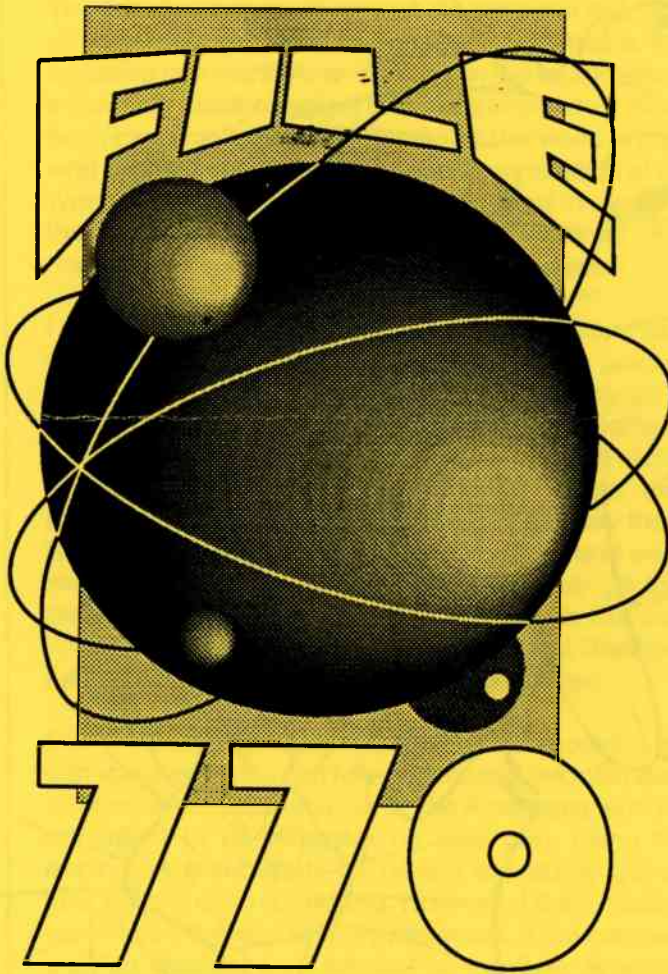


FILE 770

Wm 91



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1992 HOGU & BLACKHOLE RESULTS

Elst Weinstein presided over another raucous Hogu Ranquet last Labor Day Weekend. When the smoke cleared and the bribes were counted, the twentieth anniversary award-winners were these luminaries:

The DeRoach Award for Putridity in Everyday Life:
Woody Allen

The Aristotle Award for Grandmaster Lifetime Achievement in Putridity: Stuart Hellinger
Best New Feud: Lunarians vs. Each Other
Best Traumatic Presentation: Woody Allen in "Honey, I knocked up the kid."

Best Religious Hoax: Popeye Goes Pro-Choice
Best Hoax Awards besides the Hogu: 1992 Fanzine Hugo

Best Type Face: Demi Moore ExtraBold

Best Professional Hoax: The Yellow Ross of Texas

Fandom's Biggest Turkey: Stuart Hellinger

Worst Fanzine Title: Elvis Lives in Levis

Best Dead Writer: William Shatner

Best Hoax Convention: Eschercon

Best Pseudonym: Yog Sysop

Devo Award: Piers Anthony TV Commercials

Best Has-Been: Admiral Truly of NASA. (Mark Blackman thought it was ironic to give NASA an award that looks like a rocket has taken off.)

Best Fan Hoax: Suicide Squid

Cuisinart Award: Highlander II

Special Grand Bastard Award: Pat Buchanan

Most Desired Gafiation: Charles N. Brown

Free For All: Saddam Hussein Still Has His Job -- Do You?

Special Bagelbash Award: Family values

Best New Disease: Chicago Tunnel Syndrome

Most Bizarre Hall Costume: (tie) Frankenfurter, Bob Mitchell as "The Hall", Arsenio Hall, Monty Hall.

Best Alien Music Video: Michael Jackson, "Black or White"

Mixed Media: Paul Atreides in "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue"

Space Geek of the Year Award: (tie) Dan Quayle on Mars, Mr. Potatoe Head, VP Bird Brain, Der Kluckmeister.

Traffic Jams, Jellies and Preserves Award: NYC Train Sit Authority

Banger Award: Lionel L. Fanthorpe

Standard Blackhole: Ross Perot, Charles Keating, George Bush, Leona Helmsley.

Invisibility Award: *Last Dangerous Visions*

Incompetence Award: California State Legislature. "Send them an IOU for their Hogu!"

Publishers Award: *Factsheet Five*

Greed Award: NY City Parking Violations Bureau

Half-Assed Con Officiousness: (tie) Nolacontest, Stunacon

Brown Hole Award for Outstanding Professionalism:
Dan Quayle

ART CREDITS: Taral - Cover; Peggy Ranson - 2, 8; Bill Rotsler - 3, 7, 11, 13, 16; Alexis Gilliland - 4; Ian McGunn - 5; Brad Foster - 9; Diana Harlan Stein - 18.



FILE 770
Issue 96
January 1993

DUFF WINNER DIES

Just a few months after attending MagiCon as delegate of the Down Under Fan Fund, Australian Roger Weddall died in early December of pneumonia arising from his fight with cancer. He was known to fans around the world as a past editor of the Australian newzine, *Thyme*, a job he was just about to resume in collaboration with Alan Stewart.

On his trip Weddall confided the true state of his health to only a few; most of us were told Roger had foregone a longer trip around the U.S. that he promised to make up to himself later on. In fact, *Thyme* 88, the November issue, quoted Roger saying, "Everywhere I travelled the fans I knew, the fans I didn't know, and the people in general were friendly, kind, considerate, hospitable...and just a heap of fun to be with. I can't wait to get my donkey back over there." Lloyd Penney was shocked by news of Roger's death, having spent time at Magicon persuading him to visit Toronto on his return trip.

Still, Weddall didn't miss everything. *Thyme* noted he had visited San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, Birmingham, Texas, and Los Angeles. Jerry Kaufman told *File 770*, "Roger stopped in Seattle for a few days in August and charmed everyone he met."

THE WAY WEST

Hank and Martha Beck's holiday family letter fills us in on their move to Payson, AZ, beginning: "With much, much help from daughter and son-in-law, we left Cedar Lake [IN] the day after the movers hauled away some four hundred boxes, and all the furniture that we had accumulated in forty-three years.

"We overlooked the small, insignificant fact that we were going to a two bedroom, two bath, living room and small dirt basement (mom-in-law apartment on side, has one large bedroom, living room, kitchen walk-in closet and full bath.) We were taking furniture from a four bedroom, 28 x 15 family room (with eleven big bookcases in this room alone), 2-1/2 car garage, and 12 x 12 shed that held boxes and boxes of just books. Oh yes, the tenant is still in the apartment and is showing

little sign of leaving, so this means lots of overcrowding in basement and outside under the porch that runs around the eight-sided house.

"Enough, we are here, and I love it! Have the best view in town, huge lot (we had to fence in complete back and sides because of tiny 100-pound dog named Rusty.) Cleanest air in country and Hank and I have had flu twice, and two chest colds, and my asthma thinks I'm living with a dozen cats! See what moving to a healthy climate will do for you?"

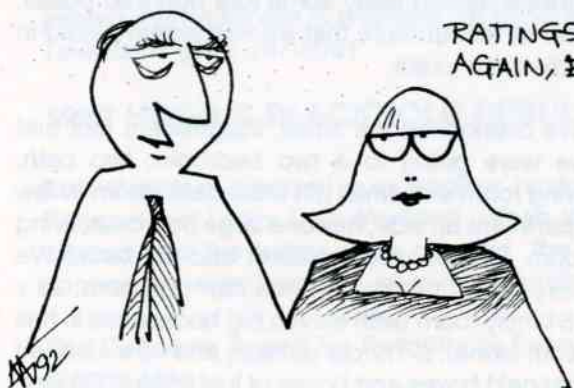
REALITY CHECK

Unlike the rest of us, Ensign Phil Pournelle spent his holidays at sea off the coast of Somalia with U.S. Marines spearheading the United Nations relief effort. Send him a card, your fanzine or your clubzine to break the monotony. Address in care of: U.S.S. Tripoli (LPH-10), FPO AP 96626-1645.

LONDON SF MEETING FINDS NEW NICHE

Dave Langford reports, "The London meetings have now settled down at the Hamilton Hall pub: in November it turned out that straw polls other than *Ansible's* had picked this place as least worst venue. Liverpool Street Station is easily reached on three Underground lines (Circle, Central, Hammersmith & City); Hamilton Hall is at the upper-level street exit. The upstairs bar inside is the fan gathering place. The large person carrying the beermug and pressing *Ansibles* on hapless stockbrokers and commuters is..."

THIS MISSION, SHOULD
YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT
IT, INVOLVES FULL FRONTAL
NUDITY, BONDAGE AND SOME
KINKY SEX.



PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION

Ever since Bjo Trimble's original crusade to keep *Star Trek* on the air fans have recognized their ability to influence tv programming decisions far beyond what their numbers would suggest. The "SF Minnesota" group devoted its January 9 program to the subject of how to get more sf on local tv, and Las Vegas fans recently marched outside a cable company trying to get them to pick up the Sci-Fi Channel.

