If you have ever seen any of Kurt's artwork in fanzines over the years then you know exactly what I mean.

The contents of *Endeavor #14* are a mixture of comics (4) and short stories (3), all of which are done quite well. The four visual tales remind me very much of the old underground comix that I fondly remember from the late 1970s, and my favorites of these contributions are "Inverted Man" by Rich Morrissey and "Dragonslaver" by Kurt Erichsen. Morrissey's is a fun take on the old lab experiment gone wrong trope, and Erichsen's is just plain warped. I enjoyed these two very much and look forward to another "Inverted Man" episode.

Of the short stories, "Trail's End" by Dale Nelson is a very well-written local legend based horror story with complementary illustrations by Larry Johnson. David McDonald's story "Death Quest of the Wizard Lizard" is a fun tongue-in-cheek RPG type of story, but my absolute favorite story in this issue is "Set My Penguins Free!" written by Eringodes Plostherapaba (seriously?) and illustrated by Lance Boucher and Kurt Erichsen. The title of this story amply warns the reader not to take it seriously. However, it is definitely seriously funny.

Overall, a fine publication, offset printed, profusely illustrated, and definitely worth the six-dollar price on Amazon or from the editor.

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Banana Wings #77 (November 2021)

Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, editors: 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, CRO 7ES, UNITED KINGDOM
Email: fishlifter@gmail.com. Available for the Usual (trade, submissions, letter, cash, stamps)

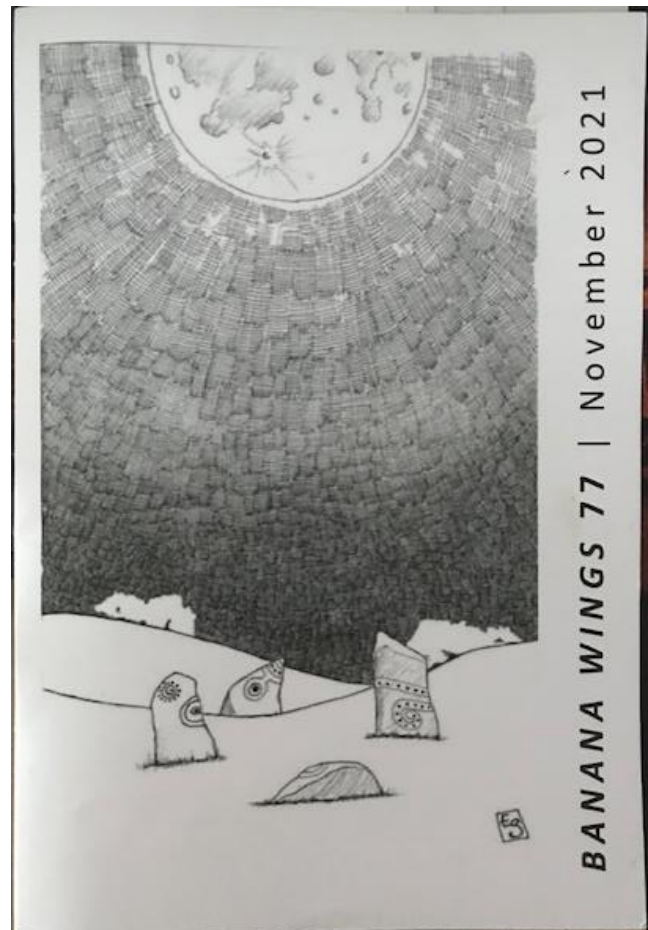
The publication gap since *Banana Wings'* last issue (February 2020) is nowhere near as lengthy as *Endeavor's*, but thanks to the pandemic it feels like a lifetime ago. The content of this fanzine is very different from the other zine just reviewed, but that is to be expected due to the completely different target audiences: whereas Kurt Erichsen's fanzine is angled more toward readers of serious amateur fiction and comic underground or semi-professional publications, Claire and Mark aim their fanzine at a different audience: people more into faan writing – meaning, articles, reports, artwork, and other stufh that appeals to a group of science fiction fan friends who like to gather for a drink and chatter on about whatever is going on in their lives that they feel or think their friends would like to hear about. As the French say, *viva la différence*.

And this is a good thing. Usually *Banana Wings* contains articles about a wide range of topics: trains, travel, conventions, reviews of a particular author's body of work, fan history (places, people, past events), and so forth. The newest issue mostly is written by the two editors that discusses what's been going on in their lives since their last issue, the usual lengthy and lively lettercolumn, and an article by Nigel Rowe about problems he has faced with air travel over the last two years.

