

# ScientiFiction

Summer, 1994



Gerry de la Ree—October 1975

The First Fandom Report

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On the cover: A photo of Gerry de la Ree taken in October, 1976 at the first World Fantasy Con in Providence, RI.

Photo by Eric Carlson of Duluth, MN. Supplied courtesy of John L. Coker, III.

*ScientiFiction*, the First Fandom report is the official publication of First Fandom, and is published four times per year by President Ray Beam, 2209 S. Webster, Kokomo, IN 46902. The Editor is Secretary-Treasurer Mark Schulzinger, 528 Woodruff Bldg., Springfield, MO 65806. Subscriptions are \$5.00 per year, and should be sent to Mark. Comments can be sent to either Ray or Mark.

## ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS (WE PRINT!)

### HOF BALLOT YIELDS TIE VOTE

#### BLEILER AND NOR- TON SHARE

#### DE LA REE HONOR AT RIVERCON

At the close of balloting on March 19, Everett Bleiler and Andre Norton were tied to receive the First Fandom Hall of Fame award.

Ties are not unknown to the award. It has been presented to more than one member simultaneously seven times in the past. In both 1988 and 1992 four members were awarded the honor.

The awards will be presented at WorldCon this fall.

In keeping with the decision to present Hall of Fame awards posthumously, and separately from those presented to corporate dinosaurs, Gerry de la Ree's name will be placed on the posthumous plaque in a ceremony to be held at Rivercon, July 29-31. Sam Moskowitz will accept the award on behalf of Helen de la Ree who will be unable to attend.

### RIVERCON UPDATE

#### GUEST LIST SHAT- TERED BY DEATH

As of this date, Rivercon XIX hoped to have its guest list finalized. Forrest J. Ackerman has been confirmed as GoH, Paul Lehr will be Artist Guest, and Julius Schwartz will be Toastmaster. First Fandom and Mike Resnick are featured guests.

Verna Smith Trestrail had been scheduled to appear as Fan GoH. Regretfully, she passed away on March 13. Steve Francis, guiding light of Rivercon stated to Ray Beam that he will continue to extend guest honors to Al Trestrail, Verna's husband. In Verna's memory there will be no fan GoH this year.

The con will be held on July 29-31 at the Executive West Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Membership is free to all dinosaurs. The hotel is located next to the Louisville airport. Room rates are \$50.00 per night for single through quad occupancy. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (502)367-2251. The hotel

charges a non-refundable fee of \$100 for pets brought to the hotel. Animals needed by handicapped guests may be brought at no charge.

Through a co-operative effort between us First Fandom and Rivercon, First Fandom will have a hospitality suite which will be open to all members and Sustaining Patrons. A meeting of First Fandom is also scheduled for Rivercon. The date and time will be announced at the con itself.

## LAVENDER FAN GoH AT KUBLA KHAN

Word just arrived that Roy Lavender, long time member of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, First Fandom, and Southern California Fandom will be fan GoH at the upcoming Kubla Khan in Nashville, Tennessee.

Roy has been active in fandom for many years, and has had some of his memoirs published in *Lan's Lantern*. Another article was sold to *Amazing*, but has not yet been published.

The text of Roy's speech will be published in the next ish of *StF*.

## WINNIPEG NEWS

Dave Blair, our FFER-in-residence in Winnipeg, is trying to arrange First Fandom programming for us at the Worldcon. He would appreciate it if members who expect to attend the con get in touch with him and let him know of their intent. Dave can be reached at:

David H. Blair

83 Grandmont Blvd.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Canada, R3V 1M8

## APPLICATIONS

The following have applied for associate membership:

William C. Bohle, recommended by Ray Beam

William L. Donohoe, recommended by Roger Sims

Robert Weinberg, recommended by Ray Beam

## NECROLOGY

Raymond Z. Gallun

Frank Belknap Long

Verna Smith Trestrail

## NEW MEMBERS

The following have been approved as associate members:

Les Cole

756 Opal Avenue

Ventura, CA 93004

Es Cole

756 Opal Avenue

Ventura, CA 93004

Gay Haldeman

5412 NW 14th Avenue

Gainesville, FL 32605

Joe Haldeman

5412 NW 14th Avenue

Gainesville, FL 32605

Sheldon Jaffery

23834 Wendover Drive

Beachwood, OH 44122

Mary Lu Lockhart

52650 Ashley

New Baltimore, MI 48047

Anrew I. Porter

P.O. Box 022730

Brooklyn, NY 11202

Welcome Dinosaurs!