Members of SNAFFU went into the streets against Prime Cable when the company failed to add the Sci-Fi Channel. Joyce Katz' *SpinDizzy 2* reports fans marched with signs outside the company offices, "to the consternation of Prime Cable management, and to the amusement of television newsmen who publicized the event." Did Prime Cable yield? Well, no. They simply agreed to think about it when the company renews its supplier contracts in a few months.

Less dramatic efforts by San Diego fans who wrote "I want the Sci-Fi Channel" on their Cox Cable bills produced the answer, "We are seriously considering the possibility of adding The Sci-Fi Channel to our channel lineup when we have the ability to add additional cable services." This may not happen until Spring 1994.

ALTERNATE TREK

Other fans have decided the way to get maximum exposure for *Star Trek* is to host a "clothing optional" convention. *Nude Trek 2* is scheduled in Issaquah, WA, on January 22-23. "Paradoxically, they invite members to bring costumes," say reporters in *BCSFazine 235*.

OKTOBERTREK

Alex Cauthen-Zack pondered these antics in the December *Mark of the Beast*, the Baltimore clubzine, and commented about *Trek* actors' wary relationship with their fans. Reporting on Oktobertrek, he wrote:

"To the new *Trek* cast, doing the cons brings ambivalence. They obviously wish to remain well-liked and part of the show, but the weight of being an American icon is telling. Someday they hope to land other acting roles that don't involve wearing spandex, and you can smell the fear of a repeated John Lennon incident crawling up their necks. Oh, they're amiable, charming and usually show up on time, but watch them do the not-right-now two-step to avoid a sticky situation. The Next Gen cast must have group briefing sessions before they make the con circuit. I can just see the specialist in his or her round yuppie specs and

tweed blazer advising, 'OK, if they want to touch you, do a psychic hug or hand shake. Tell them, 'if I did this for you, I'd have to do it for everyone.' Don't under any circumstances divulge critical information like your hobbies, favorite color or preferred style of underwear -- you'll get 300 pairs of blue jockey briefs in the next batch of fan mail!

"Sometimes, the evasiveness of the actors and actresses seems silly, but fame is a two-edged sword and the various cast members handle it differently. I can't help feeling uncomfortable for the star when the third drooling person asks for a big kiss, or a fan obviously blurring the borders of reality asks Brent Spiner if a computer chip for emotions could be placed in his circuitry, or quizzes Gates McFadden if she and Jean-Luc are really having an affair."

VITAL STATISTICS

Sarah Bethany was born to parents Denice and Brian Earl Brown last October 25. At birth she weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz., and was 20 inches in length.

Gavriella Chava Levy Haskell was born to parents Fred and Susan Levy Haskell on December 20. Her birth weight was 6 lbs. 11.5 oz., and she was 19.5" long. The Minneapolis clubzine *Einblatt* quotes Fred as calling her, "A perfect angel, adorable, and like that."

The January issue of *Einblatt* also confirms sf writers Kara Dalkey and John Barnes have become engaged, and expect an August wedding.

DOWN UNDER FAN FUND

Dick and Leah Smith, Richard Brandt and Charlotte Proctor are standing for DUFF. The winner(s) will travel to Australia and attend the 1993 national sf convention in Perth on Easter weekend.

At last report the fund had only \$1600 on hand, much less than needed to pay for the trip, so fans' contributions are more important than ever. For a ballot with complete voting rules, send an SASE to Art Widner, P.O. Box 677, Gualala, CA 95445.



TRANS ATLANTIC FAN FUND

Four candidates for the Europe-to-North America leg of the TAFF trip are Michael Ashley, Tony Berry, Abigail Frost and Ashley Watkins. For a ballot with complete voting rules, send an SASE to Jeanne Bowman, P.O. Box 982, Glen Ellen, CA 95442-0982.

Candidate Abigail Frost phoned Dave Langford on November 16, he reports, "to suggest a hot news story headlined **I.R.A. ATTEMPTS TO BOMB TAFF CANDIDATE!** Apparently, after the failed bombing attempt at Canary Wharf the night before, the booby-trapped IRA getaway car was found parked close to the Frost flat in Bethnal Green....so, along with about three streets full of people, she was evacuated in the small hours of the morning. There was no explosion, unless you count Abigail's comments on being given 'the most horrible coffee I'd ever had.'"

By the way, North American TAFF Administrator Jeanne Bowman has launched a trial balloon suggesting TAFF assure a North America-to-Europe race will coincide with the Glasgow Worldcon in 1995 by having TAFF bring another European fan to North America for the Canadian Worldcon in 1994 and bump the next eastbound exchange into 1995.

CLARION WEST

Clarion West sponsors an annual six-week workshop in Seattle for 20 students, conducted by five pro writers and an editor. The workshop underwrites one full scholarship which is funded through auctions. The next one will take place at Potlatch II in Berkeley, CA, over the weekend of February 26-28. Donations of cash and auction items can be sent in care of Sheila Bostick, 731 Ellsworth Place, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

LIVING LEGENDS

Roy Lavender's seasonal letter said the Smithsonian Institute's John Cheng is pursuing the history of early science fiction fandom. Cheng has sent two questionnaires to First Fandom members. Lavender feels, "The wording implies he has no concept of what it meant to pay 50 cents for a magazine when \$1 was a good day's wages. Or what a sense of loneliness came with being a fan of literature you had to sneak home under your shirt." Lavender also chuckles, "His lists completely missed *Spicy Adventure Stories* (which had some pretty good SF) and *Spicy Spaceship Stories* (which didn't). That's the trouble with neos."

ATTENTION ROSS PAVLAC

Thyme 88 reports nominations are welcomed for the A. Bertram Chandler Memorial Award which recognizes contributions to the appreciation of Science Fiction in Australia whether by professional or fannish endeavors, carried out over a sustained period of time. The inaugural "Chandler" award was presented to Dr. Van Ikin at the 1992 Syncon. Send nominations to the Australian SF Foundation, P.O. Box 4024, University of Melbourne, VIC 3052 Australia.

TOLKIEN CENTENARY CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

The conference's beautiful, large-format souvenir book, is available from the Mythopoeic Society, P.O. Box 6707, Altadena, CA 91003. In it you'll find recollections of J.R.R. Tolkien by Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and the current President of Hungary, Arpad Goncz, brief histories of the two societies, a Tolkien family tree, biographical information and photos of guests, and brief descriptions of the various papers, talks, and panels.

THEY HAVE A LITTLE LIST

David Dyer-Bennet wants your help in assembling a list

of the classic novels of science fiction and fantasy, works which have appealed to people for a long time. That means long enough to be more than passing fads or fancies, long enough for society to change around the work -- or if you haven't grasped the idea yet, that means at least 10 years old.

Dyer-Bennet will circulate the first-generation list at Minicon 28. He'll host a kickoff meeting Friday night of the convention to discuss the project.

Begin by sending him your list of nominees rated from most suitable (+5) to least suitable (-5). If the idea of listing "classics" with minus scores seems a little odd, take it up with David. Mail your list so he receives it by April 1: Minicon 28/Classics List, P.O. Box 8297, Lake St. Station, Minneapolis MN 55408.

Fans at Minicon will have until midnight Friday to rank the works on the first-generation list and add others, all to be turned in by midnight. The process of generating refined lists, meeting and ranking will be repeated on Saturday, and the third-pass list will be published Sunday. The list will also be circulated electronically, and may appear in *Rune*.

FANDOM HAS WORLD CLASS ATHLETE?

"There's something you don't see everyday, Edgar." "What's that, Chauncey?" "A science fiction fan winning an international athletic competition!"

Melbourne fan Jodi Willis competed in the Paralympics at Barcelona last summer. She won a silver medal in the discus then won a gold medal and set a world record in the shotput for women with impaired vision. (Source: *Thyme 88*)

FANDOM HAS RATS!

Hollywood rats Mickey, Mighty, Jerry and Herman have announced plans to boycott the cuisine served at Chez NESFA, the luxurious science fiction clubhouse in Somerville, Massachusetts. *Instant Message 522* reports an east coast cousin dining there bit the dust, literally: "The rat poison bag was found to be chewed into and a few days later a dead rat was found in the driveway."

Citing a suspicious delay between the time of the poisoning and the discovery of the corpse, the Somerville medical examiner will investigate whether the death was actually due to acute boredom from overhearing a Boskone treasury report.