Mark opened up the issue with a lengthy "Roadrunner" column that related events from the "Beforetimes," dating back to 2009, and brings his entertaining ramblings up to the present day, jumping around in time not quite like a drunken Time Lord, but more likely this is how his memory functions while sitting at the keyboard. Amazingly, Mark's "Roadrunner" ramblings are coherent thanks to using shrimp as a connective thread.

Don't ask.

Claire wrote a tribute about Alison Scott receiving the Doc Wier Award, which turned into an interesting discourse about qualifications for receiving honours through the various fannish awards (Novas, FAAns, the fan funds, etc.). Having met Alison during my TAFF trip helps put Claire's article into proper perspective. She also edited the lettercolumn this time (the Fishlifters take turns on these from issue to issue), and as usual, it is a lengthy and interesting collection of characters; this is always the first section I turn to in a fanzine, and *Banana Wings* never fails in this regard. I also really appreciate the lengthy WAHF (We Also Heard From) listing, which is a shade over 7 pages long! Yes, the Fishlifters get a lot of letters of comment, but like I said, the zine is like a bar conversation with close friends in print and is always worth reading.



Book Review

In a fanzine?! What the frack is going on here???

Bodacious Creed and the Jade Lake is the second novel in the planned trilogy of steampunk westerns by Jonathan Fesmire, and it is just as much fun as the first book, *Bodacious Creed: a Steampunk Zombie Western* (2019). The main characters return, which is usually a good idea when writing a series of books about a titular character; this provides continuity, you know.

At any rate, this story picks up the tale about a year after the end of the first book. Creed is an undead lawman who was resurrected with steam-based technology and is now a private investigator instead of the sheriff of the coastal town of Santa Cruz, California. From the back cover, here is the set up for this adventure:

“One night while riding by the wharf, Creed hears a gunshot. He and his coyote companion, Coconino, rush to the scene. In a forest clearing, he finds two dead men and a dying woman. Mechanical parts ring her neck and wrist, and as she whispers of her travails, the former Chinese slave dies in his arms.”

Creed’s investigation into this woman’s death eventually takes him to the booming city of San Francisco, which in the 1880s is a hotbed of corruption and prostitution. Again, from the back cover:

“Someone in San Francisco is using illegal machinery to alter and control women like her. To hunt down the perpetrator, Creed travels to the City by the Bay. His journey takes him into the depths of Chinatown, reveals a secret society, and puts old and new friends in Danger. How can Creed learn the truth before more women are changed, manipulated, and killed?”

Fesmire’s research into the late 19th century in California, notably regarding the era of San Francisco’s rapid growth following the mid-century Gold Rush, is extensive and brings to light the rarely mentioned history of the prostitution of Chinese immigrant women. Fesmire writes knowledgeably and compassionately about this vicious aspect of San Francisco’s history and keeps the narrative moving right along and the reader interested. What impresses me the most about this story is that Jonathan Fesmire maintains a brisk pace while educating the reader without providing massive information dumps that would otherwise hamper any other writer. Fesmire skillfully works this knowledge into the story without compromising character development and plot.

Needless to say, I recommend getting this book – and the first one, too! It definitely helps to know the background from the first novel before tackling *Jade Lake*. I look forward to reading the third book in the Bodacious Creed trilogy, *Bodacious Creed and the San Francisco Syndicate*, the title of which indicates the direction this series is going.