## SUSTAINING PATRONS

The following have become Sustaining Patrons of First Fandom:

Joanne E. Brooks

Catherine Mintz

Welcome Aboard!

## DUES

Dues in First Fandom remain \$5.00 per year. The number on your mailing label will tell you to the end of which year your dues are paid. Please keep your dues current if you possibly can.

## KEEP WATCHING THESE DATES

The following events are scheduled for upcoming issues of *SIF*.

**July 9, 1994** -- Closing date for nominations for the Hall of Fame award.

**July 16, 1994** -- Closing date for Autumn ish of *SIF*.

**July, 1994** -- Hall of Fame ballot appears.

**October 15, 1994** -- Closing date for Winter ish of *SIF*.

## REVENGE OF THE SCI-FAN

This year First Fandom will make its first public presentation of the posthumous Hall of Fame award. Gerry de la Ree is the recipient, and the presentation will be made at Rivercon. We intend

this to be a big presentation, not the piddly little three minute thing forced on us by worldcon. To this end we are asking anyone who would like to be part of the presentation to contact me. We want to do Gerry's memory proud. Stand up, and come forward!

We had such good luck with the photographic cover last ish that we're going to try and continue the tradition. John L. Coker, III, a demon photographer and Sustaining Patron, has graciously supplied us with some photos which we'll be using in the future. Others are also encouraged to contribute. Because of the problems of properly reproducing photos we request that you submit black & white only. Most labs can make B&W prints of color negatives. Ask that they print them on Kodak Panalure paper, since that paper compensates for the colored "mask" that exists on color negatives. We prefer that prints be no larger than 4" X 5".

I've been re-reading the *Lensman* saga for the umpteenth time, and marvelling at how well it has stood up over the many years since Doc penned it. Just as Kit managed to invade Eddore and escape, a catalog entitled "Fusion Video Collection" was popped into my mailbox. In it was an ad which I will quote verbatim:

"LENSMAN

"In the 25th century, danger threatens our galaxy. Space

pirates known as the Boskane are invading the civilized universe, causing a war that emanates from a higher plane of existence, leaving our Galactic Patrol powerless in its wake. But fate is about to take control when young Kimball Kenison is chosen to surrender to destiny. He will live or die for freedom, learning to trust his heart and his mind as a lensman. The epic battle is about to begin."

I've seen this bit of pirate Japanimation, and hated it, but I admit I wasn't aware that the names had been changed. Maybe this is how the producers justified their own space piracy.

## Presidents Message

Dear Members,

The Posthumous Hall of Fame Award Committee has been appointed as follows:

**Roger Sims (Chairman)**

34 Creekwood Square

Cincinnati, OH 45246

(513) 771-7587

**Howard DeVore**

4705 Weddel St.

Dearborn, MI 48125

(313) 565-4157

**Robert A. Madle**

4406 Bestor Dr.

Rockville, MD 20853

(301) 460-4712

Any committee member will take your nominations. They will decide from those nominations who will receive the award(s) in any given year. The first year that their selection(s) will prevail is 1995. The deadline for 1995 nominations is January 31, 1995. Now it is up to you, the membership.

There will be a Posthumous Hall of Fame inductee for 1994 at the First Fandom Reunion at Rivercon. The inductee will be Gerry de la Ree. Anyone wishing to participate in the ceremony please contact Mark or myself. Rivercon was selected purposely to escape the gigantic atmosphere of Worldcon. Rivercon has accepted the ceremony for as long as we want to leave it with them. Eventually I would like to see it rotated between three conventions, East, Midwest, and West. Finding other conventions suitable is up to members in the area. So if any of you have suggestions please let us know. Remember, it will be up to you to negotiate the ceremony with the convention you recommend, although Mark and I will assist.