FANZINE CLIPPINGS

BRICKBATS BEYOND THE EVENT HORIZON

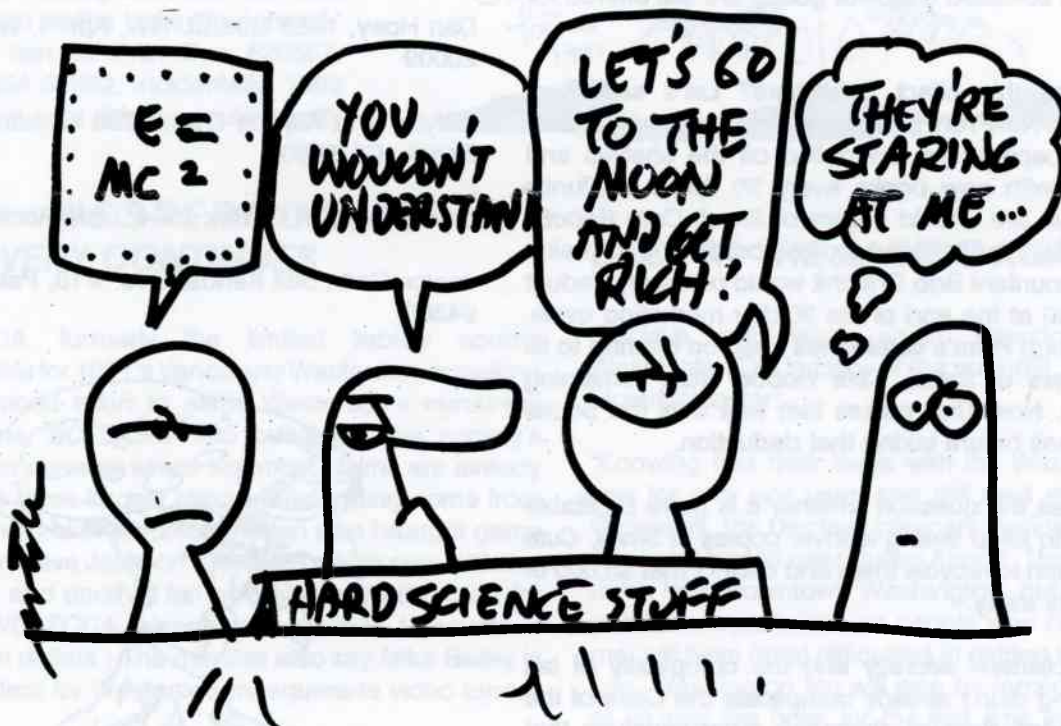
Excerpts from Evelyn Leeper's titanic MagiCon report in a recent issue of *Oasfis Event Horizon*, the Orlando clubzine, led to a palace revolution. Part of Evelyn's report knocked Andre Norton's award for women writers, presented at the Hugo ceremony. *Event Horizon's* editor Louise Kleba confessed she hadn't actually read the report, downloaded from Internet, before publication. She discovered her mistake when villagers arrived with torches and pitchforks to revenge this slur on hometown favorite Norton. The January *Event Horizon* headlined apologies from club officials, and a gratuitous personal attack on Evelyn Leeper by columnist Jerry Masters. Masters thinks, "future cons could do fandom a service and stop giving [Leeper]

'Press' credentials until she contributes something of genuine worth [to Science Fiction]." Yeah, heaven forbid anyone have an opinion different than Jerry Masters!

THOR POWER TOOLS

R. Graeme Cameron, editor of *BCSFazine*, and A.J. Austin-Hamler, departing editor of the *SFWA Forum*, recently investigated whether the *Thor Power Tools* tax court decision compelled publishers to slash their inventory of backlisted books. Coverage was just a paragraph in Cameron's clubzine but several pages in the *Forum*, yet neither succeeded in providing a concise description of *Thor Power Tools*. A lack of understanding about the court decision has handicapped writers' attempts to understand its impact.

Since publishers conduct their business as obscurely



and secretively as the highly public task of marketing books permits, it is not easy to prove what effect *Thor* had on publishers' sales of backlisted books from their inventory. Writers suspect their old books now go immediately back to the pulp mill, and attribute the suspected change to *Thor*, but no actual change was confirmed by editors anonymously questioned in the *Forum* claimed ignorance of any changes due to the court case.

Lacking direct information, writers try to infer how and why things changed in the marketplace from *Thor*'s changes to corporate taxation. Since most writers understand *Thor* even more poorly than they understand publishing, it's a real problem! Repeating one of writer's report, *BCSFazine* says, "Consequently, established writers who sell only marginally well earn profits for their publisher which are wiped out by taxes paid on backlist." The *SFWA Forum*'s minutes of their business meeting at Magicon likewise misleadingly suggest *Thor* established a tax on inventory, which it does not.

In basic accounting, manufacturers deduct the cost of a product when it is sold. Because products still in inventory may become obsolete (like CP/M computers) and worthless, there are various ways of writing off the cost of manufacturing the goods that can't be sold. Formerly, some companies deducted unrecovered production costs at the end of a "marketing cycle", arguing goods not sold by that time were practically worthless. The *Thor* decision denies this deduction when the so-called obsolete goods are still offered for sale.

How does this affect publishers? Let's say Flunt Editions of New York publishes four titles a month. Last month's paperbacks are pulled off the shelves and replaced with new books every 30 days. In Flunt's warehouse are unsold copies of *Small, Cute Robots*, just off sale. The leftover copies cost \$5,000 to make. Flunt accountant Bob Cratchit would ordinarily deduct the \$5,000 at the end of the 30-day marketing cycle, even though Flunt's catalog will keep on offering to fill mail orders of *Small, Cute Robots* from remaining inventory. Now *Thor* makes him wait until the books actually sell before taking that deduction.

Thor raises the question whether it is more profitable for Flunt to keep selling leftover copies of *Small, Cute Robots* than to recycle them and deduct that \$5,000 of costs right away.

As if publishers' secrecy and the complexity of tax accounting didn't already complicate the Case of the Disappearing Backlist, there are other variables that

could have an effect. Do publishers make significant money off backlisted books, or do they fill these orders essentially as a customer service? Has the cost of storage space become a problem? The current recession could be providing any number of motives for publishers to eliminate their backlists.

THRILLING DAYS OF YESTERYEAR

Having trouble remembering the last time you saw a letter of comment from a pro in a fannish zine? Maybe you missed Avram Davidson's letter of comment in William Danner's newest *Stefantasy*. Davidson recalls, "one of the very first responses to my administration as editor of F&SF. It came from either East Schnitundkepp or West Stoltzfuss, Pee Ay, and it began, 'Too often the purple cow has walked the yellow brick road up,' or lingo to that effect. I printed next to it a critical post card from a Chicago kid named Gary Gygax. I don't know what happened to Grossdawdy Kuchenfresser, but Gygax went on to invent Dungeons and Dragons."

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

AMSAN Regina Franchi, VX-5, Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, CA

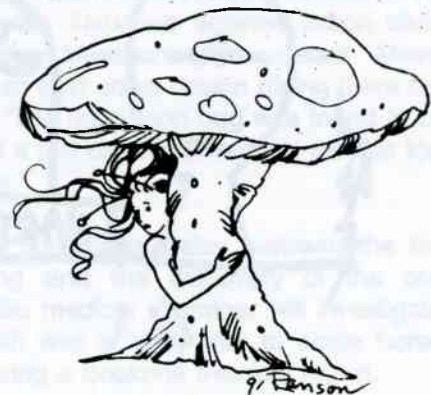
George S. Brickner, 150 South Crest Ave., Bartlett, IL 60103

Dan Hoey, 1525 Que St. NW, Apt. 4, Washington DC 20009

Dafydd and Allyson Dyar, 2290 Chestnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806

Sherry Boyd, P.O. Box 7554, Little Rock, AR 72217

Janice Gelb, 562 Kendall Ave. #18, Palo Alto, CA 94306



CONVENTIONAL REPORTAGE

JUST A MINUTE

After sending Australia in 1999 worldcon bid announcements to fans around the world, Eric Lindsay (in *Thyme 88*) comes off sounding like a Ross Perot clone backing away and saying, "Please note that we are *not* a bidding committee. We are a committee *advertising* a bid. As such, there is nothing in our material relating to the actual site (that is up to the bidding committee), nor can we ask for, or accept, presupporting memberships (only a bid committee can do that.)"

Well, anybody can *advertise* a bid. And does. A recent flyer said: "An Atlanta Worldcon Real Soon Now, The New Atlanta Worldcon Bid." Like that traveler in an antique land I looked around for the rest of the statue -- there was nothing but sand. Bill Ritch is identified as the bid's "figurehead." Contact him at P.O. Box 620567, Atlanta, GA 30362. Incidentally, 1999 is the next year Atlanta could legally bid for.

PORTRAIT OF A SUPERHERO LONG OVERDUE FOR RETIREMENT!

BURP.



1991 WESTERCON RECOVERY CONTINUES

WCSFCCA, formerly the limited liability society responsible for 1991's Vancouver Westercon, is making a determined effort to settle Westercon's remaining obligations. *BCFSAzine* 235 published the society's November minutes which say most claims are already paid. The three largest claims outstanding come from a customs broker (\$1,248), the fan who brought game publisher Steve Jackson to the con on his own initiative (\$1,200), and another fan who advanced the cash for renting WCSFCCA storage space (\$285). (Amounts in Canadian dollars.) The minutes also say Mike Bailey is filling orders for Westercon masquerade video tapes.