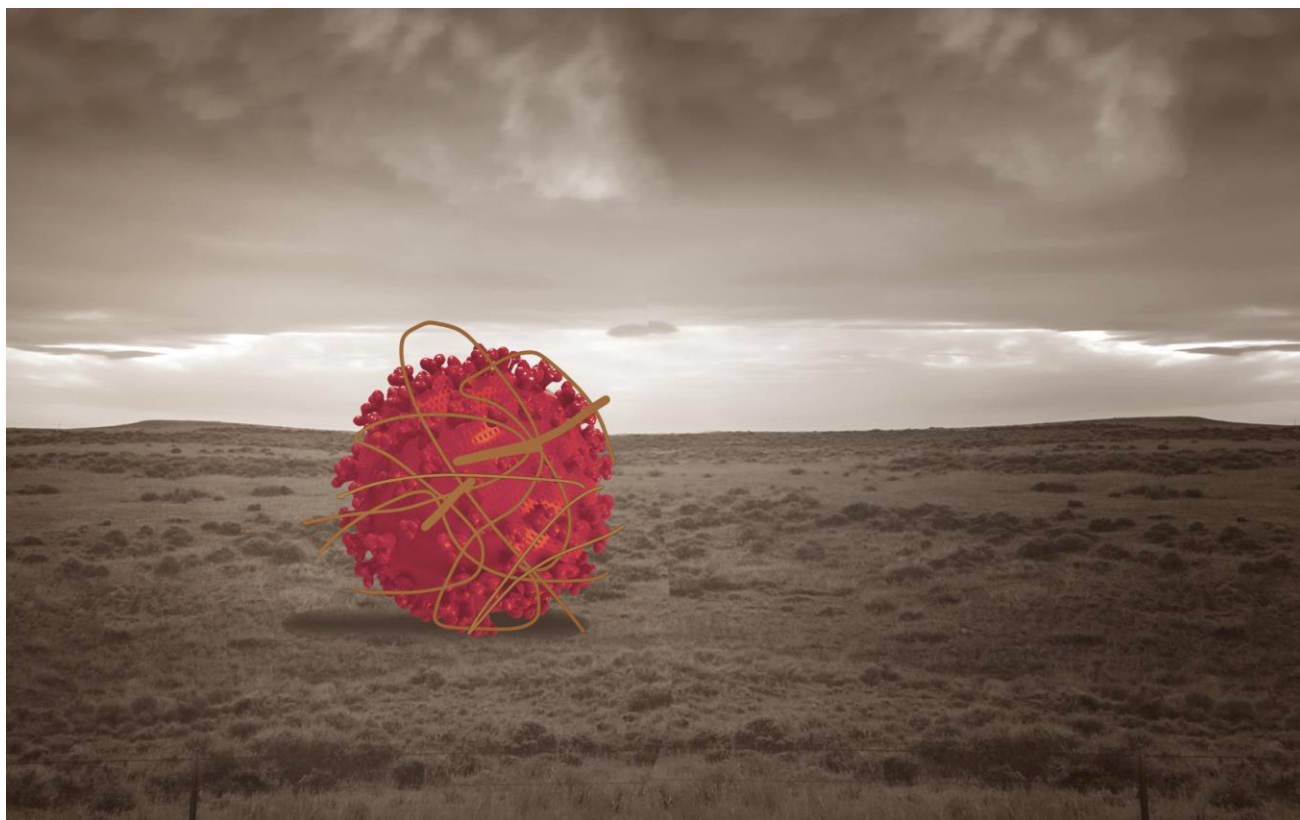
Bodacious Creed and the Jade Lake (The Adventures of Bodacious Creed Book 2)

by Jonathan Fesmire. Visit the author’s website at <http://jonathanfesmire.com/> to learn more about steampunk, writing, and related topics on his blog. To learn more about the world of Bodacious Creed visit the series bible website at <https://worldanvil.com/w/the-creedverse-jonathanfesmire/>.

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“Am I to stand idle and unnoticed, so handsome and so heroic, all for nothing?”

From the Hinterlands



Well, it has been a very long time since issue #51 – last May, to be exact, which is seven months, so that’s not too many – and in all that time I received only one letter of comment – yep, just one – and you will never guess who wrote it. Not in a million pixels. Seriously, you won’t...

Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Rd.
Etobicoke, ON
CANADA M9C 2B2

7 July 2021

You did say to hold off on a loc on *Askance 51*, but it is at the top of my list, and I do have other zines coming up... Here it comes, and I will see how I do.

Hope you enjoy Corflu Pangloss. If you can get into Gastown, have a look for the steam clock. Loved it way back when we guested at VCON there some years back. We will soon be at the stage where we might be able to take our masks off, seeing we are fully vaccinated, but we will keep our masks on. So many of those waiting for the word that masks are no longer necessary never wore the masks to begin with, and will take the opportunity to brag that the masks were never necessary to begin with. Too many jurisdictions are being run by misinformed or uninformed politicians who’d rather just open everything up, and they are, IMHO, jumping the gun far too early.

