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20 MIN**

**FILE 770**

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FILE 770:75, still shaking off the aftereffects of last year's sloth, is edited by Mike Glycer of 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys CA 91401. Here it is: the long-promised clean-out-the-File-770-files issue. I also have an issue's-worth of letters and miscellany that is already in the computer and will quickly follow on the heels of this historical scrapbook. If you think you can stand the suspense, get on the F770 bandwagon by subscribing 5 issues for \$5.00, \$1.25 overseas air printed matter rate -- or whatever other surreptitious means you can devise!

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All that saved Salman Rushdie from surmounting the LASFS pantheon alongside Robert A. Heinlein, Forrest J Ackerman, Walt Daugherty and three Apollo astronauts killed in the '60s was: only the corporate board may recommend honorary members. The Board voted against the proposal at its next meeting.

FILE 770 CONVENTION BULLETIN BOARD: Several years ago when the competition for space in issue of this zine between different kinds of material reached a new peak, I stopped running convention listings. Nobody noticed, which may have demonstrated the wisdom of that decision. However, convention organizers also did not notice and I still get a regular influx of press releases. I have so many in hand I have decided to list the information for the most immediate cons. Whether this turns back into a comprehensive list remains to be seen.

CONGENIAL: (March 17-19) Sheraton Racine, 7111 W. Washington Ave., Racine WI 53406. GoHs: Pro - Mercedes Lackey, Artists Reed Waller & Kate Worley, Fan - Andy Hooper. Memberships: \$20. Rooms: \$50.95 sq/dbl, \$58.95 tpi/quad. To: Congenial, PO Box 129, Wilmette IL 60091.

NORWESCON 11: (March 23-26) Sheraton Tacoma Hotel, 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma WA 98402. GoH: Algis Budrys, Science GoH: Dr. Alan Nourse, Fan GoH: Mike Glycer, TM: Steve Barnes. Memberships: \$26 til 3/1, \$30 at the door. Hotel: \$60 sq/dbl. (206) 572-3200. Con info: Norwescon 11, PO Box 24287, Seattle WA 98124.

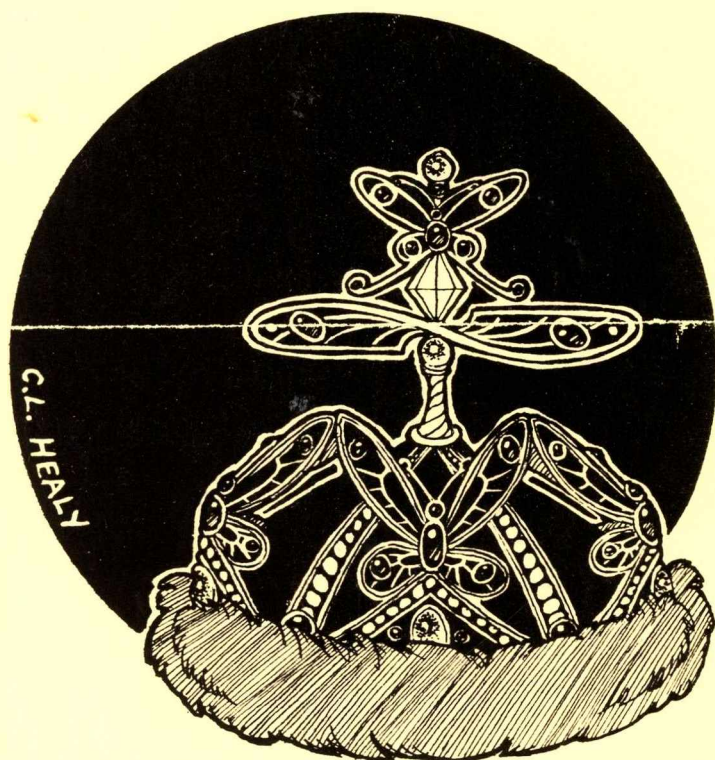
MINICON 24: (March 24-26) Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington MN. GoHs: Harry Harrison, Fritz Leiber, Gardner Dozois, Barry Longyear, Larry Niven, John Sladek, George 'Lan' Laskowski and Patrick and Teresa Nielser Hayden. Memberships: \$15 til 3/1. To: Minicon, PO Box 3297 Lake St. Str., Minneapolis MN 55406.

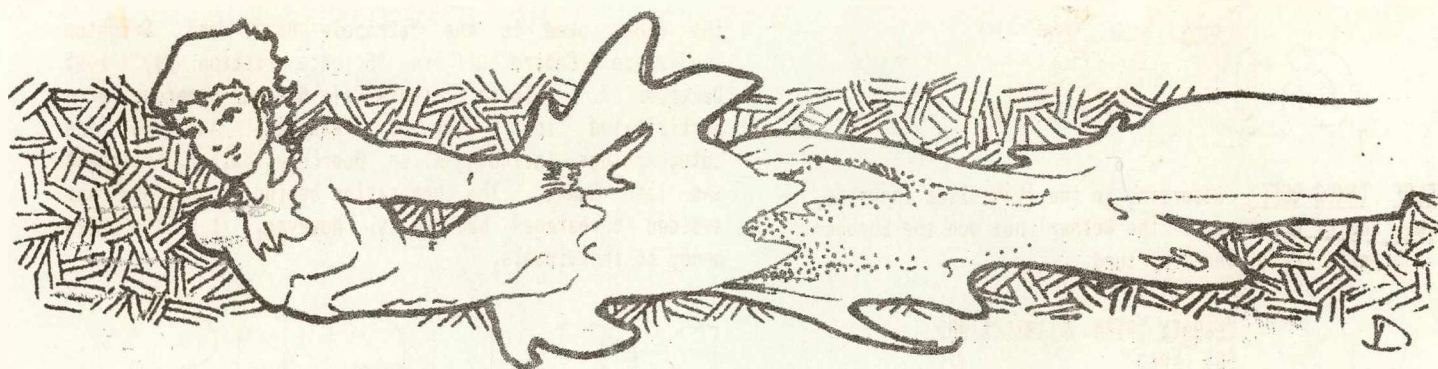
CORELL 6: (April 28-30) Normandy Inn, 408 S. 8th St., Minneapolis MN. TM: Jeanne Gomoll. Famous Britfan Chuck Harris will be there. Membership: \$34 til 4/15 (includes buffet); \$40 after and at the door. Rooms: \$49.50 sq/dbl, \$52.00 trp/quad. (612) 370-1400. Send memberships payable to: Geri Sullivan, 3444 Blaisdell Ave. South, Minneapolis MN 55408-4315.

MYTHCON XI: (July 28-31) Gage Towers, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC Canada. Mythic Elements in Fantasy. Writer GoH: Guy Gavriel Kay. Scholar GoH: Raymond Thompson (The Return From Avalon). Special Guests: Michael S. Coney, Eileen Kernaghan, others to be announced. Membership: \$25 US, \$30 Can., to PO Box 806, Station A, Nanaimo BC V9R 5N2 Canada. Room/board package: \$165 US/\$205 Can. Information/inquiries re papers: Mason Harris, Department of English, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby BC V5A 1S6 Canada. (Deadline for receipt of abstracts: May 1, 1989.) Writers' Workshop info: Neville Books, 5211 Neville St., Burnaby BC V5J 2H7 Canada.

NO RUSHDIE TO JUDGEMENT AT LASFS AFTER ALL: The first Thursday after Ayatollah Khomeini called for the death of Salman Rushdie, author of The Satanic Verses, Matthew Tepper and Rick Foss submitted a motion to make Rushdie an honorary member of the LASFS. While that motion was before the meeting, Rick's twin brother Wolf carried a small iron pot about the meeting soliciting money to buy a copy of the proscribed book for the LASFS library.

The members coughed up their spare change for Wolf, and amid stentorian speeches about being able to read what they like when they like, cast their votes for the motion.





# TRAPDOOR TAKES TAFF

**TRANSATLANTIC FAN FUND AWARDED:** Californian Robert Lichtman has been voted the 1989 TAFF trip over Minnesota fan Luke McGuff. North American Administrator Jeanne Gomoll said there were 165 votes, 116 from North America, 43 from the United Kingdom, and 6 from Australia and New Zealand.

	No. Am.	Europe	Foreign	Total
Robert Lichtman	77	26	6	109
Luke McGuff	34	10	0	44
Hold Over Funds	5	5	0	10
Write In:				
Oliver North	-	1	-	1
T.D. the Cyberpunk Teddy Bear	-	1	-	1
	116	43	6	165

Jeanne says the North American bank account of TAFF is "healthy", and that mail auctions are the way to go. Lichtman will be the receiving boxes of leftover inventory from the J.G. TAFF catalog post haste, for Jeanne is moving into a new house very soon on the "politically correct far east side of Madison."

## DUFF

**DOWN UNDER FAN FUND:** 'Tis the season for fan funds, and the US-to-Australia leg of the annual DUFF trip has also been decided by the voters. North American DUFF Administrator Lucy Huntzinger declared Seattle fan John D. Berry the winner. He will be heading Down Under in 1989 thanks to these results:

	NO. AM.		AUSTRALIA		
(run-off)	1	2	1	2	3
John D. Berry	46	54	17	20	24
Tara Wayne	42	51	10	11	11
Greg Ketter	18	X	4	4	X
Hold Over Funds	1	X*	0		
Write In	1	X*	4	X	
	108	105	35	35	35

X = Ballots redistributed in runoff

\* = No second place preference on ballot

Tara Wayne writes, "I don't like Vegemite anyway."

According to departing North American Administrator Lucy Huntzinger, her account closed February 1 with \$1,667 on hand. She also is circulating Irwin Hirsh's opinion that the NASFiC is not a worth convention for a fan fund winner to attend on the grounds that it's not a proper convention. The paragraph she quotes from his letter implies NASFiC is some kind of creature of the WorldCon, possibly an example of American Cultural Imperialism, and certainly not the US equivalent of other national conventions. "To send a DUFF representative to the 1990 NASFiC would honour the convention, which is something I'd rather not see happen."