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN

Disclave will once again abandon downtown Washington DC in favor of the suburbs, reports Martin Morse Wooster:

"Knowing that their lease with the Washington Hilton was for only one year, and still mad at the Sheraton Greenbelt, the Disclave planners decided to move the con to a Marriott near Dulles Airport. This is not only 25 miles from downtown Washington, but nowhere near public transportation, so people who don't drive (like me) will have great difficulties in getting to and from the con. Washington fen will also be forced to get rooms at or near the hotel for the first time in years, as the

hotel is too far for an easy commute. Disclave will also have competition, as a huge mediafest centered around Forrest J Ackerman is scheduled to be held the very same weekend in suburban Virginia. The Disclave people I talked to weren't too worried about the competition, since they claim that the mediacon will charge twice as much money for admissions and cater to a different crowd than Disclave."

1994 BRITISH EASTERCON

Dave Langford writes: "In an attempt to deter the notorious 'petty pilfering' at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool (last time we had a con there, local sneak-thieves apparently joined in significant numbers), the 1994 British Eastercon, Sou'Wester, plans a policy of no at-the-door membership sales to unknown and anonymous people. Fans are advised to join in advance, even if only as a supporting member, or to bring a recognized ID like a passport or driving license. 'If someone cannot produce proof of identity, and is not personally known to any member of the committee or to some other fan personally known to the committee, in other words if they cannot produce a reasonable "sponsor" on the spot, then we shall have to decline (very reluctantly) to take their money or accept them for membership.' (*Progress Report 1*, 11/92) Those who think they may turn up 'unexpectedly' but don't want to buy a supporting membership are begged to give advance warning of the possibility by writing to Chris Bell at the con address: 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, Bristol, BS6 6SZ, England. H'mm."

THE TOLKIEN CENTENARY CONFERENCE

August 17-24, 1992

Report by Lynn Maudlin

I'll start by admitting I served on this committee for more than four years, but still -- what a great conference! The week-long, combined Mythopoeic Conference and Oxonmoot (annual con of Britain's Tolkien Society, always held in Oxford) included most of the best aspects of each.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of J.R.R. Tolkien's birth, fans came from all over the world: New Zealand, Russia, Poland, Finland, Germany, Italy, etc. Total attendance was around 400, big for a Mythcon and massive for an Oxonmoot. The Tolkien family participated enthusiastically, including Priscilla Tolkien (the late Professor's daughter) having all of us first-timers to tea at her home on Saturday. Due to sheer numbers this was managed in six staggered bus loads!

Most of us took the full room & board package and stayed at Keble College but others stayed at local B&B's, like the honeymooning John Rateliff and Janice Coulter. Others, among them most of the Eastern European fans, stayed in tents at a local campsite.

Christopher Tolkien, the Professor's youngest son and literary executor, kept us spellbound as he read unpublished material on Tuesday evening at Oxford's famous Sheldonian Theatre. He followed a performance of Donald Swann's "The Road Goes Ever On." Swann had been planning to perform himself, but his health is not good and had not improved sufficiently for him to appear; he was replaced by a vocal quintet and their performance, particularly of "Namarie" and "Bilbo's Last Song" was wonderful. I'm one of those individuals who finds Swann's music too reminiscent of the English Music Hall, but it was a glorious evening. The Tolkien Estate made a special gift to all the conference attendees of a cassette recording with J.R.R. Tolkien and Christopher Tolkien reading JRRT's "The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth," a special Centenary release from Grafton. Later in the conference we all received cards bearing Christopher's signature, as he didn't do an autograph session (most of the other guests did).

Tuesday through Friday there ran two and three streams of papers and panels, drawing heavily from the international community of Tolkien scholars as well as the people who knew and worked with or studied under J.R.R. Tolkien in Oxford. Everything Tom Shippey (an English professor at Leeds University) did was exciting, from filking in the room parties to theorizing on a connection between JRRT and T.H. White and Golding and Orwell (and a fifth writer whose name I don't recall because I couldn't stay through the whole paper and needed to be three other places at once!) David Bratman

observed that in the U.S. Tom Shippey would be a football coach, not an English professor!

Rayner Unwin shared his experiences with JRRT, from his memory of reading "The Hobbit" when he was just ten years old and helping his father decide whether to accept the book for publication (he said yes and received a shilling for his labor), to the challenge of actually getting "The Lord of the Rings" into print.

Thursday night we had a splendid formal banquet in the dining hall at Keble, joined by much of the Tolkien clan (I was seated with Simon Tolkien, Christopher's eldest son, and his lovely American wife, Tracy. This proved to be an unexpected delight). Priscilla Tolkien hosted a buffet luncheon Friday afternoon for all the conference attendees and Sunday morning there was

a memorial service in Keble College Chapel which, while brief, was very moving. Denis Bridoux sang "Namarie" a capella and the floral tributes to JRRT and his wife Edith were JRRT's heraldic designs for Beren and Luthien.

The conference offered tours to "Tolkien's Birmingham" and "Farmer Giles of Ham Country" on Friday and Saturday. Performances included a Middle Earth battle re-enactment at Shotover Park.

With Friday night's entertainments, held in a marquee (a big tent, to us Americans) the Oxonmoot portion of the event commenced. Oxonmoots focus less on scholarship than Mythcons, with just one or two papers offered, and focus more on games and entertainments, all well-lubricated by pints of ale and cider. Opening hours for local pubs and the college bar is critical information for the Oxonmoot attendee.

A masquerade was held Friday night. I did my part for American fandom: suffice it to say it was all done with mirrors and involved lots of black and silver, built off a Victorian corset. American Tolkien scholar Jane Chance, doing her bit to show we Yanks can down a pint as quick as anyone, rushed up to me and said, "Those aren't real!" and poked my considerable cleavage, jumped back and exclaimed, "My God! They are!" This was the only infraction of the look-but-don't-touch rule... There were wonderful entries but the curse of participating is that you only see people in the halls and not their presentation. I did, however, see TS members Angela Surtees and Catherine Thorn (or at least their legs) do the Marilyn Monroe version of a dragon -- all pink and creamy with short blonde hair! Where's Smaug when you need him?!

Especially memorable moments include Paul Nolan Hyde, Tolkien scholar and Mormon, demonstrating to the Brits that alcohol is an entirely unnecessary substance when it comes to behaving like a complete and charming fool. Perhaps it's simply that, what with British reserve, numerous pints are required to achieve the state PNH occupies naturally... It involved climbing The Dark Tower (absolutely essential you not be claustrophobic, or scared of the dark, as it was, pitch) and singing vowel songs. It defies description, so I don't.

I wondered, working on the committee for so long and having attended a few Inmoots, how the very different fan groups would interact, particularly the British and American contingents, being the two largest and the two I know best. I am very happy to report that the Brits were charming hosts, all of them (I don't know

how many pints were bought for me) and the committee bent over backwards to make everyone welcome and provide extra little touches. I never saw any nationalistic backbiting or heard snide comments about "those Yanks" or "those Brits" or "those Finns!" The conference attendees came willing to be pleased and were. Considering the great expense this conference represented for most of the people attending, not to mention the worst exchange rate since WWII, the conference was primed to get a lot of grumbling and complaints but there were hardly any.

I'll be digesting the TCC for a very long time to come; moments of sheer bliss well up and overwhelm me as I think about it. Just the memory of all these special friends I normally see for only a few days once a year at Mythcon, walking the streets of Oxford, laughing in the quad at night, drinking at The Eagle and Child and singing Diana Paxson's "The Baby and The Bird" there after closing ceremonies - it fills me with complete and utter delight. I didn't know fandom could be this good!



WHY I DON'T GO TO CREATION CONS

by Elizabeth Osborne

I was surprised to hear about the Creation Con boycott [in File 770.] This has been going on for more than a year now and this was the first time I heard about it outside Trek fandom. I was happy to see it, though, I think that more of fandom needs to hear about it.

Creation Cons have been disliked for a long time by some members of Star Trek fandom. The main complaint is that they treat the fans, especially the new ones, as cattle and use their cons to "rip off" the fans. Fan groups feel that they are as badly treated as well. The recent howling about exclusive contracts is only the most recent item in the bad treatment of fans.

To make a point, many actors, etc., have been charging for cons (fan or pro) for a long time now. I was a member of a con committee member in the early '80s trying to raise \$1,500.00 for one of the minor characters to come to our convention. Creation Cons, like any business, are run to give the fans as little as possible for as much money as they can get. Ticket prices are very high, often as much as \$30.00 per day. For this, a fan gets (starting at noon) a few hours of trivia contests, one video room showing old Trek episodes, sometimes a talk by someone who had a walk-on role in one of the films, a quick costume contest, a dealer's room with four or five dealers and a one-hour talk by the main guest with an autograph session. At one Creation Con the stars were only allowed to sign items for sale by the convention, 8 x 10 glossy black-and-white photos that probably cost \$1.00 to produce sold for \$5.00. Fans were forbidden to ask the guest to sign books or pictures that they brought in themselves.

[At Creation Cons] there is no art show, no con suite, no charity auction, no cheap hotel rates, no room parties, no Friday night programming and no support for the local fan group. Sunday has the exact same programming all day.