We are in the process of having the plaque made. It will hold 50 names. This will be

retained by First Fandom. An individual award will be given to the surviving family. If you have any questions or suggestions about the Posthumous Hall of Fame, please write me.

The next item I would like to cover is dues. When I was publishing three issues of *The Report* a year the balance of the treasury remained fairly constant. Since Mark is on a four issues per year schedule, he tells me that the balance is dropping slightly. A while back I talked with Lloyd Eshbach and he suggested that we raise the dues to \$10 per year. We do have about 10% of members that are more than 1 year in arrears. The point is that if all members paid their fair share, we wouldn't have to consider a dues increase. In case you have missed some names on the roster, a while back we dropped those that owed 10 years or more. This was done after warning the individual members. In addition to collecting all that is due we would like to increase the mailing list to above 200 which will allow us to return to a bulk mailing permit. I personally think we can survive without a dues increase in the near future. One of the deciding factors will be the forthcoming postage increase. This is the point at which a bulk permit would really be helpful. If a dues increase is necessary it probably would not be necessary to go as high as \$10.

The last item is the publication

of a book on the Hall of Fame recipients. This was started by Lou Tabakow. We still have most of the biographies but lack the photographs. Anyone who would like to submit material for this, please do so. This project will raise money for the organization but will require some capital investment from the treasury.

Please feel free to submit material for future issues of *SciFiFiction*.

Ray

## Advertisement

Recently a friend of mine, Noble R. Brown from Indianapolis suffered an illness that has him confined to a hospital bed indefinitely. Noble has a thriving mail order business selling 'B' westerns and serials. He has asked me to handle the business for the duration. In addition I also have a list of other 'B' mysteries, horror and action movies. Anyone interested may write: **HEAVENLY VIDEOS** c/o Ray Beam 2209 S. Webster, Kokomo, IN 46902 or phone (317)455-1958. I will send you a free list. I deliver all orders by Priority Mail on the day following receipt of the order.

## DC-X FLIES!

DoD SHIES

In September, amid a deafening silence from the major media, the McDonnell Douglas Delta Clipper spaceship took off from White Sands Missile Range, ascended to an altitude of 300 feet, flew 350 feet sideways, and landed.

Current launch vehicle technology which uses either Delta, Titan, and Atlas unmanned vehicles, or the underachieving Space Shuttle fleet, cost \$3,000 to \$10,000 per payload pound. They are all ineffective for ferrying up the material needed to build Space Station *Freedom* in any of the configurations which have been considered.

With the spectacular success of the Delta Clipper the military quickly abandoned her despite the fact that she was developed with DoD funds. Their explanation was that she was too good to be true, and obviously would not work. DoD funds are now being funneled into the older Orbital Insertion Vehicle, a piggyback design envisioned during the early design days of the SDI.

McDonnell Douglas has announced that development of the Delta Clipper will proceed. A fleet of ships is projected for commercial use by 2001.

## IN MEMORIAM: FRANK LONG

by

Ben P. Indick

Frank Long traveled the spaceways as well as the depths of the human mind. His detectives hunted evil both out there and here, and creatures of horror left ichorous trails across the memorable pages of his terrifying and fascinating weird fiction. Historians will list him within the pantheon of great creators of fantasy.

This is the Frank Long who belongs to Fame. I remember him as a gentle, soft-spoken man, modest, quick to friendship and all too ready to accord undue importance to the most humble of his many fans and visitors. I knew him first in his later years, from the middle of the 1970s, when Frank, born near the break of the century, was already in his seventies, but still a creative writer. I have seen photographs of a younger Frank Long. In its respectful obituary, *The New York Times* reprinted a photo from 1949. His features are similar, but he is pudgier in appearance. I see him already a leaner man with active eyes, a goatee as well as the familiar moustache. His pipe is as much a part of him as his ready smile of friendship. And then I see him later still, when illness was

taking its toll.

