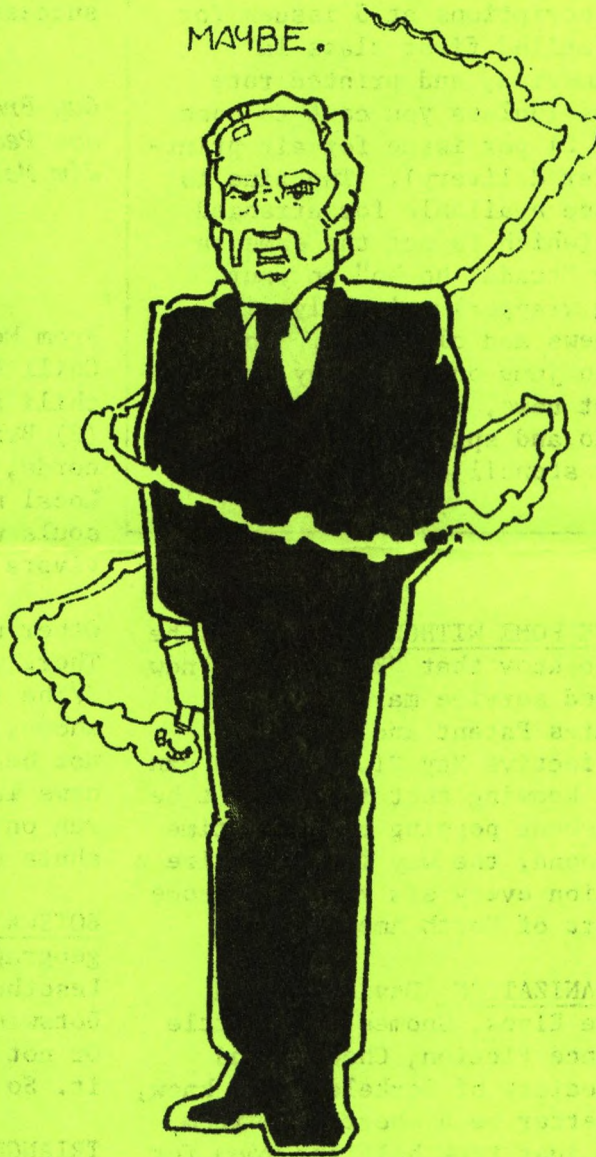


DO YOU DARE ENTER..

# FILE 770



MAYBE.



50



# COLOPHON

FILE 770:54 is still edited and published by Mike Glycer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys CA 91401. *So why do I get so much mail at my parents' address?* The zine is available for subscriptions at 5 issues for \$4.00, mailed first class in North America, and printed rate overseas (unless you care to come up with \$1 per issue for air printed matter delivery). The zine is otherwise available for arranged trades (which is not the same as writing "trade? ho ho" on your mailing wrapper) primarily with other news and clubzines. You can also jump on the gravy train with hot news, rumor, delicious innuendo and spicy DNQs.  
++ last stencil 8-11-85 ++

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT: You'll be relieved to know that "Boskone" is now a registered service mark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, effective May 21, 1985. We can rest easy, knowing that there won't be another Boskone popping up every time we turn around, the way fans organize a Constellation every six months in some distant part of North America.

CLUB REORGANIZATION: David Bratman reports the Elves, Gnomes, and Little Men's Science Fiction, Chowder and Marching Society of Berkeley (you know, this had better be a short news item because we just took half the room for the club's name) held two large, serious meetings on the "future of the club" with the following results. Dave Nee is now Club Head (schedules meetings and topics, edits the clubzine); Mike Farren is Figurehead (chairs meeting); David Clark is Money Monger (collecting the \$10/year dues). The club schedule

has been revised from its old pattern of biweekly program meetings with rare and irregularly scheduled parties, to a new scheme of alternate program meetings and parties in members' homes, spiced with the occasional book discussion meeting. Bratman says, "After two parties to date, one small but pleasant and the other as lively as anything PenSFA might do, the experiment appears to be a success."

## ART CREDITS

Guy Brownlee - cover. Jim Shull: 3,9.  
Joe Pearson: 11. Linda Leach: 15.  
Jim McLeod: 16. Steve Fox: 19.

# NASFIC

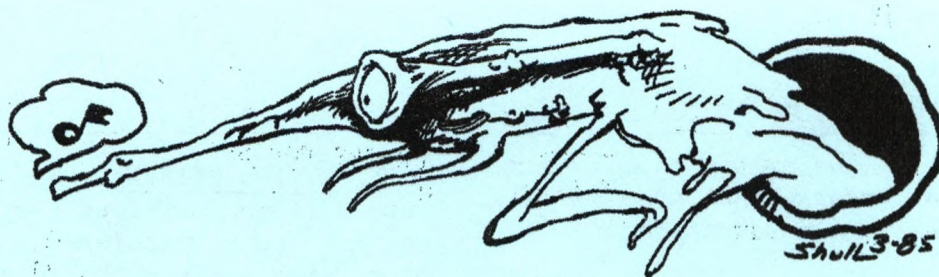
From Mel. White, we learn that the NASFiC Chili Cookoff Rules are (1) Make your own chili ahead of time and bring it with you. (2) Bring your own crock pot, extension cords, and implements of destruction. Local media celebrities and other rash souls will judge the final results. Survivors will award prizes.

Other notes from the NASFiC scrapbook are: There will be Regency Dancing in the Palmer. //The three Star Wars movies will be shown, courtesy of Lucasfilm. // There will not be a shuttle bus service. Other bad news is that the Austin bus service doesn't run on weekends, costs 25¢ per ride, and shuts down at 7 pm on Friday.

BOTSWANA REDISCOVERED: Several of our more geographic fans wrote to remind me that Lesotho is surrounded by South Africa, while Botswana is surrounded only on one side. Or not at all, depending on how you look at it. So Jim Young is off the hook.

TRIANGULUM: Michael J. Sohns wrote two pages explaining why his con is on Labor Day weekend (in Milwaukee) despite the NASFiC. The best hotel's best open date was Labor Day weekend. "After digesting that, we examined our options: go with a lesser hotel with different dates; take the Marc Plaza, but several months later; or work with what we have." You know the result.





MIKE GLYER

# REMEMBER VIDEO

The TV writers' strike this spring didn't last long enough to hamper production of network television series. So America will never get to see how the producers were going to keep their shows on the air using scripts from scab writers: all of whom happened to be recruited from science fiction fandom. In fact, LASFS just received an entire manila envelope full of script treatments marked "Return to Sender" from the Writers' Guild...

MAGNUM P.I. - Dave Langford and Kev Smith, wearing Hawaiian shirts, search for Joseph Nicholas' escaped middle school English teacher who is wanted as an accessory to the coldblooded murder of the English language.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE - Chairman of the 1941 Worldcon, Olon Wiggins, is struck on the head by a falling safe and discovers he has traded places with Craig Miller, co-chairman of L.A.con II. Wiggins, seeing too many zeros after entries in the books, leaves the con to consult an ophthalmologist. Back in time, the Denvention committee sits on Craig Miller's chest and waits for the police to arrive after Miller insists on investing the con's budget in Coca-Cola stock.

THE MILLIONAIRE - When the Millionaire converts to word processing, bad software moves a decimal point and sends 729,927 checks for \$1.37 (and a penny) to his newest charity, the New England Science Fiction Association Building Fund.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL - Siegfried, the sly veterinarian, bribes Tricky Woo to mistake a real estate agent's pantsleg for a fire hydrant when a big science fiction club tries to buy the clinic.

CHARLIE'S ANGELS - One of Charlie's Angels suffers an embarrassing moment when she only brings enough cash for a junior admission to the movies on a "dutch treat" with Charlie Jackson.

THE FALL GUY - The weekly exploits of ConStellation's Scott Dennis.

FOULUPS, BLUNDERS AND PRACTICAL JOKES - Everyone's laughing but the judge as the Baltimore Convention Center legal staff tries to explain how they served a subpoena on a defendant in Baltimore while the defendant was at a convention in Albuquerque. (Outtakes courtesy of "The Fall Guy" with Scott Dennis.)