Lucy Huntzinger's reply is, "From my point of view, the whole idea of sending a fan fund winner overseas is to expose them to as many fans in the host country as can be gotten together. The best way is to send the winner to a national convention. Not THE national convention, necessarily, but A national convention. NASFiC fills the bill in a non-US WorldCon year better than any other North American con by a long shot."

# GUFF

**ROELOF TAKES GUFF!** According to the Australian newzine, Thyme, Roelof Goudriaan of the Netherlands won the Europe-to-Australia leg of the GUFF fund.

	Primary Votes		Eliminations
	Aus	Euro	
Roelof Goudriaan	34	16	50
Linda Pickersgill	11	31	42
Undefinable	3	---	---
Total	48	47	95

**ELMER PERDUE:** Long-time LA fan and FAPA member Elmer Perdue died January 2. I last saw the legendary Perdue at Burbee's poker table following a FAPA collations in the late 70s; and dropped plenty of tuition in exchange for the lessons....

# BRITAIN

**STOLEN!** This swatch of news about British fandom comes from the third issue of Rob Hansen's newzine ETA:

**CHUCH & ATOM IN HOSPITAL:** Fanartist Arthur "ATom" Thomson was admitted to Dulwich Hospital on December 26 with respiratory problems. ATom, who suffers from emphysema, was diagnosed as suffering from a bronchial infection that had aggravated his existing condition.

On New Year's Eve, Chuck Harris tripped and fell while walking the family dog during a visit to relatives in Slough. He broke his leg, and had to undergo surgery. A plat was fitted to help the fractured femur knit together properly.

**WHITE HORSE PUB TO BE DEMOLISHED:** Home to the regular Thursday night meetings of London's sf fans that inspired Arthur C. Clarke's Tales From the White Hart, the White Horse will be demolished in mid-1989 to make way for a new development. Ted Carnell and G. Ken Chapman started the Thursday night gatherings in February 1946, and although the gatherings continued, they abandoned the White Horse in 1953 to follow barman Lew Mordecai to his new assignment. Only in late 1988 did the meetings return to the White Horse, having been driven from the Sir Christopher Hatton by its blaring jukebox.

**SCIENCE FICTION DAY BAILS OUT CONSPIRACY:** The Conspiracy Bail-Out Fund reportedly raised sufficient funds to clear

the debts owed to the Metropole Hotel and Brighton Conference Centre at its "Science Fiction Day" last December 17. Held at London's Cafe Munchen numerous pros participated in a day of readings, auctions and autographings, including Aliss, Moorcock, Barker, Pratchett and Iain Banks. The corporation behind Conspiracy has avoided threatened bankruptcy, however, it stills owes money to individuals.

# BID NEWS

**NEW '94 BID LAUNCHED:** Steve and Sue Francis and Ken Moore have declared a 1994 WorldCon bid for Nashville, Tennessee. Their proposed venue is the Opryland Hotel. Steve Francis says, "We do have a letter of intent from Opryland which looks very favorable for this bid." Nashville's first bid party was held on home turf at Chattacon over the January 13 weekend.

Now Nashville is stacked against Winnipeg, Canada; Perth, Australia; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and (if they're still serious) Berlin, Germany. (The long-running Zagreb-in-every-year bid presently has '93 painted over the old '94 it had before its committee decided the attraction of running when the vote is in the Hague far outweighed any flack it would get for bidding against the Western US zone.) During the Milwaukee bid party at Windycon last November, Glen Boettcher and Nancy Mildebrandt appeared resilient despite all the guff the Milwaukee bid has gotten since its inception, and were touting specific convention facilities and multi-hotel rooming arrangements. Recently I received Winnipeg's latest mailing to presupporters, which leads off with "Greetings From The Black Hole". The committee takes an interesting tack, aggressively confronting the impression of fannish inactivity in Alberta and adjacent states of the US. They say there were 12 conventions in Alberta in 1988, plus a relaxacon in North Dakota. The Winnipeg bidders also stress Canada as "a nation apart", creatively turning their isolation to advantage by appealing to voters who will always support a foreign bid, but due to pocketbook issues may be persuaded not to support venues that are expensive to attend. The bidders could have skipped such pseudo-witticisms as "Up here Benedict Arnold was a good guy." Winnipeg's proposed convention facilities have 50,000 sq. ft. for dealers, 22,000 sq. ft for the art show, and a 10,000 sq. ft. ballroom divisible into three 400-person daytime programming rooms.

**SHAKEUP IN CONFRANCISCO:** John McLaughlin has replaced Mary Mason as chair of the bid to bring the 1993 WorldCon to San Francisco (aka ConFrancisco). McLaughlin says Mason now has a small role in the bid, and would have a small role in

running the prospective WorldCon.

Among the negative publicity surrounding former bid chair Mary Mason was her appearance on the Geraldo Rivera show in late 1987 touting science fiction conventions as a place to pursue her offbeat lifestyle. This rumored appearance was not objectively confirmed to File 770 until the Chicago Sun-Times (August 21, 1988 issue) published a feature on trash TV, including the following passage:

"But if this is exploitation, it plays both ways. If the shows use bizarre guests to boost ratings, many of those same guests use the shows to attract publishers or recruits for advocacy groups. Although most guests aren't paid, some hanker for a free trip to the big city and the limousine ride to the studio. Whatever their motives, they have no shame."

"Stephen Goldin and Mary Mason, both science fiction writers, were honeymooning in Knoxville, TN, when Jack Jardine called them and asked, 'How would you like to be on "Geraldo"?' Jardine, the third member of their menage a trois, had learned from a publicist that a threesome scheduled to appear on a program about 'Love Triangles' had backed out."

"The next morning, Rivera told the country that Goldin, Mason and Jardine were a trio. Mason and Jardine clasped hands while Rivera cooed, 'Look at them. She's married to one and she's holding hands with the other.'"

"Later, asked why he interrupted his honeymoon to reveal his unusual lifestyle to millions, Goldin said, 'It was a little national exposure to plug any of my books in the future.'"

**PHOENIX IN '93 BID ADJUSTED:** Associated with Terry Gish's relocation to San Jose, the Phoenix bid now shows Terry Gish and Randy Rau as Co-Chairs and Eric Hanson and Bruce Farr as Co-Vice-Chairs. Contact PO Box 26665, Tempe AZ, 85282.

TEXAS

**JUST ADD WATER:** Texas conrunning fans were invited to "Instacon 3" in Austin over the January 20 weekend to plot a 1997 WorldCon bid for San Antonio. The bid's movers seek consensus support from the state's fractious fandom.



**Pocket Program 26**, newzine for the Austin club which includes Steve Jackson and Monica Stephens among its leading members, reported the weekend meeting produced no "hard and fast conclusions" although another InstaCon is tentative scheduled for April in Houston.

**MICHIGANDERINGS -- NOTES FROM BRIAN EARL BROWN:** "A chapter of the Gaylaxians opened recently in the [Detroit] suburb of Inkster. Otherwise, no marriages, births or deaths to report. Recently retired Roger Sims has picked up a part-time job, as has Ohioan Lynn Hickman. I kid Howard Devore (all three retired within a month of each other last summer) that he needs a part-time job, too -- just to get out of the house."

"ConFusion has come and gone. The Art Show seemed better than usual, but maybe that's because Mike Kucharski unveiled his new prints -- of Amber and one on Arthur. Mike is better known for doing the box cover for the video of Tennessee Buck and forthcoming Captain Marvel serial video. Jewelry, badges and t-shirts continue to dominate

the dealers' room. I ended up buying a t-shirt from Scott Dennis, the rather cute 'Signs of the Times'.

"The house next to Cy Chauvin burned recently, the third on his block to do so. This is a bit distressing as Cy lives only a mile away."

**THE FARBER LINE:** Gary Farber called from New York asking File 770 to tell the world that his address is still good, although he has been having trouble with the post office since his apartment's mailbox lock was broken. // Chris Couch has moved to teach pre-Columbian art at Smith College. // Texas SF author Bruce Sterling was on ABC's "Nightline" January 6 to discuss the subject of "Space" with astronaut Rusty Schweikert and a scientist. Gary says all three made remarkably intelligent comments in the face of very bad questions. // For a good time, call 1-800-424-9090. // Stu Shiffman and Andi Shechter are breaking in their new home in the Boston area by immolating Pop Tarts. Gary advises anyone looking for a housewarming gift to consider a new toaster oven.

## 6 DAY MOFF

**MOSCOW ON \$200 A WEEK (NOT INCLUDING ROOM):** Algis Budrys will lead a 6-day writer's seminar in Moscow, ID, from August 14-19, similar to (but not connected with) the Writers of the Future workshops. To quote the publicity flyer:

"The Moscow Moffia Six-Day Intensive Writer's Workshop is intended to help writers of any and all skill levels become better writers. The teaching techniques used in this workshop were first developed for use at the Taos Experimental Workshop, which took place in Taos, New Mexico, in May 1986 (taught by Algis Budrys, Jack Williamson, Gene Wolfe and Fred Pohl.) You will learn new and innovative ways to generate story ideas, plot, create suspense -- in short, how to construct a solid, saleable short story. Unlike Clarion and other similar workshops, you shouldn't find yourself facing a six-month (or one- or two-year) dry spell after this week of workshoping. You will be doing some writing during the week; pack accordingly." (I.e., bring your typewriter or word processor.)

Interested? Send a 1500-5000 word short story with your \$200 check to Jon Gustafson; first come, first served. Rooms at Cavanaugh's Motor Inn are additional. If you have any questions, call Jon Gustafson at (208) 882-3672 7 am-midnight PST, or write to 621 East "F" St., Moscow ID 83843.

**PURITANS AT PLAY:** Anyone on the Boxboro Fandom mailing list knows BF is planning a blowout "Louis Wu's Birthday Party" for Noreascon 3, bringing alive the Ringworld character's 200th birthday party. They're taking over several function rooms, each appropriately decorated as a different part of teleport-booth-connected Earth in the days of Known Space.