New York born, bred and a lifelong city-dweller, he came of a New England and Pennsylvania Dutch background, and on his maternal side could trace his ancestry to "the only non-Puritan rebel on the Mayflower," who was, he wrote in the jacket biography of his John Carstairs Space Detective "the first man to fight a duel (the records of the Plymouth Colony say with *both* sword and dagger!) on the American continent." Frank fought no duels, and knew as friends nearly all the developing young writers of science fiction of the late '30s and '40s. Most important personally, as is so well known, was his relationship with H. P. Lovecraft, which he would maintain throughout the latter's too brief life and in undiminished memory thereafter. Meanwhile, he was writing in an incredibly wide range. In *The Early Long*, he describes how, in a two year period, aside from his many weird and science fiction stories, appearing in all the pulps of the era, he wrote eight straight mysteries, two popular science articles, revised a work of fiction for an educator and even penned a piece on tropical fish. He was still using the family "Belknap" name, his middle name, and it was by this three part name that I knew and loved the marvelous stories I would read as a youngster in those glorious luridly covered pulp magazines.

He preferred the life of a free-lance writer, at which he was easily making a living, but, as an NYU Journalism graduate, he also was at various times an associate editor of *Mike Shayne Mystery Magazine* and *Satellite Science Fiction*, and was a sometime lecturer as well. He even wrote several dozen stories for "risque" magazines of the time, which he laughingly said would be as "pornographic today as a civil war daguerreotype of a society belle...flirting with an army officer." Perhaps however, these stories influenced the string of popular "women's gothics" he wrote in his later years under the pseudonym, "Lyda Belknap Long."

Frank's ground floor apartment in the historic and still-lovely section of Manhattan known as Chelsea, home in its time to numerous writers and artists, was always open to friends. My wife and I were frequent visitors. Frank was very proud of his wife Lyda, whom he married in the early 1950s, and would always encourage her plans to write a book on the Yiddish Theater of her parents in pre-1900 Russia. I recall how, on a warm evening we would sit outside on the tree-shaded steps. Sometimes I would come with Tom Collins, a Lovecraftian who introduced me to Frank, and talk would invariably center on Frank's recollections of his literary past.

I recall at the First World

Fantasy Conference, held in 1975 in Providence, RI, I attended with several friends. I was sitting by myself at a panel and Frank quietly entered mid-way and sat down beside me. I felt terribly complimented, for to me, as long as I would know him, he was the man who had thrilled me with his stories so long ago! To him, however, it was a matter of simply sitting with a friend and occasionally commenting on the discussion. Frank would, of course, be lionized at other events, there and at other conventions, as the honors began belatedly pouring in upon him. He accepted them with his customary grace and modesty.

In 1976 a group of some fifteen of us fantasy fans gathered at my home for a party a wag lastingly labeled "Indickcon". I picked him up at his home, for he had no car, and drove him to New Jersey. Here Frank was guest of honor, together with his wife Lyda Arco Long, his "Lydasha", as his inseparable, rambunctious and Number One Frank Long fan terms herself in memory of her Russian forebears. Frank graciously signed the many books brought to him, and asked more questions of his young devotees than he allowed them to ask him.

The following year the WFC was held in Manhattan. Frank and Lyda invited some of the luminaries in attendance to join them at a party in their apartment. I recall we had Ramsey and

Jennie Campbell, Kirby McCauley, the agent, and others including the late H. Warner Munn. Munn took me aside and asked where he might take his very young companion for an evening's dancing. I do not recall what I said, but I recall her miniskirt. I recall, too, Frank's amusement at it all.

In years to come there would be occasions for me to boast of my daughter's marriage, my son's theatrical writing, my wife's sculpture accomplishments and still later the birth of my first granddaughter. And it was good to see the joy both Frank and Lyda, who had no children, took in that! Lyda became a self-appointed god-mother, which was fine with us. However Frank, already a fragile man for some years, would soon suffer illnesses necessitating periods in the hospital. He had, around 1950, been hospitalized for a ruptured appendix and peritonitis, from which he recovered. However, only several years ago he was again hospitalized for several hernias. Janet and I visited him, and found him white and very thin, complaining about the hospital but happy to have guests. His stay became extended and I dropped in again. This time he lay on his back, stick-thin, white as the sheets, unmoving, his mouth open to a perfect "O". He did not appear to be breathing. I rushed to the nursing station, alarmed. "I think Mr. Long is dead!" I blurted out. "Naw," the

nurse said, "he's okay. Just shake him." I was dubious as I stumbled back to his bedside. He still lay there. I shook him. He woke right up and began complaining about the hospital!