AT THE MOVIES - When Roger Ebert and Gene Siskel find out the movie they're going to see is DUNE, they call a Washington DC pro and offer to give away their passes. The rest of the show is spent trying to figure out what went wrong after that.



# EMERGENCIES

*The past month has proven to be a very stressful and costly one among sf fans, the most shocking involving homicide:*

**DAVID CLEMENTS MURDERED:** Popular Seattle fan Dave Clements, 28, was killed July 9. Clements, the manager of a quadplex theater, was making a night deposit of cash at 2:35 am when a motorcyclist drove up, stopped, and shot Clements in the back of the head. The assistant theater manager was waiting in a car nearby and witnessed the crime. Because the money had already dropped, the killer got nothing except the immediate attention of the police, for a suspect was soon taken into custody.

Seattle residents like Gary Farber and Tom Weber both learned about Clements' murder in the course of watching the 5 o'clock news next evening. Weber called Dave "one of the best-liked fans in Seattle," who threw an annual party at Norwescon which was "fun and imaginative." Steven Bryan Bieler wrote in the same vein: "David was generous with both his time and company. He hosted parties built around special 'themes', more memorable than the conventions at which they occurred. His pleasant nature always put newcomers at ease. I suppose he's playing NAME THAT TUNE now with Otis Redding. We will all miss him."

**BILL EVANS** died of natural causes on June 24. A DC/Baltimore area fan who logged years in office as Secretary-Treasurer of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA), Bill also tallied the Hugo votes for ConStellation in 1983. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Rae Pavlat's mother, to whom he was originally introduced by Bob and Peggy Rae. He is the third of Peggy Rae's immediate family to die in recent years, Bob Pavlat passing away in 1983, her father Jack McKnight in 1984, and now, her stepfather in 1985. Evans was a chemist by profession.

**SURGERY FOR SHIFFMAN:** New York fanartist Stu Shiffman survived twelve hours of surgery on a vascular fistula on July 30. According to Patrick Nielsen Hayden, two tangled arteries in the back of Stu's neck were applying pressure to each other, creating a pre-stroke condition. Stu reportedly had "a roaring in his ears" for months, attributable to the fistula. Surgery of this type is obviously dangerous because it runs some risk of triggering the stroke it is attempting to prevent.

One hopes Stu will soon be recuperating by reading stacks of complimentary LoCs on POTSHERD 1, his recently-published genzine. (Copies can be had for The Usual, from 19 Broadway Terrace Apt. 1D, New York NY 10040.)

**ON THE ONLY SLIGHTLY LIGHTER SIDE:** Under the theory that all's well that ends well, REALITY RAG emphasized the ironic in its account of further mishaps to befall a member of the New Haven sf club who was last mentioned in these pages after he was a passenger in a hijacked airplane. REALITY RAG reported, "Charlie Martin, boy victim, fresh from his trip to Cuba, had the privilege of being mugged in the convenience of his car at the Whalley Avenue Burger King drive-through. He'd just finished giving his order when a guy ran up to the car, shoved the muzzle of a gun into his face, and demanded all his money. The guy was satisfied with the money and didn't take the wallet. This was fortunate since Charlie needed his driver's license a week later to show the cop who pulled him over for driving with an expired plate and forced him to abandon his car on the highway and hoof it to the Department of Motor Vehicles, which was closed because it was Monday."

**OBLADI OBLADA:** Evidently life goes on. For example, LA fan Dennis Fischer married Darleen Wingert July 27, and are honeymooning in Hawaii. Fischer works at the HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



# HEARTBEATS

Cardiac disease hit two fan families in August.

BUCK COULSON suffered a heart attack, according to Marty Cantor. However, Buck is recuperating in his Hartford City, Indiana, home and evidently was well enough to crack a joke about the situation, from Marty's account.

HARRY GLYER underwent a heart bypass operation on August 6. Five bypasses were connected, one to each of three major arteries of the heart, and two on a fourth major artery. My father Harry had been digging up the backyard sprinkler system. He felt serious chest pains, arranged to see his doctor, and promptly thereafter was admitted to the hospital for tests. The operation took place exactly one week before he would have come with me to Australia. Harry has come through the operation quite well, showing rapid progress.

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# FOOTSTEPS

"SFR is no longer a semi-prozine," declared Richard Geis in SFR 56, as he editorially ran through the Hugo ballot criteria on the subject. In this issue Geis cut his format from 64 to 48 pages, saving \$500 in printing and postage costs. Geis says he stopped paying for material at the beginning of 1985, and by now is running the zine at a loss. He has scheduled SFR 62, the February 1987 issue, as the last in its current format. Thereafter SFR would convert to a 16-page monthly. Or stay the same. Or fold. Or... Well, you get the idea. Winding down SFR's present business operation has released Geis from every semi-prozine Hugo shackle except over-1000 print run, but as the man says, "Unless I misremember, however, the Rules say a fanzine can violate at least one of the four yardsticks for determining its status as a pureblooded,

blessed by Yngvi, amateur fanzine." Geis' pragmatic approach to fanzine editing, added to an unyielding focus on professional science fiction, made him undisputed giant of the fanzine field in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and a leader in commercialized fanzines ever after. Geis and his zines have been Hugo nominees 31 times, but SFR has lost to LOCUS most of the past ten years. The man does still have to finish filling that rack of bombs on his home-built B-29, and coincidentally Hugo rockets are the perfect fit.

# PLATFALLS

The unplanned obsolescence of Charles Platt accelerated with his admission in the pages of SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE that he wrote the review published in FANTASY REVIEW about a nonexistent Stephen King-authored porno novel. Said Platt, "It never occurred to me that anyone other than a rabid King-collector would take my bogus review seriously. It was, after all, intended to be funny."

As usual, Platt's humor was lost on the victim. In FANTASY REVIEW (5/85) Stephen King's comments included the blanket statement, "I did not write LOVE LESSONS, nor have I ever published a so-called porno novel under any name." King's lawyer likewise expressed no sense of amusement, calling the review "inaccurate, highly libelous and of great damage to Mr. King." Other lawyerly threats were made, causing FR's Robert Collins to publish a retraction in the form of a confession by Neil Barron that Barron solicited Platt to write the review, while leaving Collins in the dark with everyone else. The stunt, in Barron's view, was merely a test of the pulling power of FR, and had included as its ordering address the home of another fan. Barron was counting the replies.

Collins responded, "If you guys knew how much time, money, and intangible trust this caper cost FR, not to mention hairs off my bald spot, you maybe wouldn't have done it." Meanwhile, Platt's SFC column has been axed.



# THE BOY WHO CRIED SCI-FI

The Anaheim Hilton's 20-foot tall electronic message board blazed out: "Welcome World Sci Fi Convention." Mike Glycer mentioned how tacky the wording was to convention co-chairman Milt Stevens. "We'll have it fixed," agreed Milt. "Tomorrow it will read: Go Home World Sci Fi Convention."

Ever since Forrest J Ackerman invented the term "sci fi" as a shorthand for the genre, he's suffered the ambivalent fate of being damned by certain segments of the sf field for coining a popular term synonymous (in their minds) with condescending ignorance, while the public has failed to honor him as the source of the term -- and even pooh poohs Ackerman's claim to be its author.

In STARLOG (5/85) Forry "sets the record straight" about the origin of "sci fi" and its connotations. Besides objecting to being forgotten, Forry also targets Harlan Ellison for rebuttal. Ellison's vitriolic criticism of the term has done the most damage to its acceptance by insiders, due to Ellison's influence as a writer and power as a speaker. "No one but an anal orifice uses the term sci-fi" is a pithy, if bowdlerized, version of Ellison's opinion repeated for STARLOG's readers.

Unfortunately for Ackerman, the only people who are likely to care and remember that he invented "sci-fi" don't seem to appreciate the contribution he's made to popular culture. Those who hate the term seem to sense that it was born in the same era as a lot of inept science fiction films, the 1950s. Film was the medium that exposed sf to the broadest segment of American society unless you count TV's Captain Video, but either way, "sci-fi" uttered in a certain tone represented the unrealistic, cheap, unstylish work being passed off as sf, prejudicing thinking people against sfs acceptance as a story-telling tradition.

Were there nothing to add to the story, one would no more expect Ackerman to be the proud creator of "sci-fi" than one expects some descendant of the First Families of Virginia to proudly lecture us about the ancestor who thought up the word "nigger."