Boxboro Fandom President Mark Norton says, "We'll be doing a New Orleans Room, featuring a live jazz band in a Mardi Gras cabaret atmosphere. We're planning a Mardi Gras parade, complete with trinkets, masks, and maybe some Puppeteers and Kzinti thrown in. Any costumes or costumers out there? Another room will be a cyberpunk version of Tokyo, complete with futuristic audio and visual effects, some of this being interactive with the fan attendees. Another room will be a Boston Mad Hatter tea party theme, tying Boston and the WorldCon to the other rooms (we're looking for "Alice in Wonderland" bric-a-brac...any ideas?) We're thinking about a puppeteer garden, perhaps with a puppeteer mural (any large scale artists out there?) How about a map room from 'Ringworld', complete with map, acrane equipment and maybe some fan and pro art (not for sale, just for show) related to 'Ringworld' themes? How about a Kzinti embassy? Is there any particular aspect of or place in/near the "Ringworld" that you would like to see simulated? Is there any event that you'd like to see occur at the party (one of our ideas is a 'Ringworld' costume/character contest)?"

The Louis Wu Birthday party has been dubbed one of the WorldCon's 'Extravaganza' events. Boxboro Fandom is looking for all kinds of labor. They can be reached c/o Steve Boehm, 50 Macintosh Lane, Boxboro MA 01719. By the way, Boxboro Fandom has announced they will also host their last party ever, "Death of a Fandom" at Noreascon 3. The decor will include many surviving decorations from past BF parties -- the snake, the mural, the temple and the tentacle are expected to be there as an era ends...

## STATS

**VITAL STATISTICS:** Bruce and Nancy Bethke announced the birth of their daughter Frances Julia, on January 10, 1989. // Greg Ketter of Minneapolis MN, and Lisa Freitag, of Peoria IL, announced their engagement to be married sometime in August. // Jim Young and Kathryn Craner will be married March 4, in Seattle WA. ((Source: Einblatt)) // Roelof Goudriaan and Lynne Anne Morse were married Octobr 7 in the Old City Hall of The Hague, Netherlands.

**FROM OUR REPORTER IN THE NO-LONGER VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Dalroy Ward writes, "Edie Williams and I tied the knot on December 17, 1988. We went off to a wonderful honeymoon in St.

Croix in the US Virgin Islands. We hope to get to some cons in '89, although it will depend upon our recovery from the house purchase and the honeymoon. We hope to be able to swing Boskone (although it's only one week after I return from Korea so we're not sure). Lunacon and Disclave are also possibilities. ...Think you'll get my marriage to Edie into F770 prior to our first anniversary?"

n3f

STILL N3F: (Report by Don Franson) Bill Center has been elected President of the National Fantasy Fan Federation for 1989. Directors are Cathrine Mintz, Lynne Holdom, Lola Ann Center, Jean Lamb and Don Franson. The club's two fanzines, The National Fantasy Fan and Tightbeam have been off schedule in 1988, but hopefully will come out as they should, bimonthly, 1989.

There are still a number of bureaus and activities, including round robins, writer's exchange (of manuscripts), artists, games, comics and personal computers, that have survived the Year of the Jackpot, when everything seemed to go wrong and key officers were inactive. But in 1989, a number of open bureaus will be staffed, and things will get back to normal (which means in N3F, normal crises). I hope that anyone who reads this and has given up on N3F and dropped out will come back to us. We need active members as well as supportive inactive ones.

Membership is \$8.00 per year; just write to me and I'll send you an application blank. The annual story contest is being judged; you can inquire about the 1989 contest any time (or even send stories, though they won't be judged until next December 1), but ask for an entry blank from me first. This one-stop shopping can include information on any aspect of the club, for example, N'APA, the Neffer Amateur Press Alliance, which has been revived and already has had a mailing. Tim Gatewood (PO Box 12921, Memphis TN 38182) is the Official Editor of N'APA. You have to belong to N3F to be a member of N'APA, but there are no additional dues, just a mailing expense account. (Don Franson: 6543 Babcock Ave., North Hollywood CA 91606).

BLESSED EVENT ANTICIPATED: Pat Mueller, Hugo winning fanzine editor, is working on her reproduction... (Stop me, before I make an obvious pun again!) She is pregnant. As a result, Pat and husband Dennis Virzi have resigned as heads of Program Operations for Noreascon 3. Fellow Texans Fred Duarte and Karen Meschke have been named to replace them. In fact, Jeanne Gomoll claims "now I know

the real reason Pat refused to stand for TAFF!"

CHICON V APPOINTMENT: Steve Francis has been appointed Dealers Room czar for Chicon V, the 1991 WorldCon. Beginning October 2, 1989, dealers tables and booths may be reserved by sending a deposit of \$50.00 per table or \$100.00 per booth -- the total price is not stated in Steve's initial flyer. The maximum number of tables allowed per dealer is three; the maximum number of booths is one; the flyer indicates dealers who reserve a booth will not be able to reserve tables, and vice versa. Don't send in reservations before September 5, 1989: they will be returned. Requests for information can be mailed to Steve Francis at 5503 Matterhorn Dr., Louisville KY 40216-1326.

BCSFA 200

BCSFZINE 200 APPROACHES: In the lettercolumn of BCSFzine 188, club archivist Gerald Boyko is cheerleading the Vancouver group to reprise its famous issue #100 when the second century issue rolls around in a year. Unfortunately, editor Steve Forty is on the verge of retiring as editor, and who knows whether his successor will be up to the challenge? I hope so: having contributed to #100 I'd like to have a shot in the sequel.

THE REDISCOVERY OF NORM HOLLYN: Norm, living in Studio City CA with wife Janet and their 18-month-old daughter, has ignited his West Coast sound editing career. Answering a rhetorical question, Norm says, "Uh, yeah...what did happen to me this year? Where have I been? ...I'm finally on a sf-nal type film called Meet the Applegates. It's about...oh, never mind, it's too complicated. My last film, Heathers, opens February or March."

VON DER WOODWERK AUS: Seattle's Mark Manning offers this hot news tip: "Ever hear of a Hugo-winning 50s/60s genzine called Cry? [Cry of the Nameless] This goodie, editor for almost a decade by FM and Elinor Busby, hasn't appeared under any guise since 1971 or so. Well, it looks like a new, 39th anniversary special edition of Cry will appear in time for Norwescon!"

Mannings says the editorial crew will include the Busbys, maybe Wally Weber and Burnett Toskey, and perhaps others. "It'll feature articles on the 1949 founding and latter-day history of The Nameless (a Seattle fan gathering whose newsletter Cry originally was), a review of prozines by none other than Renfrew Pemberton, a reprint of a classic Terry Carr "Fandom Harvest" column from the old Cry, a Page Three by Buz, several never-before-used fillos done for Cry in the '60s, and a lettercol edited by Elinor -- the very person who invented that immortal fannish phrase, 'We Also

Heard From'. The editors, by the way, will contact as many of the old Cryhacks as possible, asking for LoCs on anything they care to gnatter about." Mark can be contacted at (206) 325-8129.



JUST WHAT DO THOSE GUYS DO WITH THE MONEY ANYWAY? The dusty books of the 1983 WorldCon are reportedly closed. In a letter from Alexis Gilliland, we learn: "After the third Friday WSFA meeting [January], we were sitting around in Kent Bloom's kitchen engaged in philosophical smocking and rehashing ancient history. The rehash of ancient history was Mike Walsh maintaining that ConStellation had acted correctly by not, technically, going into bankruptcy while Kent argued (as I suspect he had done at the time) that they should have bitten the bullet, and filed for it. Seemingly, the creditors had been satisfied to get about 80 cents on the dollar, and Mike remarked that the books had finally been closed on ConStellation.

"At which point the conversation shifted from the theoretical to the concrete. 'What happened to the \$700 that was left in the account,' Mike was asked. 'It was sent to Linda Pickersgill to help bail out Conspiracy,' was his reply. One can hardly imagine a more suitable use for the money, or a better grace note to mark the end of a convention that had been seriously flawed in the running."

Did anybody suggest allocating the \$700 on a pro-rata basis among all the nonprofit groups holding paper from

ConStellation, including MCFI, ISFiC and SCIFI?

AND HERE'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN A WORLDCON MAKES MONEY: Jim Gilpatrick, of Worldcon Atlanta Inc., knew you'd want to know. The corporation that ran the 1986-WorldCon has approved grants of more than \$30,000 from the operating surplus including:

\$2,430 for the organizing expenses of Electrical Eggs, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to increasing the ease of handicapped fans' access to sf cons;

\$5000 to Unnameable Press of Atlanta to publish Where the Black Lotus Blooms, an anthology of dark fantasy;

\$5000 went to subsidize the initial release of "Centauri Express", an sf radio drama on tape;

\$1000 was given to reimburse expenses of the WSFS Mark Registration and Protection Committee;

\$500 each to DUFF, TAFF and GUFF;

\$5000 to the Eastern Connecticut Library Association for a program promoting sf in public schools;

\$1000 to the Orlando Science Center for its show of SF art and artifacts called "Outer Limits";

\$5000 to Neil Barron to support the publication of his Critical Guide to Fantasy and Horror Literature;

\$4500 to subsidize two publications of the Bulletin of the Southern Fan Confederation.

WAI is still accepting grant applications: for guidelines, write to WorldCon Atlanta Inc., ATTN Projects Committee, Ste. 1986, 3277 Roswell Rd., Atlanta GA 30305.

BUT MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE BANKRUPTCY COURT: The following is another ancient clipping, but it covers a topic not mentioned in these pages and the information should be added to your mental data bases if you don't already have it -- (source: Franz Zrillich and the Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 21, 1988)

"They call it Neverending Battle Inc., but instead of continuing the struggle to build a museum and statue to Superman, the 2-year-old nonprofit group will be fighting it out in bankruptcy court. Facing \$200,000 in debts, most incurred from last month's poorly-attended International Superman Exposition at the Cleveland Convention Center, the group's trustees are consulting with Legal Aid lawyers for advice on bankruptcy.

