FIRST FANDOM

REPORT



THE DINOSAUR'S HOME JOURNAL

BEAM BECOMES PREXY

SCHULZINGER TO BE SEC-TREAS

BECK AND KYLE CAPTURE VICE

At the recent First Fandom meeting in Oklahoma City, Ray Beam was unanimously elected president of First Fandom. The members in attendance voted to ratify what has been obvious for many years -- that Ray is the only one who seems to be able to get things done.

In an attempt to keep him quiet (or at least too busy to be as loud as usual), Mark Schulzinger was elected secretary/treasurer. He vowed to continue to edit the "Report," and threatened to change its name in the near future.

Martha Beck, newly moved to Arizona, was elected West Coast vice president,

Dave Kyle was

elected vice president in charge of the Hall of Fame awards ceremony. Bob Madle remains East Coast vice president.

Martha's first assignment is to run the First Fandom meeting at Westercon, Alone.

INVITATION

On December 24 Ray Beam celebrates his 60th birthday. Rumors of his having been born in a stable in some forrin place are absurd, but he does leak red fluid from his hands and feet now and then (usually after too much Jamison the nite before).

At any rate, his birthday is being celebrated on the evening of January 1, 1993.

That's January 1, 1993!

The orgy will commence at 8:00 P.M., and will be held at the Cincinnati Harley Hotel, Suite #230, 8020 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236, (513) 793-4300. Hotel rates are \$60.00 per night, plus taxes. You

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must tell them you are there for the Beam party or they will try to stick you up for more (remember, Leona Helmsley owns this dump). Mary Ann, Ray's longsuffering sex-object, has reserved a block of rooms for this event.

If you R.S.V.P. by December 15, 1992 to Mary Ann Beam at 2209 S. Webster, Kokomo, IN 46902, (317) 455-1958, there is a possibility that lower rates can be had.

The centerfold -- er, centerpiece -- er, main attraction of the night's do will be a no-holds barred photo and tale-telling contest in which all will attempt to out-tell one another concerning Ray's six decades of bizarre life and fanac.

Of course all of First Fandom is invited!

Come and embarrass Beam!

NEW MEMBERS

At Soonercon, the following applied for Associate Membership. Numerous recommendations accompanied the application, and the member was accepted without delay:

Algis Budrys 824 Seward Evanston, IL 60202

Welcome new dinosaur!

Revenge of the Sci-Fan

Whatever the original purpose Don Ford, Lou Tabakow, and Bob Madle envisioned for First Fandom, it is clear the organization has transcended those goals. At the recent Soonercon, fan attendance overflowed into two additional hotels on the strength of First Fandom attendance. Panels were well-attended, and the younger fen avidly took photos of our members.

We no longer perceive First Fandom as a "last man" club, but as an association of fans who treasure our roots. Though our growth has been painfully slow it has accumulated a workable treasury, a devoted core of workers, and a reputation for honoring its most worthy members.

Behind that facade, though, lies a painful truth: First Fandom is undergoing attrition in its membership. There are two reasons for this attrition. Firstly, we are losing members to both apathy and death. Secondly, we are not recruiting new members as

actively as we could.

While many might argue that we are under no compulsion to keep First Fandom going, I would like to point out that fandom is a state of mind more than anything else. It is composed of people who share like interests, and who are generally curious, garrulous, argumentative, insufferable, opinionated, and bright. Fen might be compared to Mensans, except that fen have at least one social skill.

I would also like to point out that First Fandom is probably the last refuge of fen, the last home for those of us who will go out of our way to entertain ourselves rather than be entertained, who seek out facts rather than accept what others attempt to spoonfeed us, and for whom the trenchant argument consists of more than: "oh yeah?" While a few of us are content to maintain the organization as it is, I don't think there's a one of us who would relish being the last member, knowing that when we turned out the lights there would be no one left to turn them on again.

I don't think something like this should die, but it will if action is not taken in the very near future. First Fandom has to bolster its ranks if only to create those associate members who will one day be the only members of the organization.