Yet I remember very clearly that "sci-fi" was a commonly used term in Los Angeles Public Libraries when I visited them in the 1960s. The popularity of "sci-fi" justified an extensive collection of genre books assigned to its own shelf. The librarians clearly appreciated print-media science fiction, and could hardly be accused of using the term "sci-fi" in a derogatory sense.

No doubt some others used the term "sci-fi" in a contrary attempt to sound *au courant* about a form of entertainment they would dismiss in their next breath. People with the penetrating intellectual depth of a television anchorman might attempt that ploy while camouflaging their ignorance about yet another subject. Ellison must have run into enough of these types in his youth to permanently fix his attitude about the term "sci-fi", for Ackerman is very right about who has been most responsible for neutralizing his pet nickname.

Reading STARLOG does nothing to warm me to the term: I'm right out of the generation Ellison was trying to educate, and it stuck. But I think someone should reassure Ackerman that relatively few of us are likely to come up with anything that will diffuse itself throughout the language as "sci-fi" did, and that in any case, Ackerman's reputation is more firmly secured among us than our attitude toward these two syllables makes him feel. Ackerman is the Number One Fan Face of every generation, the foremost of the collectors, the torchbearer. Case closed.



The 1986 Atlanta Worldcon executive gathered in June at Midwestcon surrounded by a cloud of SMOFs, and when the executive emerged from its closed-door session they had dumped their Director of Administration and Finance, Chaunticleer Michael Smith.

For the press, Smith resigned "solely due to a policy disagreement over whether Chaunticleer exceeded his authority in reimbursing all outstanding bid expenses to those who monetarily supported the Atlanta in '86 bid." What Chaunticleer had done was repay approximately \$20,000 of documented costs for parties, advertising etc. run up during the campaign to win the '86 Worldcon. Winners' recovery of bid expenses has been an occasionally controversial but not unusual feature of Worldcons for over 13 years. But as Atlanta co-chairman Ron Zukowski says, "We didn't have any problem with getting our money back for bidding expenses: we wanted to wait until the convention books closed--" when profit or loss was settled. According to Zukowski, the executive had previously decided to wait rather than immediately reimburse bidders. (By comparison, LAcon I reimbursed bidders some expenses out of the after-con surplus; LAcon II reimbursed bidders soon after winning the bid.)

Asked how much of the \$20,000 was repaid to Chaunticleer, Zukowski said that he did not know. Interim Director of Administration, Mike Rogers, will investigate it all for the chairmen, Penny Frierson and Zukowski. Treasurer Bruce Pelz, under the Administration division head, is still enthusiastically endorsed by Zukowski.

Laboring overtime, the rumor mill has attributed still more reasons for Chaunticleer's dismissal. One perception held by some fans who received checks in repayment of bidding expenses was that the checks were drawn on a non-Worldcon account. Allegations were made about a commingling of personal and Worldcon funds. Co-chairman Zukowski denied this, saying that the account the checks were drawn on was known to



# LAST CROW FOR CHAUNTICLEER

to him; it was an interest-bearing checking account seldom used by the committee due to service charges on checks. The committee seems satisfied that they recovered all records from Smith, and they have no complaints about money-handling other than the actual bidding expense repayments. Such lone-wolf decision making is what cost Smith his job. More dramatic rumors about Chaunticleer being the subject of an investigation could not be tracked to their source in time for this report.



1986 WORLDCON RATE INFORMATION: ConFederation, the 44th Worldcon, will continue to charge \$45 for an attending membership through September 15, 1985. From September 16, through February 15, 1986, the new rate will be \$55. The after-February price hike will be announced later. Supporting memberships, costing \$25, are available until July 15, 1986.

Childrens' memberships at a reduced rate have been announced. Children under 2 will be admitted free. A "Kid-in-Tow" membership for children under 12, accompanied at all times by a full member of ConFederation, or attending childrens' programming, or placed with the con's babysitting service, has been set at \$15. All children over 12 will be charged the full membership rate in effect when they join.

Hucksters are alerted to ConFederation's sale, as of June 29, of 199 of their 244 available tables, and 10 of 12 booths. The committee predicts they will sell out huckster space this month.

## THE WORLDCON THAT NEVER CAME DOWN

The neverending story of ConStellation resumed July 2, in Baltimore, as the civil suit "The City of Baltimore v. Baltimore in '83" went to trial. The city won a bogus judgement for damages to the convention center sustained during the Worldcon when it failed to properly serve the concom with the suit, and gained a default victory in August 1984. When the judge learned that Scott Dennis, target of the subpoena, had been in New Mexico when the city purportedly served him in Baltimore, he turned the city fathers over his knee. A new hearing was set. The city knows by now that ConStellation is broke, so they are interpleading the convention's insurance company, which up til now has stated its policy did not cover such losses. If the company is eventually compelled to pay, ConStellation chairman Mike Walsh says there are some other creditors whose claims also involved damage losses who might benefit -- like the artist whose paintings were harmed by the leakage of liquid ballast from a broken overhead light in the convention center.

Meanwhile, the main annoyance of the city's suit is the lost time for Shirley Avery, Phyllis Kramer and Ted Manekin, who attend the court hearings on behalf of the committee.

But is all lost? Mike Walsh says at the Washington Science Fiction Association's 4th of July picnic, Jack Chalker, inspired by conversations at Midwestcon, prompted discussion of a possible DC bid for the 1992 Worldcon.

NEW ENOUGH FOR FANHISTORY: Writing a closing act for Dunegate, on May 3 the Washington Science Fiction Association conducted its annual election of officers. According to Martin Morse Wooster, "The elections proved to be a decisive defeat for Alexis Gilliland, who was not even nominated for the offices of president and vice-president and lost a race for WSFA Board of Trustees. Gilliland's defeat was even more resounding when you consider that the elections were held in Gilliland's house." The new slate of officers consists of President Alan Huff, Vice President Mike Walsh, Treasurer Bob Oliver and Secretary Ginny McNitt. Somtow Sucharitkul did not run for office after Huff declared his candidacy.

Avedon Carol footnoted Tim Sullivan's involvement in the feud: "Sullivan's complaint, I think, is somewhat different than Somtow's. I think Tim really wanted to perceive himself as having some sort of exclusive honor earned as a result of being a real genuine professional writer, and he was pissed off when he discovered the unwashed masses of mere fans had managed to weasel their way into the event through Gilliland's efforts."



# YOUR SCIFI DOLLARS AT WORK

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to have cash -- and you'll have given most of the people who have written in with suggestions about distributing the profits from L.A.con II. SCIFI, the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests, Inc., has met twice in recent months, with a major agenda item always being fans' recommendations on disbursing upwards of \$65,000 for the benefit of fandom.

At the April meeting the following proposals were accepted: (1) The N3F was sent \$500, based on Don Franson's reminder that the National Fantasy Fan Federation "has not received any money from a Worldcon since Cinvention in 1949" even though the 1982 Worldcon Business Meeting had designated the organization as an appropriate place to distribute Worldcon profits. (2) Based on Avedon Carol's proposal, it was voted to reimburse Peggy Rae Pavlat the unrecovered cost of producing THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR, for she had advanced the printing expense on behalf of ConStellation. It was estimated she had spent around \$1000, and sold around \$300 of the booklet. SCIFI will pay to have the copies shipped to Marty and Robbie Cantor, who will sell them, the entire proceeds to be divided between TAFF and DUFF. As part of the same motion, Taral was voted a \$50 reimbursement for out-of-pocket ConStellation Art Show expenditures. (3) An immediate \$500 was appropriated to continue DISCOVERY NEWS and Mark Mansfield's kids' programming for sf conventions. A further \$1000 was committed, pending a written proposal for these activities.