"We're attempting to file in such a way that our creditors

can receive maximum benefit,' said Tony Isabella, group president and owner of Cosmic Comics, a downtown comic-book store. 'We're also hoping we can find a new home for the project,' he said, claiming there was still support for a museum and statue. 'We just feel we need a group that is a little better organized.'

"Earlier this month the trustees closed Neverending's office in the Hanna Building downtown, accepted the resignation of General Manager Alan Hills and fired spokesman Tim Gorman, founder and former president... The convention was held June 16-19 to honor Superman's 50th birthday and his creation here by Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster. Fewer than 10,000 people attended, less than one-third of the projected attendance. Isabella estimated the convention loss at about \$100,000, along with another \$60,000 carried over from last July's [1987] benefit premiere of Superman IV..."

Franz Zrillich's editorial postscript is, "Regulate or die, Fandom!"

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE: Maureen Garrett, former head of the Star Wars Fan Club, writes, "I heard it through the fannish grapevine that a few people were wondering what I've been up to since my years of 'MAUREEN GARRETT -- IN BONDAGE TO LUCASFILM' (with acknowledgements to Bill Rotsler who coined the phrase).

"As some of you know, I worked for Lucasfilm from May 1979 until April 1986. During those years I poured my heart, soul and artistic energies into LFL, made considerable money, earned a pilot's license, traveled the world and made lasting friends. Today those energies, so long trapped by a corporate environment, are now splattered on canvas, hot press board, the walls and ceiling of my studio and occasionally on a passing cat.

"To support an artistic career I work as a marketing/communications consultant in the software industry, among other things. Additionally, I study the martial arts a minimum of seven hours per week (lately, in preparation for the Sacramento State Fair, 14 hours per week). I have also spent considerable time in the last two years working for Marin County's Historic 'Army Days -- Wings of Victory Air Show'; in 1987 as air show art director, in 1988 as volunteer services director, and for 1989 I am the program book director. Last year over 100,000 people attended the show. ...So what are you up to? Drop me a line." (251 C Street, San Rafael CA 94901)



TRUE COA STORIES: Jeanne Gomoll will be living on Union

St. in Madison because she refused to get another prospective house on Manley Ave. Hey, I don't make this stuff up!

Earl T. Josserand, 2502 Hickory, College Station TX 77840  
James Hilton, PO Box 5564, Northeast LA. University, Monroe LA 71212

Lloyd H. McNallie, 688 Old Samish Rd., Bellingham WA 98226  
Garth Spencer, #3-4313 Watson St., Vancouver BC V5V 3S2 CANADA

PULSAR!, PO Box 886, Evansville IN 47706-0886  
Mathew B. Davison & Mary Moore, 1701 Oak Way, Chico CA 96025

Mike Glicksohn (new phone): (416) 769-9871  
Dick & Nicki Lynch PO Box 1270, Germantown MD 20874  
Gordon Garb MS 32-E, Apple Computer Inc., 20740 Valley Green Dr., Cupertino CA 95014 (408) 973-3581  
Marty & Robbie Cantor, 11825 Gilmore #105, North Hollywood CA 91606

Bill Bowers & Linda Burgoyne, 4651 Glenway Ave., Cincinnati OH 45238

Steven C. Berry & Shelly Dutton Berry, PO Box 31534, Seattle WA 98103

rich brown, 508 N. Highland #85, Arlington VA 22201  
Erwin S. "Filthy Pierre" Strauss, PO Box 3343, Fairfax VA 22038

Cindy McAuliffe, 89 Dayton St., Rochester NY 14621  
Kathleen Gallagher, PO Box 42, Worthington OH 43085  
Martin Easterbrook, 43 Saddleback Rd., Shaw, Swindon, SN5 9ST U.K.

Steve Miller & Sharon Lee, PO Box 808, Skowhegan ME 04976  
Bruce Farr, 1844 E. Sesame St., Tempe AZ 85283  
John, Bjo & Kathryn Trimble, 2059 Fir Springs Dr., Kingwood TX 77339

Dalroy Ward, 1023 W. Barne St., Baltimore MD 21230  
Andi Shechter & Stu Shiffman, 16 Lakehill Ave., Arlington MA 02174

Greg Thokar, 3 Strawberry Hill Rd., Natick MA 01760  
Joe Cavanaugh, 110 Rome Ln., Apt. 14A, Rome NY 13440  
Mary R. Wismer, 222 London Ave. #224, Metairie LA 70005  
Jeanne Gomoll, 2825 Union St., Madison WI 53704  
Richard Labonte, c/o A Different Light, 489 Castro St., San Francisco CA 94114

Ruth Brosh, 203 Crandall Navhosp, FPD San Francisco 96630-1600. ("Hello from Guam!")

Gerry Uba, Riverside Park B4-3, 310 Woodbine St., Hopewell VA 23860

Craig Hilton, 28 Success Crescent, Manning, 6152 WA AUSTRALIA

Nick Shears, 27 Chiltern Rd., Wendover, AYLESBURY, Bucks, HP22 6DA U.K.

Brad Westervelt & Wendy Counsil, 1224 11th Ave., San Francisco CA 94122 (415) 665-3438

4SJ 72

FORREST J ACKERMAN TURNS 72: Birthday Report by Charles Lee Jackson 2: Upsetting many intricate plans on the part of the Editor, the legendary Ackemonster, Mister Sci-Fi himself, Forrest J Ackerman, held a small but swell birthday bash for himself. Originally limited to 72 people, his group was allowed to use larger facilities and so grew to 102 of 4e's closest pals, joining him for brunch at Michael's Los Feliz Inn, near Hollywood. This reporter was delighted to learn that he was one of FJA's closest friends (who live in the area and could make it), and was even more delighted that his Loscon duties had been dispatched the previous night.

Wendy Ackerman was in attendance, looking in fine shape and obviously recovering better than believable from the stroke that precluded last year's party. Everyone was impressed and happy that she's doing so well.

After a tasty meal of ham, potatoes, rice, Jell-o, and fruit, and while this reporter was finishing his fourth slice of chocolate mousse, Forry got up to speak. First he told a little story about how, when pressed to introduce some of his closest friends on a trip, he had completely blanked on their names. This was an insurance policy: he now proceeded to introduce all of his guests, and hoped any who were mis- or dis-remembered would understand. But he did good, our Forry, correctly identifying almost everybody, and being able to come up with at least a partial ID on the rest.

Included in the group were such notables as G\*e\*o\*r\*g\*e C\*l\*a\*y\*t\*t\*o\*n J\*o\*h\*n\*s\*o\*n, A.E. Van Vogt, Bill and Beverly Warren, Don Glut, Kenneth Anger (yes, that Kenneth Anger), Chuck and Dian Crayne, Paul Turner, make-up artist William Tuttle, writer Charles E. Fritch, Al Drebin (of Budget Films), actor Ferdy (The Fearless Vampire Killers, My Darling Monster) Mayne, Dik Daniels (who video-taped the whole thing), 4e's favorite waitress, Hank Stine and his wife Jan Rae Frank (introduced as "Frank 'n' Stine"), horror-film starlets Brinke Stevens and Bobbee Brisee, and wizard Mike Jittlov.

It was this last person who caused a sensation. Just as Forry was introducing him, and explaining about his aversion to physical contact, Mike reached out and shook Forry's hand! Jittov's friends and fans will appreciate what a heart-felt gift this was (but don't tell FJA he shook my hand a little later).

After completing the introductions, Forry invited all back to his place to open the presents.

Fortunately, only about a dozen actually took him up on his offer, including Tuttle, Fritch, and this reporter. Much discussion of computers, Abraham Lincoln and the chair of Forry's in which he once sat, and sci fi followed.



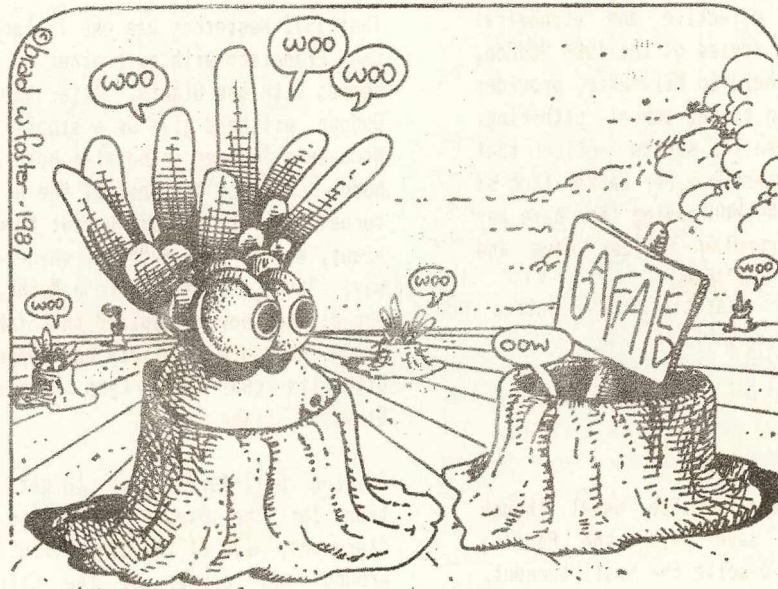
As Wendy soon tired, Ackerman decided to postpone the opening of presents until the next day, but couldn't resist opening just a few.

He received a wax voodoo figure from The Witches of Eastwick, a head of Regan (not Ronald) designed by Paul Clemens and given by Rich Correll, and a box of videotapes with labels like One Glorious Day, Gold, M.A.R.S. Calling, London After Midnight, The Wizard, A Blind Bargain, and The Young Diana.

--All films on Forry's Most Wanted list! But they mostly prove to be blank (except Gold), and were mostly for amusement value.

All in all, Forry's 72nd was a grand time, and we all look forward to his 75th (and 100th, 200th, et cetera).

# HISTORICAL REPORTAGE



## NEW WAVE CON TABLOID

**GET YOUR RED HOT CON NEWS:** A new tabloid? Yes, but it won't be found in your local supermarket. **Con News: The New SF&F Convention Newspaper** is the latest fanzine to be distributed in electronic and printed forms. "Read Con News on your favorite BBS. Ask your sysop to pick it up" advises a box on the back page of #2.