To that end I proposed the creation of a third class of member at Soonercon. Since making that proposal I realized it was too radical to be congruent with the purposes of this organization, and I've modified it as follows: I propose the creation of the Sustaining Member. Sustaining memberships would cost the same \$5 as all other member classes, and would have all the privileges of membership except the right to vote. Anyone who wished to become a Sustaining Member could do so without being nominated by a full member.

Please note that I'm not advocating wide-open voting membership. We're a group of people with a high degree of commonality, and we usually like to keep in touch with one another. What this proposal will do is bring in a lot of people who may or may not have what it takes to become a part of this commonality. If they have what it takes, they'll stick around and eventually win associate member status, if not they'll drop by the wayside. At any event their membership won't cost all that much, and they'll have the yiches of being able to say that they're sustaining members of First Fan-

Let me hear what you think of this proposal. I would like to see it come up for a vote by the membership in 1993.

I got some comments about the way in which I inserted the Hall of Fame ballot in the last ish. I did it that way so you could remove the ballot and still maintain your ish intact. Two pages were left blank to accomplish this purpose, and I marked them so. As usual I got smartass replies. That's okay with me; the job got done.

We are no longer listing the cost of a subscription to this rag. A number of our members got confused as to the difference between dues and subscriptions. We will continue to advertise in other magazines. We already have some subscribers, and I hope they'll feel free to write locs, articles, and whatever.

Before thish closed I was voted in as secretary/treasurer of this group of characters (remember, personality is what you have, character is what you are), a job which I accepted because someone has to do it. My term of office will officially begin when Ray hands me the treasury at his birthday party, January 1, 1993. Until then Ray will continue to handle the matters of the organization. He also assumes the mantle of president, I wish him luck. You'll see more on the meeting further on. Bob Madle

remains East Coast vice president. You might be interested to know that Bob is the only founding member of First Fandom left.

I hooked a hand scanner to my computer, and you're seeing digitized artwork for the second ish in a row -- only this is *our* digitized artwork. We are now accepting artwork donations. Come on, FFers, here's your chance for even more egoboo -draw us a pichur!

I'm going to be changing the name of this thing in the near future. I've already shortened it to First Fandom Report, as you saw on the cover. At Soonercon I jokingly suggested we rename it after another magazine, that name being clearly in the public domain by now. I will, however, accept suggestions. Let me know or you might get stuck with a name that will make your grand-kids blush!

DUES

Dues in First Fandom are \$5.00 per year. Send your dues until the end of the year to Ray. After the first of the year send them to me.

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIRST FANDOM, AND TO ALL FANS EVERYWHERE

My first science-fiction story, "Down The Dimensions", appeared in the April, 1937 issue of Astounding Stories.

More than a half-century later it is good to be remembered by science-fiction fans, and even better to be named to their Hall of Fame. We have come a long way together. We were born to an earthbound era and have lived to see men walk upon the moon.

I am deeply grateful to those who awarded me this honor. But while thanking them I also want to convey the thanks of the men of the Space Patrol, of Lancelot Biggs and the entire crew of the spaceship Satum, of Blaster Bill, and Venus Nell, and Salvation Smith, and all those many others who sailed the space-waves of imagination to the stars years before the Starship Enterprise boldly went where they had gone before.

Nelson Bond.

FELLOW MEMBERS OF FIRST FANDOM

I cannot tell you how delighted I was to have been elected to the prestigious Hall of Fame of FIRST FANDOM.

If ever I had true friends ... they are you, and I'd like to take an opportunity to thank you for this honor.

Maybe it is just as well that I was unable to go to Orlando for the Presentations. I would most probably have made a fool of myself and burst into tears at the award.

Thanks a million times.

J. Harvey Haggard

FF MEETING HELD AT SOONER-CON

First Fandom hasn't had a business meeting since the Worldcon in 1992. The Soonercon concom was kind enough to provide us with a room and a time so business could be discussed. The turnout was excellent, with about thirty members present. Ray Beam chaired the meeting, Mark Schulzinger took notes.

Ray announced that Algis Budrys had just submitted his application to become an associate member. The news was received with overwhelming approval, and the membership decided to waive the usual letter and waiting period. Algis was accepted into membership immediately.

Julius Schwartz requested the floor, and moved that Ray Beam be elected president, and Mark Schulzinger be elected secretary/treasurer. The nominations were seconded and approved unanimously.