He recovered enough to return home, although Lyda, with justice, accuses an uncaring hospital of mis-categorizing his condition. Remarkably, at his advanced age of 90, and his debilitated state, he recovered reasonably well, at least in terms of general health. However, one day, a month before his death, Lyda, prescient, called me and asked me to come take photos of Frank. I came the next day and was reassured to see him sitting up in a chair firmly, a walker in front of him, and breathing well. He spoke little, and unintelligibly. At last I took my camera out. In sudden alarm, Frank's hands fluttered. "No! No!" he said clearly, if pathetically, "you're not supposed to take my picture!" It was heart-breaking. I reassured him I would not do it and he calmed down. When I left a little later, however, Frank, who had been sitting silently, clearly spoke, "Is he going?" There was a sadness in his question. I told him I would return. Shortly thereafter, he had to be hospitalized again and passed away January 2, 1994. It was, by some unhappy chance, the first anniversary of the death of another dear friend in fantasy, Gerry de la Ree, who had also

been present at Indickcon.

We miss Frank greatly, but at least (and in truth they are no substitute), we have him in the pages of his memorable writing. I hope later generations will know him from his words as I have known him. HPL, who loved the 18th century, has been described as The Last Gentleman. Frank Long, a true child of the 20th century, was no less so.

(Ed note: A substantially identical version of this obituary also appeared in *Lovecraft Studies*.)

## DINOSAUR DROP-PINGS

Dear Mark:

Glad to see the "Scientific-tion" title on the report. Keep up the good work.

I hope to see some of the members at the World Fantasycon in New Orleans. I much prefer that Con to the World SF Con. The latter is too crowded for my old bones.

I have always regretted that the Depression years of the 30s prevented me from being financially able to publish fan material or even do much writing to the mags. But I did read them and

enjoy them, and it's too bad that no one ever organized an A. Merritt club.

To me, he was the greatest.

Faternally,

Jim Tibbetts

*{Jim, I think Worldcon is too big for most of us. -- Mark}*

Dear Mark,

"RADIO FREE THULCAN-DRA" is the name Dave Rike's reaching for, and it is not so much about Christian beliefs as it is about the various contributors' ideas about comments made by other contributors on the religious beliefs -- or opinions about them -- expressed in commenting about contemporary science fiction with a religious theme. There seems to be a lot of discussion about sci-fi/fantasy books (most of which I've never heard of until then) but most of the thrust of the magazine is LOCs. They all seem to be commenting on the comments of other contributors until it looks like one big lettercol. In fact the mag looks almost like an apa in itself -- one of the "fat and rare" type apazines that used to be prevalent in FAPA years ago when I was a member. And the comments are extremely sercon in nature...Probably interesting if you've read the books they are discussing or have been following the discussion long enough to

know what it is all about.

Re applications: I met Les & Es Cole in CHICON in '52 (?) after having feuded with them happily in FAPA for several months. They certainly ought to be accepted, their FAPazine ORGASM made gasping notoriety for them in the fifties. I met their new baby, too, and she's probably made grandparents, if not great-grandparents, of them by now. I second the application.

Hmm..."assumed her wifely duties properly..." "...Mary Lu would take her little plastic bucket and go down the hall until she found what we needed..." I protest this nomination. It is an insult to the Women of Fandom!!! Unless you can prove she's done something fan-worthy on her own (besides being gopher for a spouse) I don't think just hanging around the boys is credential enough for First Fandom membership. Even as an "Associate."