Are you sure you have published every Tale of the Convention? I know some are published elsewhere, but there are 19 of them. I do have an idea for a 20th but need to get to it RSN. *{Well, *now* all of them have been published somewhere or other. You should collect them all into a single publication, you know.}*

The trains in England are great, one reason being there are so many of them. We also enjoyed our train way back in 2019 that got us from Euston Station in London to Lime Street Station in Liverpool. Yvonne loved going

to Liverpool but was a little disappointed in that the Beatles were now just a source of tourism dollars. She couldn't get down into the Cavern Club because of his vertigo, so I went down and took lots of pictures for her. We did the Beatles Museum, and the Beatles bus tour, where we discovered all their childhood homes, and the actual Strawberry Fields, under renovation through the Salvation Army. We also saw the statues of the four young men who conquered rock down by the edge of the Mersey...and had a coffee in the nearby Fab Four Café.

500 *Opuntias*...Dale really didn't react much to a 500th issue, saying it was just a number, but it is definitely an achievement to me. I do write to him on all issues, but I can't possibly do it for every issue individually. That's when I send in a response about the previous two, three or more issues. *{This is indeed an achievement, and Dale writes about all sort of interesting things in **Opuntia**, which is why I believe his zine is one of fanzine fandom's hidden gems.}*

The letter column...you know, I did show interest in a Gestetner machine I remember seeing in the teacher's lounge at one public school I went to. I asked about it and was promptly to leave it alone and mind my own business. I said I wanted to learn how to operate it, and got the same response at higher volume. I never did get my hands on it, and though I was quite interested, I never did learn how to operate one.

Greetings to Rich Dengrove...I have been a proofreader and copy editor for close to 40 years. I was a senior editor of the Canadian Seara catalogue, and both Sears Canada and the catalogue are long gone. I have worked on magazines, small books, private reports, websites, packaging, and everything in between. I took full advantage of an old friend, Ira Nayman, being appointed the editor-in-chief of the newest incarnation of *Amazing Stories* magazine. I offered my assistance, and I proofed and copyedited the last six issues of the magazine (the sixth yet to be released). I was also asked to edit some books as part of the *Amazing Selects* imprint. I've proofed and copyedited seven books on that imprint, and have been asked to edit another eight books, short stories and screenplays. I feel useful and quite proud of what I have been asked to do. My latest project is Allen Steele's fourth and final book in his *Captain Future* series.

Bless Steve Jeffery for bringing Floyd Pfennig back to life past my last loc! That name appeared more than 30 years ago now, in the parodies to Boston's The Mad 3 Party bidzine. Why isn't he in the *Fancylopedia*, for heaven's sake? *{Steve Jeffery or Floyd Pfennig?}*

I did a double-take when I saw a letter in the locol from Timothy Lane. I had to go to *File 770* to find out that while he wrote this loc on January 1, he died on January 12. A shame he only got up here for the Winnipeg Worldcon in 1994. John, you would have very much enjoyed the Montreal Worldcon. We ran the fanzine lounge there. *{Of that, I am positive. Fanzine lounges and impromptu music room parties are among my favorite convention activities. (*) I was stunned to hear of Timothy Lane's passing.}*

My loc...I have indeed locced *Outworlds 71/Afterworlds*. Two separate locs, in fact; one for each section of the zine. I have had a number of Zoom job interviews over the past month or so, and I have another one tomorrow. 2021 has been a better year, with things starting to happen again here and there. May we all get back to normal, or preferably, much better than normal, RSN.

Guess I'm done...I could have gone onwards for most of the afternoon commenting on this zine. I have that last *Captain Future* book to work on further, so I guess I'd better get with it. Take care, enjoy this summer (we sure are), and see you when I can get to *Askew 34*.

Lloyd

*{You did indeed get onto **Askew #34**, for which I am of course grateful. As always, thank you for writing these letters of comment. They are always appreciated.}*

The Return of the Regional Convention Calendar!

The first version (started in September 2021) of this section listed conventions in the immediate five-state Texas region of the United States for the months of October through the end of December. Obviously, that listing had to be tossed out and a new listing created. Chalk this up as another victim of my teaching schedule. (Yes, I will use that as an excuse until I retire, so get used to it.) This new and improved time frame is from January to the end of June 2022. The states included here are Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. All conventions unless noted are subject to Covid protocols. Check the links provided for updates.

BrazCon: Brazoria County Teen Comic Convention

January 29, 2022
Brazosport High School
1800 W 2nd St
Freeport, TX 77541
(Southeast TX area)]

A FREE family-friendly comic convention for ages 10-18, but all are welcome! Brought to you by the Brazoria County Library System, Alvin ISD, and Communities in Schools - Texas Joint Venture.