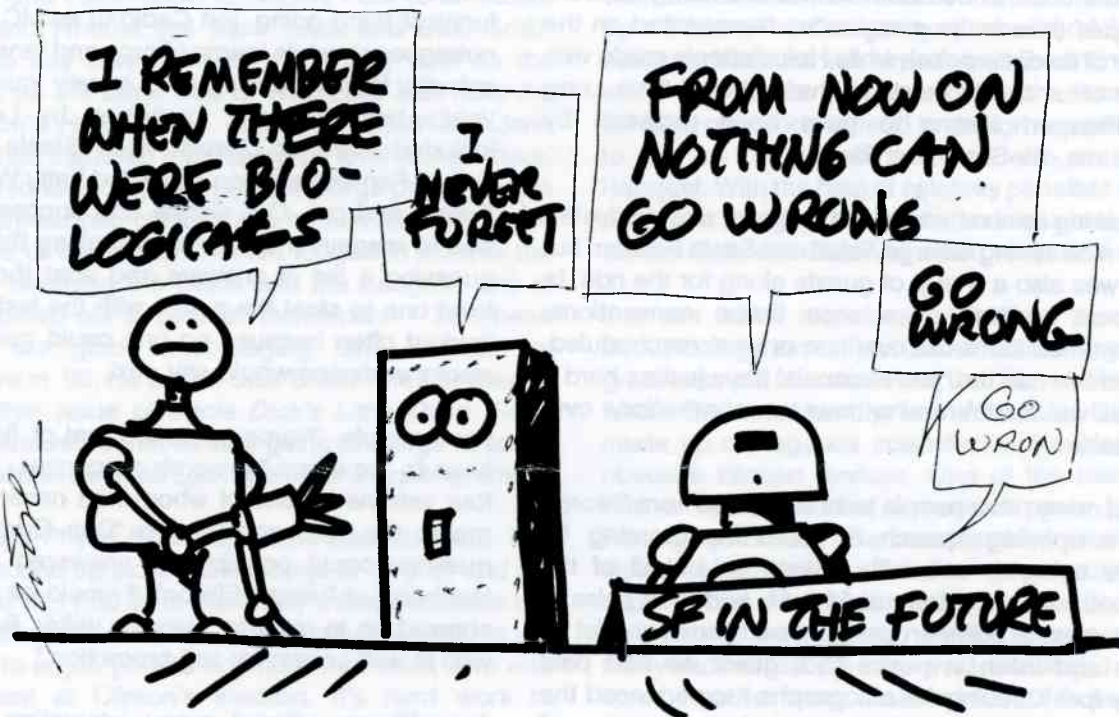
[Creation is] adding new ways to make fans cough up more money, like reserved seating in programming rooms, selling pictures with the fan and guest together and overselling tickets to their events. Many fans come away from such an event with the feeling that they have been had, especially those who have experienced fan-run conventions.

Many fans and fan groups are also concerned that

Creation Cons will cause neos to reject the entire idea of conventions and fandom. These neos don't know about fandom and its traditions, especially its convention traditions. It costs money to run a con suite, money that doesn't bring a big return on the investment. That's why the professional cons don't have one. It's expected on fan-run conventions, however, and it's a big expense for them. Fan-run conventions are outgrowths of fan parties or get-togethers of fans and pros, with everyone kicking in to help pay for the hotel, etc. Pro cons are only after money and they see no reason to help with the growth and support of fandom or fannish traditions. The main reason that fan groups put on cons (at least most local and medium-sized cons) is to have a good time and to gain new members. If the con breaks even, that's good (if it makes money, that's good too, but that's usually not the main idea.)

[Creation Con's] poor treatment of fans is continued in their treatment of fan groups. Creation Con will hire temporary mundanes to work the tables, etc. Often these people have no idea what fandom is and nothing about "all the strange people" that they are going to meet. They get no training or information on who they have to deal with. Other times, a local club is contacted to act as cashiers and security. In return, the convention might pay for a hotel room so that the 15 members of the club will have crash space, or arrange a 15-minute meeting with the guest star. The group may be pressured to work for nothing more than free membership in order to "Gosh wow!" work in a "real" convention. Fan groups are rarely given a room to hold a meeting (unless they pay for it) or to provide programming about the club.

At some conventions, there is no place to set out flyers, do recruitment or advertise other fan-run conventions. Often this is explained as "rescheduling due to unforeseen problems" but it is strange how many times this means that they end up on the same weekend or the weekend *before* other conventions. I know of two times where fan-run cons had to work against a Creation Con that was suddenly moved to a new date on the same weekend or weekend before their conventions. Tracycon, a fan-run Star Trek con in Orlando in 1992 had to deal with a Creation Con "rescheduled" to the same weekend in Miami. A few years ago in Tampa, a *science fiction* convention had to deal with the sudden appearance of a Creation Con



moved to the same weekend in the same city. The people who are supporting this boycott feel that the Creation Con Inc. is not only trying to destroy fan-run Star Trek cons but also the fan-run science fiction conventions and replace them with their own money-making conventions.

Many of the activities have been rumored to be taking place for years. The recent fuss about the attempt to sign exclusive contracts with the actors has set off a long-burning fuse with the fans. Fan groups from Orlando to Montreal have all discussed the boycott and while none of the clubs, including Starfleet, have officially supported the boycott, many of their members do. These groups are willing to hear both sides of the story. The Montreal group wrote a letter to Creation Con and printed their reply in their newsletter *The Communique*, the magazine for the Star Trek group Starfleet has a letter defending professional conventions. Most groups are trying to be even handed about this which is as it should be. But fans who think that Creation Cons provide a poor service should treat it like any business that treats them poorly, they should go elsewhere and tell their friends to go elsewhere, too.

HOLODICTION

Report by Edwina Harvey, excerpted from *Ethel the Aardvark* 44

The venue was the Gazebo Hotel. Its official address is Elizabeth Bay [Sydney, Australia]. Unofficially, it's King's Cross. While the convention facilities were good (all the function rooms on one floor) the area surrounding the hotel wasn't exactly salubrious. Sooner or later the ones who didn't fit the 'rich and beautiful' category of fan were forced outside to eat. Well, cheap eats such as McDonalds and Kentucky Fried Chicken were only about a block away. Getting there wasn't so much of a challenge during daylight, but after dark (or 5:30 p.m. in May) one was a candidate for the spruikers of the sex shows operating in the strip between the hotel and the eateries. It was the first time I have been in a group of fans accosted by a bouncer shouting, "Hey, Trekkies, come upstairs and we'll have Mr. Spock get it up for you!" and I hope it will be my last.

It was an unfortunate coincidence that a tourist was murdered in that same block a few hours later on Saturday night, but it makes you wonder about the desirability of the convention location, especially since a number of young children were also at the convention. Being treated like a third class citizen while paying for a first class ticket is also an experience I don't care to repeat.

Star Trek used to be about individuals being *different* but *equal* (hence the many races represented on the bridge of the *Enterprise*), while Holodiction's credo was "some of us are more equal than others." "Live Long and Prosper" seems to have been replaced by "Consume, Be Silent and Die."

...Speaking as an attendee the program was lackluster. It was nice seeing George Takei and Suzie Plaxton, but there was also a lineup of guests along for the ride. In the best tradition of science fiction conventions, programmed items ran overtime or were rescheduled. Nice to see that the "professionals" have just as hard a time as we amateurs who have run conventions over the years.

...I and many other people were distracted from George Takei's opening speech on Saturday morning by people trying to sell raffle tickets on behalf of the convention. Surely they could have had their sales in other areas, or between programmed items, and let us watch and listen in peace to a guest we had paid dearly for? Queuing for autographs I experienced the added "joy" of being yelled at by helpers keen to sell convention chocolates, as well as jostled by others transporting props into the main room for the banquet. Cattle being freighted to market would probably have been shown more respect.

ARMADILLOCON

(October 9-11, 1992)

Report by Mike Glycer

Armadillocon is my favorite convention because I feel encouraged by its ambiance to talk to a lot of people, so the personal contacts that are the essential joy of attending any con are most abundant there. Gone is the stratification of pros and fans, and of gamers, dealers and con organizers, that I experience everywhere else. Not just Texans, but fans I see all year long are more friendly and receptive.

Even the ordinary lapses in programming that embarrass other conventions seem enjoyable when they happen at Armadillocon. I was assigned to a midnight panel with Ginjer Buchanan and Robert Reed. In fact, we were the only ones in the room: scheduled simultaneously was "Sex and Relationships at Cons." All the laughter made it clear where everyone had gone at that hour, and it didn't come as any surprise. Reed, a "Writers of the Future" winner from Nebraska with several stories in print, and Buchanan and I stayed and had a pretty good conversation totally off the subject, eventually joined by half a dozen fans.

Honestly, I would forgive any gaffe because they

included me on the Fannish Family Feud panel. It's the funniest thing going. Pat Cadigan as MC camps it up outrageously while teams of pros and fans wrestle with eclectic fannish answers to survey questions. This year's team of pros, captained by Lewis Shiner, included Gardner Dozois, Allen Steele and Darrell Sweet. Fan captain Ben Yalow led Patty Wells, Richard Brandt and me. Our simple and successful strategy was to maneuver the pros into taking the first turn at guessing a list of answers and after they missed at least one to steal the points with the last guess. This worked often because no one could guess what the wacky audience would say next.