Ray Beam nominated David Kyle as vice-president in charge of the Hall of Fame awards ceremonies. The motion was carried. Mark Schulzinger nominated Martha Beck as West Coast vice-president. The motion was carried. The membership assembled voted not to require a ratifying vote from the remainder of the First Fandom membership on any of the votes taken thus far.

G.M.Carr suggested that First Fandom drop the requirement that Hall of Fame awards be given at Worldcon. After considerable discussion the suggestion was withdrawn for lack of a motion.

Ray Beam reported that the treasury held approximately \$2,600 after paying for the printing of special badges for this convention. The costs of printing and distributing the Report were estimated to be between \$1,000 and \$1,200 per year.

The need for more members was discussed by Erle Korshack. Mark Schulzinger proposed that the membership consider a third class of membership, but asked

that the matter not be voted on at this time. After considerable discussion, it was decided to leave the matter open for more input from the membership.

Ray Beam proposed that new membership cards be created, and suggested a designer and printer. He promised to give further information, including the cost of such cards, in a future issue of the Report. He also announced that First Fandom patches were still available at a cost of \$5.00 each.

Ray Beam announced that the First Fandom Secretary/Treasurer's Report has been advertized in several publications, but that there had only been a few responses to date.

Ray Beam asked the membership if First Fandom required a set of rules of bylaws. No one thought such encumbrances necessary.

Jack Speer proposed a resolution that no member of First Fandom be addressed as "Mr." or "Mrs.", and pointed to the excessive use of these words in the Soonercon program. The resolution was later seconded, but the question was never called for, and it died without a vote.

Erle Korshack stated that he opposed the giving of Hall of Fame awards posthumously, since there were many living

requested the opinions of the full membership on this matter. Considerable discussion followed.

Mark Schulzinger asked the members to submit articles on those matters they wished to discuss to the Secretary/Treasurer's Report for publication.

No further business appearing the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Schulzinger

CHECKS

A number of you FFers have been making your dues checks out incorrectly. Please make them payable to FIRST FANDOM. If you do it any other way it makes hash out of our bookkeeping, and gets the Internal Revenue laddies upset -- something about commingling of funds.

SOONERCON --ANOTHER FINE SET OF HOURS

After years of trying to do justice to one, I have come to the realization that I'm just no con reporter. I can go to a con, have a good time, make a complete ass out of myself, say all sorts of witty things, trade insults, eat and

drink too much, pray to the porcelain god, overindulge with the hucksters, usw, but I just *cannot* recount all the witticisms that were spoke, all the cute things that happened, and all the meetings and conversations that transpired.

So I won't try to.

Suffice to say that I was toastmaster of what was billed as a First Fandom reunion. As such Sally and I were given the bridal suite in which to stay and entertain. Now the hotel in which the con is held is an old Holiday Inn. The rooms were once up to HI standards, but have gotten somewhat ragged around the edges by now. The main feature of the bridal suite is a bed -- a round bed -- accessible only after climbing one step. Once in the bed, the mirror on the ceiling is visible. Sally, who is no blushing bride, and who has been known to swing from a trapeze in private, refused to even sleep in the thing. Tour groups were organized just to show off this artifact. Martha Beck attempted to organize a safari to explore the interior of the thing. Such a bed!

Do you really want a list of all the FFers who attended? Lessee. Sprague and Catherine deCamp, Kelly Freas, Bob Tucker, Martha Beck, Forry Ackerman, Al Bartlett, Ray Beam, G.M. Carr, Dal Coger, Walt Dennis, Erle Korshack, Ken Krueger, Roy Lavender, Sam Moskowitz, Jane Raymer, Conrad Rupert, Julie Schwartz, Hal Shapiro, Jack Speer, Roy Tackett, Jim Tibbetts, Art Widner, Elsie Wollheim, Hal Clement, and maybe a couple of folks I forgot -- and I do apologize for the omissions!

The way the concom treated us you'd think we were celebrities. Julie had his own groupie. while all the rest of us had to make do with just a half-dozen or so gofers who got us almost anything we wanted. Although we were scheduled for all sorts of panels, we were told to be flexible about it (and were we ever!). We had a special time and room set aside for a business meeting. numerous scheduled slide shows, and folks who mobbed us for our autographs in a gorgeous program book (flip-over with two of Kelly's paintings on the covers and more of his stuff inside).