See also: [Brazcon \(Brazoria County Teen Comic Convention\)](#)



Owl Con

Gaming, Fantasy, & Science Fiction Convention

CANCELLED FOR 2022

RMC/Ley Student Center

Rice University

Houston, TX

OwlCon is an annual gaming convention at Rice University, Houston, TX, dating back to 1980.

It's with a heavy heart that I inform you all that OwlCon 2022 will not be happening.

With limited options to create a safe environment at the con. We decided the safest option was not to proceed. We care greatly about the health of our community and wish for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Facebook Posting of December 2, 2021 (OwlCon Facebook Page)

PoP Madness at San Antonio Public Library

Popular Culture Celebration at the San Antonio Public Library

March 5, 2022

San Antonio Public Library

John Igo Library Branch Library

13330 Kyle Seale Pkwy

San Antonio, TX 78249

Greater San Antonio, TX area

Fan Groups: Lothal Temple [Star Wars costuming], Amtgard, USS Bexar [Starfleet], Ghostbusters SATX, Star Wars Society of San Antonio

Panels, Anime, Gaming, Cosplay Contest, & more!

All-Con

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

March 10-13, 2022

Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre

5410 LBJ Freeway

Dallas, Texas 75240-6276

(DFW Metroplex area)

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

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

AggieCon 51

March 25-27, 2022

College Station, Texas

AggieCon is the annual convention put on by members of Cepheid Variable. Held at Texas A&M's very own Rudder Tower, we have hosted fascinating guests ranging from Aaron Dismuke, to Jeffery Cranor to George R.R. Martin himself (No con-goers were inexplicably killed off during the extent of his visit)! The con is open to everyone and is a weekend chance to meet other people in your fandom, attend panels such as "Cosplay Cafe" and "Waifu Warfare." There is a dealer's room where you can shop from the plethora of fantastic craftsmen and craftswomen there. All in all, it's just a great atmosphere and time to go and have fun with friends and meet new people like yourself!

Event to be held on the Texas A&M Campus in Rudder Tower.

401 Joe Routt Blvd, College Station, TX 77840

<https://cepheid.org/aggiecon>

RevelCon 32

March 25-27, 2022

Houston, Texas area

Revelcon is a media-centric fan-run relax-a-con in Houston, TX. Our theme is "Sun, Sand, and Streaming." It will be a full weekend of panels, vids, art, merchandise, friends and fun!

[Note - Revelcon is an adults-only/18-and-over con.]

North Texas Teen Book VIRTUAL Festival

(Presumably March 2022)

Last in-person event was held at:

Irving Convention Center

500 West Las Colinas Blvd.

Irving, TX 75039

Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex area

The North Texas Teen Book Festival strives to connect our reading community, adding dimension to the reading experience through diverse author panels and dynamic discussions in a safe and fun environment.

...Both Middle Grade and YA authors sign books, meet their readers, and discuss their books in over 50 small breakout panels.... Books will be sold for each author at the event.

NOTE: The Festival itself is free but you will need to pay for parking and you will need to purchase any books you want signed [see Web site about parking fee and bringing your own books from home to be signed].

NOTE REGARDING SEATING AT EVENTS: All readings and panel discussions are on a first-come-first-served basis unless otherwise indicated. The Speed Date with a Book event and some Author Signings will be ticketed.

Sponsored by Friends of the Irving Public Library; Irving, TX; Sam Houston State University; and MedAlert Occupational.

Texas Furry Fiesta

Furry fandom con

(Presumably March 2022)

Hyatt Regency Dallas

300 Reunion Blvd

Dallas, TX 75207

(DFW Metroplex area)

[Furry Fiesta](#) is a yearly gathering of anthropomorphic art, science fiction, & fantasy fans held in Dallas, TX. It is operated by the Dallas Regional Anthropomorphic Meeting Associating (D.R.A.M.A.), Inc., a Texas-incorporated organization dedicated to advancing anthropomorphic art and fan activities in the Dallas, TX, region of the U.S.A. and beyond.

D.R.A.M.A. is dedicated to providing venues for the social gathering of writers, artists and craftspeople to facilitate greater understanding of the various aspects of anthropomorphic art forms. It is also committed to generating funds for distribution to 501(c)3 charities that match the interests & concerns of said community (in particular those that promote the well-being of animals and humans).