Editor Claude N. Warren Jr. and his staff, including Kent Cordray, Dana Cain and Linda Nelson, operate from Westminster, Colorado. Subscriptions are \$12/year in the United States. (**Con News:** 7735 Osceola St., Westminster CO 80234.) Their second issue is in hand.

Reviewing restaurants on their second night open or newzines in their second issue is equally hazardous, but a fanzine claiming a print run of 3000 and hoping to attract subscriptions at \$12 each needs to make a splash. Given the articles, convention reports and listings in the first two four-page issues of **Con News** it's not easy to see that a reader is getting anything more than is contained in the convention section of **Science Fiction Chronicle**.

The field will welcome a good convention-oriented fanzine that is published more regularly than **Jane's Fighting Smoifs** and offers broader coverage than the Noreascon 3

laboratory of **The Mad 3 Party**, if it provides authoritative news and opinion.

In issue #2 their disjointed lead article, "Is Worldcon Too Big and Expensive?" was stitched together from posts on the Fidonet. Quoting comments about why the WorldCon is so big, and about the fanpolitical risks of offering a "scaled back" WorldCon, the author contradictorily suggests there is great demand for a scaled-back WorldCon yet implies the idea has no voter appeal. The article should have defined what a "scaled-back WorldCon" would look like. To understand the alternatives, people have to know what small-WorldCon advocates have in mind.

At the risk of nit-picking, I'd say **Con News** is hurt by its quirky copyediting. Fidonet is followed by "tm" in superscript, but the term WorldCon is repeatedly used without any reference to its being a registered service mark ("sm") of the World Science Fiction Society. The zine also makes some noteworthy factual errors. "Current Bid Listings" for 1993 shows the San Francisco bid and omits the Phoenix bid. The Zagreb in '93 bid is still shown as a 1994 bid, and so is Cleveland, a bid which terminated many months ago. The status of the Phoenix and Zagreb bids can be readily found in Noreascon 3 or Confiction progress

report advertising.

What Con News does well in its early issues is provide conrunning instructional features. Dana Cain contributes a well-written checklist for convention advertising fliers. She concisely explains the ingredients that make convention fliers the most effective and economical advertising form. Alan Grimes' review of the 1988 GenCon, the national gaming convention held in Milwaukee, provides an easily digested introduction to the annual gathering. Such a report on a gaming convention serves notice that Con News' editors ambitiously seek a wider market than sf fandom. Only time will tell whether gaming fans have any interest in reading the conrunning insider news and opinions which form the bulk of Con News.

## MIDWESTCON

MIDWESTCON 1988: by Dick Lynch

This year's Midwestcon seemed smaller than usual though all regions of the country, save maybe the Pacific Northwest, were represented. Despite the small turnout, this year's Midwestcon may have the record for most number of parties per capita, especially on Saturday night. It certainly was one of the hottest Midwestcons ever -- the outdoor temperature climbed to 103 degrees on Saturday afternoon. This didn't discourage the most hardy poolside sitters, but drove most everybody else indoors until dark.

Some isolated recollections and one-liners: Justin Winston, on NOLAcon's hurried last-minute preparations: "There are some lawyers on this committee and they're just realizing they can't get a continuance for the convention." Also, Scott Dennis, making a comparison between the NASFiC and the WorldCon: "North American is to WorldCon as American cheese is to gorgonzola." Bruce Pelz (somewhat shocked): "Better?!?"

Also afoot is a plan, organized by Joni Stopa, to bring Skel over for next year's Midwestcon. She figures about \$2000 is needed to do the job right; some plans (such as a Tucker North American Tour t-shirt and a "Best of Skel" fanzine) were discussed as money-raising ideas. Interested persons should call her for more details.

## MYTHCON

MYTHCON XIX: (July 29-August 1, 1988) by Mike Glyer

Glen GoodKnight founded the Mythopoeic Society in the flower-child days of the late 1960s to celebrate the works of J.R.R. Tolkien and other fantasists of the Inklings circle. Like the Society for Creative Anachronism, the

Mythopoeic Society began with a visibly close relationship to science fiction fandom, having many members in common; (it still has). The Mythopoeic Society was so close to fandom in 1972 that Mythcon was held simultaneously with Westercon at the Edgewater Hyatt in Long Beach.

That 1972 Westercon was one I almost missed, having gone to San Francisco with my brother to see the Dodgers' weekend series with the Giants. After the first two games in which Dodger pitchers give up a significant percentage of Willie McCovey's career grand slam homers (one each day) we came home. I spent the rest of the holiday at Westercon. That turned out to be more useful than I ever imagined: it meant, at the 1988 Mythcon, whenever anybody asked, I could say, "Sure, I've been to a Mythcon before: 1972." Folks who didn't know me applied that fact to settle in own their minds how such a Society neo happened to drive to the con with its chairman, Lynn Maudlin and another of its Stewards, Diana Pavlac.

Driving hell-for-leather to get the pair to Berkeley in time for the Stewards' Meeting, we blew by the old Claremont, site of the 1968 WorldCon, and stopped virtually around the corner at the Clark Kerr Campus of the University of California where the 1988 Mythcon was convened. Mythcon had a room-and-meals package at the beautifully landscaped Spanish-style campus, (formerly a school for the deaf). At the main office we found Charlie Brown and Ricia Mainhardt had just registered, and now were looking at their watches, wondering what had happened to their interview appointment with Ursula K. LeGuin, Mythcon XIX co-Guest of Honor (with Brian Attebery). Lynn, Diana and I went back to the car for our bags: am I allowed to print that I was the only one who recognized the grey-haired woman asking directions to Charlie Brown?

Many elements of the weekend's program revolved around the Kesh Indian culture LeGuin fabricated for her latest book. Saturday's program began with a Mythcon tradition, the procession of members in unique costumes, many carrying home-made heraldic banners, or in David Lenander's case, the Rivendell hankie. Chairman David Bratman led the procession, which was serenaded by the Finrod Felagund Native American Marching Band, or in translation, Leigh Ann Hussey and other locals wearing assorted hides and headbands, beating drums and yipping like a dogpack during a total eclipse.

Mythcon draws about 150 people to enjoy its studied contrasts between the lighthearted otherworldliness of such traditions as the procession, and its program packed with scholarly papers and academic discussions. I found those contrasts embodied in Paul Nolan Hyde, linguistics answer to Bob Tucker. Wearing his magenta scholar's robes and Tudor cap to the procession, Paul Nolan Hyde brandished a three-foot-long staff he named his "Etymology Enforcer".

Called "PNH" by Society members, the middle-aged man is both the Society's leading student of Middle Earth languages and the leader of its sophomoric all-night prowls. At 2:30 AM one morning, thirty people sitting around him, Hyde finally duped a couple of people into stealing a stage-prop boat and attempting to sneak it into Glen Goodknight's private room in a distant form. But once they went on their way, PNH led everyone else to the far end of the building and ditched the practical jokers.



By day there was more intellectual fare, including programs where a full audience bandied literature and politics with the panelists. After Ursula LeGuin had commented how not only capitalism, but even Gandhi, Marx and Engels resulted in damming the rivers (she is an advocate of free-rivers), Dick Lupoff followed with a comment that the myth of progress has run dry. In the audience someone demanded, "How will you explain that to the starving people who are trying to light their houses?" (The audience went nuts. Paramedics had to be summoned to extract his foot from his mouth.)

Co-GoH Brian Attebery, a literary scholar in the field of American fantasy, included in his remarks an apology for the way scholars have ignored fantasy. If anyone present doubted the importance of fantasy as a body of literature, Attebery said, "I doubt anyone ever proposed a procession for 18th-century Puritan sermons, or verse satires."

One fannish irony is the way fandom can inspire nostalgia about things one never actually experienced. As several dozen of us sat in the auditorium listening to Glen

Goodknight hawk books and Mythopoeic paraphernalia, I thought about Julius Schwartz' description of the auction at the first WorldCon.

Adding a Joycean end-where-you-started touch, my roommate Don King (a small-college English professor) and I drove across the Bay to take in the Giants-Braves game, and still got back in time for the Sunday night program.

Before LeGuin's guest of honor talk, Leigh Ann Hussey reappeared with her New World Greek chorus in the quadrangle outside the Krutch Theater and dramatized a Kesh legend. There was musical accompaniment on a flatulent alpenhorn; in the rhythm section Ursula LeGuin was beat the drum and someone else rasped two sticks together. The delight of the audience was evident by how many diverted their faces and bit their lips not to burst out laughing at the spectacle of all this earnestness. Opposite La Hussey was a hairy-chested fellow in a gray v-neck peasant smock wearing a puma mask haloed with green solar rays. Lifted by his father to see the play, Donald Keller's 2-year-old son misheard the actor dramatically intone, "the Sun, it sinks" and paralyzed the group by repeating, "It stinks! It stinks!"

After sundown we adjourned to the auditorium for LeGuin's talk, other entertainment and the Masquerade. Le Guin began with her tongue-in-cheek: "Sitting here listening to people talk about my stuff is weird. And the hardest thing about it is having to keep my mouth shut."

She soon turned to serious literary matters, and described her attempt to weave together the culture of future-days Kesh Indians in the valley where her father owned a ranch. She distributed two maps illustrating how certain Indian tribes related the heavens and the earth. One formed a series of concentric circles radiating from the Humboldt River of California to the "Boundary of the Universe". The other was defined by significant mountains of the American Southwest. LeGuin gave several examples of Indians' different interpretation of the world, and their coexistence with nature. For example, it was in the nature of things for an animal to give up its life to be food, therefore if a hunter found no game, it was not because he was a failure, but because "No deer wanted to die for me today." (For the rest of the week any glitch in our tourist plans was greeted with the new formula, "No x wanted to y for me today....")