At the July SCIFI meeting additional suggestions were implemented. (1) Colin Fine's request of support for SEFF, the Scandinavia-Europe Fan Fund, was honored in line with the commitments made to TAFF and DUFF, a \$500 donation after each of the fund's next two trip reports. (2) SCIFI voted a total of \$4000 for manufacture of the 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989 SFWA Nebula Award trophies -- which would probably be created in one batch by Bill Rotsler. At the same time, for the same four years, SCIFI voted to make available reimbursement of \$1000 per year for manufacture of the Hugo Awards. Money for the latter would be paid on presentation of a bill for their production. (3) Mark Mansfield, who had successfully run kids' science programs at the L5 con in Washington D.C., had submitted his detailed proposal. He was voted an interest-free loan of \$4000 to carry out these items. He proposed to repay it at \$125 per month. The creation of a loan was to cover the contingency of his receiving grants or other income that would permit his activities to be self-supporting. SCIFI -- as detailed below -- has avoided funding private ventures per se. (4) For a microfiche edition of ASF, and reader, to be housed in the LASFS Library,





a total of \$1050 was budgeted. They will be ordered through Howard Devore, who was huckstering the brand at Midwestcon which SCIFI wants.

SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS OF AMERICA PROPOSALS: Los Angeles, WorldCons and Norman Spinrad renewed their ancient and ambivalent relationship as of July 4th's Westercon. Spinrad, who earned his place in history at L.A.con I (1972) when he updumped the LASFS sales table on his way to scream obscenities at Bruce Pelz in the middle of the Business Meeting, was voted SFWA's West Coast representative. When Spinrad was President of SFWA he blamed fandom for "whatever weirdness lingers" around the sf genre: his attitude towards the L.A.con II committee is more nearly that of a union steward than you could find in any other pro.

The SFWA business meeting at Westercon discussed what L.A.con II ought to do for them. Well, you know how fans are when it comes to being ordered to do something. Anything. It wasn't as though SCIFI hadn't systematically included pros in the disbursement process all along -- membership refunds, a \$2000 thank-you party at the April Nebula Awards in New York, and consideration of other proposals.

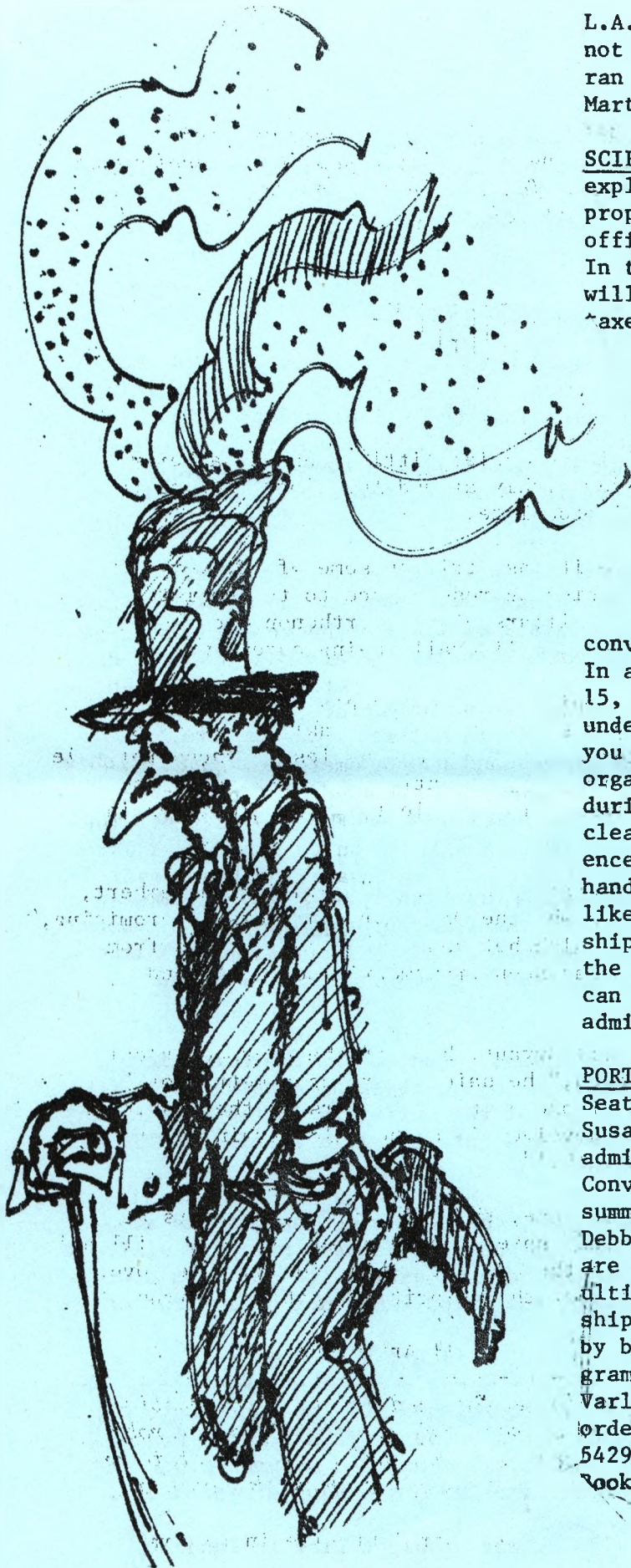
SFWA's request for Nebula Awards production funding was granted (see above). SFWA will send a proposal on scholarships for sf writing studies. (A donation to the Susan Wood fund, requested by Andrew Porter in SFC, was delayed for consideration together with SFWA's ideas.) SFWA's resolution that Jean Theresa Sumner should be refunded her \$20 worldcon membership for a program she did on the special interests track was canned: nobody else on that track got a refund, for all the worldcon did was make rooms available for specialty group discussions or meetings. Sumner, an agent, has engaged in quite a lot of correspondence in search of her \$20.

Robert Silverberg's suggestion that the worldcon seed a SFWA emergency fund, to be paid out to distressed members when judged appropriate by a governing committee, represents the revival of an idea he sent a few years ago to SFWA's officers. They permitted it to lay dormant, perhaps because SFWA has also been considering a war chest to fund action against certain publishers. (Actually, that modest proposal was also made to SCIFI, who declined to have the Worldcon wage war against sf publishers. At the same time, the committee resolved to fund no fan litigation, like that suggested following a Tax Court decision against St. Louis.) SCIFI said it would put \$2000 in a writers emergency fund, set up as Silverberg described, if SFWA carried out his proposal of a one-time \$5 assessment of members, and asked for other donations from the higher-paid writers. SCIFI will send its check after the SFWA levy is made. SCIFI wants to recognize the writers' significant role in creating the surplus, but not by doing things the writers don't consider worthwhile enough to do for themselves.

LOSERS DERBY: No SCIFI bucks were allocated for the following requests. (1) The L5 Society asked for \$20,000 so they could pay semipro rates to contributors to the Society magazine. (2) Rick Norwood asked for a \$10,000 grant or low-interest loan for Manuscript Press Inc., to further its publication of pro authors' works which lack a commercial market. (3) Greenwood Press asked to rent the convention mailing list. SCIFI has already set a policy against renting out the list.

DIRECTORS ELECTION: The 25 directors of SCIFI reached the end of their three-year terms, and the following fans were elected to the seats: Bobbie Armbruster, Ron Bounds, Dave Butterfield, Robbie Cantor, Cheryl Chapman, Gavin Claypool, Patrice Cook, Genny Dazzo, Dan Deckert, Danise Deckert, Alan Frisbie, Mike Glycer, Craig Miller, Dennis Miller, June Moffatt, Len Moffatt, Lex Nakashima, Fuzzy Pink Niven, Bob Null, Bruce Pelz, Elayne Pelz, Allan Rothstein, Drew Sanders, Alan Winston, Fred Patten.





L.A.con II co-chairman Milt Stevens did not run for director. Two incumbents who ran and lost were Ed Finkelstein and Marty Massoglia.

**SCIFI TAX STATUS:** After receiving an adequate explanation of the tax exempt status IRS proposed to grant SCIFI, corporate officers agreed to accept IRC 509 (a)(2). In the normal course of things, SCIFI will not be subject to excise and other taxes that affect a private foundation.

Incidentally, you're probably still wondering if the St. Louis group's Tax Court decision dooms other conventions who want non-profit status. Evidence that it does not recently came into my hands. At the same time St. Louis was being denied, a Colorado group, Sword & Shield, which runs Alti-Egos (sf and fantasy convention), received 509 (a)(2) status. In a determination letter dated February 15, 1984, Sword and Shield was exempted under 501(c)(3) and told, "Accordingly, you will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not a private foundation, during an advance ruling period." To clear this up, within 501(c)(3) is reference to a classification, section 509(a)(2), handling publicly supported organizations, like those that get their income from memberships. Sword & Shield's experience advances the point I made last issue that conventions can still get tax-exempt status through administrative channels.