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

Women of Wonder Con

Women fans networking & education
(Presumably March 2022)
Dallas Public Library
1515 Young St., 4th Floor
Dallas, TX 75201

Downtown Dallas area/Metroplex area

Women of Wonder Con exists to support women in creative industries of all types and to encourage new generations to follow in their footsteps. Women of Wonder con is a FREE [one-day]event that offers opportunities for networking, education, and encourages women and girls as they navigate sometimes difficult creative fields.

Women of Wonder Con offers information and guests from many media formats as possible (comics, graphic design, fine arts, film making, acting, etc.).

Sponsored by Friends of the Dallas Public Library, Dusk Comics, ShoNuff Studio, and Wilde Designs.



CyPhaCon

Lake Charles, Louisiana's Premier Anime, Gaming, and Science Fiction Convention
April 1-3, 2022
Lake Charles Civic Center
900 Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70601

Lake Charles, Louisiana area

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary. For Community, Fandom, and SWLA!

CYPHACON Returns to celebrate our 10th Anniversary April 1-3, 2022 at the Lake Charles Civic Center!

Taking place in the entire Lake Charles Civic Center Complex, CYPHACON 2022 is the largest fan run Pop Culture Convention in the State of Louisiana!

This 3-Day event will include (so far*) 7 Celebrity Guests, 3 Cosplay Guests, 2 Musical Acts, 1 Performing act, Cosplay Contest, Charity Auction, Scion eSports Arena, Tabletop Board Gaming, 110 Hours of original panels and programming, fan groups, local groups, CyPhaKids, and our new Vendor, Artists and Makers arena with 90+ vendors!

Help us celebrate the return of our amazing high profile event in April!

Brought to you by Cypha LLC.

Teen Book Con: The Greater Houston Teen Book Convention

Mission: To celebrate and promote reading by connecting teens with authors.

April 9, 2022

Davis High School

12525 Ella Blvd.

Houston, TX 77067

Greater Houston, TX area

NOTE: We will be a hybrid event (in-person but with virtual access available)

NOTE: There are **25+ authors at TeenBookCon**. You will be choosing from multiple panel sessions throughout the day.

Please see our [full list of sponsors!](#)

Bayou City Comic Con

Pop Culture and Comics. In-person AND live stream con event.

POSTPONED: We are targeting the weekends of April 22-24 or May 6-8, 2022

Originally scheduled:

Friday, November 19, 2021 3:00 PM-9:00 PM

Saturday, November 20, 2021 10:00 AM-8:00 PM

Sunday, November 21, 2021 11:00 AM-6:00 PM

Westin Galleria Houston Hotel & Convention Center

5060 W. Alabama Street

Houston, TX 77056

(Greater Houston, TX area)

Bayou City Comic Con has a passion for including multi-cultural Guests to bring a spotlight to our actors and artists from around the world. We are bringing Pop Culture and Comics to the young, bring fans together to meet their favorite stars and at the same time **raising money for those Artists in need due to natural disasters and personal challenges**.

As we grow, Bayou City Comic Con will create **panels** for education, fun, and the business of art, writing and acting.

Registration is **now open online** for the **Cosplay Contest** and **"You Are The Art" Contest**.

The Bayou City Comic Con Cosplay

Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 7:00p.m.

Contestants encouraged to register online (**no onsite registration**) to display their handmade costumes spanning the worlds of comics, movies, TV, web series, anime, books, and video games at center stage. All contestants will be judged on the quality of their costume and stage presence!

'You Are The Art' Contest: An Art Contest for Anyone to Apply!

Compete to have your art at a location in Houston for the public to not just see but interact with!

There are **four chances** to have a public piece of art at **Main Street Tap and Grill**, a neighborhood bar located at 4002 N. Main Street.

MST&G has a large 40'x8.5' and four sections each of 5.4'x8' arches to paint where the winning art will reside.

Want to be more than just an attendee then **be a part of the show!** Apply to participate in the Exhibit floor with **Artist Alley**, Vendors, Exhibitor spots and **Fan or Cosplay tables** available. Please visit <https://bayoucitycomiccon.com/participate/>

As we grow, Bayou City Comic Con will create **panels for education, fun, and the business of art, writing and acting.**

Chupacabracon VII

Premiere desktop role playing & board game convention in the greater Austin area.
(VIRTUAL CON held April 30-May 2, 2021)

Greater Austin, Texas area

Featuring: RPGs, Board Games, Game Industry Professional Development, Tons of Pro Guests, Playtesting, Celebrity Game for Charity, Fantastic Vendors, & more!