After the speech, the "Not Ready For Mythcon Players" performed "The Tombs of Atuan", standing motionless on stage in gray and black sheets, "Also Sprach Zarathustra" swelling from the music system while the narrator read a paragraph from the novel. Then there was silence. And motionlessness. And more silence. Until one of the mock monoliths began to vibrate. And sway. And totter. And

crash down. The others swayed, and tottered, and collapsed on each other, the audience roaring and LeGuin utterly broken up with laughter.

A rather good Mark Twain impostor regaled the audience for 20 minutes with passages from his speeches. Then came the Masquerade, accompanied by more beating on skin drums and chanting. (Janice Coulter of Milwaukee asked, "Is that Kesh elevator music?") Awards were given, and the children of the night wandered loose.

Mythcon has a very special closing ceremony: before hitting the road on Monday, the members gathered to sing three songs. They included the "Chorea Magna": a sample verse goes, "The Dance is a Lion and a child locked in play/ The Dance is a feast on a royal wedding day/ The Dance is a city where the time scattered meet/ And the Glory blazes in each complete."

The last song is the most civilized form of convention Gripe Session ever concocted. Fans improvise verses to "What can you do with a drunken hobbit" that celebrate (and forgive) mistakes and silliness at the convention. Verses included, "Make him be a Tom of Atuan", and "Schedule him opposite the GoH." Paul Edwin Zimmer contributed, "Make him sing all these damn verses..."

## TODDLIN' TOWN

**WINDYCON XV:** (Nov. 11-13) by Mike Glyer

As the official program got under way, nobody could explain why half was the audience for Windycon's "Welcome To Your First Convention" panel consisted of fans not attending their first con. Were they seeking reassurance that nothing new had been invented in fandom since they were neofans?

The half who were legitimate neos found themselves in good hands with moderator Eric Heideman, panelists Nancy Mildebrandt, Doug Wright, Diana Pavlac, and Mike Vandebunt. I liked Vandebunt's concrete advice: want to meet people at a con? Try the ones standing in the same autograph line you're in: "They're probably interested in the same author you are!"

The night before I had strolled around the Woodfield Hyatt's indoor waterfall area, and encountered Martha Beck and Midge Reitan sipping their drinks while the piano played. They filled me in on some Midwest vital statistics. Dana Siegel is pregnant; she conceived at NOLAcon. (Jayce Foss, wife of Rick, also conceived at NOLAcon. See what happens when you don't attend the program?) They also reported Dave Wixon and Anne

Chancellor were married October 29 in Franfort KY.

The Hyatt's indoor waterfall fed a black ceramic moat populated with koi. On Sunday morning Janice Coulter saw enough of preteen boys stalking the fish, and wouldn't have minded if one had fallen in and dissolved.

Windycon continues to be the biggest Midwestern convention, and due attention was paid to that fact by artists, resulting in an opulent Art Show. Or is that a pun, for the most expensive exhibit was a table strewn with opal jewelry, all within arm's reach of a plainclothes security guard.

The Windycon masquerade also had its high points. Creating the biggest sensation was the trio of characters from Who Framed Roger Rabbit?, Judge Doom, Roger, and Jessica Rabbit. Word went out on the jungle telegraph, and people left parties all to ogle Jessica, who appeared to be filling her authentically-proportioned costume without any artificial help.

Ross Pavlac managed the traditional Saturday night fannish dinner expedition, this year leading a party of 20 to the nearest Mongolian Bar-B-Que and the favorite word in the fannish lexicon, all-you-can-eat. On Sunday Algis Budrys and I renewed our football-watching ritual, this time squinting at the Hyatt bar's giant TV, its picture washed out by the strong morning sun, trying to learn whether the Bears had the ball, and maybe find out what they were doing with it.

Let's not forget the program -- though I was guilty of mainly attending what I was on, two panels. At "Just say NOLAcon" panel, someone declared, "So many backs, so few knives!" During "Fandom's Bloopers and Practical Jokes" I joined Ken Keller -- an excellent fannish storyteller -- and Buck Coulson to regale people with old favorites, ending with the Adventures of The Shaft.

As people were filing out of the Hyatt on their way for home, I got a very pleasant surprise: they asked me to come back next year as fan guest of honor.

## LOSCON

**LOSCON 15:** (November 26-29, 1988) by Mike Glyer

What did Glyer and Foss do after programming NOLAcon II? (Flash image: Rick Foss in the middle of a cheering crowd on Bourbon Street. Off-camera a voice asks, "Rick Foss, you've just saved NOLAcon's ass: what're you going to do now?" Foss jabs the air with his fist and shouts "I'm going to Disneyland!")

Uh, no. Then would you believe, fly home and program Loscon 15?

Yes: and it was actually fun. No convention could have two more intelligent, articulate, hard-working and delightful pro guests of honor than Vonda McIntyre and artist Patricia Davis, or a friendlier fan guest of honor than Stan Woolston. Loscon 15 had about 1400 members and program participants, as large a membership as any of them despite playing opposite San Jose's first Silicon. The mere existence of Silicon prompted the discovery that some "regulars" have been traveling to Loscon from the Bay Area long enough that even a con in their own backyard did not change their habits; others were drawn by the guest-ship for Berkeley's Patricia Davis.



Thanks to the convention-throwing spirit of local pros, Loscon boasted a dance hosted by Steve Barnes (who arranged his own sound system, music and decorations), and Larry Niven's traditional Irish Coffee reception. On the con's first night Bridge Publications hosted a reception to launch its new contest, and Loscon ran its Ice Cream Social.

The Bridge Publications reception introduced the "Illustrators of the Future" contest: admittedly, the champagne was served in plastic cups, but not the kind with the stem that falls off. Kelly Freas was joined by such luminaries as Ray Bradbury and Julie Schwartz.

Later on the Ice Cream Social was bigger and better than ever. The most difficult thing about running the Social is trying to time things finely so the ice cream is taken out of the freezer at just the right time in advance so that it can be easily dipped, yet not turn to soup. This balance is never struck, which is why the people whose help is most in demand during the Social are professional furniture movers like George Mulligan who have big arms

and tough hands. The committee set up four serving stations this time (one more than before), but fans basically love standing in line: you can't stop 'em.

Server Glenn Glazer got halfway into a carton of bing cherry before finding himself defeated by the rock-hard ice cream. Taking a butcher knife in two hands he hacked the ice cream ala Norman Bates -- until the knife slipped.

Glenn screamed and dashed through the room clasp his wounded hand before him. Paramedics were called to take Glenn to an Emergency Room where he was stitched and bandaged. Glenn was able to return to the con the next afternoon. In the Green Room, he met a corps of semipro stunt swordfighters billed as The Duellists who were participating in the program. Talking to the Duellists' Tony Smithers, Glazer explained his injury. Smithers unsympathetically asked, "You you didn't come to our workshop, did you."

Fantasy fiction programming drew good audiences to see well-known writers like Barbara Hambly and Larry Niven. The Star-Trek oriented "Solving the Wesley Problem" filled every seat and had fans lining the walls. They got a bonus in that the actor who plays Wesley unexpectedly dropped in.

Unfazed by the panel's infamy for being the reason Wollheim's interview at NOLAcon got cut off, we repeated "Solving the Wesley Problem." The Loscon version promised to be more interesting with D. C. Fontana, Joe Straczynski (story editor for the new Twilight Zone), Sonni Cooper (a Trek novelist), Mel Gilden and Jane Mailander (local writers) -- and a hoped-for surprise guest.

As the program began, Bjo Trimble was stationed at the front of the Pasadena Hilton, and John Trimble at the back door, waiting for the arrival of Patrick Stewart, whom a contact at Paramount had supposedly sent our way seeking some word-of-mouth publicity for his Charles Dickens reading scheduled in December.

While I was shuttling between John and Bjo for news of Patrick Stewart, there came an unexpected surprise. None other than Wil Wheaton, who plays Wesley, materialized in the "Solving the Wesley Problem" audience and virtually took over the panel. As I learned from him the next day, he simply came Loscon because he likes sf conventions. But Guy Vardeman, his stand-in, looked in the pocket program and told him, "Hey, there's an 'I Hate Wesley' panel; I think you should check it out."

Wheaton's gesture to explain the panelists' changing tone when he arrived was one of extracting foot from mouth! (Actually, the panelists had criticized the series, rather than Wheaton's acting, and they didn't know he hadn't been there for most of it anyway.)

Patrick Stewart never did show up, but I like to think of the alternate world where he walked in on the panel after Wesley had already joined it... What pandemonium!

Before Wheaton, our biggest "star" was going to be Paul Marco, joining the "Plan 9 From Outer Space 30th Anniversary" panel. He played Kelton the cop, if you ever saw it. Ever since the film came out on video he's been working very hard to make himself into a cult figure despite the movie's reputation as the worst film ever made.

Everyone SF convention programmer likes some fireworks. Ours came from a panel about the future of education provocatively titled "The Unilateral Intellectual Disarmament of the United States" and from panelists David Brin, Sheila Finch, Harry Turtledove and Jerry Pournelle. After the program Pournelle and Brin had to be mutually restrained by their friends, Harry Turtledove came back to the program participants' lounge and propped himself up on a bottle of beer, and Pournelle borrowed the con chairman's room key to go up and take a shower. Tough work.

I finished the weekend by driving Peggy Rae Pavlat, Eric Pavlat and Dan Hoey to LAX; they were they only '92 bidders to come west to throw a party. As I left, Rick Foss was still going about the convention taking notes: he's chairman of Loscon 16, which, like number 15, promises to be not boring!

## FORRY AWARD

FORRY AWARD GIVEN: report by Charles Lee Jackson 2:

At the Loscon Fifteen Masquerade, LASFS president Galen A. Tripp announced this year's winner of the Forry Award: Noted author Ursula K. LeGuin.

The "Forry" is presented by the club each year to an individual for outstanding service to the field of Science Fiction. Previous winners include Ray Bradbury, Fritz Leiber, Harlan Ellison (shh!), Sprague DeCamp, Kelly Freas, Julie Schwartz, Bob Bloch, Niven and Pournelle, and Poul Anderson.

In a related story, that same Loscon crowd roared with approval at the announcement of LASFS's annual Evans-Freehafer award to our (or at least my) favorite Emperor, Charles Lee Jackson, the Second.