For example, "Name someone real or fictional who's been to the moon," drew six responses, among them four astronauts one of whom had never been to the moon; the sixth answer was "Dan Quayle." But if a question could possibly be answered with "L. Ron Hubbard" or "Harlan Ellison", it would be. Both names showed up in reply to "Name a writer, living or dead, who is well known for self-promotion."

Armadillocon offered many interesting panels. My favorite was "Who Dun It vs. How Dun It?", with Barbara Hambly, George Alec Effinger, Walter Jon Williams, Beth Meacham and Scott Cupp discussing science fiction mystery stories. A great many perceptive comments were made about the stories that encompass both genres. Best was an observation about how difficult it is to satisfy the readers of both genres with such stories because each genre involves embedded assumptions (so many that people must actually learn *how* to read mysteries or science fiction) and precedents (for example, after H.G. Wells no one can impress readers simply by conceiving the idea time travel.) Audience member Tappan King suggested the reason there are so few science fiction/mystery short stories is that the word budget almost doesn't permit a writer to succeed in all three component tasks: sf world-building, mystery structuring and narrating the actual story.

WINDYCON XIX

November 6-8, 1993

Report by Mike Glycer

Maybe I can't tell you a lot about the main program of Windycon, but I sure loved the extracurricular activities. One panel I did was the misnomered "What Happening To Fandom?" featuring Rick Foss (co-Fan GoH with his twin brother Wolf), Ross Pavlac, Pat Beese, Joni Stopa and Becky Thomson.

I sure did love what turned out to be an eight hour dead dog celebration. Ross Pavlac drove Barbara

Hambly and I downtown to Rogers Park to an Indian restaurant. When I got back Leah and Dick Smith called to say they were on their way over to the Marriott, on the other side of Woodfield Mall from the Windycon's Hyatt venue. Leah said Scott and Jane Dennis had captured the Concierge level lounge there. We arrived to find the Marriott concierge plying people with fresh-warmed cookies and homemade ice cream. A couple of businessmen were lodged in front of the color tv watching the Bears and the Bengals, one of whom turned out to be Joe Fleischmann -- he's been trotting the globe encouraging fans to vote for Baltimore in '98. He asked Dick Smith whether there'd be another issue of *Uncle Dick's Little Thing*. Scott Dennis answered that he was going to merge fanzines with Smith to become *Dick and Jane's Fighting Smofs*.

Alexis and Phyllis Eisenstein were also on hand. Our group wound up closing the lounge at 11 p.m. and the hotel bar at 11:30 p.m. We finally threw ourselves out of the lobby around 2 a.m. when everyone became too groggy to argue politics anymore with Scott who was triumphant at Clinton's election. It's hard work to sustain an argument about whether it's a great idea or just an okay idea that somebody you all voted for won.

LOSCON 19

Thanksgiving Weekend 1992
Report by Mike Glyer

Because I was Fan Guest of Honor at Loscon I broke years-old habits of attending conventions and had so much fun I don't plan on returning to the old ways.

Friday night I threw a File 770 15th Birthday Party. Lots of you throw parties, but I've been running bidding parties for so many years it surprised me to discover there was so much difference between them and a private party. I could do whatever I wanted. I could serve alcohol -- three kinds of sparkling wine bought at Trader Joe's and ranging in price from \$2.99 to \$7.99. I gave away my fanzine. With no bid spiel to repeat I was available to have these *long* conversations with Dave Hartwell, Kelly and Laura Freas and even Elst Weinstein. In fact, Kelly and Elst spent some time deciphering the label on the cheapest bottle of wine, named in Spanish "The Widow's Insurance."

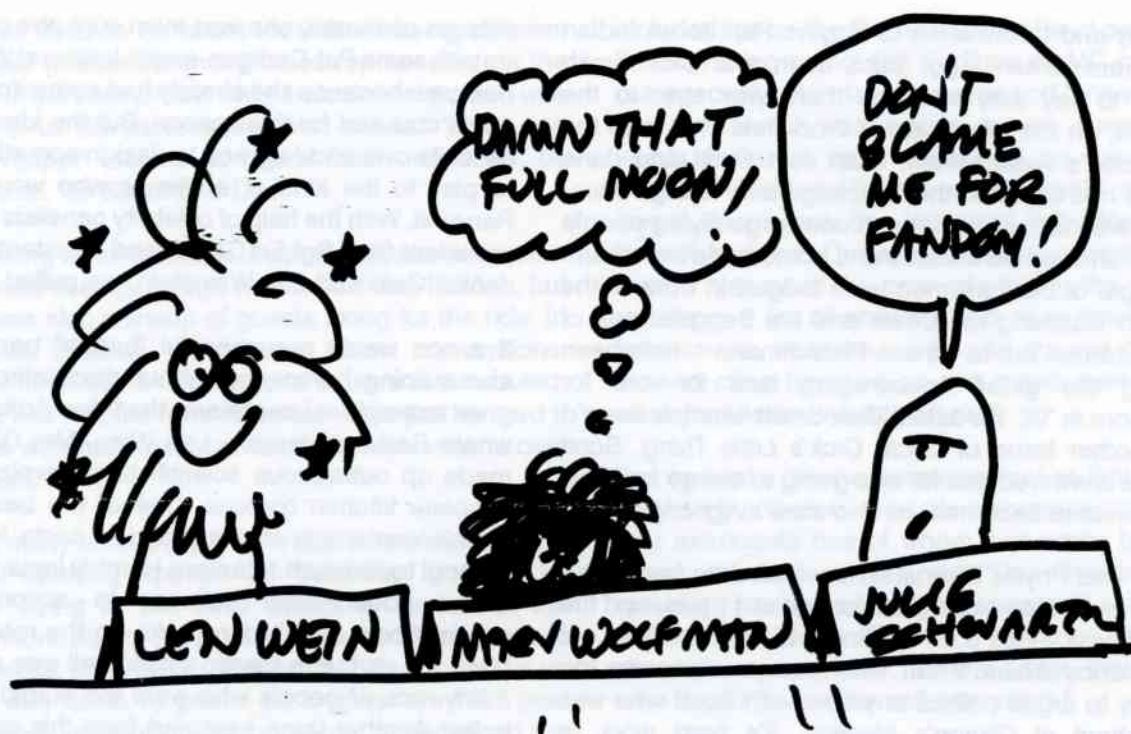
The strangest thing I got to do as fan GoH was host a quiz show, *Brain the Size of a Planet*. Originally I persuaded Rick Foss, the program organizer, it would be great to transplant the Fannish Family Feud from Armadillocon but for it to succeed we needed an outrageous emcee. We were at dinner with Barbara Hambly during planning our participation in Loscon at the time, and Barbara promptly volunteered. As a

veteran costumer, she was even sure she could come up with some Pat-Cadigan-esque leathers! Well, maybe next year because she already had commitments in the same time slot for this Loscon. But the idea took on a life of its own and I agreed to design something similar to play to the kind of audience who would enjoy a *Ranquet*. With the help of celebrity panelists like LASFS president Staff Sgt Ed Green, and assistant producers Janice Gelb and Elst Weinstein, we pulled it off.

If a con wants a successful "humor" panel make it about doing humor, not about discussing humor. A great example at Loscon was the "Alien Artifacts Panel", where Barbara Hambly, Len Wien, Mel Gilden and I made up outrageous scientific explanations for obsolete kitchen devices. One of the best was Len Wien's contention that a wooden pasta fork was "a Ferengi toothbrush." Barbara Hambly instantly devised stories about alien cultures to accompany her explanations. Mel Gilden broke up the room trying to convince us that a plastic whiffle ball was a prison for a tiny race of people who were too stupid to find the holes. Another thing I learned from this panel is how much self-discipline participants require not to identify every strange object that's longer than it is wide as "an alien vibrator."

I was also on the standard "history of fanzines" panel which had an above-standard introduction, twenty minutes of delightful anecdotes by Julie Schwartz who really wanted to be next door listening to agent Ricia Mainhardt but didn't want the audience to feel cheated if he left! Before the panel ended it inevitably turned to discuss electronic fanzines. My feeling is that if computer networks were a natural environment for fanzines we wouldn't still be waiting for someone to invent a GIF file that reads "This Space Intentionally Left Blank." During this panel Jeff Swycaffer provided the quote of the con: "Any technology distinguishable from magic is insufficiently advanced."

Loscon programming for the past several years has either been organized by me, by Rick Foss, or by the two of us as a team, and we pursued a great deal of innovation to transform the convention's lethargic image. We did, in fact, introduce many elements new to Loscon that came from other successful cons, or we had enjoyed at non-sf events, or simply leaped full-grown from Rick's imagination. An example of the latter are those panel discussions of controversial moral and political ideas (beyond ordinary sf fare like "First Contact" and space activism) by well-known sf personalities, now a staple at Worldcons -- they were Rick's innovation. It might surprise people to realize there was ever a time when these kinds of topics were



not prevalent at conventions but it wasn't that long ago.