"Naw," Ray Beam told me.
"You don't have to lay in much booze and food for the crowd.
They don't eat and drink the way they used to."

What Ray meant was that *he* doesn't eat and drink the way he used to. The bunch that assembled in our suite Friday and Saturday nights mostly resembled a herd of brothers-in-law. I wouldn't say that they consumed that much, but I think something

like 4 liters of marguerites, 2 liters of Jamison's Irish, and a liter each of gin and bourbon found good homes, and this doesn't include the vermouth, the olives, and the munchies. I admit -- it's nice to see folks having a good time.

Despite the weather -- and the weather was horrible with rain and cold and threatening snow --Sally, Ray Beam, Ken Krueger, and myself managed to get away on Saturday night for a quiet meal in a wonderful Korean restaurant Sally and I discovered the previous year. You know you're in a good oriental establishment when your party are the only occidentals in the place, and probably the only group that speaks English, Sally decided that the side dish of kimchi was hers alone, and begging only got me a few pieces. Poor me. I had to make do with the radish. potatoes sprinkled with sesame seed, been sprout, and other goodies on my own. Ray and Ken did their best, but were unable to clean their plates -- so Ray got some chocolate cheesecake in atonement. Ken kept our minds going while we shoveled food down our mouths. He's a wonderful tale spinner.

I stayed sober Saturday nite. This gave me a chance to listen in on three separate conversations at once (at least), to hear

discussions of General Semantics. Tiffany Thayer, boyhood in Buffalo, Elron you-know-who -- in short the kind of literate discussions I haven't heard in something like two decades. Heard an excellent comment from Dal Coger to the effect that Dianetics became so popular because General Semantics did not offer a firm foundation on which to stand. All this wonderful conversation made me wonder if the advent of the Media Age hasn't destroyed critical thinking in the young.

I could go on and on about this con, but deadlines loom and Martha Beck has promised a report for next ish.

DINOSAUR DROPPINGS

Dear Ray and Mark,

Worldcon was so good I have been afraid my luck was all used up for the rest of the month. I not only got to sit down and chat with Jack Vance, but met Conrad Ruppert (Connie to his friends) and Dave Kyle -- again.

Over the years Forry has introduced me to a number of famous First Fans, and none of them (except the late Rick Sne-

ary) ever remembered me the next time. When Julie Schwartz was toastmaster at the '87 NAS-FIC I was introduced as the fan GoH, and he had no idea he had ever seen me before. This year I tried to become acquainted with Dave Kyle. It was easy. Maybe being an associate First Fan made me *visible*.

I stayed not to see Disneystuff like Jay Kay, but the liftoff of another space shuttle. It was perfect! My brother worked on the attitude jets until his retirement just before Challenger, and two of his sons and a daughterin-law are involved in the present series of missions.

As someone who has met a lot of people and remembered most of them, the Concom asked me to do VIP seating at the three big events. I had the white gloves and a tailored suit (do not outshine the Hugo nominees!), but Jay noticed the lack of a flashlight. Well, the only one I had just did not go with the rest of the tasteful outfit. Next time a neat chrome or gold plate...

When you tire of adventure Science Fiction there are other types. Have you read any Dan Simmons? There is a lot to think about there. I am enjoying the new historical SF, for instance Harry Turtledove. His latest is about what if Robert E. Lee had been able to use modern wea-

pons at the battles of the Civil War!

Your no longer invisible,

Marjii Ellers

{Yeah -- and what if Napoleon had been able to use a B-52 at Waterloo? -- Mark}

Dear Ray Beam,

Somewhere in the drifts of paper on my desk and my kitchen table is a dear note from you asking that I not give up First Fandom, and that I'll be missed.

Perhaps not so much as I miss my old connections with science fiction. Now that I can't make it to cons First Fandom simply rouses a bout of nostalgia that I'd be better off not suffering from. With SO dear friends like Asimov and Heinlein and others gone, I guess I'd rather not be reminded.