**PORTLAND FUNDRAISING:** Leslie J. Howle of Seattle is the fourth recipient of the Susan C. Petrey Clarion Scholarship Fund, administered by Oregon Science Fiction Conventions, Inc. Tuition of \$970 at this summer's Clarion West will be covered. Debbie Cross and Paul M. Wrigley say "We are continuing to raise fund towards our ultimate goal of giving an annual scholarship from the interest alone." You can help by buying a copy of the Westercon 37 Program Book, with original fiction by Bryant, Varley and McIntyre, for \$5. Send your order to the Fund c/o Debbie and Paul at 5429 SE Buch, Portland OR 97206. The Program Book got a rave review last issue of F770.



# TAFF MOP-UP

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To the majority of you who consider the TAFF feud to be unpleasant ancient history, the following news stories should serve to irritate you into consciousness of the matter's continuing obsession for many fans. First, a clipping furnished by Art Widner, who wishes it would all clear up:

From Locus Hocus Pocus:

## MYSTERY VIRUS SOUGHT

### FUGGHEADITIS EPIDEMIC FEARED

At the Center for Fannish Disease Control in the quiet little town of Bankeray, California, white-coated scientists work feverishly around the clock, hoping to isolate the dread pillarphagus before it is too late.

Pillarphagus was so named, not only because it has stricken some of the very pillars of phandom, but because of its astonishing resemblance to the polluted atmosphere around Athens, Greece, where the pillars of the Parthenon and the columns of other ancient classical buildings are literally being eaten away.

Starting in Puerto Rico, the virus spread rapidly to such fannish centers as New York and Washington, DC. It is apparently dyslexic in nature, akin to Turet's Syndrome, which causes its victims to utter curses and obscenities in uncontrollable outbursts. In the fannish parallel, the virus takes control of the fingers and pours forth fuggheaded statements by the fanzineload while the brain looks on in horror.

"Apparently we are dealing with a rapidly mutating organism," said Dorian Lambert, chief of R&D at the Bankeray Labs. "This is why the DNA approach looks so promising," he added, pausing to stir a large kettle of alphabet soup. "Tissue samples from some of the victims clearly show their DNA has been transmogrified to DNP and even DNQ."

Another approach is being investigated by Vil Bryant, head of the pharmaceutical division. "We think it could be drug-related," he said, stirring a kettle of alphabet soup. "In checking out the stash of one of the sufferers in the Washington area, we came across some old LSD that had devolved into the wild strain, LSMFT, an acronym for 'Let's Speak More Fugghead Talk.'"

Whatever approach turns out to be the correct one, the dedicated researchers at Bankeray had better hurry, for if this "virus" spreads any farther, not only will all fandom be plunged into war, but be pushed to the edge of extinction and even over it. Then there is the disquieting thought that the culprit may not be a virus at all, but simply old synapses, and tired.

++ Art Widner ++

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"Having seen 100% of the material on the public record, and 90% (at conservative estimate) of Jackie and Dave's correspondence on the subject of TAFF, and (probably) 100% of their private correspondence to Rob Hansen, I am puzzled by your statement in FILE 770 about the 'unnecessary virtiol Locke and Causgrove have directed at... Rob Hansen.'" -- Richard Bergeron 7/28/85



WHO'S RUNNING NEXT: The next leg of the TAFF race would bring a Brit to the US, and the only information available to me is about who won't be running: Chuch Harris. Harris' letter in the May SFC includes this colorful justification for his decision: "...How can we forget that the little psychos crawled from the woodwork to libel a perfectly respectable American girl with theft, fornication, misappropriation and corruption -- and for all I know, frottage and parking by a hydrant -- just because she dared to take sides in this tawdry business? Last week I was asked to let my name go forward as a candidate for the Atlanta race. Much as I'd like to give my Rhett Butler suit an airing, there is no way I could face the fusillade of slur and innuendo that has characterized the last two elections. I imagine the Atlanta delegate will be either Princess Di or His Holiness the Pope. Nobody else has a Past that is blameless enough for the inevitable muck-raking scrutiny. I certainly haven't. Thank God."

Harris' description of events is completely inaccurate, but darn if it isn't colorful. At least three US fans have not been discouraged from mentioning plans to run in the TAFF race after next. Allyn Cadogan, Jeanne Gomoll and Brian Earl Brown have dropped their names where Patrick Nielsen Hayden could hear them.

THE LEGAL RULES: Patrick and Teresa's TAFF trip to Britain's Eastercon was highlighted by a caucus with several inventors of TAFF, including Walt Willis. The agenda under discussion was how to change the TAFF rules to assure each host country (read: especially Britain) has a major role in choosing the delegate. Their proposal has been cleared with all but a small handful of past TAFF winners -- some could not be found, a couple said they weren't qualified to speak about current fandom. From now on a TAFF winner must pull 20% of the first ballot vote from both UK and North America. Those that fail to make the cut will be dropped before the automatic runoff (assuming one is necessary). If no candidate makes the minimum, Hold Over Funds will win. Patrick Nielsen Hayden says his next TAFFLUVIA will contain the revised rules and ballot, and announce the deadlines for nominations. It will be mailed to all voters in the last race whose addresses were legible.

NO HARD FEELINGS, EH GUYS? Avedon Carol's conclusion was, "The Great TAFF Conference has happened, and the ballot is pretty much rewritten, so I assume it will all seem a bit clearer one of these days. It's sort of funny, when Jackie was babbling that nonsense about a committee of past administrators, -- which really is a terrible idea -- we were pretty disgusted, but an occasional meeting of a bunch of TAFF administrators does seem the closest thing to it, and it has happened, and there is a consensus and all that. The only thing is no one agrees with Dave and Jackie -- gee, sure am glad we cleared that up!"

Richard Bergeron informs me, "Your inclination to play wordgames is amusing, but I don't have time right now." Many lines later, in the post-post-script, Dick says: "If you can show me the virtiol by Locke and Causgrove which so 'appalled' you, I am prepared to apologize for criticizing you on this point. If you can't present that 'vitriol' are you equally prepared to publically repudiate your sources or/and admit that your statement had no basis in fact and apologize to Locke and Causgrove? My question was not rhetorical, 'Have you been deceived, Mike, or do you just make this stuff up as you go along?'" Well, Richard, I can't answer that question, but I have stopped beating my wife.



1984 FANTHOLOGY ANNOUNCED BY TERRY CARR: "I was interested in your listing of what you'd choose for a fanthology of 1984 material, specifically because I'm the 'wunderkind' who's decided to publish just such a volume," wrote Terry Carr in response to the last issue of FILE 770. "It's over half done and would be finished by now if my wife's computer printer hadn't been on the fritz for three months and all efforts to repair it having come to nought so far."

Carr will produce the volume on his Canon copier after Carol Carr types the articles and Dan Steffan does the illustrations. When FANTHOLOGY 1984 is ready, Terry will announce the price. Of my list of 15 favorite articles, Terry has already chosen MacAvoy's "The Harp Harpside", Mayer's "Aunt Bird", Langford's "The Dragon-Hiker's Guide...", and Warner's "All My Yesterdays". But Terry hadn't seen nine of the other items on the list, and asked me to send copies, which I did. So the rest of you, keep holding your breath -- you may yet be picked for immortalization.

TAFF PUBLISHING PROJECT: Brian Earl Brown wrote some time ago, mentioning his plan to organize a collection of TAFF/DUFF reports, targeted for inclusion in FAPA.

BEAUMONT CONNED: Readers of SFC and LOCUS may recall last year's front page stories on a proposed science fiction museum in Beaumont, Texas. But earlier this year the Knight-Ridder News Service reported a long list of blows to the city's redevelopment plans, including: "A year and a half ago, lured by the promise of a science fiction and fantasy museum, the city purchased a downtown building for \$341,000 and spent another \$40,000 promoting the idea. The developer then took his vision to Houston." Rickey Sheppard clipped the story from his copy of the Nashville BANNER on April 23.