This year Rick Foss' efforts were rewarded with compliments -- which I thought they should have been in the other years, too, but this time Loscon attendees greeted the program with enthusiasm. What was different? For one thing, co-chair Shaun Lyon spent a lot of time before the con being publicly and genuinely enthusiastic about the evolving program. Shaun's attitude conveyed that people would find a con worth their passion, in contrast to past chairs' projections of cool, competent Loscons, or excuse-me Loscons. Another thing is the bumper crop of new television sf series gave rise to some Loscon media events, showing pilot episodes of *Babylon 5* and *Doorways*. A third thing is the Loscon took to heart the importance of funding GoH slots for several talented guests from other parts of the country, Dave Hartwell and Don Maitz, and with Don came Janny Wurts who is also excellent on programs. Fourth, despite 10 years of critiquing the weakness of Loscon publicity this year's committee is the first to actually take it to heart: Loscon had its best publicity ever. Fifth, fans in several cities within 500 miles of L.A. attended to promote new local conventions and sell memberships, in particular Con-Dor (San Diego) and Silvercon (Las Vegas), giving Loscon an always-desired but seldom-achieved cosmopolitan air.

Sixth, whether the LAX Marriott was aggravating for the committee to deal with on-site, it was the best facility Loscon has ever been in. Loscon finally found the kind

of facility it sought when it abandoned the Pasadena Hilton. (Naturally, the con has already picked another site for 1993.) Program, art show and exhibit functions had space to breathe. There were also plenty of mid-sized rooms on the main floor for gamers and filkers and other interest groups to use, bringing them into the mainstream instead of disdaining their attendance.

My own special interest in convention programming was stimulated by hearing the first kind words about Loscon since Craig Miller almost got Daniel Pinkwater to attend and actually did get Bradbury, Ellison and Brin to a reception/program for Julie Schwartz the year Julie came back to conventions. The major difference between people who attend Loscon and those attending Windycon or Armadillocon is not their desire to be entertained, or even what entertains them, but their lack of exposure to the full range of sf personalities who deliver great audience enjoyment. People's anticipation that they will be entertained influences what they attend at cons and makes them receptive to a good time, provided one is actually delivered, of course. From tv and Loscon's long association with Joe Straczynski people knew enough about *Babylon 5* to expect his presentation would be worthwhile. Likewise they know to expect good things from local writers like a Barbara Hambly or David Gerrold.

I think for the committee to tell fans how terrific Barry B. Longyear and Mike Resnick are (two recent Loscon GoHs) doesn't lay enough groundwork. A consumer

expects the seller to hawk his wares. But if there is good word of mouth, too, that builds anticipation. Southern California is too distant from the voices of experience in other parts of fandom, only a handful of fans living here saw Resnick emcee Nolacon or watched Longyear's GoH speech at Windycon. So the first time around such pros attract a core of interested listeners who have read their work, or are adventurous, or maybe even believed what the committee said, rather than the wide-spectrum-audience of people who carve out part of their day to attend such known quantities as the annual Tesla Coil Demonstration and the panels of Star Trek novelists. If Loscon had Windycon's resources to return talented guests for several years we could build a following for some of these people here, too, and everyone would benefit.

Ultimately, successful convention design depends identifying what that fans are especially interested in at the moment, and letting them know that's what you are delivering. Of course a lot of theories are this simple, it's the engineering that's complicated!

CONVENTION FANDOM REVIVES IN SAN DIEGO

Con-Dor #1 will be held March 5-7, 1993, at the Town & Country in San Diego, with Octavia Butler and J. Michael Straczynski as its honored guests. (The Town & Country was also the 1986 Westercon venue.)

According to Susan McDonald, "in addition to panels on literary and media SF, fantasy and art, we will have activities such as filking, gaming, costuming, Regency dancing, contemporary social dancing, an art show, a dealers room, video rooms and parties." Memberships are \$25 until February 15, 1993, and \$30 at the door. The hotel rates are \$69 single/double. Contact: Con-Dor, P.O. Box 15771, San Diego, CA 92175.

RECENTLY RECEIVED CON INFO

Gallifrey One 4, (February 26-28, 1993) Airport Hilton, Burbank CA. GoH: John Levene. TM: Larry Stewart. Memberships: \$40 until February 1, \$45 thereafter. Contact address: P.O. Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609.

Concave 14, (February 26-28, 1993) Park Mammoth Resort, Park City, KY. GoH: Margaret Keifer. Rooms: \$28 sgl, \$38 dbl. Hotel contact number: (502) 749-4101. Memberships: \$15 until February 5, \$20 thereafter. Buffet: \$10. Contact address: Concave, P.O. Box 3221, Kingsport, TN 37664.

Wiscon 17, (March 5-7, 1993), Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI. GoHs: Lois McMaster Bujold, Kristine Kathryn Rusch. Second Annual James Tiptree Jr. Memorial Award Ceremony. Hotel contact number: (608) 257-6000. Memberships: \$18 until February 22, \$30 at the door. Contact address: Wiscon 17, P.O. Box 1624, Madison, WI 53701-1624.

Norwescon 16, (March 25-28, 1993) Bellevue Red Lion, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Betty Ballantine. Special GoH: Anne McCaffrey (by phone). Artist GoH: Janny Wurts. Fan GoH: Jane Hawkins. Volunteer GoH: Teresa Janssen. TM: Bonnie Baker. Science GoH: Chris Janientz Trisler. Memberships: \$35 until March 1, \$40 thereafter. Contact address: NWSFS, P.O. Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124.

Minicon 28, (April 9-11, 1993) Radisson Hotel South, Bloomington MN. Editor GoH: Susan Allison. Author GoHs: Peter Morwood, Diane Duane. Bless His Sweet Heart GoH: Don Fitch. Interesting Person GoH: John M. Ford. Artist GoH: TBA. Memberships: \$20 until February 28, \$50 at the door. Contact address: .

Amigocon 8, (April 16-18, 1993) Holiday Inn Sunland Park, El Paso, TX. Author GoH: Walter Jon Williams. Artist GoH: Teddy Harvia. Very Special Amigo: Thorarinn Gunnarsson. Memberships: \$15 until April 9, \$18 at the door. Contact address: AmigoCon, P.O. Box 3177, El Paso, TX 79923

Kubla Khan 21, (May 14-16, 1993) Ramada Inn South, Nashville TN. GoH: Allen Steele. MC: Andrew J. Offutt. Special guest: Charles L. Fontenay. Fan GoHs: Dan Caldwell, John Hollis. Rooms: \$45. Hotel contact number: (615) 834-5000; ask for Pat Bailey, mention Kubla. Memberships: \$20 until April 15, \$30 at the door. Banquet: \$17. Contact address: Khen Moore, 647 Devon Dr., Nashville TN 37220.

Westercon 46, (July 2-5, 1993), Bellevue Red Lion, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Greg Bear. Artist GoH: George Barr. Fan GoHs: F.M. and Elinor Busby, Wally Weber and Wally Gonser. TM: George Alec Effinger. Memberships: last quoted at \$40. Contact address: SWOC, P.O. Box 24292, Seattle, WA 98124.

Loscon 20, (November 26-28, 1993) Burbank Airport Hilton, Burbank CA. Pro GoH: Roger Zelazny. Fan GoH: Paul Turner. Rooms: \$72 sgl/dbl, \$79 tpl/quadruple. Memberships: \$25. Dealers tables \$60. Contact address: LASFS, 11513 Burbank Bl., North Hollywood, CA 91601.

FAN MAIL



FLASHBACK TO THE 95TH ISSUE

SHERYL BIRKHEAD: Um...er...dare I mention that this ish has a different (more fannish) look to it? Just in case I shouldn't I'll quit while I'm ahead (or at least not too far behind.)

ELIZABETH OSBORNE: I was sorry to hear about Walter Breen, but not surprised. Sex offenders are usually treated badly by other inmates. Local and county jails are well known for their lack of security and poor medical service. As someone who worked for the Florida Department of Corrections, I heard all the horror stories. Walter Breen could be placed in either a special medical institution of protective confinement. Of course, due to his age, he may be placed in what we call a "retirement camp." At Santa Rita, he should be getting better care and treatment for his injuries.

LYNN MAUDLIN: How scary to read about Larry Niven's Advil-induced bleeding, particularly after traveling in France with Ellie Farrell this August and watching her take three Advil, every four hours, for tooth pain. Her doctor recommended the dosage, but

still - I don't know how to say "ulcer" and "bleeding to death" in French! I'm thankful that all three of these creative, stimulating individuals are recovering.

RIOT STUFF: Nice to hear good stuff about Rutger Hauer from Ed Green; I guess the Sgt. wasn't among the National Guard using either 20th Century Fox or the MGM Studios lot as staging areas. Mr. Oboe, my beloved, had recording sessions at Fox on Thursday and both Saturday and Sunday at MGM. Possibly his favorite moment of terror was taking a walk through the backlot during the lunch break on Saturday and being told, "The Guardsmen don't want to accidentally kill any musicians, so please stay in the soundstage..." Snipers on the roof, yipes.

GLASGOW STUFF: I saw Sue Dawe carry The Portfolio From Hell from San Diego to Oxford, England (via all sorts of interesting places in between) where she displayed in the Tolkien Conference's very nice art show and while she earned some nifty bruises hauling that puppy around, she did avoid the air freight and insurance problems Chris Croughton cited re: the '95 Worldcon in Glasgow. It can be done.