Last year's awardee, Mike Frank, took the stage. The E-F award, named for two of the most dedicated volunteers in LASFS history, is presented to a club member in recognition of dedication in service to the Society.

The awardee, picked by the three most recent previous winners (currently Frank, Galen Tripp, and Sue Haseltine), was gleefully received by CLJII, who has in recent years been LASFS Film and Video Coordinator, Editor of the club genzine, and Chief Engineer, donating many hours to the club and helping to entertain the membership.

# DITTO

DITTO: by Taral Wayne

[Excerpted from a letter] The con was a lot of fun. We had a computerized mimeo room -- no typewriter! Programming was lighter than Bowers' neverending Saturday; it lasted under four hours in all, not counting the auction. There was a literate one-shot, my god! Glicksohn managed to dupe the pages of "Toronto the Ghoo" barely in time, working with stencils as I cut them day by day. Gary Mattingly was on hand to present his bid for Ditto 2, and was given the go-ahead. It looks as though Corflu definitely has a sister con now.

It's still not finalized but it appears we've cleared close to \$300. About half that was put into reprinting the four-color T-shirt (somewhat more than 50% of the rest of the investment is mine.) What's left will mostly be spent on sending out copies of "Toronto the Ghoo", the Program Book, et al, to nonattending members. So far that's only been partly done. WebBob has the stuff, but suddenly had to start a new thesis to complete ASAP.

The \$150 Ditto put into t-shirts will be repaid out of sales, and we've discussed two uses for it. About \$100 might be put toward reprinting (by xerox rather than mimeo) something like 50 copies. Some of us would like a wider audience for the zine than just the membership. Whether or not we reprint the zine, the last \$50 will mostly likely go toward establishing a Permanent Floating Don Fitch Memorial Ditto Loan. Don donated that sum to Ditto 1, and we'll pass it on to Ditto 2 (Gary Mattingly & Co. in San Francisco) with instructions to pass it on to Ditto 3 if at all possible. Total membership was 45 attending, 12 supporting, 11 one-day and 1 "evening" membership that Glicksohn sold to the thrity Robert S. Hadji.

# SMOFCON

SMOFCON 5: (December 7-9) by Mike Glycer

The con for con-runners met in Phoenix this time; all the stars came out: Ben Yalow, Scott Dennis, Mad 3 Party's Leslie Turek and the Noreascon 3 executive, folks from Toronto, California, Seattle, Texas and Florida...hm, but nobody from New Orleans...

The Hyatt Regency, SMOFcon's hotel, was dressed up for Christmas. On top of the glass elevators was a life-size waving Santa Claus in red suit and white beard; every time Santa arched to wave his right arm, he gave an Elvis-pelvis thrust that would get him arrested in Tennessee.

And what do SMOFs talk about when they've just hit town? Everyone from Texas announced Pat Mueller's pregnancy. Scott and Jane Dennis talked about trying to drive to the con, and abandoning their rental car in favor of the airlines and a quick escape from Texas' bad winter. That triggered Austin's Scott Merritt to remember what Teresa Patterson saw and envied on the way to the airport: a stretch pickup. Steve Jackson: "She'll need a new wardrobe." Glycer, "She wouldn't want to wear anything that would clash with a stretch pickup." Steve Jackson, "She needs a cowhide body suit." Scott, "She already has a cowhide body suit: purple."

Registering for the convention, Monica Stephens took a look at the bulldog-clip membership bages, took a look at what she was wearing, and announced she had nothing to clip to. She promptly shot a look at Scott merriitt and added, "Don't make any helpful suggestions -- I've heard your suggestions before. Don't even look innocent." Talk of fashion inspired WorldCON chairman Mark Olson to dream up a Noreascon 3 staff t-shirt imprinted with the entire table of organization, appropriately marked with a little red circle and the logo, "You are here."

Unlike any other Phoenix convention I've attended, Smofcon filled a small corner of the meeting space. The Borein Room was an oblong room with chairs flanking a center aisle. At the front right the committee parked a video camera that tended to kill half the room: at an early panel everyone sat on the left side, like a wedding where nobody knows the groom.

Not a criticism but a fact of life, the intrigue and conversation buzzing around the Con Suite often forced people to make a choice between programming and smoffing. The committee reserved its heaviest weaponry for 10 AM Sunday morning, and succeeded in tearing people away from the continental breakfast for the obligatory "Sex Panel". Once the panel began people probably wondered what they had really expected it to be about, for Eric Hanson, Judy Suryan, Jim Webbert, Bruce Farr and Richard Wright played it straight and the subject matter ranged from condoms and AIDS, to the committee's responsibility if it becomes aware that a herpes carrier probably infected 10-30 people, as happened at a Norwescon. I was sitting in the back and it sounded like Bruce Farr said 40% of adults have herpes; I may have misheard, but in any case for the modern smof, sex is deadly business...

The Hyatt Regency is in downtown Phoenix, no weekend town:

a civil defense drill couldn't evacuate a city as fast as does the prospect of having to spend overtime in this ghost town. So convention-goers in Phoenix have a choice of one restaurant genuinely within walking distance of the hotel, with a hybrid Mexican/Greek menu.

And what do SMOFs talk about when they're at dinner? Saturday night we wound up idea-tripping, taking our starting point as the Star Trek episode where everybody got zapped into a white geodesic block. Somebody thought this had the potential as an enlightened form of execution: you could just behead a criminal, zap it, and put the block into deepfreeze. If anyone decided later he was executed by mistake, the results were reversible. Somebody else asked what happened if there was a flood at the prison? A deep B-movie voice intoned, "Escape of the Freeze-Dried Heads! ....More than their septums were deviated!"

Terry Gish's Convention Suite was inundated with wonderful food, more so after Friday night because at the start of the convention Terry was completely incapacitated with flu and her help improvised. Starting a catalog of the food (and chocolate!) would send me on an immediate binge. The Con Suite also played host to a test version of the computerized Smof Game, which people played throughout the night, occasionally treated by Steve Jackson intervening to fix program bugs, or display the code itself in an attempt to count in how scenarios the boa constrictor could appear.

Paul Valcour and a Toronto committee were awarded the next SMOFcon. His presentation came during Saturday night's marathon bid presentations for WorldCons, Westercons and SMOFcons. For some smofs these performances are a can't-miss highlight. I worry about those people...

# HEXACON

HEXACON 11: (January 6-8, 1989) by Martin Morse Wooster

If last year's Hexacon was the con where nearly everyone froze, this year's was the con people could barely find. Snow and icy fog sealed the Lancaster airport for several hours, causing fans' flights to be diverted to Philadelphia, Allentown, or placed even farther away. One fan (who I believe was Hal Clement) not only got a night's free lodging in Philadelphia, but got the airline to send him to Lancaster via limousine -- his luggage sent in another specially-chartered limousine!

The official attendance was purportedly 200; I would guess actual attendance was around half that, mostly from Philadelphia, but also some scatterings from Washington, Baltimore and New York, and the occasional guest (most notably Arthur Hlavaty and Bernadette Bosky) from farther away. Most of the events that happened at Hexacons

happened again. There was the traditional Saturday night pig-out at Miller's as well as the traditional 1 a.m. mass nude swim, including a volleyball game with approximately 40 fans duelling it out in the buff. A pleasant addition this year was the concom's purchase of about 20 board games, which generated a series of informal tournaments. For the record, Stephen Fetheroff won the Scrabble competition (narrowly defeating legendary Philadelphia Scrabble fiend Diane Weinman), Ozzie Fontecchio triumphed in Jeopardy, and Sara Paul won the Trivial Pursuit contest.

Mark Oving's film program featured many esoteric gems, topped by the complete 4 1/2 hour Drums of Fu Manchu (a Republic serial from the 30s). Everyone liked the hotel, the Shawnee Lancaster, and we will probably be back next January.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RUMOR MILL: Vancouver fan Garth Spencer would like to quash any rumors about Los Angeles fan involvement in the Vancouver in '91 Westercon bid. (Hm, thanks, I guess...) "First off, the Vancouver in '91 bid for Westercon 44 is not an LA bid set in Vancouver. All the members of the bid are Vancouver fans. At this point Fran [Skenel] has 36 presupporters and 15 people signed up on the committee, which should persuade you there is some degree of local support! There is no direction from LA. The only involvement is two Angelenos wanted someone, please, to offer an alternative to Sacramento." Garth would also like to refute any rumors that bid financing is coming from outside Vancouver. "Fran [Skenel] and William [Affleck-Asch-Lovel] are willing to pay for the bid's promotion out of their own pockets -- who's going around claiming this is a 'no-risk' bid?"

DC IN '92 ANNOUNCES CHAIRS: Peggy Rae Pavlat has been selected by the Discon III bid corporation to chair the 1992 WorldCon, if they win the right to host the 50th World SF CONvention. Says the press release, "Peggy Rae is a second-generation fan with over 30 years of convention experience. Her WorldCon experience includes being a division head for both ConStellation and Noreason III, managing the Program Development subdivision for ConFederation and heading Press Relations for both Noreason II and Chicon IV. In her mundane life, Peggy Rae is a computer instructor and software troubleshooter."

The committee has appointed Tom Schaad Vice-Chairman. The Discon III corporation also announces it has received its federal tax exemption ruling, and is now recognized as an IRC 501(c)(3) organization.

The DC in '92 bid is making a strong showing in the stretch run, aiming towards the Site Selection vote this September in Boston. Fans I have talked to consider the

DC and Orlando bids very close, bucking the recent trend of one bid running away from the competition as it comes down to the vote. DC has not been flagging in its party-throwing strategy, but it has also done direct-mail to the Noreason 3 membership, published an art portfolio calendar, and revived the science fiction clubs list.

TEXAS UPDATE: The Austin-based club, Eternacon, has cancelled plans to hold its second Eclecticon. The clubzine, Pocket Program, announced memberships will be refunded.