CLUBHOUSE FEVER: Dana "Luther" Cain, Jr., writing in May's DASFAX, said "I have a dream." Dana "dreamed that DASFA had its own building. Seriously, it was in the round, white Key Savings Building at Broadway and Hampden /in Denver/." However, Bruce Miller reminded her that the club building fund has only \$600. Dana suggested alternatives, closing, "Anyway, this is a dream. A dream that I really had. I'd like to make it be the club's dream, too, though." If the Denver club gets serious, they should write to SGIFI describing their fundraising plan, mentioning their tax-exempt status, and whether they have a proprietary convention (like Boskone, Loscon, etc.) SCIFI will consider chipping in up to \$2000 to help clubs acquire their own facilities if they show a realistic strategy for buying them.

A REALISTIC STRATEGY WITH MORE ZEROES: NESFA's Building Search Committee reported in July that their building specifications seem to outstrip the ability to raise needed money. The kind of building they want starts at \$250,000, while NESFA's most generous estimate of its own ability to pay tails off at \$220,000. The committee says the required large meeting room tacks on at least \$75,000 to their price. NESFA must either delete that requirement from its specs, or delay purchasing plans until after Noreascon III (presuming Boston wins the 1989 Worldcon).

DAW - A NEW STANDARD OF MODESTY: A March press release from New American Library says, "Indeed, a history of the genre could not be written without showing the influence of Donald A. Wollheim, the 'Dean' of science fiction." The release includes a long resume of Wollheim's credits. No question that the man has been a significant force in the genre, but whatever happened to Robert Heinlein -- I've heard him called the field's "dean" as long as I've been reading sf.



# FAN LETTERS

## ART IDENTIFICATION CLASS:

At right is an illo by Linda Leach. The illo on page 3 of F770:53 that was credited to her was in fact drawn by Jim McLeod. In F770:52, the art on pages 16 and 17 ought to have been attributed to Pat Mueller. The management regrets the slipup.

JERRY KAUFMAN  
4326 Winslow Pl. N.  
Seattle WA 98103



I'll take this moment to make a few comments on the most recent issue, with your overview and listing of the best of 1984 /fanzines/.

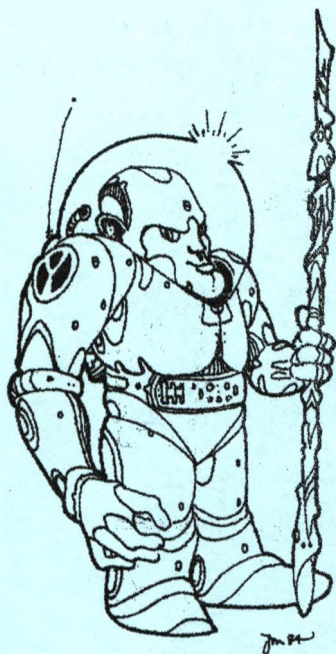
First, despite any cavils or disagreements I have, I'm glad you did this, since nobody else seemed about to. It provided a good reminder and a useful yardstick.

OK, so where did I disagree? Well, I wouldn't have included any of the clubzines you did. Even the best of them are pretty pedestrian to my taste. Instead, I would have included RATAPLAN, the best Aussie fanzine of the last four or five years. Bruce Gillespie says that Leigh has folded it; I presume this is so he'll have time to do that newzine he's announced. I would also have included TRAPDOOR and, perhaps, EPSILON. I like the former very much. The latter is good, and relatively frequent, but is rather pedestrian itself at times.

((It's fun to compare Top Tens: I believe that the right to name your own Top Ten is guaranteed by the Constitution, but I could be mistaken. For a further dash of spice, consider Brian Earl Brown's recent list of ten best US zines, not in order: ANVIL, SCI FI FANS FROM HELL, WING WINDOW, TRAPDOOR, OUTWORLDS, RAFFLES, MAINSTREAM, IZZARD, MYTHOLOGIES, RHETORICAL DEVICE. Perhaps I should mention that all of these zines were considered in formulating my 1984 review except OUTWORLDS, which I don't get.))

The David Stever piece you cite must have been damned good to make your top articles list, and to put Stever in the top five fanwriters. I haven't seen the zine (nor several others you list); basing my opinion on letters from Stever, and older RUNE articles, I find him a pleasant person generally (not always -- see his smug and quasi-Olympian letter in TRAPDOOR), and a mediocre writer. I have a few names of people whose work impressed me more in 1984 than his (some of these reflect personal prejudice, of course): Debbie Notkin, Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Terry Carr, Anne Warren (but for a piece published in 1983), Chuch Harris, Paul





Skelton, Avedon Carol, Leigh Edmonds, Bruce Gillespie, and that's about enough of that.

I believe "Vincent Omniaveritas" is Latin for "Truth conquers all," but backwards. That is the name some Texas sf writer gives himself when he publishes his one-sheet sf reviewzine CHEAP TRUTH. (Bruce Sterling?) I hear it's quite good, and I think the "Interview With H.P. Lovecraft" was reprinted from it.

I found LIFE SENTENCE to be pretty funny, and a saving grace at that point in the megillah. I even found a moment or two in LIFE SUCKS that were funny, though much of the time I wasn't even sure what was being satirized. My main objection to it was that the perpetrators couldn't bear the thought of admitting their authorship, something that Patrick, Teresa and Avedon were not afraid to do. (I believe this to be true of Richard, Jackie, Dave, Marty, Ted and rich, too, not to leave anybody out.)

Your report on Leah and Dick's wedding was funnier (and nearly as cruel) as that in AUNT LEAH'S BIG THING.

---

ROBERT LICHTMAN  
PO Box 30  
Glen Ellen, CA 95442

There is absolutely no mention of /TRAPDOOR/ in your top zine rankings in the current issue. I was going to just shrug this off, and chalk it up to bad taste, or something, but at a party the

other day a couple of other Bay Area fans offered me commiserations, or whatever, over your lack of egoboo for TRAP DOOR, which they felt, too, was more worthy than many of the zines you did list. To me it's obvious that you're more a devotee of Serious Zines Devoted to Serious Discussion of SF and to offbeat humor (ala Cvetko), and I don't care to belabor it. But in the absence of any response from you for the first three issues of TRAP DOOR, I took the liberty of sending your copy of #4 to someone else. Hope you don't mind.

*((Well, Bob, I can see right away that you, yourself, have a real solid sense of humor, and how much it's helped you to avoid taking things too seriously...))*

---

ARTHUR D. HLAVATY  
819 W. Markham Ave.  
Durham NC 27701

Thanks for another most interesting issue of FILE 770. I particularly enjoyed your question to Charles Platt on the relative danger of Nebula banquets and soccer games. // Interesting critique of

my writing, and one that I'll keep in mind. I thought I was saying that *at the time* I was displeased with Kennedy for not using enough Federal force to give Southern Blacks their civil rights, and that when that force was applied, it worked, but that now I have more doubts about the efficacy and side-effects of that approach in general. I can see, however, that my text does not reflect those ideas as clearly as I'd like it to. At least I am cheered that you had to go back one-and-a-half years -- eight issues of my zine -- to find a sufficiently

Incoming Mail

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Take Cover



horrible example. I think, though, that it is obvious that my reasons for being my own best fanned, as you quote them, have nothing to do with fearing editorial feedback; rather, they reflect an endemic problem in fan publishing -- delays and disappearances of the zines one writes for. It's not that faneds other than me rewrite my words or demand that I do so -- they don't -- but that they get writing from me and then don't get around to publishing another issue. This is hardly a unique problem of mine. The worst I've had is an article held for four years until the next issue of the zine it was solicited for, but I'm sure other fan writers can tell far more harrowing tales. ((Say, Arthur, you didn't happen to be speaking about your article in SCIENTIFRICTION, by any chance...?))

One factual correction, if I may. In basing your critique on an old DR, you've passed along obsolete availability information. DR is now available for the usual, or \$1 (\$2 outside the US).