Well, I suppose it is nice of ARISIA '94 to have notified me at all that I was invited. The con was Jan. 21-23, and I received the invitation Jan. 19. Even if I'd dropped everything and rushed for the airport I couldn't have made it. That was the weekend Seattle was socked-in by fog, and no planes in or out.

Mark, I'm sorry you accepted putting Warner and Speer in the same ballot. They have both been active and prominent in fandom

long enough to deserve a year's award of their own. This way it seems you are implying it took two of them to equal the one fan of other years, and that is certainly not the case. How many other "Wealth of Fable"s have been produced in fandom? And Jack Speer is not an unknown name among First Fandomers, either. They each deserve their own place of honor.

Yours,

GMCarr

*{ Yeowch -- how do I reply to all of this? I get the feeling that all of us met during Chicon II. Being a gal-type person of the woman persuasion, Gem, you have no idea just how fan-worthy Mary Lu's hanging around with the boys was! On her own she's been, until recently, a major babe and English teacher. She is now retired, has lost the latter, but continues to get high marks in the former. She also collects, reads, sends me graded copies of this rag, and is much nicer than I am...ARISIA invited all of us too late. Must have been something to do with the postal service or something...I put Warner and Speer on the same ballot because Erle Korshak proposed them in that way. We have no hard and fast rules about how names are grouped. If someone wanted to propose the entire membership of FF for an HOF award I would probably accept it as well. I don't think the*

*nomination belittles either fan, they've both done a lot. -- Mark}*

*{ Mary Lu Sherred-Lockhart sent me a subtle reminder, which fortunately exploded after I had left the room, to the effect that I allowed her name to be misspelled within these hallowed pages. I apologize, but I was too busy considering exactly how she assumed her wifely duties to really notice the typos. In this post-sexual revolutionary world it's nice to know my imagination still functions.}*

Dear Mark:

Thank you for the interesting *Scientifiction*. Although its creator, Hugo The Rat Gernsback (HPL's name for him), did not break up the word. It is good. Keep it. I appreciated your reminding me of the name of the movie house in Springfield, MO, although you can't prove it by me. I am in the 70 category and my memory is a sieve. I think it was back in 1944, too.

I have already sent a too-lengthy bio of my secret SF and Fan life to Dave Rike, but as I read about your Hall of Fame, I realized I neglected to tell him one thing. When I first applied to FF for membership (I am certain I have written you about this, but I enjoy it, and redundancy is the privilege of the aged) I was deemed either too young or insuffi-

ciently fan-active back in those hoary days of the '30s. In consequence I organized my own group, First and a Half Fandom. I was President and sole member. Well, I also was awarded its sole Fandom Hall of Fame Award! So, in there, I am a bust. (A gag I stole from you-know-what film score.)

I would like to re-nominate my late friend, Gerry de la Ree, a worthy potential member.

Keep up the good work,

Ben P. Indick

*{ O'Reilly General Hospital is no longer standing, Ben. In its place is one of the seven or so colleges this burg boasts. The Gillioz Theater is a shell which may or may not be rebuilt, the Fox is a church, and the Landers with its too-shallow stage is the home of the Springfield Little Theater...No need to re-nominate Gerry for anything. He will be awarded a posthumous HOF award in Louisville. -- Mark}*

Dear Mark,

I'm sending you my dues on CONDITION! On condition you spell my surname correctly. Give me back my two esses. They are my inalienable birthright.

Maybe I should mention that I've been published in the USA since the fifties -- by Elsie Wolheim among others...ALSO, I am

a pretty vertebrate 69, or soixante-neuf, and this year Carroll & Graf will publish my 69th book. So I hope some of the other dinosaurs may have heard of me, two esses and all.

Talking of soixante-neuf, I first created SF orally. At the age of eight, I told stories about ghosts and other planets to the boys in the dormitory of my reformatory. Scared hell out of them. So much for 1932...

Yours velocirapturously,

Brian Aldiss

"Two S" Aldiss they call me.