Chupacabracon is the premiere tabletop RPG and board game convention in the greater Austin area. **FROM THE 2021 VIRTUAL CON SITE:**

2020 proved to be a tough year for everyone. Between fires, snow storms, a contentious political landscape, and a global pandemic, we've all been through a lot. **But, for us, the worst thing was the cancellation of cons throughout the world, not least of all, Chupacabracon 2020.** We were so looking forward to our Cyberpunk themes event and seeing all of our guests and attendees again.

Well, 2021 has not quite shaken the 2020 ills. **As we wait for the world to get vaccinated, we are taking Chupacabracon to the Net.** Chupacabracon VII is totally virtual this year. We will still be having all of the fun gaming and panels this year, just on-line, rather than in person.

The convention is run by nonprofit foundation Austin Creative Pathways benefiting Extra Life whose mission is to unite thousands of gamers around the world to play games in support of their local Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

ChupacabraCon is a small event, pulling visitors from around the country. We are known for having an unusually high number of professional guests for an event at our size. We routinely host 25 to 30

industry guests including designers and authors of many of the top RPGs. Being a small event of less than 1000 attendees, this is a unique opportunity to meet your favorite designers, many of whom run their games at ChupacabraCon.

We also host many special events at the convention. D&D Adventure's League and Pathfinder Society regularly host unique, special events at our little convention. We have also hosted Savage Saturday Night every year from our inception. This is an evening of games run by the authors of Deadlands, East Texas University, Savage Rifts, and many other Savage Worlds settings. We typically host an interactive celebrity game, where audience members can pledge to the charity for the opportunity to shape the story, make the rolls for the celebrity players, and otherwise make their session more interesting.

The convention is the primary fund raising event for [Austin Creative Pathways, a 501 \(c\)3 nonprofit organization](#). Our goal is to foster youth into creative careers through gaming. "The mission of Austin Creative Pathways is to inspire and prepare underserved youth ages 18-24 for careers in the tabletop gaming industry through technology, writing and visual arts education." 2020 Hotel prior to cancellation: Wingate by Wyndham Round Rock Hotel & Conference Center, 1209 I-35, Round Rock, TX 78664

DayGaCom

Comics, Games, & Pop Culture

May 13-15, 2022

Dayton Community Center

801 S Cleveland St.

Dayton, TX 77535

(Just northeast of the Greater Houston, TX Area)

Cosplay Competition, SuperSMASHBros. Competition, Comic Books/Toys/Games and much more!

RetroPalooza Houston

A celebration of all things in Houston.

May 28-29, 2022

Pasadena Convention Center

Red Bluff Rd.

Pasadena, TX 77507

(Greater Houston, TX area)

An annual event featuring some of the best YouTube personalities in the universe, free play console games, contests, competitions, and guest panels.

Kids 12 and under are FREE! That means it's fun for the whole family.

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“Book, if you’re lucky you’ll be loved in Rome;
If you’re unlucky, you’ll be chewed by bookworms
and forgotten; if you’re very unlucky,
you might become a textbook.”

A-Kon 31

The Southwest Largest Anime Convention
Anime, comics, cosplay, media, & gaming convention
June 3, 2022

Irving Convention Center
500 West Las Colinas Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039
Toyota Music Factory
316 West Las Colinas Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039

(DFW Metroplex area)

"A-Kon is the longest running anime convention in North America and is one of the largest and highest ranked anime conventions in the United States. Founded in 1990, A-Kon is home to over 36,000 fans and active community enthusiasts of anime, gaming, cosplay, music, fashion, manga, art, film, media and Japanese culture."

[NOTE: "After much deliberation, months of hard work, and 30 years of devotion, Phoenix Entertainment has decided to pass the torch to a new owner. With this change, A-Kon is moving forward into 2019 with renewed purpose, innovation, and a dedication to honoring the unique culture that has made this community what it is." Facebook post 1/16/2019.]

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1439831232921495/permalink/2214728828765061/>

Greater Austin Comic Con Year 3

Where weird, wacky, and geeky is kewl!