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BRIEFLY SPOKEN

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NEIL KADEN: Your article on 1984 fanzines, fanwriting, and fanart dominated the issue, and is clearly the reason for me to write. There is much that I missed that got published in the last year -- much that I didn't receive, due to inactivity, and much that is still sitting in my house waiting for me to find the time to read it.... One point that I often make when I see you nominated for fanwriting awards is that most of what you write for FILE 770 is not what I would consider your fanwriting (although it is what probably gets you the nominations), but rather journalistic writing that is part of your fanediting of a newzine. This piece, though, is clearly significant fanwriting (as all your reviews that appear elsewhere are) and was the splash of cold water that I hope will get me going in my fanac for awhile. ((I don't mean to argue the point beyond this: compare F770 to some other newzines, and you'll see that 'journalistic' writing does not come in a neutral shade of quality -- it really does require writing skill. How that fits into the overall scheme of fanwriting is everyone's individual decision.))

CHARLOTTE PROCTOR: Many thanks for your kind words in #53 -- it took a few days for the implications to sink in, and to realize that you had ranked ANVIL right up there with the best of US, Canadian, UK and European zines. A couple of people called to tell me about it, and then at DSC last weekend, several asked if I had seen FILE 770. By that time I could duck my head and answer modestly....

BRAD FOSTER: Glad to have gotten this issue and read Harry Warner's last paragraph (F770:52)-- had me blushing with pleasure. Between this and your kind comments in #53, it's a good thing I'm already an insufferable egomaniac or you might have created a monster!

NOREEN SHAW: Thanks much for stopping the presses to run Len /Moffatt's/ obit for Larry. I appreciate it very much. It was graceful and touching, and I'll thank Len also. I was especially glad to see it after the bad taste left by Charles Platt's swipe at Larry (and Harlan) in CHRONICLE (after L.A.con). I won't forget your kindness.

SCOTT BAUER: Number 53 was one of your better issues of late, in part due to less TAFF feud material, but largely because of your "Year's Top Amateurs" article. Sure it was bit later than it might have been, but it was worth the wait. A year-in-review article should (1) Make the year live again in the reader's



memory, and (2) make the reader aware of those things which have been missed. You did both of these things remarkably well, while giving e-boo to those who deserved it as well. Nice juggling!

ALLAN BEATTY: I believe you were remiss in giving all kinds of details about tax status of nonprofit organizations without explaining your inside position. Don't assume all of your readers know it. *((As you like. I am an IRS tax audit group manager. However, this specialty does not involve much dealing with the law concerning Exempt Organizations, so I should be considered an educated and experienced commentator, rather than the Last Word on the subject. I can truthfully say I've read the law on the topic under discussion...))*

TOM WHITMORE: I like FILE 770 because it makes my teeth and laundry white and shiny. Also, it patches holes in the wall better than Brand X, and can keep tables from rattling. I wouldn't miss an issue for nothing! Therefore I have rushed my \$8 for 10 issues (no stamps, please), enclosing two boxtops from Dr. Wonder's Breakfast Yummies. If the boxtops are missing, sue your postal person!

TARAL: Thanks for the last-minute mention of the unfortunate omission of DNQ from your year's best, and the other kind words. But the reason I write is to inform you of the death of Torque, in case you came across one of our flyers and were thinking of adding the con to your listing. I had all the details worked out, but at the last minute decided that my own interests would be hurt by undertaking still another con, especially at this vital moment when I'm trying to break out of fandom into some sort of career as an artist. I only ended up with so much of the responsibility of the last con by accident, and let it fool me for awhile into thinking it was an obligation to go on running cons just because. I'd appreciate it if you ran this in your lettercol or somewhere where people can read why I killed the con. Otherwise, they'd speculate that it was the small attendance that was responsible, whereas in fact it caused very small losses, due due entirely to overspending, and it was easy to eliminate this problem from the Torque 5 budget. In fact, we had offers of money to support the con if we were in financial difficulty. In the end what finishes Torque isn't practical problems, but self-interest.

BARBARA GERAUD: The idea behind NASFiC (as I see it) is to provide the opportunity for a fannish gathering of the same nature as a Worldcon, only in the US, and not outside. I realize fandom thrives on anarchy and disorganization (NESFA excepted, of course), but I hope wiser heads prevail and the NASFiC gets the attendance the committee has worked for and deserves.

DEVRA LANGSAM: I found your comments on our con, More Eastly Con, very interesting. As you pointed out, ours is a media convention. As such, it draws people who are not usually interested in attending either Worldcon or the NASFiC. There has, in fact, been a Star Trek convention given on Labor Day weekend in New York City for at least the past four years, with no noticeable diminution of Worldcon attendance. In any case, our con is a limited attendance con, with a maximum of 350 attendees. We have no Big-Name guests, no first-run movies, and none of the things that might lure away mainstream sf fans. In fact, I'm rather surprised that you noticed our con at all. I wasn't aware that we'd been listed anyplace. Oh, we were listed in SF CHRONICLE, but I asked Andy to remove us after we got a membership from some people I knew were straight sf fans, and I realized that the listing didn't say 'media'. We gave the people a refund, by the way. I hope that this clarifies any confusion that might have existed. *((I suppose I only mentioned your con after recalling that at one point you chaired the New York in '86 bid, correct?))*



# CONJOBS

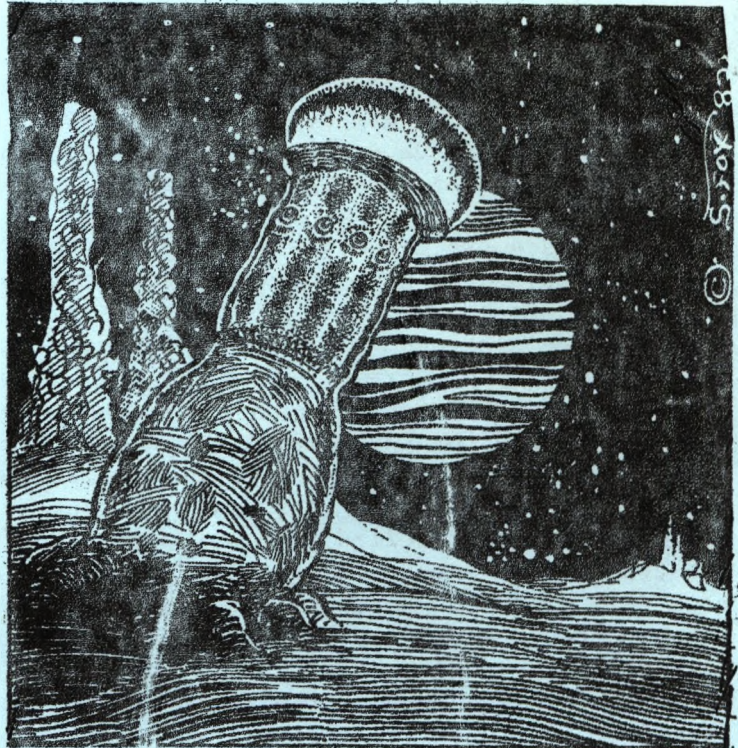
AD ASTRA (June 6-8) by Mike Glycer

From the start of Ad Astra I was meeting new, interesting people. Doug Creighton with needle and thread was busy adapting his Salvation Army uniform coat for a masquerade costume, while telling the story of the night he was called out as a volunteer fireman, and used his battery-powered plastic phaser to direct traffic. Dave Hayward, of Winnipeg, challenged Doug, "Do you suffer from brain damage?" Said Doug, "No, I rather enjoy it."

Besides being spoiled rotten as Fan Guest of Honor, an experience not to be underrated, I spent time at the con trying to keep up with the example set by the pro GoHs. While David Brin is a prospect to be called the most

brilliant new sf author of the past ten years, and on that account is coveted by con-runners, he also loves to guest at sf conventions. Brin is enthusiastic to meet fans in large and small groups. Brin, Michael Wallis and con chair Leslie Dickson's breakfast conversation was a dissertation on fusion power research -- frankly I didn't even know the right place to nod. Vonda McIntyre equally loves her GoH assignments, and is a dynamo of energy helping with last-minute committee work. The three of us were included in the panel of masquerade judges -- the first time I've had a shot at that role -- and now I know why judges' deliberation last so long. We basically agreed on the top costumes, but out of fairness you tend to second-guess yourself, and then take time figuring out what categories properly fit the best of show.