THE FUTURE IS NOW: Convention organizers are following with avid interest Noreason 3's negotiations with the SFWA over its demands, stated by President Greg Bear, to be given a closed SFWA suite and free WorldCon memberships for all SFWA members participating in the program. Noreason 3's policy, reports Ben Yalow, is to offer a suite open to pros, program participants and committee members, and require everyone to buy a membership. Program participants who appear for their items will receive a membership refund is the convention generates a sufficient surplus. Yalow views SFWA's demand as violating the sense of science fiction community support for conventions.

NOREASON 3 HANDICAPPED ACCESS: Carol Johnson of Electrical Eggs, an organization formed a few years ago by Samanda Jude to assure that handicapped fans will have access to conventions, called to state her group will not be running Handicapped Services for the 1989 WorldCon. Carol Johnson and Mad 3 Party seem in close agreement about the cause: Electrical Eggs has an operations manual, and a precondition for their working the con was to have Noreason 3 agree to unconditionally accept those procedures. The Noreason 3 committee would not give them what is, in effect, independent contractor status at the WorldCon, thus the standoff. According to Leslie Turek, Noreason 3 remains fully committed to handicapped access and they will announce a new appointment in this area soon.

SWAMPCON SOLD: J. R. Madden of Baton Rouge, LA, reports that the local club, BRSFL, sold the rights to its annual science convention, Swampcon, to Carol DeWitt and Marine Fourrier for \$100. The pair are members of the club, but will operate the con as a completely separate entity. According to J. R., "In recent years, the planning of the convention had intruded increasingly upon club meetings and activities. Most of the club membership, while willing to help out with the actual operation of the convention, preferred not to be involved with the boring planning meetings." The con committee said they wanted more autonomy in the planning and operation of the con without having to seek approval of BRSFL's board of directors for each change. The new owners say they plan to incorporate as a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity, and seek local grant money to help with the con.

# DITTO T-SHIRTS

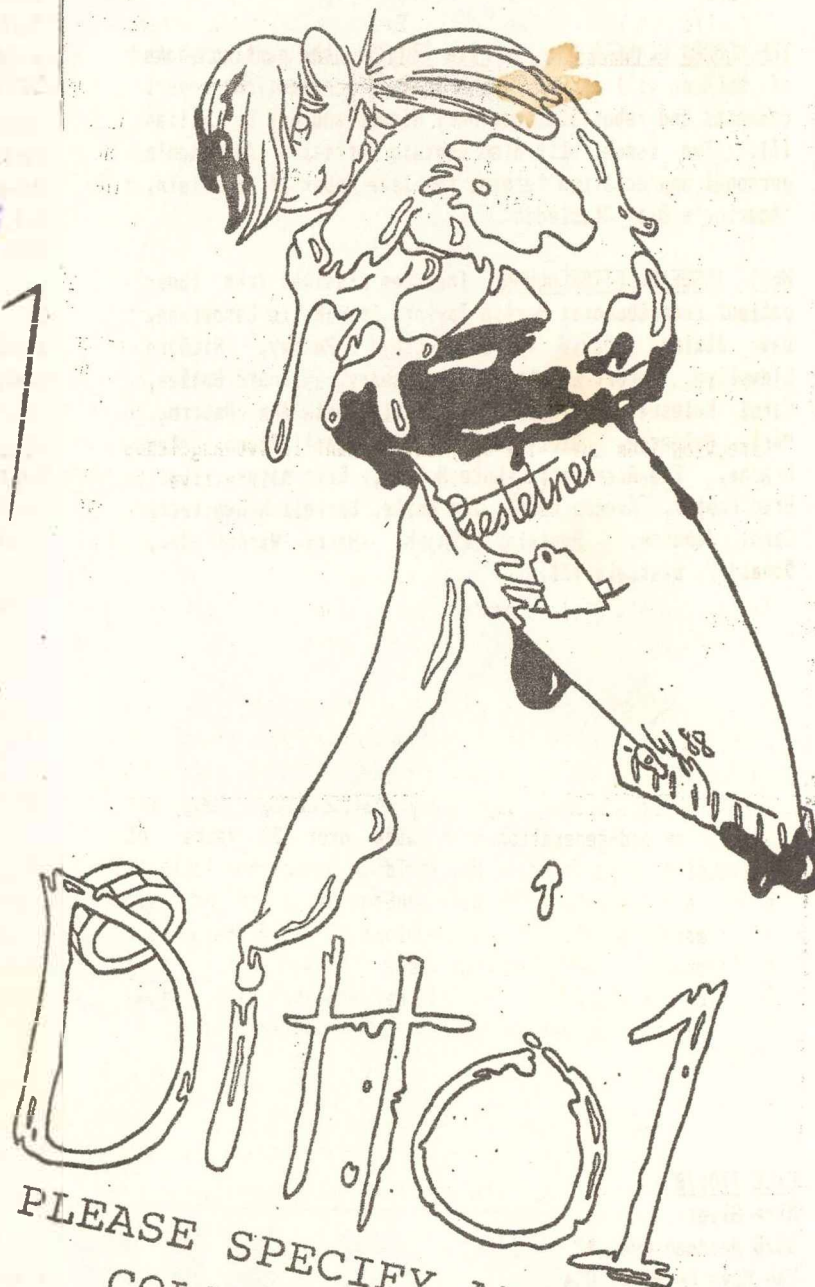
As everyone knows, the t-shirts printed for Ditto were tremendously popular. And why not? They were printed in four colours on quality aqua-blue 100% cotton, (and also a less expensive yellow mixed cotton and polyester). The art, by Taral, was a colourful and sensual design, even if I do say so myself. The girl and her love affair with a tube of mimeo ink is both "graphic", and an allusion to fandom's own love affair with itself. The perfect statement for any fanzine fan, judging by how quickly it sold out.

At Ditto it was announced the shirt would be reprinted. The new run of 35 is a private venture, for private gain... namely mine. The design is unchanged, except for the correction of some high-lights neglected in the first run. The shirts are available in three sizes and two colours, all 100% cotton: medium, large, and extra-large -- aqua and pink. There are also two smalls in pink, and a pair of extra-larges in black. To make the risk of the artist's investment as attractive as the shirt, the price is now C\$18, (US\$15) each. Please add \$3 for handling. (Parcels will be insured.) Send check or money order to Taral Wayne, 1812- 415 Willowdale Ave, Willowdale Ontario, M2N 5B4.

PS -- Coming in the New Year, two brand new one-colour t-shirts by Taral: "Get Furry" and "Saara, and The Romance of Flight". If interested, send a SASE for news, (if you live in the US, .45 and an addressed envelope).

AT LAST!

Weren't at the first Ditto? No one needs to know, if you have graphic proof to say you were!



PLEASE SPECIFY ALTERNATE  
COLOUR OR SIZE

## ART CREDITS

Alan White: Cover  
 C. Lee Healy: 2  
 Diana Stein: 3, 13, 15.  
 Brad Foster: 5, 8, 10, 11.  
 Taral: 19

THE MEMORY LINGERS ON: In File 770:79, the parting shots of NOLAcon will appear in the form of convention report comments and rebuttals from Mary Wismer and Guy H. Lillian III. The issue will also contain Forrest J Ackerman's personal appreciation terming the late Robert A. Heinlein, "America's Olaf Stapledon".

NEXT ISSUE'S LETTERCOLUMN: Includes missives from these patient contributors: Martyn Taylor, Brin-Marie Landerman, Dawn Atkins, David Thayer, Lloyd Penney, Richard Llewellyn, Robert Lichtman, Rick Sneary, Richard Gutkes, Carol Kalescky, Taral Wayne, Elizabeth Ann Osborne, Marty Helgesen, Dick Lynch, Brian Earl Brown, Kay Drache, Eve Ackerman, Luke McGuff, Eric Mayer, Skel, Brad Foster, Avedon Carol, Ted White, Darrell Schweitzer, Carol Johnson, Berislav Pinjuh, Harry Warner Jr., Donald E. Eastlake III,

AD ASTRA 9: (June 9-11) The Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Rd., Toronto ONT Canada. PRO: John Varley. FAN: Kerry O'Quinn. Memberships: \$20 til 5/15, \$25 at door. Hotel: C\$79 sgl/dbl (please book before 5/15). To: Ad Astra 9, PO Box 7276, Stn. A, Toronto ONT M5W 1X9 Canada.

NOREASCON 3 - WorldCon 47: (August 31-Sept. 4) Boston, MA. GoHs: Andre Norton, Ian & Betty Ballantine, the Boston Stranger Club. Memberships: \$70 attending til 3/15, \$45 child attending til 3/15, \$20 supporting til 7/15. To: Noreascon 3, PO Box 46, MIT Branch PO, Cambridge MA 02139.

DITTO II: (Oct. 13-15) Holiday Inn - Van Ness, San Francisco CA. Convention for fanzine fans. Membership: \$27 attending, \$5 supporting. Hotel: \$95 sgl/dbl. To: Gary Mattingly or Pat Peters, 7501 Honey Ct., Dublin CA 94568. Info: (415) 829-7129.

CONFICTION - WorldCon 48: (Aug. 23-27, 1990) The Hague, Netherlands. Pro GoHs: Joe Haldeman, Wolfgang Jeshcke, Harry Harrison; Fan: Andrew Porter; TM: Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. Memberships: attending \$70, child attending \$17, supporting \$28, all good til 12/31. To: PO Box 95370, 2509 CJ The Hague, The Netherlands.

CONDIEGO - NASFiC: (Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 1990) San Diego, CA. Pro: Samuel Delany. Fan: Ben Yalow. Memberships: attending \$55 til 7/1/89, supporting \$25 til 7/1/90. To: ConDiego, PO Box 15771, San Diego CA 92115.

CHICON V - WorldCon 49 (Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 1991) Chicago IL. Pro GoHs: Writer- Hal Clement, Artist - Richard Powers, Editor - Martin Harry Greenberg; Fan: Jon & Joni Stopa; TM: Marta Randall. Memberships: attending \$75 til 12/31/89. Supporting? Memberships to: Chicon V, PO Box 218121, Upper Arlington OH 43221. For information: Chicon V, PO Box A3120, Chicago IL 60690.



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