Please tell Mark that the new "Secretary/Treasurer's Report" is lovely format -- and hope you'll all forgive my bowing out.

Love,

Betsy Curtis

{Our forgiveness goes out telepathically, Betsy. We will miss you. -- Mark}

Dear Mark,

Thanks for doing the First Fandom Report.

But I must take issue with your remarks on Page 3!

When DAW Books, Inc. started in 1971 there were few publishers who were interested in our beloved field. And Don Wollheim was publishing manuscripts at Ace for \$2,000.

Now some publishers pay up to a million dollars (for names, it is true), and a writer still starts at somewhere under \$10,000 for a first novel. That's five *times* the amount back then. A new writer is a risk.

We do have many women writing SF and fantasy -- but I don't think that we would accept a ms. that was "crap," and we certainly wouldn't publish it.

Best.

Elsie Wollheim

{Dear Elsie, I mentioned no names, but DAW was certainly not a house I would ever think of slamming. Price paid does not guarantee quality, and the unwillingness to take risks leads to an unwillingness to publish what might be good. St. Martins Press has gone on record as stating that, had it been presented with "The Autobiography of Henry VII" -- a runaway best seller -- today,

it would not have taken the chance. *O tempora, o mores, --* Mark}

Hi,

I think my first published letter was in *Captain Future*. I didn't like his multicolored balls, and Sarge replied ... Nah, this could be misunderstood. I think I'll take up fencing and archery so I'll be ready for WWIV.

SF prozines could be quite pornographic then. Remember *Marvel* pulps -- about 8 of them? If I could get copies of those I'd reprint them on microfiche and then sell them.

Walt, I would buy all my SF pulps for 5¢ each at a used-magazine store, probably the only one like it for a couple hundred miles. Half the town read SF. They also sold itch powder and other neat things. Does anyone sell this stuff any more?

Where can I buy Tullamore Dew Irish? I haven't been able to find any for years now.

I played with rockets in the USRS and ARS. Do these societies still exist? I launched a chicken house into orbit. Anyway it wasn't there after the blastoff. Ever see a naked chicken?

Why doesn't someone start a

pulpzine? Newsprint is cheap. Two staples cost less than perfect-bound glue. Uncut edges should be cheaper, too. Reprint the old space operas unless someone is willing to write new ones.

You all *are* doing a fine job on the publication.

Enjoy,

Paul Doerr

{Paul, how can I respond to all this stuff without filling up ten pages? I wouldn't have called the old Marvel pornographic, just risque. I don't know where you can find any 5¢ pulps, but Johnson Smith still sells itch powder. And vou're the first fan I ever knew who bought his stf to satisfy an itch... We don't speak Tullamore around here; it's Jamison or nothing! No one starts a pulpzine because paper and staples are still cheaper than presses, humans, and distributors, --Mark}

Mark --

My first intro to our genre was in '27 or '28 when I was allowed to root thru a trunk of stuff in the attic of some friends of my folks. There were Gernsback *Amazing*s, quarterlies, and at least one annual. I was hooked.

However, I have moved over to fantasy since. I can't get used

to the new Sci-Fi or the language.

May we live forever,

Larry Rothstein

Mark --

More women writing SF because it's lower paying? Or could it be they are simply better writers of whatever the current "crud" is than the men who are doing it? After all, some of the best early Sci-Fi writers were women. I remember one of my favorites was the "People" series by Zenna Henderson. Also Anne McCaffrey was one in the '50s, too, also there are more women in college, medicine, business, etc. today than there were back then. Besides the pay now at about 6¢ a word isn't too bad, especially if you are not doing it just for a living.

Regards,

Christine Moskowitz

{Hmm -- women write better crud. I gotta remember that. Seriously, Christine, I enjoyed Judy Merrill and the delightful Leigh Brackett. Wilma(r) Shiras's "In Hiding" was an excellent story, too. But, then, these ladies could write. -- Mark}

Dear Very Funny Mark:

It is not good for dirty old

ladies to laugh so hard! Incontinence is not funny. Changing clothes in middle of day is a Bummer.

Can't wait 'till Soonercon. Leave Sally at home so we can run Amok. Of course, finding him could be a problem.