At the con I saw a lot of the Toronto fanzine crowd, like at Alan Rosenthal and Catherine Crockett's room party. Catherine explained, "It's not necessary to hold a closed party -- just post a sign saying 'No weapons'." Earlier, Alan had taken a group of us to dinner, including Taral, who demurred to come closer to the con than the hotel parking lot. During dinner, Catherine warned Hope Leibowitz and Bob Webber about her neighborhood raccoon, and the risk of being dragged to the local creek and rinsed off. Taral disagreed, saying, "Normally they're content to knock your lid off and tip you over." Mike Glicksohn restrained Doris from an international incident, now that I was on her turf. I met the legendary Do Ming Lum, and the ought-to-be-legendary R. S. Hadji (publishing entrepreneur with a dry sense of humor). There was a show of solidarity as an Ottawa fan touted Maplecon to me. He asked Mike Glicksohn for confirmation: Glicksohn stuck his finger in his throat. Steve Simmons came through the door, and was asked for his opinion. Steve -- stuck his finger in his throat. That would sum up my reaction to my new Canadian cuisine discovery -- salt and vinegar potato chips. They could be found all over the convention with one bite taken out of them.





Courtesy of Mike Wallis and Compuserve, from 1PM Saturday until 4:40 AM Sunday the convention was linked to the sf interest group of a computer network. It was perhaps the first computer sf convention, and the longest conference ever run on Compuserve. The charge was \$6.25 an hour, enabling us to exchange text with Diane Duane, Robert Forward, and several dozen other participants. Among them were two Milwaukee fans, who mentioned the scuttlebutt that Ellison is receiving \$3500 for his appearance at Triangulum.

The whole Ad Astra committee contributed to a very enjoyable con -- wish we had them out on the West Coast! I gathered that cons like Ad Astra are taken for granted in the Midwest. Perhaps it's like letterhacks to WIZ take it for granted that everyone writes well. (Like, or as? Now I won't sleep a wink tonight!)

BALTICON 19 by *Martin Morse Wooster*: When Balticon members returned to the Hunt Valley Inn for the first time in five years, they found that the lobby was blockaded and that twice as much effort was needed to find any given spot. This aptly summed up the con. A program with up to six tracks was marred by a program guide that failed to provide even the simplest information. However, the tracks were entertaining, with an extremely strong science section and a fine film program. Balticon attendees are still adjusting to having parties at cons; there were only two major open parties, with the night easily won by Boston in 1989, which knew what it was up to, as opposed to Cincinnati in 1988 where hosts spent much of their time trying to prove that there actually were fans from Cincinnati on the concom. Guest of honor R.A. MacAvoy spent her GoH speech showing slides of her horse-riding lessons. Attendance was 2100.

DEEPSOUTHCON 23 by *Guy H. Lillian III*: Some news from DeepSouthCon 23, held in Huntsville last month. Attendance topped 700, successful for a Southern fannish con. Pro GoH was Marion Zimmer Bradley, Fan GoH Bob Sampson, Toastmaster Algis Budrys, who was charming. Rebel Awards went to Larry Montgomery, who originated the award for Al Andrews 20 years ago, and P.L. Caruthers-Montgomery, his glorious redheaded wife. The Phoenix for pro work went to Sharon Webb. Stven Carlberg won the Hearts Championship. I was re-elected Southern Fandom Confederation President, Deb Hammer-Johnson was named SFC Secretary, and P.L. was again acclaimed President of Vice. A Louisville blitzkrieg resulted in the Kentucky city's victory over Memphis and Wigwam Village for the '86 con. In a change of tradition, the con will be held after Confederation, the last weekend in September.

WESTERCON 38 (July 4) compiled by *Mike Glycer*: Westercon attendees did not give a rousing review of the second Sacramento Westercon in five years. The July DASFax provided as good a summary as any of the food poisoning incident: "Sally Smith reports that she and at least 20 other attendees...spent one night in the hospital emergency ward with food poisoning after eating in the Red Lion Inn's coffee shop." The masquerade was likewise marred by safety hazards. Alison Dayne Frankel escaped with no more than a pinched nerve in the elbow despite a fall from the stage. Wearing elaborate, sight-obscuring kabuki garb, she relied on taped marks on the stage -- unaware that workmen moved them during setup before the masquerade. Reported Marjii Ellers, "Not realizing she was several feet farther forward on the stage than she should have been, Alison walked right off the stage into the arms of Ken Nahigian, who in the finest tradition of stage spotters, broke the fall with his own body." // Oakland won the right to hold the '87 Westercon, and named Aubrey MacDermott the Fan Guest of Honor. Aubrey invented the "back to the future" concept by continuing to regress the date he founded an Oakland sf club to precede newly documented clubs of eofans. A great man.



### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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Richard Brandt (only) 4740 N. Mesa #111, El Paso TX 79912  
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COA FOOTNOTE: Becky Thomson adds that "Depending on who you talk to, we either moved because John was offered a better job here or else John went looking for a job in Orlando because we wanted to move here." // Lucy Huntzinger swears she won't move again soon -- she signed a lease for a year.

BERMUDA TRIANGLE IN '88: HOAX OR FARCE? The best investigative journalists have failed to answer this question after months of digging. The problem seems to be that the Bermuda Triangle Committee isn't certain themselves whether they're really going for the gold. The bid to hold the 1988 Worldcon aboard a cruise ship, such as the SS Norway, has been given added dimensions of reality as more data is accumulated by the bid's creator, Neil Rest. He's figured out the cruise cost, the economics of connecting flights to the departure city (Miami), and specialized programming that could be held aboard. Bermuda Triangle in '88 has run several bid parties around the country, and faces opposition from Cincinnati (Columbinatti), St. Louis and New Orleans. BT in '88 has been received in many quarters with a cheer and a mischievous gleam in audience's eyes -- at Ad Astra, the fans let Michael Wallis and Mike Glicksohn promote it for 20 minutes during a "Future of the Worldcon" panel. Ross Pavlac shares Rest's view that such a bid is feasible, no small concession in conrunning circles. Although one would reasonably suppose that the high cost of a cruise, and the attendance ceiling under 2000, would exclude too many voters to make a serious cruise bid viable, the bid has been the spring phenomenon of midwestern fandom. So much so, that I recently received the following letter titled: "FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. To: FILE 770. FROM: Neil Rest, Alexia Hebel, Hillarie Riley, Jim Huttner, Rose Carlson, Seth Breidbart, Hugh David, Genie DiModica, Yale Edeiken, Mike Farinelli, Bob E. Felske, Mike Glicksohn, Ken Keller, Ben Liberman, Ken Moore, Ross Pavlac, Peggy Rae Pavlat, Joni Stopa. RE: Bermuda Triangle in '88. It has come to our attention that our bid is being taken seriously in some quarters. We wish to clarify this matter: we are bidding for fun. Parties are fun; we will continue to throw parties. SMOFing is too serious to be fun; we will continue to throw parties. It is still a hoax that our hoax is a hoax. We remain, however, the only Sirius bid." --(signed) The Bermuda Triangle in '88 Bid Com.



MORE CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

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ST. LOUIS IN '88: After a constitutional struggle within the St. Louis Science Fiction Society, the club finally voted in May to endorse their friendly neighborhood worldcon bid. The bidders' attention has been freed to deal with external threats, such as the dreaded boat bid. St. Louis' PR#3 takes the view, "Since the now-serious Bermuda Triangle bid is still being considered a joke by many people, the other bidders are asking that people who vote for St. Louis, Cincinnati or New Orleans as their first choice please DO NOT vote for Bermuda Triangle as second or third choice (at least if they are doing so as a joke; if it really is your secondary choice, by all means vote for it)." Rich Zellich and crew warn that the Australian ballot's automatic runoff could give the race to a second-choice joke bid if none of the "serious" bids triumphed first time around.

Paragons of discretion that they are, St. Louis bidders coyly tell us that their first-choices for GoH, Fan GoH, and Masquerade MC have all confirmed their acceptance of these honors, pending the minor detail of actually winning the bid. A rhetorical question: will this win more voters as an example of smooth administration than it will cost among fandom's big egos who now realize they won't be contacted about guest of honor slots for another year?

ETHICS IN FANDOM: I know somebody who tried to influence convention bid voting once by leaking the name of the guest of honor -- but the person he told it to, on her own initiative, assumed she had been told the information DNQ, and never passed it on! How frustrating!



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