MAGICON REPORT

RON SALOMON: This currently non-con-goer really appreciated the Magicon report. Geez, Glycer, thanks a lot! Now I feel even worse about not having the money to get there. But, seriousness, thanks much for putting in print the ambiance and niceness which musta been evident. Because you say it was.

LLOYD PENNEY: The mini golf course was a lot of fun. It also gave the assorted fannish brats on hand something to destroy while Mum and Dad were off smoffing somewhere. I hadn't heard of any bounty on brat skins during the con, but if one had been posted, I would have made a few buck on the venture. The exhibits get better each year, but as I've commented a few times by now, some pictures in the Canadian Fandom exhibit should be updated. I've seen the same pictures several years running, and a few fans in the pictures are long gafiated.

The Fanzine Lounge was my favorite part of the Worldcon because it finally gave me the chance to meet many of the folks I'd been corresponding with these past five years. Got along famously with the Katzes, Walt Willis likes my locs, had my name (via the badge) recognized by some folks as I sat and silped my Nuclear Fizz...a goodly dose of egoboo. I needed some lead weights in my shoes after spending some hours in that room. ConFrancisco, Conadian and Intersection, please do exactly the same kind of room!

It was great! Overall, very much a feelgood convention, the kind of project fandom could easily produce if only they would leave politics and egos in their other suits.

DAVE LANGFORD: Hope you had a good Worldcon, if you went. I'm waiting to hear all about it from Martin Hoare, who's flying back today. He rang from a party in Florida to say, "Crackle crackle bleep British double belch fade click Hugo crackle crackle Glasgow whirr click can't afford to talk to you any longer, Dave!" Gosh wow.

JERRY KAUFMAN: Stu has been wandering around the house, upstairs and down, for weeks, saying "Bring back Nicki Lynch!" He was very charmed to red about saying it at Worldcon in your usually accurate and always interesting annual con report. Too bad, he says, that he wasn't at Worldcon this year to have actually said it.

[[Yes, my not-especially-photographic memory failed when I tried to remember a month after the fact who was sitting around me during the Hugos. The IRS treated me to three weeks in Atlanta after the Worldcon, so I was that much later in transforming my convention notes into a narrative report.]]

FLASHBACK ON FILE 770:94

LLOYD PENNEY: Reading out loud the article about what Pearl Stickler found on ST:TNG made a lot of people laugh. I also heard that the red nameplates you see on the sliding doors on the Enterprise D are full of in-jokes. Two of the name plates reportedly mark the living quarters of Lt. Comm. Luke Skywalker and Lt. Comm. Han Solo. Also, in Engineering are five instructions on how to fire up the warp engines: "1. You don't dug on Superman's cape. 2. You don't spit into the wind. 3. You don't pull the mask off the ol' Lone Ranger. 4. And you don't mess around with Jim. 5. Close cover before striking."

Who's responsible for all the in-studio silliness? Mike Okuda and Rick Sternbach, the graphics and effects team.

A damnable same about Joe Schuster. The big daily paper here, *The Toronto Star*, celebrated its 100th birthday this past year and part of its celebration was an intention to bring Schuster to Toronto where he was indeed born. When Schuster invented Superman, he modeled Metropolis on Toronto, and the *Daily Star* (as it was known then) became the *Daily Planet*.

John Hertz mentions the Westercon 45 masquerade, and also mentions awards going to a recreated

costume from ST:TNG. This seems to have become an accepted part of costuming these days, which is very different from the time when Yvonne and I, with a couple of friends won a couple of awards for the Royal Canadian Mounted Starfleet at the Chicon IV masquerade in 1982. It's taken folks like Barbara Schofield and Marty Gear to prove to costumers that making an exact duplicate of a costume seen in a movie or tv show takes a lot of skill, as much as it takes to design an original costume.

SKEL: I was glad to read the report 'LASFS Copes with LA Riots', as one of our first reactions upon hearing the news (immediately after worrying about the safety of our friends there) was "I wonder if the LASFS clubhouse is okay?" We reassured ourselves though with the thought that secondhand sf paperbacks were not likely to be assigned a high priority on the looters' lists.

Asimov was the first sf writer whose death I heard of first from mundane rather than fanish sources, a full-page obituary being run in the national daily newspaper, and even though I appreciated intellectually that Asimov was 'famous', it was still a shock to see it there. It reminded me how we compartmentalize our lives. Asimov 'belonged' in the private 'after work' area of my life, where I relaxed and let my hair down, yet here I was reading it in the office, in a mass-circulation newspaper. In a way it was very similar to the time when, popping out of the office in central Manchester where I worked, I walked right past my brother on the sidewalk and failed to recognize him because I only ever saw him locally and socially, and here I was miles from home and 'at work'. My own fucking brother and I walked right past him! Compartmentalization.

AVID OVER AVEDON

JOSEPH NICHOLAS: My attention was particularly caught by Avedon Carol's harangue about the complaints that non-North Americans make about supposed North American domination of the Worldcon, and in particular by her statement that non-North Americans opposed a previous proposal by North Americans to include non-North American bids in a revised four-year rotation system for organizing the Worldcon "on the grounds that they couldn't be sure to work up bids on such a frequent schedule." This was one of the two arguments advanced against the proposal, and it is undeniable inasmuch as the smaller size of non-North American fandoms (note the plural) makes it difficult to guarantee that there will always be a bid every fourth year (the 1990 Dutch Worldcon, for example, was actually run largely by British volunteers

because there weren't enough Dutch fans to do the work); but it is much the lesser of the two arguments.

The principal argument against the proposal was (and remains) *political* rather than *organizational*: that is, that including non-North American bids in the fourth year of a four-year rotation system effectively implies that North America constitutes three-fourths of the world. Those who complain about North American domination of the Worldcon were in my view entirely justified in rejecting the proposal, which would have enshrined that domination as part of the Worldcon constitution.

I should add at this point that we don't particularly care who organizes the Worldcon, since from our point of view it's just another convention and we hardly go to those anymore -- unless, as with the 1988 Corflu in Seattle, the 1989 Eastercon in Jersey, the 1990 Corflu in New York, and the 1990 Worldcon in Holland, they provide opportunities for foreign travel. I daresay that if Glasgow wins the bid for the 1995 Worldcon and we're still in the UK in August 1995 we'll probably go to it because it will be within relatively easy reach. But then we'd probably use it as just an excuse to visit Glasgow, Edinburgh, the Firth of Clyde, the Isle of Skye...

GLENN GLAZER: I read Avedon Carol's second letter with some interest. I can fully understand the frustration involved with people sniping at 'the Americans' and yet not willing to be proactive on their own, using the sniping as a substitute for having to actually get off their butts and do something. However, I think Avedon has missed the terrible irony her words. If the behavior she has described on the part of 'the Brits' is wrong because they are stereotyping Americans, Avedon herself is stereotyping Brits when she calls bigotry 'the national sport here.' Now, I am not accusing Avedon of being a hypocrite, the trap here is subtle and easy to miss. What I am trying to do is raise some awareness that when we react to injustices we must not descend to the tactics of those we are criticizing or we become our own enemy in the instant that we speak.

MARC ORTLIEB: While I appreciate Avedon's loyalty to her country, please allow me one minor correction. She says that *no serious bid from outside North America has ever been beaten by a North American bid*. That's not quite true. The Australia in '83 bid was perfectly serious and we were beaten by Baltimore. True, Melbourne got '85 as a consolation prize, but Australian fandom was united behind the Sydney bid for '83.

LATE ARRIVALS ON FILE 770:93

TEDDY HARVIA: Great cartoon by Bill Rotsler on the

mental process of coming up with your fanzine name. Whatever the name, it's you!

ALEXIS GILLILAND: Thought you should know that Kelly Freas' article on *Mad's* Bill Gaines was absolutely splendid. A wonderful article.

TEDDY HARVIA: Mike Glicksohn is breaking fannish tradition, not by falling in love (fans do that all the time) but by publicly announcing that writing love letters precludes continued loc writing. Trufans are supposed to quietly gafiate, leaving fandom to wonder what happened to them.

MARC ORTLIEB: Thanks for the comment on my gafiation. Okay, it ain't *quite* so. I'm still going along to the Melbourne Friday night eating crew and I've even produced a couple of ANZAPazines recently. Hell. Now that I think of it, I've written a couple of LoC's in the past couple of months. It's just that it feels like gafiation. I'm not producing a regular fanzine; Cath and I only attend the infrequent Melbourne convention and the new wave of Melbourne fandom thinks I've been around as long as John Foyster. So, as befits my status as one who's watched at least three generations of Australia's angry young fen come and go, I'm slowing down. I blame Michael, aged three-and-a-half, and the pressure of work. Cath reckons it's got more to do with my turning forty and Justin Ackroyd, who's no spring chicken himself, gave me a copy of the game *Mid-Life Crisis* for my birthday. Bastard!!

HARRY ANDRUSCHAK: Aren't you glad that Zagreb did not win the 1993 Worldcon? Can you imagine the army going through the convention hotel and indulging in a little "ethnic cleansing"?

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