June 17-19, 2022
H-E-B Center at Cedar Park
2100 Ave of the Stars
Cedar Park, TX 78613
Greater Austin, TX area

"Celebration that brings all things pop culture together from comics, cosplay, manga/anime, movies, video games, and a super hero theme car show. Showcasing the exceptional works of talented writers, artists, illustrators, game developers, and creators of all types of pop cultures.

Greater Austin Comic Con packs in two fun filled days of entertainment that the whole family can enjoy from exciting panels, action packed exhibit floor with artists, retailers, meet & greets, celebrity signings, cosplay contest, kids entertainment, and much much more!"

FanExpo Dallas

Comics, Sci Fi, Horror, Anime, Gaming.
June 17-19, 2022
Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas
650 S Griffin St.
Dallas, TX 75202

(downtown Dallas, TX)

NOTE: Tickets go on sale online in November 2021.

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

SoonerCon

Oklahoma's Greatest Pop Culture Experience

Science Fiction, Fantasy, Gaming Con

June 24-26, 2022

Embassy Suites by Hilton Norman Hotel & Conference Center

2501 Conference Drive

Norman, OK, 73069

Oklahoma City, OK area

Join us for the annual SoonerCon convention, the OKC metro's original longest-running SF fandom and pop culture convention. Events include: Art Show, Gaming, Cosplay and Masquerade. Charity. Panels and Workshops. Video Rooms.

Anime screenings and epic Cosplay Contest with prize support by BERNINA OF OKLAHOMA CITY and cash prizes. Plus, massive art show, tons of vendors, gaming, live performances, workshops and much more.

See also [SoonerCon Facebook site](#).

SoonerCon is a 100% nonprofit convention, brought to you by The Future Society of Central Oklahoma. We are proud to announce that FSCOK is a federally recognized 501(c)3 public charity. THANK YOU for your support! For more information visit www.fscok.org or email charity@soonercon.com.

North Texas RPG Con

Role-Playing Gaming con

(Presumably June 2022)

DFW MetroPlex area

The [NTRPG Con](#) focuses on old-school Dungeons & Dragons gaming (OD&D, 1E, 2E, or Basic/Expert) as well as any pre-1999 type of RPG produced by the classic gaming companies of the 70s and 80s (TSR, Chaosium, FGU, FASA, GDW, etc). We also support retro-clone or simulacrum type gaming that copies the old style of RPGs (Swords & Wizardry, Castles & Crusades, and others). ANY RPG games are welcome at the Con, be it D&D 4e, Pathfinder, or something we haven't even heard of, just be sure you can fill a table with 5-6 people before you ask to have it added to the schedule...



“What a pleasant stain comes from an enemy’s blood.”

What's next?

This is a damned good question. For a damned good answer, you may have to go elsewhere. In the meantime I am going to share what little I know about the 53rd issue of *Askance*, the fanzine that shambles along in the dark.

The front cover artwork is already done, provided by the incredibly gifted Alan White of Las Vegas, Nevada. He has provided some wonderful covers over the years, and I cannot express my gratitude at Alan's generosity. The man is a real trooper, and some year I am going to Las Vegas just because it's a weird place and there are fannish spirits abiding there. Thank you, Alan, for the cover!

Content-wise, the 53rd issue is wide open: no theme, just a whole bunch of empty pages, but there will likely be another installment of "Figby" from Bill Fischer. As always, if anyone has an article, book or movie reviews, or something else to share in these pages, feel free to send them. I am open to all types of material that appeals to science fiction fans. The floor is yours, so to speak. Of course, if there are no travel restrictions in place and the wife and I attend Corflu Pangloss in Vancouver in mid-March, expect to see a convention report from yours truly.

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Now that this issue is about to be finished, my next major project is to finish off the final version of my 2017 TAFF report, tentatively titled *Carrots for Kafka, and other TAFF Tales*. Truth to tell, there are no carrots mentioned at all within the 60,000+ words of what I have written in all the different chapters so far, but I am a sucker for alliteration. It sounded like fun, and besides, at one point we were in Prague, Czechia, where Franz Kafka lived and wrote. No cockroaches were sighted at all while Valerie and I wandered around that beautiful city.

The final format of this report has yet to be determined. Part of me wants to publish it in book format, literally as a novel since when I arranged all of the chapters written and published in assorted fanzines over the last four years, they do tell a chronological story of our travels and travails. With all the photographs taken (over 5000 of them!) there are plenty of visual treats to share, so doing the final layout of this project will be a challenge, while also being a literal trip down memory lane. *sigh* This will require some hard thinking.