Martha Beck

{Dear Dirty Old Lady. Is incontinence a problem? I suppose that "Depends" on how staunch you are. Let Amok run Sally for a while. You and I can discuss kute kanine kapers. Love and talcum powder -- Mark}

Dear Ray and Mark,

Many thanks for the latest Report, it goes from strength to strength and is always cheerful reading. I'm sorry that I don't have the requested address for Les Flood, but will start asking around and if it surfaces I'll pass it along. My thanks also for the explanation of the Trestrail v Japan lawsuit. Such rip-offs are becoming more and more prevalent with characters, stories and ideas being filched left, right and centre. Had Anne McCaffrey invented dragons she could have taken umpteen writers to court for using 'em once she had made 'em popular.

Speaking of Japan and non-copyright -- I just got five copies

of the Russian newspaper Zarya Molodezhi (which, I gather, means "the youth's dawn"). It contains a story by me! I sent it as a freebie to Igor Smirnov, and LO! I'm an INTERNATIONAL AUTHOR. Sadly, I'll get no rubles out of the deal. Meanwhile, I have reclaimed my autobiographical Down Memory Bank Lane from the recalcitrant agent and am now hunting around for someone else to take it on.

On that "new stories aren't as good as the old ones" theme, I add a couple of paras from my *DMBL* ...

"Nowadays I can seldom remember a story an hour after reading it. Modern SF is too conscious of its 'image'. Heroes, or more preferably, heroines should be black, have some weakness or disability, live in urban squalor, spout sexual equality lines, save whales, rain forests and the ecosphere, defeat pollution, fight big business, and do all this in a down beat way, finally finishing with all threads and ending totally unresolved. Likewise the 'artwork' which accompanies these bland, message-ridden 'stories' no longer depicts an incident in the tale -how could it, there are no incidents, only emotions and chunks of dialogue as A explains everything to B. Instead of illustration, we get numerous closeups of faces, frequently gazing at a computer screen and which could be applied to almost any story published in the past year's issues.

"Brave spacemen no longer tread the swamps of Venus, breathe the thin air of Mars or make the first landing on the Moon: the march of science has stopped tricks like that. Gone are the mad scientists, the collegeboy heros and the moon rockets built in the back yard. No more does Hawk Carse pursue the sinister Ku Sui from planet to planet or Lensman Kinnison fight the evil Boskone. The universe is seldom faced with extinction and the dangers threatening Earth are usually nuclear war, worldwide pollution or total civil anarchy. All of which may be realistic, but damned poor entertainment. As Goldwyn is reported to have said, 'When I want a message, I'll call Western Union'."

Oh well, they say it's just old age, but I wonder if today's youth will, in future years, remember Judge Dredd, Ninja Turtles and Ghostbusters with the affection we have for the pulps?

Terry Jeeves

(Copyright laws are crumbling as electronic advances allow anything to be copied any time by almost anyone. They've become like the alcohol prohibition law we

tried in the '20s -- except that no one pays bookleggers outrageous amounts. I won't remember Judge Dredd with much affection, but I get a giggle out of him now and again. Nothing like a fanciful look at fascism, I always say. -- Mark}

HALL OF FAME PROJECT

I'm about to embark on the First Fandom Hall of Fame Project. This will be a booklet containing the names of all recipients of the awards. For this I need considerable help: photos, biographies, reminiscences. I will try and contact you on an individual basis as the project gets underway for help.

This will be a major financial undertaking for First Fandom. Fifty pages, even digest size, don't come cheap. No, I'm not asking for donations -- not yet. We'll have to see how things go.

If you have any suggestions about the project please contact me direct.

Mark

So another issue of the Report goes to bed. This one gave me some problems. The artwork I wanted to import managed to choke my computer -- too many bits for it to byte on I guess. I've had to create several files, one to hold the text and the other to hold the artwork. We shall see what happens.

Thish is some four pages shorter than our usual run. I suspect it's because of our new schedule. Please remember that the closing date for the Spring ish is January16, 1993. We need articles, artwork, Hong Kong Dollars, anything you can wrap around a convenient brick.

HAPPY 1993 FOLKS

HRST FANDOM

Dinosaurs of Science Fiction

MARK SCHULZINGER SEC.-TREAS

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