*{ Brian, I been savin' up those little esses in the hopes I kin trade 'em off on a big red 'un one of these days. This seems to be my month for misspelled names. Sorry. This fixation on the inverted number-pair is interesting. In describing how you created SF orally, you neglected to relate where you deposited it. I seem to recall that some young lady once conceived a child aurally, and there was some rumor of an oral connection there as well. Anyway, I don't know of the others, but I've read lots of your stuff. -- Mark}*

Dear Mark -

At the WorldCon here in SF last year, I was delighted to be recognized by Forry Ackerman and David Kyle as having the heart and soul of a Dinosaur.

From longtime "unknown" reader/collector (and I'll be 70 when attending the WorldCon in LA in '96) I had the honor and pleasure to act as official gofer for David in taking a photograph for signatures to the FF meeting here in SF. Following ConFrancisco I applied, and became proud possessor of full membership in FF, as well as receiving the beautiful card.

My SF collection consists of somewhere over 3/4 of all bed-sheets, pulps, and digests published in this country, and all first and key issues, plus most Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon paper and metal memorabilia of the 30's. I am also a member of SFRA.

I'd be glad to show my collection to FF members visiting the San Francisco bay area.

Franz Grumme

Mark:

I've decided to get a few things off my chest. First, I'm referring to "Revenge of the Sci-Fan" in the Winter, 1993 issue of *SciFiction*.

Your tirade against religion in science fiction was prompted by your listening to an audiotape recording of Burkette's "The Illuminati." In your complaint, and I quote, "The author takes the book of Revelation as a given, states that 'Christians' are being persecuted and goes on from there.

What's worse, he ends the story with divine intervention."

In your first paragraph you wrote, "The book is a joke, poorly written, shoddily plotted, clumsily characterized." So why in the world did you continue listening to it? Ordinary intelligence, I should think, would have given up on the bungling job after a chapter or two, especially since you found it so annoying. Or did you continue listening to, give you a basis for your absurd complaint about religion in SF?

Your second paragraph asserts "there ain't no room for religion in science fiction. Period." That's really unbelievably funny. You have declared it -- the great Mark Schulzinger has declared it -- so it is so! Period. What ego!

In your next paragraph you speak of writers using religion in SF in a way that is quite OK -- off-beat, far-out, alien. So what you're really objecting to is orthodox religion in science fiction. You cite religious extremists -- Hasidic Jews, Hindus, and of course the 'Christians' you are berating in your column.

Before I continue I should establish that I am not defending violence in religion; nor money-grubbing so-called "Christian" televangelists -- though even these could have a place in religious SF. We always need villains.

To continue: Your last para-

graph emphasizes your objection to orthodox religion in SF. Again I quote: "Only the heretic can come up with a truly original idea, a truly new way of looking at things. In that arena of deviance only the heterodox need remain, all others must be excluded."

And that, I say, is hogwash! Period.

I have been writing and selling science fiction and fantasy since 1929. According to your contention I haven't had an original idea in all that time.

You see, I am a Christian. In your view one of the worst kind -- a Bible-believing, born-again, fundamentalist, orthodox Christian; and I have been one during all these decades.

During that period I spent five years as the publisher for my orthodox Christian denomination, producing their literature. I spent thirteen years on the staff of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, an orthodox Christian school recognized as such around the world. I have served as a pastor, preaching in Bible-believing churches.

My last major writing venture was a tetralogy published by Ballantine (1983 to 1990) -- fantasy, it's true; not SF. Most of the action in the four books takes place in Sheol, the Old Testament Biblical name for hell. A lieutenant of Lucifer (Satan) is the villain. And

horror of horrors, the last novel, "The Scroll Of Lucifer" ends with divine intervention. The first three volumes have gone into five printings, so a fair number of readers evidently enjoyed the stories despite their religious content.

I could say a lot more, but I'll conclude with this defense of Burkette. I haven't read his book, nor do I want to. But I defend his right to use any thesis he wishes to use in writing science fiction.

A final note on this matter. Among the seven novels I plan to write if I live long enough is a science fiction novel based on my understanding of the Biblical prophecy concerning the physical return of Christ to earth. I firmly believe in this future event. I plan to write it as I would any SF novel, making it the best story within my ability. This may be a collaboration with another Christian SF writer. Logic would lead me to have my agent submit it to religious publishers rather than the normal SF channels. But it would be science fiction; and most fans reading it would find ideas outside their normal thinking.

As a science fiction writer and a First Fandom Hall of fame recipient I have every right to use any theme I wish. And you as a reader have the right to ignore it. But for you to assume that you can lay down rules that writers must follow is just plain ridiculous. Period.

Very Sincerely,

Lloyd Arthur Eshbach

*{Lloyd, you are entitled to your beliefs, as am I. And you can use what you refer to as orthodox religion as the basis of any story you wish as long as you realize that once you have done that you have written fantasy, and not sf. Science fiction is the literature of that which might be scientifically possible, fantasy is the literature of that which might be supernaturally possible, and the realm of religion is the realm of the supernatural. Scientific data must be capable of being both recorded and falsified, the intrusion of the supernatural destroys science because such data can be neither recorded nor falsified. Isadore Haiblum's "Tzaddik Of The Seven Wonders" is charming fantasy, and was proclaimed such by the publisher. Heinlein's "Job" is magnificent fantasy, even though it was labeled sf. Phil Farmer showed how the problem of supernatural contamination of data could almost cost a priest his faith in "Father," and it is excellent science fiction. Incidentally, you neglected to take me to task for not including orthodox paganism in my blanket statements. I apologize to the pagans in the audience for forgetting about them. Be assured, however, that the machinations of an Olympian, Asgardian, or avatar of the triune goddess are not welcome in sf either. -- Mark}*

Dear Mark:

I appreciate your continuing fine job as secretary-treasurer!

Yours,

redd boggs

*{Hey, I felt I deserved that after Lloyd's missive! -- Mark}*

Dear Mark:

I heartily endorse Bob Tucker's nomination of Aubrey MacDermott for Hall of Fame award. I'd been thinking of it myself. He founded West Coast organized fandom in April, 1928.

About that photo from Con-Francisco. I don't recognize any of them from the locality of the con. Am I correct that they are all outlanders?

Clifton Amsbury

*{I think you're right Clif. They all look pretty outlandish to me. -- Mark}*

Dear Ray:

I sent a note to Steve Francis. I've not been to a con in many a year, but I'll try to make it to Rivercon.

I herewith second Mary Lu Sherred-Lockhart's nomination.

Joe Hensley

*{Another gentleman who approves of Mary Lu's outstanding quali-*

*fications. -- Mark}*

*{Noreen Shaw sent out a mass mailing to let all know she and her family survived the latest California quake. Her new address is: Noreen Shaw, 5223 Corteen Place, #7, Valley Village, CA 91617}*

Dear Mark,

I received a note from Aubrey MacDermott telling me how pleased he was by Bob Tucker's nomination for the Hall of Fame award. From the information I have gathered, Aubrey was instrumental in the formation of early fandom. I am also told that right along with him appeared the name of Walt Dennis. They were an active pair in the early days.

With this in mind I would like to second the nomination of Aubrey MacDermott and nominate Walt Dennis. It would be nice if they could run as a pair as in the past, one vote elects both. We have elected pairs in the past so the precedent has been set.

By the way, can it be that the reason you do not seek out Jewish science fiction may be the result of a polarization problem? Do you think that whether you are Hasidic or Alkaline could have a bearing on it?

Ray Beam

*{So be it, Ray. Unless someone objects they will run as a pair. On the matter of polarization, it obviously depends on one's Hebraic preference, or pH. -- Mark}*

Mark:

Among other things my FF stationary was destroyed in the earthquake.

Your streamlining procedure sounds fine -- go to it. I also like the new name on the newsletter. I enjoy the letters from fans telling us what they've been up to recently.

I had the pleasure of talking to Ben Jason recently. I'd like to get to a con if possible.

Noreen Shaw

*{Glad to hear you made it through the quake with no significant damage to yourself, Noreen. We'd love to see you at a con, too. How about Rivercon? -- Mark}*

# FIRST FANDOM

Dinosaurs of Science Fiction

Mark Schulzinger

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# FIRST CLASS



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1994

